





MOUNTAIN PROJECTS

Annual Report, 2024

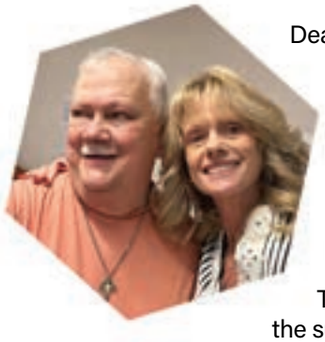
Helping people, changing lives.
We provide Community Action Programs in Haywood and Jackson Counties.

2177 Asheville Rd., Waynesville
154-B Medical Park Loop, Sylva

Our Promise

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Decades of Service to our Community



Board President, Carl Matthews and Executive Director, Patsy Davis

Dear Friends of Mountain Projects,

Mountain Projects Community Action Agency is a non-profit organization that serves primarily Haywood and Jackson County, NC. We help families, the elderly, and others, by encouraging and supporting independence and self-sufficiency, and by providing assistance with emergencies and unmet basic human needs.

Founded in 1965, we have since grown to host 20 programs, with a staff of 140 and an annual budget of more than 22 million dollars. We serve more than 15,000 people each year.

The following is our 2023-24 annual report. We are proud of our accomplishments and appreciate the support of our board, our organizational partners and the community, all of whom have made our work possible!

Sincerely,

Patsy Davis
Executive Director
pdavis@mountainprojects.org

Community Action and Mountain Projects



Mountain Projects was first funded in 1964 with a $52,000 grant as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's Economic Opportunity Act, known informally as the "War on Poverty." Those funds helped us pilot a summer Head Start program, a Medicare Alert program and a Neighborhood Youth Corps.

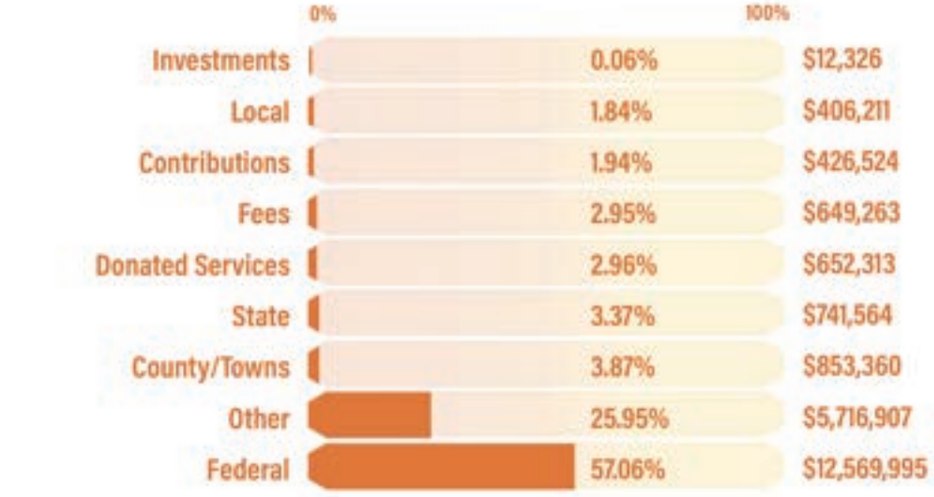
Many more programs soon followed, and by 1994 we were engaging hundreds of volunteers in our community. Now, the agency has grown its annual budget to over $22,000,000, employs a staff of 140, and provides an extraordinary range of services to the community. We touch thousands of lives every month, and many of these clients are disabled, disadvantaged, living in poverty, handicapped, or elderly.

At Mountain Projects, we believe that each of our clients deserves to live in a safe physical environment, and we work each day to help meet that need. Our programs are designed to improve the social, economic, educational, emotional and health of our clients.

First Lady Ladybird Johnson speaks at Little Canada/Sols Creek Consolidated School in Jackson County on March 12, 1967. She traveled here in support of the National Teachers Corps project, which was administered locally by Mountain Projects.

Mountain Projects Financial Profile 2023-2024

Revenue



Total $22,028,373

Expenses



Total $21,185,240

What we do: The Finance Department's goal is accurate and timely financial information to monitor fiscal activities, assess costs, and provide full accountability to internal management, the Board of Directors, funding sources, and the public.

Chief Financial Officer: Joni Elkins
Employees: 4

Private Grant Funding Sources

Community Foundation of WNC • Dogwood Health Trust • Duke Energy • Evergreen Foundation Great Smokies Health Foundation • Haywood Health Foundation • Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust North Carolina State Employees Credit Union (NCSECU) Foundation • The United Way of Haywood County • VAYA Health • First Citizens Bank • Canopy Housing Foundation • Legal Aid of NC • Jackson County, NC • Haywood County, NC • Town of Bryson City



Members of the Mountain Projects Administrative and Finance teams

2023-2024 at a Glance

38,453 passenger trips provided by Haywood Public Transit

1,476 clients served through intake services

1,989 enrollments in Marketplace Health Insurance and/or through Medicaid Expansion by GetCoveredWNC

6,147 clients learned about affordable health plans, special enrollment, Medicaid Unwinding and Medicaid Expansion

200 children enrolled in Head Start & Early Head Start

37 Head Start children received specialized disability services

191 Head Start children received age-appropriate immunizations

900 families served through rental assistance

190 homes rehabbed for energy efficiency and weatherization

487 seniors saved $751,956 in drug costs through SHIIP program

63 individuals helped through education and job services

20 Foster Grandparents volunteered 18,785 hours

8,814 meals served to **275** clients at three congregate food sites

2,200 hours volunteered in Waynesville & Sylva resale stores

180 fruit/vegetable HOP monthly vouchers provided to clients

250 food boxes delivered to 185 families weekly

62,000 meals were prepared by Food Services

Six in-home aides gave **4,736** hours of assistance to **62** clients

1,212 Naloxone (opioid overdose reversal) kits distributed in Swain County through Mountain Strong

264 WNC tobacco retailers received merchant education to prevent sales to minors from Mountain Strong

5 affordable homes built by Smoky Mountain Housing Partnership

The four members of our Intake and Reception teams have served Mountain Projects and its clients for a combined

111 years!

Awards, Recognitions and Initiatives

2023-24 has been an impactful year for Mountain Projects and its array of programs, and we owe gratitude to our staff members for their hard work. Here are some highlights:

Our **Weatherization and Rehabilitation program** was honored by the **North Carolina Housing Finance Agency at its 2024 NC Affordable Housing Conference** for achievement in affordable housing. Vivian Bumgarner's program has served thousands of Haywood and Jackson County residents over four decades.

Housing is a serious issue in WNC, and our **Smoky Mountain Housing Partnership** is making a difference by offering sweat-equity housing opportunities. Our latest self help housing project, Harris Estates, in Sylva, was completed recently. We celebrated with an opening reception with new self help owners attended by state and local officials.

Our annual fundraising campaigns to raise discretionary emergency funds have gained momentum in recent years, and were impactful again in 2023-24. Our donors helped us provide **emergency assistance** to many clients.

Members of our staff traveled to Raleigh for two significant events: **Community Action Legislative Day** in May, where we participated in lobbying efforts on behalf of our programming, and more recently for a **Weatherization support** event, during which we gathered for a press conference at the Department of Environmental Quality and walked together to the **Governor's Mansion**, all in support of statewide weatherization efforts recently hindered by slowed and reduced funding and bureaucratic frustrations.

Members of our **GetCoveredWNC team traveled to Raleigh** to celebrate **North Carolina Enrollment Assister Appreciation Week** at the Governor's mansion. North Carolina Assisters **enabled over 1 million enrollments through Affordable Care Act Open Enrollment 11, and 424,000 enrollments through recently enacted Medicaid expansion.**

Western North Carolina Assisters, including our own, helped the region to a 17% increase in enrollments during the same period!

Intake Counselors







Intake counselors Mark Carden, (38 years of service), Samantha Moore (5 years) and Pat Bennett (47 years)

What we do: Central Intake manages calls from clients seeking services from Mountain Projects programs. When clients call and make a request for Section 8 housing vouchers, food boxes, emergency assistance, or Head Start admission, Mountain Projects intake counselors help determine how Mountain Projects can help.

Manager: Peter Mudge
Employees: 4
Clients Served: 1,474

Reception

Mary Jane Messer, a 21-year employee of Mountain Projects is the first face our clients encounter at Mountain Projects' Waynesville office, and the first voice they hear for either location. She is primarily responsible for welcoming clients and visitors and directing them to the support they need.



Receptionist Mary Jane Messer

Resale Stores in Waynesville & Sylva

What we do: Income generated from the sale of donated merchandise at our stores covers operational expenses, sales taxes, and the cost of minimal paid staff and many volunteers. After these expenses, revenue is used on our charitable efforts, including Mountain Projects' unrestricted emergency fund that allows our agency to assist individuals in the community with challenges that aren't covered by grant funding.

Waynesville Manager: David Porter
Employees: 4
Volunteers: 11

Sylva Manager: Deanie Edwards
Employees: 4
Volunteers: 9

Serves: Haywood, Jackson and surrounding counties

Mountain Projects operates two Resale Stores, in Sylva and Waynesville. Both stores accept donations of lightly used, clean clothing, shoes, and housewares.



Resale store employees

20 volunteers help at our resale stores

Head Start & Early Head Start

What we do: Head Start and Early Head Start are federally funded comprehensive child development programs serving birth to five year old children from low income families. Its goal is to help children achieve social competence and school readiness and to help families achieve self-sufficiency.

Manager: Christie Paxton
Employees: 50 staff members
Children served: 133 three to five year olds and 67 infants and toddlers.
Volunteer Hours: 43,768

Milestones this year: Provided staff with education incentives to meet federal mandates.
How did Head Start contribute to positive changes within the community? Children and families are supported during their time with Head Start by goal setting to become self-sufficient and to increase school readiness skills.
Priorities for the upcoming year: Maintaining funded enrollment and full staffing.
Reason to celebrate: The outpouring of support for food boxes during Christmas was overwhelming.



Teacher Tracy Roland and a student at Canton Head Start

43,768
volunteer hours in Head Start classrooms in 2023-2024



Teacher Iris Silvers and students at Waynesville Head Start

Head Start Data	HS	EHS
Funded enrollment	121	56
Children served	133	67
Children from homeless families	5	4
Foster Care children	5	4
Over Income Families	6	1
Specialized Disability Services	31	6
Children & families, Mental Health Services	21	6
Age appropriate preventive & primary healthcare	129	67
Age appropriate immunizations	126	65
Preventative Dental Care	82	39

Dual enrolled in Head Start & NC Pre K	14
Transitioned to Head Start	27
Transitioned to Kindergarten	50

Community Partnerships

- Community Food and Clothing Donors
- Knights of Columbus
- Anna's Kiddie Korner
- Balsam Mountain Preserve
- Healthy Blue
- Blue Ridge Books
- Crabtree United Methodist Church
- Mountain Federal Credit Union

Partnership notes: KARE provides mental health supports for children and families enrolled in our program as well as our supporting staff. Haywood and Jackson county schools support our children who may have a developmental delay.

Housing Rehabilitation & Weatherization

What we do: We keep Haywood and Jackson County citizens warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and safe all year long while providing energy efficiency and household safety measures focused on the elderly, the disabled, families with children, high energy users, and the energy burdened.

Manager: Vivian Bumgarner
Employees: 3 full-time
Serves: Haywood and Jackson Counties

2023-2024 Accolades:

Our Housing Rehabilitation & Weatherization department was recognized by NC Housing Finance Agency for Achievement in Affordable Housing Services.

2023-2024 Jobs Completed Listed by Agency

ARPA Safe at Home	16	LIHEAP WAP	19
Blue Cross Blue Shield	1	Pisgah Health Foundation	14
Department of Energy WAP	7	Safe at Home	15
Dogwood Heath Trust Home Repair & Weatherization	18	United Way Safe at Home	2
Duke Energy	32	Urgent Repair Program	18
Essential Single Family Rehabilitation Program - ESFR21	3		
Essential Single Family Rehabilitation Program - ESFR22	1		
HARRP - Heating Appliance Repair Replacement Program	22		
Haywood Electric Membership Corporation	8		
Highland Cashiers Health Foundation & Nantahala Health Foundation	14		



Weatherization and Rehabilitation offers a wide variety of services, and the program won an award for achievement in affordable housing at the 2024 North Carolina Housing Finance Agency Affordable Housing Conference.



190
Housing Rehabilitation & Weatherization Jobs Completed in 2023-2024

Haywood Senior Resource Center/Senior Services

What we do: The mission of the Haywood County Senior Resource Center is to equip and empower older adults in Haywood County to live in their own homes as long as they wish. We help them do so safely by maximizing community resources and building collaborations.
Manager: John Chicoine

Senior Resource Center (SRC) | **Program Manager:** Michelle Claytor
The SRC offers educational, informative programs as well as trips for seniors on a year-round basis.

- Annual SRC Member Cookout – 115 attendees
- Dollywood in the Fall
- Small Town Series Trips: Black Mountain, Bryson City
- Thrifting Shopping Trips
- NC Arboretum
- Tryon Equestrian Center
- Fall Colors on the Blue Ridge Parkway
- Asheville Tourist Baseball Games
- Shredding Drive-Thru Event – 80 cars
- Picnic at Big Creek
- Winter Lights at NC Arboretum
- Dillsboro Lights & Luminaries
- Local Christmas Lights Drive Around
- Aging Matters Discussion led monthly by Larry Reeves
- Bingo
- Annual Valentine's Day luncheon - 35 attendees
- Tea Party at the SRC
- Titanic Museum in Pigeon Forge
- Cradle of Forestry and Pisgah Fish Camp
- Weekly Crochet Group
- Trivia
- Android and iPad Classes - monthly
- Parkinson's Support Group - monthly
- Dementia Caregiver's Support Group - monthly
- Project Lifesaver Registration and Support - monthly
- Blood Drives
- Asheville Tourists Baseball
- Scam Alert Program

Foster Grandparents Program | **Program Director:** Phyllis Aughe
20 Foster Grandparent volunteers gave 18,785 hours at 13 stations.
Stations include: elementary schools, private schools, day care centers and Head Start programs. This service supports young students and children by providing extra attention that promotes academic success. New Station: Pigeon Street Multicultural Development Center has been established as new station and offers a new opportunity for Foster Grandparent volunteers to continue to work through the summer vacation months. We anticipate much growth with this summer program in the future.

18,785
Foster Grandparent Volunteer Hours in 2023-2024

Senior Companion Program | **Program Director:** Mick Trostel
39 Senior Companion volunteers spent a total of 35,774 hours serving 177 Clients with independent living tasks and socialization.
These volunteers provide assistance and friendship to adults who have difficulty with daily living tasks. This service allows elderly individuals to remain independent in their own homes.

Members of our Haywood Senior Resources staff



In-Home Aide & Congregate Meal Sites | Program Manager: Darlene McElrath
A total of **8,814 meals were served to 275 clients.**
In-Home services (6 aides) provided 4,736.25 hours of in-home assistance to 62 clients. The in-home aide program helps clients maintain their independence. The need for In-Home Level 1 care continues to grow in Haywood County, and a lengthy waiting list is maintained year round. The current waiting list includes approximately 68 individuals who need service.



Congregate nutrition seniors at lunch

Haywood-Jackson Volunteer Center | Program Manager: John Chicoine
The Haywood-Jackson Volunteer Center placed 97 new volunteers. We participated in the planning of Hands-on Jackson as well as managing over **200 volunteers** for the October event.

SHIIP (Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program)
Program Manager: John Chicoine
Staff served 487 clients and saved them a total of $751,956 in prescription costs.

Caregiver List is a service that provides families who need supportive services a list of qualified individuals who can help. Six new caregivers were added to our list and three renewed their status. 63 lists were given out to families of Haywood residents.



Senior field trip to the ballpark!

Outreach
The SRC was a sponsor and attended the Haywood County Senior Games opening and closing events. On June 17th the Haywood Co. Elder Abuse Awareness Walk was held at Lake Junaluska, in partnership with DHHS and the Haywood County Sheriff's Office.

Healthy Opportunities Pilot Program (HOP)

What we do: The North Carolina Healthy Opportunities Pilot Program (HOP) is the nation's first comprehensive program to test and evaluate the health impacts of select non-medical interventions related to housing, nutrition, transportation, safety, and stress for high-need Medicaid enrollees. Research has shown that up to 80% of a person's wellbeing is impacted by these social drivers of health. Mountain Projects provides food boxes, prepared meals, housing, non-medical transportation trips and housing assistance. We have assisted hundreds of families and have seen firsthand how services and support stabilizes and improves the health of participants. Without heat, food, shelter and transportation, families and households struggle.

Manager: Christy Kirkpatrick-Mosteller
Employees: 5
Serves: Haywood and Jackson Counties

HOP staff members Christy Kirkpatrick-Mosteller and Patricia Hoyle



Current Impact

Healthy Food Boxes
Deliver over **250 boxes to roughly 185 families** each week.

Healthy Meals
Serve **11 families** healthy frozen or shelf stable meals each week.

Fruit and Vegetable Vouchers
Provide **180 fresh fruit and vegetable vouchers worth $248 each month.**

Housing Services Available

- Housing Navigation Support and Sustaining Services
- Essential Utility Set Up
- Utility bills reconnect/ arrears/ default
- One-time payment for Security Deposit and First Month's Rent
- Home accessibility and Safety Modifications
- We currently have **20 families enrolled** in Housing Navigation
- Transportation service

Food Services

What we do: Our Food Service program supplies nutritious, low-cost meals from a centralized kitchen in Sylva to various organizations in our area. We operate five delivery vehicles, produce as many as 1,000 meals each day, and deliver to dozens of sites. Our kitchen also supports the Healthy Opportunities Pilot program, which prepares food boxes for delivery each day.



Part of our food services team, which provides meals for congregate nutrition, HOP clients and Head Start classrooms



As many as **1,000** meals served per day

Manager: Peter Mudge
Employees: 5
Serves: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties

GetCoveredWNC/Healthcare Navigators

What we do: The Certified Application Counselors (CACs) of GetCoveredWNC serve the seven western counties of North Carolina and the Qualla Boundary. We offer free, unbiased information about all health insurance options. We help clients apply for insurance through the Healthcare Marketplace and through the newly expanded Medicaid program.

Manager: Jan Plummer ▪ **Employees:** 7 ▪ **Serves:** Seven westernmost counties

Marketplace Health Insurance Enrollments and Medicaid Expansion Enrollments	**1,989**
Interactions with people about affordable healthcare plans, special enrollment periods, Medicaid Unwinding and Medicaid Expansion	**6,147**
COBRA	**500**
Latino/Hispanic Enrollments and outreach	**up 5%**

Annualized Value of the Premium Tax credit:
12 Million in tax credits, 3.5 Million in Medicaid Actuarial Value

In Addition:

- Hosted or participated in 37 educational events.
- Continued to provide urgent needs relief, financial assistance and insurance premium reimbursements for **800 displaced Millworkers** totaling over $875,000.



1,989
Marketplace Health Insurance Enrollments and Medicaid Expansion Enrollments in 2023-2024

GetCoveredWNC Navigators Jan Plummer, Savanna Rickman, Marilyn Tollie, Susan Rose, Caitlin Quinnett and Jane Harrison

Mountain Strong Prevention Services

What we do: We prevent substance misuse, promote resilience, and support well-being in communities across far western North Carolina.

Manager: Libby Ray
Employees: 3 full-time, 1 intermittent
Serves: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties



Mountain Strong Program Manager Libby Ray provides outreach at a Haywood Co. ABC store

2023-24 Milestones:

- One staff with NC Certificate in Trauma & Resilience working toward Level 2 Certificate.
- One staff member was invited to speak at the North Carolina Prevention Conference in June about efforts to prevent opioid-related overdose deaths in Swain County.
- Launched a new partnership with local ABC stores in Haywood County to distribute fridge and cabinet locks for secure storage of alcohol in people's homes.
- We hired an additional Prime for Life instructor to expand this program.

2023-24 Accomplishments:

- Distributed **304 lockboxes** (for secure storage of medications) in Swain County.
- Distributed **143+ alcohol secure storage locks** in Haywood County through community events and ABC stores.
- Distributed **1,212 Naloxone (opioid overdose reversal) kits** in Swain County
- Provided four Naloxone trainings.
- Placed **7,500 stickers on bags in ten ABC stores across WNC** urging adults not to provide alcohol to people under the age of 21.
- Delivered Prime for Life 12-hour alcohol and drug education class to 33 participants.
- Delivered merchant education to **264 tobacco retailers across WNC** to prevent sales to minors
- Provided 26 presentations across seven counties.
- Supported dozens of community events.

Key Sponsors & Supporters

- North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health
- Developmental Disabilities & Substance Abuse Services
- North Carolina ABC Commission
- Swain/Bryson City ABC Board
- Canton and Waynesville ABC Stores

Preventionists Mark Pilon and Lorrie Ross, and Prevention Specialist/Program Manager Libby Ray



1,212
Naloxone Kits distributed in Swain County

Smoky Mountain Housing Partnership

What we do: Launched in 2019, Smoky Mountain Housing Partnership (SMHP) is the affordable housing division of Mountain Projects. From self-help, sweat-equity housing opportunities, to turn-key affordable homes and direct purchase and down-payment assistance, Smoky Mountain Housing Partnership helps clients achieve the American Dream. SMHP is a HUD-Certified Housing Counseling Agency.





Harris Estates, Sylva – three new homeowners

Manager: Maggie Leftwich
Employees: 5
Serves: Haywood and Jackson Counties

2023-24 Milestones

- Clients served: 102
- Added Community Partners Loan Pool Down Payment Assistance service
- Obtained grant funding for tools and equipment for current and future projects

2024-25 Anticipated Accomplishments

- Completion of Harris Estates self-help (5 homes)
- Bethel Village self-help (6 homes) are in pre-construction
- Implementation of our Construction Workforce Pipeline in collaboration with Haywood Community College and funded by the Dogwood Health Trust, to add skilled and credentialed workers to the construction workforce.

Down the Road

Three groups, totaling approximately 13 households, will go through the self-help program at our Harkins Ave., Canton development by spring of 2027. Our Webster Village project, in partnership with Givens Estates and Western Carolina University, is in the permitting and engineering stage.

Partnerships

- USDA Rural Development
- North Carolina Housing Finance Agency
- Haywood County
- Town of Maggie
- Jackson County
- Town of Sylva



Jody Lovelace NC USDA, Executive Director Patsy Davis and Reginald Speight, USDA Rural Development State Director



102
Clients served

Section 8/HUD Housing

What we do: Section 8 Voucher Program provides rental assistance to families and individuals with economic need. This program is aimed at families who are currently paying more than 30% of their adjusted gross, monthly income for rent and utilities, and for those who need rental assistance in order to live in "safe, decent and sanitary" housing. Funded by the federal office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Section 8 provides housing support to low income, elderly, handicapped, disabled and large families.

Once our clients receive a voucher they find a suitable home fortheir family. We have approximately 700 landlords within two counties that work with this program.

Coordinator: Amanda Singletary
Employees: 7
Serves: Haywood and Jackson Counties

2023-24 Milestones

- Clients served: 850 - 900
- Increased tenant rolls from 750 to almost 900, successfully assisting 150 new voucher holders in the area, most of whom are elderly or disabled.
- Strengthened landlord outreach to grow and improve lists of available rentals and resources.
- Fully opened waiting lists and transitioned to daily updates.

2023-24 Challenges

The challenge has been staying competitive with rising rental rates across WNC. The program addressed these challenges by petitioning HUD for an increase in the program's payment standards, by fostering positive working relationships with its landlords and by actively working its waiting lists to keep them up-to-date and active.

Partnerships

Section 8 works closely with other programs, including local Departments of Health and Human Services, Pathways, REACH, HERE of Jackson County and Helping Hands/Bethel House of Waynesville. These organizations provide social services needed by many Section 8 clients and often assist them in navigating the rental market.

"The Smoky Mountain Housing Partnership assisted 4 of our voucher holders in transitioning to homeowners this year. Homeownership is a huge milestone and we are so proud of our clients and thankful to Smoky Mountain Housing Partnership."

– Amanda Singletary, Section 8 Coordinator, Haywood Co.



Section 8 staff members, left to right, Chad Hall, Amanda Singletary, Nicole Parton, Paula Robinson and Oscar Vazquez

900
Clients served

Haywood Public Transit

What we do: Haywood Public Transit offers a variety of transportation services in Haywood County, including regular daily bus routes, assisted community transit, demand response services, emergency transportation and more. Rides are available through set loop routes and by reservation through routes running through the core of Haywood County from Canton to Waynesville, with an option to connect to the much larger Buncombe County public transportation system to the east.

We provide flexible services to meet the needs of our clients. These services include wheelchair transportation, handicap seating, driver assistance and even solutions for service animals. Our primary goal is to get as many clients as we can to their destination safely and in a timely manner.

Manager: Christy Morrow
Employees: 17
Serves: Haywood County



Haywood Public Transit Program Manager Christy Morrow



Haywood Transit bus drivers provide clients with safe access to transportation

2023-24 Milestones

- 38,453 trips during the year.
- Total trips increased 13%
- Urban trips increased 13%

Challenges

- Increased demand **without increase in grant funding**
- Increased demand with **slightly reduced staffing**

"My sister and I had to get rid of our cars within a month of each other, leaving us without transportation. We had no way to get to doctor's appointments! They have been a lifesaver in more ways than 'just a ride'! Thank heaven for Haywood Transit!"

– Vicki Ward, Haywood Transit passenger



38,453
Trips provided

Circles Cashiers-Glenville

What we do: Serves the ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained, Employed) community with a focus on the foundational work and philosophy of Circles USA: that people can move out of poverty or financial instability if they have enough support, training and friendships.

Program Coordinator: Mary Jane Lucas
Employees: 1 part-time plus volunteers (770 hours)
Serves: Southern Jackson, Southern Macon Counties

2023-24 Milestone

Our 2022 cohort completed their 18-month journey in December of 2023. They all have stable employment, transportation and housing. Two out of the three participants are now at 200% of the Federal Poverty guideline, which is the key metric of success used by Circles at both a national and local level.

Challenges

One way Circles impacts the community is by identifying barriers to financial success. When we find multiple reports of the same barrier, we can make a safe assumption that all folks experiencing financial instability face that barrier. This year we encountered two challenges: lack of affordable housing and access to affordable, reliable car repairs. We are in the process of addressing those challenges.



Circles volunteers and participants, above, and Hands on Jackson volunteers, left

Jackson Neighbors in Need

What we do: Jackson Neighbors in Need, sponsored by Mountain Projects, provides assistance to Jackson County residents who do not qualify for assistance from other agencies. It accomplishes this through the following initiatives:

Heating Assistance
Provides various forms of heating assistance during the cold months from November 1st to March 31st.

"Bump in the Road" Emergency Fund
Assists residents who encounter small economic challenges that they are unable to afford.

Hands On Jackson — "Day Of Caring"
Annual Day Of Caring for residents of Jackson County who are in need of assistance with small home repair projects, ramp access and/or yard cleaning.

Annual Blanket Drive
Blankets are available for people in need starting in December. They are available for pickup at various locations.



Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

What we do: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is designed to help income-eligible job seekers access employment, training, and support services, including financial assistance, to help them succeed in the workforce.

Manager: Sharon Grieco
Employees: 1
Serves: Haywood County

2023-24 Milestones

- Ten adults into the WIOA program
- 41 dislocated workers into the National Dislocated Workers Program
- Twelve adult WIOA workers in followup from 2023



Mountain Projects employees Vivian Bumgarner and Vicki Ferguson join with other Weatherization professionals from across the state to raise awareness of the importance of weatherization.

Mountain Projects Deputy Director Si Simmons, Chief Financial Officer Joni Elkins and Assistant Financial Officer Hanna Wood at the North Carolina Community Action Association annual conference.



Mountain Projects Executive Director Patsy Davis, Board Chair of the North Carolina Community Action Association, with NCCAA Executive Director Sharon Goodson.



Mountain Projects Heat Start Director Christie Paxton and Kneedler Child Development Center Lead Teacher Julie Keffer with NC State Representative Mike Clampitt at Community Action Legislative Day in Raleigh.

Mountain Projects strengthens the fabric of our community.
We provide stabilizing solutions for the most vulnerable in Haywood and Jackson Counties.

Sylva

154-B Medical Park Loop, Sylva, NC 28779
Phone: (828) 586-2345

Waynesville

2177 Asheville Rd., Waynesville NC 28786
Phone: (828) 452-1447

Website: MountainProjects.org