


IT'S ALL ABOUT *Community!*

MOUNTAIN PROJECTS

**ANNUAL REPORT**

2023

# About Mountain Projects

## 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 Haywood and Jackson County, NC. We help disadvantaged 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 19 programs, with a staff of 140 and an annual budget of almost sixteen million dollars. We serve more than 15,000 people each year.

The following is our 2022-23 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*

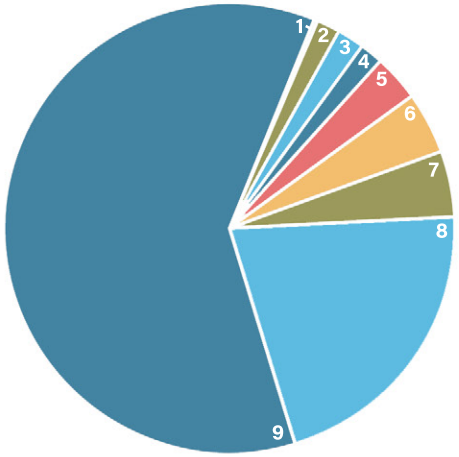
### Our Promise

*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.*

## 2022-2023 Impact Highlights

- 5,500 hours of client intake
- Senior Resource Center total attendees 4,079
- 57 Senior Resource Center programs, events and trips
- Transit 36,250 trips (37% increase in services)
- 178 children enrolled in Head Start & Early Head Start
- 136 Head Start children received preventative dental care
- 1,598 affordable care act enrollments with Get Covered WNC
- 8,986 affordable healthcare counseling appointments
- 628 laid-off millworkers received grant-supported insurance subsidies
- Food services traveled 74,000 miles and served over 100,000 meals
- 375 loads of firewood were delivered to seniors in need
- Healthy Opportunities Pilot served 104 Managed Medicaid households
- 145 home rehabilitation and weatherization jobs were completed
- Substance Prevention Services reached 266,450 people across seven counties
- 27 Foster Grandparents volunteers gave 17,371 hours at 21 sites in seven counties
- 49 Senior Companions volunteers spent a total of 44,250 hours serving 157 Clients
- 168 Housing clients are in Self-Help, Counseling, and Direct Purchase programs
- Eight affordable homes will be completed in 2023
- 800 families (Incl. 404 children and 300 seniors) served through Section 8 Program
- Over $4.4 million in rental payments paid to landlords in Haywood and Jackson Cos.
- 15 Section 8 families participated in Family Self Sufficiency program
- 56 Haywood County residents in Workforce Opportunity programs
- 34 WIOA (workforce assistance services) participants receiving tuition assistance
- 546 Seniors Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) clients served
- $245,799 saved in prescription costs through SHIIP
- 12,532 meals served to 255 clients in Haywood Congregate Nutrition sites
- Six in-home aides provided 4,574.75 hours of services to 68 clients

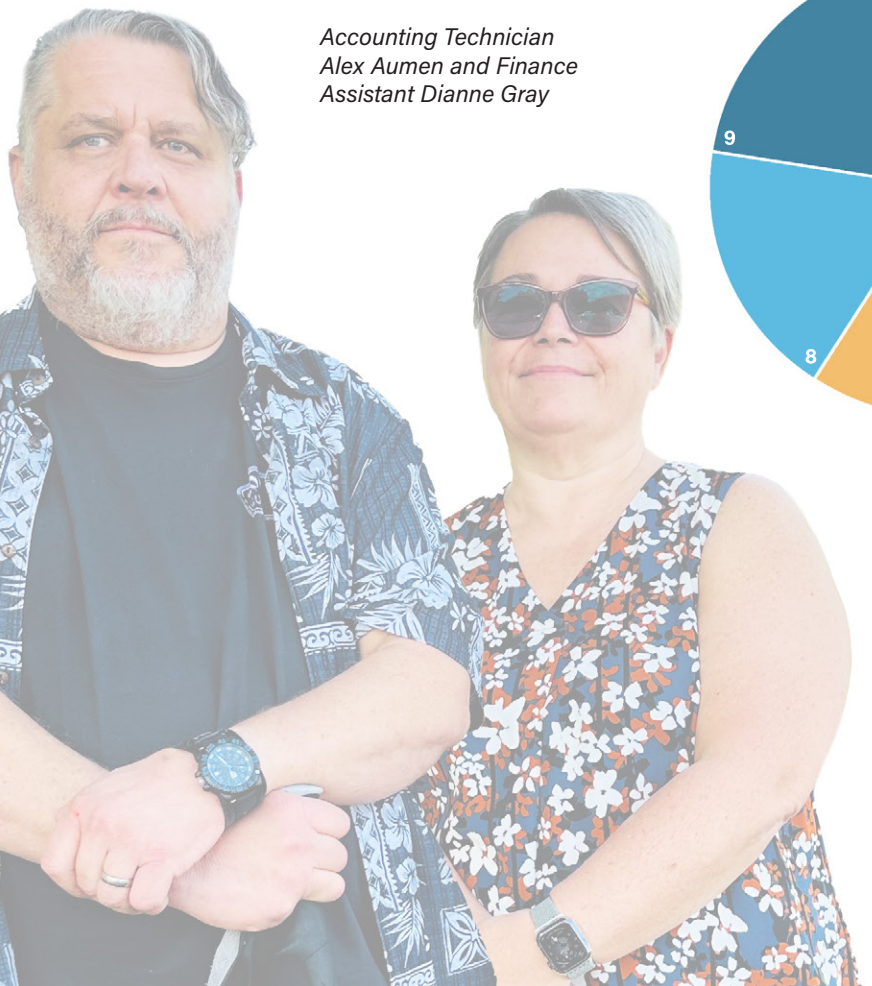
# Revenues and Expenses



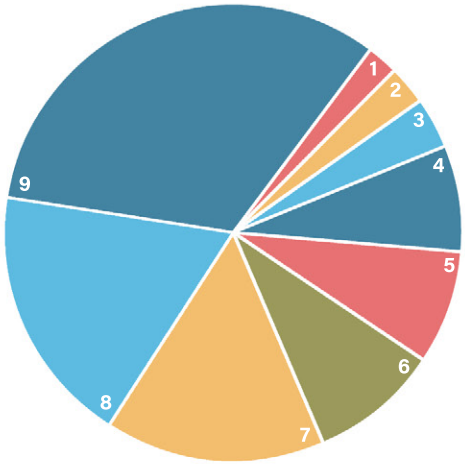

## *Where it Comes From*

1. Investments ▪ 0.02% ▪ $3,789
2. Donated Services ▪ 1.77% ▪ $279,543
3. Local ▪ 1.85% ▪ $293,135
4. Contributions ▪ 1.86% ▪ $294,980
5. State ▪ 3.31% ▪ $523,808
6. Fees ▪ 4.41% ▪ $697,485
7. County/Towns ▪ 4.66% ▪ $737,927
8. Other ▪ 21.23% ▪ $3,360,309
9. Federal ▪ 60.88% ▪ $9,636,231

**Total Revenue***
**$15,827,207**



*Accounting Technician Alex Aumen and Finance Assistant Dianne Gray*




## *Where it Goes*

1. Employment & Eligibility ▪ 2.12% ▪ $334,718
2. Volunteer Services ▪ 2.62% ▪ $414,639
3. Senior Services ▪ 3.83% ▪ $605,263
4. Food Service/Fundraising ▪ 7.43% ▪ $1,173,790
5. Transportation ▪ 7.95% ▪ $1,257,194
6. Housing Development ▪ 9.27% ▪ $1,465,987
7. Other Services ▪ 15.64% ▪ $2,471,914
8. Children's Services ▪ 18.25% ▪ $2,885,397
9. Rental Assistance HCV ▪ 32.87% ▪ $5,197,305

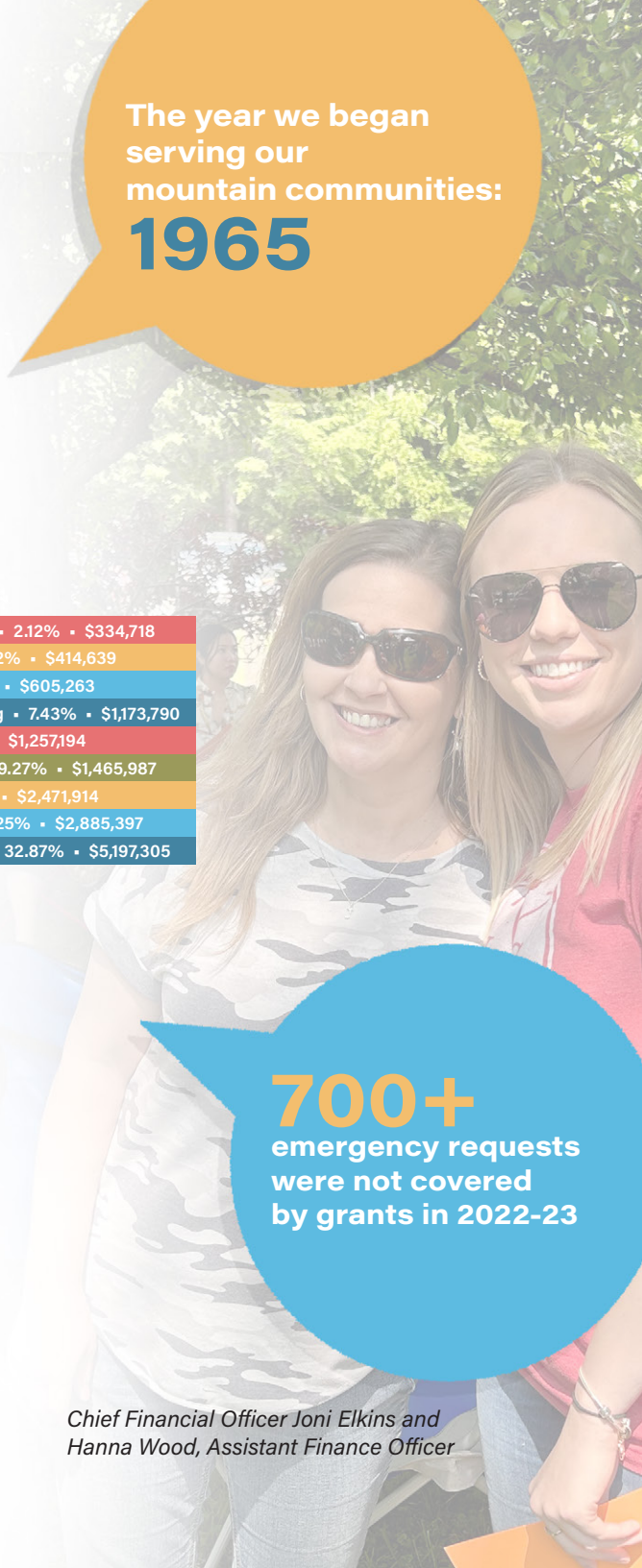
**Total Expenses***
**$15,806,207**

* Unaudited

## *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**
**Nantahala Health Foundation**
**WNC Bridge Foundation**

**The year we began serving our mountain communities:**
**1965**



**700+**
**emergency requests were not covered by grants in 2022-23**

*Chief Financial Officer Joni Elkins and Hanna Wood, Assistant Finance Officer*

*Where Assistance Begins*

## Intake Department Directs Clients to Services



**Program Manager: Peter Mudge**

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 communicate with those individuals to determine how Mountain Projects can help.

*Intake Counselor Mark Carden was named to the North Carolina Community Action Association's Hall of Fame in 2023. Mark has been with us since 1986!*

**First Stop for Clients in 22-23**

**5,500 hours of client intake**
**1,087 applications processed**

*Moving Things Along!*

## Haywood Transit Provides Transportation and Support

**Program Manager: Si Simmons**

Haywood Public Transit started in 1990 with the consolidation of several county agencies' client transportation systems. The Haywood County Department of Social Services, Southwestern Child Development, and several programs administered by Mountain Projects, Inc. (Head Start, Foster Grandparents and Senior Services) were all providing some public transportation services before 1990. The state asked the county to consolidate those systems under one agency, and Mountain Projects, Inc. was named the lead transportation agency.

In addition to longtime services that range from emergency management transportation and services for the elderly to poor-weather pickups and emergency food deliveries, Haywood Public Transit now offers regular, daily bus routes for the citizens of Haywood County.

**Haywood Transit covered**

**362,316**

**miles of road in Haywood Co.**

**A 37%**

**increase in services**

*Haywood Public Transit Director Si Simmons*





**Covering the Miles in 22-23**

**Demand Response (Rural)**

| Trips | Miles | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| 25,099 | 268,956 | 20,108 |

**Fixed Route (Urban)**

| Trips | Miles | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| 11,151 | 93,360 | 5,822 |

**Totals**

| Trips | Miles | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| 36,250 | 362,316 | 25,930 |

*Haywood Public Transit provides transportation for human services agencies, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and the general public.*

*Getting Kids Off on the Right Foot*

# Early Childhood Education at Six Centers Across Two Counties

**Program Manager: Christie Paxton**

Head Start programs provide comprehensive support for children's development from birth to age 5, including early education, health, and family involvement. Services are offered at no cost to eligible families, with a focus on preschool for ages 3 to 5 and early childhood services for those from birth to 3, including expectant families. These programs aim to prepare children for school and life in safe, nurturing environments, emphasizing the crucial role of parental involvement. Mountain Projects Head Start has served families in western North Carolina since 1965 and has centers on the campus of Western Carolina University and in Sylva, Waynesville, Clyde and Canton.








*Head Start teachers create safe and nurturing environments where children can explore, grow and discover. They teach essential skills such as reading, writing and math, as well as socio-emotional skills like problem-solving and teamwork.*

*Head Start teacher Traci Royster at our Waynesville Center*

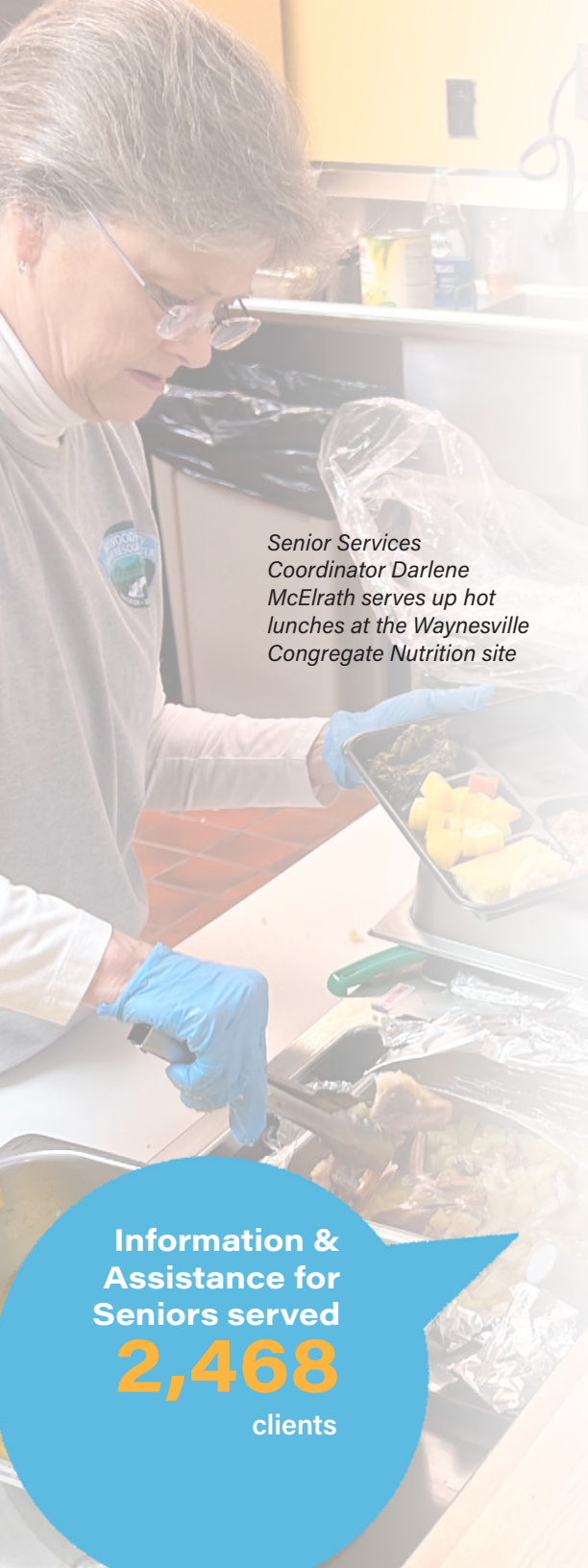
## Head Start & Early Head Start in 2022-23

| | HS | EHS |
|---|---|---|
| Funded Enrollment | 121 | 56 |
| Children served | 125 | 53 |
| Children from homeless families | 4 | 1 |
| Foster care children | 2 | 0 |
| From over-income families | 16 | 2 |
| Dual-enrolled in Head Start and NC Pre-K | 19 | |
| Transitioned to Head Start | | 26 |
| Transitioned to kindergarten | 68 | |
| Specialized disability services | 20 | 9 |
| Children and families, mental health services | 22 | 6 |
| Age-appropriate preventive & primary healthcare | 117 | 50 |
| Age-appropriate immunizations | 119 | 52 |
| Preventative dental care | 89 | 47 |

## Community Food and Clothing Donors

- Knights of Columbus
- Anna's Kiddie Korner
- Roses of Sharon
- Balsam Mountain Preserve
- Healthy Blue
- 30th Judicial Alliance
- Papertown Children's Kare Korner
- Blue Ridge Books

**Head Start programs increased enrollment by 9%**



*Senior Services Coordinator Darlene McElrath serves up hot lunches at the Waynesville Congregate Nutrition site*

**Information & Assistance for Seniors served**

**2,468**

**clients**

*Equipping and Empowering Older Adults*

# Senior Resource Programs Have Broad Impact in 2022-23

**Program Manager: John Chicoine**

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, and are able to do so safely, by maximizing community resources and building collaborations.

## Senior Resource Center (SRC)

The SRC offered educational and informative programs as well as trips throughout the year. We send our monthly activities/trips to the Positively Haywood and Mountaineer newspapers as well as post on Facebook and the SRC website. **4,079 seniors attended 57 programs, events and trips in 2023.**

## Foster Grandparents

*Featuring senior volunteers supporting classroom activities promoting academic success for students and children.*

**27 volunteers gave 17,371 hours at 21 stations across seven western counties. In 2022-23, we have (2) new volunteers, and enrolled three (3) new stations.** The Director has completed NCS (National & Community Service) required Criminal History Checks training, the Foster Grandparent Program new Project Director's & Curriculum certification, and the Financial Grants Management certification. The program has been recognized in the Cherokee Scout, Positively Haywood and The Mountaineer publications/newspapers with the purpose of recruiting Foster Grandparent Volunteers.

## Phone Assurance

Provides free telephone reassurance, check-in, and friendly phone calls to area seniors who may be isolated, or who are in need of someone to touch base with them to ensure their well-being and/or to have a friendly conversation on a regularly scheduled basis. Phone calls are provided by volunteers, who are trained in basic phone etiquette. **This program had one volunteer making calls to one client.**

## Haywood/Jackson Volunteer Center

**Placed 70 new volunteers in our service area.** We were present at the Jackson County Department on Aging for 24 Wednesdays/Thursdays throughout the year to encourage volunteerism and community connections. In an effort to recruit volunteers, we participated in the service-learning day at Western Carolina University. This year we participated in the planning of Hands-on Jackson, as well as **managed over 200 volunteers for the event in October.** We also connect with volunteers on our website and Facebook page.






*From hiking trips to shopping excursions to training and insurance counseling, the Senior Resource Center keeps a full calendar!*




*Foster Grandparents Director Sherry Tabor*



*Asheville Tourists baseball!*



*A visitor in support of Elder Abuse Awareness*



*"Walking in Their Shoes" for elder abuse awareness*

## Senior Companions

*Provides senior companions to frail individuals who need support to continue living in their homes. Volunteers provide assistance and friendship to adults who have difficulty with daily tasks.*

**49 volunteers spent a total of 44,250 hours serving 157 Clients with independent living tasks and socialization across the seven western counties of North Carolina.** The program partnered with Givens Great Laurels by hiring two resident volunteers to provide assistance to other residents in need. Volunteers had 24 hours of additional training provided on caregiving, program policies, and topics of interest to seniors that would improve service to their clients, as well as enhance their volunteer experience.

## In-Home Health Aides and Congregate Nutrition Sites

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 78 individuals who need service. Aides and Congregate staff receive regular training from Vaya Health.

**A total of 12,532 meals were served to 255 clients**
**Six aides provided 4,574.75 hours of in-home services to 68 clients**




*Staff members Michelle Claytor, Chuck Ney and John Chicoine pause during the Elder Abuse Awareness Walk event held at the Senior Resource Center*

*Employee Annette Washburn and a client at the Waynesville Congregate Nutrition site*

**4,079** seniors came to our resource center &
**57** attended programs, events &trips

**SHIIP**
(Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program)
**546** clients served
at a savings of $245,799 in prescription costs

*Safe, Livable Homes for the Most Vulnerable Mountain Families*

# Rehabilitation and Weatherization

**Program Manager: Vivian Bumgarner**

Mountain Projects' Home Rehab division maintains a long list of qualified families with young children, seniors and others with physical and mental challenges who struggle to keep their homes in livable condition. We use community contributions and grant funding to assist qualifying homeowners by tending to electrical or plumbing issues, by repairing roofs and floors and by making upgrades to enhance energy efficiency.

## Projects Completed

| | |
|---|---|
| Weatherization - DOE WAP | 8 |
| Weatherization-LIHEAP WAP | 14 |
| HARRP-Heating system installed | 15 |
| Urgent Repair Program | 23 |
| Single Family Rehabilitation - Completed | 5 |
| Safe at Home-Completed - ramps | 30 |
| United Way home repairs | 14 |
| Jackson County Healthy Home Initiative Funded by Highlands-Cashiers Health Foundation, Nantahala Health Foundation & Dogwood Health Trust | 7 |
| DUKE Energy | 6 |
| Blue Cross Blue Shield | 6 |
| Haywood Electric Membership Corporation - HEMC | 2 |
| Pisgah Health Foundation & Dogwood Health Trust | 15 |



*Repairing and replacing HVAC, plumbing and flooring often require working in tight, dark spaces!*

**145**
**Jobs Completed by the Weatherization & Rehabilitation Program**

*Rehabilitation and Weatherization Program Manager Vivian Bumgarner (left) and Assistant Vicky Ferguson*





*Volunteers and staff work together to build ramps and make repairs that keep homes safe and livable for disadvantaged neighbors*

*Advocating for Community Health*

# Certified Application Counselors Guide Hundreds to Insurance

**Program Manager: Jan Plummer**

The Certified Application Counselors (CACs) at GetCoveredWNC serve the seven western counties of North Carolina and the Qualla Boundary. Administered by Mountain Projects, we offer free, unbiased information about all health insurance options and about other health care resources in your community, and we help clients apply for insurance through the Healthcare Marketplace. Our appointment scheduling is flexible and we provide year-round case management.

| | |
|---|---|
| Marketplace Health Insurance Enrollments (ACA) by GetCoveredWNC | 1,931 |
| Interactions with people about affordable healthcare plans, special enrollment periods, and Medicaid unwinding | 8,986 individuals |
| Annualized value of Advance premium tax credit (APTC) | Over $11.7 Million |
| COBRA assistance | 800 |
| Increase in Latino/Hispanic Enrollments | 5% |

367 insurance premium assistance reimbursements providing improved financial stability for 795 Millworker family members providing $222,581 since July 2023.






*Displaced workers receive health insurance transition counseling from Certified Application Counselor Cynthia Solesbee*

*Certified Application Counselors Susan Rose (left) and Marilyn Tollie*

**Millworkers and Family Members Served in 2023**

**628**

*GetCoveredWNC Program Manager Jan Plummer*

## Services by County in 2022-23

| | |
|---|---|
| Cherokee: 2% | Jackson: 15% |
| Clay: 4% | Macon: 13% |
| Graham: 1% | Swain: 3% |
| Haywood: 59% | |
| Qualla Boundary: Technical assistance | |
| Other counties across the state: 3%* | |

## Referrals to other agencies

- Medicaid referrals to DSS: 96
- Medicare referrals to SHIIP: 295
- Insurance Carriers: 106
- Federally Qualified Health Centers: 136
- Latino Enrollment events: 5

## Get CoveredWNC Grantors

- Dogwood Health Trust
- Kate B Reynolds Charitable Trust
- Haywood County Health Foundation
- North Carolina Community Foundation
- NC Navigator Consortium with funds from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

## Collaborations

- Blue Cross of NC
- The United Way of Haywood County
- Haywood County Government
- Pisgah Legal Services
- NC Healthcare Navigators Consortium
- Legal Aid of NC
- Vecinos
- Unete

**Our Certified Application Counselors with GetCoveredWNC served**

**130%**

**more households**



**Substance Prevention Services reached 266,450 people across the 7 Western Counties**

*Mountain Strong Program Manager Libby Ray (left), with Mountain Projects Executive Director Patsy Davis*

*Helping Youth, Families & Communities Be Resilient*

# Mountain Strong Reaches Tens of Thousands in 2022-23

**Program Manager: Libby Ray**



*Libby Ray*



*Lorrie Ross*



*Mark Pilon*

Mountain Strong WNC's mission is to increase resilience in youth, families, and communities through targeted education and strategic communications efforts focused on reducing substance misuse. In 2022-2023, Prevention Services reached at least 266,450 people across seven counties.

**Service Area**
Haywood, Jackson, Swain, Macon, Clay, Graham and Cherokee Counties.

**Youth Prevention Education**
AVOID, a proven vaping prevention curriculum, was made available to area schools. 265 students in Graham and Jackson counties completed all five lessons with our support.

**Merchant Education**
**264 tobacco retailers in seven counties** received information to help prevent sales to minors.

**Communications Campaigns**
Underage drinking and youth marijuana use ads directed to parents, grandparents and guardians were distributed by print, radio, and digital media with a **minimum of 266,000 impressions**.

**Coalition Building**
Prevention Services provides technical assistance and other in-kind support to coalitions across WNC, building their capacity to reduce substance misuse at the local level.

**Prime for Life**
Prevention delivered more than **80 hours of virtual education to 23 participants** through Prime for Life's universal prevention curriculum, helping individuals of all ages make healthy, low-risk choices in regard to substance use.

**Trauma-Informed Systems of Care**
Mountain Strong provides trainings and presentations on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and resilience and in 2022-2023 worked with school staff, foster families, post-adoption families, youth and adult leaders and the "Compassion Jackson" advocacy group.

*Focusing on the Resources People Need to Stay Healthy*

## Healthy Opportunities Pilot (HOP) Program




*HOP Manager Amanda Gentry and employee Christy Mosteller accept community partner award from Mission Health*

**Program Manager: Amanda Gentry**

The Healthy Opportunities Pilot (HOP) is the first nationwide program testing non-medical interventions in areas like housing, food, transportation, and safety for high-needs Medicaid enrollees. Led by Impact Health and supported by Mountain Projects and 50+ regional nonprofits, the program aims to enhance health outcomes in low-income households in western North Carolina. Mountain Projects HOP provided the following assistance in Haywood and Jackson counties:

**Healthy Food Boxes**
HOP Healthy Food Boxes include fruits, vegetables, whole grains, proteins, and other nutritious foods to help supplement 1-2 meals per day for 1 week. Food boxes are available in large and small boxes depending on family size and need, through pick up or delivery.

**Healthy Meals**
The HOP Healthy Meal service provides frozen or shelf-stable meals to promote improved nutrition. This service provides 1-2 meals per day for a week, by pick up or delivery.

**HOP This Year:**
Food: **104** households
Transportation: **12** families
Housing: **20** families

*Resale Stores Support Our Mission*

## Mountain Projects Operates Resale Stores in Waynesville & Sylva

**Program Managers: David Porter, Waynesville and Debbie Huizenga Pierce, Sylva**

Mountain Projects operates two Resale Stores, the first in Sylva and since the fall of 2022, we've opened a new store in Waynesville. Both stores accept donations of lightly used, clean clothing, shoes, and housewares.

Income generated from the sale of donated merchandise is used to pay off operational expenses, sales taxes, and the cost of minimal paid staff and many volunteers. After expenses, the remaining 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.



*Volunteers make our resale stores go!*

**Resale Store Volunteer Hours**
Waynesville Store
**477.75**
Sylva Store
**749.50**

*Head Start employees Shelly Bryant and Jacqueline Garcia*

*Our Goal: Affordable Homeownership for the Essential Workforce*

## Smoky Mountain Housing Partnership Makes Strides

**Program Manager: Julia Posey**

SMHP's Homeownership Center has reopened to our offices to clients in both Haywood and Jackson Counties. We are currently providing housing counseling for individuals and groups. USDA-funded Self Help supports a community of individuals willing to work together to build homes for their cohort. Harris Estates, a small neighborhood of five homes, is located in Sylva and slated for completion by the end of 2023. Our next cohort will focus on Bethel Village in Waynesville and will begin in the third quarter of 2023. SMHP's Housing Development Program is in full swing with the first modular home scheduled to close in July. Two additional homes are finished and currently available for sale in Bethel Village. SMHP has recently cleared additional lots in this neighborhood and will begin the construction process in the fall of 2023.

**8**
**brand new affordable homes will be completed in 2023**

*Smoky Mountain Housing Partnership staff members Maggie Leftwich (left) and Lori Smith*




*Self Help homeowners at Harris Estates in Sylva with Construction Supervisor Chris Stevens*



*One of the homes recently completed at our Bethel Village in Jonathan Creek in Haywood County, above, and a new homeowner receives her key alongside Program Manager Julia Posey*



**168**
**individuals participating in SMHP programs**

### Summary

| | |
|---|---|
| (Self-Help, Counseling, Direct Purchase) | 168 |
| Self-Help Closed | 5 |
| Self-Help Approved | 4 |
| Self-Help in Process | 4 |
| Self-Help Construction in Process | 5 |
| Self-Help Waitlist | 96 |

*Safe, Affordable & Sanitary Housing for Low-Income Families*

## Local Property Owners Support Section 8 Efforts

**Program Manager: Amanda Singletary**

Section 8 Voucher Program serves very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled with housing options that are safe, affordable, and sanitary. Tenants are responsible for finding a suitable housing unit that meets minimum standards of health and safety and where the owner will accept payment subsidies directly from Mountain Projects. Tenants pay the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program. Under certain circumstances, a family may use its voucher to purchase a modest home. Mountain Projects receives federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to administer the program.

| | |
|---|---|
| Vouchers Available (Haywood & Jackson) | 1083 |
| Mainstream Vouchers (For Non-Elderly Disabled) | 75 |
| Families Served 2022-23 | 800+ |
| Children Served 2022-23 | 404 |
| Seniors (over 60) 2022-23 | 300 |
| Section 8 Landlords (Haywood & Jackson) | 287 |
| Rental Payments to Landlords | $4.4 M |

The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program enables participants to build financial assets while working toward educational, professional, and personal goals. FSS is available to current Section 8 voucher recipients in Haywood and Jackson Counties who are interested in increasing financial stability and moving forward on an individualized path toward self-sufficiency. As participants work towards their goals and increase their income, an interest-bearing escrow account is established for them by Mountain Projects. Any increases in the participant's rent as a result of increased earned income during their participation in the FSS Program result in a credit to the participant's escrow account. Once the participant graduates from the FSS Program, they may access the escrow and use it for any purpose. Mountain Projects receives federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to administer the FSS Program.



*The Section 8 team: Chad Davis, Amanda Singletary, Nicole Parton, Paula Robinson and Oscar Vasquez*

**800**
**families served through the Section 8 Program**




*Mountain Projects Assistant Director Brooke Smith*



*Receptionist Mary Jane Messer holds one of the 200+ blankets donated during the annual Haywood County Blanket Drive, conducted with the help of Haywood County-based service clubs*

**Served**
**100,000+**
**Hot meals**
**& 7,200**
**Frozen meals**

*Training Haywood County Workers*

## WIOA Career Center Impacted by Mill Closing

**Program Manager: Sharon Bolden**

The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) is currently serving **56 Haywood County residents**, of which **34 are active in training programs**. There are 34 participants receiving tuition assistance, and nine who are receiving Career Counseling and have not yet decided on a career path to receive training. **13 recipients are recent graduates** and are receiving employment assistance services five participants are in one-year follow-up. Most participants have graduated and found employment in their field of training. **In total, there were 12 graduates from the Spring 2023 semester;** two have found employment. Six are waiting to take Board Exams as well as working with the Career Center, two will continue with their education and the BLET graduates are working with the Career Center to find employment.

Pactiv Evergreen Paper Mill Closure has impacted Haywood County in a variety of ways. The WIOA Case Manager has processed over **40 applications in the past three months.** These 40 applicants will require case management for the next three years. The first nine of these applications were dislocated mill employees planning to obtain their CDL, all of whom graduated in August 2023.

*WIOA Case Manager Sharon Bolden with dislocated workers from Pactiv Evergreen. This group represents the first graduating class of new CDL drivers!*



**Occupational Training Graduates 2023**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nursing | 4 |
| Physical Therapy Assistant | 1 |
| Occupational Therapy | 1 |
| Radiology | 1 |
| Sonography | 1 |
| Medical Assisting | 1 |
| Human Services Tech | 1 |
| Basic Law Enforcement | 2 |
| Total | 12 |

*Meals Delivered Across the Mountains Every Day*

## Food Services

**Program Manager: Peter Mudge**

The Food Service program was started in the 1970's in order to prepare nutritious meals and control costs at a centralized kitchen in Sylva. During the 1990's we expanded the program to supply low cost meals to day care centers in our area. We currently have a staff of five employees and operate five delivery vehicles. **We produce 1,000 meals each day that are delivered to 51 sites** located in Haywood, Jackson, Swain, Clay, and Cherokee Counties.



*Food Services and Central Intake Director Peter Mudge*

*Community Resource Fairs*

## Working in Partnership With the Community

Community Resource Fairs are one example of how Mountain Projects collaborates with local nonprofit agencies to support households in need. Community Resource Fairs bring many nonprofits to a single event, where all organizations meet and greet participants and provide services specific to their area of work.

Individuals and families can access food boxes, school supplies, and assistive programs including healthcare counseling, substance prevention services, domestic violence services, healthcare clinics, and childcare resources. All community fairs include Spanish translators and nonprofits that work with the migrant worker population. Each event includes more than 20 partner organizations and fairs include free food provided by the Holy Cow truck.







*Certified Application Counselor Vicky Gribble (seated) with volunteers at a resource fair*

**Our Resource Fairs Welcomed 1,705 individuals & 756 families**

*Food Service employee Curtis Mathis unloads milk for food boxes*

*Supportive Relationships and Skills Training*

## Circles of Cashiers-Glenville

**Coordinator: Mary Jane Lucas**

Circles of Jackson gathers individuals motivated to move out of poverty and matches them with volunteers who will support them on their journey toward self-sufficiency.

Middle-and-high-income volunteers serve as allies to our participants, ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained, Employed) individuals from Cashiers, Glenville and the surrounding communities, helping them lead themselves out of poverty through supportive relationships and skills training.

**Grantor: Community Foundation of WNC**
**Circles collaborates with Uncomplicated Kitchen, Big Brothers Big Sister of Cashiers-Highlands, Friendship Center in Cashiers, Rolling Start, First Presbyterian Church of Sylva**



*Circles of Cashiers-Glenville hosted two cooking classes in conjunction with the Uncomplicated Kitchen and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cashiers-Highlands*




*Mountain Projects works to strengthen the fabric of our community with stabilizing solutions for the most vulnerable in Haywood and Jackson Counties.*

MOUNTAIN PROJECTS

**Waynesville**

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

**Sylva**

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

**Website: MountainProjects.org**