Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership is proud to be part of the nationwide anti-poverty network that has been working to eliminate poverty in our community since 1964. Our Promise is that "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." Our vision is to be a strong, responsive organization that provides hope and life changing opportunities for people to help themselves and each other. We work toward this vision through our three main divisions, Head Start, Child Care Aware and Family & Community Services. These divisions provide over 30 programs and services that work to help people change their lives every day.

2017 has been a busy year at Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership! Over the past year, our programs have provided services to over 5,000 children, families, seniors and child care providers across the region! We continue to grow our programs in response to the needs that we have identified in the communities we serve, including strengthening our workforce development programming, expanding services to senior citizens, increasing access to high-quality affordable childcare options, and supporting affordable housing. In addition we were able to convert two of our Head Start Classrooms to provide full year, full day programming! While our primary service area is in Clay and Wilkin counties in West Central Minnesota, many of our programs and services reach beyond the borders of these two counties, including Child Care Aware, Rainbow Bridge, and Workforce Development.

In addition to providing our programs and services to children, families and seniors in need, our team has been working on planning for the future. Over the past year our Board of Directors and Leadership Team have completed an updated Community Needs Assessment, completed a new 5-Year Strategic Plan, and developed a set of core values and strategic anchors that will guide the work of our team for years to come. We believe that these Core Values and Strategic Anchors will help us achieve our mission to: "Eliminate Poverty by Empowering Families and Engaging Communities"

**Our Core Values are:**
- **Raise the Bar** - We always strive for excellence and never settle for the status quo
- **Be Brave** - We challenge ourselves to go further than before, endure obstacles and try new things
- **Do the Right Thing** - We have the strength of character to do the right thing even when it’s not easy
- **Care for Each Other** - We respect, trust and care for ourselves, our customers and our team
- **Help People** - We help people help themselves and each other, focusing on those who need us most

**Our Strategic Anchors are:**
- **Better Together** - We choose to engage the community and partners to provide collaborative solutions to some of society’s most challenging problems.
- **Holistic Helping Hearts** - We chose to provide hands-on, ongoing, holistic and evidence-based support for our clients to be their long-term guide as they build a better future.
- **Intentional Leadership** - We choose to use measurement and evaluation to hold ourselves accountable for results. We make difficult decisions and necessary changes to advance our mission.
- **Commitment to Development** - We choose to make significant investments in the growth of our people, knowing they are the key to fulfilling our mission and vision.
- **Clear and Compelling Brand** - We choose to invest in a brand that engages the community with our cause.

With this new 5-year strategic plan, our organization is excited to continue our work in addressing the causes and conditions of poverty and help our communities thrive. Most important, we couldn’t do this without each of you! **Thank you to our volunteers, donors, and supporters for helping us make everyday miracles happen in the lives of the children, families and seniors in our community!**

Lori Schwarz, Executive Director        Jenny Mongeau, Board Chair
2017 By the Numbers

Clients Served: In 2017 our agency served 5,198 people including

1,322 Children
566 Senior Citizens
1,480 Child Care Providers

Housing: Lakes & Prairies Supportive Housing Programs assisted

375 People obtain and maintain safe, affordable housing
199 People prevented from entering homelessness

Food & Nutrition: Our programs helped people increase nutrition by

953 People obtained food assistance to access nutritious food
555 Households accessed emergency food
469 Children benefited from ChildCare Alive!

Employment: Lakes & Prairies programs helped people get to work

70 People were unemployed and obtained a job
30 People achieved "living wage" employment

Health: Lakes & Prairies programs support healthy families

1,071 People accessed affordable health insurance
302 Children received immunizations, medical & dental care

Economic Security: Programs help families achieve financial success!

674 People received free Tax Preparation assistance
73 People increased financial skills through Financial Fitness
Program Highlight: Head Start Program

Toreen Ahmed is a Head Start Hero! Toreen has been honored by the MN Head Start Association with the Head Start Heroes Award for "A currently enrolled Head Start child who has made tremendous developmental progress while enrolled in a Head Start program." Toreen is a special ray of sunshine in our Head Start program! She is a delightful child full of sunshine and a big smile. Everyone loves Toreen and has loved watching her progress!

When Toreen was first enrolled in the Head Start classroom, she was unable to feed herself, unable to walk, unable to brush her teeth or even go outside.

Toreen has been diagnosed with Dandy Walker Syndrome, which means she needs significant help to get her body to do what her brain is telling it to do. Toreen's parents desperately wanted her to be able to play with the other children at Head Start. Today, with the help of the Head Start Program, Toreen has developed in the most amazing ways! She is able to walk independently with braces, put on her own jacket and boots to play outside, wash her hands and eat with a spoon! Toreen's parents are so relieved that there is light at the end of the tunnel, and despite Toreen's disabilities she can learn. Toreen's assessment scores are rising and with another year of Head Start she will be even more ready for Kindergarten! Toreen is a true Head Start Hero!

Early Head Start provides support to pregnant moms, and parents of children ages birth to three. Families receive a weekly home visit that includes child development, family support, health & nutrition and social interaction.

Children served thru Early Head Start last year:
- 111

Children served thru Head Start last year:
- 197

Head Start's goal is to teach children and support families as they get their children ready for Kindergarten. Children ages 3-5 receive quality education services, family support, health & nutrition.
Program Highlight: Child Care Aware

Child Care Aware helps parents secure high-quality affordable child care, assists child care programs and providers by providing training and technical assistance to improve quality, and assists communities and employers in growing high-quality early childhood programs.

661 Children accessed affordable child care

1,040 Child Care Providers received training

Child Care Aware is working with programs across our region to improve the quality of child care through Parent Aware Coaching. Coaches work with child care providers to fine tune strategies and environments and receive a Parent Aware Rating. Programs that participate can also qualify to receive Early Learning Scholarships to help parents pay for high-quality care. Two programs that have benefited from this program are The Teddy Bear House and The Big Red House Childcare.

Darcy Barry was motivated to achieve her rating so families attending her program could apply for Early Learning Scholarships. “The main reason I wanted to do the scholarships was for families so they could come to daycare and not have to worry about the financial part because it’s a burden.” Greta Miller says, “I need to step up my game to ensure the kids who go through my program are learning, are healthy, are happy, are engaged.”

Supporting High Quality Child Care by Providing:
- High quality training opportunities for early childhood professionals
- Quality improvement programs such as Parent Aware and Child Care Alive!
- Annual grants to support quality improvement
- Child Care Assistance Program and Early Learning Scholarships to help families afford care.
- Technical assistance in becoming a licensed child care provider, opening and operating a facility.
Eric Bridges walked through our door last December, down on his luck. He was on the verge of becoming homeless, struggling to make ends meet, and disconnected from his family. In less than a year with help from Lakes & Prairies CAP, Eric has completed training to become a Certified Welder, been able to secure full-time employment with a family sustaining wage, secure transportation and stable housing and has been reunited with his fiancé and 18 month old daughter. Eric’s fiancé Leslie also recently completed our job training program and has also secured full-time employment as a Certified Nursing Assistant! “She kept encouraging me and helped me problem-solve the issues I had in my life,” said Eric.

"I didn't believe there were good people in the world, but I guess I was proved wrong." Eric Bridges

The Workforce Development Program pairs a skill or trade that is in high demand such as welding, nursing and manufacturing with a job coach that works with families to help them overcome their personal barriers to obtaining and maintaining employment. This program is an innovative partnership with MState and the United Way of Cass-Clay.

9 Individuals became Certified Welders or Production Technicians
49 Individuals completed workforce training
9 Individuals became Certified Nursing Assistants
The Rainbow Bridge Supervised Parenting Time Center provides a safe, family-friendly place for families to maintain positive relationships with their children.

One family that has been able to stay connected with their young children during a difficult time is the Towey family. The Towey family currently has supervised visitations twice a week at Rainbow Bridge with three of their six children. The children were removed from the home due to substance use by the parents. The parents are working through the steps with the County to start the reunification process with their children.

The children are always excited to see Mom and Dad and have a hard time leaving them. While they are here they play with toys and games. They also often color and watch movies together while they cuddle on the couch. Rainbow Bridge provides a safe, home-like environment for the Towey family to spend time together! Our goal is to help parents maintain positive relationships with their children through difficult circumstances. Rainbow Bridge also provides safe exchanges for families that have high conflict to keep kids out of the middle. Rainbow Bridge is the only Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange program in the FM area and serves families regardless of residence.

Rainbow Bridge Supervised Parenting Time Center strives to connect families to their children by providing supervised visitation and safe exchange services.

1,371
Hours of supervised visitation

200
Families were connected to their children

873
Safe Exchanges Provided
Kermit Lomsdalen is a long-time resident of Ulen, MN. Kermit and his wife Doris were married for 64 years and lived in the Ulen area all of their lives. Kermit and Doris were both active members of the community and volunteered to prepare and deliver meals on wheels, and cared for their young grandson with special needs. In recent years Kermit had a stroke which limited his mobility. Since Doris passed away in 2016, Kermit has been able to maintain his independence at the age of 87 staying in his home with the help of Lakes & Prairies Seniors Program.

Lakes & Prairies Community Action was able to build a deck for Kermit and Doris in 2013 that was easily converted to include a handicap accessible ramp through the Group Workcamp Home Repair Project. In addition, Kermit receives a monthly NAPS box delivered by a volunteer that provides him with nutritious food. Kermit is active in the Ulen Senior Center and regularly attends meetings and classes offered at the center, including a recent Matter of Balance training provided by Lakes & Prairies. Kermit is able to maintain his independent lifestyle within his own home with the support of the Lakes & Prairies Seniors Program which is a cost savings of over $5,000 a month when compared to the cost of residing in the nursing home. Lakes & Prairies is proud to help seniors stay in their community and live healthy, independent lives!

The Lakes & Prairies Seniors program provides a wide array of services to support independent living of seniors in the homes.

- 566 Senior Citizens received services to support independent living
- 220 Senior Citizens received nutritious food through the NAPS Program
- 282 Senior Citizens received assistance with accessing resources
Awards & Recognitions

Andrea Koczur
2017 Dennis Heitkamp Leadership Award Recipient

Emily Hagen
2017 Volunteer Extraordinaire Award Recipient

2017 Service Award Recipients

Shanna Grefsrud, 20 Years of Service

Roxie Moyer, 20 Years of Service

Dale Rollie, 15 years

Patty Lopez, 10 Years

Lisa Bontje, 10 Years

Maria Steen, 5 Years

Cassie Christianson, 5 Years

Thank you for sharing your time and talents with our team!
Supportive Housing Programs provide safe, affordable housing for children, families, singles and seniors across Clay and Wilkin Counties. Last year, our Supportive Housing Programs helped:

- 184 people exit homelessness and achieve safe, affordable housing
- 98 households prevent homelessness
- 72 households rapidly re-housed from homelessness

2017 Certified Community Action Professionals
Kristin Phillips, Vanessa Strobel, and Patty Lopez

TNT Kids Fitness Head Start
Superstar Service Provider Award

Higher Power Automotive Head Start
Superstar Service Provider Award

Michele Mortensen,
Head Start Hero Award Winner

Mobile Food Drop

United Way Day of Caring
Supportive Housing Programs provide safe, affordable housing for children, families, singles and seniors across Clay and Wilkin Counties. Last year, our Supportive Housing Programs helped:

- 184 people exit homelessness and achieve safe, affordable housing
- 98 households prevent homelessness
- 72 households rapidly re-housed from homelessness

Farm to Child Care Project

- Having fun while we learn!
- We LOVE Giving Hearts Day!

Our Board and Team "Huggy Heart" Community Action!
Lakes & Prairies Team

Board of Directors

Jenny Mongeau, Board Chair
James Hamer, Vice Chair
Andrea Koczur, Treasurer
Michelle Werner, Secretary
Renee Backlund
Kristi Bivens
John Docken
Laurie Drewlow
Heidi Durand

Lyle Hovland
Loren Ingebretsen
Sarah King
Kristin Krile
Ben Lien
Stephanie Miranowski
Eloisa Pigeon
Barry Steen
Ron Verhaagen

Leadership Team

Lori Schwartz, Executive Director
Colleen Murray, Director of Operations
Brenda Montplaisir, Director of Finance
Kristin Phillips, Head Start Director
Dale Rollie, Clay County Seniors Director
Vanessa Strobel, Child Care Aware Director
Becki Johnson, Family & Community Services Director
# Financial Report

## LAKES & PRAIRIES CAP FINANCIAL REPORT FY 2016-2017

### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2016-2017</th>
<th>2015-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant Revenue:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>$5,458,330</td>
<td>$3,317,676</td>
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<tr>
<td>State of Minnesota</td>
<td>$2,218,832</td>
<td>$2,188,586</td>
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<tr>
<td>State of North Dakota</td>
<td>$36,498</td>
<td>$3,097,792</td>
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<td>Local Revenue</td>
<td>$472,521</td>
<td>$837,621</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$89,277</td>
<td>$34,300</td>
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<td>In-Kind Contributions</td>
<td>$2,114</td>
<td>$1,663</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charges for Services</td>
<td>$346,597</td>
<td>$315,094</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reimbursements &amp; Other</td>
<td>$46,943</td>
<td>$66,569</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>$837</td>
<td>$1,663</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td>$6,663,929</td>
<td>$7,898,964</td>
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### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2016-2017</th>
<th>2015-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Wages</td>
<td>$2,939,797</td>
<td>$3,099,031</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits</td>
<td>$727,403</td>
<td>$817,353</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$165,565</td>
<td>$167,736</td>
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<td>Contracted Services</td>
<td>$80,955</td>
<td>$91,867</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$287,001</td>
<td>$251,964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>$149,801</td>
<td>$153,956</td>
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<tr>
<td>Space Costs and Rentals</td>
<td>$251,820</td>
<td>$264,724</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Direct Costs</td>
<td>$1,809,265</td>
<td>$2,668,004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>$30,651</td>
<td>$25,207</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>$108,745</td>
<td>$99,139</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind</td>
<td>$2,114</td>
<td>$1,663</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bad Debt</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$30,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants and Professional Services</td>
<td>$123,560</td>
<td>$103,298</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$6,676,877</td>
<td>$7,774,642</td>
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### Change in Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2016-2017</th>
<th>2015-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>($12,748.00)</td>
<td>$84,322</td>
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### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2016-2017</th>
<th>2015-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>$1,062,691</td>
<td>$978,369</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>$1,040,943</td>
<td>$1,062,691</td>
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</table>

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2016-2017</th>
<th>2015-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$429,184</td>
<td>$425,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Cash - Unemployment Trust</td>
<td>$145,326</td>
<td>$111,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from Other Funds</td>
<td>$728,814</td>
<td>$496,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Receivable</td>
<td>$712,297</td>
<td>$873,171</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Receivables</td>
<td>$61,539</td>
<td>$20,702</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>$59,495</td>
<td>$57,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$82,145</td>
<td>$82,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets, Net</td>
<td>$817,914</td>
<td>$280,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$3,041,534</td>
<td>$2,347,142</td>
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</table>

### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2016-2017</th>
<th>2015-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Lease</td>
<td>$1,634</td>
<td>$19,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Maturity on Long Term Debt</td>
<td>$33,933</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to Other Funds</td>
<td>$728,814</td>
<td>$496,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$84,134</td>
<td>$257,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Payroll, Taxes and Related Benefits</td>
<td>$173,320</td>
<td>$183,157</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Compensated Absences</td>
<td>$212,790</td>
<td>$204,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
<td>$214,128</td>
<td>$884,173</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$1,648,773</td>
<td>$1,286,451</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Term Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Debt, Less Current Maturities</td>
<td>$542,818</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$1,991,591</td>
<td>$1,286,451</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2016-2017</th>
<th>2015-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undesignated</td>
<td>$810,414</td>
<td>$801,118</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment in Net Fixed Assets</td>
<td>$239,529</td>
<td>$261,573</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$1,049,943</td>
<td>$1,062,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$3,041,534</td>
<td>$2,347,142</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2016-2017 Functional Expenses

- **Program Expenses (86.90%)**
- **Management & General Expenses (12.57%)**
- **Fundraising Expenses (0.52%)**

### 2016-2017 Program Expenses

- **Child Care Aware (35.46%)**
- **Head Start (40.82%)**
- **Family & Community Services (23.72%)**
Over the last year, Lakes & Prairies programs have:

- Assisted 9 households in meeting their goal to purchase a home, start a small business, or pursue post-secondary education
- Provided 38 households with education and training to purchase a home
- Assisted over 250 households to obtain and maintain safe, affordable housing
- Connected over 1,200 people to affordable health insurance
- Provided a high-quality early childhood education experience to 234 families through the Head Start Program
- Provided nutrition assistance to over 250 seniors across Clay County
- Provided financial education, training and assistance to 73 people through our Financial Fitness program
- Awarded over $220,000 to 289 child care programs to make identified improvements
- Supported 126 child care programs to work towards a star rating

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Moorhead, MN 56560

info@lakesandprairies.net