

# Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership

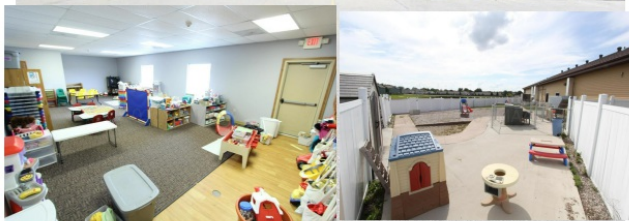


*Our Mission is to:  
Eliminate Poverty, Empower Families & Engage Communities*

## 2016 Annual Report

# New Facility!

*861 Belsly Blvd Moorhead*



## Lakes & Prairies Purchases New Center!

In October 2016, Lakes & Prairies Community Action closed on our first ever agency-owned property. The new center is located at 861 Belsly Blvd in Moorhead and was formerly a child care center. The site is set up perfectly for expansion of Head Start classrooms! Purchasing facility space has been a goal of the Lakes & Prairies board and leadership team for over 15 years! We are delighted to have new space to expand our programming to better meet the needs of children and families in our community!

---

This facility allows us to expand our Head Start services to offer full day, full year programming starting in the fall of 2017!

---

The new facility will house 2 universal intake offices to serve as an outreach office location for program intakes that provides increased access to services for those that live on the South side of Moorhead.

---

The space will allow us to expand staff to accommodate the needs of our growing programs including Child Care Aware, Housing, and Workforce Development.

---

## Lakes & Prairies named a new Executive Director in 2016

Lakes & Prairies Community Action's Board of Directors named Lori Schwartz as the new Executive Director in 2016. Lori has over 20 years working in Community Action Agencies, and has been with Lakes & Prairies since 1997. Her experience includes Head Start Teacher, Head Start Special Services, Director of the Migrant Head Start Program, and most recently Director of Operations. She holds a Master's of Science Degree in Strategic Leadership from the University of Mary, Bismarck. As the Director of Operations, Lori was responsible for effectively leading the organization and building a strong culture of trust and respect both internally and externally. Lori strives to lead with confidence and assurance and enable others to do the same. Lori has strong communication skills and encourages open communications to achieve mutual understanding. Please join us in welcoming Lori as Executive Director!



*"I am committed to the Promise of Community Action and work every day toward our mission to Eliminate Poverty, Empower Families, and Engage Communities. "*

*-Lori Schwartz, Executive Director*

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



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

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

In 2016, Rainbow Bridge Provided the following services to children and families in our community:

- 1,252 supervised visits
- 1,152 safe exchanges



Child Care Aware program improves access to high quality, affordable, healthy child care across the region.

Last year, Child Care Aware provided:

- 7,845 hours of training to 1,026 providers
- 551 children were able to access affordable care
- 1,504 children impacted through Child Care Alive!
- 265 families received assistance finding child care



Melvin Carter Visits Head Start!



Head Start Play Cafe



Parent Aware Rating Party

# 2016 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



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.

Last year, Lakes & Prairies Early Head Start Program provided comprehensive services to 75 infants, toddlers and their families.

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.



Last year, the Lakes & Prairies Head Start Program provided comprehensive services to 159 preschool children. 92% of all children going to Kindergarten exceeded the school readiness benchmark!



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Tax Site provides assistance for low-income households to file their taxes at no charge.

This year the VITA Tax Site assisted 480 households, bringing in over \$858,000 in Federal Returns and \$382,000 in Earned Income Credit!



2016 Certified Community Action Professional Graduates



United Way Soup Cook Off Contest Winners



Breakfast with Legislators regarding Early Childhood

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



During the pilot program:

17 individuals have completed training  
8 individuals received program certification

In 2016, Lakes & Prairies Community Action worked to develop a collaborative workforce development program in partnership with MState. This project is an innovative way to build our workforce, while simultaneously lifting families out of poverty by providing them with the skills they need to obtain living wage employment. The 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.



Lakes & Prairies Head Start Home Visitor Aven Amedi received both the Head Start Heroes and the MinnCAMP Allies in Action Awards this year!



Aven has overcome many obstacles in her life with the help of Community Action. Aven has grown from a Head Start parent, to a parent volunteer, to a classroom teacher and now a Head Start Home Visitor. Congratulations Aven!

*"Lakes and Prairies believes in me more than I do in myself!  
They see things about my character that I don't see."*

*-Aven Amedi, Head Start Home Visitor*



Head Start Dental Days



Wilkin County Food Drop



Child Care Aware Training

# Lakes & Prairies Leadership



Lakes & Prairies Board Retreat 2016

The Lakes & Prairies Board of Directors members include:

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  
Shawna Manthey

The Lakes & Prairies Leadership Team consists of the following members:

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



Celebrating Red Nose Day 2016!

# Awards & Recognitions



Dr. Lynne Kovash  
2016 Dennis Heitkamp Leadership Award



Linda Sande  
2016 Volunteer Extraordinaire Award

## 2016 Service Award Recipients



Kristin Phillips, 15 Years of Service



Robin Christianson, 10 Years of Service

Thank you for sharing your time and talents with our team!



Amanda Nord, 5 Years



Kateri Skunes, 5 Years



Michele Mortensen, 5 Years



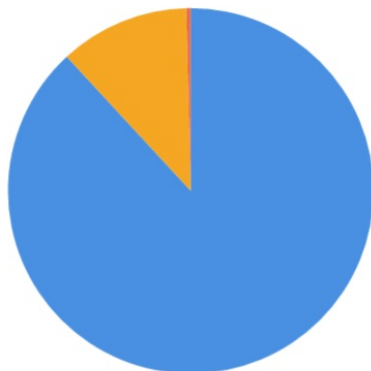
Amanda Rocha, 5 Years

# Financial Report

## LAKES & PRAIRES CAP FINANCIAL REPORT FY 15-16

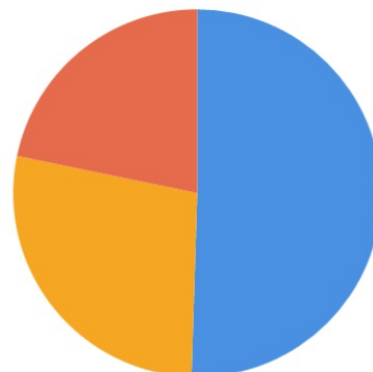
REVENUE		2015-2016	2014-2015	ASSETS		2015-2016	2014-2015
Grant Revenue:				Current Assets			
	Federal	\$3,317,676	\$3,180,045		Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$305,012	\$494,590
	State of Minnesota	\$2,186,586	\$1,948,443		Restricted Cash - Unemployment Trust	\$111,884	\$91,523
	State of North Dakota	\$1,097,792	\$1,702,329		Investments	\$120,081	\$80,000
	Local Revenue	\$837,621	\$463,056		Due from Other Funds	\$496,167	\$564,932
Contributions		\$34,300	\$70,496		Grants Receivable	\$873,171	\$893,142
In-Kind Contributions		\$1,663	\$65,956		Other Receivables	\$20,702	\$42,854
Charges for Services		\$315,094	\$311,889		Prepaid Expenses	\$57,128	\$70,542
Reimbursements & Other		\$66,569	\$106,241		Investments	\$82,145	\$121,820
Interest		\$1,663	\$2,523		Fixed Assets, Net	\$280,852	\$302,093
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$7,858,964</b>	<b>\$7,850,978</b>		<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,347,142</b>	<b>\$2,661,496</b>
EXPENSES		2015-2016	2014-2015	LIABILITIES			
	Salaries and Wages	\$3,099,011	\$3,355,015		Capital Lease	\$19,279	\$18,192
	Fringe Benefits	\$882,660	\$919,621		Due to Other Funds	\$496,167	\$564,932
	Administration	\$167,736	\$217,232		Accounts Payable	\$297,106	\$257,492
	Contracted Services	\$91,867	\$75,238		Accrued Payroll, Taxes and Related Benefits	\$228,103	\$245,058
	Supplies	\$251,964	\$391,128		Accrued Compensated Absences	\$204,569	\$243,952
	Travel	\$153,956	\$206,727		Accrued Unemployment Insurance	\$111,884	\$91,523
	Space Costs and Rentals	\$264,724	\$299,627		Deferred Revenue	\$84,173	\$334,222
	Other Direct Costs	\$2,668,004	\$1,947,195		<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,441,281</b>	<b>\$1,755,371</b>
	Insurance	\$25,207	\$25,906		<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>		
	Depreciation	\$99,139	\$101,463		Capital Lease, Less Current Maturities	\$0	\$19,279
	In-Kind	\$1,663	\$17,022		<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,441,281</b>	<b>\$1,774,650</b>
	Bad Debt	\$30,720	\$0		<b>Net Assets</b>		
	Consultants and Professional Services	\$103,298	\$139,973		Undesignated	\$644,288	\$622,224
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$7,839,949</b>	<b>\$7,696,147</b>		Investment in Net Fixed Assets	\$261,573	\$264,622
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>		<b>\$19,015</b>	<b>\$154,831</b>		<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$905,861</b>	<b>\$886,846</b>
<b>NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>		<b>\$886,846</b>	<b>\$732,015</b>		<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,347,142</b>	<b>\$2,661,496</b>
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>		<b>\$905,861</b>	<b>\$886,846</b>				

2015-2016 Functional Expense Allocation



- Program Expenses (88.13%)
- Management & General Expenses (11.49%)
- Fundraising Expenses (0.38%)

2015-2016 Program Expenses



- Child Care Aware (50.50%)
- Head Start (27.74%)
- Family & Community Services (21.75%)



# Community Impact

Lakes & Prairies provides a wide array of programs and services that work toward our mission of Eliminating Poverty, Empowering Families and Engaging Communities. The impact of our work is far-reaching and touches the lives of over 5,000 children, families, seniors and individuals across Clay and Wilkin Counties.

## Over the last year, Lakes & Prairies programs have:

Provided nutrition assistance to over 250 seniors across Clay County

Provided 38 households with education and training to purchase a home

Assisted 9 households in meeting their goal to purchase a home, start a small business, or pursue post-secondary education

Assisted over 250 households to obtain and maintain safe, affordable housing

Provided over \$320,000 in financial assistance to households for high quality child care

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 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

Assisted low-income households in securing over \$1 Million in tax refunds

## GET IN TOUCH WITH US



218-512-1500  
800-452-3646

[www.lakesandprairies.net](http://www.lakesandprairies.net)

715 11th Street N  
Suite 402  
Moorhead, MN 56560

[info@lakesandprairies.net](mailto:info@lakesandprairies.net)