# Agape Works!





children and families in need through unconditional love, the very meaning of our agency's name. We are blessed to serve thousands of children and families every year in an effort to keep them safe, smart and successful by providing services in under-resourced communities. Services include early childhood programs; school-based initiatives; workforce readiness; homeless services; counseling; adoption and foster care. In partnership with the Tennessee Department of Human Services, Agape and its community partners have expanded via a two-generation model, wholly serving youth and parents in a poverty-reduction strategy, providing support, permanency, and sustainability in Frayser, Hickory Hill and Whitehaven. This report provides an overview of the performance of Agape's two-generation services, in partnership with TDHS, over the past quarter.

The Impact of ACEs: An ACE is an adverse childhood experience such as abuse, neglect, or witnessing domestic violence or substance abuse. 35% of those we serve have 4 or more ACEs (3 times the state average). Research shows that without intervention, ACEs can be a barrier to success at school, home, work and in the community. Agape aims to support, encourage and heal those recovering from trauma. In addition, we recently launched our early childhood initiative, Thrive by Five, helping parents ensure their children are kindergarten-ready.

Focus Areas: Agape measures performance outcomes in

- **Health & Well-Being** (including safety)
- **Education** (including Early Childhood)
- Economic Supports (post-secondary education and employment pathways)
- **Social Capital**

In the past quarter, Agape delivered two-generation services to 3,394 individuals representing 1,383 families.

Poverty Reduction: Although poverty is generally measured in economic terms, a more holistic definition involves the idea of a household's ability to meet its own basic needs - adequate food, health, shelter, income, education, and community participation - which depends on enabling conditions that must be in place. Agape and its community partners promote this environment using a holistic, comprehensive, twogenerational approach to individual, family, and community health and success that reduces poverty by improving food and housing security, safety, social support, health, educational outcomes, and employment opportunities.

Agape's two-generation approach aims to reduce poverty for those served. Over the past quarter, 7.5% of the families we served are no longer living in financial poverty, far exceeding our annual goal of reducing poverty by 1% annually for the next ten years.



**Goal:** Reduce poverty for families served by 1% annually for the next 10 years. **Challenge:** Only 5-10% of Memphis families living in poverty ever escape poverty.

- Year One (Mar '17-Feb '18): 2.86% of families served during this time exited poverty.
- Year Two (Mar '18-Feb '19): 3.8% of families served during this time exited poverty.
- In the past quarter, 7.5% of families served by Agape exited poverty.

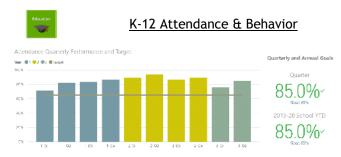
### **Health & Well-Being Highlights**

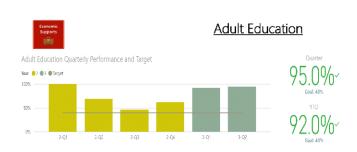
**Housing & Basic Needs Goal:** 50% of families will pay their rent on time and are no more than five (5) days late. **Actual:** 71% of renting families paid rent on time this past quarter, far exceeding the goal.

#### **Education Highlights**

Attendance, Behavior, and Parent Engagement Goal: Over the course of the school year, at least 65% of Stars students will attend school at system expected levels (missing less than 10% of school days), at least 60% of students will exhibit acceptable behavior (having no referrals, suspensions, or expulsions), and at least 65% of students will have parent engagement.

**Actual:** In the first month of the 2019-2020 school year, 85% of students attended school at system expected levels, 98% of students exhibited acceptable behavior, and 18% of students had parent engagement.





## **Economic Supports Highlights**

**Employment Goal:** 40% of adults served by Agape's workforce initiative will gain skills by participating in education leading to credential or employment; 20% of adults served will earn a living wage via secured or enhanced employment.

**Actual:** 95% of those served by Agape's TeamWorks program participated in adult education and 33.3% now earn at or above \$15 per hour.

#### Faith and Hope Highlights

Through its Faith Formation and Engagement ministry, Agape continues to convene with local churches to respond to each community's need for hope and healing. As recommended by Governor Bill Lee, Dave Worland (executive director of Governor Lee's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives) visited Agape and various faith and community leaders in Memphis for a full week in August.

To find out more about how to respond to be a part of God's work through Agape, call 901.323.3600 or visit www.agapemeanslove.org.

