Agape Means Love. Everyone deserves love, hope and encouragement. Our faith-based ministry works to lift 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.

Agape’s COVID-19 Efforts: On March 24th the City of Memphis issued a Safer at Home Order in response the COVID-19 pandemic. As reported to TN-DHS in March, Agape immediately initiated a telework staffing model for safety of staff, while remaining missional in our service and communication with our families. Through this, approximately 525 families expressed that due to COVID-19, with their top 5 needs noted below. Agape has responded to all five of these noted areas.

- Emergency food support
- Digital devices and internet access
- Financial assistance due to income loss
- Access to cleaning supplies and household items
- Assistance with rent due to income loss

Agape has begun its response to addressing the digital divide with devices, broadband access, and related training/support for approximately 1,000 families over the next several months. We are also continuing to provide youth with resources to address learning gaps during school closures, provide family voice to school districts in planning for school re-openings, and seek means to support students who will be returning to school in the fall, whether in person or from home. The overall goal is for 100% of families served with Agape’s 2Gen model to have digital devices and internet connectivity, thus closing the digital divide gap for families served.

Focus Areas: Agape measures performance outcomes in a multitude of areas including:

- **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 2,303 individuals representing 1,108 families.

Poverty Reduction: Poverty involves the idea of a household’s ability to meet its own basic needs, which depends on enabling conditions that must be in place. Agape and its community partners promote this environment using a holistic, comprehensive, two-generational approach. Over the past quarter, 7.84% of the families we served have moved above financial poverty level thresholds and are progressing toward economic mobility, far exceeding our annual goal of reducing poverty by 1% annually for the next ten years.
MOVING THE NEEDLE
OF POVERTY

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.
Results:
- **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.
- **Year Three** (Mar ‘19-Feb ‘20): 6.35% of families served during this time exited poverty (9.35% in the 4th quarter).
- **Year Four, 1st Quarter** (Mar-May ‘20): 7.84% of families served 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:** Of renting families, 67.5% over this past quarter paid rent on time.

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:** Of students served during the 2019-2020 school year, 65.3% in the past quarter and 67% over the past school year attended school at system expected levels, 97.6% in the past quarter and 91% over the past school year exhibited acceptable behavior, and 61.3% in the past quarter and 50% over the past school year 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:** Of those served by Agape’s TeamWorks program in the past quarter, 69.2% participated in adult education, and 43.5% now earn at least $15/hr.

Faith and Hope Highlights

Agape’s Faith Formation and Engagement department has begun assessing the needs to include spiritual assessments as part of the Arizona Self-Sufficiency Index to address the holistic needs of families being served, who express an interest in spiritual pursuits.

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**.