

# Agape Child & Family Services Works!

Quarterly Report on Agape's Two-Generational Programs, January-March 2022



**Agape Means Love.** Everyone deserves love, hope and encouragement. Our faith-based ministry is a movement that works to lift children and families in need through unconditional love, the very meaning of our agency's name, "Agape." We are blessed to serve thousands of children and families every year in an effort to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. 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 Child & Family Services and its community partners have expanded via a two-generational (2Gen) approach, wholly serving youth and parents in a poverty-reduction strategy, providing support, permanency, and sustainability within 3 large Memphis area communities (Frayser, Hickory Hill and Whitehaven). This report provides an overview of some key performance outcomes of Agape Child & Family Services' family-centric efforts, in partnership with TDHS, over the past quarter.

**Agape's COVID-19 Efforts:** In the first wave of the pandemic, social isolation, school/childcare closures, and employment instability created unprecedented conditions for the families we served. The families we serve have expressed their needs due to COVID-19, noted below. Agape continues to respond to all 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
- Mental health support due to increased trauma
- Evictions and challenges to qualify for new leases
- Learning loss
- The Great Resignation and impacts to businesses

While meeting immediate needs, Agape worked to minimize the digital divide for families with broadband access, digital devices, and acclimating families (mostly adults) to this critical 21<sup>st</sup> century resource for nearly 700 households. 100% of families are utilizing these resources with a 27GB average monthly usage. Families served have experienced mental health challenges and housing instability due to the pandemic. We continue to respond to diverse needs and mitigate the potential for widening health and social inequities for parents and children.

**Organizational Highlights:** Agape Child & Family Services was invited for the 4<sup>th</sup> year to present at the National Association of Workforce Boards forum held in Washington, DC. Agape was also awarded \$1.2M from Workforce Mid-South to launch Competitive Edge, a model that will prepare 200 youth to enter the workforce through credential, certification, and work-based learning.

**Focus Areas:** Agape Child & Family Services measures performance results in a multitude of areas including:

- **Health & Well-Being** (including safety)
- **Education Supports** (including early childhood, & K-12)
- **Economic Supports** (post-secondary education/ upskilling & employment pathways)
- **Social Capital** (community working together for a common good)

**In the past quarter, we delivered two-generational services to 1,250 individuals representing 864 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. **The available poverty rate data (N=108) indicated 14.7% of those served for more than 1 year are not in poverty.**



## MOVING THE NEEDLE OF POVERTY

**Goal:** Reduce poverty for families served by 1% annually for the next 10 years.  
**Challenge:** Only 2.6% of Memphis families living in poverty ever escape poverty into prosperity.  
**Results:** The percentage of those served that are economically above the federal poverty level for each time period is as follows:

- **Year 1** (Mar '17-Feb '18): 2.86%
- **Year 2** (Mar '18-Feb '19): 3.80%
- **Year 3** (Mar '19-Feb '20): 6.35%
- **Year 4** (Mar '20-Sep '20): 7.41%
- **Year 5** (Oct '20-Sept '21): 8.86%
- **Year 6** (Oct '21-Sep '22): 16.9%<sup>1</sup>
  - **Q1** (Oct-Dec '21): 16%
  - **Q2** (Jan-Mar '22): 14.7%

1. The method for collecting household income changed in 2022 and now all programs are reporting.

### Health & Well-Being Highlights

**Housing & Basic Needs Goal:** 15% of families will pay their rent on time and are no more than five (5) days late. **Actual:** Of 118 renting families served during the second quarter of FY 2022, 38% paid their rent on time, far exceeding the goal of 15%. Through Agape's Families in Transition (FIT) housing stability program, a total of 89 literally or imminently homeless families were placed in transitional or permanent housing.

### Education Highlights

**Early Language Development:** Of the 94 families with pre-school-aged children served in the second quarter, 100% were engaged in quality early childhood experiences. This metric includes families enrolled in our Thrive by Five program this quarter. Connectors will continue to work with families and leverage partnerships to ensure all pre-school-aged children have quality early childhood experiences.

**Attendance, Behavior, and Parent Engagement:** Over the course of this school year, Stars Connectors continue to provide robust, holistic student support services in the 17 schools that host our staff. Each Connector serve a caseload of students to increase attendance, prevent out of classroom time due to behavioral issues, and encourage parents to engage in their student's education. **Over the past quarter, Stars Connectors served 788 students.** Our goals are that 65% of students will attend school at system expected levels (missing less than 10% of school days), 60% of students will exhibit acceptable behavior (having no referrals, suspensions, or expulsions), and 65% of students will have parental engagement.

### Economic Supports Highlights

**Employment Goal:** 20% of adults served by Agape Child & Family Services' TeamWorks division will gain skills by participating in education leading to credential or employment and 30% of adults served will participate in efforts that promote training and life-long learning. **Actual:** Of those served by Agape's TeamWorks in the past quarter, 88% have enrolled in a post-secondary education program and are enrolled in programs that lead to a credential or employment, and 96% participated in efforts that promote training and life-long learning. 110 of the 119 adults who set the goal during the second quarter to actively address barriers to employment are making progress, exceeding the goal of 50%.

### Faith and Hope Highlights

On MLK Day, Agape's Faith, Formation and Engagement (FFE) team participated in the Race for Reconciliation (R4R), a community-focused event designed to display that the dream of unity is still alive in Memphis. In addition, FFE supervisor, Pastor NL Transou, participated in a press conference in Washington, DC advocating for Racial Healing and Transformation.

*To find out more about how to be a part of God's work through Agape Child & Family Services, call 901.323.3600 or visit [www.AgapeMeansLove.org](http://www.AgapeMeansLove.org).*



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