

Agape Child & Family Services Works!

Quarterly Report on Agape's Two-Generational Programs, April-June 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 use a two-generational (2Gen) approach, wholly serving youth and parents in a poverty-reduction strategy, providing support, permanency, and sustainability within 3 large Memphis 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 serve. These families expressed their needs due to COVID-19, as noted below, and Agape has continued 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 resource for nearly 700 households. 100% of families are utilizing these resources with a 27GB average monthly usage. Families served have also 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's CEO David Jordan and COO Julie Sanon attended the Ascend Network Family Prosperity convening in May, where they presented as panelists, facilitated a session, and met with 19 other nationally-selected partners.

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 1,077 individuals representing 799 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=120) indicated 17.5% 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)¹
 - **Q1** (Oct-Dec '21): 16%
 - **Q2** (Jan-Mar '22): 14.7%
 - **Q3** (Apr-Jun '22): 17.5%

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

Health & Well-Being Highlights

Housing & Basic Needs: Of 123 renting families served during the third quarter of FY 2022, 40% paid their rent on time, far exceeding the goal of 15%. Through Agape's Families in Transition (FIT) housing stability program, a total of 67 literally or imminently homeless families were placed in transitional or permanent housing.

Education Highlights

Early Language Development: Of the 110 families with pre-school-aged children served in the third quarter, 100% were engaged in quality early childhood experiences. In addition, the Frayser Thrive by Five class, which consisted of 3 families, graduated in April 2022 with a 22% increase in conversational turns and 12% decrease in TV/electronic usage..

K-12 Education: Over the course of the 2021-2022 school year, Stars Connectors served 791 K-12th grade students. 73% of students attended school at system expected levels (missing less than 10% of school days), exceeding our goal of 65%. 98% of students exhibited acceptable behavior (having no referrals, suspensions, or expulsions), exceeding our goal of 60%. 86% of students served had parental engagement, exceeding our goal of 65%.

Economic Supports Highlights

Workforce Readiness: Of those served by Agape's TeamWorks in the past quarter, 87% have enrolled in a post-secondary education program and are enrolled in programs that lead to a credential or employment, and 92% participated in efforts that promote training and life-long learning. In addition, 93 of the 115 adults who set the goal during the third quarter to actively address barriers to employment are making progress, exceeding the goal of 50%.

Faith and Hope Highlights

Agape Child & Family Services held its inaugural Faith Family Reunion Festival with thousands of people in attendance. This FREE, multicultural, multi-faith celebration intentionally brought together diverse families for fun, entertainment, rides, activities, food trucks, and fellowship opportunities.

On May 3rd, Agape hit the airways with its own weekly Christian radio show on Bott Radio called We Agape Memphis. The radio show is meant to engage our audiences with inspiring discussions, interviews from our various partners in the community, testimonials, and conversations about love and relationships.

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.



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