

Agape Child & Family Services Works!

Quarterly Report on Agape's Two-Generational Programs, July-September 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.

Our model includes ongoing engagement with those we serve. All families receive information about resources and direct assistance as requested, including the following:

- Case management engagement
- Counseling and therapeutic supports
- Emergency food insecurities
- Rent payment support for both pre- and post-COVID-19 (including pending evictions)
- Utility bill payments (including significant arrearages)
- Assistance with transportation and gas cards
- Personal protective equipment and supplies
- Computers, digital resources, and internet connectivity
- Additional support for students reentering and adjusting to the classroom after a two-year COVID disruption

While being able to meet families' expressed immediate needs, Agape continues to respond by addressing the significant digital divide for families served. Agape is now responding with broadband access, digital devices, and acclimating families (mostly adults). During this quarter, 75 additional families were provided broadband access and digital devices resulting in a total of 675 families provided with access to technology. We are also continuing to provide youth with resources to address seismic learning gaps, including mitigating significant literacy loss.

Organizational Highlights: Agape hired a new PQI Supervisor to oversee the work of the Performance and Quality Improvement team and ensure efficient and effective service delivery and management practices to achieve strategic and program goals.

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

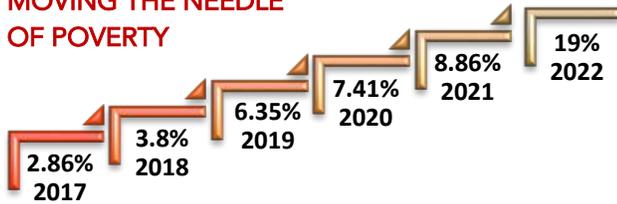
- **Health & Well-Being** (including safety)
- **Education Supports** (including early childhood, & K-12)
- **Economic Supports** (post-secondary education/ upskilling & employment pathways)
- **Social Capital** (community working together for a common good)

In the past quarter, we delivered two-generational services to 1,412 individuals representing 1,100 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=247) indicated 24.7% of those served for more than 1 year are now above the federal poverty level.**



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): **19%**¹
 - o **Q1** (Oct-Dec '21): 16%
 - o **Q2** (Jan-Mar '22): 14.7%
 - o **Q3** (Apr-Jun '22): 17.5%
 - o **Q4** (Jul-Sep '22): **24.7%**

1. The method for collecting household income changed in '22 with all programs now reporting.

Health & Well-Being Highlights

Housing & Basic Needs: Of 156 renting families served during this quarter, 45% paid their rent on time, far exceeding the goal of 15%. Through Agape's Families in Transition (FIT) housing stability program, a total of 11 literally or imminently homeless families were placed in transitional or permanent housing.

Education Highlights

Early Language Development: Of the 146 families with pre-school-aged children served this quarter, 100% were engaged in quality early childhood experiences. In addition, the Whitehaven and Hickory Hill Lena Start classes graduated in July with a 100% increase in adult words, 9% increase in conversational turns, and 61% decrease in TV/electronic usage. Nine new families (13 children) enrolled in the K-Ready program during the month of July.

K-12 Education: Through September, Stars Connectors served 644 K-12th grade students in 16 schools. 88% of students attended school at system expected levels (missing less than 10% of school days), 98.3% of students exhibited acceptable behavior (having no referrals, suspensions, or expulsions), and 41% of students served had parental engagement. Agape's Special Projects Coordinator organized a 3-day pilot camp for rising 9th graders. 12 students registered with 10 attending all 3 days. Camp sessions included goal setting, postsecondary readiness, vision planning, and study skills.

Economic Supports Highlights

Workforce Readiness: Of those served by Agape's TeamWorks in the past quarter, 85% 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, 61 of the 63 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

Faith, Formation, and Engagement (FFE) along with Agape's Whitehaven team partnered with Abundant Grace Fellowship Church with a food drive that resulted in 200 families being served. In addition, Agape's Volunteer Services partnered with 4th Avenue Church of Christ in Franklin, TN and East Brainerd Youth Group from Chattanooga, TN. Volunteers collaborated with schools in Frayser and Hickory Hill and led Vacation Bible School for community youth along with beautification projects in the Raleigh community.

*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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