

BLUE WATER COMMUNITY ACTION



2023 Annual Report

Helping People. Changing Lives.

**3403 Lapeer Road
Port Huron, MI 48060
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MISSION

**The mission of
Blue Water
Community
Action is to
advocate for and
provide
individuals with
limited income an
opportunity to
become socially
and economically
self-sufficient in
the community.**

Letter from the Acting Director

Greetings!

What an incredible ride 2023 has been! This period will be remembered as a time of profound transformation for Blue Water Community Action. While some people view change as a negative experience, let's not forget the significance of positive transformations in our lives. Think back to those special moments like graduations, weddings, or the arrival of a new baby; these events bring joy but also challenge us in unique ways.

For Blue Water Community Action, the past year was a whirlwind of challenges and triumphs. Despite facing our fair share of challenges, we've been provided with some amazing opportunities and celebrated monumental successes. Through the challenges, many lessons have been learned, not just about our organization but also about our community. Many in the community rallied to support the organization to ensure that vital services would continue to operate in our community.

Through this transition, BWCA took the opportunity to pursue new grants, explore new funding streams, and reconnect with partners from our past. These opportunities have created a route for an exhilarating future characterized by enduring sustainability.

Although, nobody knows where the future leads, I am confident that Blue Water Community Action is moving forward with purpose and will continue to accomplish great things for the community, while standing by the agency motto "Helping People. Changing Lives."

Karen Lake

CHILDREN'S SERVICES FINANCE REPORT

Head Start	Expenditures	Budget
Personnel	1,487,744	2,096,864
Fringe Benefits	405,571	594,658
Communication	22,645	14,492
Contracted Services	231,753	271,000
Equipment	39,710	19,000
Occupancy	177,569	147,350
Other	34,528	55,472
Staff Development	39,864	32,277
Supplies	58,536	741,950
Travel	7,888	8,150
Specific Assistance	157	5,722
In-Kind Expense	77,095	585,961
Total	2,583,060	4,572,896

Carryforward Head Start	Expenditures	Budget
Personnel	728,243	720,000
Fringe Benefits	153,333	182,084
Contracted Services	91,484	25,000
Other	408	16,000
Supplies	14,616	45,000
Total	988,084	988,084

Early Head Start	Expenditures	Budget
Personnel	1,487,744	2,096,864
Fringe Benefits	405,571	594,658
Communication	22,645	14,492
Contracted Services	231,753	271,000
Equipment	39,710	19,000
Occupancy	177,569	147,350
Other	34,528	55,472
Staff Development	39,864	32,277
Supplies	58,536	741,950
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COMMUNITY SERVICES



40

Households

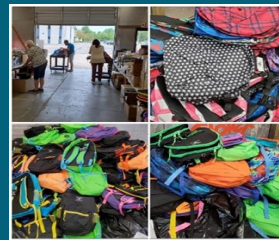
Hygiene and Sanitation

The Hygiene and Sanitation Closet provided a variety of personal hygiene and cleaning items for families and individuals.

Backpack Giveaway

Backpacks are provided to school age children filled with the basic supplies to ensure a successful start to the school year. Each backpack is filled with supplies based on the school level of pre-school, elementary, and middle school. Distributed for St. Clair County children.

1,513 Backpacks Distributed



Pre-Purchase Counseling 7

Homebuyer Education Attendees 181

Home Purchases 44

Foreclosure Prevention Counseling 89

Mortgage and Tax Assistance 41

Asset Development

Asset Development supports clients with homeownership, including home purchase preparation and assisting those behind on their mortgage and/or property taxes.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

446

tests were
distributed



1,335

Face masks
distributed

Personal Protection

Face masks were made available to individuals to be worn as directed by the CDC to help stop the spread of the COVID virus. Covid tests were made available to individuals to test at home for the COVID virus.

Utility Assistance

Funding through several programs provided assistance to assist households with utility insecurities.

40

Households Avoided Utility Shut-Offs



Boxes of Food Distributed

2,173



Food Assistance

Seniors nutritional needs are met through funding from the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

HARA

Fielded **1,275** calls from homeless households.

Placed **67** families in hotels for temporary shelter.

Supported **17** households with permanent supportive housing.

Fielded **1,116** calls from households facing eviction.

Prevented **58** evictions.

Rehoused **25** households from the street.

Housing Assessment Resource Agency (HARA)

HARA provides centralized intake and housing assessments for individuals and families who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness, assisting families with rental costs, eviction notices and/or utility shut-off notices, as well as information and/or referrals.

Income Tax Preparation

Certified volunteers prepared and filed Federal , State and City tax return s bringing valuable assets back to the com-



190

Income tax
clients

Clients Served

147

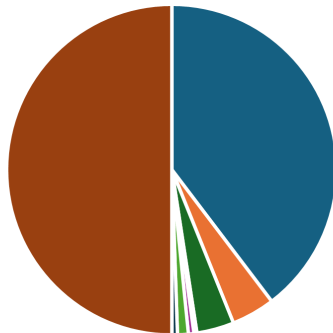


Money Management

BWCA provides fee-based services for individuals who find themselves under financial stress and in need of financial management skills and/or services. Clients can sign up on their own or be referred through various agencies.

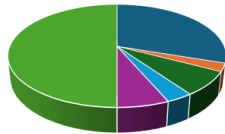
COMMUNITY SERVICES FINANCE REPORT

Revenue



■ Federal ■ State ■ Local ■ Contributions ■ Fees ■ Other ■ In-Kind ■ Total

Expenditures



■ Children's Services ■ Other
■ Home Weatherization ■ Client Assistance
■ Housing ■ Total

Revenue

Federal	6,111,889
State	654,654
Local	563,003
Contributions	45,071
Fees	82,264
Other	163,019
In-Kind	83,525
Total	7,703,425

Direct Expenditures by Program

Children's Services	4,699,965
Other	395,639
Home Weatherization	1,167,418
Client Assistance	517,927
Housing	1,007,268
Total	7,788,217

Expenditures by Category

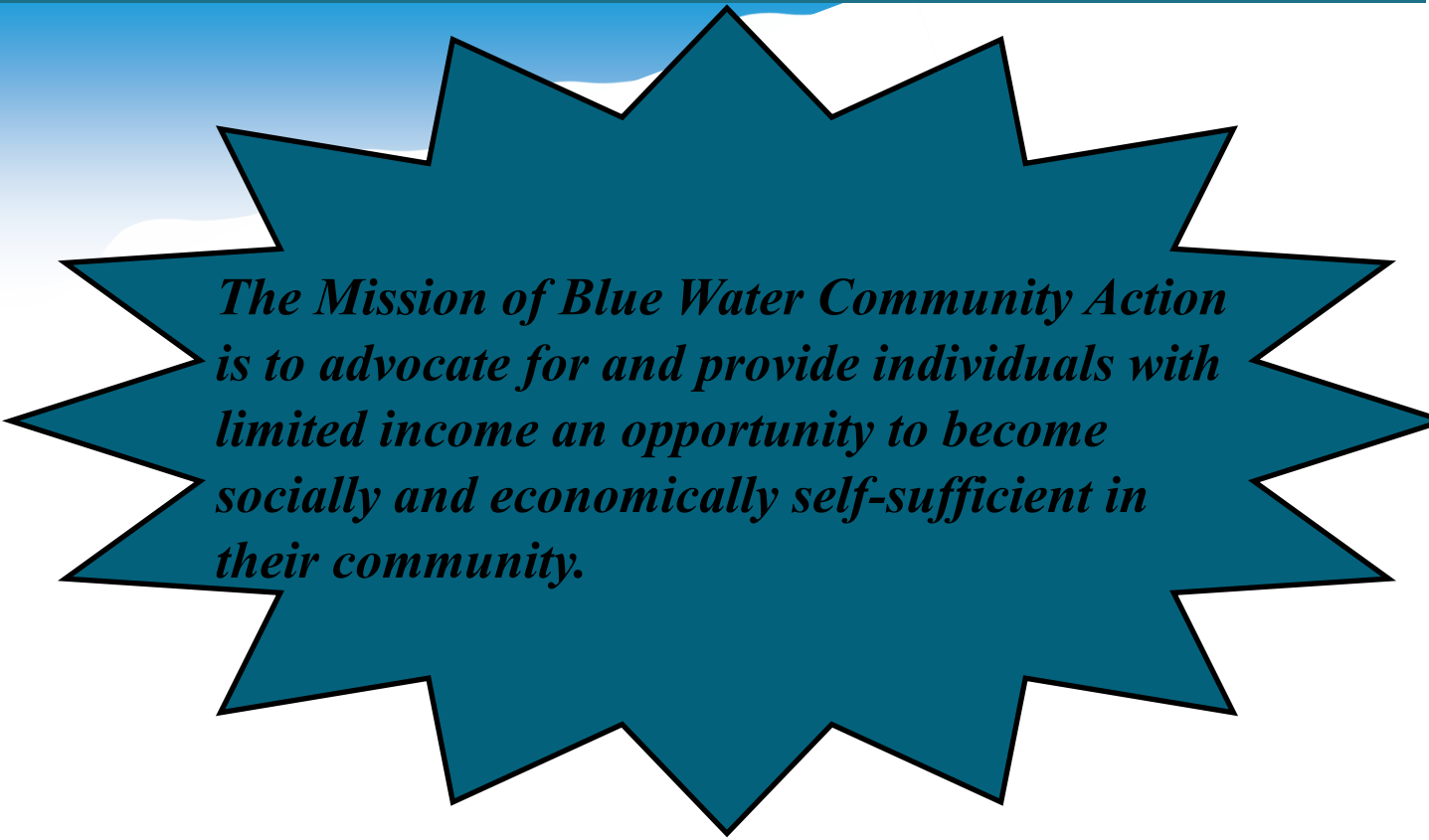
Direct Program Service	6,880,245
Administrative Expenses	824,447
In-Kind Expenses	83,525
Total	7,788,217

BWCA's financial audit was prepared by UHY, LLC for the year-ended September 30, 2023. BWCA was issued an unmodified opinion and qualified as a low-risk audit.

EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

■ Direct Program Service ■ Administrative Expenses
■ In-Kind Expenses ■ Total





*The Mission of Blue Water Community Action
is to advocate for and provide individuals with
limited income an opportunity to become
socially and economically self-sufficient in
their community.*

Cultural Contract

We treat everyone with dignity and respect.

We are open and honest with each other.

We encourage initiative and forward thinking.

We set challenging, realistic goals, and deliver on our commitments.

***We regularly communicate with each other on important issues
and developments.***

***We develop and leverage the abilities and perspectives of all individuals in our
diverse organization.***

***We make decisions that consider both the short-term and long-term needs of the
agency and those we serve.***

***We involve the right people in making decisions and base them on what is best
for the entire agency and those we serve.***

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, sex, familial status, sexual orientation, and reprisal. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to: USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410. Or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish federal-relay). BWCA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.