



For the past 50 years,
Mountain Projects programs
have provided help
for people in need.
We are building on this past
and looking toward the future.

50 years



Mountain Projects, Inc., a non-profit community action agency

2014-2015 Annual Report

*Mountain Projects, Inc. is a private non-profit organization
operated for exclusively charitable and educational purposes within the
meaning of Code Section 501(c)(3).*

To meet increasing community needs with decreasing resources, community support is vital. We appreciate donors and assure one hundred percent of each dollar donated is used to assist those in need. Sponsorship needs include: senior meals, weekend meals for children served in the Head Start program; Circles of Poverty support; funds to help with heating needs through Jackson Neighbors in Need, and Share the Warmth, etc. For more information please contact our Agency on how to help.

Mountain Projects, Inc. offices:
2251 Old Balsam Road, Waynesville, NC 28786; 828-452-1447
and 25 Schulman Street, Sylva, NC 28779 828-586-2345
www.mountainprojects.org



MISSION STATEMENT:

Mountain Projects, Inc., a community action agency, changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, and empowers people to help themselves and others.

ABOUT US: Approximately 10,000 lives were touched by staff in 10 sites with grants in fiscal year 2014-1015 through programs sponsored by Mountain Projects, Inc. Representation on the Organization's governing board is equally composed of elected officials, community representatives, and target group representatives.

CENTRAL SERVICES:

In-take & Graduate Education 1,473 applicants for services processed for Haywood and Jackson counties. 34 applicants are enrolled in the Graduate Education program at the Sylva office. 13 participants received emergency assistance and 23 secured standard housing.

FOOD SERVICE:



The program prepared and delivered over 197,000 meals and traveled 56,000 miles over three routes. The department delivers hot healthy lunches to 40 sites each week-day in Jackson, Haywood, Graham, Cherokee and Clay Counties.

CIRCLES OF HOPE HAYWOOD and JACKSON COUNTIES:

Circles helps families move out of poverty into a healthy new future. Communities form circles to break down isolation which constrains many low income families. The program is helping to build a community where every person has enough resources, relationships, and reason to thrive.

- 23 Haywood County Circle Leaders were trained;
- 50% are actively participating;
- 43% incomes and assets increased;
- 52% welfare benefits decreased;
- 17% are enrolled full time at Haywood Community

College;
 26% working full time earning a livable wage;
 73% increased social capital;
 7 new participants are enrolled in Circle Leader training.

In Jackson County 4 residents completed Circle Leader training and are matched with Allies; 2 are employed full time; 1 is working on a GED; 4 are enrolled in Circle Leader training.

Recruits for volunteers to become Allies are always welcome. They need to be trained and ready to be matched once Circle Leaders graduate. Other ways to volunteer are to provide child-care, donate a meal or in-kind programs supplies.

FINANCIAL:

Revenues (Unaudited) 6/30/15

Federal	8,760,773	71.49%
State	371,927	3.03%
County/Towns	306,222	2.50%
Local	189,301	1.54%
Fees	945,218	7.71%
Contributions	627,185	5.12%
Donated Services	672,954	5.49%
Investments	2,969	0.02%
Other	<u>378,350</u>	<u>3.09%</u>
	\$12,254,899	100.00%

Net balance of expenditures over revenues reflect accumulated prior year non restricted funds spent for projects this fiscal year and HUD recapture of allocations from prior years.

Expenses (Unaudited) 6/30/15

Children's Services	3,285,154	25.71%
Senior Services	503,291	3.94%
Housing Development	782,339	6.12%
Volunteer Services	566,146	4.43%
Rental Assistance HCV	4,467,843	34.97%
Employment & Eligibility	238,465	1.87%
Transportation	893,566	6.99%
Food Service/Local/		
Fundraising	1,265,310	9.90%
Other Services: Youth,		
Navigator, etc.	<u>775,235</u>	<u>6.07%</u>
	\$12,777,339	100.00%

(ARRA funds included in expenses are \$46,841 in Transportation)

HAYWOOD PUBLIC TRANSIT:

Total trips provided were 39,992 composed of :
 5,403 Medicaid; 12,163 Contract Services; 3,335 HCCBG-Seniors;
 10,093 Other Elderly and Disabled; and 8,998 General Public.
 Total miles driven: 339,392; Number of Service Hours: 18,330

HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START:



Both Head Start funded enrollment of 180 children ages 3-5 years and Early Head Start funded enrollment of 48 pregnant women and children ages 0-3 years were served in 16 classrooms in 6 centers in Haywood and Jackson counties.

HS served a cumulative total of 208 children. 37 children were enrolled in NC Pre-K Program in Haywood County in 3 classrooms. Early HS served a total of 56 children. 20 HS/EHS children were served in the State Child Care Subsidy Program for Wrap-Around services.

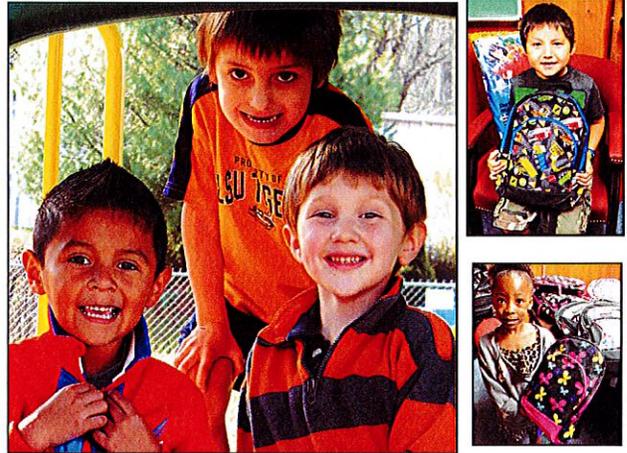
All HS and EHS children receive age appropriate physicals and developmental, educational, social/emotional, mental health, and dental screenings with follow up medical and dental treatment. Disability services were provided to 29 HS and 10 EHS children and mental health services provided to 10 HS and 2 EHS children.

167 volunteers provided 2,337 hours in Haywood County HS/EHS classrooms and 74 volunteers provided 8,265 hours in Jackson HS/EHS classrooms.

96 HS children graduated into Kindergarten.

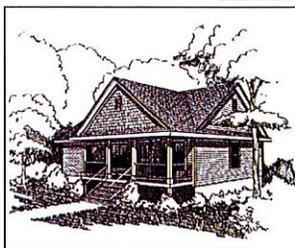
For the second year, Plottfest, a summer festival held in Maggie Valley, dedicated proceeds to the

Head Start backpack program. The backpacks contain necessary items children need for Kindergarten. Other sponsors include: Knights of Columbus that purchases children's coats, hats, and gloves for winter; Waynesville Rotary/Manna provide weekend food; Blue Ridge Books provides the children's books for the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program. Each child gets a book to take home three times per year.



Breaking ground for self-help Home.

Volunteers replaced a leaking roof on a home.



Architectural drawing of a self-help home.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT:

This program oversees HUD section 8 Rental Assistance Program, Self-Help Housing Program, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), as well as all rehabilitation programs, plus rental assistance in both Haywood and Jackson Counties. A new group of families has been recruited for the Self-Help program and construction is expected to start in November. ESG allows help for the homeless families to secure stable housing. Rehabilitation programs repair or modify everything from grab bars to the replacement of homes. \$5,494,420 was spent to help 1,320 households.

Programs administered and households helped:

- Weatherization—29
- Heating & Air Repair & Replacement—18
- HCCBG Safe at Home—29
- United Way Safe at Home—8
- CDBG Haywood Scattered Site Housing—5
- Urgent Repair Program—29
- Emergency Solutions Grant—35
- HUD Section 8 Rental Assistance—1,159
- Housing Preservation Grant—7
- NCHFA Single Family Rehabilitation—4

NAVIGATOR PROGRAM:

Navigator has offices in Haywood and Jackson Counties and 19 other office spaces in Region A. The program assisted approximately 3,629 consumers across seven western-most counties of North Carolina with enrollment and through outreach.

Navigators organized and participated in 155 outreach events and reached 3,401 people at events with education and enrollment, exemption, and post enrollment/health literacy assistance.

Subject events include: AARP Tax Services, MPI Intake Services; Vecinos Medical Clinic; Good Samaritan Clinic Haywood; DSS Referrals; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; Employers; and Collaborations and Coalitions.



Patsy Dowling, MPI Ex. Dtr. with Donna Forga, featured speaker at celebration

CELEBRATION! Over 300, Mountain Projects staff - including current, retired, and former employees - and their guests gathered in Harrah's Hotel ballroom September 3rd to celebrate the Organization's 50 years of service to the community since 1965. Our thanks to Harrah's for sponsoring the celebration.

THE SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER:

The Center Creative Living activities included trips, classes, and informational seminars. Some of the subjects were cooking classes, composting, laptop, advance directives, caregiver training, passing on family items, Asheville Tourists Baseball, Smith-McDowell House, safe driving, cribbage, indoor walking, and many more.

Senior Corp: 60 Foster Grandparent volunteers gave 53,595 hours to children in 7 N.C. Western counties.

Phone Assurance: 7 trained volunteers make regularly scheduled calls to 11 clients who need someone to touch base with them to ensure their well-being and to have a friendly conversation.

In-Home Aide, Congregate Meals, Senior Center: 10,910 meals were served. 2,397 hours of in-home assistance to 45 clients were provided helping clients retain independence. In home continues its fast growth. A lengthy waiting list is maintained year round that currently includes over 70 individuals needing service.

Haywood/Jackson Volunteer Center: 71 new volunteers were added to the community.

PREVENTION SERVICES:



Prevention group on hiking trip.

The program continues to be primarily funded by the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant contract through Mountain Projects. 999 youth and adults within 7 western N.C. counties were served. The WNC Teen Institute is being revamped. The number of fee for service substance abuse early intervention (Prime for Life) participants has increased. Financing with some Juvenile Crime Prevention Council funds makes possible work with adjudicated youth. An Evergreen Foundation grant supports a Naloxone distribution network across seven counties.

Creative Living outings: Asheville Tourist baseball game and lily garden in Franklin. Elder Abuse Walk attendees (below)



Wood Program: Richard Reeves delivered 331 loads of wood to seniors in the community.

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP): The program ended 4/30/15. At that time there were 69 volunteers serving 8,715 hours valued at \$174,300.

Seniors Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP): Assisted 475 people with Medicare, saving them over \$386,170 in prescription costs.

R.E.A.C.T.: Recognize Elder Abuse Community Team is a local awareness, education and resource program for Haywood County.

CRC/INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE: N.C. Options Counseling, outreach, and education continue in the community regarding services and resources found at SRC and partner agencies.

SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER - SENIOR SERVICES

Year End Report

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

John Chicoine, Larry Hershenson, Program Managers

SENIOR CORP

60 Foster Grandparent volunteers gave 53,595 hours to children in 7 Western counties. This service supports young students and children by providing extra attention that promotes academic success.

The Senior Companion Program's 55 volunteers provided 41,398 hours to a total of 101 clients. This service allows elderly individuals to remain independent in their own homes.

PHONE ASSURANCE

The Phone Assurance program has 7 volunteers making calls to 11 clients. Phone Assurance provides free telephone reassurance, check-in and friendly phone calls to area seniors who may be isolated, who are in need of someone to touch base with them to ensure their well-being and/or to have a friendly conversation on a regularly scheduled basis. Phone calls are provided by volunteers, who are trained in basic phone etiquette.

IN-HOME AIDE, CONGREGATE MEALS, SENIOR CENTER

A total of 10,910 meals were served. In-home services provided 2,397 hours of in-home assistance to 45 clients. The In-Home Aide program helps clients maintain their independence. The need for in-home level one care continues to grow in Haywood County, and a lengthy waiting list is maintained year round. The current waiting list includes approximately 70 individuals who need service.

Manna and BI-LO continue to contribute food twice a week to the Canton and Waynesville Congregant Meal sites.

HAYWOOD/JACKSON VOLUNTEER CENTER

The Volunteer Center put 71 new volunteers into the community.

WOOD PROGRAM

Richard Reeves delivered 331 loads of wood for heat to seniors in the community.

RSVP

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program ended April 30, 2015. From July 30, 2015 until the program ended, there were 69 volunteers serving 8,715 hours. These 9 months of hours are valued at \$174,300.00.

SHIIP

Our Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) assisted 475 people with Medicare and saved them over \$386, 170 in prescription costs.

SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER

Our quarterly Creative Living brochures have included trips, classes and informational seminars. This past year we have covered:

High Tea	Cooking Classes	Estate Planning	Soap Making
Knitting	Composting	Sewing	Passing on Family Items
Safe Driving	Meditation	Cornhole	Gardening Tips
Bocce	Indoor Walking	Candy-making	Macular Degeneration Info
iPad/iPhone	Laptop	German	Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less
Cribbage	Advance Directives	Caregiver Training	Asheville Tourists Baseball
BINGO	Fairy Gardens	Medicare 101	Smith-McDowell House
Beading	Hendersonville	Project Lifesaver	Refuse To Be A Victim

Blood drives were held at the Center every other month.



In an effort to provide more opportunities for our seniors to take trips, we took a group out to see the Asheville Tourists play ball (and enjoyed some yummy food too).

A Creative Living group attends Perry's Water Lily Gardens in Franklin.



Our Senior Leadership Teams met quarterly for breakfast, information and entertainment.

NEW EMPLOYEES



Anna Rogers (left) began work as the new Options Counselor. She will be working with nursing home residents who wish to transition back into the community. She is also the coordinator for our R.E.A.C.T. Elder Abuse Program.

Michelle Claytor (right) has replaced Yvonne Gold as Program Coordinator. Yvonne has transitioned to part time.

R.E.A.C.T

R.E.A.C.T., Recognize Elder Abuse Community Team is a local awareness, education and resource program for Haywood County. We are here to provide victims, concerned persons and caregivers with trustworthy information regarding Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention plus important contact information for our Community Partner Agencies.

As a result of receiving funding from the Evergreen Foundation, we created REACT (Recognize Elder Abuse Community Team), an awareness, education and resource program for Haywood County. It was our goal to provide victims, concerned persons and caregivers with trustworthy information regarding Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention plus important contact information for our Community Partner Agencies. We partnered with Southwestern Commission Area Agency on Aging, Adult Protective Services, local law enforcement agencies, the Smoky Mountain Center Geriatric Specialty Team, REACH, 30th Judicial Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Taskforce, and local nursing and rehabilitation facilities. These partnerships were developed according to the multidisciplinary approach outlined in our grant.

CRC/INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Information and Assistance served 8,636 clients.

Outreach continues in Bethel and Fines Creek. The goal of our visits is to let community members know about services offered by the Senior Resource Center. We also help them with unloading their Manna food.

EVENTS

Taste of Chocolate



The 16th Annual Taste of Chocolate Event was held at the Maggie Valley Country Club on April 18th. \$6500.00 was raised in support of the Haywood/Jackson Volunteer Center.

Elder Abuse Awareness Walk



The walk was held on National Elder Abuse Awareness Day, June 15th at the Waynesville Recreation Center Outdoor Track at 5:30 p.m. We had over 100 people come out to support this great cause.