



# **Mission**

To empower children and their families to lead healthy and productive lives by promoting success in education, nurturing wellness in mind and body, and developing skills in tomorrow's global leaders.

## Vision

To have a safe, healthy, and thriving community for children and families.

## **Focus**

Education, health, and wellness to prevent substance misuse in our children and youth.

# **Guiding Principles**

- · Children are our greatest asset.
- Lifelong health and wellness begin with good decisions.
- Education is the key to unlocking the future.
- Parents are children's strongest advocates.
- Strong families are the cornerstone of thriving communities.

# **Annual Summary**



20

**Counties Served** 

Anderson

Bell

Bosque

Cherokee

Coryell

Falls

Freestone

Hamilton

Henderson

Hill

Kaufman

Lampasas

Limestone

McLennan

Milam

Mills

Navarro

Rains

Travis

Van Zandt



2

Office Locations

Corsicana Waco



135

Schools Served



86

**Community Partners** 



86,623

Individuals Impacted



**32** 

Years of Service

## Leadership

#### **Board of Trustees 2022-23**

Chairman Colleen Cox, Vice-President Operations, Corsicana and Navarro County Chamber of Commerce

Vice Chairman Camesha Busby, Branch Manager, Centex Citizens Credit Union

Secretary Melissa Biltz, Community Volunteer and Attorney

Treasurer Mike Cox, Community Volunteer, Navarro County Sheriff's Department (Retired)

Shayla Beck, Branch Director, Boys & Girls Club

Shellie Buckley, Professor, Navarro College

Jennifer Chisholm, Captain, Salvation Army

Rachel Gillespie, Program Director, Presbyterian Children's Home

Hayden Grounds, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones

Ana Ibarra, Vice-President, Insurance Services & Management, LLC

Chris Jacinto, Owner, CrossFit and Owner, Jacinto Services Fencing

Kimberlee Walter, Office and Marketing Manager, Walter Legal

## **McLennan County Advisory Council**

Erica Ancira, Clinical Assistant Professor, Hankamer School of Business, Baylor University

Rodney Clark, Producer, Insurors of Texas

Stephanie Hines, Community Partnership Coordinator, Waco ISD

Tara Kimbell, Marketing Account Manager III, Amerigroup

Debbie Luce, Community Volunteer

Craig Nash, Senior Editor, Good Faith Media

Josh Tetens, District Attorney, McLennan County

Ashley Thornton, After School Consultant, Transformation Waco

Jan Wengler, Community Volunteer

Patrice Wills, Licensed Professional Counselor, Patrice Wills LPC

#### **Executive Staff**

John Goodnight, Chief Executive Officer

Laura MacGregor, Director of Finance and Human Resources

Cheryl Allen, Director of Program Advancement

Melissa Castillo, Deputy Director of Programs

Keturah Garnerway, Regions 3 and 4 Program Director

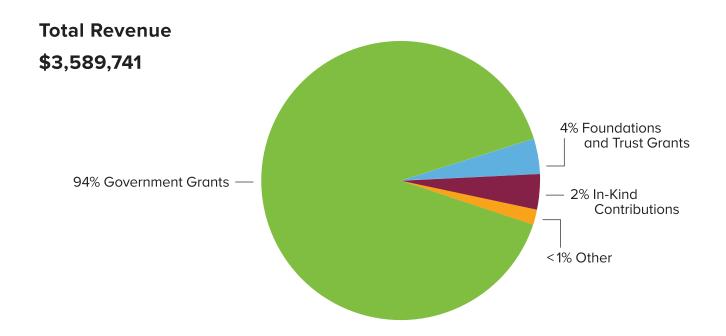
Valorie Horn, Regions 3 and 4 Program Director

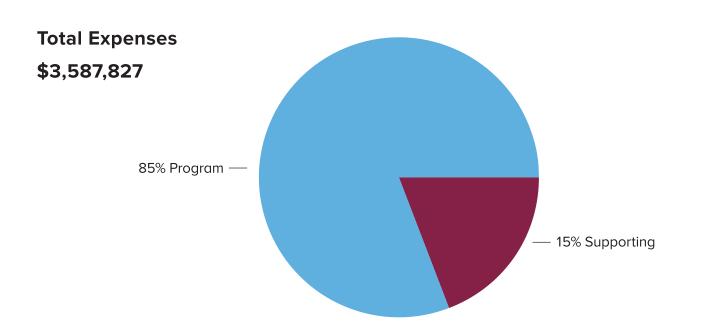
Maria Macias, Region 7 Program Director

Joe Walker, Region 7 Program Director

# **Financials**

For fiscal year ending August 31, 2023





## **Programs**

### **VOICE (Viable Options in Community Endeavors, Inc.)**

VOICE empowers children and their families to lead healthy and productive lives by teaching critical life skills and promoting behavioral health and wellness. Programs take place at schools and community sites in twenty Central Texas counties. Services are free and are funded by Texas Health and Human Services Commission grants and contributions from foundations, business, and individuals.

## **Community Events and Educational Presentations**

Community Events Educational Presentations
Children and Youth: 25,909 Children and Youth: 37,460

Adults: 10,359 Adults: 3,750

Family-oriented events that include fun activities for all ages are held in partnership with nonprofits, schools, and churches. These tobacco, alcohol, and drug-free events are free to the community. Presentations on behavioral health and tobacco, alcohol, and drug use and misuse are given at schools and community sites. These include Red Ribbon and Tobacco-Free campaigns during which awareness banners and items such as pencils and bracelets are distributed.



## **Curriculum-Based Support Groups (CBSG)**

Children and Youth: 1,558

Pre-K through twelfth-grade students learn to manage difficult family situations, resist negative peer pressure, respect themselves and others, and set goals. Students are recommended based on behavioral, educational, and environmental concerns.

rainbowdays.org



## Life Skills Training

Children and Youth: 2,114

Third through twelfth-grade students learn to resist negative social pressure, increase self-esteem and confidence, cope with anxiety, and reduce health-risk behaviors.

lifeskillstraining.com



#### **NEW LIFE**

Children: 64 Adults: 64

Parents who expect a baby or have a child between ages zero and three develop skills that ensure their children's successful growth and development. They earn a \$500 gift card when they complete *The Incredible Years* curriculum, the *Safe Riders Child Passenger Safety Education and Training Program*, and the *Understanding Shaken Baby Syndrome* course.

incredibleyears.com dshs.texas.gov/saferiders



## **Project Towards No Drug Abuse (Project TND)**

Children and Youth: 1,078

Middle and high school students at risk for substance use and misuse and violence-related behavior learn self-control, effective communication, stress management, and appropriate decision-making strategies. Students are referred by principals, counselors, and teachers.

tnd.usc.edu



### **Strengthening Families Program (SFP)**

Children and Youth: 130

Adults: 115

Families learn how to increase communication skills, improve relationships, manage stress, and reduce undesirable behavior. The multi-week sessions meet in the evening at schools and community sites.

strengtheningfamiliesprogram.org



#### **Summer Breakout**

Children and Youth: 75

First through eighth-grade students maintain mental acuity, increase their love of education, and learn healthy behaviors. The program includes the *MindUP* curriculum that teaches how the brain influences behavior. The program is held in the summer at school campuses and community sites.

mindup.org



### **Too Good Program**

Children and Youth: 3,080

Kindergarten through twelfth-grade students learn vital skills that help them achieve academic, social, and life success. These include making healthy choices, building positive relationships, communicating effectively, and avoiding tobacco, alcohol, and drug use and misuse.

toogoodprograms.org



### **Pathways to Success**

#### Youth: 12

A leadership program that helps high school students gain the knowledge and skills necessary to be effective leaders and volunteers. Students that complete the program receive \$500 college scholarships.

#### **Program Requirements**

- be tobacco, alcohol, and drug-free
- maintain a minimum B grade point average
- attend monthly leadership training sessions
- complete 46 volunteer hours
- complete CAP (College Achievement Program)

#### **Application Requirements**

- Pathways to Success application
- transcript or report card with minimum B grade point average
- one page essay on why the student wants to participate
- two references from nonrelatives

#### **Participants**

Maggie Crawford	Kailey Kinkade	Hillary Zhang
Andrew Gonzales	Brooke Martinez	Marasya Yruegas
Rylee Hawkins	Paris Sanchez	Alanie Gonzales
Kenyone Holt	Jakob Williams	Jessica Rodriguez



### **CAP (College Achievement Program)**

#### Youth: 1,034

CAP (College Achievement Program) is a free program that helps students and their families plan for, apply to, and access resources to pay for college. Juniors who enroll, complete the \* requirements, and meet once with a CAP advisor before July 15 will receive a \$50 gift card. Seniors who enroll by December 15 and complete all requirements by March 15 are entered into a \$1,000 college scholarship drawing. Scholarships must be used at a Texas college within one year of high school graduation.

#### **CAP Completion Requirements**

- Submit high school transcript.\*
- Submit ACT, SAT, or TSIA results.\*
- Create a student and parent FSA ID.\*
- Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) during senior year.
- Submit resume.
- Meet with a CAP advisor a minimum of three times.



#### **Scholarship Recipients**



**Naomi Flores** 

"As a first-generation student, I was very unsure of how to move forward in deciding on a college. Mr. Kaufmann helped me to take the next step and try for something even greater than I had planned for my future."



Ashlyn McCollum

"I am extremely grateful to CAP for helping me down my path to a successful future. Instead of being worried, I am looking forward to continuing my education and having many new experiences at college!"



**Alyson Perez** 

"It's been difficult navigating through everything as a first-generation student, but CAP lifted the weight from my shoulders! My advisor was extremely knowledgeable and gave me all of the necessary information."



Jolie Robinson

"I thank CAP for the many opportunities they provided me. As a first-generation college student, I greatly appreciate the guidance and help of Mrs. Cephus. She addressed my many questions, and I now feel prepared for Tarleton."

## **VASA Community Coalition**

A coalition that researches and implements environmental strategies related to the use and misuse of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs in McLennan County. The group is comprised of nonprofits, businesses, educators, law enforcement agencies, and community members.

Planned Parenthood
Specialty Restoration
cLennan Public Health District
Klaras Center for Families,
as Behavioral Health Network
STARRY Fatherhood
Midway ISD
Waco Police Department
City of Bellmead
as Behavioral Health Network
STARRY Fatherhood
Heart of Texas Workforce
Methodist Children's Home
Klaras Center for Families,
as Behavioral Health Network
Baylor University
Workforce Solutions for the
Heart of Texas
of the Heart of Texas



Melissa Buchanan	Waco-McLennan County	
	Public Health District	
Michael Ikeya	Ellie Mental Health	
Rachel Platt	Planned Parenthood	
Ryan Howard	Texas Department	
	of Public Safety	
Sierra Shaw	Waco ISD	
Sophia Taylor	Methodist Children's Home	
Tamara Hodges	Baylor University	
Tammie Bowman	Atmos Energy	
Telawna Kirbie	Ellie Mental Health	
Zeke Morgan	Prosper Waco	
Bianca Martinez	China Spring ISD	
Cruz Rios	Workforce Solutions for the	
	Heart of Texas	
Christina Owusu-Anko	omahBaylor University	
Cindy Davis	China Spring ISD	
Melina Suarez	Waco-McLennan County	
	Public Health District	
Vanessa Humana	Waco-McLennan County	
	Public Health District	
Kemi Ingram	Grassroots	
Elizabeth Orta	Maximus, Texas Health Steps,	
	Texas Star Program	
Maria Vargas	Advocacy Center	



VASA used special COVID-19 funding for projects and activities that help reduce stress. These included creating a relaxation room for 911 dispatchers, updating amenities at community parks, and installing educational gardens. Pictured is the garden at Waco Housing Authority's South Terrace Apartments, where residents, staff, and community members socialize while gardening and learning healthy living skills.

## **School Partners**

Agape Christian Academy

Alta Vista Elementary

Aquilla ISD Axtell High

Bell's Hill Elementary

**Blooming Grove Elementary** 

Blooming Grove High Blooming Grove Middle

Bosqueville High Bowie Elementary

Brazos High

Carroll Elementary
Cayuga Elementary

Cayuga Middle

Cedar Ridge Elementary
Central Athens Elementary

Cesar Chavez Middle Chilton Elementary

Chilton High Chilton Middle

China Spring Elementary

China Spring High Clifton Elementary

Clifton High Clifton Middle

Collins Intermediate

Connally High

Copperas Cove High

Corsicana High Corsicana Middle Cross Roads ISD Dawson Elementary

Dawson Junior/Senior High Dean Highland Elementary EOAC Waco Charter School

Eustace Intermediate
Eustace Primary

Fairfield High

Fannin Elementary
Frost Elementary

Frost High

Frost Junior High

Gatesville Intermediate Grand Saline Elementary

Grand Saline High

Grand Saline Intermediate

Grand Saline Middle

Greater Waco Advanced Health Care

Academy

**Groesbeck Intermediate** 

Groesbeck Middle Hamilton Elementary

Hamilton High

Harmony School of Endeavor, Austin Harmony School of Excellence, Austin Harmony School of Innovation, Austin Harmony School of Science, Austin Harmony Science Academy, Pflugerville Harmony Science Academy, Cedar Park

Harmony Science Academy, Austin Harmony School of Innovation, Waco

Hewitt Elementary Hico Elementary

Hico High Hico Middle

G.W. Carver Indian Spring United

J.H. Hines Elementary James L. Collins Catholic

Kemp Intermediate Kemp Primary

Kendrick Elementary

Kerens Primary
Kerens Secondary
Lake Air Montessori
LaPoynor ISD

LaVega Elementary

LaVega High

LaVega Intermediate

LaVega Primary - Phil Bancale Campus Leo Orr Senior Education Center DAEP

Lorena High Mabank High Marlin Elementary

Marlin High Marlin Middle Mart Elementary

Mart High

Mays Elementary McGregor High Mexia High Mexia Junior High Midway ISD DAEP Midway Middle School

Mildred Elementary

Mildred High Mildred Middle

Mount Calm ISD Navarro Elementary

Navarro ISD DAEP

New Summerfield Elementary New Summerfield Junior High

O.P. Norman Junior High Park Hill Elementary

Parkview Christian Academy

Premier High School

Provident Heights Elementary

Rapoport Academy, Meyer High School

Rapoport Academy Elementary

Rapoport Academy,
Quinn Middle School
Raymond Mayes Middle
Reeces Creek Elementary

Rice Elementary

Rice High

Rice Intermediate Rice Junior High Riesel High

Rosebud Elementary
Sam Houston Elementary
South Waco Elementary

Teague High

Teague Junior High Tennyson Middle Tool Elementary

Two Dimensions Preparatory

Academy
University High
Van Junior High
Van Middle

Waco Center for Youth

Waco High

West Avenue Elementary

West High

Whitney Intermediate Wortham Elementary Wortham Middle Wortham High

## **Community Partners**

Access to Healthcare

Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty Baylor Scott & White Medical Center - Hillcrest

**Baylor University** 

Bellmead Police Department

Bluebonnet Trails Community Services Boys & Girls Clubs of Navarro County

Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse Brian Richardson, McLennan County Justice of the Peace,

Precinct 4

Cedar Creek Library

Cenikor

Central Texas Poison Center

City of Bellmead City of Waco

Communities in Schools of the Heart of Texas

Community Race Relations Coalition

Compassion Corsicana

Corsicana-Navarro County Public Health

Dewey Park Recreation Center Education Service Center Region 12

Family Abuse Center

Family of Faith Worship Center

Fernando Villarreal, McLennan County Justice of the Peace,

Precinct 5

First Baptist Corsicana

Genesis Center

Grand Saline Public Library

**Grassroots Community Development** 

Greater New Light Missionary Baptist Church

Healthy Women & Children Waco

Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network

**Hewitt Police Department** 

Hiz Houze

**HOT Recovers ROSC** 

Hunger Free Community Coalition

**IMPACT Navarro** 

Jacksonville Public Library

James Lee, McLennan County Justice of the Peace,

Precinct 2

Jesus Said Love

Junior League of Waco Kaufman Public Library Keep Waco Beautiful Klaras Center for Families

Lifeline Children and Family Services

LifeSteps Council on Alcohol and Drugs

Live Well Waco

Living Witness Missionary Baptist Church

Malakoff Public Library

McLennan Community College Methodist Children's Home Mighty Wind Worship Center

Navarro County Juvenile Probation Drug

**Prevention Resources** 

North Texas Behavioral Health Authority

Our Community Our Future (OCOF)

Parkland Community Health

Planned Parenthood

Presbyterian Children's Home and Services

Prevention Resource Center Region 7

Prosper Waco Rainbow Days

Recovery Happens, LLC Rice Police Department Santa Fe Youth Services

Shepherd's Heart STAR Council

Taulor's Memorial TMM

Texans for Safe and Drug-Free Youth Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Texas Association of Addiction Professionals

Texas Department of Public Safety Texas Department of Transportation

The COVE

**Tri-County Public Library** 

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs University of Texas at Arlington

**Upward Bound** 

Van Zant Public Library
Waco Center for Youth
Waco Civic Theatre
Waco Fire Department
Waco Housing Authority
Waco ISD Police Department
Waco Police Department

Waco-McLennan County Public Health District

Workforce Solutions YMCA of Corsicana

Youth 180

Youth Connection

## **Donors**

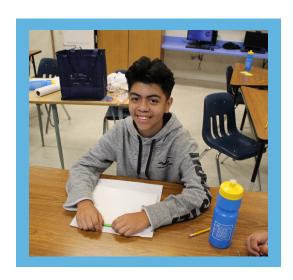
Jane Biltz

Cheryl and Doug Allen
Annie Lee Robbins Charitable
A Worthy Occasion
Axiom Advertising
Marsha Jean Banks
Bessie Hofstetter Trust
Butler's Tinting
By Design

Melissa Biltz
Paula and Ken Cook
Eleanor Thornell Charitable Foundation
Kristy and John Goodnight
Integ
Lisa and Larry Jaynes
J N & Macie Edens Foundation
J Tom Eady Charitable Trust

King Realty Company
Lindsay King
Paul Kothe
Navarro Community Foundation
Pearl Thornell Foundation
Rena Fleming Foundation
Royal Title, LLC
Jan Wengler









We appreciate your support!











Please visit voiceinc.org for more information and to contribute.





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