



50 YEARS...

"This administration today declares unconditional war on poverty in America.

"Poverty is a national problem. But this attack must be organized at the state and local level, and must be supported and directed by state and local efforts.

"We shall not rest until that war is won."



1 PROMISE... COMMUNITY ACTION

1964-2014



As a Community Action Agency fighting poverty at the local level
Minnesota Valley Action Council
fosters the organizational dynamics for quick response to
community issues, as well as the ability to implement long-term strategies
that maximize resources and contribute to our triple bottom line.

We focus on three elements:

1. Does our work improve people's lives?
2. Is what we do and how we do it good for the environment?
3. Do we work with the discipline to adhere to the financial bottom line?

Inside are just a few ways we put that into practice.

MVAC has its feet planted in two different worlds. One world is the demand of what's happening on the ground — right here, right now — with the region's low-income people and the communities where we live: Inadequate housing, rising food insecurity, employment that isn't full time and pays (on average) \$2 less per hour than the same jobs before the Great Recession, natural disasters, inadequate funding by the Federal and State governments, limited and expensive supply of fuel for heating area homes during this past winter, just to name a few.

The other world is built on planning for the future and implementing sustainable strategies that will continue to improve people's lives within this region, as well as contribute resources to our mission. Some of those strategies....

- 1.) Back in 2010, MVAC invested ARRA funds (one-time dollars from the federal recovery act) by purchasing 16 new Ford Focus cars and leasing them to low-income people within the region. When participants made their monthly lease payments, the funds went into a revolving fund dedicated to purchasing additional new cars and leasing them to more low-income people. In 2013, that fund was able to purchase an additional 5 new cars. It didn't require "new" funding; it recycled the funding provided back in 2010.



- 2.) In 2011, MVAC purchased a building in Mankato that is used as the permanent corporate agency base as well as an expanded area for the entrepreneurial effort of the AGAIN Thrift Store. It purposefully had extra space that was targeted to house other long-term entrepreneurial efforts. The building will be paid off in 10 years. After that, the overhead (rent) charged to programs will be cut, thus leaving more money to directly invest in services to the community.



3.) In 2013, the Thrift Store re-located to the new space at 706 N. Victory Drive in Mankato. The retail area expanded 66% from the original store, and the donation/sorting area expanded 580%. In the one year we have been at this location, sales and donations have increased 54%. The increase in sales is a long-term strategy to develop more financial resources for our mission. In addition, the donated product is diverted from landfills.



4.) When MVAC renovated the 706 Victory Drive facility, we utilized as much “green technology” as possible. We also invested in using solar panels on the building, not only as a design component, but as an energy source. The roof and awnings over the windows are equipped with solar panels. In the last quarter, solar panels generated enough power to offset 13% of this buildings energy use. It saves money, and reduces the burning of fossil fuels and our carbon footprint.

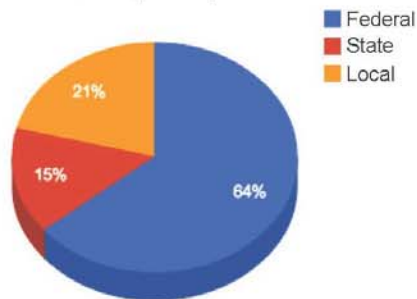
5.) In July 2014, MVAC is launching a regional Food Hub. MVAC will buy produce from local growers, and package it into the larger quantities that local institutions want. This strategy will generate additional revenue for small, local produce growers (25% of which meet the poverty income levels); create jobs both at the growers level as well as within the Food Hub; reduce the carbon footprint by helping institutions source produce locally, rather than having it shipped 1,400 miles on average; and generate funds that can be used for MVAC's mission.



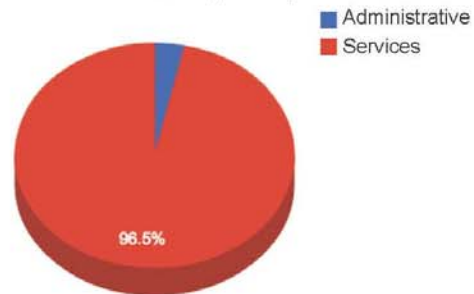
MVAC is committed to providing opportunities to the people and communities of south central Minnesota. We accomplish this by partnering with communities. As the saying goes, “It takes a village ...”



Revenue: \$21,052,230



Expenditures: \$20,696,939



July 21, 2014

We are pleased to present our 48th annual report.

MVAC is an organization of people helping people. We are south central Minnesota's safety net, delivering in excess of \$520 million in services to assist people with their goal of attaining economic self-reliance.

MVAC has continued to foster the organizational dynamics for quick response to community issues as well as a willingness and ability to implement long term strategies that maximize resources and contribute to our triple bottom line. We focus on three elements:

- 1.) Does what we do improve people's lives?
- 2.) Is what and how we do our work good for the environment?
- 3.) Do we conduct our work with the discipline to adhere to the financial bottom line?

We appreciate and acknowledge that we don't accomplish this in isolation but rather as a community effort.

It's been a successful year. Low-wage earners have secured affordable housing, viable transportation, employment, training for employment, access to health care and educational opportunities for their children. We couldn't have done it without you!

Robin Wingo
President, MVAC Board of Directors

John T Woodwick
Executive Director



MVAC helps people of all ages, from senior citizens who need jobs to make ends meet to pre-school children just beginning to learn.

But the need in our nine counties is immense. Nearly one in eight people have poverty-level incomes. There are 11,000 more people living in poverty here than in the year 2000.

You can help. Join us at www.mnvac.org/donate

It's quick, easy and has an immediate impact on local families. More than 96% of the funds MVAC receives goes to providing services to low-income families.

Your donations stay right here, strengthening the local economy while helping local families who are struggling.

MVAC is a 501(c)(3) organization, and charitable contributions are deductible from federal and state income tax.

**Make a difference in south central Minnesota.
Join us at www.mnvac.org/donate**

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