

Message from the Executive Director

Wayne D. Stenberg
Executive Director



The year 2011 was a very tumultuous year for all of the Community Action Network, but the Community Action Partnership and many other agencies rallied to ensure that the vital programs that are administrated to fight poverty were part of many conversations. Through it all, we continued to do what we do best and kept the consumer at the very heart of everything that was accomplished. Semcac stood with our clients as we continued to assist people to achieve or maintain independence and self-reliance. We were there when the power was turned off, when the pantry went bare, when disaster hit, when shelter was needed, when a ride was called for, when housing was needed, when a meal was delivered, when children and families needed guidance, and we were there to help make important life decisions.

For over 45 years, we have been helping individuals and families. Our team of committed professionals stand ready to ensure that we will be here for years to come to help strengthen the communities of Southeast Minnesota with the services we provide. This year's annual report is evidence that we continue to impact our region with programs that make a difference. We would

encourage you to take some quality time to read through the report, and if you have any questions, to contact us here at the agency. The success stories are too numerous to mention, but we have taken the time to highlight a few that we hope you find encouraging.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to all the people who believe in the work we do. Your volunteer hours, sacrificial giving and support continue to help make this organization what it has become.

Wayne D. Stenberg

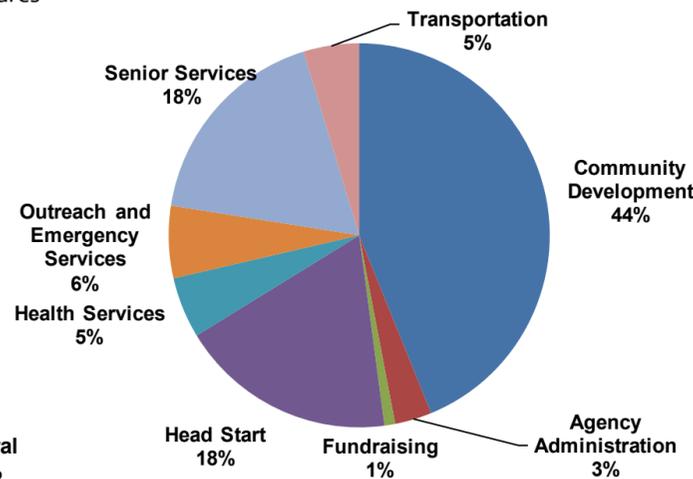


2011 Financial Information*

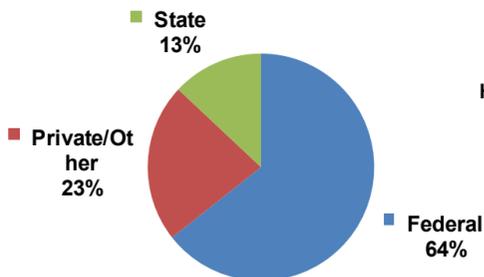
(October 1, 2010–September 30, 2011)

Semcac's revenue for the 2011 fiscal year totaled \$14,300,054, and expenditures totaled \$14,387,847.*

Use of Funds



Source of Revenue



*Semcac's complete audited financial statements are available at www.semcac.org/publications/ipaper/



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Offices & Locations

Semcac's 235 employees and more than 4,144 volunteers deliver services from 80 locations—7 County Contact Centers, 56 Senior Dining sites, 11 Head Start centers and 4 Head Start partnership sites, the Semcac Clinic in Winona, and the Administrative Office. For Senior Dining and Head Start sites, call the Administrative Office or your local Contact Center.

Dodge County

20 Veterans Memorial Hwy E.
P.O. Box 36, Kasson, MN 55944
(507) 634-4350

Fillmore County

515 Washington St. NW, P.O. Box 5
Preston, MN 55965
(507) 765-2761

Freeborn County

2202 Stevens Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007
(507) 373-1329

Administrative Office

204 S. Elm St., P.O. Box 549
Rushford, MN 55971-0549
Phone: (507) 864-7741

Houston County

138 E. Main
Caledonia, MN 55921
(507) 725-3677

Mower County

111 Main St. N, Suite 201
Austin, MN 55912
(507) 433-5889

Steele County

545 Dunnell Drive
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 451-7134

Winona County

62 E. 3rd St., Suite 4
Winona, MN 55987
(507) 452-8396

Semcac Clinic

76 W. 3rd St., P.O. Box 61
Winona, MN 55987
(507) 452-4307

Semcac is an Equal Opportunity Employer



2011 Annual Report

Our Mission:
to assist people to achieve or maintain independence and self-reliance through their own and community resources.



2011–2012 Board of Directors

Chuck Amunrud, Fillmore County
Mike Ankeny, Mower County
Janice Ball, Secretary, Mower County
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People Are Our Business...

and People Tell Our Story

"I was helping with an Energy Assistance application when I asked the client if she needed a voter's registration form. She told me she couldn't vote. I asked her if she was comfortable telling me why. She told me she was a felon. I told her that I had been to a voter's registration training and learned that felons could vote if they were "off paper." She wasn't familiar with that term, so I explained that it meant being totally finished with any involvement with the courts. She said she was, but she had been told in another county that she could never vote. I asked if she was interested, and she said she was, but her felony had taken place in another state, and asked if that made a difference. I told her I would find out.

Subsequently I searched the website for the MN Secretary of State. It was easy to find out the information, which clearly stated that it didn't matter if the felony was in another state, what mattered was that the person was finished with everything that the courts required. I printed out the information and sent it to her with a note that told her we had voter's registration forms.

When she came to the food shelf, she picked up the registration form. She told me she was really excited to vote. I congratulated her on being able to do so. The next time I saw her; she thanked me again for helping her in this regard and stated that she couldn't wait for the next election!"

-Field Services Staff Member



The Rush Creek Townhomes officially opened November 1st. This project replaced the building that was lost in the flood of 2007. It was funded by Semcac, Rural Development, MN Housing, Greater MN Housing Fund and the MN Housing Partnership.

2011 Outcomes



Head Start helps readers become leaders by developing their language and literacy skills.



Alma (Paulette) Smith-Johnson of Winona (left) said:

"I'm so pleased with the meals—I moved here August 6, 2011. I have Multiple Sclerosis and tried to go back to work three times, but it exasperated my condition; therefore, I am unable to work. Now I live on a fixed income of which is less than what I am used to.

By eating a congregate meal, I am assured of having a nutritious balanced meal daily. It stretches my food dollars and helps with my grocery bill tremendously. I take part in the meals seven days a week.

I attend diabetes classes at the local hospital, take the congregate dining menu with me, and we plan my food intake around the menu.

I was recently ill for a month and six days and could only move between the bedroom and bathroom, so meals were brought in and set up for me.

Meals are always hot—it is an excellent program. It is supervised by caring people. They want to see that you get a good, nutritious meal."



Photo courtesy of Andrew Link/Winona Daily News

Mitch Halbakken is a retiree and has been an active volunteer driver for Semcac's volunteer driver program for several years. He assists seniors over the age of 60 and others with a qualifying need to their medical appointments. "We all know more elderly are coming into the system and they're going to need a program like this," says Halbakken, "Let's hope it's continued into the future."

The Winona Family Planning Clinic staff (right), provide quality medical services based on household income and the number of people supported by that income.



Carol's Success Story:

Carol is a food shelf client who happens to be hearing impaired. She was telling the staff about how her car quit working and had to be towed; she simply could not afford to have it fixed. She was working at a department store about 25 miles from her home, but her hours had been drastically cut after Christmas. Without a car, Carol had to rely on others, sometimes having to go to work 4 hours early or wait after her shift for several hours before she could come home. The food shelf staff sent her to the local Field Services staff for possible assistance.

They called the garage where the car had been towed, to have them fax in an estimate, which was over \$1,400. Staff determined that Carol would probably qualify for Family Flex, a program to help families with school-age children. That would take care of \$500. Next, Erdman's Charitable Board was contacted, a local source of assistance to county residents. They agreed to help with \$450. Finally, staff thought of the Hartung Foundation, which also helps with local needs. They agreed to take care of the remainder. The paperwork was completed and necessary phone calls were made for the three applications.

The garage was called to inform them the money needed had been secured. The garage manager understood that the money would not come immediately, but agreed to fix the automobile and release it to Carol. She was extremely appreciative; expressing that finally she had her life back.

Community Development

Energy Assistance ~ Weatherization ~ Housing Rehab and Development

To ease the burden of heating expenses and keep families warm:

- 7,807 households with 19,468 people received Energy Assistance, including:
 - 1,836 senior citizens
 - 2,980 individuals w/ a disability
 - 2,415 children age 5 and under.
- 312 households received utility assistance through Reach Out for Warmth.
- 2,174 households received crisis assistance to prevent a utility shutoff.

To improve the energy efficiency of people's homes and reduce their energy consumption:

- 815 households received energy audits, weatherization updates and energy conservation education, affecting approximately 2,445 people.
- 326 households received energy-related repairs, such as furnace

Gerry Krage, Director
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Head Start

To ensure quality, safe and energy-efficient affordable housing:

- 9 homes were rehabilitated through MN Housing's Fix-Up Fund or the Rehab Loan Program
- 13 were rehabilitated through Small Cities Development Program (SCDP) grants.
- 51 rental units in Harmony and Spring Grove were rehabilitated through HOME Rental Rehab loans.
- 1 new affordable housing 6-plex was constructed in Rushford. This was approximately a \$1.1 million project.

To assist people in purchasing a home of their own:

- 4 households progressed towards home ownership in the MN Urban & Rural Homesteading Program.

To enrich young children ages 3-5 years and empower their families:

- 412 children from 388 families received quality learning and care.
- 280 children were screened for developmental progress.
- 44 children received special education and related support services.
- 261 parents set goals to strengthen their self-reliance.
- 310 families received at least one family service, such as parenting education, health education, or housing assistance.
- 93% of children received medical exams; 90% had dental exams; and 99% were current with immunizations.
- 387 children were enrolled in Medicaid or private health insurance by the end of the year.
- 234 children transitioned from Head Start to kindergarten for fall 2010.
- 225 volunteers, including 125 Head Start parents, gave their time in service to the program.

Beth Stanford, Director
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Senior Services

Senior Nutrition ~ Retired & Senior Volunteer Program ~ Senior & Caregiver Advocacy

To empower seniors to maintain their health and nutritional well-being, while offering educational programs and an opportunity to socialize with others:

- 245,529 hot, nutritious noon meals were served in a congregate setting to 6,848 seniors.
- 1,465 volunteers helped to serve these meals at the 57 dining sites in 11 counties.

To help at-risk seniors remain in their own homes and maintain their nutritional well-being:

- 80,240 hot, nutritious meals were delivered to 672 seniors who were homebound or had difficulty preparing their own meals.
- 1,260 volunteers delivered these meals and verified the well-being of the senior recipients in 40 rural communities or locations.

Debbie Betthausen, Director
debbie.betthausen@semcac.org

Transportation

Bus Services ~ Volunteer Driver Program

To aid people in commuting to work, medical and dental appointments, child care, preschool, senior dining, grocery and retail shopping, and errands to local businesses:

- 45,023 rides were provided through Semcac's six buses—available in Houston County, the City of Houston, Dodge County, Fillmore County, rural Winona County and the City of Blooming Prairie.
- 707 people who were age 60 or over, Medical Assistance clients or clients of county departments of human services were given 13,883 rides, covering 449,265 miles, by 154 volunteer drivers who gave 20,186 hours of their time.

Erlene Welshons, Director
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Sherryl Brunner, Fiscal Director
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Gary Musselman, MIS Director
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Semcac Clinic

To provide access to quality medical services and education to meet the reproductive health care needs of all people, regardless of their income level and access to health insurance:

- 1,652 unduplicated patients visited the clinic for medical exams, contraceptive counseling and contraceptives.
- 264 women were screened for cervical cancer, and 81 people received the HPV vaccination. This number is down from 2010 due to changes in the screening guidelines.
- 2,147 patients were screened for sexually transmitted infections.
- Over 5,500 people received education through outreach events.

Chrissy Feine, Director
chrissy.feine@semcac.org

Agency Administration

Wayne D. Stenberg, Executive Director
wayne.stenberg@semcac.org

Pat Georgens, Human Resources Director
pat.georgens@semcac.org

Maria Henry, Planning & Development Director
maria.henry@semcac.org

Outreach & Emergency Services

Homeless Prevention & Assistance ~ Emergency Services ~ Food Shelves

To help people obtain or remain in their housing:

- 170 households (498 people) received assistance with their rent or mortgage.
- 41 homeless households (80 people) received assistance with rent and/or security deposits.
- 19 homeless households (58 people) found shelter and case management at the Freeborn County Homeless Shelter.

To connect people with resources to meet their immediate needs:

- 27,133 households were given information and referrals from Semcac's Outreach Services staff.
- 663 contacts were made for advocacy, translation and/or interpreting for Spanish-speaking individuals in Freeborn County.

Wendy Todd, Director
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