Partnering in Goodhue County

History
Three Rivers Community Action is a nonprofit human service organization incorporated in 1966. Created by community leaders to provide citizens and communities in southern Minnesota with anti-poverty strategies, the Three Rivers mission is “to work with community partners to address basic human needs of people in our service area, thereby improving the quality of life of the individual, family and community.”

For over 50 years, Three Rivers has responded to the needs of the community and today operates over 40 programs in Goodhue County in the areas of Housing, Community Development, Early Childhood, Transportation, and Senior Services.

Zumbrota Office
Main Office
1414 North Star Drive
Zumbrota, MN 55992
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Housing Development

New Construction & Preservation – Working with community partners to plan and develop new affordable housing projects that meet local needs, and to rehabilitate existing rental and ownership housing stock.

Community Development Services

Homeless Assistance and Prevention Programs – Assistance and support to households experiencing or nearing homelessness.

Senior Advocacy and Caregiver Coaching – Classes and individual advocacy for seniors, their families and their caregivers to help seniors remain independent and in their own homes longer.

Home Delivered Meals – Meals delivered by volunteers to people over 60 or with a disability who are home bound and have difficulty preparing their own nutritious meals.

Energy Assistance Program – Helps pay home heating costs and provides emergency furnace repairs for income-qualified households.

Weatherization – Provides home energy upgrades to income-eligible owners and renters to save energy and improve health and safety in the home.

Homeownership – Classes, coaching and downpayment assistance to help households prepare for and succeed in their homeownership dreams.

Early Childhood

Head Start – Pre-school education focused on the growth and development of children and parents, and assisting families to achieve self-reliance.

Early Head Start – Home visiting program for children ages 0-3 and their parents, providing comprehensive child development and family services.

Transportation

Hiawathaland Public Transit – County-wide bus service that includes route service in Red Wing and dial-a-ride service throughout the county.

HART Volunteer Transportation Program – Volunteer drivers transport seniors, people with disabilities and residents who are unable to utilize public transportation.

Community Collaboration

Continuum of Care – Coordination of the 20-county regional planning group that coordinates services and facilitates the competitive mechanism by which federal funding is awarded to projects that serve the homeless.

Homeless Response Team – Coordination of inter-agency team to identify and address the needs of people experiencing homelessness in Goodhue County.

Three Rivers works with community partners to provide warmth, transportation, food, housing, advocacy, and education to individuals and families across southeastern Minnesota. Our offices are located in Zumbrota, Rochester, Wabasha, Faribault, Plainview, Northfield & Red Wing.
2018 Results
Goodhue County

Housing Development
- Owned and operated 90 units of affordable multi-family housing in Red Wing, Pine Island, and Cannon Falls.
- Secured financing to acquire and preserve an additional 39 units of rental housing in Cannon Falls.

Community Development Services
- Prevented 14 households who were facing eviction from becoming homeless.
- Re-housed 11 households experiencing homelessness into affordable housing.
- Volunteers delivered 11,752 meals to residents in Cannon Falls, Zumbrota, Wanamingo, Pine Island and Goodhue.
- Supported 180 seniors and their caregivers by providing information, resources, and service referrals.
- Provided 832 households with almost $500,000 to help meet their energy needs.
- Hired local contractors to repair or replace 29 furnaces and 6 water heaters, and to weatherize 5 energy inefficient homes.

Early Childhood
- Provided Head Start classroom education and family support services to 51 preschool students and their families in Zumbrota and Red Wing.
- Partnered with Red Wing School District on an inclusion classroom to provide district services to Head Start students.
- Supported 5 families with children ages 0-3 through Early Head Start and have since received funding to expand the program.

Transportation
- Operated route and a dial-a-ride bus service that runs 7 days a week in Red Wing and weekdays throughout Goodhue County.
- Provided 99,701 rides on public transportation bus services in Red Wing, and another 52,901 rides in Lake City, Cannon Falls, Zumbrota, Pine Island, Kenyon and Wanamingo.
- Volunteer drivers provided 1,719 rides to Goodhue County residents.

People Served in Goodhue County, 2018
- 1,070 households served
  - 38% at or below the poverty line
  - 40% homeowners
  - 57% renters
  - $15,572 median annual income*
- 2,250 individuals
  - 37% children
  - 27% seniors
  - 16% persons of color
  - 8% Hispanic or Latinx
  - 24% have a disability
  - 91% have health insurance
*Of households reporting income

Coming Soon!
Riverwood—Cannon Falls
Three Rivers has secured funding from the USDA Rural Development and Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to acquire and deliver comprehensive rehabilitation to 39 apartment units in Cannon Falls.

This project preserves an essential source of affordable rental housing that is currently serving seniors, persons with disabilities, and households with low incomes.

The property will get a needed renovation that includes windows, siding, accessibility upgrades, parking lot improvements, energy efficiency upgrades, lighting, kitchens, bathrooms and flooring.

We recently housed a person that was long-term homeless. Over the last several years, this person has been in CD treatment, literally on the streets, or in various homeless shelters. After assisting the client to secure housing with the limited income that he receives from SSI, we were able to sign him up for other support services, including SNAP, to help stretch his income for paying for expenses, but also stabilize his household.