



# 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 Older Adult Services.

## Zumbrota Office

### Main Office

1414 North Star Drive  
Zumbrota, MN 55992

Phone: 507-316-0610  
[www.threeriverscap.org](http://www.threeriverscap.org)

## 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.

**Older Adult Services and Caregiver Coaching** - Classes and individual advocacy for older adults, their families and their caregivers to help older adults 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 older adults, 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.

# 2020 Results

## Goodhue County

### People Served in Goodhue County, 2020

1,243 households served  
 ⇒ 43% at or below the poverty line  
 ⇒ 40% homeowners  
 ⇒ 58% renters  
 ⇒ \$15,032 median annual income\*

2,400 individuals  
 ⇒ 35% children  
 ⇒ 17% older adults  
 ⇒ 20% persons of color  
 ⇒ 9% Hispanic or Latinx  
 ⇒ 20% have a disability  
 ⇒ 83% have health insurance

\*Of households reporting income

### 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 older adults, 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.

### Housing Development

- Owned and operated 90 units of affordable multi-family housing in Red Wing, Pine Island, and Cannon Falls.
- Secured funding to acquire and preserve 39 units of rental housing in Cannon Falls. Renovations will occur in 2021.

### Community Development Services

- Prevented 19 households who were facing eviction from becoming homeless and re-housed 3 households experiencing homelessness into affordable housing.
- Helped 213 households maintain housing stability through the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program (CHAP).
- Volunteers delivered 12,575 meals to residents in Cannon Falls, Zumbrota, Wanamingo, Pine Island and Goodhue.
- Supported 151 older adults and their caregivers by providing information, resources, and service referrals.
- Provided 788 households with over \$330,000 to help meet their energy needs.
- Hired local contractors to repair or replace 20 furnaces and to weatherize 5 energy inefficient homes.

### Early Childhood

- Provided Head Start classroom education and family support services to 72 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 27 parents, their children ages 0-3, and their families through the Early Head Start program.

### Transportation

- Operated route and a Dial-A-Ride bus service that runs 7 days a week in Red Wing and weekdays throughout the county.
- Provided 66,310 rides on public transportation bus services in Red Wing and another 21,320 rides in Cannon Falls, Zumbrota, Pine Island, Kenyon and Wanamingo.
- Volunteer drivers provided 1,991 rides to older adults and persons with disabilities in Goodhue County.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Three Rivers established a new Cares Fund that assembled new resources to provide direct assistance to individuals and families affected by the pandemic. Agency wide this assistance helped 1,015 households with a housing, transportation, utilities and other urgent needs.