

Couleecap

your local community *action* program



2014 Annual Report
Focus on the Future

Our Mission

Couleecap fights poverty and promotes self-sufficiency, economic development, and social justice. We are People Helping People, and everyday our actions make a difference in the lives of people and families throughout the Coulee Region.

Our Vision

Couleecap makes a difference in the lives of people in the Coulee Region. To do this, we pledge to:

- * Empower people to achieve their full potential;**
 - * Promote social and economic justice;**
 - * Serve as a catalyst for change; and**
 - * Strengthen families and communities.**



Focus on the Future

In 2014 the Community Action movement marked 50 years of providing help, support, and opportunities for low-income people in America. Community Action has endured because of bipartisan support, innovative programs, and a focus on local issues.

This annual report has snapshots of our 2014 achievements. Couleecap works every day to help families and communities strive to be the best they can be. We help people with the basics: food, clothing, heat, and housing. We also help people buy a car, get an education, start a business, and rebuild a neighborhood. We focus on success for all; we focus on the future.

We are so grateful for the support we receive from the community, our Board members, staff, friends, volunteers, donors, and funders. Your support of our mission and activities is greatly appreciated. Together, we are *People Helping People*.



“We have a supportive Board of Directors, caring staff, dedicated donors, funders and volunteers. Couleecap is well positioned to focus on the future.”
- Grace Jones, Couleecap Executive Director

Focus on Leadership

Couleecap is fortunate to have a dedicated Board of Directors who care deeply about their community and the issues which affect it. The focus of our Board is to provide great local leadership. Our formula is simple: committed local leaders = great success.

Couleecap is governed by a 24-member Board of Directors comprised of eight low income representatives, eight County Board Supervisors, and eight members representing private groups and organizations.



Couleecap Board of Directors

Ellen Barum
Rick Blasing
Bob Brague
Karen Dahl
Maureen Freedland
Mari Freiberg
Beth Hartung
Terry Hicks
Karen Joos
Larry Kelley
Monica Kruse
Celesta Leis, Secretary
Karen Long
Barbara Martinez
Mary Masters
Gail Muller
Anne O'Connor
Bill Rudy, Vice Chair
Jane Schaaf
Gary Thompson
Brian Turben
Albert Wee
Katie Westerman
John Young, Chair

Focus on Community

Couleecap's Board and staff believe in the agency's mission, vision, and values. Our passion for making a difference in our community shows in all we do.

We focus on community partnerships because poverty and poverty issues need a community approach. Together, we achieve more.

178

collaborative working partnerships between Couleecap and other community entities.



Ashley volunteers for ReNEW La Crosse Neighborhoods - a great community partnership.



Couleecap's Weatherization program at the Vernon County Fair.

“My only hope is to someday be able to pay it forward and instill the gratitude to those around us and “do unto others.”

- Couleecap Participant

Picture This!

These are just a few of our 2014 accomplishments due in part to your generous support! Thank you!



124
homeless households received supportive housing, case management, and supportive services.



2,843,158
pounds of food were collected and distributed in partnership with local TEFAP supported food pantries.



266
homes are warmer and more comfortable from home weatherization.



**Serving
31,536
people
in 2014**



117
households received
housing rehabilitation
assistance.



100
people were assisted
with education,
employment, or
skills training.



1,513
households received
energy assistance
payments.

“The service you provide is vital and you do it with great professionalism, thoroughness, timeliness and enormous humanity.”

- Coulecap Participant

Focus on Housing

Couleecap's housing programs focus on helping low-income families with a range of services. Couleecap's weatherization program provides energy conservation home improvements to reduce energy consumption costs. Our home rehabilitation program provides needed assistance making homes safe, sanitary, and energy efficient. Couleecap's home ownership programs help people purchase their first home.



Home Weatherization

Couleecap's weatherization program helps individuals or families improve the energy efficiency of their residences. Weatherization can be done for homeowners or renters. Common services include insulating attics and sidewalls, air-sealing the structure, furnace inspections, and energy conservation measures such as lighting and refrigerator replacement. Work is done at no cost for qualifying households.



Home Rehabilitation

Couleecap's owner-occupied home rehab programs help low and moderate income homeowners rehabilitate and improve their home. Couleecap staff focus on measures that make the home safe, sanitary, and energy efficient.



Home Ownership Programs

Couleecap's home ownership program helps income-eligible homebuyers purchase their first home, with down payment and closing cost assistance.



Community Land Trust Homeownership

Couleecap's community land trust homeownership program provides homebuyers with the ability to purchase permanently affordable housing in select communities. Primarily new construction homes are available for purchase at 50%-60% of market prices. Home buyers are required to participate in a shared-appreciation agreement as a condition of ownership.

Snapshot of our Accomplishments



266 households received weatherization services.



117 households received housing rehabilitation assistance.



6 properties sold through the Coulee Community Realty.

“This will be our starter home. This is where we’re going to start our family.”

- Couleecap Homebuyer Participant

Focus on Homelessness

Coulecap's homeless programs focus on helping homeless families by providing a continuum of housing options from homeless prevention to transitional housing to permanent housing for individuals with disabilities. Coulecap's many homeless programs make us a leader in the area of resolving homelessness.



Coulecap Transitional Supportive Housing

Coulecap's Transitional Supportive Housing program provides limited term affordable housing to homeless individuals and households who need assistance in returning to independent living situations. Participants may remain in the program for up to two years. Participants must be willing to work on self-sufficiency goals.



New Hope Permanent Supportive Housing

Coulecap's New Hope Permanent Supportive Housing program provides permanent housing to families and individuals with disabilities who are homeless. A case manager assists clients to develop goals and monitor progress toward self-sufficiency.



Housing First Permanent Supportive Housing

Coulecap's Housing First Permanent Supportive Housing program provides permanent housing and case management services to single individuals who are homeless and living with a mental health issue. A case manager assists clients to develop goals and monitor progress towards self-sufficiency.



Homeless Prevention Program

Coulecap's Homeless Prevention program provides hotel vouchers, security deposit, first month's rent and eviction prevention assistance in Monroe, Vernon, and Crawford counties.



S.O.A.R. Program (Social Security Outreach, Access, and Recovery)

Coulecap's S.O.A.R. program provides case management support to individuals who are homeless and mentally ill in La Crosse County. Assistance is available in applying for Social Security benefits and navigating the application process.

Snapshot of our Accomplishments



124 households received supportive housing, case management, and supportive services.



158 households received eviction prevention, emergency services, emergency rental assistance, or transitional housing.



248 homeless individuals received dental education.

“Couleecap has been a blessing for me and my children. We can’t thank you enough.”

- Couleecap Supportive Housing Participant

Focus on Food & Emergency Assistance

Coulecap offers programs that focus on helping individuals and families in need of emergency utility payment assistance, food, clothing, and more. The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) provides food to pantries, meal sites, and shelters. Coulecap acts as an Emergency Food Organization handling the distribution of TEFAP food to eleven pantries in the four county area.



390 households received crisis energy payments.



115 households received furnace replacements. 82 households received furnace repairs.



900 Farmers Market coupons were distributed to food pantry recipients in Crawford County.



3,883 people were served at the Bargain Boutique thrift store.

“I want to thank you for the energy assistance. Without your help I wouldn’t have been able to pay my bills on time.”

- Coulecap Energy Assistance Participant

Focus on Employment, Training & Transportation

Coulecap offers programs that focus on employment, business creation, and transportation to get to work. These programs help increase the income and economic self-sufficiency of working poor households by helping them acquire new skills, needed transportation, or start businesses.



54 households were assisted with car repairs for work.

57 youth were provided with employment skills training.

12 businesses were created or helped.

“I am so relieved and thankful. I was in tears last night and am so happy today. My children and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

- Coulecap Work-n-Wheels Participant

Focus on Prevention

The focus of the Monroe County Safe Community Coalition (MCSCC) is to partner with the community to reduce and prevent alcohol, tobacco, and drug use, enhance traffic safety, and promote healthy choices.



Sponsored by the Office of National Drug Control Policy/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Drug Free Communities grant through the Monroe County Safe Community Coalition, in partnership with Couleecap.

Focus on Gratitude

For the year ending December 31, 2014

\$25,000+

Robert & Eleanor Franke Charitable Foundation, Inc.

\$10,000+

Century Foods International
Wells Fargo

\$5,000+

George and Elizabeth Kruck
Diocese of La Crosse
Mayo Health System

\$2,000+

Dr. James and Ann DeLine
David and Kathryn Thompson
William and Mardell Winter
American Family Insurance
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Green Bay Packers Foundation
La Crosse Community Foundation
Laurel High School Poverty Awareness Project
Marine Credit Union
Peoples State Bank
US Bank
Women's fund of Greater La Crosse

Regrettably, space limitations force us to confine the donor listing to donations of \$2,000 or more.

Coulecap makes every effort to ensure accuracy. Please contact Coulecap at 608.634.7363 with any errors or omissions.

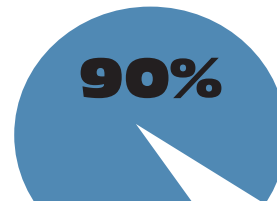


Thank you for entrusting us with your gift. Every single gift is precious. We deeply value your investment, and our focus is to ensure that every dollar we spend improves the lives of the people we serve.

United Way Agencies



Great Rivers United Way
Prairie du Chien Area United Way



**of all contributions
go directly to
serving the needs
of our clients.**

Finance Report (unaudited)

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2014

Assets:

Cash	\$	953,865
Investments	\$	33,826
Grants Receivable	\$	665,049
Other Receivables	\$	348,810
Weatherization Materials	\$	261,648
Prepaid Expenses	\$	81,661
Restricted Reserves	\$	14,769
Deferred/Revolving Loans Receivable	\$	7,280,119
Property and Equipment, Net	\$	3,020,159
Total Assets	\$	12,659,906

Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	\$	164,547
Accrued Expenses	\$	267,494
Rental Deposits	\$	44,203
Refundable Advances	\$	199,651
Mortgage Payable	\$	3,127,385
Construction Loans Payable	\$	243,519
Line of Credit	\$	150,000
Deferred/Revolving Loans Refundable	\$	7,567,303
Total Liabilities	\$	11,764,103

Net Assets:

Restricted	\$	44,270
Unrestricted	\$	851,533
Total Net Assets	\$	895,803

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	12,659,906
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Consolidated Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2014

Revenue:

Grant Revenue	\$ 5,527,278
Program Service Revenue	\$ 1,051,570
Rents	\$ 335,386
Interest	\$ 5,344
Contributions	\$ 91,471
Other Revenue	\$ 155,638
Total Revenue	\$ 7,166,687

Expenses:

Specific Assistance to Individuals	\$ 2,840,062
Personnel	\$ 3,129,998
Professional Fees	\$ 137,246
Supplies	\$ 92,503
Telephone	\$ 47,008
Postage and Shipping	\$ 18,269
Occupancy	\$ 56,799
Printing and Publications	\$ 25,641
Travel	\$ 77,485
Other Expenses	\$ 795,402
Total Expenses	\$ 7,220,412

Change in Net Assets	\$ (53,725)
Net Assets - December 31, 2013	\$ 949,527
Net Assets - December 31, 2014	\$ 895,803

Contact us for more information about programs in your county

Crawford County - 608-326-2463

200 E. Blackhawk Avenue, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin 53821

La Crosse County - 608-782-4877

2101 Victory Street, Suite C, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

Monroe County - 608-269-5021

217 North Black River Street, Sparta, Wisconsin 54656

Vernon County - 608-634-4100

110 North Main Street, Westby, Wisconsin 54667

Corporate Office - 608-634-3104

201 Melby Street, Westby, Wisconsin 54667

Email us: contactus@couleecap.org

Website: www.couleecap.org



“This help is really allowing us to get
back on track with our life.”
- Couleecap Participant

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201 Melby Street • Westby, WI 54667

Address Service Requested

With our thanks to you!



A United Way member agency

Couleecap is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Service Provider. Auxiliary Aids and Services Available Upon Request.