

Annual Report

2020



Stable Housing • Strong Families
Better Community

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

1,611



FAMILIES SERVED
with a total impact of

\$2,557,809

34

students attended HYPE Leadership Day or HYPE Recruitment Day in July. Students were led through activities based on the four HYPE pillars (commitment, passion, communication, and courage) and inspired to serve as positive, substance-free role models.



2,339

volunteer hours
donated amounting to
\$63,621 in donated labor



76

families housed or provided
housing stabilization
\$211,998



37

homes rehabilitated
\$220,075.00



60

Veterans employed
in the lower 6 counties

71

families provided
emergency shelter
\$39,918



59

foreclosures prevented in
Hancock County
\$1,787,888



5

survivors of domestic
violence housed and working
towards self-sufficiency
\$8,117.38



12

families were
reunified through the
Navigator Program

253

children received
gifts through holiday
assistance programs
\$43,747



48

students participated in
the Hancock Youth
Leadership Academy



59

Veterans housed
\$151,741



APRIL 30th, 2020: HRC staff at the Mobile Food Pantry, held at the Silver Slipper Casino & Hotel in partnership with United Way of South Mississippi and Feeding the Gulf Coast to address food insecurity in Hancock County as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

About HRC

Hancock Resource Center works to stabilize families and strengthen the community. Our mission is accomplished by addressing obstacles and barriers to housing and coordinating services for families in need.

2020 was a year that has become known as "unprecedented". It also served as a testament to the strength and resilience of the Hancock County community, and renewed the commitment of the staff at Hancock Resource Center to go above and beyond in serving families in need.

HRC was in the midst of several major undertakings, from a special youth event called 'Adulthood Day' to a Charity Partner announcement, when the coronavirus pandemic hit its stride and

elicited new urgency in the critical services provided by the Hancock Resource Center.

The intense, vastly increased need for rental assistance and foreclosure counseling emerged overnight, in addition to heightened food insecurity. Special programs and supportive services were launched by HRC to provide relief during COVID-19, offering stability and hope to local families as well as clients across the state.

Hurricane Zeta hit in the fall, activating HRC's Disaster Relief Response in partnership with the Hancock County Emergency Operations Center to address immediate needs as well as prepare for the long term recovery from the storm.

While we may not have expected all that 2020 had in store, HRC rose to the occasion to serve and support the Hancock County community.

BY THE NUMBERS

Hancock Resource Center served

1,611

families in 2019,

with a total economic impact of

\$2,557,809

in the community.

Over 6627 hours of volunteer labor were coordinated through HRC in 2019, amounting to \$168,525 in donated labor benefiting residents of Hancock County.

HRC provided **Homebuyer Education, Home Maintenance Education, Budget Counseling, Credit Counseling, Basic Computer, Resume Writing and Basic Employment Skills** classes to 71 residents in Hancock County, affording them the opportunity to improve their financial standing.

In 2020, Hancock Resource Center employed 28 people; 21 of whom live in Hancock County.

In partnership with Hope Haven, HRC provided coordination of **The Salvation Army Angel Tree®, Teen Angels, and Toys for Tots®** programs, serving 253 children with an economic impact of \$43,747.00. Community support for **Santa's Families** totaled \$4,801, with a complete economic impact of \$48,548.00 during the 2019 holiday season.

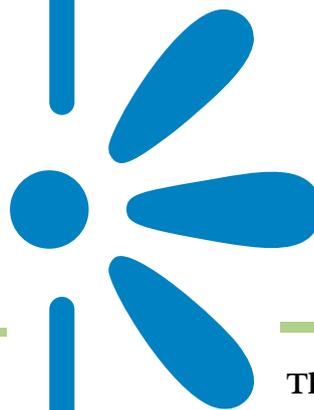
The **Supportive Services for Veteran Families** program allowed HRC to provide housing stabilization and supportive services to 59 Veterans and their families totaling \$151,741.00 in services.

The **Transitional Housing Program** for women affected by domestic violence assisted 5 families with relocation/rental assistance, employment training, transportation and childcare assistance, allowing survivors to move toward self-sufficiency. This program totaled \$8,117.38 in services to Hancock County women.

The **Navigator Program** provided critical case management to 29 families whose children were in Child Protective Services custody. The Family Advocate Case Manager assisted in preventing removal in 11 cases and facilitated reunification for another 12 families by guiding parents through their service plans.

Through the Emergency Solutions Grant, HRC was able to provide **housing stabilization services** (rental assistance, deposit assistance, and supportive services) to 76 homeless and at-risk residents of Hancock County, with direct services totaling \$211,998.00.

HRC was a recipient of funds from United Way of South Mississippi (SABIC) and the Walmart Strategic Initiatives Fund, that enabled counselors to provide **critical need services to 33 families impacted by COVID-19**, with direct services totaling \$25,902.



STABLE HOUSING STRONG FAMILIES BETTER COMMUNITY

Through partnerships with Federal Home Loan Bank, The First, A National Banking Association, and Renaissance Community Loan Fund, HRC provided **home rehab and accessibility** features for 37 low-income, elderly and/or disabled homeowners with an economic impact of \$220,075.

HRC assisted 71 families through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program by providing \$39,918 in essential, **emergency housing stabilization services**.

The **Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program** provided critical employment services to 60 homeless Veterans in the lower six counties.

Foreclosure prevention counseling was provided for 190 families statewide through the Homesaver program; 59 home foreclosures were prevented through this counseling, 5 were homes in Hancock County. The value of the preserved homes is \$9,317,069.00 statewide with an impact in Hancock County of \$1,787,888.00.

Twenty-two Hancock County eighth graders graduated from the **eighth junior high class** of the Hancock Youth Leadership Academy in 2019.

Twenty-six students are due to graduate from the eighth high school class of the **Hancock Youth Leadership Academy**, a year-long program that promotes the development of leadership by teaching character, courage, and service. The graduation was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

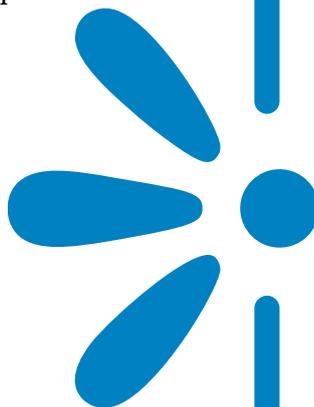
In February of 2020 the Hancock Community Coalition was honored during a graduation ceremony at **CADCA's 30th Annual National Leadership Forum**, just outside of Washington, D.C. The coalition, represented by Executive Director Rhonda Rhodes, DFC Project Coordinator Cathy Pitalo, and Community Outreach Coordinator Colby DiMento, received a graduation certificate for completing CADCA's National Coalition Academy.

HYPE held the **Senior Letter Project** in May as a special way to honor high school graduates in Hancock County when festivities were altered due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All 550 senior received letters from law enforcement, a card from the Hancock Community Coalition, a card from the Isaac Family featuring local art, and a letter from a community member.

HYPE Leadership Day was held on July 8th to help rising 6th & 7th graders recognize the leader within themselves and learn skills to successfully navigate life as a middle school student. On July 18th, the first annual **HYPE Recruitment Day** was held for rising 9th & 10th graders. The Recruitment Day curriculum emphasized how powerful an impact students have on serving as drug-free role models and affecting positive change in their communities.

HYPE Hangout I was held on September 12th, 2020. 16 HYPE members decorated trash cans with positive messages and encouragement to lead a healthy, drug and alcohol-free lifestyle as middle and high school students. On November 24th, **HYPE Hangout II** was held to beautify the walking track at Ochsner-Medical Center Hancock: 21 youth planted bushes, cleared pathways, and painted benches, trash cans, and a bridge.

Hancock North Central Elementary School, North Bay Elementary School, East Hancock Elementary School, and South Hancock Elementary School participated in HYPE's **Red Ribbon Week Door Decorating Contest** in October. 18 classes in total received a cupcake party for best submission per grade.



COVID-19 IMPACT

300

members of the Hancock County community served at the Mobile Food Pantry held on April 30th, 2020 at the Silver Slipper Casino-Hotel in partnership with United Way of South Mississippi and Feeding the Gulf Coast

155

families were assisted through the Emergency Household Supplies Program

30

Veterans were assisted on an emergency basis with housing and sustainability through CARES funds granted through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

21

members of HYPE engaged in a socially-distanced service project to beautify the Ochsner Medical Center-Hancock walking track and honor local healthcare heroes.

44

Hancock County residents received assistance with emergency shelter and housing caused by economic hardship experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the community.

426

Hancock County residents registered or recertified for the Hancock County Food Pantry with assistance from the Hancock Resource Center staff

HURRICANE ZETA IMPACT

1,400

MREs were allocated to families following the storm to combat immediate food insecurity.

612

requests for disaster relief received and addressed to assess community needs in the wake of Hurricane Zeta

107

food boxes were donated by Church of Christ and given to local families to begin replenishing pantries with staples and nonperishables.

VOL

distributed to Hancock County residents

121

Hancock County residents were enrolled in HRC's Long Term Recovery Program to assist in severe damage and repairs needed to restore homes to liveable conditions.

81

tarps were distributed to residents in need of roof repairs in partnership with the Hancock County Emergency Operations Center.

2020 PROGRAM LISTINGS

Our programs include housing solutions for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, veteran housing and employment services, transitional housing for domestic violence survivors, home rehabilitation and repair assistance, mortgage delinquency and foreclosure assistance, advocacy services for parents whose children are in Child Protective Services custody, disaster relief services, and holiday assistance.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES (SSVF)

is for low-income eligible Veteran families who are in or transitioning to permanent housing can receive a host of supportive services, including temporary financial assistance, to promote long-term housing stability.

HOMELESS VETERAN REINTEGRATION PROGRAM (HVRP)

is for Homeless Veterans receive assistance in reintegrating into the labor force by providing job placement services, training, career counseling, resume preparation as well as providing critical linkages to supportive services in the community to retain that employment.

HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS

are for those who are homeless or about to become homeless. If participants qualify, HRC can provide short-term rental assistance and other supportive services to help them regain stability and move towards permanent housing.

THE TRADITIONAL HOUSING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS PROGRAM

offers survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault a temporary safe haven, childcare, and transportation assistance while counselors assist with securing long-term housing; while also addressing, through supportive case management, the many issues surrounding independence and family stability.

THE NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

is for parents whose children have been placed in state custody. HRC Navigators assist in efforts to reunify their families by offering guidance throughout court processes.

THE MORTGAGE DELINQUENCY AND FORECLOSURE PROGRAM

is for those who are unable to make their mortgage payments. A HUD-certified counselor works with these clients and their lenders to develop a solution that will help them keep their home and get back on track.

HANCOCK YOUTH READY FOR EMPLOYMENT (HYRE)

empowers youth in Hancock County by connecting them with the tools, resources, support, and knowledge to become successful, independent, and productive members of society.



THE HOME REHABILITATION AND REPAIR PROGRAM

provides grant and low-interest loans and construction management to complete exterior and interior repairs such as roofing, siding, painting, plumbing, electrical, and heating systems for elderly, disabled, or low income homeowners. HRC oversees the selection and completion of home repair projects, coordinating the construction team, and managing costs.

HANCOCK YOUTH FOR POSITIVE EFFORTS (HYPE)

is an adult-guided, youth-led initiative that strongly believes in the power young people have to impact real change. The programming and activities are designed to help Hancock County youth live a healthy, safe, and fun lifestyle by teaching leadership, communication skills, and peer intervention.

HANCOCK YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (HYLA)

offers two programs: one for eighth graders (HYLA Junior High) and one for eleventh graders (HYLA High School). Students participate in a rigorous year-long program based on building college readiness, appreciation of community assets, and developing leadership potential according to the track they've been accepted to and their grade level.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

First-Time Homebuyers, Maintaining Your Home, Getting Ready for Kindergarten, The Real World, Super Savvy Renter, and more.

DISASTER RELIEF

After a disaster HRC works closely with the Hancock County Emergency Operations Center to provide damage assessment, emergency supplies, and volunteer coordination.

HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Salvation Army Angel Tree® and Toys for Tots® programs, Teen Angels, and Santa's Families.



HANCOCK RESOURCE CENTER PRESENTS:



Friday, October 22nd, 2021

A HANCOCK COUNTY TASTING EXPERIENCE

6 TO 10
P.M.

AT THE BAY ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY HALL

CRAFT BEER ● HOMEBREWERS
& COCKTAIL MIXOLOGISTS

JOIN US FOR
TASTINGS,
FOOD &
FESTIVITIES

LIVE MUSIC & Entertainment 

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