



# KOOTASCA Community Action

## Building Community to End Poverty

Despite America's economic recovery, millions are still living in poverty and even more are just one missed paycheck away from hardship. Whether our neighbors are experiencing a temporary set back or have been priced out of affordable housing – too many struggle to achieve a good quality of life.

### The Local Need

 Nearly **7,700** local residents **LIVE IN POVERTY**

**1 in 5** local children are **living in poverty.** 

Child poverty has risen 5.5% since 2000.

More than **23,000** local residents are **low-income.** 

 **41%** of local families living in poverty report being **treated poorly because of who they are.**

 **7% local unemployment**

### KOOTASCA's Reach

By working to address the multiple causes and conditions of poverty we work to improve our community for more than **23,000 low-income residents in Itasca and Koochiching Counties.**

Our mission, "Building Community to End Poverty," is a collaborative effort with our community to change attitudes and mindsets about poverty, to change the systems that affect people in poverty, and to engage all community members in creating a community that provides opportunities for everyone.

**Over 7,000** low-income individuals served 

**2,400** children   
**2,000** seniors 

**1,850** people with disabilities 





# Our Impact

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

**217 children** and their families were prepared to succeed in school with comprehensive **early childhood education**



**987 volunteers** and **37,433 hours** volunteered in Community Building



**81 families** purchased their first home in the community.

Preventing homelessness and finding safe affordable housing for 290 individuals

Nearly **600 households** obtained health insurance



**48,352 Meals** served to hungry children



**3,604 families** in need kept warm and **1,133 energy crises averted**



**98 Emergency furnace replacements**

**69 Homes Rehabilitated or Weatherized**



2018

## KOOTASCA Community Action:

- ▶ Connecting individuals and families to approaches that help them succeed – including high quality education programs for children, crisis services and supports, stable and affordable housing for families, utility assistance for seniors, and so much more.
- ▶ Promoting community-wide solutions to seemingly stubborn challenges throughout our communities – whether it's the lack of affordable housing or the need for communities that benefits all families.
- ▶ Firsthand experience drives our work. Our Board of Directors is unique—fully one third of members are low-income.



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