Annual Report
2025-2026

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Reflecting on our past achievements fuels our ability to deliver life-changing services and make informed, strategic decisions. This Annual Report is more than a record of our progress. It's an invitation to join us in this important work. By openly sharing our vision, goals, and results, we hope to inspire you to take action alongside us.
As I review the past year, I am incredibly proud of our team and the people engaged in our services. Since 2015, we have provided education, support, and trauma-informed care designed to strengthen families, promote healing, and help people remain connected to their communities. This year also marked an important milestone in our journey as we transitioned from SPARC Foundation to Achieve WNC. While our name has changed, our commitment remains the same. We continue to evolve as an organization, strengthening our ability to serve Western North Carolina while clearly communicating our purpose and the impact we strive to create. Setting bold goals and working to reach them takes dedication, introspection, honesty, and a bit of grit. Our staff and clients have these qualities in spades.
Our mission is to ignite connections to education, employment, and mentorship that strengthen the well-being and personal freedom of people and families in need. Our team of mental health, peer support, social work, community health, and communication professionals works alongside the people we serve to build safer communities and healthier families. Using evidence-based models, we help close the gaps where historically underserved people so often fall through the cracks.

- In the following pages, you'll see how this work comes to life:
- Domestic Violence Intervention Program: trauma-informed, evidence-based counseling for men and women who have committed abuse, because offender services are a crucial part of prevention.
- Family Centered Treatment and Family Centered Treatment Recovery: keeping families together, including when a parent is struggling with substance misuse, and improving outcomes for generations to come.
- Community Wellness + Safety: as one of Buncombe County's Safety Initiative Partners and a founding member of a Violence Interrupters Street Team, we work directly in neighborhoods most affected by gun violence. We also partner with Manna FoodBank to bring food and resources to underserved neighbors.
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Our work is guided by our core values: Authenticity, Balance, Collaboration, Courage, Direct Communication, Equity, Humor, and Innovation.
Thank you for your interest in and support of Achieve WNC. Your continued engagement makes all the difference. Whether you volunteer, donate, or spread the word, you help us provide care, promote growth, and create lasting change. Let's keep moving forward together, because everyone deserves a chance to thrive.

Programs

Domestic Violence Intervention Program

Domestic violence is a deadly issue in our community. At Achieve WNC, we know that offender services are a crucial part of domestic violence prevention. When individuals lack coping skills to deal with stressors, it results in an increased use of power, control and other abusive tactics – leading to a higher risk to partners and children. To decrease the number of domestic violence incidents, services must be aimed at those who are committing the abuse. Offender services are a vital way of preventing new victims while holding those who have caused harm accountable for their actions.

Achieve WNC is helping to break this cycle by addressing the traumas of the participants in our Domestic Violence Intervention Program. Through the testimony and experiences of the over 400 participants we have served, Achieve WNC has identified both unemployment and trauma as two of the complex factors that influence domestic violence. We address employment through providing case management and by linking participants to Inclusive Hiring Partners, a resource for county residents with employment barriers. Achieve WNC has tracked great client success with our holistic approach which addresses a broad spectrum of factors associated with domestic violence and not just the incident that led to referral into the program.

Family Centered Treatment and Recovery

Family Centered Treatment Recovery (FCTR) layers the evidence based, in-home treatment model of Family Centered Treatment with sobriety support and interventions when there is substance misuse by a parent or adolescent. Achieve WNC's Executive Director, Jackie Latek explains, "Failure to address the underlying, progressive disease of addiction in families has contributed to generational cycles of dysfunction, trauma and displacement for children. Our mission at Achieve WNC is to keep people out of institutional care. We not only believe a home-based model for recovery and healing is possible, we now have years of data informing our work and commitment to families."

Community Wellness + Safety

Achieve WNC team members are often out in the community – in people's homes and neighborhoods – working one on one, with families, or facilitating community events designed to help build and heal relationships. We often partner with local nonprofits to creatively meet needs and deliver equitable programs to increase overall community wellness and safety.

While Achieve WNC advocates to improve those systemic issues, our Street Team also works on the ground, with our neighbors most impacted by and at risk of being a victim of gun violence. With appropriate and consistent funding, our community-based safety interventions have been proven to reduce gun violence over time and include: engaging youth and seniors, empowering residents to improve the quality of their housing communities, increasing employment and educational opportunities, and offering resilience and mental health support and education.

Achieve WNC believes everyone deserves a second chance. We work alongside individuals and families who are ready to overcome challenges, strengthen their relationships, and become the nurturing parents and healthy community members they want to be. We don't define people by their hardest moments. We help them build safer, healthier futures for themselves, their families, and our community.

Mission

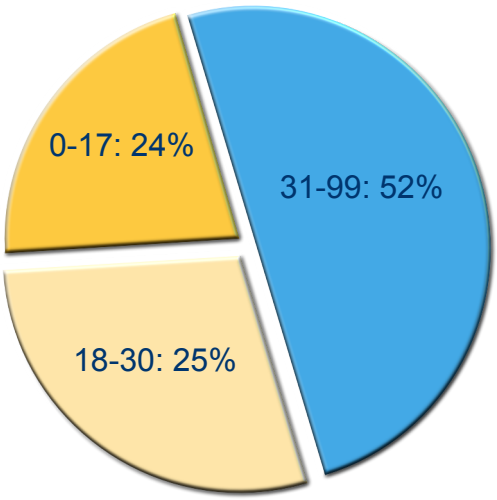
Achieve WNC ignites connections to education, employment, and mentorship to strengthen the well-being and personal freedom of people and families in need.

Values

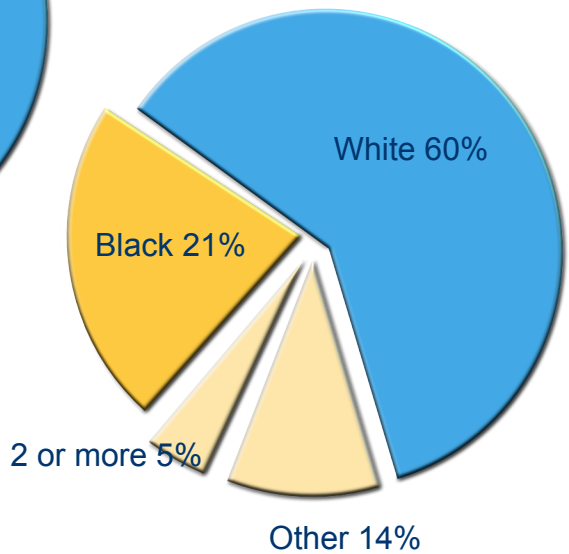
The core values of the Achieve WNC are: Authenticity, Balance, Collaboration, Courage, Direct Communication, Equity, Humor and Innovation

Who we serve

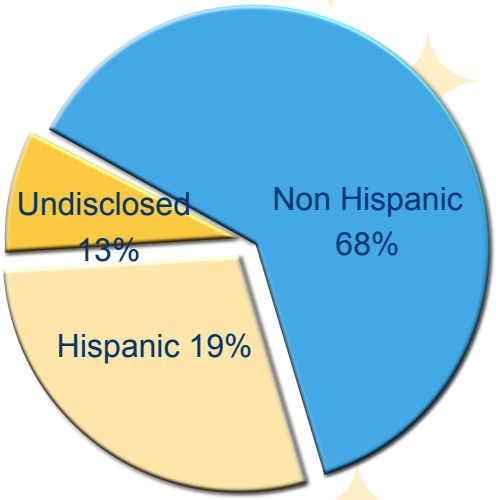
Ages



Race



Ethnicity



Services provided in 8 counties: Henderson, Buncombe, Transylvania, Polk, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, & Yancy

Impact at a Glance

Total people receiving direct services: 443

Community members reached through outreach and neighborhood events: 478

Program Spotlights

Domestic Violence Prevention Program

When **Marcus** completed our DVIP in May, he was determined to move forward and build a more stable future. However, his time in the program came with significant challenges. Without employment or a strong support system in the Asheville area, Marcus struggled to meet his financial obligations and find stability. Despite submitting numerous job applications, he was unable to secure employment.

Recognizing the barriers Marcus was facing, our Community Health Worker, **Gene Ettison**, helped connect him with financial assistance to offset some of his program fees. This support provided Marcus with an important resource as he worked toward completing the program and planning his next steps.

One of the most meaningful outcomes has been the opportunity to resume visitation with his daughter. Marcus had not been permitted to see her for eight months. Today, he is once again able to spend time with his daughter—a significant milestone in his journey toward stability and a brighter future.

Marcus's story demonstrates the importance of meeting participants where they are, addressing barriers beyond the classroom, and connecting them with resources that can help them move forward. With support, perseverance, and access to new opportunities, completing the DVIP became more than an accomplishment—it became a step toward a new chapter for Marcus and his family.

Participant Survey Results
Participants Agreed 100% with the following statements

- ***Facilitators respectful, helpful, fair***
- ***This program helps me become a better person***
- ***This program teaches me skill to avoid future instances of domestic violence***
- ***This program can help other people that have been in my situation***

Participant Quotes
"Instructors/instructions are clear, open-minded and considerate of the people in situations similar to mine. The classes are helpful and offer empathy and cares about it's participants."

" (What is most helpful is) Having a safe and secure space to share with people that I am growing to trust. Especially seeing that I have a difficult time opening up."

"I have gained a lot of insight from this class especially helping with communication in my relationships."

Family Centered Treatment & Recovery Program

Among the many successes we have witnessed, one family's journey stands out as a powerful example of the impact of our FCTR program.

We began working with the family during the first quarter of last year following the death of the children's mother. As a result, their father became their primary caregiver. At the beginning of treatment, the children were living with their 18-year-old brother and were estranged from their father. Given the circumstances, the initial treatment goal was modest but essential: create an opportunity for the family to come together safely, meet amicably, and develop a plan that prioritized the children's well-being.

Over the course of nearly a year of treatment, the family made remarkable progress. What began as a goal of simply facilitating a safe and peaceful meeting evolved into meaningful relationship repair and renewed family connection. By the end of treatment, the family was not only able to communicate and spend time together safely—they were living together in the same home.

This transformation represents an extraordinary treatment outcome. Through commitment, perseverance, and therapeutic support, the family was able to navigate grief, repair strained relationships, and rebuild a sense of connection and stability.

For our FCTR program, this family's journey is a powerful reminder of what is possible when families are given the support and opportunity to heal. Their story stands as one of the most successful treatment outcomes we have experienced and reflects the lasting impact that compassionate, family-centered care can have.

Impact at a Glance

Number of families served: 41

81% of families served remained together or were reunited.

We created more safety in our family during FCTR 86% strongly agree or agree Treatment: What we learned in FCTR has improved our family like: 96% strongly agree or agree.

"Our practitioner navigated a tough family dynamic in a way that closed the gaps between two households working with a child with significant trauma and an FASD diagnosis."

"We loved the fact that we were supported and had a listening ear to help us through the difficult times and teach us tools to help our family get along together and understand our child's needs better."

"Our Practitioner listened to our issues and was the first person to make headway with our family. She was always available when needed - she would stay as long as necessary to work through an issue even when it meant not making it home to her family on time."

"Practitioner was so supportive and understanding, she offered a level of care we have never experienced before, and our family wouldn't be in the position we are in today without her help."

Community Health and Wellness

In January 2026, we launched the first **Parenting With A Purpose** class at the Buncombe County Detention Center. The nine-week program began with six fathers who were incarcerated and separated from their children. While incarceration created significant barriers to parenting, the class focused on helping these fathers understand that they could continue to be active, loving parents from where they were.

Throughout the nine weeks, participants learned practical ways to stay connected with their children and parent with their children's needs at the center of their decisions. They explored the challenges in their relationships with their children's mothers, learned healthy communication and co-parenting skills, reflected on what had gone wrong, and discussed ways to begin healing and strengthening their families.

At the beginning of the class, many of the fathers expressed feelings of hopelessness. They feared they would have to watch their children grow up from the sidelines, unable to participate in their lives because of their incarceration. By the end of the nine weeks, however, every participant had reconnected with their children and was actively parenting from where they were.

The transformation was evident in the way the fathers spoke about their children. They shared smiles and excitement as they talked about conversations and visits, school days, homework, and sports. Relationships with their children's mothers that had once been marked by conflict had begun to shift toward productive communication and shared discussions about what their children needed.

For the facilitators, witnessing these changes was deeply moving. These fathers had faced the tremendous challenge of incarceration, yet they chose to use the tools they had learned to reconnect with their children and become more present in their lives. What began as a class for six fathers who feared they had been pushed to the sidelines ended with six fathers actively engaged in parenting and rebuilding their relationships with their children.

The graduation celebration provided an opportunity for participants to reflect on their experiences and share feedback about how the program could continue to support fathers and families moving forward. Their stories demonstrated that even in the midst of difficult circumstances, meaningful connection, healing, and positive change are possible.

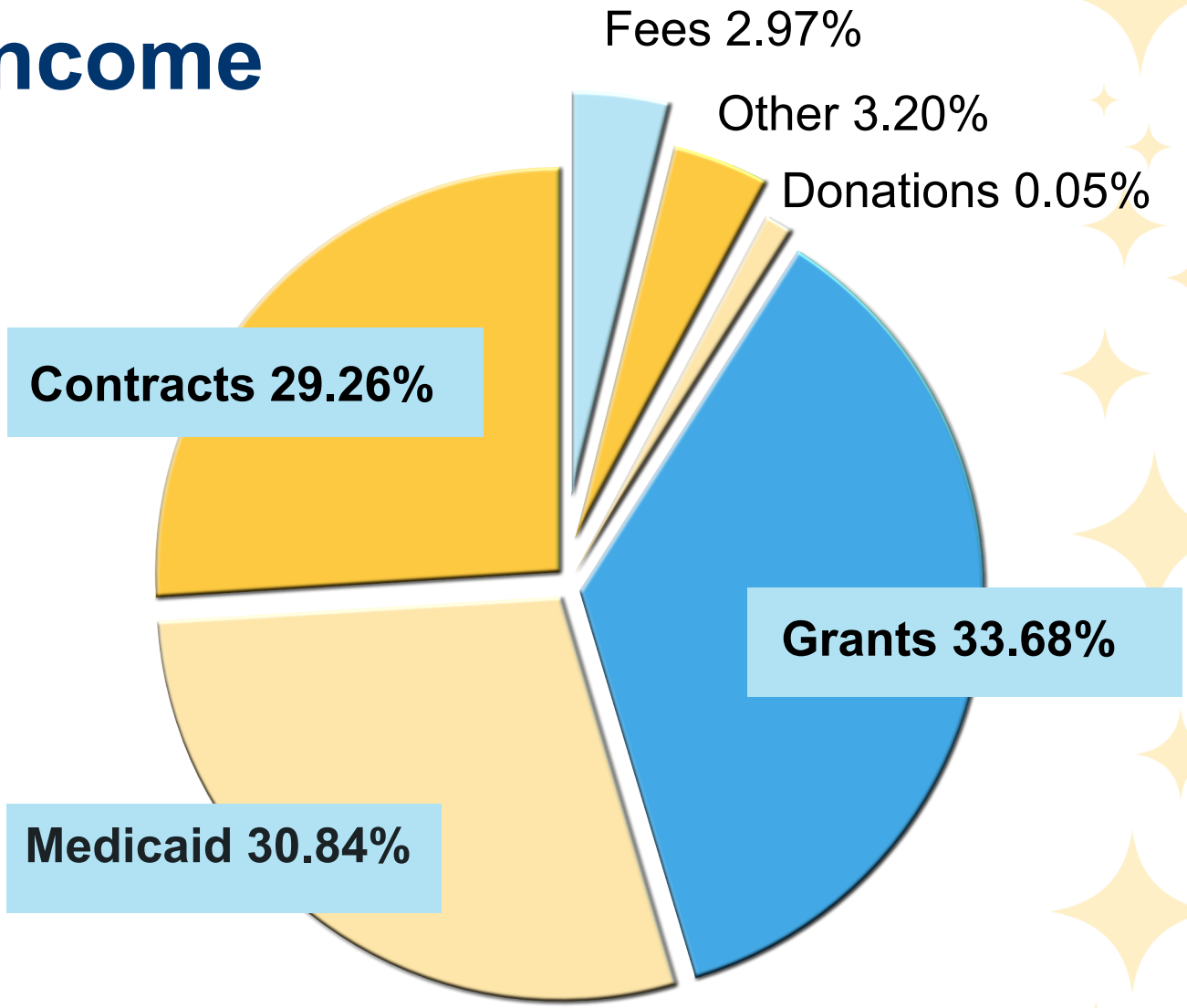
Parenting With A Purpose is more than a parenting class—it is an opportunity to remind fathers that they can still be parents, even when circumstances make parenting difficult. The first Buncombe County Detention Center class showed the profound impact that opportunities can have on fathers, children, and families.

"This class gave me hope when I didn't have any hope left, thank you for caring about us."

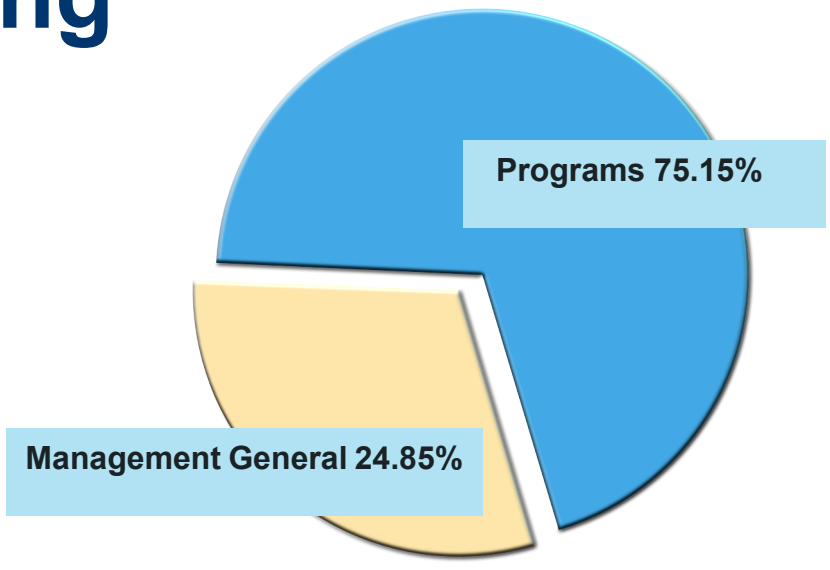
" To be honest I filed a grievance because you made me come to this class. I am sorry, I took it back. After this class I began to parent with my child's mother and now I am getting visitation and calls with her. Before this I didn't think it was possible."

Achieve WNC By The Numbers

Income



Spending



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Dustin Dow

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The People Behind the Programs

Support Team

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Executive Director

Nancy Farmer
Office Manager

Tracey McCrain
Operations Director

Yashika Smith
People & Culture Coordinator

Jeff Whisenant
Staff Development Director

Domestic Violence Intervention Program Team

Tiffany Bell, LCMHC

Angela Fuller

Benjamin Gifford

Enoch Hollaway

Community Health Workers

Keana Blackburn

Wendy Brooks

Gene Ettison

Traci Ettison

Tiarra Lytle

RJ Poore

Timon Salters

Devin Wiley

Family Centered Treatment Team

Heather Banks

Daniel Cortese

Brittany Gillispie

AJ Jones

Kyle Leary

Brittani Mauldin

Carrie Menke, LCAS

Joe Mohrmann

Missie Parran

Agape Powell

Karina Swanson Andrasikova, LCSWA

Dylan Vanover

Hope for the Future

As we close this year and begin a new chapter as Achieve WNC, we are filled with gratitude and hope. None of this work would be possible without the people who believe in our mission and walk alongside us every day.

To our supporters and donors, thank you for investing in healthier families, stronger communities, and brighter futures. Your generosity makes it possible for us to respond to needs, build innovative programs, and create lasting impact.

To our volunteers and community partners, thank you for sharing your time, talents, and passion. Your commitment strengthens our reach and helps ensure that more people receive the support they need.

To our staff, thank you for bringing compassion, courage, expertise, and dedication to every interaction. You show up each day with a deep commitment to service, helping individuals and families overcome challenges, discover strengths, and achieve their goals.

Most importantly, to the children, families, and individuals we serve, thank you for your trust and your courage. Your resilience inspires us. It is a privilege to walk alongside you as you pursue healing, growth, stability, and opportunity.

If you believe in a future where every individual and family has the opportunity to thrive, we invite you to be part of the movement. Achieving lasting change requires all of us. You can support our mission by making a financial contribution, volunteering your time and expertise, serving on our Board of Directors, advocating for community-based solutions, or simply sharing our work with others. Every conversation, connection, and contribution helps us expand our reach and deepen our impact.

As we look to the future, Achieve WNC remains committed to expanding access to trauma-informed, community-based services throughout Western North Carolina. We envision a region where every individual has the opportunity to thrive, every family has the support they need to stay strong and connected, and every community has the resources to foster safety, wellness, and belonging. In the years ahead, we will continue to grow our partnerships, extend our reach, and invest in innovative solutions that help more people build brighter futures close to home.

Together, we are building safer futures and stronger communities. Thank you for being part of this journey. The work continues, and the future is full of possibility.

Achieve WNC

Building Safer Futures Together

www.achievewnc.org

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