



Emergency Financial Assistance Impact

643 Neighbors Served



The Ark serves as the community's emergency room for individuals and families facing financial crisis. It is our vision to provide help, hope, understanding and advocacy for our neighbors in financial crisis, helping them move toward self-sufficiency.

\$179,806.00 Provided in Assistance



Assistance provided by The Ark ensures our working neighbors remain stable during an unexpected financial crisis. Throughout the year, hundreds of working families found themselves out of work and unable to cover basic expenses. The Ark's assistance programs ensure working families remain stable and housed during this time.

383 Evictions Prevented



Homelessness is a troubling reality for most of our families, especially those whose income has been affected by COVID and rising inflation costs. Our assistance ensures vulnerable neighbors remain housed during this time.

194 Disconnections Prevented



A roof over your head, heat in the winter, and utilities in the summer are all such basic human needs that without them our neighbors could not meet all the other challenges in their lives.

53 Special Needs



The Ark is able to meet unique needs in the community. By collaborating with community partners we are able to provide transportation assistance for working neighbors to get to new jobs, help provide medication for children and families, as well as essentials for starting new employment.

573 Food Bank Referrals



The Ark serves as the community's primary Food Bank referral source. This year we provided over 573 households with a referral to receive a week's worth of groceries from the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank.

Neighbor Impact Stories



Because of your generous support, we are able to help households like Kinesha's. Kinesha reached out to The Ark after her employer reduced her hours at work. Without sufficient savings or a safety net, Kinesha began falling behind on bills and rent. Facing eviction and possible utility disconnection, Kinesha turned to The Ark for assistance. The Ark was able to pay Kinesha's rent and utilities to ensure her family remained housed and stable during this difficult time.



At the end of August, Mr. Smith's landlord notified him and dozens of residents that their rents would increase by several hundred dollars and that their leases would not be renewed. Ms. Smith faced a dire situation: either come up with the new rent, or leave. Mr. Smith works full time in a local factory and was unable to pay the increase in his rent. Because of the support from community partners, The Ark has been able to cover the increased rent amount for Mr. Smith until a new affordable rental can be found.



Cara is a single mother to three children. She works full time and reached out to The Ark for rental assistance when her landlord increased her rent by \$500.00. Due to the unexpected increase, Cara was unable to pay her rent in full and was facing eviction. The Ark was able to cover her rent balance, preventing her family from eviction as well as help her with funds to move into a new affordable housing unit for her family. Cara is now able to cover her new rent amount and continues to work full time.

Common Wealth Athens Impact

216 Individuals Served



The mission of Common Wealth Athens (CWA) is to empower Athens' working poor to achieve financial independence through innovative financial education and asset building services. CWA is providing hope and a future to low-income families and individuals with little to no access to the basics of financial planning and affordable lending products.

\$13,750.00 in Loans



Common Wealth Athens (CWA) provides financial services through our partnership with **Georgia United Credit Union**. We enable our neighbors to break out of the cycle of poverty by providing an affordable alternative for depositing their paychecks, addressing financial emergencies, refinancing existing predatory debt and paying off items that are negatively affecting credit scores.

95% Repayment Rate



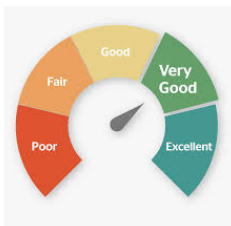
Because each loan is financially backed by The Ark, our loan program is able to lend to those who did not qualify for a traditional loan due to a poor credit score. CWA participants have an average credit score of 486.

432 Education Hours Provided



We provide financial empowerment to low-wage workers through financial education coupled with the banking of our neighbors to provide them with access to specially designed financial products. Our financial education curriculum not only results in long-lasting change and creates financially educated low-wage workers, but also paves the path to true stability.

65 Point Credit Score Increase



CWA's financial tools offer a way up and out of the paycheck to paycheck cycle by increasing financial organization and credit worthiness which often has a direct impact on future employment, stable housing, and lower car insurance rates, to name a few. 85% of CWA participants saw this increase in their credit score after successful repayment of their loan.

99% Overall Improvement

Individuals and families who participate in CWA's Financial Education sessions improve their overall understanding of financial subjects including budgeting, saving and credit repair.





Tanisha first came to the Ark in 2016 after finding herself trapped in high interest title loan. After completing an Ark class on the dangers and traps of predatory lending, she took out an Ark loan to pay off her title loan and thus began her transformative journey to financial freedom with the Ark. Tanisha has since seen her credit score increase 248 points, from 498 to 746! With her increased credit score, she has been able to gain access to more mainstream sources of credit and has been enacting strategies she has learned through the Ark loan program, bringing her to a place where she is finally ready to apply for her first home! We are so very proud of her and can't wait to see what the future holds for tenacious Tanisha!

"I want to thank Common Wealth Athens for all they have done. Stephanie has helped me understand how to be stable with my finances and how to understand my credit. I will forever be thankful!"



For the past several years, the Ark has enjoyed a beautiful partnership with the Athens-Clarke County Diversion Work Release Center, teaching participants how to budget, save, and increase credit scores with a focus on a successful transition from the Center back into society.

"The participants in our transitional center are encouraged to save their funds. However, without knowledge of money management, participants may be more inclined to squander funds upon release, which could contribute to a vicious cycle of nefarious activities and recidivism. The Ark has been extremely instrumental in educating hundreds of participants over the years, and providing them with knowledge and insight to help regain control of their finances and credit.

It is a joy to witness so many residents in our program report back all of the wonderful news and results they've experienced after working with The Ark – many of whom reported a rise in credit scores near or upwards of 100 points. Some participants have even benefitted further from the Ark's assistance by beginning the process of becoming homeowners. This is an amazing feat considering they are able to overcome obstacles and challenges of having been incarceration for an extended period. We are extremely grateful for such a wonderful community resource, especially for a demographic that is oftentimes underserved." (Jay Bonilla, Diversion Center Case Manager)

Proudly providing Financial Education to the following partners in 2022



INNOVATIVE HEALTH CARE INSTITUTE

Department of Human Services
Division of Child Support Services

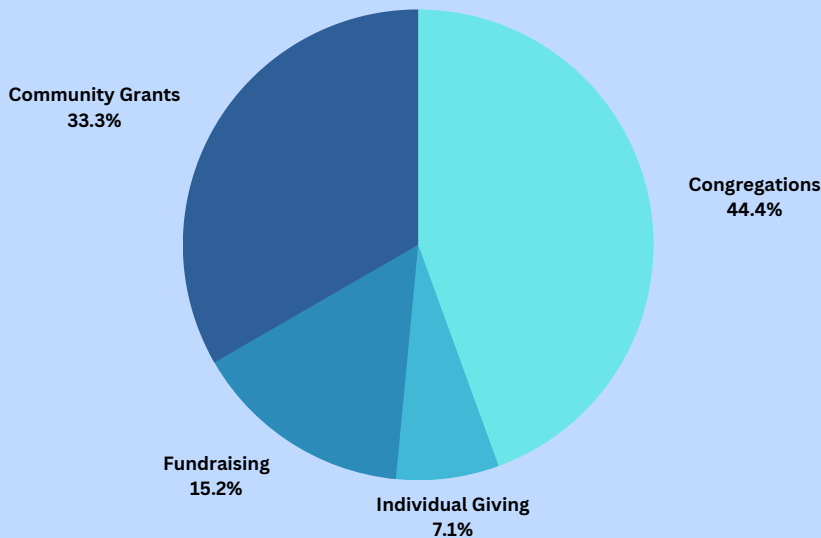
2022 Community Giving

Alps Road Presbyterian Church
Athens Church
Athens First United Methodist Church
Athens Seventh Day Adventist
Central Presbyterian Church
Chapelwood United Methodist
Christus Victor Lutheran Church
Church of the Nations
Cleveland Road Baptist Church
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Crossroads Church
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
First AME Church
First Baptist Church
First Christian Church of Athens
First Pentecostal Church

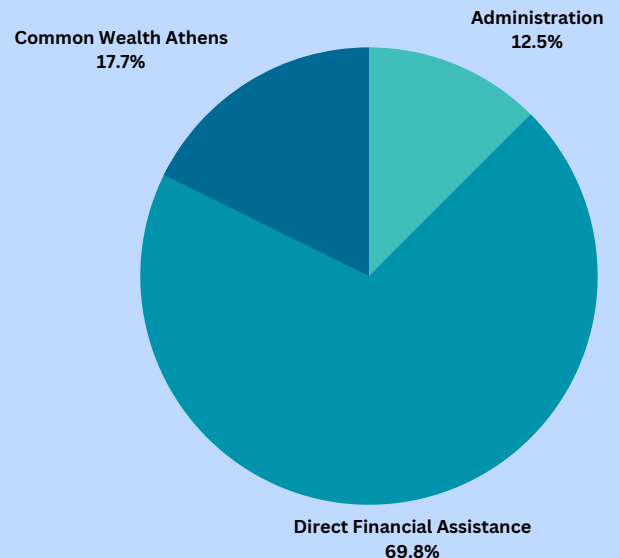
First Presbyterian Church
Green Acres Baptist Church
Hill Chapel Baptist Church
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Life Church of Athens
Milledge Avenue Baptist Church
Oconee Street United Methodist Church
Princeton United Methodist Church
Sarepta Baptist Association
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal
Saint Stephens Anglican Church
St. Thomas Anglican Church
Trinity Lutheran Church
Tuckston United Methodist Church
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Financials

Income



Expenses



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