

2017

A YEAR OF LIFE TRANSFORMATIONS

thelink  
of Cullman County

AFTER SCHOOL SAFE ENCOURAGED

FRIEND LISTEN ENRICH COACH

PARTNER TEAM EMPATHY FEELINGS  
*engage* HOME

CLASSROOM HOMEWORK  
INSPIRE FREE IMAGINE ME

BLOSSOM FAMILY SUPPORT MOVE

LOVED *Choice*

PERFORM MUSIC PRAYER

GROW HOPE

PLAYGROUND EXPLORE TALK DREAM

COMMUNITY FRIENDS SCHOOL

PLAY *good* FUN COMPASSION  
STEER KIND SPORTS

DREAM *health*

CHANGE LEARN

TRUST EXCURSIONS



# PROVIDING LIFE TRANSFORMATION

294  
moving toward  
reconciliation



414  
volunteers



4436  
volunteer  
hours



24  
service  
locations



salvation



## Neighbor Spotlight: A Family Reconciled

Supervised Visitation aims to provide families in crisis a neutral setting to visit with one another. During these visits, restoration and healing can take place between parents and their children. This year your support has made it possible for families to reconcile with one another, children to return to their parent's custody, and ultimately, forgiveness take place. There is one family in particular that consisted of a grandmother visiting with her granddaughter for almost an entire year. Eventually, the child's mother was able to join in on their time together and this sweet trio had the best time together. The little girl adored her mother and grandmother and screamed their names every time she saw their car pull into our parking lot. As the months continued, unity occurred and goodbyes became harder. Today, this family is enjoying unsupervised weekends together, all because of your support.

# On-going Education

## Neighbor Spotlight: Evan

*"I want you to understand how much we value your program (VIPs) here at our school. We know of no better explanation for the turnaround in this kid other than the fact that he started meeting with this man each week and having someone to talk to."*

-Mr. Elrod, Assistant Principal,  
Fairview Elementary

Evan a second grader at Fairview Elementary School was connected to Lawson Watson, a new VIPs mentor half way through his second grade year, after his grandmother brought him to The Link for support. When school was out for the summer, Evan attended Summer Enrichment program and his mentor came several times throughout to the summer to continue the relationship that had grown through VIPs.

Evan entered 3rd grade and his mentor continued meeting with him. Evan's grandmother, as well as his teachers, have remarked improvement in his overall emotional well-being which has helped with both home and school life.



357  
elementary  
kids



1,269  
teens



9  
tutored



1635  
future  
leaders



290  
renew U students



37  
adults learning



# Making Employees

8

pure joy makers



16

classes completed



192

hours mentored



384

recovery meetings attended



## Neighbor Spotlight: Tomica

Tomica entered the Pure Joy Program ready and willing to work. She and her husband were expecting a baby and she was looking for community and connection as she transitioned into a new chapter in her life. She had already found great freedom from addiction, had been step-parenting a beautiful son and had made great progress in her spiritual walk. In the 7 months she was with Pure Joy, Tomica learned more about maintaining long-term recovery, the gifts and talents inside of her, and made lasting relationships. After the birth of her daughter Ava, Tomica launched a work-from-home business and we couldn't be prouder!!

20%

employment rate



293

pallets created



113

unemployed



21

now employed



83

resumes created



# CONSTANT ENCOURAGEMENT

## Neighbor Spotlight: Selena

In October of 2017 we had a neighbor visit us who was in search of a fresh start. Selena had recently relocated to Cullman from the West Coast and was in need of a job, transportation, hope, and a community of people to support her. After meeting with our encourager, working with our career coordinator, and using our computers to search for jobs, she began to forge a new path. By November, she had a job and by December she had saved up for a car. Today Selena is thriving, joined a local church, has two jobs, and recently moved into her own apartment. It has been amazing to watch her flourish over the past four months.



464  
neighbors  
shown love



455  
mouths  
fed



54  
homeless  
cared for

3182

LIVES IMPACTED

80  
at risk for  
homeless



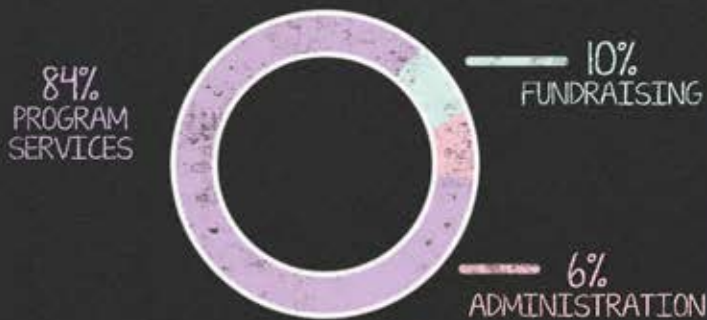
102  
showered



## financial summary

For EVERY \$1 given...

**84** cents goes to  
BREAKING  
THE CYCLE OF POVERTY  
IN CULLMAN COUNTY



## revenue & support

Individual & Business Contributions	\$266,202
Grants	\$55,900
Special Events	\$140,948
Miscellaneous Income	\$59,357

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**TOTAL REVENUE** **\$522,407**

## programs & operating expenses

Program Services	\$448,531
Fundraising & Special Events	\$51,069
General & Administration	\$34,283

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**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$533,883**

## our mission

We are a faith-based non-profit working towards breaking the cycle of poverty through encouragement, education & employability training.

## community partners

None of this would be possible without our many Community Partners.

## 2017 board of directors

**Nathan Graves**

Chairman  
First United Methodist Church

**Trae V. Norrell**

Vice Chairman  
Grace Chapel

**Eddie Canaday**

Treasurer  
Christ Covenant

**Nancy McKenzie**

Secretary  
St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church

**Carls Snider**

Daystar Church

**Stacie Carter**

Daystar Church

**Evle Krenkel**

St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church

**Amy Smith**

Desperation church

**Clancy Johnson**

First Baptist Church

**Sherry Henry**

Northbrook Church

**Dawn Owens**

Founder/Executive Director



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