Helping people.
Changing lives.
Building communities.

2021 Annual Report
Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA)
From our Executive Director

What a year we have had! The challenges we have faced in 2021 were significant; through a global pandemic, the aftermath of the derecho, racial inequity, supply shortages, and often conflicting federal and state guidance, our team has learned how important it is to return to our mission.

The essence of what MICA does is change lives. Changing lives means you have to reach people where they are and build on their strengths. The work we do is very personal, and we are honored to be a part of the journeys of the families we are serving, whether it’s simply helping with a rough patch or engaging in truly transformative change.

Our world is one of continual assessment and improvement, of an ongoing commitment to provide the absolute best services that we can to the families in our community. Though this year was challenging, I firmly believe that this chapter in our agency’s history is marked by our staff rising to meet that challenge, facing struggles head on, and persevering. We are MICA, and we will stay the course, helping to create a better community for all.

It’s our hope as we share the stories of our work, our staff, and the families we serve, that you are re-invigorated in this collective project we are all working on together. Our work wouldn’t be possible without our dedicated staff, community partners, volunteers, and each and every one of you. We are stronger together, and together, we can achieve more than we ever could individually.

I’m so excited to share our progress with you this year and moving forward!

Clarissa Thompson

Executive Director, MICA
OUR IMPACT

We changed the lives of 14,879 families in 5,686 households throughout our service area.

Of those families,

- 323 were veterans or in active service.
- A third had at least some college education.
- Only 103 received TANF benefits, otherwise known as welfare.
- Over half were households with children under the age of 18.

38.7% of the families we served lived in deep poverty, earning under $6,440 a year for an individual or $13,250 for a family of four.

2,013 of those we served were very young children under the age of 5.
Part of the strength of community action is that it provides local solutions to poverty. These are our broad areas of focus in the communities we serve:

1. **Early Childhood**

Our early childhood initiatives include Early Head Start and Head Start, providing comprehensive early childhood education and preparing children for success in kindergarten.

2. **Family Development**

Family Development is a broad category of services; for us it is a spectrum of initiatives ranging from crisis services like emergency food or energy assistance to more intensive one-on-one work with families to set goals and create lasting change. Our school-based work also falls to this team.

3. **Health**

MICA has a robust network of health initiatives including WIC, maternal and child health, 1st Five, school dental sealants, i-smile, and more. This team works to help identify early developmental delays, mitigate health risks, connect families with resources, and provide nutrition assistance.

4. **Housing**

Our Housing team works to weatherize homes, helping families stay safe, warm, and healthy. Through the efforts of our weatherization team, our communities are more robust and have better housing stock.
At MICA, one of our core values is partnership. Our work is not something that can be done in a vacuum. We appreciate all our partners have done this year to help families in central Iowa!

115 volunteers donated a total of 4,246 volunteer hours to MICA this year, helping us change lives through their work in our food pantries, on our board of directors, in our policy council, and in our classrooms.

818 generous supporters gave a total of $634,219.93 to help families in need. These gifts provided emergency food, crisis help, one-on-one support, and much, much more to our communities.

198 organizations including the faith community, other nonprofits, corporations, school districts, banks, collaborations, and local, state, and federal government all partnered with us this year. These organizations generously contributed their time, support, and resources, or worked in partnership with us to achieve jointly held goals.
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

REVENUE

Grant revenue (federal, state, and local): $13,633,877
Contributions/Public Support: $541,487
Program Income: $108,018
Investment Income: $52,388
United Way Support: $62,498
Other Revenue: $197,257
In-Kind Support: $403

Total Revenue: $14,625,928

EXPENSES

Working with families (personnel, fringe, travel): $7,835,334
Direct assistance to families: $4,371,657
Materials and supplies: $235,946
Contractual expenses: $775,564
Space: $461,036
Other expenses (postage, printing, etc.): $843,543

Total Expenses: $14,523,080

For MICA’s full audited financial statements, visit www.micaonline.org/reports.