



WILLARD COMMUNITY CENTER

2019 Annual Report

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WE HELP AREA RESIDENTS GROW,
CONNECT, AND CONTRIBUTE TO OUR
COMMUNITY.

WILLARD'S EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Preschool Program – Taught by Candi Stege and Assistant Teacher, Jenny Miller, is located on the first floor of the Willard Community Center. We had 21 children, ages 3-4, in attendance for the 2018-19 school year.

Pre-K Program – Taught by Kim Deveaux and Assistant Teacher, Brandy Messier, is located at 1030 West “Q” Street in a little house owned by Lincoln Public Schools. We had 14 children, ages 4-5, in attendance for the 2018-19 school year.

The preschool and pre-k curriculum focused on letter and number recognition, shapes, colors, cognitive and fine motor skills, and language skills that help prepare them for Kindergarten. Daily and weekly themes encouraged multi-cultural awareness and parent involvement. Embedded in the curriculum were activities that taught math, science, dramatic play, blocks, literacy and many other educational learning activities.



FULL TIME ADMINISTRATIVE & PROGRAM STAFF FOR ALL PROGRAMS



PART TIME PROGRAM STAFF FOR ALL PROGRAMS



TOTAL FTE'S FOR ALL PROGRAMS



TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED AT WILLARD COMMUNITY CENTER JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER 2019

STEP-UP TO QUALITY AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



Step-Up To Quality: In February Willard Community Center signed an agreement with the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (NeAEYC) and United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County to conduct a one-year Quality Enhancement Project, for our preschool and pre-k programs. The Quality Enhancement Project consisted of NeAEYC doing a pre and post Environment Rating Scale classroom assessment, monthly coaching visits, coordination of the purchase of classroom supplies and teacher resources, and support for the program to enroll for Step Up To Quality Accreditation and work through Steps 1 and 2 of a five step process. United Way reimbursed NeAEYC for approved budget expenditures, not to exceed \$15,253. Tabitha Love, Assistant Program Director, managed this project. The teachers are very invested in the project and Willard met Step One requirements in March and Step Two requirements in May. Thank you to NeAEYC and United Way for their confidence in Willard and for supporting the importance of Early Childhood Development Programs. The Willard preschool and pre-k programs continued to fulfill requirements for Step Up To Quality Accreditation. The teachers participated in trainings, studied the ECERS (Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale), changed and updated the classroom environments and materials, learned to implement a new curriculum (Creative Curriculum) and used our new assessment tool (Ages and Stages). Preschool and pre-k teachers and staff completed all the trainings for Step 2. Creative Curriculum was purchased for \$2,150 and it was paid for by United Way through the Quality Enhancement Project. This was a one-time purchase and the teachers have the ability to add their own ideas.

In the fall of 2019, through the Quality Enhancement Project and United Way, Willard Community Center was able to purchase a 'Step Up to Quality' approved assessment tool. Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ-3) was designed to help programs improve screening implementation for the beginning stages of life, at infancy all the way up to age 5 1/2. Willard's preschool and pre-k teachers are able to answer 30 questions based on each child's abilities. The questions are organized to focus on 5 areas of growth: Communication, Gross Motor, Fine Motor, Problem Solving and Personal-Social. The assessment is done with each child no later than 90 days in our programs, and again when they graduate one program to move on to the next age interval. Through Ages and Stages, we are able to follow up and communicate with the families what the results are, and provide activities for families to do at home to work on any areas that need additional help. The Ages and Stages assessment tool, allows us to see each child's strengths and weaknesses, as we strive for kindergarten readiness.

SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS



Roper Elementary Before and After School Program held at 2323 S. Coddington Street ran from 6:30 am to the start of the school day and resumes after school until 6:00 pm. For 24 years this program has offered a healthy snack after school and a wide variety of activities, ranging from daily scheduled events to large group games and homework time. The children that participate in this program grow up with us. Parents enroll their children in Kindergarten and they will stay with us through 5th grade. We have consistent staff members such as John Joyce, Site Supervisor, who has worked for Willard for 11 years. We always have at least 6-7 staff members working at Roper that came to our program as children. It is because of this consistency that our staff can handle the large number of children safely and efficiently. The unduplicated count for this program was 156 children and 35 more children on the waiting list.

Lakeview Community Learning Center (CLC) Before and After School Program held at 300 Capitol Beach Blvd is available from 6:30 am until 9:00 am, which is the beginning of the school day and resumes again right after school at 3:38 pm until 6:00 pm. For 17 years our licensed program, under the leadership of School Community Coordinator Gina Benne, offers snacks, educational and enrichment centers, clubs, computer time, recreational activities, homework time and also offers discounted rates for qualified families. During 2018/19 school year our program served 310 students out of 429 students who attended Lakeview Elementary. This means that 72% of the schools population attended the CLC. This program is supported through a grant with the Nebraska 21st Century Community Learning Center Initiative. United Way and Snow Redfern Foundation were also grant supporters.

Non-School day child care is available at the Willard Community Center, 1245 Folsom Street for Roper and Lakeview CLC students. The kids enjoy a morning and afternoon snack and fun educational based activities throughout the day. The Center is open 6:30 am to 6:00 pm.

Summer Programming ran from May 29 to August 7 and was open Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. The children were placed in age appropriate groups (K-1st, 2nd-3rd and 4th-8th grades) and participated in weekly themed and educationally based activities. The children went swimming twice a week and on a field trip once a week. In the Willard building we had a total of 111 grade school age children and 21 preschool children enrolled for the summer.

ADULT PROGRAMS & BUILDING USAGE

Adult Programming, run by Elizabeth Scott, includes licensed Bingo for a group of 19 senior citizens that come every Monday and Wednesday morning for social time, 13 games of bingo, and card games played during the bingo break. The group continues to grow and has an average attendance of 12. Once a month this group hosts a pot luck lunch. Willard provides the main dish and everyone brings a side dish. Bingo proves to be the social highlight of their week especially when the preschoolers come up to show off their Halloween costumes or to perform their Holiday Program. It is a way for the seniors to feel connected and viable in our community.



BUILDING USAGE

Throughout the year, Willard Community Center sees many groups and families who utilize the building for a meeting or gathering space. The following groups used our space:

Boy Scouts Troop 55

Bunco

Cub Scouts Pack 55

Girl Scouts Troop #28402

Indian Hills Church Ladies and Children's Bible Study

Metal Detectors Group

Nebraska Sword Fighters Guild

Polling Location

41 building rentals for family gatherings, social groups, and neighborhood group events

2018-2019 CHILD CARE PROGRAM STATISTICS

510

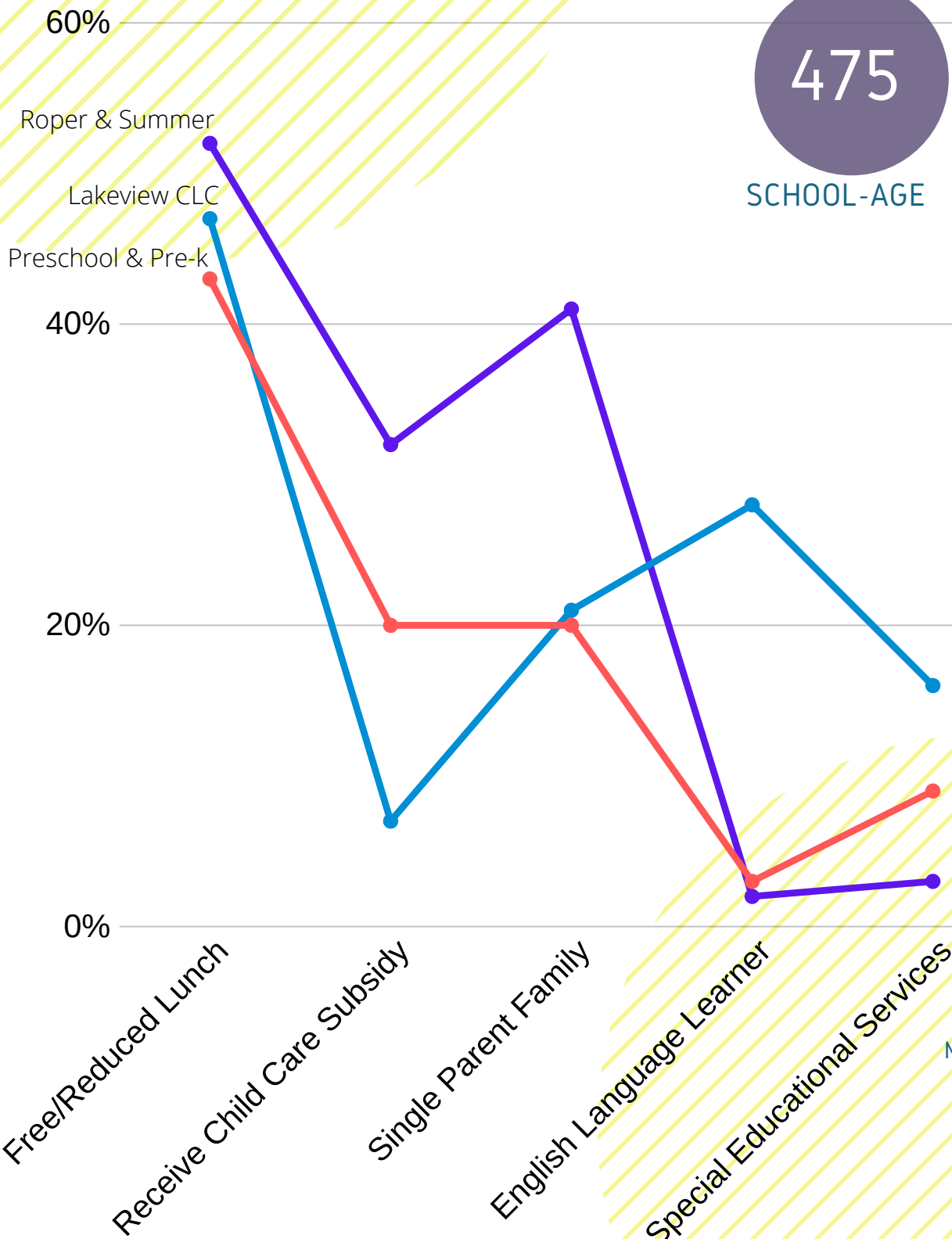
TOTAL KIDS IN ALL FIVE PROGRAMS

475

SCHOOL-AGE

35

EARLY CHILDHOOD



66

AFRICAN AMERICAN

14

ASIAN

272

CAUCASIAN

57

HISPANIC

23

MIDDLE EASTERN

67

MULTIPLE ETHNICITIES

11

NATIVE AMERICAN

FUNDRAISERS

Give to Lincoln Day – The 8th Annual Give to Lincoln Day was held on May 30th. We received \$2,973.25 in online gifts, \$757.09 in offline gifts and the challenge match amount was \$1,430.54. The total that Willard received was \$5,160.88. This year we requested that all of the proceeds go toward the cost of our new vans.

The Chase the Sunset Poker Run was held on July 20th. It was a beautiful hot summer day. Thanks to our sponsors, riders and great restaurant/bar stops we brought in \$3,825. Hickman Bar and Grill donated \$100 and Traditions Pub gave \$80 to the cause. The large group of riders from Roughriders Motorcycle Club really helped us make the day a success. They looked so impressive when they all rode in together. The group donated their winning poker hand money back to Willard and bought lots of raffle tickets. We had several great raffle prizes and the Roughriders also auctioned back some raffle items which brought in additional money.

Tournament sponsors this year were Rough Riders Motorcycle Club, Stephens and Smith Construction, Grantski Enterprises, Wilhelm Auto, Tech Allies, and McCashland/Kirby Insurance Agency.



The 15th Annual Kenny and Pam Gardner Memorial “It Was Fun” Golf Tournament was held on October 6th. With the passing of Pam Gardner in November of 2018 this was the first year that the memorial tournament included her name. Willard raised \$13,000. We had more tournament sponsors than ever before with a total of nine. The tournament sponsors were: Inspro Insurance, Lincoln Auto Auction, West Gate Bank, Tab Performance, Lincoln Industries, Hoy and Associates Construction, Precision Aesthetics, Norland Pure and Priced Rite Auto. We registered 23 teams.

We held a putting contest and the tournament started at noon. Golf Status was used this year to help with golfer registration and to keep track of teams during the tournament. All went very well and we had a nice day. Sarah Reinke and the golf committee had everything very well organized. Hole In One sponsors had signs at the holes on the golf course. The participants had a great selection of hole and raffle prizes and had a good meal from Raising Canes.

DONORS



Donor Letter Mailing campaign- The Willard board prepared a donor letter mailing campaign and sent out a letter to all previous donors addressing the need for additional support of Willard's programs. The letter reminded donors that a significant number of children in our programs pay a reduced rate because they are Title XX (state child care subsidy) or have qualified for free and reduced programs through their school. That number has risen to 54% and that number is continuing to grow each year. These reduced rates resulted in over \$120,000 in lost revenue to Willard. These are, of course, the children that need our support the most as we believe our mission is to help area residents grow, connect, and contribute to our community. We know the early childhood services we provide are essential in supporting these children to becoming productive citizens and in reaching their potential. We are committed to supporting these children and do not want to restrict the children in our programs because of their parents' financial situation. As a community center, we feel that balancing the needs of the community, and the need to maintain a balanced budget is vital. Mr. and Mrs. Marc LeBaron, with Lincoln Industries, were the first donors giving \$15,000 to the cause. The letter campaign brought in a total of \$19,950. We want to let all the donors know that we thank you for your generous donation and for showing your support of our programs.

Lincoln West Kiwanis -Kiwanis empowers members to pursue creative ways to serve the needs of children, such as fighting hunger, improving literacy and offering guidance. The Lincoln West Kiwanis group has been very supportive of the children at Willard Community Center and the Lakeview CLC this year. They have provided volunteers to teach K-Kids at the Lakeview CLC, they worked at the Kenny and Pam Gardner Memorial Golf Tournament which supports scholarships for our child care children, cleaned up the City Park in the Capital Beach neighborhood and donated \$1,000 to our Summer Program. This is a hard working service group and we greatly appreciate all that they have done for our children and community as a whole.

Union Bank and Trust - A very generous gift of \$500 was given to Willard to be used for general purposes for our child care programs.

GRANTORS

Willard Community Center feels very fortunate to be listed as one of Lincoln's non-profit agencies that received funding from the following grantors in 2019.

US Bank - We received a \$4,000 grant from US Bank. (\$3,000 for summer and \$1,000 for capital campaign.) The \$3,000 will pay for the swim passes for all of the children registered in our Summer Program, kindergarten through 5th grade, to go swimming two times a week. Every child will get to participate in this great summer healthy activity.

Woods Charitable Fund granted \$13,000 for the Summer Program. We purchased fifteen 2-way radios so every staff member would have a radio to communicate effectively. This will really help with the security at Willard during the summer and at Roper Elementary this next school year. This allows us to spread out and use more space, inside and outside, at Willard and Roper and still be able to communicate with everyone. The grant also covers the summer salary of our Assistant Program Director, Tabitha Love.

Lincoln Littles: An Early Childhood Education Initiative This initiative is intended to support working families in meeting the high cost of quality care for children birth through age 6 in full day/full year settings. This is year one of grant funding for Early Childhood Providers who have a rating of Step 2 or higher in Step Up To Quality accreditation. Willard's preschool and pre-k programs achieved Step 2 accreditation in May and were allowed to apply for funding for scholarship assistance for our low income families. Willard received \$24,500 in 2019. This is such a huge benefit for our families. If their income falls within the Federal Poverty Guidelines then they can receive this scholarship assistance which allows their child to participate in high quality child care programs and the hope of future life success.

Snow Redfern Foundation granted \$3,000 for supplies and CLC Club Leader Professional fees which supports low income children at the Lakeview Community Learning Center (CLC) Program. The supplies that we purchased consisted of educational games and toys to enhance learning opportunities. The CLC professional fees went toward paying for instructors to provide after school clubs such as coding, Minecraft, Ozobots, lyrical dance, art, drama, readers theater, orchestra, chorus, book buddies, and Lexia to name a few. This is the second time that Snow Redfern has helped us to continue to serve low income children without sacrificing the quality of our program.

IMPACT STATEMENT

Written by Janelle Soderling

This year we have made so many strides toward quality programming, employee training, and better services for the community. We want 2019 to be remembered as our program enhancement year.

In February we signed an agreement with United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County and the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (NeAEYC) to conduct a one-year Quality Enhancement Project for our Preschool and Pre-K Programs. The purpose was to mentor and lead us through Steps One and Two of the Step Up To Quality Accreditation Process. This was a huge undertaking to get the staff registered for all of the required trainings, get the rooms set up for assessments, and change parent handbooks to reflect all of the new policies. Our board, administration and staff were committed to this project and we met Step One requirements in March and Step Two requirements in May. As we continued to work through the Step 3 requirements for the remainder of the year we recognized and appreciated the importance of getting this accreditation. We are now allowed to apply for Lincoln Littles Early Childhood Initiative annual funding and be part of a group of child care providers that is helping low income families give their children access to high quality full time/year round educational programs. It also helped us to increase enrollments in our preschool and pre-k programs. Another impact made for the pre-k program was that we signed a 5-year contract with LPS to continue to use their house at 1030 West "Q" Street. We plan on helping to prepare our children for kindergarten for years to come.

Child Care licensing changed its requirements from having at least one staff member on duty at all times that is certified in CPR/First Aid/AED to having everyone on duty have this certification. I became certified to teach CPR/First Aid/AED to our staff members to lessen the cost involved with this. American Red Cross allows us a discounted rate of \$27 per person and the Nebraska Safety Council allows us to rent their manikins and AED machines for \$90 for five days. This is proving to be very cost effective for us. I can train multiple people over a few days whether they are brand new to this training or just taking a refresher. Another licensing requirement went into effect in October that every staff member be fingerprinted through the Nebraska State Patrol.

This will cost \$46.38 per staff member and we were told that results will not come back immediately. With these added requirements it now costs Willard \$113.88 per staff member for all the necessary trainings before they can even start working with children.

IMPACT STATEMENT

The Lincoln Fresh Food Truck came to Willard every two weeks on Tuesdays from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Their very first visit was April 16th and went through November. The food truck is part of a collaboration between the Food Bank and the Community Health Endowment, which in 2018 invested more than \$950,000 to increase access to healthy foods in Lincoln. The focus is to provide fresh food to low income families. They handed out fresh fruit and vegetables to anyone that came. The preschool children went out every time they visited to pick out a fruit or vegetable for their snack. Katie Umberger, Healthy Food Access Coordinator with the Food Bank, sent out a report at the end of the year thanking everyone for their partnership throughout this first year. The Lincoln Fresh Food Truck distributed a total of 108,647 pounds of fruits and vegetables through the Lincoln Fresh program. At Willard Community Center it hosted 17 stops, seeing 433 visits to the truck, distributing 4,779 pounds of produce.



The Board of Directors made the decision that our old 1998 15-passenger van needed to be sold. We use three vans every day in the summer to transport children to field trips and swimming twice a week. We owned two vans and always rented the third for the summer so a replacement was needed quickly. In May, Anderson Ford found us a used 2018 Ford Transit T-350 15 passenger van with 25,532 miles for \$29,340. We finance it for 60 months. Anderson Ford found us another van identical to the first one with 35,000 miles for \$29,142. We finance the second one and eliminate the need to rent a van for the summer. We will now be able to safely transport our children for many years to come.



Our new neighbors, Mourning Hope, started construction on their facility to the south of us in the spring. The City of Lincoln continued their plans for re-building Schroder Park to the west of us. We are calling ourselves a Non-Profit Campus. Many plans will be made in the future to collaborate on programming, services, and activities.



THANK YOU TO

Inspro Insurance for continuing to provide Willard with the best insurance at affordable rates. Our representative, Brad Dolson, is always looking out for our best interest and keeps Willard covered under the best quality insurance.

Ray's Lawn and Home Care for their continued dedication to keeping the grounds around Willard looking beautiful all year. They mow our lawn and do our snow removal out of the goodness of their hearts.

United Way Day of Action was held on Friday, June 21st. A group of 15 volunteers from Black Hills Energy came and read books, donated by United Way, to all the children in our summer program from 8 am to 9 am. It was a rainy morning so having the volunteers come and spend time with the kids to read a good book was a perfect activity. Every child got to take a book home to add to their libraries.

United Way and Black Hills Energy for helping to encourage the children to read over the summer. United Way Day of Caring volunteers from Black Hills Energy came to Willard on September 6th and helped to lay down the recycled rubber matting recycled from the City playground on parts of our preschool playground. We had a group of 11 that dug up the bark chips and replaced it with the rubber matting. It looks great and the kids love it.

United Way's Annual Campaign Video featured Willard Community Center's Early Learning Programs; preschool and pre-k. Tyler Rupert was selected to be in the video to talk about his experience of growing up at Willard, being a staff member for 8 years, and now his family resides in the neighborhood and his children come to Willard programs. In the video Tyler addressed the importance of Early Childhood Programs and how they have helped his son, LJ, to increase his learning ability, social skills, and realize that learning is fun. LJ will have met all the milestones in order to start kindergarten next fall. You can see the video on our website under news highlights. Thank you United Way and all of the donors who designate their United Way pledge to the Willard Community Center.



THANK YOU TO

35

TOTAL NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE VOLUNTEERS WORKING IN PROGRAMS

764

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS IN ALL PROGRAMS

West Gate Bank donated twelve iPads to Willard. We are so excited about the many ways we will be able to utilize the iPads. We will be able to easily keep track of the number of state child care subsidy hours in our programs by having parents sign in and out on an iPad. We will also use these for the program staff to be able to clock in and out. Staff trainings will now be available on the iPads for staff to download and get child care licensing credit after testing over the material learned. Of course we will let the children use the iPads for educational enrichment too.

Lincoln Community Foundation works with West Gate Bank and they are able to lower our capital campaign loan interest to 3%. This allows us to take \$10,000 off our budget for interest expenses.

Thank you to everyone in our community that donated money, time, toys, sports equipment, games, books and clothes to the Willard Community Center Programs. We certainly could not operate without all of the generous and very useful gifts that we get from our parents and supporters. It takes many boxes and bags of donated items to provide all the necessary supplies for all of our children. They get so excited when anything new comes in that they have never seen or played with before. Our children and staff want you to know that everything you donate is greatly appreciated.

Memorial –Char Fifer, a dear neighbor and Willard school alumni, passed away on March 28, 2019. She just lived down the block between Willard and Lincoln Industries on Folsom Street. She was active in the Bunco Group, was an alumni of the Willard Grade School, and a strong advocate of the Willard programs. We received \$1,020 from memorials made in her honor. The money was used to benefit the adult and child care programs. Char always enjoyed seeing all the little children and senior citizens that came to Willard's programs. She appreciated that we were keeping her old school house as a vital meeting place for the neighborhood.



2019 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

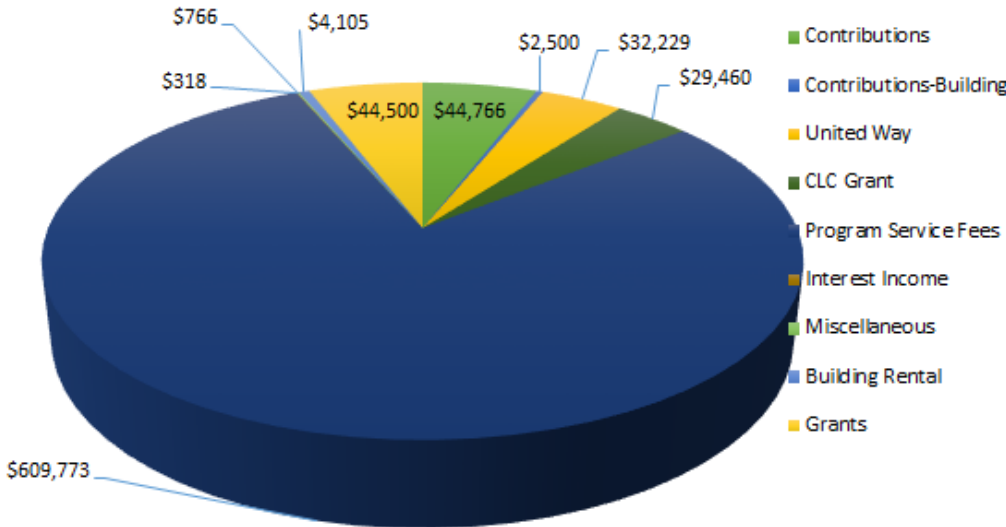
Revenue

Contributions \$44,766
 Contributions-Building \$2,500
 United Way \$32,229
 CLC Grant \$29,460
 Program Service Fees \$609,773
 Interest Income \$318
 Miscellaneous \$766
 Building Rentals \$4,105
 Grants \$44,500

Total Revenues \$ 768,418

Revenues

Total Revenues \$768,418



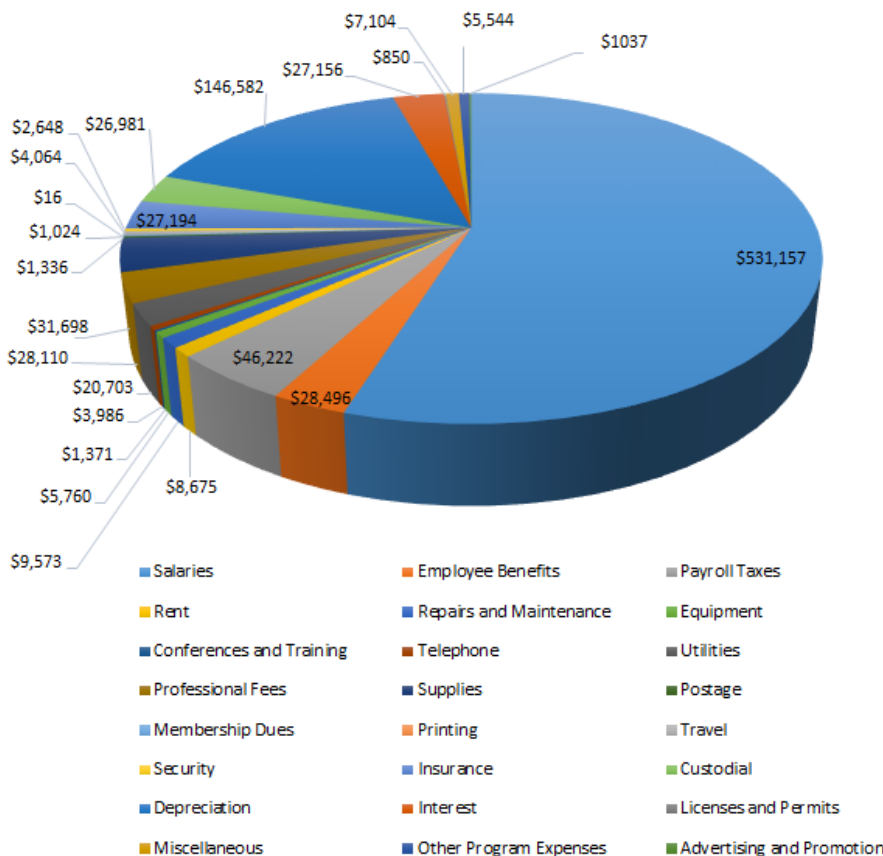
Expenses

Salaries \$531,157
 Employee Benefits \$28,496
 Payroll Taxes \$46,222
 Rent \$8,675
 Repairs and Maintenance \$9,573
 Equipment \$5,760
 Conferences and Training \$1,371
 Telephone \$3,986
 Utilities \$20,703
 Professional Fees \$28,110
 Supplies \$31,698
 Postage \$1,336
 Membership Dues \$1,024
 Printing \$16
 Travel \$4,064
 Security \$2,648
 Insurance \$27,194
 Custodial \$26,981
 Depreciation \$146,582
 Interest \$27,156
 Licenses and Permits \$850
 Miscellaneous \$7,104
 Other Program Expenses \$5,544
 Advertising and Promotion \$1,037

Total Expenses \$967,289

Expenses

Total Expenses \$967,289



Change in Net Assets \$(198,871)