



# A NEW ROAD

SUPPORTS TO ENCOURAGE LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Each year, as we look back on the roads we've traveled, we also examine the steps our clients have taken toward **self-sufficiency**. SELF's **21+ years of service and commitment** have been exciting and rewarding – but we remain inspired by the achievements of individuals who are blazing a new trail.

At SELF, we ask our clients to look at **the road behind, the road they're on, and the road ahead**. SELF's mission is to eliminate the causes of poverty and empower individuals to achieve, sustain, and advocate self-sufficiency.

Every day, we see members of our Butler County communities who **aspire to achieve more**, not just "get by." With the **encouragement** and **assistance** our programs offer, we are able to help determined individuals take steps toward self-sufficiency, and along the way, **turn their dreams into reality**.

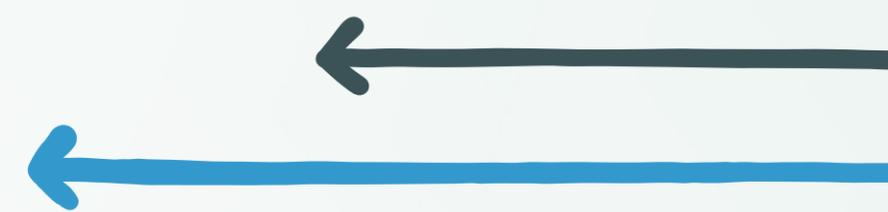
Thanks to you, SELF is able to help thousands of low-income Butler County families each year, **giving them the opportunity** to gain the skills and confidence needed to break the cycle of poverty – and **pave a new path** for their future.



Jeffrey Diver,  
Executive Director



Lori Elliott,  
Board President



## OUR HISTORY...

### SUPPORTS TO ENCOURAGE LOW-INCOME FAMILIES (SELF)

is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and the state-designated Community Action Agency for Butler County. SELF was founded in 1995 with a focus on offering employment and educational services to help low-income individuals achieve long-term self-sufficiency. SELF's overall goals aim to help clients move beyond crisis situations toward **improved financial stability and general well-being**, retain the attitudes and skills necessary for sustained employment and self-sufficiency, and **build and maintain assets to break the cycle of poverty**.

### SELF...

SUPPORTS TO  
ENCOURAGE  
LOW-INCOME  
FAMILIES

"FOUNDED WITH A FOCUS ON OFFERING  
EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO  
HELP LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS ACHIEVE  
LONG-TERM SELF-SUFFICIENCY."

**SELF'S MISSION** is to **enhance the quality of life** for Butler County residents by **impacting the causes of poverty and empowering individuals to achieve, sustain, and advocate self-sufficiency**. In fulfilling its mission, SELF strives to perform the following roles with the highest standards of excellence:

- \* To be an advocate for the needs of the community and the development of individual potential.
- \* To be a facilitator in linking individual needs to the full network of services available.
- \* To be a provider of quality services.
- \* To be a trusted and respected partner with individuals and organizations in addressing the needs of the community.

"OUR MISSION IS TO  
ELIMINATE THE CAUSES  
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## ...OUR MISSION

## BUILD-UP ACADEMY

Teaches construction skills to low-income adults (aged 18-40), then connects them to apprenticeships, jobs, and advanced training programs. Employment training and hands-on work included.



## EMERGENCY HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE & SUMMER COOLING PROGRAMS

Help for low-income families being threatened with loss of heat in the winter or electric in the summer. In addition, SELF verifies and re-verifies participants on the Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP Plus) program, administers several fuel funds, and assists with intake for free weatherization services.

## "GETTING AHEAD" CLASSES

"Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World," a workshop series that assists individuals living in poverty evaluate their lives and develop the life skills necessary to survive and flourish. Participants develop a series of mental models to examine their own pasts and create new futures.



"HELPS THOSE IN POVERTY EVALUATE THEIR LIVES & DEVELOP LIFE SKILLS."

## NEIGHBORS WHO CARE: HOME REPAIR & WORKCAMPS PROJECTS

Volunteer-driven home repair projects in Butler County to help homeowners in need, primarily low-income senior citizens and people with disabilities. In the summer, activities typically spike during Group Workcamps week. In 2016, SELF provided free home repairs and mobility modifications for **more than 100 homeowners, repairing 108 homes** throughout Butler County with **the help of 1,428 volunteers donating 22,587 hours.**



1,428 VOLUNTEERS & 22,587 HOURS

## INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROGRAM (IDA)

Provides financial literacy classes and goal-specific education combined with matched savings accounts for low- to moderate-income clients, helping participants acquire a home, start a business, or access higher education. Client savings are matched by SELF \$2 for every \$1. In 2016, **SELF awarded six cash-outs totaling \$11,400 in matching funds.** The assets obtained were three businesses, two cars, and one home.



CLIENT SAVINGS ARE MATCHED \$2 FOR EVERY \$1

IN 2016, SELF AWARDED 6 CASH-OUTS

## BUTLER COUNTY MICROENTERPRISE & MICROLOAN PROGRAM

Through group workshops, teaches low- and moderate-income individuals about all aspects of starting a business, including hands-on assistance in writing a business plan and the opportunity to apply for a loan of up to \$5,000 to launch the business. **In 2016, SELF awarded \$40,000 in microloans**, allowing six businesses to be launched and three businesses to expand.



**"IN 2016, SELF AWARDED \$40,000 IN MICROLOANS, ALLOWING 6 BUSINESSES TO BE LAUNCHED & 3 BUSINESSES TO EXPAND."**

## JOBS NOW! PROGRAM

A powerful employment and education program for low-income individuals to improve economic stability by obtaining new or better employment. The 12-week program provides: comprehensive assessment, plus a 3-week, 15-hour skills workshop taught by business professionals; limited emergency services such as utility assistance, interview clothing, and job-related transportation; and most importantly, job leads.



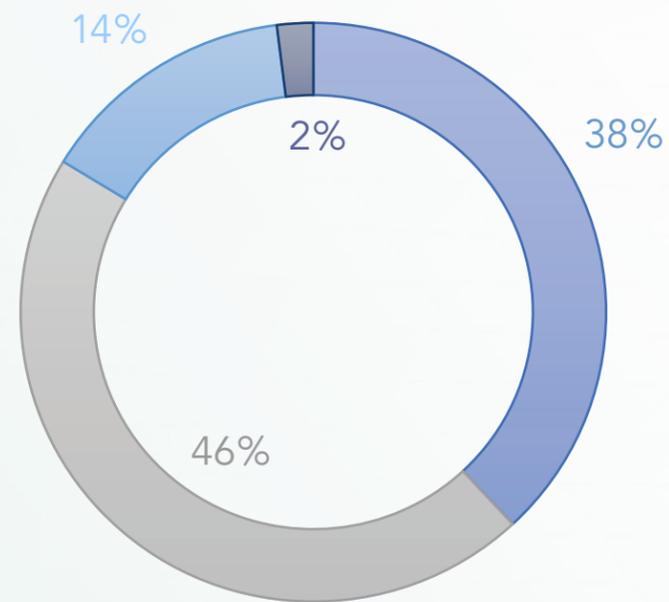
**12-WEEK PROGRAM +  
3-WEEK (15-HOUR) SKILLS WORKSHOP**

### EXPENDITURES 2016

Self-Sufficiency Programs	\$790,801.00
Home Energy Assistance	\$947,580.00
Supporting Services	\$296,906.00
Marketing/Fundraising	\$41,467.00

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**TOTAL** **\$2,076,754.00**

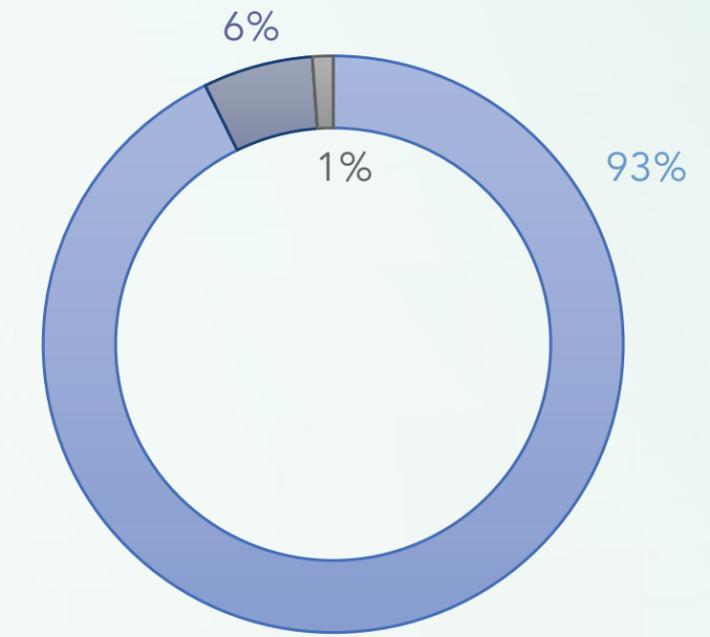


### SUPPORT & REVENUE 2016

Grants/Contracts	\$1,973,153.00
Federal Funding	\$1,515,888.00
Other Funding	\$457,265.00
Contributions/In-Kind	\$130,246.00
Other	\$24,487.00

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**TOTAL** **\$2,127,886.00**



...OUR FINANCIALS



## OUR SUCCESS...

Since early 2016, SELF has partnered with Sojourner Recovery Services' Motherhood and Maternity Addiction Services (MAMAS) program to **provide self-sufficiency programming, life skills training, and wrap-around support services.** The goal is to help women in the perinatal program and their children **live sober, safe, and more self-sufficient lives.** SELF is providing six sessions every year of the Getting Ahead program to women who are in treatment and transitioning to sober living.

### MEET CHRISTINA

Through the partnership between SELF and Sojourner, we have been able to **help many amazing women get back on track and plan for their future.** One incredible example is **Christina** – she entered Sojourner after going through some tough life challenges and drug problems. In a co-dependent relationship and dealing with addiction, she knew she needed to make a change for both herself and for her daughter. While in recovery, Christina went through the Getting Ahead program, and it changed her mindset and her life – she emerged encouraged and empowered. Like many SELF clients, **Christina wanted to do better for herself and her family, but didn't know where to start or how to follow through.** Christina had **big, bold goals:** go back to school, find employment, and find housing outside of Sojourner.

Since graduating, Christina has been tackling her plan step by step. She found a full-time job as an AmeriCorps VISTA member with SELF's Home Repair program, found permanent housing, and is still focused on going back to school.

Christina has fully demonstrated her dedication to reaching her goals and working toward self-sufficiency, making **great strides and taking action steps** not only for her own life, but for those in her community as well.



"THE GETTING AHEAD PROGRAM CHANGED HER MINDSET AND HER LIFE."

"SHE NEEDED TO MAKE A CHANGE FOR BOTH HERSELF AND FOR HER DAUGHTER."



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