



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Working Together to Build Strong Communities



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

PREVENTION IN ACTION -
CREATING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER



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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Janet Dankert

President/CEO

At Community Partnership of the Ozarks, prevention is not just an idea—it is action. Every day, we work alongside neighbors, partners, and supporters like you to stop challenges before they take root, creating stronger, safer, and healthier communities for everyone.

This year, our theme—Prevention in Action—reflects the many ways prevention shows up in our work. From reducing crime and preventing substance misuse, to strengthening families, supporting students, and building resilient neighborhoods, our efforts are grounded in the belief that it is always better to invest early, together.

We know prevention takes many forms:

- A mentoring relationship that keeps a young person on the right path.
- A neighborhood cleanup that restores pride and safety.
- A training that helps someone recognize the signs of suicide or substance misuse.
- A family receiving the tools and support they need before a crisis escalates.

Prevention is often unseen—but its impact is profound. By addressing root causes and building protective factors, we reduce long-term costs, foster resilience, and open doors to opportunity. I am deeply proud of the work our staff, volunteers, and partners carry out every day. And I am grateful to you—our supporters, donors, and community members—who make prevention possible. Together, we are proving that prevention works, and that it transforms lives.

As we look ahead, we know the work of prevention is never finished. It requires persistence, collaboration, and a belief that every investment we make today creates a brighter tomorrow. Together, we will continue turning prevention into action—and action into lasting change.

“Together, we are proving that prevention works, and that it transforms lives.”



MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



Brian McDonough

Vice President & General Manager
KY3, KSPR, & the Ozarks CW

Dear Friends,

As Board Chair of Community Partnership of the Ozarks, I am honored to reflect on this past year and the extraordinary impact of our mission in action. CPO exists to bring people together, align resources, and build stronger communities—and this year, we have seen that vision come to life in powerful ways.

Our theme, Prevention in Action, reminds us that the most lasting change happens when we act early, together. The Board has had the privilege of witnessing the breadth of CPO's work—supporting children and families, strengthening neighborhoods, preventing substance misuse, increasing food security, and addressing root causes of poverty and violence.

These are not isolated efforts, but parts of a larger picture: a community where prevention is woven into every layer of support.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to express my gratitude to our staff, whose passion and dedication make this work possible; to our community partners, who bring their expertise and collaboration to the table; and to you—our supporters and donors—who fuel this mission with your generosity. Your belief in prevention ensures that hope, opportunity, and safety reach every corner of our community.

As you read through this report, I hope you feel the same sense of optimism and possibility that inspires us each day. Together, we are proving that prevention is not only possible—it is powerful.

“Prevention
is not only
possible—it
is powerful.”



COMMUNITY IMPACT

IN THE LAST YEAR

111,872

PEOPLE SERVED OR IMPACTED

62,424

VOLUNTEERS

GAVE

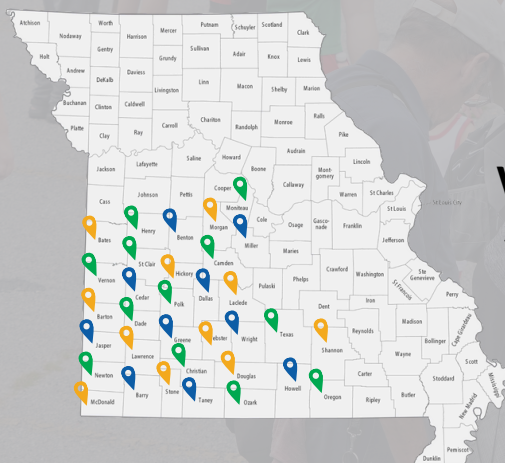
14,927

HOURS

LEVERAGED

\$11,571,807

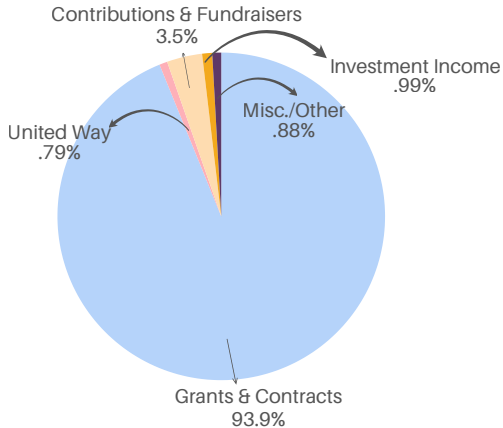
FOR OUR COMMUNITY



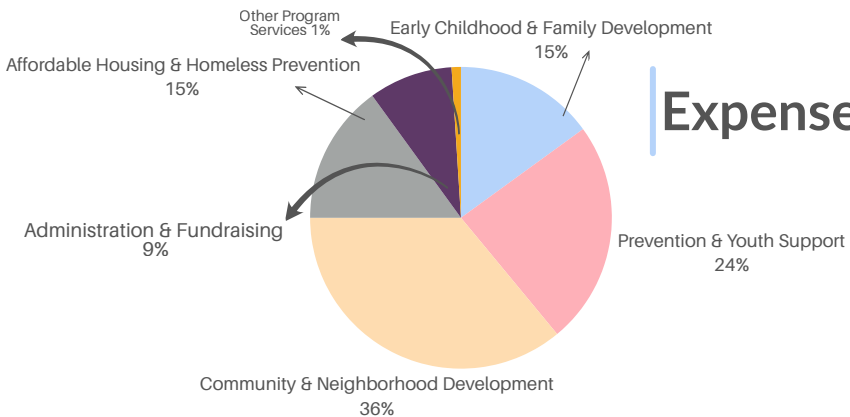
We Serve a 33-County Region



FINANCIAL REPORT



Revenues



Expenses

Stretching Every Dollar Further!

\$18.84 leveraged for every \$1 of Caring Communities state funding received **>>> 188%** return on your investment!

CPO is funded 39% at \$4,132,356 with federal funds received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provided by the Missouri Department of Social Services, Missouri Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 5% at \$508,571 by other federal funding, and 56% at \$5,960,206 by other non-federal sources.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING & HOMELESS PREVENTION

Our Affordable Housing & Homeless Prevention Division works to ensure safe, decent, and affordable housing for everyone.

By convening partners and resources, we reduce barriers to housing, prevent homelessness before it starts, and increase financial stability in our community.

This is prevention in action — strengthening the foundation of our neighborhoods and creating lasting change together.



4,475

unique guests served at the O'Reilly Center for Hope.

97

households received financial assistance through Shelter Diversion.

12,279

bed nights provided during Crisis Cold Weather Shelter season.

Programs that Put Prevention in Action

O'Reilly Center for Hope

Welcomed an average of **873 guests** each month, connecting them to housing, food, and essential resources that prevent homelessness.



HOME-ARP Shelter Diversion

Helped **94%** of participants remain housed and **84%** feel confident in keeping their housing through targeted support and financial assistance.

One Door

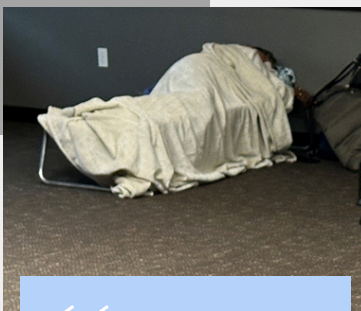
Completed **1,371** housing assessments, connecting **503** households to shelter or long-term housing programs.

Low Income Housing Tax Credit Supportive Services

Distributed **6,000+** pounds of fresh produce, launched community refrigerators in food deserts, and empowered residents to lead volunteer and civic engagement efforts — reducing food insecurity and strengthening neighborhoods.



Stories of Hope & Resilience



“
CPO is always
willing to help —
and so very kind
about it.

— One Door Program
Participant

From Homelessness to Homeownership

A family once helped by CPO now shelters others in crisis, showing the ripple effect of compassion and prevention.

From Stranded Abroad to Safe at Home

After 13 years stranded overseas in unsafe conditions, a woman returned to Springfield, determined to start over. She was living in a roach infested motel with sewage water leaks. With CPO's help, she found work, transportation, and her first apartment — and has remained safe and stably housed.

Fighting Eviction During Cancer Treatment

A couple facing eviction after a cancer diagnosis received rental assistance and landlord mediation, allowing them to keep their home and continue lifesaving medical care.

Community Collaboration Spotlight

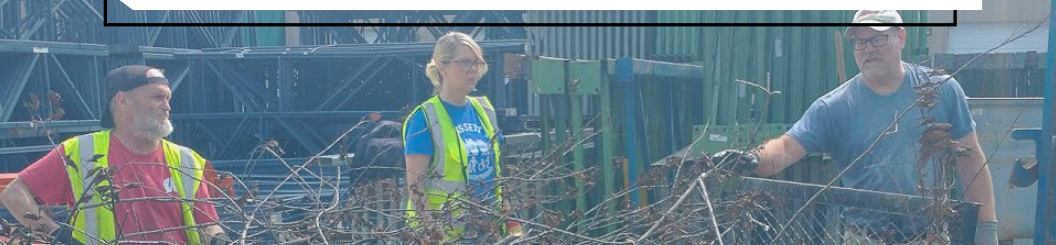


Crisis Cold Weather Shelters

— Opened **60** nights, sheltered an average of 205 people per night, leveraged **\$520,000** in donated space, and mobilized **1,931** volunteer shifts. This life-saving effort was made possible through the dedication of more than **400** volunteers, the generosity of local host sites, and essential support from community partners such as City Utilities Transit, Salvation Army, and Freeway Ministries. Together, we ensured that our most vulnerable neighbors had a warm, safe place to sleep on the coldest nights of the year.



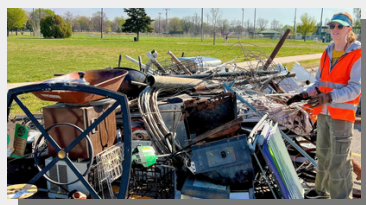
COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT



The Community & Neighborhood Development Division works to improve the social, economic, physical, and environmental well-being of our neighborhoods, schools, and communities – from crime prevention and food security, to neighborhood cleanups and community engagement.

Neighborhood Cleanups

From Fall 2024 through Spring 2025, 12 clean-up events served 24 Springfield neighborhoods, preventing hazards, blight, and environmental harm by removing over 70 tons of waste.



Expanded recycling—including electronics, scrap metal, cardboard, and bicycles—kept valuable materials out of the landfill, strengthening neighborhood pride and creating cleaner, safer communities.



By the Numbers

- **151.25 tons** of waste disposed
- **79** dumpsters of waste removed
- **25** dumpsters of brush recycled
- **28** tons of metal recycled
- **849** TVs & computers recycled
- **260** volunteers gave **996.25** hours

“*This is such a wonderful event, and we are so thankful for the opportunity to keep our neighborhood clean!”*

-Resident

Nourish the Ozarks

Through a three-year USDA grant from the MO Department of Social Services, Nourish the Ozarks (NTO) partners with local farmers and community organizations to prevent food insecurity before it deepens.

By purchasing and redistributing fresh, locally grown food to marginalized communities in 17 Missouri counties—including four of the state's most food insecure—NTO strengthens local economies while ensuring families have access to nutritious food.



- Served **48,703** people
- Hosted **720** distributions
- Distributed **72,423 lbs.** of fresh, local produce



National Night Out 2024

Nearly **2,000** residents connected with first responders and community partners, building relationships and sharing resources that prevent crime and strengthen neighborhood safety.

Family Support & Financial Stability

School-Based Social Work

With just two social workers, we served **839 students and parents** across **25 schools**, providing case management, crisis assistance, and **311** resource connections for food, housing, clothing, and utilities.



100% of school counselors rated services “professional” and “responsive”



*“It is a **HUGE** help to bridge gaps that affect learning and behavior during the school day.”*

-SPS Counselor

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

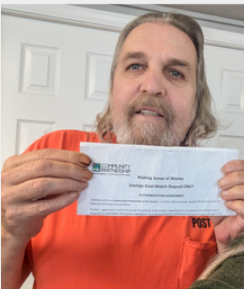
Free, IRS-certified tax prep for households under \$67K/year

- **6,077** returns filed (record high)
- **\$6M** in refunds returned to the community
- **\$40M+** total economic effect
- **\$1.5M** saved in tax prep fees



*“My favorite story is when we helped a single mom who had been living in her car with her 10-year-old get a **\$400** refund.”*

-Kelly Paparella/Director of Financial Stability Programs



Making Sense of Money

Financial education to build budgeting & savings habits

- **332** people served
- **88.6%** graduation rate
- **95%** of graduates use a budget (up from 40%)
- **90%** are saving money (up from 42%)

Student Development

Mentor SGF

Provides life skills, social-emotional growth, and academic support through mentoring, after school clubs, and enrichment programs.

- 1,624 students served (↑ 68%)
- 1,753 engagement opportunities (↑ 47%)



Bulldog Basketball Academy

Basketball training + life skills.

- 374 students served across 12 sites
- 97% said coaches care & want them to succeed
- 93% said they learned to introduce themselves

“The Bulldog Basketball Program inspires confidence that extends far beyond the court, empowering students to face any challenge. We’re proud to partner with them and witness their lasting impact on young lives.”

-Springfield Dream Center

Small Group, One-on-One & Play-Based Mentoring

- 415 students served (↑ 201%)
- 96% said mentoring helped them want to be a better person

After School Clubs

- 38 clubs
- 664 students engaged
- 89% built stronger teacher relationships

Brother-2-Brother & Sisters-2-Sisters

- 12 chapters across 9 schools
- Provided professional attire & leadership awards

Community Mentoring & Supportive Services

- 379 people attended 11 family focused events
- 67 after-school activities facilitated

“This club has provided students with a home—a place where they fit right in.”

-SPS Middle School Teacher





EARLY CHILDHOOD & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Building Strong Foundations for Children and Families

At CPO, we believe every child deserves the opportunity to thrive. Our Early Childhood and Family Development Division provides the resources and support families need during a child's most critical developmental years.

Partners & Programs



Family Focused Network:

- 2nd Annual Home Visiting Conference hosted **109** professionals



Every Child Promise Fund:

- 24 families supported through scholarships (Kids Inn)

FY25 At-a-Glance



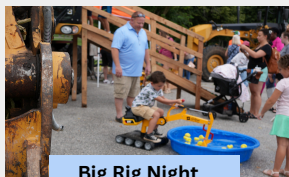
31 families enrolled in Healthy Families Program across 4 new counties



237 people served through our First Birthday Program across **28** counties



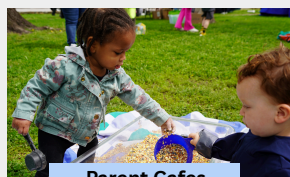
403.5 hours of best practice training provided & **958** on-site coaching visits with child care providers



Big Rig Night
5,000+
attendees



Community Wide Play Day
150 attendees
400+ books distributed



Parent Cafes
50 adults served
38 facilitators trained

New Program Highlight:

Child Care Works!

CPO is leading the way with Childcare Works, a groundbreaking, public-private partnership designed to enhance Missouri's child care system. This program will share costs equally between the state, employers, and families—making high-quality care affordable for those who earn too much for subsidies but still struggle with market rates. This innovative approach will help parents stay in the workforce, support local businesses, and give children the strong start they deserve.



PREVENTION & YOUTH SUPPORT

The Prevention & Youth Support Division leads efforts across Southwest Missouri to prevent substance misuse, reduce suicide, and promote mental wellness. Through community coalitions, youth leadership, evidence-based education, and targeted awareness campaigns, we work alongside schools, families, and partners to create safer, healthier communities.



\$360,500+

in new prevention & suicide prevention grants secured

1.6 million+

reached through public awareness campaigns

2,357 lbs

of unused medication collected in 9 counties



4,957

students reached through Springfield Area Vape Education program

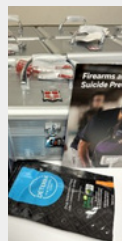
46



new or strengthened youth-led drug-free clubs in schools & community organizations

4,026

medication destruction packets & **796** lock boxes distributed



5,006

mental health referrals made by trained individuals

838

home safety kits distributed

96%

tobacco retailer compliance rate after 1,266 visits

“ CPO is a rockstar and makes my job easy.”

-SAMHSA Grant Project Officer

Strategies in Action



Awareness in Action

Campaigns like Caught Clowning and Minor-Miner educated more than a million residents on alcohol misuse. Partnerships with media outlets also brought vital fentanyl awareness messaging to households across the region.

Ripple Effects in Communities

Our Firearm Suicide Prevention Initiative inspired the U.S. Veterans Administration to start a similar program for high-risk veterans. In Taney County, suicide prevention network membership doubled, and more than **1,000 people** received QPR lifesaving training in one year.



Breaking Stigma & Inspiring Hope

CPO partnered with organizations across 17 Missouri counties to advance suicide prevention, promote mental health, and inspire hope. From Talk to Remember's record attendance to Borrow My Angel's first awareness video, to Ripple Effect Mapping and firearm safe storage initiatives, each effort broke down stigma, built connection, and put prevention into action.

SAFE & SOBER

NEW PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

We are proud to welcome Safe and Sober into our Prevention & Youth Support Division! Based in Springfield, this 501(c)(3) nonprofit shares our mission to prevent substance misuse and build healthier communities.

💡 Covers underage drinking, impaired driving, vaping, prescription misuse & more

📖 Focuses on root causes like stress, depression & anxiety

Mental Health First Aid

- **25** MHFA trainings provided to **376** people
- 6 youth MHFA trainings provided to **116** people
- 5 trainings to **203** local first responders



COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVES

CPO's Community Collaboratives identify gaps, set goals, and drive long-lasting, positive change. The Council of Collaboratives, made up of each collaborative's leadership, fosters cross-collaboration to address a broad range of community issues. Together, these partnerships put **Prevention in Action** — creating stronger, healthier communities across the Ozarks.



IMPACT 241 unique organizations represented
SNAPSHOT: 3,008 volunteer hours contributed

Health Equity Collaborative

- Conducted a countywide Health Equity Survey to identify gaps in healthcare access.
- Partnered with MSU for data review and applied for funding to expand participation incentives.

Child Abuse & Neglect Collaborative

- Expanded prevention and intervention for youth experiencing domestic violence and sexual abuse.
- Hosted the Go Blue Kick-Off to raise awareness and promote resilience, healing, and advocacy.

Early Care & Education Collaborative

- Partnered with Kids Win to address infant/child care access, engage businesses and philanthropy, and connect parents to childcare openings.
- Hosted Big Rig Night, Community Wide Play Day, and community trainings for child care providers.

Housing Collaborative

- Adopted a 2023–2026 strategic plan
- Hosted All About Tenants, a universal design workshop, and advocacy efforts for housing priorities.

Environmental Collaborative

- Helped Springfield become a Clean City Community through the Ozarks Clean Air Alliance.
- Partnered on local environmental projects and shared grant opportunities.

Food Collaborative

- Expanded Nourish the Ozarks to 17 counties, sourcing food from local farmers.
- Installed community fridges in Springfield, providing free produce and fresh food access.

Let's Go Smart: Transportation Collaborative

- Hosted Walk & Talks and a Bike & Talk for Bike, Walk, and Wheel Week.
- Partnered with MSU to track and improve local trail development.

Have Faith Collaborative

- Hosted Mayor's Luncheons and the Festival of Faiths, connecting 27 faith groups and 18 nonprofits.



GUN SAFETY & VIOLENCE REDUCTION COLLABORATIVE

Funded for Impact

With seed funding from Missouri Foundation for Health & the City of Springfield, created Theory of Change with 5 focus areas:

- Deterrence
- Public Awareness
- Education & Community Engagement
- Data Collection
- Supportive Services



Building the Collaborative

- Launched in 2023 after Springfield Police Chief convened 17 community leaders.
- Expanded to **60+** members representing law enforcement, nonprofits, faith leaders, and residents of the most impacted neighborhoods.



Intervening in Real Time

• Street Outreach Workers deployed in May 2025 to de-escalate high-risk conflicts and prevent retaliation.



Community-Driven Solutions

- Youth-led survey: **100+** responses from ages 13–24 shaped programming priorities.
- Safe Space Created: The Action Center at Heart of Hope Church welcomed **1,000+** youth in 9 months.
 - Freestyle Fridays (music, rap, poetry)
 - Man Talk Tuesdays (men's dialogue on violence & healing)
 - Youth-led concerts and visioning sessions



What's Next?

- Teen RISE Program (with Drew Lewis Foundation).
- 2nd Saturdays – separate youth/young adult activities.
- Youth Executive Leadership Advisory Board to build future leaders.
- Expanded pilot programs to reach more neighborhoods.

120+

gun locks and **88** lock boxes distributed.



700+

bilingual flyers on gun safety & suicide prevention shared through community partners.



Prevention in Action!



2025 LAVERNE SCHELL COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD



CPO proudly presented the inaugural Laverne Schell Community Champion Award to Charlie O'Reilly, Harold Bengsch, and Barbara Lucks—honoring their lifetime of service and dedication to building a healthier, stronger Ozarks.

This new annual award celebrates the legacy of beloved CPO volunteer Laverne Schell and the values he embodied: vision, humility, and care.



YOUNG PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The CPO Young Professional Advisory Council (YPAC) is a group of emerging leaders supporting CPO's mission alongside our Board of Directors.

Michael Baldus – Central Bank
Benjamin Beranek – (YPAC Treasurer) MSU
Josh Bell – Mercy
Kayla Bruno – Commerce Bank
Stella Chamberlain (YPAC Secretary) – Chamberlain Realtors
Justin Gassel – MSU Care Clinic
Angel Gonzales – CoxHealth
Daniel Gutierrez – OTC
Myla Koons – Synergy Wealth Solutions
Ginger Onyeka – CoxHealth



Joseph Peck (YPAC Vice Chair) – Great Southern Bank
Lindsay Reichert (YPAC Chair) – Paragon Architecture
Emily Smith – Community Volunteer
Blaine Wallace – Mercy
Krystal Wuller – Deloitte

THANK
YOU!

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PRESENTING SPONSOR!



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Strong roots. Endless possibilities.™

We are grateful for the continued support of
Central Bank of the Ozarks, a dedicated
community partner committed to making the
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HEALTHY FAMILIES



STRONG COMMUNITIES



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\$20,000 +

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