

# maic

## Mobile Area Interfaith Conference

Metro Jail Chaplaincy • The Neighbor Center



## Empowering the Powerless

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

### Mobile Area Interfaith Conference

Email:

[maic.quest@gmail.com](mailto:maic.quest@gmail.com)

Website:

[www.mobileareainterfaith.org](http://www.mobileareainterfaith.org)

Tel: 251-308-8725

901-A Butler Drive Mobile,

Alabama 36693

Post Office Box 16605

Mobile, Alabama 36616

# BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



2019 was a very challenging year for MAIC and our current projects continue to address the unmet needs of currently and recently incarcerated neighbors.

Our staff, volunteers and benefactors responded in amazing ways to position these programs to survive and thrive.

The Metro Jail Chaplaincy Program continued to serve the needs of those held at Metro Jail. Programs focused on faith formation, addiction recovery, education in academics and work skills continue to transform the lives of the 1600 inmates and over 200 volunteers – realizing the kind of kinship that our Creator has had in mind from the beginning.

The Neighbor Center 2019 caseload grew over 40% from 2018, as more returning citizens learned about the success of their neighbors with the assistance of our case managers.

In 2019, we reached three years in service to the community, an important milestone in measuring recidivism (rate of re-incarceration). Because of our staff's dedication to maintaining our database, we were able to statistically demonstrate that our programs are making a difference. This was a factor in the award of a contract with the Mobile County Commission as their lead partner for reentry services.

The demonstrated correlation of our neighbors' success with housing assistance led to the recent award of two government housing grants approaching \$240,000.

The Board, staff and Advisory Council collaborated in 2019 to formulate a Strategic Plan calling for programs directed at assisting our neighbors in finding and thriving in productive employment.

Funded by a three-year faith-based grant, the Academy for Career Development is being launched in 2020, in partnership with Ransom Ministries, a locally based ministry focused on job readiness education and “theaters of work.” While Ransom Recycle, their first social enterprise, is small, we recognized in Ransom an organization who shares our vision of becoming a community of hope and love arising from faith. Both organizations love our neighbors as they are but encourage and equip them to redirect their future toward becoming the kind of teammate that any employer would welcome.

MAIC is a faith-based organizing force which brings community focus and resources to bear on issues important to the coastal Alabama community. Our small staff operates at the center of a network of volunteers, supporting agencies and institutions, who are named elsewhere in this Annual Report. Our returning neighbors could not succeed without their professionalism, patience and persistence. And of course, nothing can happen without the continued spiritual and financial support of congregations, corporations and contributors.

We are humbled by the “thousand points of light” that dispel the darkness, one neighbor at a time.

*MAIC Board President, Jim Backes*

## WHO WE ARE

# MAIC

**Advocacy / Education / Service**

The Mobile Area Interfaith Conference (MAIC) is an Alabama nonprofit corporation with certification by IRS 501 (c) (3) as a charitable organization. MAIC as a collaboration of faith-based organizations and congregations on mission to encourage development of community resources to address unmet human needs. MAIC works with Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities and has representation from each on its board of directors and/or committees.

MAIC has a 40-year history and is the successor organization of the Conference of Downtown Churches, founded in 1979. Involvement is available to persons of all faiths interested in working collaboratively to improve the lives of the underserved and marginalized. MAIC serves as a catalyst organization for systemic change to alleviate poverty by addressing community needs while building relationships that support social justice for all citizens.

### **Vision and Mission**

***The vision of MAIC is a just community which recognizes the inherent worth and dignity of all persons and collaborates to offer hope and opportunity.***

***The mission of MAIC is to empower the marginalized and build bridges in our community through advocacy, education and service.***

## HISTORY

1979 - founded as the Conference of Downtown Churches; congregations working together to address unmet needs

Instrumental in founding:  
Loaves and Fish Soup Kitchen,  
Food Bank / Feeding the Gulf Coast,  
Homeless Coalition / Housing First, Inc.

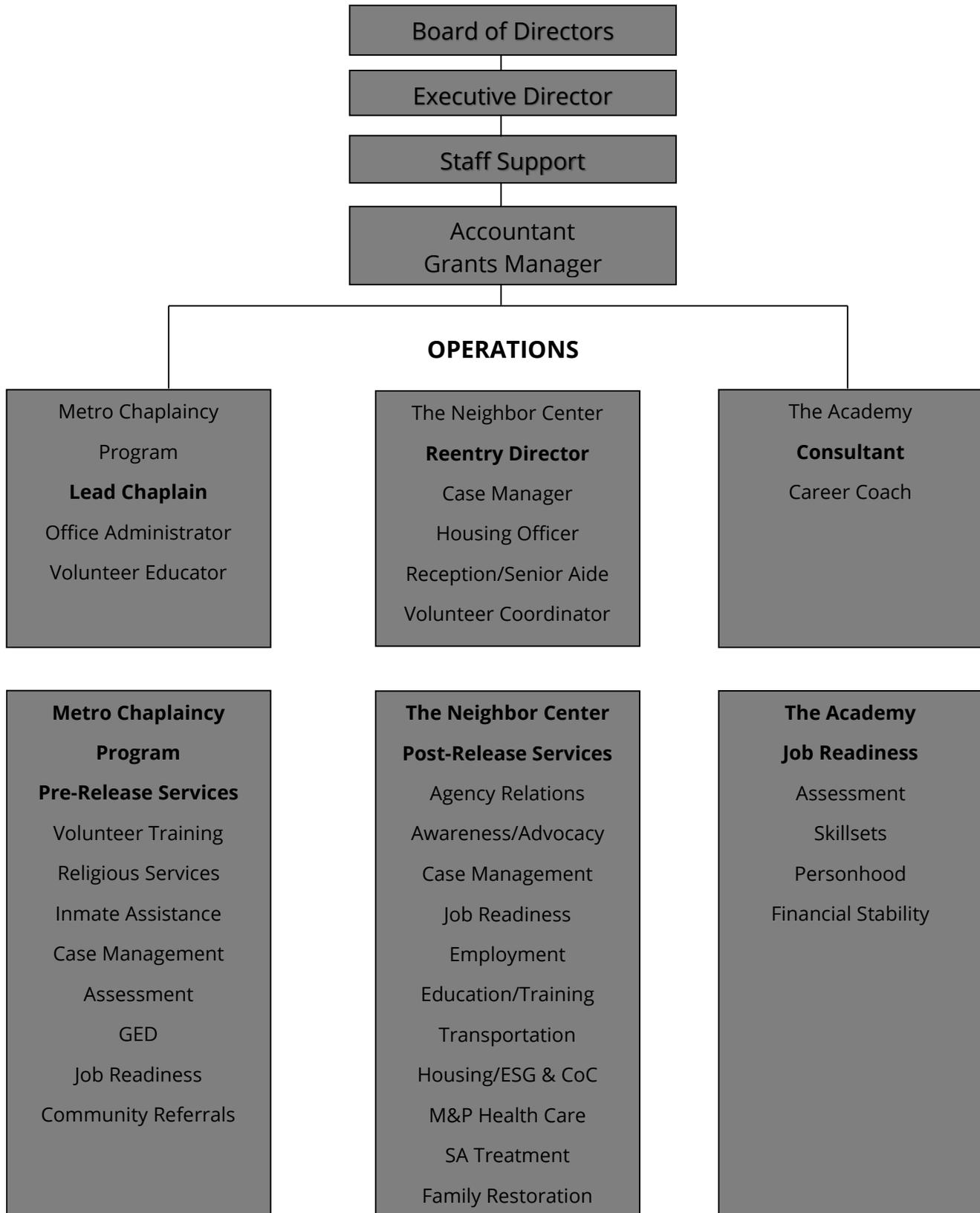
2002 - established Metro Chaplaincy Program

2005 - incorporated as Mobile Area Interfaith Conference, serving persons of all faiths

2016 - established The Neighbor Center reentry program

2019 - established The Academy for Career Development

# ORGANIZATION



# LEADERSHIP

## 2019 Board of Directors

### President

J. McM. (Jim) Backes, Jr., Retired  
Hargrove Engineers & Constructors

### Vice President

Sandy Delchamps, Pastor  
City of Refuge for Men

### Secretary

Kenyen R. Brown, J.D., Partner  
Maynard Cooper & Gale

### Treasurer

James E. (Jamey) Sandifer, C.F.P.  
Investment Counselor

### Immediate Past President

Demetrius Semien, M.Div., Ph.D.  
Spring Hill College

Eddie Burrow, Chief Deputy  
Mobile Co Sheriff's Office

Rev. Trey Doyle, Pastor  
First Baptist Church Mobile

Richard Duffey, MD  
Ophthalmologist, Premier Medical

Paul McLendon, M.Div. \*  
Volunteers of America SE

Captain Felecia Prince, B.A.\*  
Mobile Co. Metro Jail

Patricia Rotella Silverman  
Community Volunteer

Sherman C. Williams, Sr., BA  
Palmer Williams Group

Susan B Young, M.S.W.\*  
Community Corrections Center

\*completed term in 2019

## 2020 Board Additions

Troy Ephriam  
Ephriam Environmental, LLC

Kristen Kimbrough  
Community Volunteer

Lt. Marcus Westry  
Mobile Co. Metro Jail

### Administration

Gwendolyn W. Darty, M.S.W,  
Executive Director

Dan A. Williams, M.S.W.,  
Executive Director Emeritus  
(volunteer)

Mickey Spann  
Office Manager

Rachel Whiteley  
Grants Manager

## Metro Chaplaincy Team

Rev. Alan Singleton  
Lead Chaplain

Trinitius Jackson  
Chaplaincy Office Administrator

Joe Kolb  
Chaplain (We Care volunteer)

Louise Wilber, M.Ed.  
Education Coordinator (volunteer)

Cyndi Thompson  
Goodwill Easterseals/GED  
Certified Tester

Derek Hyder  
Goodwill Easterseals Instructor

## Neighbor Center Team

Gwendolyn Darty, M.S.W.  
Reentry Director

Sr. Meg Kymes, DOC  
Case Manager

Maurice Houston  
Housing Inspector

Viola Brown  
Receptionist

Cynthia McClain  
Senior Aide

Linda Hurm  
Developer and Volunteer Coordinator  
(volunteer)

## Advisory Council

Patrick Bolton M Div., BCC  
Clinical Chaplain  
Mercy LIFE of Alabama

Matt Armbruster, Executive Director  
Ransom Ministries

Mary L. Gautier, Ph.D., Retired  
Georgetown University

Curtis Graves  
Director of Strategic Initiatives at City  
of Mobile, AL

Linda Hurm  
TNC volunteer

Carolyn Larkin, Retired  
Community Corrections Center

Chris (Champ) Napier  
Community Advocate  
Author

Captain Felecia Prince, B.A  
Mobile Co. Metro Jail

Dan A. Williams, M.S.W.,  
Executive Director Emeritus

# METRO CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM



Graduates receive their diploma with family and friends present to celebrate their hard work and determination.

## The Metro Chaplaincy Program Facts:

- Established in 2002.
- Contract with Mobile County Sheriff's Office.
- Chaplaincy complex in Metro Jail includes a chapel & classroom for inmates.
- MAIC Chaplain and Staff Administrator responsible for coordinating pastoral, religious and educational services.
- Support provided by 27 congregations and 290 trained volunteers.
- Pre-release services include: GED classes by Goodwill Easterseals, Celebrate Recovery and Fatherhood Initiative.



*Distribution of Christmas gifts for inmates.*



*Hygiene boxes placed in the community help provide hygiene items for inmates.*



*Distribution of Christmas gifts to children of inmates.*

# CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM STATISTICS

## MOBILE COUNTY METRO JAIL

Official Capacity 1200

Average Daily Census 1560

## MOBILE AREA INTERFAITH CONFERENCE

Trained Volunteers

290

## INMATE RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Male Attendance 12,270

Female Attendance 4,124

## BAPTISMS

39 Baptisms

## CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Male Attendance 172

Female Attendance 214

## FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

Male Attendance 60

Female Attendance 100

## GED STUDENTS

Male Students 104

Female Students 105

## WORKKEY CERTIFICATES

Certificates Awarded 68

## GED CERTIFICATES 2019

13 Graduates

## GED GRADUATES TO DATE

Total Graduates 227

# THE NEIGHBOR CENTER



the neighbor center

## **Our name signifies “neighbors helping returning neighbors.”**

Returning neighbors voluntarily enroll for case management and advocacy assistance to access community resources in support of a successful transition back to the community. The objective is to change the reentry environment through supportive relationships and providing referral or direct assistance needed to avoid re-incarceration. This promotes public safety for all the citizens of Mobile.

Most of the men and women who come to The Neighbor Center are homeless and penniless. Daily, we hear stories of people who are struggling to move forward, who want to have a different life, only they can't because of the barriers they face.

Few have adequate identification so they cannot get a job or a home. The Neighbor Center case managers help them find the resources they need. Through the help of many community partners, they can become productive and self-sufficient. Since we provide personalized case management, rather than a “one-size-fits-all” program, we are sensitive to the barriers and the challenges that each unique individual endures which makes our program more successful.

We offer encouragement, emotional and spiritual support as well as practical help.



*Getting an ID is the first step to moving forward.*



*Moving from Transitional Housing into Permanent Housing takes hard work and courage.*



*Permanent Housing provides stability.*

# TNC SERVICE REPORT

The Neighbor Center is committed to provide the services needed to prevent re-incarceration.

Data shows that the need for reentry programs is obvious: nationally, 67.8% of ex-offenders are rearrested within three years, and within five years, a striking 76.6% - more than three quarters - are rearrested! With more than two million people currently

incarcerated in the U.S., jail and prison populations are constantly expanding. The only way to increase social economic mobility for these persons is to bring down the recidivism rate and help them to reenter society successfully.

The graph shows the results of MAIC's programs from 2017, 2018, 2019.



In 2019, the following services were provided to the imprisoned and the released:

- 91 inmates at Metro Jail were interviewed prior to their release
- 1744 individuals reached out through phone and/or email
- 298 new clients were interviewed
- 49 persons were placed in transitional or permanent housing
- 77 persons received their ID and/or birth certificates
- 48 persons were referred for healthcare assistance
- 36 persons were referred for mental health assistance
- 1 person received parenting classes
- 36 persons received food assistance
- 56 persons received clothing assistance
- 12 persons were placed in education classes
- 204 persons were given bus passes
- 123 persons were referred for job assistance
- 11 persons received Social Security application assistance
- 70 persons received household items
- 6 persons were referred for legal aid

*Data Sources:* Service Point Database; Mobile County Sheriff's Office; Federal Bureau of Prisons; Alabama Department of Corrections; Mobile County Court Docket.

*Some numbers are duplicated due to multiple services being provided to some clients.*

## PROFILES OF COURAGE



"I was released from prison in December, 2016. I contacted The Neighbor Center in July of 2017. I received information about

the program through a church member. I had been putting in applications left and right. My first meeting with Mrs. Darty, I remembered these words that sounded so simple but meant so much and held so much weight. She told me, "it's going to be alright." Within 3 weeks, I got hired at Walmart Distribution Center starting at \$12 an hour. At this moment, I am making \$15 an hour and with me having a felony on my background. It was hard for me to get a home for me and my kids. But with the help of The Neighbor Center, I am now moving into a 2-bedroom home. The love, compassion and peace you receive when you enter those doors is remarkable. They push so hard for you that you want to continue to do nothing but strive for the best. I really thank Mrs. Darty and The Neighbor Center."

"I've been here twice. First time I was offered a temp agency. Unfortunately, I had to get to Theodore with no gas but thanks to Sr. Meg and The Neighbor Center, I was given gas to get back and forth to work. They gave me the chance I

needed to prove myself. Eight months later, I am still in Theodore and thriving. Thank God for The Neighbor Center."

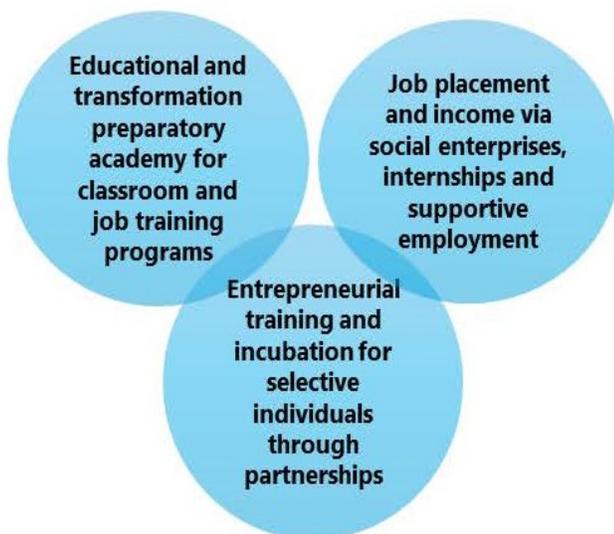
"My homelessness finally came to an end on or around July 24th, 2019. I lost everything I owned two years ago when my mother passed away. A college educated mother living the American dream and lost it all; found myself homeless and living on the streets; in the woods, eating out of dumpsters just to survive. I had to learn to live a different way of life which has been the hardest battle I have ever had to fight. I was helpless and hopeless, I called The Neighbor Center several times a week to see if they had a roof to put over my head. After about a year, I got the call from Mrs. Darty telling me to get in touch with an apartment complex who had an apartment for me. My struggles were over, tears of joy filled my eyes. I never thought my nightmare would end. Not only is The Neighbor Center paying my rent and utilities for a few months, but supplied all household items for me, from pots and pans, to towels, to cleaning supplies and bed linens. I am so humbled and extremely grateful to Mrs. Darty, her staff and any other person or organization that has helped me. There is hope and help out here. I never gave up."

# THE ACADEMY FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

“Stable employment is critical to a successful transition into the community, but reentering individuals often encounter significant barriers in finding employment upon release from prisons and jails, including low levels of education, limited vocational (or marketable) skills and limited work experience. Reentry programs have demonstrated the overwhelming need for employment opportunities for people released from prison and jail, and the need to facilitate the creation of job opportunities for this population.”  
CSG Justice Center.

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry/issue-areas/employment/>

**The Academy has three components:**



**The Academy for Career Development is an education, training and employment program for adults with histories of incarceration who have personal goals for avoiding recidivism and becoming economically self-sufficient citizens.**

**The Academy is more than education:**

The core purposes are establishing a sense of status and esteem through enrollment, a sense of belonging and connection to others, experiencing acceptance through a group process and goal-setting as well as achievement.

The entire process is rooted in cognitive behavioral techniques and will be done in a faith-based, supportive environment.

The end goal is for each returning neighbor to find the life God has always intended for them.

# ACADEMY CURRICULUM



## Level 1: Assessment

- Criminogenic and job-readiness assessments; personalized plan for achieving goals.

## Level 2: Skillsets

- Individualized education plan (IEP); remedial education (pre-GED level courses, literacy, etc.), computer training, trade school, GED or high school equivalency education and opportunities for higher education.

## Level 3: Personhood

- Each student is encouraged to envision and pursue a persona that contributes to recovery from past trauma and mistakes.
- Techniques taught for social/emotional/anger management and learning new protocols and behaviors; experiencing a new way of living.
- Opportunities provided for understanding spiritual interests and needs.
- Classes on relationship skills, time management.
- Development of personal style and appearance that supports goals, interests and self-expressions.

## Level 4: Financial Stability

- Strategies for securing and retaining employment or other means of financial support.
- Classes on writing resumes, submitting applications, learning workplace protocols and preparing for job interviews.
- Financial literacy and money management for sustaining self-sufficiency.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## Mobile Area Interfaith Conference

2019 Financial

January - December

\* Cash Basis

ADMIN Administrative Costs

MCP Metro Chaplaincy Program / Jail Ministry

TNC The Neighbor Center Reentry Program

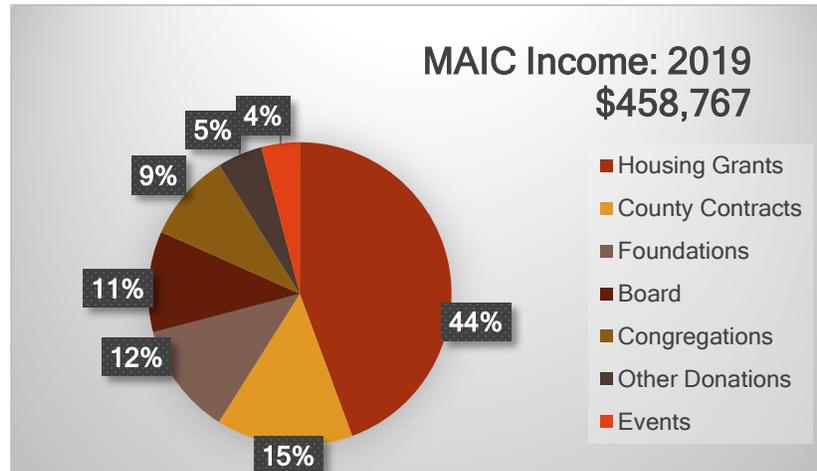
INCOME					12/31/2019
Category	Subs	ADMIN	MCP	TNC	YTD
Admin Fees		54,269.91	(13,909.66)	(40,360.25)	-
Gov't Contracts	Sheriff's Office		54,000.00		54,000.00
	Mobile County			12,600.00	12,600.00
Direct Assist Fund				26,003.84	26,003.84
Donations	Board		100.00	49,100.00	49,200.00
	Congregations		15,508.89	1,500.00	17,008.89
	Gen/Indiv		9,686.00	3,787.24	13,473.24
Fund Raising			8,442.10	18,527.11	26,969.21
Grants	Foundations		30,500.00	24,000.00	54,500.00
	State			42,949.21	42,949.21
	Federal			159,586.85	159,586.85
Other		2,329.00	-	146.89	2,475.89
		<b>56,598.91</b>	<b>104,327.33</b>	<b>297,840.89</b>	<b>458,767.13</b>
EXPENSES					
Category	Subs	ADMIN	MCP	TNC	YTD
Accounting/Audit		4,000.00			4,000.00
Bank /Finance	Fees	28.49	2.48	252.12	283.09
	Loan Payments			13,472.34	13,472.34
Development				675.00	675.00
Direct Assistance				19,701.36	19,701.36
Dues/Subscriptions		1,794.24	576.36	3,684.63	6,055.23
Equip & Furn	TNC			357.76	357.76
Fund Raising	General		827.53	2,439.60	3,267.13
	Gala		1,336.85	1,336.85	2,673.70
Hospitality		2,133.86	48.44	132.66	2,314.96
Housing	CoC/HUD			113,345.89	113,345.89
	ESG/ADECA			27,743.69	27,743.69
Insurance	Auto			1,343.00	1,343.00
	D&O	1,714.00			1,714.00
	Liability			400.00	400.00
	WC	1,163.00			1,163.00
Internet/Phone			2,860.00	3,921.13	6,781.13
IT Services			1,887.50	2,172.50	4,060.00
Lease				15,000.00	15,000.00
Maintenance				333.96	333.96
Personnel	Contract	8,880.00	44,400.00	51,415.00	104,695.00
	Employees	39,219.33	33,600.00	36,200.00	109,019.33
	FICA	2,982.61	2,570.40	2,800.50	8,353.51
Postage		451.55	64.00	520.05	1,035.60
Supplies	Office	927.83	1,625.76	6,288.61	8,842.20
	Program DEX		3,755.91		3,755.91
	Program		2,024.44	3,522.50	5,546.94
Transportation	Operate		30.00	5,058.47	5,088.47
	Mileage			2,667.77	2,667.77
Utilities			-	6,309.14	6,309.14
	2019 Expenses	<b>63,294.91</b>	<b>95,609.67</b>	<b>321,094.53</b>	<b>479,999.11</b>
	Initial 2019 Net	<b>(6,696.00)</b>	<b>8,717.66</b>	<b>(23,253.64)</b>	<b>(21,231.98)</b>
	2018 Carryover	<b>9,025.00</b>	<b>4,100.05</b>	<b>54,979.66</b>	<b>68,104.71</b>
	NET/Cash Balance	<b>2,329.00</b>	<b>12,817.71</b>	<b>31,726.02</b>	<b>46,872.73</b>
		<b>ADMIN</b>	<b>MCP</b>	<b>TNC</b>	<b>YTD</b>

\* Accrual Basis Audit available by request [maic.quest@gmail.com](mailto:maic.quest@gmail.com)

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

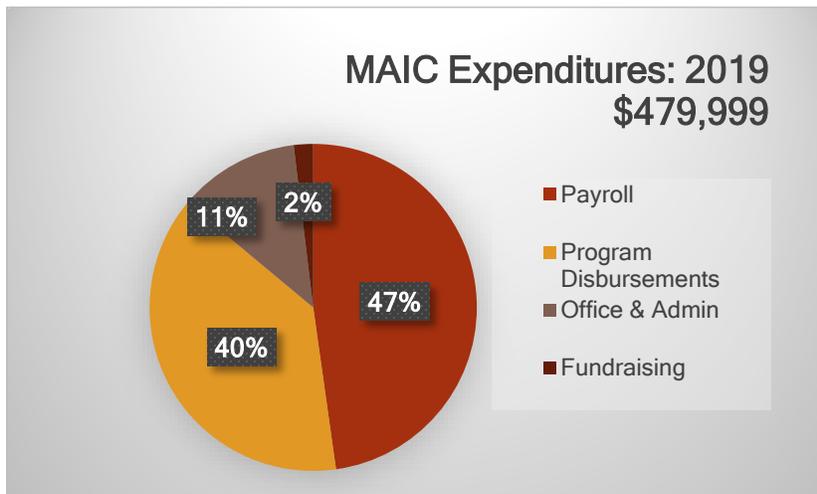
## Income

60% of MAIC funding is derived from government grants and contracts. This year, the Mobile County Commission endorsed MAIC and the Neighbor Center as their designated reentry partner with the award of a new contract for reentry services. Board donations and other fundraising increased substantially in 2019.



## Expenditures

40% of MAIC funds are disbursed directly on behalf of returning neighbors or spent directly on program costs. About half of funds are used to pay staff, with the remainder spent on office and administrative costs.



## Net Income

Expenses exceeded income by \$21,232 in 2019, but \$13,472 of this amount settled the line of credit debt. We entered 2020 with a cash balance of \$46,874 and no debt. It should be noted that the thousands of hours donated by volunteer staff, volunteer teachers and ministers, and partner agencies are not accounted for in these reports. The Board gratefully acknowledges their valued and essential assistance rendered to our neighbors seeking a new life.

## 2019 GOALS MET

- Implemented Advisory Council
- Completed Strategic Plan
- Established The Academy for Career Development

## 2020 GOALS

- Implement fully The Academy for Career Development as described in the grant.
- Place 60 returning citizens in housing through effective management of housing grants.
- Engage the community of 300 plus returning neighbors served by The Neighbor Center in building and sharpening our impact.
- Start an Adult Basic Education Class in The Chaplaincy Program.
- Adapt our modes of ministry to inmates at Metro Jail as conditions change.
- Address the increased caseload at The Neighbor Center with additional staff capacity.
- Build mutually supportive relationships with the business community.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Profiles of Courage Luncheon



On May 21, 2019 we held a very successful Profiles of Courage Luncheon at Mt. Hebron Church. The guest speaker was the Warden of Mobile County Metro Jail, Mr. Trey Oliver. Two neighbors received the Profiles of Courage award for their successful transition back into society.

## Christmas Gala



The end of the year was capped off with a Christmas Gala and silent auction on December 5, 2019.

## Mobile Area Interfaith Conference 2019 Strategic Plan Workshop



The MAIC board has accepted responsibility for updating and coordinating implementation of the plan. A new community Reentry

Consortium was formed in 2019 to assist, advise and evaluate progress with reentry strategic planning. The group included both board and advisory board members.

## Head Start Conference



Sr. Meg Kymes, case manager at The Neighbor Center, attended the Head Start Parent Conference at Mobile County Public Schools on November 21, 2019.

## Government Street Presbyterian Church Urban Camp



Each week throughout the summer, kids from different parts of the country came down to Government Street Presbyterian Church for a week

of immersion and education of such issues as homelessness, poverty, and the marginalized. The kids were given a brief tour of the jail and the chaplaincy office to learn about incarceration and reentry. They visited The Neighbor Center where they learned about the barriers those reentering the community face each day. In addition, Ronwick Thomas, Family Intervention Specialist for the Mobile Police Department, spoke to the kids about the issues they face as teens in today's world.

## Reentry Simulation



MAIC conducted a reentry simulation events at Volunteers of America in 2019 simulated exercises demonstrate the barriers and discouraging experiences of reentry. Each participant is assigned the role of a newly released inmate with typical circumstances and resources.

Thirteen stations are set up in the room that mimic the resources needed and probable difficulties for accessing including: Career Center/GED, Church, Counseling/ Treatment, Courthouse, Discount Medical Care, Employer, ID Station, Plasma, Probation, Quick Loans & Pawn Shop, Rent & Utilities/ Transportation, Social Services/ Voc, Rehab and Super Center/ Bank. A corner of the room serves as a jail for those arrested by two roving law enforcement officers who stop and interrogate the participants. The two-hour event ends with a debriefing of participants who share their positive and negative experiences and how the exercise may have changed their opinions about reentry.

# CONGREGATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

## METRO CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

3 Circle Church	Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception	Cedar Park Baptist Church	Center Point Assembly of God	Christ The King Catholic Church
City of Refuge for Men	Crimson Cross Ministries	Dauphin Way United Methodist Church	Homebase Christian Ministries	Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall
Life Church Mobile	Lily Baptist Church	Luke 4:18 Fellowship	Mission of Hope	Mobile Masjid of A-Islam
Mobile Terrace Christian Center	Newness of Life Outreach Center	Orchard Assembly of God	People of Mars Hill Ministries	Revelation Baptist Church
Right Way Christian Center Church	St. Dominic Catholic Church	St. Joseph Catholic Church	St. Pius X Catholic Church	Way of Life Community Church
	Wings of Life		Word of Life Community Church	