

2023/2024 ANNUAL REPORT



www.eldercarebigbend.org
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SENIOR SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

After the unexpected loss of his primary caregiver, James' world changed drastically. His health declined as he struggled to prepare nutritious meals and became increasingly isolated in his home, far from family and friends.

Then, Elder Care's Meals on Wheels program stepped in—not just with food, but with friendship and care.

His volunteer delivery driver became a lifeline, staying to chat and checking in on James' wellbeing. When James' health took a turn for the worse, his volunteer noticed the changes and alerted his case manager, who urged him to seek hospital care. However, after a few days James became concerned for his dog, so he discharged himself. Two days later, when the volunteer came to deliver his meal, he found James collapsed on the ground and unresponsive. Thanks to this critical intervention, EMS was called, and James received the urgent care he needed.

Now, with additional support from Elder Care's In-Home program and the continued presence of his Meals on Wheels community, James feels safer at home. No longer completely alone, he finds comfort in knowing he has people who care. His happiest moments are spent with his dog on his lap, looking out at the forest behind his home **Meals on Wheels doesn't just deliver meals. It delivers life, dignity, and the reassurance that no one has to struggle alone.**



YOUR 2024 IMPACT

307

seniors received training
and volunteer placement
in the community

1,253

low-income seniors
received material aid
and emergency support

225

frail seniors received
direct care in their homes

62

seniors received full day
care at Elder Day Stay



2,140

local seniors
received services



101,770

meals distributed
to seniors in need



545

food insecure
seniors received
prepared meals


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we look back on the year, we can confidently say that Elder Care Services remained dedicated to our core mission: serving older adults with dignity and compassion. In 2024, we will continued to provide vital services, including nutritious meals through our Meals on Wheels program, and offer valuable resources and education to our community. We are thrilled to have secured State funding for a much-needed rebuild of our Meals on Wheels kitchen, a significant step towards ensuring the long-term sustainability of our vital programs and securing the future of Elder Care Services for years to come.

2024 was a year of significant accomplishment for Elder Care Services. We strengthened our community through impactful intergenerational projects, including our cherished Grandbuddies program with Florida State Childcare Center, the invaluable contributions of high school volunteers in our community garden, and our college interns exploring careers in social work. We were honored to have shared our expertise at major conferences, including the Florida Council on Aging, and look forward to presenting at the prestigious American Society on Aging conference in 2025.

It's important to remember that we share these accomplishments with those that support our mission. The success of Elder Care Services relies on the generosity of our community members. Your donations of supplies and funding are invaluable in helping us continue to provide vital services to older adults in need. For the need is always great, and growing.

I am honored to be a part of the legacy of this great agency. I know deeply that the coming year will bring change, but also continued success to Elder Care Services and unwavering comfort and support to the clients we serve. Thank you for a wonderful 2024, let's make 2025 even better.



Jocelyne M. Fliger, MSW
President and CEO



2024 HIGHLIGHTS



Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver roses on Valentine's Day



Florida Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Michelle Branham delivers meals



Clients at Elder Day Stay make bandanas for therapy pets



Elder Care receives \$990k in State funding to refurbish and expand the Meals on Wheels kitchen



The community garden receives a beautiful new sign courtesy of local high school students



State Representative Allison Tant visits with clients on a meal route



Staff and volunteers make teacher appreciation cards in honor of MLK Day of Service



Elder Care celebrates the 26th annual Oktoberfest alongside the community

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



EDS clients are visited by adorable therapy dogs



Maclay High School students run a successful food drive for Elder Care



EDS clients enjoy a "Friendsgiving" meal together



Staff and volunteers show off their dance moves at the annual volunteer appreciation luau



Clients at EDS practice their art skills



Elder Care honors First Responders at the second annual Meals with Heroes event



Superintendent Rocky Hanna visits with Elder Care's Foster Grandparent volunteers



Elder Care's bowling team takes home 2nd place in the Senior Services league

OUR PROGRAMS



Nutrition Services

Meals on Wheels (hot & frozen) are delivered on weekdays to home-bound seniors and to our eight congregate meal sites.



Elder Day Stay

Day center that provides services to adults requiring continuous care as well as respite for caregivers, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



AmeriCorps Seniors

Seniors 55 years of age or older are placed in vital volunteer roles that enrich the quality of life for the senior and make lasting impacts to their community.



In-Home Services

In-home care for frail, functionally impaired, and homebound seniors as an alternative to nursing home placement.



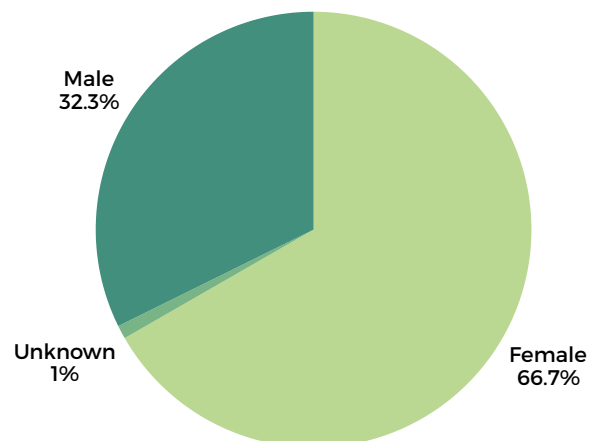
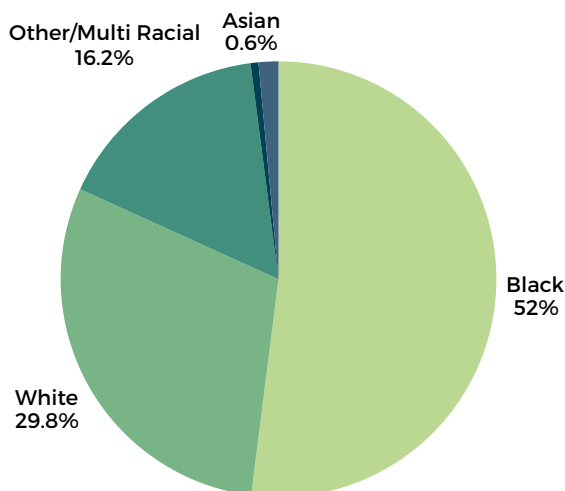
Senior Outreach Services (S.O.S.)

Senior Outreach Services is the first contact for seniors seeking help and may provide material aid in addition to answering questions and connecting seniors to appropriate resources.

WHO WE SERVE

Elder Care Services provides services to a diverse group of seniors and their caregivers in the Big Bend. We serve seniors from all backgrounds, including those who are low-income, homebound, and socially isolated. Many of the seniors we serve have chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease, and arthritis, which can make it difficult for them to access the care they need. Our organization provides essential services like transportation to medical appointments, home-delivered meals, and health and wellness programs to help these seniors maintain their independence and improve their quality of life.

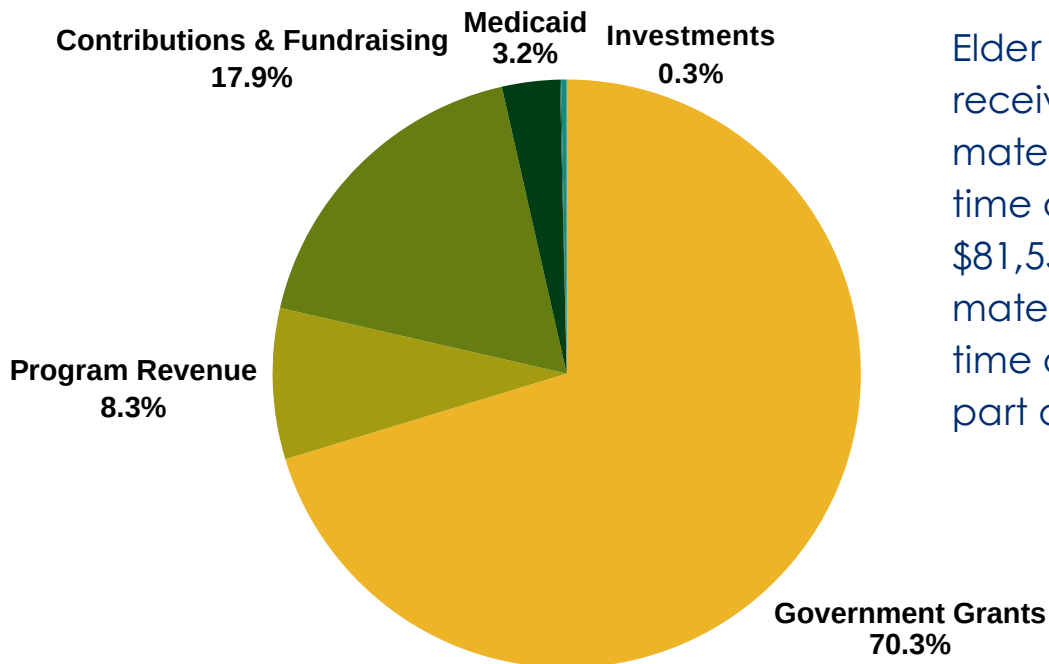
In addition to serving seniors, we provide support to caregivers who play a critical role in the lives of the seniors they care for. We understand that caregiving can be a challenging and stressful job and that caregivers often put their own needs aside to care for their loved ones. That's why we offer a variety of caregiver support services, such as respite care, counseling, and support groups. By providing support to caregivers, we help them to better care for their loved ones and improve their own well-being.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

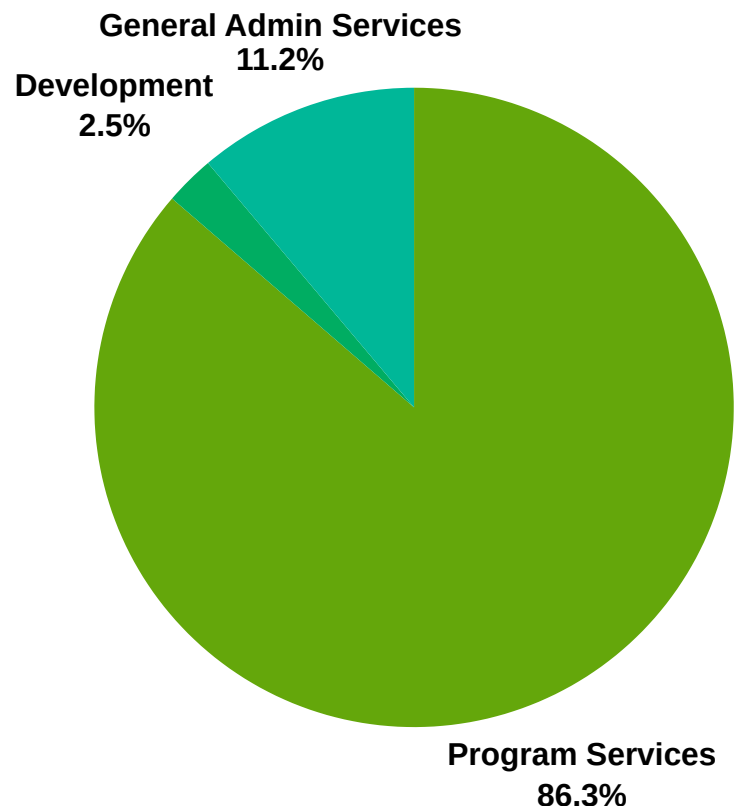
*2023 AUDITED FINANCIALS

Revenues



Elder Care Services also received in-kind donations of material aid and volunteer time and mileage valued at \$81,559 in 2023. In-kind gifts of material aid and volunteer time and mileage are a critical part of support our mission.

Expenses



Elder Care Services is able to keep our professional standards high and provide quality care to seniors due to our vigorous grant pursuits, generous donors, and wonderful volunteers. We are committed to maintaining strong fiscal policies that ensure the integrity and longevity of our programs so that we can continue to meet the growing needs of our community.



2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hella Spellman, *Chair*

Monique Akanbi, *Vice Chair*

Paula DeBoles-Johnson,
Secretary

Chattie Winton, *Treasurer*

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John Outland

JR Saginario

Stephanie Schwartz

Robert Stuyverson

Colette Vallee

Jamie Van Pelt

Antoine Wright

THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



AmeriCorps
Seniors

ADVANTAGE
Aging Solutions



Elder
Affairs
FLORIDA



United Way of the Big Bend



United Way
of Northwest Florida



CITY OF
TALLAHASSEE





THANKS TO OUR 2024 OKTOBERFEST SPONSORS

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OliverSperry Renovation

Leslie Dughi

Silver Sponsors Cont'd.

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Hella Home Solutions LLC

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