Since the Community Enabler Developer, Inc. was established as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit agency in 1981, it has performed as an increasing crucial link in the Continuum of Care for Calhoun and surrounding counties. Their broad array of integral services and essential resources make it possible for local governmental, interfaith and nonprofit agencies, schools, healthcare and rehabilitation organizations to effectively help families and individuals approach or achieve their goals. Through careful collaboration with stakeholders, leveraging of resources, frugal management of material and financial donations and the steadfast support of community partners, the Board and volunteers; this small agency delivers a mighty impact. It serves as the conduit to survival and springboard for a brighter future for over 6000 local citizens annually. In response to the accelerating demands on our agency, a local congregation recently donated its former Church complex for a new agency office as a significant demonstration of community support and acknowledgement of the indispensable role Community Enabler holds to meet local needs.

Integral to the established principles of achieving social service, healthcare, rehabilitation and educational success with people in need, is the ability to successfully meet their basic and immediate survival needs. Crisis situations are rampant and resources are severely strained with 26.5% of the Anniston population living below the poverty level. With local unemployment at 14.9%, before families in dire circumstances can focus on achieving longer term employment and stability goals, it is essential that their safety, shelter, nutritional and clothing needs are addressed. Before Anniston teachers can effectively motivate the 91% of children on free or reduced lunches to succeed academically, student’s required classroom supplies play an important role as tools for their educational engagement and performance. Vulnerable seniors barely surviving on a fixed income in marginal housing are severely at risk when they must choose between having utilities cut off, getting urgent medical care/prescriptions or eating. Prior to stabilizing their lives, the homeless must have the bare essentials of warm clothing, blankets, hygiene items and food to survive the night. Victims of domestic violence, foreclosures or long term unemployment who are in short term shelters cannot endure the present and reverse their fortunes without resources to envision a brighter future.

The Community Enabler is the designated agency in Calhoun County to receive screened referrals from collaborating agencies to respond with indispensable resources to meet these diverse and essential needs. In 2013, 313 new clients and 5571 former clients received services and assistance totaling 5884. This reflects an increase over 2012 of 15% new clients and 20% total clients. This escalation of need can largely be attributed to the continuing economic strain suffered by our population as well as collaborating agencies and organizations that serve them. Poverty and need show no partiality by race, indicated by our services to 3120 African Americans (40%), 2408 White (40%) and 356 other (15%). Our greatest intensity of client services and resources is in Anniston where we served 4854 people in 2013 representing 80% of our total assistance. Clients from over 14 other surrounding cities, as well as the homeless, transients and shelter residents numbers reflecting the remaining 20% of service recipients. Based on our Charity Tracker, clients we assisted range from newborns to seniors as follows: Ages 0-5 785 (20%), 6-18 1473 (25%), 19-59 3284(35%), 60 and older 342(15%). Of these, we served a total of 216 handicapped clients who represent (5%) percent of our service population.

With a small dedicated team of 4 paid staff with a meager total salary budget of $74,255.00, 3 Senior Aides and 3 regular volunteers; Community Enabler achieves a significant impact for our community, agencies and referred clients. In 2013, they provided over 85722 total essential material resources including: Nonperishable food 57464, Prepared food / USDA 12, Clothing 18323, Coats/ jacket/ blankets 182, School supplies /books 6679, Christmas toys 3205, Household /cleaning items 1079, Hygiene/personal items 929.

In addition, financial resources were provided in 2013 for essential prescriptions $ 8,000.00, utility assistance to prevent disconnections $7500.00, and other assistance $2085.00. The Sable Learning Center, in Hobson City, AL also provides tutoring, mentoring, after school care and a summer enrichment program to over 50 children at risk. In addition, it facilitated family engagement, parenting education, crisis intervention and served as a bridge to improved child development, safety and educational success.