

**Rural Areas Development Association, Incorporated
Serving Low-Income Families Since 1965**

**Annual Report
July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007**



Mission

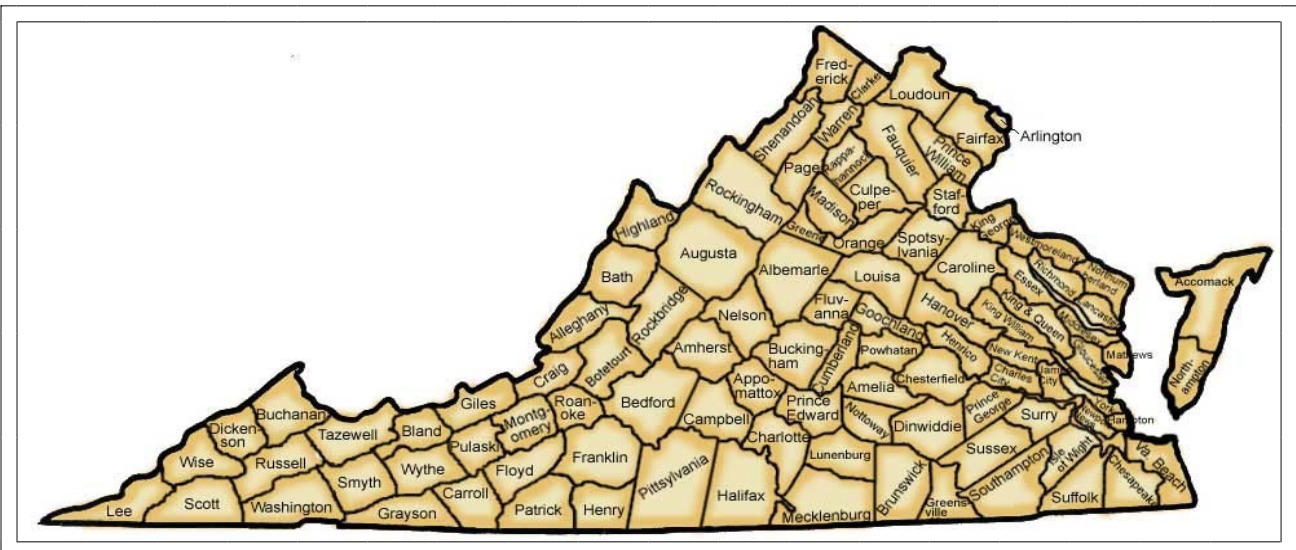
To eliminate poverty and make our clients more self-sufficient by development of resources and services to low-income individuals and households in our jurisdictions.

Vision

The elimination of poverty by enabling citizens to achieve self-sufficiency.

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The Library of Virginia



Rural Areas Development Association, Inc.

“Community Action in Southwest Virginia”

Greetings

We are pleased to present the Rural Areas Development Association, Incorporated (RADA) annual report for the 2006-2007 year. RADA has effectively served the needs of low to moderate income individuals in Southwest Virginia since 1965. RADA serves the areas of Lee, Scott, and Wise Counties and the City of Norton, with limited services in Dickenson County.

The work performed by RADA employees is designed to eliminate poverty and make our clients more self-sufficient. This annual report showcases the outstanding work that RADA staff members have performed for our clients. RADA provides the programs and services necessary to equip low-income residents with the resources they need to alleviate poverty.

“Give a man a fish, and he’ll eat for a day.
Teach him how to fish and he’ll eat forever.”

We extend a special thanks to members of the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers for their commitment to the agency and our clients throughout Southwest Virginia. Let’s continue our support of those who are less fortunate.

For additional information on RADA’s programs and services, please visit our website at <http://www.radainc.org>. If we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mark Carter
President, Board of Directors

Angela Edwards Sproles
Executive Director

2006-2007 RADA, Inc. Board of Directors

By statutes, Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funded agencies are governed by a tri-partite Board of Directors. This Board is represented by three groups consisting of elected local public officials, appointed leaders from the private sector, and representatives of the low-income community. This unique tri-partite board structure is fundamental to the success of Community Action Agencies. This structure empowers low-income individuals to participate directly in an effort to combat poverty; while at the same time, private and public representatives gain a clearer knowledge of the issues confronting low-income individuals in the community. These members offer their unique expertise into the policy-making and business planning of RADA.

Mark Carter – President	Lee County Board of Supervisors
Sister Beth Jaspers – Vice President	Wise County Board of Supervisors
Bob Ervin – Treasurer	New People’s Bank
Erra Sutherland – Secretary	LENOWISCO Health District
Mary Absher	Kids Central, Inc. Policy Council
Sherry Adams	Norton City Council
D.J. Barker	Lee County Board of Supervisors
Patricia Bowden	Wise County Schools
Rebecca Coffey	Norton City Council
Thomas Harrell	Thomas Walker Area of Lee County
Garry Hensley	Norton Area Representative
Chad Hood	Scott County Board of Supervisors
Randall Kinhead	Scott County Board of Supervisors
Margaret McAfee	Norton Area Representative
Cindy Mefford	Junction Center for Independent Living
William Peace	Wise County Board of Supervisors
Roger Ramey	Norton Department of Social Services
Rebecca Riggs	Ft. Blackmore Area of Scott County
Lisa Shelburne	Lee County Child Care Center
Michael Sprinkle	Powell Valley National Bank

The 2007 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Size of family	100% of Poverty	125% of Poverty	130% of Poverty	200% of Poverty
1	\$10,210	\$12,763	\$13,273	\$20,420
2	\$13,690	\$17,113	\$17,797	\$27,380
3	\$17,170	\$21,463	\$22,321	\$34,340
4	\$20,650	\$25,813	\$26,845	\$41,300
5	\$24,130	\$30,163	\$31,369	\$48,260
6	\$27,610	\$34,513	\$35,893	\$55,220
7	\$31,090	\$38,863	\$40,417	\$62,180
8	\$34,570	\$43,312	\$44,941	\$69,140
Each Additional	\$3,480	\$4,350	\$4,524	\$6,969

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2007

What is poverty?

Low-income families often have to choose between necessities such as food, fuel, or rent simply because they can not afford everything that they need to survive. When our clients encounter an emergency such as their car breaking down or a trip to the emergency room, they may not be able to pay their rent for the month. These are luxuries that we do not have to consider but that our clients must face on a daily basis.



In 1963 the federal government established the “poverty line” or Federal Poverty Guidelines as three times the income needed to purchase an “Economy Food Plan” as designed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. According to the 2006 U.S. Census Bureau, there are still 36.5 million Americans who live below the established poverty line. The percentage of children living in poverty in the United States is 17.4% or 12.8 million.

RADA partners with a variety of community, state, and federal agencies in order to combat poverty. RADA provides the resources necessary to allow low-income individuals to become empowered and focus on becoming self-sufficient.

Serving Clients and Changing Lives

The staff members of RADA work hard to improve the lives of low-income individuals throughout Southwest Virginia. Listed below are some examples of the successes that RADA accomplished during the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

2,012 Total clients served by RADA between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007

332 Lee County residents served

1,392 Scott County residents served

230 Wise County residents served

40 City of Norton residents served

18 Dickenson County residents served

1,077 Individuals received emergency assistance with rent, mortgage, utilities, of food

38 Elderly, handicapped, and disabled individuals served through Choreservice program

103 Individuals received eyeglasses and/or eye exams through New Eyes program

13 Individuals served through Homeless Intervention Program

1 Provided transportation through Keys for Success program

101 Homes are more energy efficient through Weatherization program

85 Homes improved through Emergency Home Repair

4 Homes now have indoor plumbing through Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation

10 Homes with clean water sources and safe water disposal through Water/Waste Water program

46 Families located childcare through Child Care Connect

124 Child care providers received training and information through the Child Care Connect program

4 New child care providers began serving children as a result of the Child Care Connect program

16 Families were provided free tax preparation services

5 Families received earned income tax credit

Demographic Information

Ages

0-17	769	38%
18-23	153	8%
24-44	577	29%
45-54	189	9%
55-over	315	16%

A client served by the Weatherization program in 2006 writes, "Thank you...for my windows, door, insulation and for every little job and all of the hard work you put into it. I am really enjoying my windows, now I am able to open them for the first time in years and get some fresh air. May God bless each and everyone of you, and many thanks goes out to RADA as well."

Level of Poverty

Up to 50%	241	31%
51% to 75%	223	29%
76% to 100%	156	20%
101% to 125%	88	11%
126% to 150%	33	4%
151% and over	35	5%

A client served by the Child Care Connect program in 2007 writes, "I wanted to take a minute to thank you for the great things that your program is doing. Your staff is both courteous and helpful, the classes are well presented, and the newsletter is magnificent. Every time I walk into CCC, Carol is sitting at the front desk and always greets me warmly. Karen is helpful in answering any questions that I may have. I like the lending library. I take advantage of the resources available every time I visit. I would be lost without the guidance and friendship that I have found in this program. I hope that it can continue to grow and help our community by providing the resources for quality day care providers."

Family Type

Single parent female	174	22%
Single parent male	25	3%
Two parent	176	23%
Single person	204	26%
Two adult/couple	82	11%
Other	115	15%

Education

0-8	291	31%
9-12	259	27%
High school diploma	319	34%
Post secondary	70	7%
2 or more years college	3	Less than 1%

* Please note that all demographics are provided based on households. The age category is based on individuals, and the education category is based on the educational level of the head of household.

Housing and Weatherization

Emergency Home Repair corrects problems affecting the health and safety of residents. RADA can purchase materials up to \$500 per home for repairs. Examples of hazards that have been repaired include: rotten floors, minor electrical or plumbing problems. Funding is provided by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Community Services Block Grant.

The Home Repair program is operated in conjunction with Rural Development. Rural Development provides one-percent interest loans to low-income households, and grants to low-income individuals aged 62 and older for home repairs. Funding is provided by Rural Development and the United States Department of Agriculture.



Homes before IPR.



Homes after IPR.



Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation (IPR) program was developed to ensure that every home has an indoor bathroom and running water. If the home can be brought up to Housing Quality Standards as adopted by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for less than \$25,000, the home will be renovated; if the cost exceeds that amount, a new home will be built to replace the existing structure.

Water/Waste Water program pays for the installation of new wells or septic systems when the existing ones fail or for tap fees into public water or sewer systems. A practice that often occurs is the disposal of raw sewage directly into creeks. Without this program, water would not be available to those in need, and the health of the community would be adversely affected without proper sewage treatment. Funding is provided by Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project.

Weatherization provides repairs and energy conservation improvements to the heating system and cost effective measures to the home. Professionally trained crews weatherize single family homes, certain multifamily dwellings, and mobile homes. Weatherization has a proven track record of reducing heating bills, on average, 20 to 30 percent per year. Funding is provided by: United States Department of Energy and Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

Financial Services

Emergency Assistance can include: food, shelter, and utility assistance. This service is provided for low-income individuals and families in crisis on a first come – first serve basis. Clients can receive emergency assistance only once per year. Primary funding is provided by: Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Homeless Intervention Program (HIP) is a program designed to prevent homelessness by providing one-time emergency financial assistance to individuals who are in danger of eviction or foreclosure on their homes. Funding sources include: Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and United Way of Southwest Virginia.

New Eyes for the Needy provides fee waivers to individuals whose medical insurance will not cover the cost of eye examinations. Through a partnership with and funding by New Eyes for the Needy, Inc. based out of South Hills, New Jersey, vouchers for eye examinations and eye glasses are made available to low-income individuals who are at 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or below. Three local optometrists support the program by accepting the fee waivers for examinations.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program is a refundable federal income tax credit that is available for low-income working individuals and their families. There are approximately 300 Community Action Agencies in the United States who are using the EITC program. This program reduces or eliminates the taxes that working low-income individuals have to pay. When the EITC exceeds the taxes owed, this results in a tax refund for those low-income individuals who qualify. Through the use of this program, RADA provides free tax preparation services for low to moderate income area residents.



Karen Davidson and Renetta Robinette assist a client.

Virginia Individual Development Accounts (VIDA) program helps eligible families learn how to manage their money and save to purchase a home, pay for school, or to start a business. For every dollar that a client deposits in their VIDA savings account, VIDA matches it with two dollars. The matching funds are limited to \$4,000 per participant. In addition to the savings match, participants also receive financial literacy training specific to their savings goals. RADA is an intermediary agency for this program.

Self-Reliance

The elderly may be the most invisible group living in poverty. These individuals do not adhere to the normal perceptions of poverty, and in many cases there is a high rate of employment. Many elderly individuals have been conditioned to provide for themselves and their families by any means possible. Unfortunately, many older citizens live paycheck to paycheck and rely solely on their Social Security to provide for them.

Choreservice enables elderly, handicapped, and disabled people to remain in their own homes by providing light housekeeping services, errand running, and even light meal preparation on occasion. Without this assistance, these clients would either be living in unsanitary conditions or in a nursing home at an enormous cost to Medicare or Medicaid. Clients served by the Choreservice program are accepted based on need and require a referral from a medical doctor. This program operates solely in Scott County. Funding is provided by: United Way of Southwest Virginia and Virginia Department of Social Services.



Tina Lane visits with a Choreservice client.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) serves low-income adults who are unemployed or underemployed. The program provides job training and placement in partnership with the Virginia Employment Commission, Occupational Enterprises, Inc., Wise Skills Center, Regional Adult Education, and many other businesses in the area. The program teaches participants job skills such as reading, writing, and computer literacy. The program also teaches necessary life skills such as basic money management, social skills, and personal skills such as grooming and proper attire. Job placement is coordinated with businesses and industry leaders throughout the community. Businesses explain their needs regarding participant qualifications and RADA works to address those needs by training program participants with the skills they can apply toward that position.



An area resident takes his WIA eligibility exam.

Children's Services

Child Care Connect provides technical assistance and training to family day homes, day care centers, and Head Start Centers in an effort to improve the quality of child care in the area. The trainings provided by Child Care Connect include: First Aid and CPR Certification, positive discipline, and health and safety issues. Child Care Connect maintains a lending library which provides supplemental information and educational tools to be used in the centers.



Karen Boglarsky and Carol Honeycutt work on the newsletter.

Additionally, Child Care Connect provides information to parents who are attempting to locate a child care provider in the area. Informing parents with regards to child care will allow more parents to gain full time employment. Child Care Connect serves children birth to twelve years old, but an emphasis is placed on children birth to five because RADA employees realize the impact that early education can have on the life of a child.

“Child Care Connect does make a difference in the lives of children as well as the lives of the child care industry businesses and its teachers.” Andrea J. Hill



Child Care Connect provides services in: Lee, Scott, Wise, Dickenson, Buchanan, Russell, Washington, Tazewell, Smyth, Bland, Grayson, Carroll, and Wythe Counties as well as the cities of Norton, Galax, and Bristol.

Funding is provided by:

- Virginia Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Network
- Virginia Department of Social Services
- Norton Department of Social Services
- Scott County Department of Social Services
- Wise County Department of Social Services

“ Child Care Connect supplies me with support, educational assistance, resources, and referrals to parents of small children in my area. I truly appreciate their assistance to my business. They are truly dedicated to improving the quality of childcare in our area.” - Patti Gillenwater

Financial and In-Kind Support

Federal Resources and Contracts	\$1,039,663	61%
State Resources	\$ 523,096	30%
Local and Public Resources	\$ 48,103	3%
Private Sector Resources	<u>\$ 104,360</u>	<u>6%</u>
Total Agency Budget	\$1,715,222	100%

Sources of Support

Federal Support

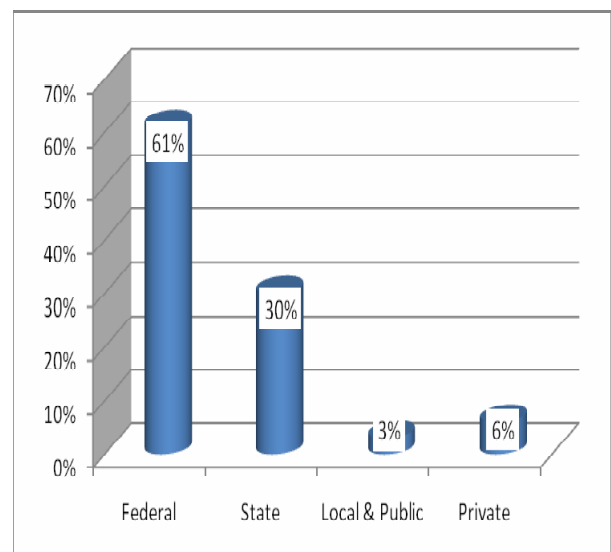
Community Services Block Grant
 Federal Emergency Management Agency
 U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development
 U.S. Department of Energy
 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

State Support

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
 Virginia Department of Social Services
 Virginia Community Action Partnership

Foundations and Local Support

Bluegrass in the Park
 Local Board of Directors Volunteers
 Local Community Volunteers
 New Eyes for the Needy, Inc.
 Norton Department of Social Services
 People, Inc.
 Scott County Board of Supervisors
 Scott County Department of Social Services
 Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project
 United Way of Southwest Virginia
 Virginia Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Network
 Wise County Department of Social Services



RADA Staff Members

Administration

Angela Edwards Sproles—Executive Director
Ola Bellamy—Administrative Assistant
Jeanna Brooksbank—Program Developer
Karen Davidson—Community Services Coordinator
Renetta Robinette—Scott County Outreach / Receptionist
Danielle Stapleton—Lee and Wise County Outreach

Child Care Connect Program

Karen Boglarsky—Child Care Connect Coordinator
Carol Honeycutt—Child Care Connect Assistant / Receptionist

Chore Service Program

Tina Lane—Chore Worker
Lorie Summey—Chore Worker

Finance Department

Frank Horne—Finance Director
Selena Lane—Accountant/Payroll Clerk
Celesa Broadwater—Accounting Assistant

Housing Program

David Gilmer—Housing Program Coordinator

Scott County

Tom Adams—Crew Leader
Anthony Williams—Carpenter Helper

Weatherization Program

Terry Martin—Weatherization Program Coordinator
Tiny Fleenor—Weatherization Estimator

Scott County

Wayne Grizzle—Crew Leader
Lynn Brickey—Carpenter Helper
James Egan—Carpenter Helper

Workforce Investment Act

Jeanna Brooksbank—Scott County Case Manager
Kay Ross—Lee County Case Manager

Wise County

Teddy Adams—Crew Leader
Bryce Shular—Carpenter Helper

Wise County

Steven Wolle—Crew Leader
Justin Woliver—Carpenter Helper
Lee Kinzer—Carpenter Helper

