



RECOGNIZING POSSIBILITY IN PEOPLE AND PLACE

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION

The Milwaukee Christian Center (MCC) builds strong neighborhoods full of opportunity.

RECOGNIZING POSSIBILITY IN PEOPLE AND PLACE

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

With your investment, MCC has increased its impact significantly in the past year in three important ways! First, we have expanded our Youth Development Program to a 3rd site by supporting children after school and in the summer at MPS' Kagel Elementary School right around the corner from our main site. Getting help with homework, learning karate, creating art, and most importantly, building relationships with talented adult mentors, means more parents may rest easy knowing their children are safe and engaged in positive programming.

Second, MCC now partners with the Milwaukee County Department on Aging to connect more than 1,200 older adults to friends and a hot meal served five days a week at 13 sites across the County. We are thrilled to lead this important work caring for our community's elders and know our efforts are making a difference every day.

Finally, we believe our work at MCC offers opportunities that optimize the strengths, talents, and experiences of those who live in the communities we serve. It is our pleasure to share a few ways you helped make this happen through the stories of Alex, Claribel, Shantil, Thoy, and collective efforts to strengthen Amani and Muskego Way neighborhoods.

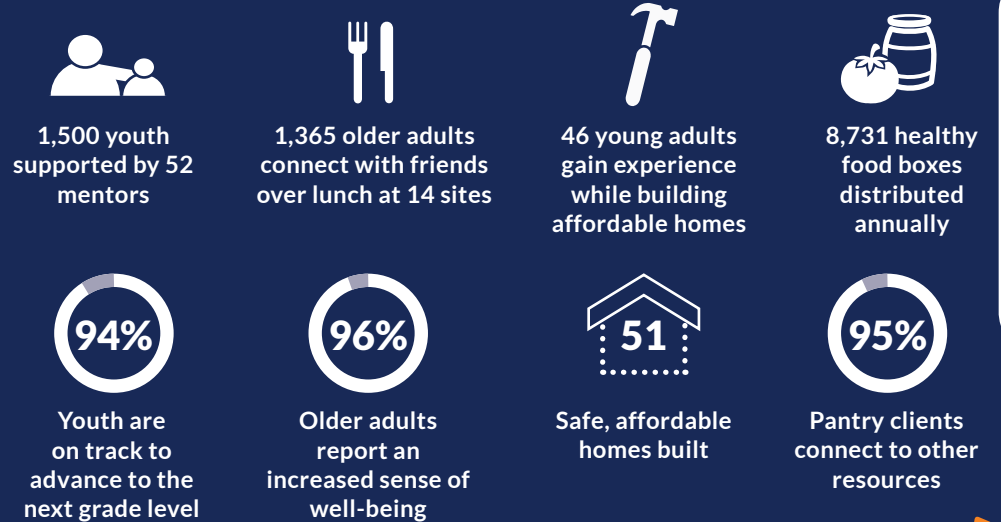
We thank you again for your support and for recognizing the possibility in Milwaukee's people and places!

Karen Higgins
Executive Director

Dennis Stappas
Board Chair

WHY OUR WORK MATTERS

Individuals Impacted Annually **7,500+**



MUSKEGO WAY NEIGHBORS SUPPORTED TO



Connect



Improve



Lead

STRONGER NEIGHBORHOODS FULL OF OPPORTUNITY

SUPPORTED BY: 1,250+ Partners and Donors • 90 Staff • 300+ Volunteers

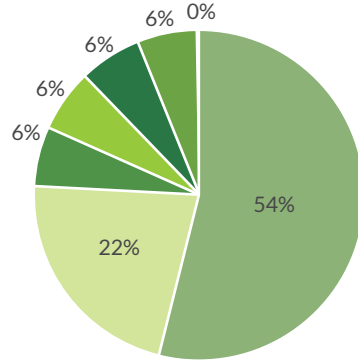
FISCAL YEAR 2018

AUDITED FINANCIALS

ANNUAL REVENUES

Government Grants	\$ 2,324,640	54 %
Contributions and Grants	\$ 960,282	22 %
House Sales.....	\$ 256,000	6 %
Program Service Fees	\$ 256,200	6 %
Contributions In-Kind	\$ 271,744	6 %
United Way	\$ 262,517	6 %
Other Revenue	\$ 16,575	0 %

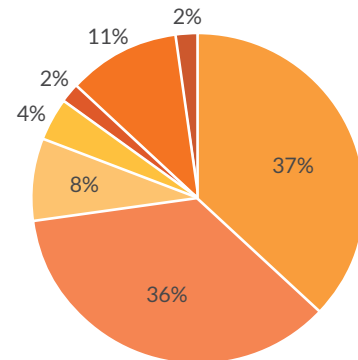
TOTAL ANNUAL REVENUES.....\$4,347,958 100%



ANNUAL EXPENSES

Housing	\$ 1,607,189	37 %
Youth Development	\$ 1,575,813	36 %
Food Security	\$ 339,445	8 %
Older Adults	\$ 190,462	4 %
Muskego Way Forward.....	\$ 73,730	2 %
General Administrative.....	\$ 503,344	11 %
Fundraising	\$ 99,730	2 %

TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSES.....\$4,389,713 100%



AMANI NEIGHBORHOOD | HOUSING

MCC knows that homeowners act as anchors in their communities, investing in their homes, schools, neighbors, and local businesses. That's why MCC jumped at an opportunity to rehab three vacant homes in Milwaukee's Amani neighborhood through a partnership with the Dominican Center and the Amani residents.

"The Dominican Center donated a home they had acquired to MCC," says John Kaye, MCC Housing Director. "It wasn't in great shape, but rehabbing old houses into beautiful single family homes is what we do. We were so inspired by the opportunity,

we sought out a City-foreclosed home on the same block, and are already working on rehabbing another home a few blocks away."

"Clustering new affordable homes in catalytic sites — like in Amani where residents are already leading positive neighborhood change — has the potential to accelerate neighbors' efforts to strengthen the neighborhood," notes John. "We are thrilled to help make this happen." With the assistance of MCC YouthBuild, which has been building a garage for one of the homes, MCC anticipates completing the homes by the end of 2019.



ALEX | YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Alex has attended MCC's summer camp since age five. "Camp made a big difference in my life. I looked up to the youth camp leaders then. They helped me through some tough times, providing guidance, support, and encouragement."

Now 17 and entering her last year in high school, Alex is in a position to give back. Despite the trek she has to make from the other side of town, this will be her third summer leading youth at camp,

"I love volunteering with the kids, I keep coming back for them."

Along with leading activities, she has learned how to navigate tough situations, problem solve and work under pressure. "Time spent at MCC has helped me find my voice and take charge as a leader," shares Alex. Most important, though, she has learned the value of making time to listen to kids. "Camp leaders took time to care for me when I was young. Now, I want to give back to the community that gave me my childhood."

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Milwaukee Christian Center is grateful for all of you – *the donors and supporters of our mission.*
Your generosity made a difference in the lives of many.

Thank You!

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THOY | OLDER ADULTS

Thoy Bouavanh Schuelke, Milwaukee entrepreneur and small business owner, has been a dear friend and volunteer within MCC's Older Adults Center for years. From donating food from her former business, the Asian International Market, to volunteering her time to help prep the Center's lunch, Thoy brims with generosity.

"When I was a child in Laos, I had nothing. My family would send me out to gather snails and bamboo to eat and we would sell what remained. Moving to Milwaukee gave me and my family a new life, but it wasn't easy. My mother had to support me and

my five siblings and none of us could speak English. I know what it is like to not have anything," shares Thoy.

In addition to giving back to older adults at MCC, Thoy is a tireless community volunteer and is always seeking ways to help the neighborhood and small businesses thrive. "In Laotian culture, we say that when you die, you take nothing with you. *When I was young, I had nothing. I do what I do at MCC and beyond, because at the moment, I have everything.*"



SHANTIL | FOOD SECURITY

Shantil came to MCC through a nontraditional route. Last fall, she injured herself at her janitorial job at a local middle school, and was placed on “light duty” in MCC’s food pantry until she was healed and ready to return to work.

As a mother of four boys under the age of 10, her injury and placement at MCC initially felt like a setback. “I never expected to work in a food pantry, but my time here has humbled me,” she admits. “So many people my own age come in. I’ve been able to help them look for employment in their neighborhoods and on their bus lines. I know now about opportunities that help

people get their driver’s licenses and about places that support people with addictions.”

MCC’s Food Pantry Coordinator, Bernadette, recognized Shantil’s potential and deep well of compassion for others. *“With Bernadette’s encouragement and mentorship, I went back to school last fall and earned my GED,” shares Shantil.*

“This fall, I am studying Human Services at MATC with plans to become a social worker. I want to show my four boys that it’s never too late and that going to college will only make it easier to help more people.”

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our donor list. If your name has been omitted, or is incorrectly listed, please contact khiggins@mccwi.org.



CLARIBEL | MUSKEGO WAY FORWARD

MCC's work to build strong neighborhoods full of opportunity can be seen in Milwaukee's Muskego Way neighborhood, where the Muskego Way Forward Initiative works with the leadership of dedicated residents to strengthen their neighborhoods and create new opportunities.

Resident leaders, like Claribel, have risen to the challenge. For a long time, an abandoned lot at 15th and Mitchell St. sparked Claribel's imagination. The area was long neglected and overgrown with weeds. A community garden would beautify the space and provide neighbors with a new place to connect, grow food, and get active. Knocking on doors and meeting her neighbors, Claribel learned there was enthusiasm for the project. With the support of MCC, she hosted neighborhood

meetings and work days to clean up the space, install raised beds, and to plant the garden's first seedlings last summer. *"Bumblebee Haven Community Garden is giving people a chance to stop and talk to one another," shares Claribel. "People want to get involved."*

Moved by the community's positive response, Claribel has forged ahead this spring. With the help of the owner of the land, neighbors who have rented plots, and others who have made donations, she and her neighbors have raised funds to build a new tool shed to store gardening supplies. Now, with the garden planted and a safe place to store their tools, she and her neighbors are relaxing and awaiting the fruits of their garden.



HARRIET | LEGACY CIRCLE SPOTLIGHT

Retired elementary school teacher, **Harriet Knudson**, spent her career investing in the lives of young people. For her, giving to MCC has been a natural extension of this work. “I believe money and resources are to use and enjoy. If you are able to, giving helps others.” As an active donor and with a gift designated to MCC in her will, Harriet embodies this philosophy now and beyond. *“I know my support to MCC benefits others. That gives me joy.”*

MCC'S LEGACY CIRCLE recognizes and thanks those who have taken the special step of providing for the future of Milwaukee families and neighborhoods by supporting MCC in their estate plans or establishing other planned gifts.

Tom & Leigh Cheesebro
Estate of Ed Donnelly
Bill & Lois Hart
Estate of Margaret Jeske

Claude & Sue Krawczyk
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Dennis & Kathleen Sampson

If you would like to learn how to make your own legacy gift to MCC, please call 414-902-5380 or email khiggins@mccwi.org.

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807 S. 14th Street
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www.mccwi.org



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You're Invited!



JOIN US

MCC Happy Hour

Learn more about MCC
and why our work in
Milwaukee matters!

Tuesday, October 8th
4:00 – 5:30pm

Kosciuszko Community Center
2201 S. 7th Street

RSVP to Karen Higgins
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