

Creating Strong Neighborhoods

2015 ANNUAL REPORT





Mission

The Milwaukee Christian Center (MCC) believes all people deserve to be treated with compassion and dignity. We exist to move people beyond the challenges of poverty by offering programs and services that are life-affirming and supportive.

Vision

MCC is committed to creating strong neighborhoods where the inherent value of each person is cherished and opportunities abound.



Visit our
NEW
website!

Same address, new look.
mccwi.org

Message from our Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 2015 Annual Report. 2015 marked MCC's 94th year serving Milwaukee's south side. We exist today, for the reason we came to be almost a century ago – we believe all people deserve respect and the opportunity to thrive.

We know the residents in MCC's communities believe this too, and we're thrilled to partner with them. In this year's Annual Report we honor MCC's newest addition, the program that strives daily to empower residents to bring positive change to our neighborhoods - Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP). Through BNCP, we're working together with residents to transform communities into neighborhoods of opportunity.

Take a moment to read Judi's story to learn about residents' work so far. She is leading efforts to make improvements one project at a time.

As always, we are grateful to all of the people, foundations and community residents who make it possible for MCC to continue our work. We could not provide the needed support and services to local Milwaukee communities without you. Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen W. Higgins".

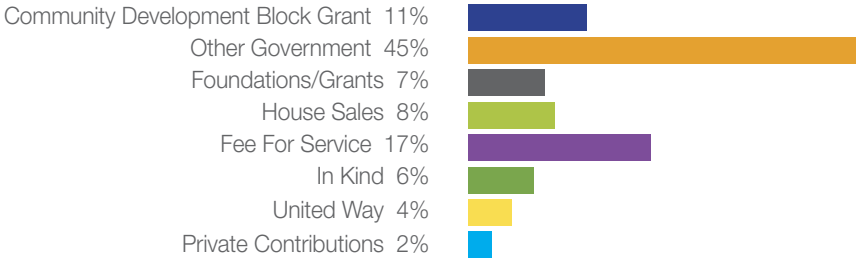
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Executive Director



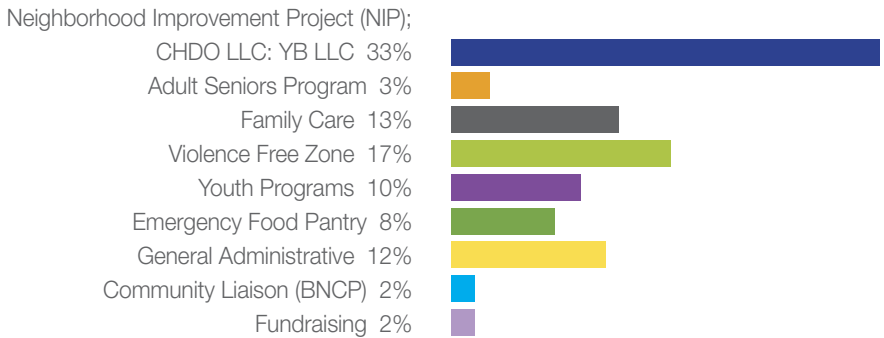


Fiscal Year 2015 Audited Financials

REVENUES – \$6,039,003.00



EXPENSES – (\$5,905,249.00)



NET ASSETS – \$133,754.00



About MCC

MCC provides quality programs that support our community's most vulnerable members while providing the building blocks they need to realize their full potential.

Programs at a Glance



Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP)

Everyone deserves to live in a safe neighborhood. BNCP helps shape the future of our communities by empowering residents to transform their neighborhoods.



Violence Free Zone (VFZ)

Operating in five Milwaukee Public High Schools, VFZ builds relationships with youth turning disruptive behavior into positive leadership among peers.



The Safe Place Program

Located at Forest Home Avenue Elementary School, Safe Place students participate in supervised extracurricular and enrichment activities in a secure and constructive environment.



Neighborhood Improvement Project (NIP)

From making vital home repairs, to building new affordable homes, NIP improves housing conditions for eligible, low-income home owners throughout Milwaukee.



Emergency Food Pantry

Our Choice Pantry provides emergency food supplies and connections to resources so people do not go hungry during times of crisis.



Senior Program

Five days a week, seniors enjoy recreation, health, wellness and nutrition services which allow them to stay healthy, remain in their homes and be involved in their community.



YouthBuild

Provides young adults, ages 18-25, with education and hands-on construction training. Members pursue their GED and gain job training skills.



Youth Development Program (YDP)

Located at the Kosciuszko Community Center, YDP offers youth, ages 7-18 after-school and summer programs, providing academic, arts, athletic and leadership activities.



Promoting Health Among Teens (PHAT)

A middle and high school program providing teens with tools and confidence they need to make responsible choices, develop healthy relationships and make safe decisions.



Community Service Options Program (CSOP)

CSOP works with juvenile offenders to prevent future offenses and hold young people accountable for their actions.



Community Empowerment

Building Neighborhood Capacity Program

2015 was a big year for MCC's newest addition: Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP).

BNCP took its first steps toward strengthening Milwaukee's Clarke Square, Historic Mitchell Street, and Muskego Way neighborhoods by:

- Asking residents what they think the community needs
- Building a committee of resident leaders willing to lead the charge
- Starting four block watch clubs, hosting community dinners, neighborhood clean-ups, and block parties where neighbors got to know neighbors.
- Initiating their first major project: creating a new mural and green space to be enjoyed by all!

For residents, this is the start of a learning process that will equip them with the skills they need to improve their neighborhoods far into the future.



Building Neighborhood
Capacity Program



Judi

Judi Hernandez has lived in Muskego Way for 20 years. She witnessed changes going on in her neighborhood as time went on. People loitering on the street without a purpose, suspicious activity, an increase in crime. Neighbors sought the safety of their homes instead of talking and working together to solve these problems.



Judi decided to join BNCP's efforts taking place in her neighborhood. "I have always been involved in my community, working to improve the quality of life and the area in which I live."

She feels BNCP can make a difference in the Muskego Way neighborhood. "There is strength in working together towards a common cause. We can solve issues."

Today, Judi notices neighbors are talking more with each other. They are coming together to ask for change, to address issues and to demand safety in their neighborhoods. Judi states, "This is not just me, this is a group effort!"



Youth Development

Violence Free Zone Program (VFZ)

Helping our children become self-reliant and productive members of the community is a responsibility we all share. VFZ helps youth do just this.

By building relationships with 550+ youth in five MPS high schools, MCC's Violence Free Zone (VFZ) program is making schools safer and more productive places to learn for all. A big part of this work is harnessing youths' energy in positive ways.



"VFZ staff treats me like I'm someone. Not just another student. They help us find solutions to our problems."

- Jorge, Bradley Tech High School
Class of 2017

In 2015, VFZ youth contributed their time and talents to drive positive change in their schools and communities by:

- Assembling “new home kits” for homeless vets transitioning into new housing
- Tutoring children at neighboring elementary and middle schools
- Conducting neighborhood clean-ups
- Leading tours of their schools for new students and families
- Organizing food drives to benefit hungry families visiting MCC’s food pantry
- Preparing dinners for teachers at parent/teacher conferences
- Presenting strategies to resolve conflicts peacefully for children in MCC’s after-school program





Neighborhood Improvement

Neighborhood Improvement Project (NIP)

The foundation for building a strong neighborhood is having a safe place to live and play. MCC is proud to share how its Neighborhood Improvement Project is creating opportunities for families like the Mirandas, to own their first home and invest in the neighborhood they value.

Neighborhood Improvement Project 2015 Statistics:

- 4 homes completed and sold
- 28 homes rehabbed

A new place to call home...

Eduardo Miranda was renting his home on the near south side, when he noticed a new home being built in his community. He liked the neighborhood and the positive changes going on and decided to look into investing in the neighborhood once and for all.

Eduardo believes new homes in Milwaukee's neighborhoods have a positive impact on the community. "Get away from rental," states Eduardo. "People who own their homes take care of them and the surrounding community."

Today, Eduardo is pleased with his new home purchase. He is proud to be a homeowner and takes pride in his commitment to his home and neighborhood.



Miranda Family



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Food Pantry

Emergency Food Pantry

MCC's Emergency Food Pantry works each day to make Milwaukee more food secure for all. We also know when crisis hits, a little guidance to get resources goes a long way. That's why MCC makes it a priority to listen to families who come for help. For people like Mark, it's meant getting back on his feet a little faster in a safer home.



More than just a food pantry...

Mark, a unionized sheet-metal work of 36 years, never imagined what would hit him when the recession set in.

Work dried up, he lost his house, and a family tragedy left him reeling.

Scraping to make ends meet, Mark spent what little income he had on a one-room studio in a local rooming house. With so much money going toward rent and nothing but a hot plate and a microwave to cook with, he was struggling to eat well.

Mark needed help. “The Milwaukee Christian Center was a life-saver,” he recounts, “They listened to me and gave me food. And they helped me find a nice and affordable one-bedroom apartment in the neighborhood—a world away from all the drugs and crime at the rooming house.”

Now, Mark has a space to heal, not to mention a little more money in his pocket to get back on his feet. “Each day, I’m grateful,” he says, “I’ve rejoined my church. And I’m looking to get back to work. I now feel the peace I used to have.”

Emergency Food Pantry 2015 Statistics:

- 4,666 participants served
- 4,068 stock boxes distributed
- 13,230 allotments of emergency food distributed



Senior Support

Senior Adults Program

In 2015, the Senior Program introduced new services to keep its participants active, healthy, and living independently. Weekly visits with MCC's nurse provided participants with health screenings, medication management and improved communication with their doctors. And a new partnership with Marquette University's Exercise Science program meant regular exercise classes to keep participants strong.

Antonio and Lona

Antonio's wife, Lona was persistent. "You need to get out!" she told him. Despite his low energy, his urge to stay in bed, his overwhelming desire to be alone, Antonio obliged, caught the bus with his wife, and came to the Milwaukee Christian Center's Senior Program.



There, he found a new type of attention. Attention that has jolted him awake, that gives him a reason to get up in the morning. Visiting the program's nurse twice a week, Antonio now has a partner who helps him monitor his diabetes. "She makes me more attentive," he says, "I pay attention to the food I eat; if I don't feel well.

"Antonio," his wife Lona explains, "never went further than the 1st grade. Everything this program offers challenges him in ways he's never been challenged." She finds Antonio up in the middle of the night now, finishing the details on drawings he started at the Senior Program.

All these things make Antonio feel like he's a part of something. This is especially true on his high energy days. On those days, you'll find him in the kitchen, sleeves rolled up, helping wash the lunch dishes. "I like to earn my keep," he explains, "To feel of use, to give back." In this way, the Senior Program has been successful: supporting Antonio to continue living and learning while helping him find an active role in the community.



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Milwaukee Christian Center is grateful to all of our donors and supporters.



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