



CDBG
Milwaukee



United Way
of Greater Milwaukee



United Neighborhood
Centers of Milwaukee



Milwaukee Christian Center
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www.mccwi.org



Enriching, Empowering,
and Strengthening
our Community

2004 Annual Report

Welcome to MCC

Dear Friends in Mission,

We are pleased to present the Milwaukee Christian Center's 2004 annual report, which highlights the important work that you support. MCC's board of directors and staff believe that all people have inherent worth and deserve to be treated with compassion and respect. Since 1921, MCC has responded to the ever-changing needs of the community by providing a safe and nurturing environment to people of all cultures, faiths, and walks of life. In 2004, over 7,300 people participated in the multiple programs offered at MCC.

The center is a place of hope in a neighborhood facing the challenges of poverty, crime, gangs, and addictions. We have grown tremendously since our humble beginnings as an American Baptist neighborhood mission center serving the complex needs of immigrant children. As our neighborhood has changed, MCC has reached out to strengthen the lives of individuals and families living here.



Over the years, we have quietly and consistently been here to offer a helping hand. But we can't do it alone. We need your continued strong financial support and partnership to meet new challenges and an increased demand for our services. We encourage you to learn more about MCC by reviewing this annual report and browsing our website at www.mccwi.org.

Please consider a gift to MCC today, and help us make a difference in people's lives, one person at a time.

In peace and gratitude,

Kathy Baillgeon
Executive Director

Claude Krawczyk
President

History



In 1921, the "South Side Christian Center" (now the Milwaukee Christian Center) was established by an American Baptist missionary who responded to the needs of a growing number of immigrant children whose families were settling in Milwaukee's near south side. In the following years, MCC continued to reach out and expand as other immigrant groups with new concerns arrived. From its humble beginnings, MCC has grown into a multi-faceted social service and neighborhood development agency dedicated to serving youth, families, and seniors. Grounded in faith-based values, MCC welcomes all people who find their way to our door with compassion and respect.

During 2004, we served over 7,300 individuals through our programs, which include an Emergency Food Pantry, Youth Programs at four sites, juvenile justice programs, a Senior Adults Program, Neighborhood Improvement Project, and Youthbuild program.

- ◆ 3,572 participants were under the age of 18 and 972 participants were age 55 and older.
- ◆ Over 98% of participants who reported income had annual family incomes of under \$12,000.
- ◆ 119 Laotians and 310 Hmong participated in our programs.
- ◆ The majority of our program participants reside in the 53204 and 53215 zip code areas.

"People of faith are instructed to be 'doers of the word.' At the heart of all that the staff at the Milwaukee Christian Center does, is this desire to share God's love in concrete ways to all who enter into the life of the Center. It is truly a ministry of healing in the midst of everyday brokenness."

Rev. Sam Brink, Minister of Church Resources and Mission Support
– American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin

Emergency Food Pantry

Offering More than Food

Julie Egide started out as a volunteer at MCC eight years ago. Since then, she has worn many hats within the agency and now takes pride in her paid position as food pantry assistant. Julie is in charge of pre-packing food bags, distributing food to clients, and assisting with intake. But, she often feels those duties come second. There are times Julie will take a few moments to sit with a client who just needs someone to listen or makes phone calls to assist a client in finding much needed community resources.

Julie says the one thing she always tries to pass on to food pantry clients is hope for a better future. Julie often discloses to clients that she was once in their shoes; she understands how difficult it can be. Through her words and actions, she shows them that it is possible to overcome barriers and create a different life. "I enjoy meeting and working with people and I like knowing that what I do makes a difference in someone's life." This is what keeps Julie coming back each day.



MCC's Emergency Food Pantry acts as a beacon of hope for many low-income residents on Milwaukee's south side by helping them meet basic food and infant needs, while promoting healthy eating habits. In 2004, the food pantry served over 6,100 individuals. In addition to a three to five-day supply of emergency food, formula and diapers, clients receive a basic needs assessment to identify agency and community resources that might be beneficial

to them. The center provides culturally appropriate food for clients of Southeast Asian and Hispanic descent, and service in Hmong, Laotian, and Spanish languages. For individuals who qualify, the pantry also distributes the federal commodity supplemental food boxes. The food pantry is open

four afternoons a week and federal commodity supplemental food boxes are distributed twice a week.

"I feel hope for the future and pride in knowing that MCC's food pantry assures that one less child and/or family in the community will not go to bed hungry."

Sandra Cope, MCC Board Member

Youth Programs

MCC has a long history of caring for the children and teens living in our South Side neighborhood. All of our youth programs are focused on helping youth succeed not only academically, but also emotionally and socially. As part of our mission, MCC helps



children realize their full potential by encouraging them to dream big dreams and to experience a variety of new activities that promote social development, community service and leadership skills, academic achievement, and positive behaviors. Our Kids Place, Youth Development Program, Safe Place sites, and juvenile justice programs provided structure and guidance to over 1,100 youth, ages 7-18, in 2004.

"It always felt like "family" at the Milwaukee Christian Center. It was a special place to gain new friendships and new experiences. I lived to go to the Christian Center. It was my special thing to do. I hope MCC can be that for other kids too."

Lois Ward, former MCC youth program participant (attended in the 1950's)

On the Right Track

Lamondre fits the profile of an "at-risk" youth. His family struggles to make ends meet. His house needs repairs the landlord ignores. And too many of his younger siblings demand his mom's attention. Often negatively influenced by his peers, he and his brothers were known in the neighborhood as trouble makers.

Lamondre participated in Kids Place, but after a time, he was suspended due to poor behavior and lack of respect. Although suspended indefinitely, he continued to hang around outside and ask when we would let him back in. After a month, we met with Lamondre to discuss re-entry. Lamondre agreed to join the Project Challenge program where he would be matched with a mentor who would work with him to set goals for positive social development. Lamondre's grades were average but his disruptive classroom behavior kept him from reaching his full potential. Currently, Lamondre participates in the homework assistance program, the Boys Club, ATODA classes and Discovery Club. He is also a valuable assistant to the computer lab instructor and enjoys preparing and serving food in Kids Cafe. He has shown marked improvement in his behavior, and we believe he wants to stay on the right track. Lamondre now knows the youth staff will be along side him all the way.

Senior Adults Program

Navigating the System

Years ago, Nhia Pha Her (72) fought in the Vietnam War in Laos, and believes the shoulder pain that prevents him from raising his right arm stems from the years he carried heavy military supplies. As a Hmong refugee, Mr. Her does not speak English, but with help from a relative, he applied for disability benefits from the Social Security Administration. His benefits were terminated after six months, and a family member was no longer available. At that time, Mr. Her



was participating in the open recreational activities at MCC's Senior Adults Program. Fortunately, Mr. Her was introduced to a MCC bilingual case manager who was able to assist him in accessing legal services and his benefits were restored. In the past year, Mr. Her's health issues have prevented him from coming to the center, but his health care needs continue to be addressed with assistance from a nurse and MCC's bilingual family care case manager.

MCC is a safe and supportive multicultural gathering place for senior adults living in the near south side of Milwaukee. In 2004, the Senior Adults Program was a "home away from home" for over 300 elderly, including a large number of Southeast Asians. Services include case management; recreational activities; health education; medical screenings; long term care referrals; nutrition education; midday meals; English as a Second Language; and U.S. citizenship classes. The Senior Adults Program helps the elderly maintain their independence and stay healthy. Staff also facilitate acculturation and a sense of connection to the community.

"For the last decade Milwaukee Christian Center has operated the only comprehensive program dedicated to addressing the needs of elderly Southeast Asians in the greater Milwaukee area. Last year MCC provided nutritious meals, recreational activities, health checks, and/or bilingual support services to over 300 elderly adults, enabling them to maintain their independence and remain in their homes."

Stephanie Stein, Director of Milwaukee County Department of Aging

Neighborhood Improvement Project (NIP)

For almost 30 years MCC's Neighborhood Improvement Project (NIP) has worked within the community to improve housing conditions for low-income (especially the elderly) owner occupants who live in deteriorating or unsafe homes. Through this work, we have also been able to provide hands-on work experiences for Milwaukee's central city youth. During 2004, with assistance from the City of Milwaukee's Community Block Grant Administration, NIP increased freedom and improved quality of life for 16 physically challenged individuals through the construction of wheelchair accessible ramps or lifts. NIP also removed graffiti from over 1,800 properties and provided home rehabilitation and minor home repairs to 94 homes. NIP's home rehabilitation and minor home repair programs include services such as; structural improvements, upgrading mechanical systems, eliminating lead hazards, and installing or repairing security devices.

"The Milwaukee Christian Center has served near south side families with compassion and respect for over eighty years. MCC's service to the community and the positive impact they make in our neighborhoods are to be commended."

Mayor Tom Barrett, City of Milwaukee

Eliminating Graffiti

Milt Pivar, owner of Goldmann's Department store located on Historic Mitchell Street, feels the neighborhood would be a very different place without NIP's graffiti removal services. Milt has worked at the store for over 75 years and bought the business in 1988. Forty years ago the area was a thriving shopping district, but over time he has seen the neighborhood change dramatically, including the influx of gang activity and graffiti. Milt insists that NIP's graffiti removal services keep the amount of graffiti at a manageable level and sends a message to vandals that this type of behavior is not tolerated. Milt



says, "NIP keeps the graffiti problem from snowballing. Without it, small businesses wouldn't be able to keep up with the graffiti and the whole area would be covered." NIP's graffiti removal services help keep Historic Mitchell Street basically graffiti free.

Milt first learned of NIP's graffiti removal service after joining the Greater Mitchell Street Association. From his first interaction with the graffiti crews back in the early 1990s, he hasn't had any complaints about the service. "NIP crews are professional, dependable, hard workers. They are sometimes on the job even before I have to call."

Youthbuild, A Wisconsin Fresh Start Initiative

Building a Better Future

One year ago, 22 year-old Reyes Cruz was not unlike many young adults his age who dropped out of high school. He lacked direction and had no concrete goals for his future. Reyes was tired of working dead end jobs and felt it was time for a change. He enrolled in the Youthbuild program in August 2004. By January 2005, he had received his GED certificate, and since then has become the first person in his family to attend college. Reyes is now working on an associate degree in music, something in which he has always been interested.

Reyes praises the Youthbuild program, "with this training and academic success I'll be able to find work I enjoy and have the chance to pursue my passions." He says it has not always been easy, but his family, friends and Youthbuild teammates have provided critical support this past year, encouraging him not to give up even when the work gets tough. Not only has Reyes achieved academic success, but through Youthbuild he has learned the value of teamwork and a positive attitude. "I now know I can attain any goal I set for myself, nothing can hold me back."



In July of 2004 MCC launched Youthbuild, a Wisconsin Fresh Start Initiative. Youthbuild, a component of NIP, combines academic assistance with hands-on construction skills training to provide a comprehensive education and workforce development program. The Youthbuild program helps low-income and at-risk young adults, ages 18-24, earn their GED while teaching them valuable life skills that help overcome barriers to self-sufficiency. In addition to

academic assistance and life skills training, program participants gained valuable experience in the construction field while building a new home located at 1206 W. Washington Street on Milwaukee's near south side.

"We are extremely pleased that MCC has joined the network of Wisconsin Fresh Start sites. We are truly impressed with how successful MCC has been in supporting its homebuilding crew members in such a short time."

*Marty Evanson,
Director, Wisconsin Bureau of Housing,
Department of Commerce*

Board of Directors and Officers

Year 2004, Milwaukee Christian Center Board of Directors and Officers

Claude Krawczyk, President
*O'Neil, Cannon, Hollman,
DeJong, S.C.*

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Vice President
Esperanza Unida

Jean Larsen, Secretary
Bay View United Methodist Church

Mary Binder, Treasurer
SBC Communications

Sandra Cope*
First Baptist Church, Waukesha

Amy Dodge
Milwaukee Empty Bowls

Mark Dudenhofer
Milwaukee Police Department

Matt Flanary
Davis & Kuelthau, S.C.

José R. Flores
Smoke Free Wisconsin

Reverend Charles Graves*
American Baptist Church (retired)

Dena Henry*
United Church

Esther Hussey
Senior Warriors

Jarrod Johnson
Aurora Health Care

James McCarty*
*Tabernacle
Baptist Church*

Steve Meyerson
*Sattell, Johnson,
Appel & Co., S.C.*

Jeff Myer
Legal Action of Wisconsin

Edward Nwagbaraocha
*University of Wisconsin-
Milwaukee*

Peter Vang
Social Development Commission

Larry D. Weimer II
Aurora Health Care

Ex-officio members

Aundrea R. Alexander, Esq.*
*American Baptist Churches, USA
National Ministries*

Reverend Sam Brink*
*American Baptist Churches
of Wisconsin*

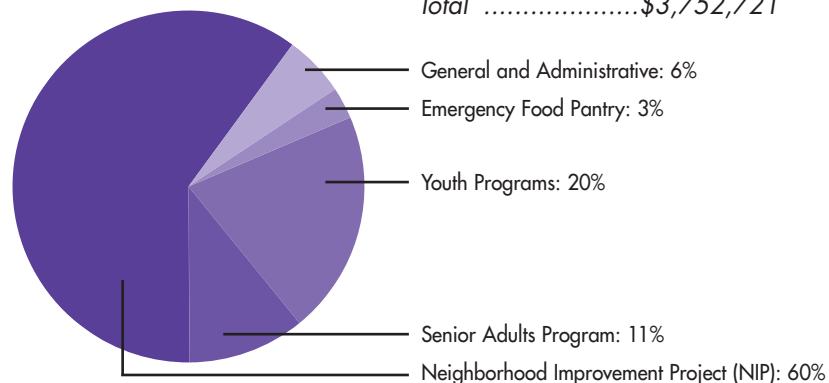


* Directors who are members of congregations affiliated with ABC-WI or ABC-USA

2004 Operating Revenues and Expenses

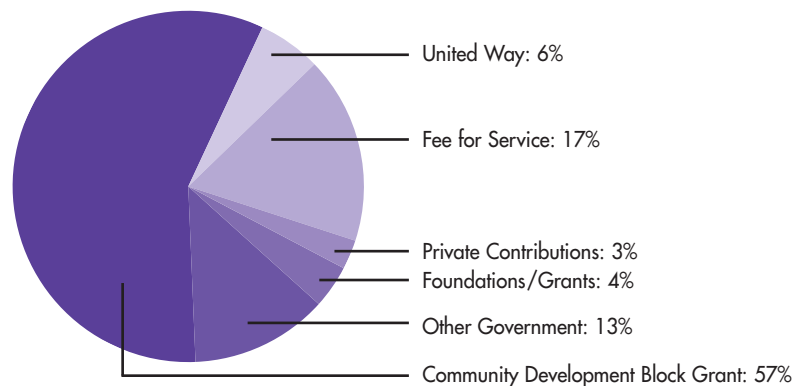
Expenses

Neighborhood Improvement Project (NIP)	\$2,248,474
Senior Adults Program	414,149
Youth Programs	764,894
Emergency Food Pantry	100,040
General and Administrative	225,164
Total	\$3,752,721



Revenues

Community Development Block Grant	\$2,183,424
Other Government	485,329
Foundations/Grants	145,126
Private Contributions	107,402
Fee for Service	660,417
United Way	218,853
Total	\$3,800,551



2004 MCC Volunteers

MCC thanks all of the volunteers who have given of their time and talents in 2004. We deeply appreciate your support and assistance in providing critical services to our program participants and staff.

Individuals:	Jammie Hennings	Dua Ly	Sherin Shabahang
Leroy Allen	Juanita Hernandez	Tyler Malovoz	Barry Shafrin
Greg Arellano	Stan Howard	Carmen Martinez	Mona Shah
Tammie Arellano	Thomas Isaac	Melissa Mendoza	Sean Son
Taylor Barrett	Erin Jamisson	Dana Mueller	LaQuan Spencer
Alexandria Bean	John Jeson	Heather Miller	Eloise Summitt
Christine Blaha	Anna Johnson	Lindsay Michuda	Pat Szopinski
MaryAnn Blaha	Jillian Johnson	Armando Navarro	Lisa Talati
Richard Blaha	Darlene Jones-Gram	Megan O'Boyle	Willie Tesch
Colleen Boje	Rebecca Katz	Maureen O'Connell	Jeanne Tong
Kirby Brown	Rory Keisch	Phillip Partynski	Ofielia Trigs
Tina Brown	Daniel Keller	Misti Paswaters	Antonio Torres
Camile Burnett	Marian Ketterer	Christine Patterson	Shoua Vang
William Butler	Ralph Kjornes	Johnnie Patterson	Mee Vang Her
Andrea Carrillo	Pang Kong	Rosalind Perry	Danasha Washington
Vicente Cintron	Caroline Konkel	Khamsing Phanpathoum	Pla V. Xiong
Nicholas Cotter	Ann Kuligowski	Ana Pone de Leon	Aurora Xiong
Christa Cunningham	Annette Kuligowski	Megan Pyles	Mai Lee Xiong
Patricia Cruz	Jessie Lautmann	Dusty Quinn	See Xiong
Katherine Davis	Colin Lavey	Aleksandar Ratkovic	Song Xiong
Robert Davis	Ryan Ligocki	Amylida Rodriguez	Chao Vang
Monica De La Paz	Jemal Lee	Sylvia Rodriguez	Mao Vang
Larry Dohse	Elyse LeeVan	Lucy Roman	Zang Vang
Marie Egan	Erica Nicole Lehr	Joe Roman	Chor Xiong
Paul Ells	Eric Loesch	Erin B. Rosene	Susan Zoua Yang
Holly Erickson	Nina Lopez	Marty Sattell	Charlie Zien
Lindsay Evans			
Kenneisha Everson			
Nereida Feliciano			
Margaret Fischer			
Sara Flanagan			
Jenna Foley			
Kari Fulkerson			
Vivekunanda Ghosh			
Vanessa Gospard			
Meghan Grassl			
Justin Gulbranson			
Robert Grusenski			
Officer Emoterio Gutierrez			
Grace Hanson			
Katie Harris-Smith			

Groups:

- Alverno College
- American Baptist Girls National Leadership Team
- Congregation Shalom
- Falls Community Church in Sheboygan Falls
- First Baptist Church of Green Bay
- Marquette University Community Service Groups
- Memorial Baptist Church of Fond du Lac
- Milwaukee Fire Station #26
- University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee Hunger Clean Up Group
- Vets Place Central
- West Bend Community Church Youth Group
- Whiting Community Church in Neenah, WI