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Milwaukee, WI 53204-2698



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# NEWSletter

August 2006

## Milwaukee Christian Center

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### Our Vision

The Milwaukee Christian Center will be a recognized leader, building bridges for positive change from home to community, neighborhood to city, and culture to culture.

### Inside...

More photos and memories from our 85th anniversary celebration

## MCC Celebrates the Past, Present and Future

On June 9, 2006, over two-hundred guests and volunteers gathered at the Boerner Botanical Garden's Education and Visitor Center to celebrate the Milwaukee Christian Center's 85th Anniversary. The evening began with a reception and silent auction held in the atrium. Guests bid on over 100 silent auction items while enjoying refreshments and music provided by Jill Guse on keyboard and Steve Smith on guitar.



Bidding on silent auction items during the reception

The Rev. Sam Brink, Master of Ceremonies, welcomed guests, and introduced The Rev. Jo Ellen Witt, Roundy Memorial Baptist Church, who offered the invocation. Dinner was served followed by opening remarks by board president, Mary Binder. County Supervisor Peggy West and Alderman James Witkowiak offered their congratulations for 85 years of service to the community.



Mary Binder,  
MCC Board President

The Rev. Carmen Porco, Executive Director, Housing Ministries of American Baptists in Wisconsin, who has a long history with our agency, delivered the keynote address. During the 1960's, he interned at MCC working with area street gangs,



Kathy Baillargeon, Executive Director,  
and her husband, Jim Scherer,  
enjoying the gardens

and has also served on our board of directors. Rev. Porco has always been on the cutting edge of social service programming. Over the years, he has received numerous awards and honors in recognition of his role in developing the Neighborhoods Networks Program; a concept of community management and learning centers placed in housing developments. Rev. Sam Brink reflected, "Carmen reminded us

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## MCC PROGRAM AREAS

### Emergency Food Pantry

- 3-5 day Emergency Food
- Commodity Supplemental Food Boxes
- Infant Supplies
- Farmer's Market Vouchers

### Neighborhood Improvement Project

- Home Repairs
- Graffiti Removal
- Ramp and Lift Installation
- Youthbuild
- Housing Production

### Senior Adults Program

- Health Clinic and Wellness Services
- Meal Site, Recreation/Socialization
- ESL, Citizenship, and Health Education
- Bilingual Case Management

### Youth

- Afterschool Programs at Neighborhood Schools
- Kids Place
- Youth Development Program
- First Time Juvenile Offender Program
- Community Service Options Program
- Summer Daycamp



MCC Past & Present Executive Directors: (L to R) Karen Higgins, Rev. Richard Padrick, Kathy Baillargeon, and Rev. Ken Smith

Thank you for helping us continue to Offer Hope and Strengthen Lives through Service to the community!

Offering Hope...  
Strengthening Lives  
& 85 Years of Service

# MCC Celebrates 85th Anniversary

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once again why we are all part of the ministry of MCC - we are called to put our faith into practice and to lift up those who are the poor and troubled, giving them help for the present and hope for the future."

Jeri Jende, Development Director, introduced a fast-paced media presentation highlighting MCC's impact on the city's south side over the past 85 years. Kathy Baillargeon, Executive Director, assured guests of our continued commitment to serving the poor, treating people with compassion and respect, and providing a safe environment open to people of all cultures, faiths and walks of life. She concluded by sharing our vision for the future that includes the creation of a Family & Community Enrichment Center to reach out holistically to meet the needs of the families.

Thanks to all who helped make our 85th Anniversary a "terrific" event!

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Current Board Members (Standing L to R) Chris Leitner, Mary Binder, Ana Lopez, Roberta Oldenburg. (Seated L to R) Dennis Sampson, Sandy Cope, Rev. Sam Brink



Former Board Members: (Standing L to R) Jim McCarty, Bruce Erickson, Beulah Erickson, Rev. Carmen Porco, Claude Krawczyk, Dennis Sampson. (Seated L to R) Nancy Byleen, Sue Oldaker, Dena Henry, Eloise Summitt



L to R: Dick Platt, Alderman James Witkowiak, and County Supervisor Peggy West

Dr. Reuben and Mildred Harpole, Jr.



Rev. Sam Brink presenting Rev. Carmen Porco with a plaque of appreciation



Bill and Lois Hart



(L to R) Diana Seibel, Jeri Jende, Jean Kirkeleit-Davis, and Terry Davis

## Silent Auction Donors

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Zin Restaurant



John Goeta, Tristan Gonzales, and Roy Carrera from M&I Bank

Photographs by Andi Loppnow