



kinship

COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER

Annual Impact Report 2021

FORMERLY RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY



”

We are not coming to get food,
we are coming to spend time with
the friends that feel like family.

– Lauren, mom and community member

Introducing Kinship.

The change is in the name.

Our story
started
over four
decades ago.

A focus on food scarcity.

We are proud of our history which began by providing food to the undernourished in Milwaukee.

Through a simple idea...

We all have a gift to give. We all have a gift to receive.

People began to grow, shop, cook, and eat together to address our wider challenges of hunger, isolation, and poverty.

It's a change in the way we see hunger.

Food is a way to serve the whole person and share our lives.

It's a change in how we see our city and community.

We belong to one another.

We help each other thrive through belonging, giving, and receiving. Through friendship and mentoring, we share our struggles and our joys, our lives and wisdom.

That's what kinship is all about.

It's with full hearts that we have some big news to share with our friends and neighbors.

Riverwest Food Pantry is now called Kinship Community Food Center.

It's a new name but the same heart.

And our story continues.

We're looking forward to sharing the next chapter, together with you.



Our Mission

Kinship Community Food Center engages volunteers and neighborhood residents to end hunger, isolation, and poverty. Our innovative programs nourish food security and wellness, foster belonging and community engagement, and empower stability and economic prosperity in our city.

The Work of Kinship



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The secret to our work is about a deepening of trust, and healing that happens in the soul.

Dear Friends,

We have so much to be thankful for as we celebrate another year and take the next step in the evolution of our organization.

A small shift of the coordinates drastically changes the trajectory and the destination. A few years back we shifted our coordinates to focus on the power of relationships and community through food. It sounds simple but it has changed the whole map.

Our 2021 report sheds first light on a new horizon for how to measure the impact a community food center can make. We are developing more robust methods to measure the health, social cohesion, and future stability and prosperity of our community through a variety of tools you do not yet see here. Measuring impact in the lives of people is complex and elusive. Yes, it's important to see how

many pounds of nutritious food we distribute and how many people remained housed because of our center. But the secret to our work is about a deepening of trust, and healing that happens in the soul. Like nurturing a seedling, it can't grow if you are constantly digging it up to measure its growth.

How do you measure repeated warm-hearted conversations over a meal in our center with an individual who is homeless sleeping under a nearby bridge because his teenage daughter overdosed and the pain and stress was too much for his marriage to bear? You can ask him what he needs... But the hard answer that comes back is..."I just need to be where I am right now, but being here with you guys helps a lot".

All of us must learn patience and shift our perspective if we want to build a healing-focused community.

Change and healing in all of our lives requires cultivation of the soil. Then the growth happens when the time is right.

This is the work of kinship. This is different than just distributing food. This is the future.

Thank you for being part of our community of generosity. Thank you for supporting us in this work through your time, your money, and (most importantly) growing in your perspective.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes.

– Vincent Noth
Executive Director

A Year in Kinship



One of our biggest blessings from this past year has been our amazing class of Mission Interns.

As our largest class of Mission Interns yet, we have seen the incredible impact they've had on our neighborhood through their year of service. More than just learning to coordinate the operational functions of our center, they have especially established real relationships to support our shoppers, our volunteers, and one another. The transformation that has happened in these young adults is incredible, as they are learning so much by giving in sacrificial love, and in their own ways, becoming leaders of generosity. We are so thankful for their commitment and dedication to our mission.

“

Coming here, I am learning how to love well and learning how to be loved well. And so, I'm really understanding what it means to be a whole person.

– Savannah, Mission Intern

Current Mission Interns

Pictured above, from left to right

Emma Holtan

Food Wellness Coordinator

Tyler Madden-McCardle

Human Services Partnership Coordinator

Matthew Davenport

Formation & Training
Coordinator

Eva Grumbine

Human Services Coordinator

Jack Bolog

Volunteer Engagement
Coordinator

Krista Fuller

Development & Board
Administration Coordinator

Savannah Hagen

Communications & Events
Coordinator

Megan Roehl

Food Acquisition Coordinator

Temesgen Wessel

Human Services
Coordinator



Interested in a year of service or know someone who might be?

Learn more online at: kinshipmke.org/mission-year

Annual Snapshot 2021



14,924
Community Members Served



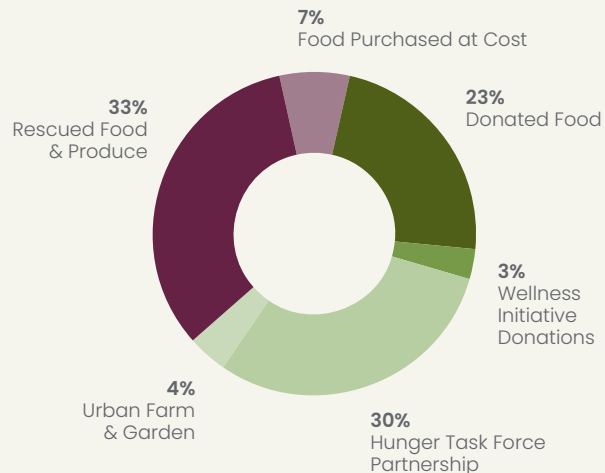
47k lbs
Produce Rescued
& Sorted

258
Referrals Made
for Families in Crisis
for mentoring and other
direct assistance to find
greater stability



11,005 hours
of Volunteer Service Contributed
by Community Members

Sources of Food Distributed



We are blessed to work with many community partners such as Hunger Task Force, Feeding America, and Maglio Companies



10k lbs
Produce Grown in Our
Community-Run
Gardens & Farm



Partners in Kinship

A healthy and vibrant community is a well-connected, collaborative community.

We are grateful for the partnerships which allow us to focus our limited resources to feed and nurture our community by not replicating services that other organizations offer and have expertise in.

Food Resource Partners

Hunger Task Force

Groundwork MKE

Outpost Natural Foods

Feeding America

Just One More Ministry

Stone Creek Coffee

Maglio Companies

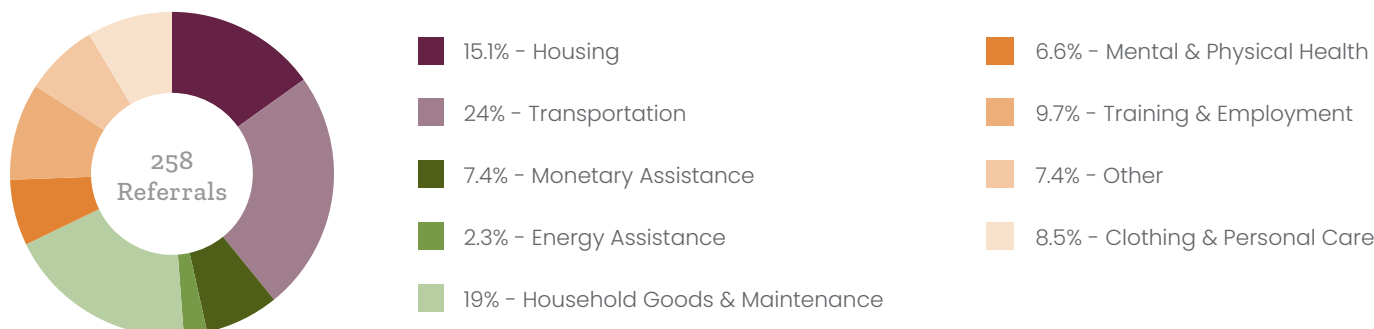
Teens Grow Greens

UW-Madison Division of Extension
FoodWise program

Those who struggle with hunger are often in need of other resources.

Our model is built upon gathering around food to share our lives and build trusting relationships. In that trust, our staff and volunteer mentors can assess these needs and walk with our shoppers to navigate the myriad barriers that often accompany food insecurity.

Community Partner and Resource Referrals



Below highlights only some of the hundreds of partnerships we have developed to strengthen program effectiveness and to walk with people in crisis in their journey toward long-term stability.

STABLE HOUSING

Impact 211
Community Advocates
Eviction Defense Project
Milwaukee Christian Center
Milwaukee Rental Housing Resource Center
Milwaukee County Housing Division
WE Energies

FINANCIAL WELLNESS

BMO Harris Bank
Riverworks Development Corporation

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Outreach Community Health Centers
UW-Milwaukee Nutritional Sciences
Mount Mary Natural and Health Sciences
MCW Center for Advancing Population Science
Advocate Aurora Health
Dohmen Company Foundation

SUBSTANCE ABUSE & RECOVERY

META House
The 4th Dimension Recovery Center
The Milwaukee Group (AA)

WORKFORCE & EDUCATION

Goodwill Workforce Connection Center
JobsWork MKE
Project RETURN

OTHER PARTNERS

Family of Four Parishes
Digital Bridge MKE
The Saint Vincent De Paul Society
Fr. Gene's Help Center
Goodwill Cares
Legal Action
Legal Aid Society
Milwaukee Diaper Mission

Developing community partnerships over the decades has been key to the success of our Community Food Center model. We also are grateful to the network of hundreds of churches, businesses, and schools that are a key part of our coalition.

Stories of Kinship



“

I understand what it's like to be alone. So, when people come here... I pull up a chair and sit next to them.

Lilly is a single mom who has struggled with a disability and works hard to provide for her children. The food center is a place she can call home and has volunteered to walk with others going through difficult situations.



“

The women who have volunteered regularly with me have become very close and I can't see myself volunteering without them.

As an art teacher, Julie was looking for a volunteering opportunity to fill her time in the summer. Though her passion lies in gardening, she has been surprised by the deep friendships she has made with those around her.



“

It's an experience of real connection, from people who you may not have met otherwise. Our differences are something that unite us.

Mary first heard about the food center growing up in one of the local churches. Though her family regularly donated food, it wasn't until she was in college that she started to volunteer. Since her first time here, she has been blown away by the relationships she has been able to make with her neighbors.



“

Sharing my love with others reminds me that I'm wanted.

Tyrome came to the food center seeking assistance to get his belongings out of storage. After receiving this generosity, he knew he had to find a way to give back. He started volunteering and made this community his home. Knowing what it's like to experience homelessness and hardships, he brings kind words of joy and hope to others.

Our Programs at a Glance



Shop

FRESH FOOD MARKET

A fresh food market that integrates health education, cooking demonstrations, a food bar, and connections to community resources.



Grow

URBAN FARM

A 27,000 square foot urban hoop house vegetable farm that grows thousands of pounds of organic produce to feed and educate the community.



Feast

COLLABORATIVE MEALS

Collaborative meals that bring a diverse group around a common table to explore food traditions and whole food culinary skills.



Stride

CRISIS ASSISTANCE & MENTORING

A mentoring program that accompanies people in crisis to overcome their barriers to health and economic stability.



Form

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Service-based training for volunteers and neighborhood residents in spiritual formation, social justice, and civic action.



Mission Internship

A YEAR OF SERVICE

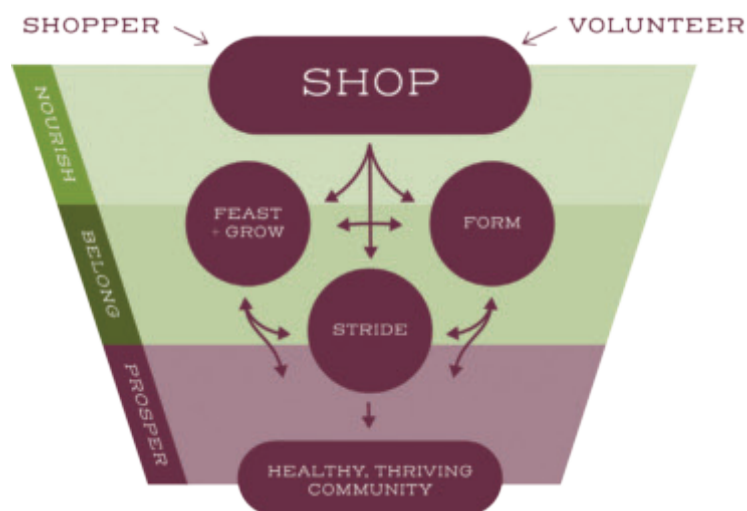
A residential "mission-year" of service and Catholic spiritual formation for young adults.

Who Shops With Us?

Many shoppers come through our doors every week.

We aim to restore the dignity of those who are most marginalized in our society. Even if you have little in material goods, you still have something incredibly important to give to others.

Children 1/3 are children, roughly 70% from single parent households.	Underemployed Adults Roughly 2/3 of families are underemployed with an average monthly income of \$1,300/month.	Those On A Fixed Income 1/4 are socially-isolated, elderly, veterans, or those with a disability.	Those In Crisis Homeless or those suffering mental illness and/or addiction.
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We Go Deep Into Each Other's Lives.

We welcome all people to journey deeper with us, to be involved, and discover new growth within themselves and one another.

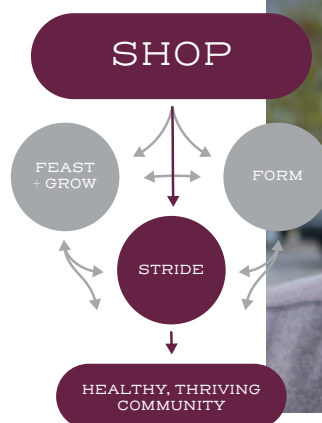
The journey looks different for each of us.

Whether someone from our neighborhood comes once, or comes a thousand times, our programs and wholistic approach have a tremendous impact on lives in our community – shopper, donor, and volunteer alike.

“

Anybody's life can be rehabilitated. But you need people listening and support. Rolling up your sleeves, getting involved.

Chris was battling homelessness and PTSD when he first came to our community, and through the help of our Stride team and close friends, he was able to find the resources and the strength to find stable housing and become an appliance repair technician.



Chris' Journey





Financials

It takes all of us coming together to make sure that our neighbors have food to gather around. Our hearts are filled with gratitude as we look at the resources our community members bring together to help us move our work forward.

Income



- 74% - Philanthropic
- 18% - In-kind
- 8% - Investments & Other

Program Expenses



- 57% - Shop
- 6% - Feast
- 7% - Grow
- 5% - Farm
- 10% - Mission Year
- 15% - Stride

Philanthropic Sources for 2021 Annual Fund



- 77% - Individuals
- 1% - Parishes
- 7% - Corporations
- 2% - Organizations
- 12% - Foundations
- 1% - Government

Our Team

Our work takes many hands and hearts.

The kindness and resilience of our neighborhood residents, the passion and dedication of our volunteers, and the incredible generosity of our supporters continues to bless and inspire us.

Board

Our board's passion for community building around healthy food drives their commitment to serve their fellow neighbors.

Ellen Bartel

President

Sponsorship Consultant
Sisters of the Divine Savior

Paul Burgoyne

Vice President

Chair, Development Committee

Retired Vice President
The Boelter Companies

James Hegarty

Secretary

Senior Counsel
GE Healthcare

Tracy L. Meeks

Treasurer

Chair, Finance Committee

VP, Head of Small
Business Banking
First Midwest Bank

David Bourne

Chair, Facilities Committee

Partner, Quarles & Brady

Jacquelin

Coby-Beaver

Clinical Operations Director
Diversity & Inclusion
Advocate Aurora Health

Lori Craig

Senior Vice President/
Market Leader
PNC Private Bank

Nicholas Fallucca

Chief Product and
Innovation Officer
Palermo's Pizza

Chad Griesel

Pastoral Associate of
Formation and Justice
Family of Four Parishes
Milwaukee

Berent Kowarick

Vice President, Banker
J.P. Morgan Private Bank

Melinda Krueger

Chair, Communications Committee

Retired Senior Client Partner
Salesforce

William Michaels, Jr.

Chair, Governance and Nominating Committee

Retired Partner, Deloitte

Eugene E. Nelson, Jr.

Case Manager/FSET
Coordinator
Project RETURN

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This is a place where each one of us learns to offer what we can to others and receive what we need from the relationships we build and the work that we share.

– Ellen Bartel,
Board President

Staff

Our staff is an incredible team that always strives to work for the betterment of our entire community.

Vincent Noth

Executive Director

Wayne Breitbarth

Managing Director

Caitlin Cullen

Food Center Director

Jennifer S. Mehr

Advancement Director

Mark Bergemann

Operations Manager

Cole Compton

VISTA Intern,
Urban Farm Coordinator

Amanda

Fahrendorf

Communications Associate

Isabel Guerrero

Community Care Associate

Lindy Meer

Controller

Maddie Mueller

Development Associate

Nancy Rodriguez

Community Care Manager

Natalie Ross

VISTA Intern,
Food Acquisition Coordinator

Samantha Vosters

Volunteer Engagement
Manager

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The clichés about food and community are so abundant because they are true— when we are able to share even the humblest meal, strangers become friends and community becomes family.

– Caitlin Cullen,
Food Center Director

FORMERLY RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY
— EST 1979 —

Everyone Gives. Everyone Receives.



A community of generosity.

Kinship Community Food Center

2610 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53212

To learn more or plan a visit,
please contact us:

414-301-1478
info@kinshipmke.org

kinshipmke.org