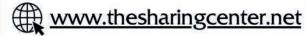
#### THE SHARING CENTER

# ANNUAL REPORT





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### From the Executive Director

To Our Esteemed Supporters and Partners,

I am honored to present the 2024 Sharing Center Annual Report. This year has been one of progress, resilience, and impactful service. I am proud to share the milestones and accomplishments that define our mission-driven journey.

#### ~ Financial Overview

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, grants, and funding partners, we secured contributions to maintain our historic high level of programming. We maintained financial transparency and efficiency, ensuring that 97% of our funds were directly allocated to programs and services that support our mission.

#### ~ Governance & Compliance

Our board and leadership team remain steadfast in upholding the highest governance, accountability, and ethical stewardship standards. We continue to comply with all regulatory requirements and best practices to ensure transparency and trust within our community.

#### ~ Community Engagement & Impact

We believe in the power of collaboration and grassroots efforts. Over the past year, we have:

- Advocated for hunger, poverty, and homelessness, making significant strides in our field, as well as with local, state, and national policy
- Engaged 446 volunteers, who contributed over 16,000 hours of service
- · Hosted dozens of community events, workshops, and awareness campaigns.

#### ~ Looking Ahead

As we move forward, our focus remains on expanding our reach, deepening our impact, and securing sustainable funding to continue our mission. With the ongoing support of our donors, volunteers, and community partners, we are confident in our ability to create lasting change.

I sincerely thank our supporters, volunteers, board members, and staff for their dedication and unwavering belief in our mission. Together, we will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

With Gratitude,







**Sharon Pomaville** Executive Director

# Partnership is Sustainability: Sustainability is the Luture

Everyone knows that feeling of a perfect football Sunday—the steaming bowl of chili, the rustle of autumn leaves, that unmistakable "chilly air smell." It's nostalgic, warm, and communal. One of the greatest coaches in football history, Vince Lombardi, once said something that still resonates powerfully today:

"INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENT TO A GROUP EFFORT - THAT IS WHAT MAKES A TEAM WORK, A COMPANY WORK, A SOCIETY WORK, A CIVILIZATION WORK."

What a phenomenal quote—and yes, we might be a little biased (Go Packers!)—but Lombardi's words perfectly capture the spirit of what's ahead for The Center. They are a call to action, and they define how we're thinking about the next three to five years: with purpose, energy, and shared momentum.

#### Partnership Is the Path Forward

In the nonprofit sector, partnership isn't always easy. A scarcity mindset persists—most of us rely on donors to help cover bills, pay staff, and acquire the resources we need to fulfill our missions. In this environment, partnership can feel risky. It means opening up. It means sharing ideas, relationships, and possibilities that someone else might run with. And that fear can make it difficult to come together and tackle the big, systemic issues we all want to solve.

#### But we're committed to changing that narrative.

Following our big 40th Anniversary milestone, many of you have asked: "What's next?" The answer is simple and bold—partnership. Our entire team and Board are doubling down on building comprehensive, intentional partnerships to pursue bold ideas, invite new voices to the table, and amplify our collective impact across the community.

#### So How Are We Doing It?

- Strengthening existing partnerships to raise the bar on what's possible together
- Pursuing new collaborations with organizations and individuals who are ready to work beyond silos—for the highest benefit of the people we serve.
- Embracing a 'village' mindset rooted in trust, transparency, and the belief that big change happens when we act as one.

In the months and years ahead, watch for partnerships that defy expectations—ones that don't just move the needle, but break the mold. Partnerships that break the sound barrier for families in Kenosha County.

We're just getting started, and we're glad you're with us every step of the way.







# 







The Sharing Center has recognized an increase in multicultural and dietary-specific households over the past several years. The Hispanic population alone is currently just under 15% and climbing, along with Eastern Europeans at 8.7%. A variety of food options that cater to diverse tastes and preferences is important when implementing nutritious food options in our pantry. Staple foods such as tortillas, masa, pinto beans, specialty seasonings, root vegetables, fresh regional fruits, seafood selections, and starches are vital to serving those audiences appropriately.

The Center also provides a wide variety of gluten-free, low-sugar, low-sodium, and vegan/vegetarian options daily. A key component of providing quality food is surveying our pantry participants and listening to their needs and as well as wants. Working in partnership with UW-Extension Madison, Advocate Aurora Hospital, and the Kenosha County Health Center ensures our success as a provider in food equity.

TOTAL POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED	476,969
HOLIDAY MEALS	2,611
SENIOR BOXES	1,009
SUMMER MEALS	7,151







Fresh, nutritious fruits and vegetables are often difficult for our clients to obtain due to price. In early 2024, Growing In Grace, a local farming initiative founded by Brian and Debbie Meade, presented an exciting opportunity to our staff: a project and partnership that allows The Sharing Center to receive locally grown produce and honey. Growing In Grace worked with Heritage Honey Bee in Sullivan, Wisconsin, who generously contributed 10 full bee colonies in support.

With 30 acres of local farmland, Growing In Grace plans to expand by adding 150 strawberry plants and 5 more bee hives to provide even more fresh produce and honey to The Sharing Center in the years ahead. Growing In Grace proudly offers pesticide and chemical-free foods to benefit our local community.

IN 2024, GROWING IN GRACE PROVIDED:

HONEY	206 lbs
FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES	199 lbs

For more details on their efforts, visit www.growingingracefarm.com.

# Providing Housing Solutions

Ensuring safe and affordable housing remained a top priority in 2024, as the demand for housing assistance has significantly increased once again this year. To deliver the best service possible, the Center has established an efficient process to support families effectively. We have strengthened our partnerships with Kenosha Human Development Services (KHDS), the State of Wisconsin Housing Programs, USDA, local property management companies, housing authorities, and the Community Action Agencies across several neighboring counties and states, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension Programs. By conducting a thorough needs assessment, we determine the most suitable course of action for each situation, enhancing a

family's ability to sustain themselves.

The primary objective of The Sharing Center's Crisis Rent and Security Program is to keep people housed. This is achieved by providing resources and connecting individuals to local programs, including 10 existing rent and utility assistance initiatives. We have also fostered cooperative relationships with 21 local realtors, property managers, landlords, and manufactured home properties. Furthermore, we connect users to services and programs that address underlying issues, such as financial literacy programs aimed at improving credit and helping individuals secure higher-wage employment through skill development, coaching, and meeting basic needs.

HOUSING REQUESTS	1,106
FAMILIES ASSISTED WITH PERMANENT HOUSING	22
EMPLOYMENT REFERRALS	142
FAMILIES ASSISTED WITH VARIOUS FINANCIAL NEEDS*  *energy assistance, car repairs, home projects, fuel assistance	282

With a lack of housing, being subjected to the natural elements is a true concern, resulting in lasting impacts for those unhoused during extreme weather. Last winter was one of the warmest on record, yet it still brought several weeks of sub-zero temperatures. As the most accessible provider of rural homeless services, we continually strive to find the best solutions to meet the needs of homeless families during extreme weather conditions. A few years ago, during recordhigh summer temperatures, we established a cooling center for families to rest during the day, alongside local libraries, municipal town halls, and the County Center in Bristol.

In 2024, we recruited volunteers who were willing to be on-call for extreme weather emergencies: to welcome our guests, provide hot meals and unlimited coffee, connect visitors to social services, distribute supplies, and ensure that both guests and their pets had their needs met. Our commitment is to provide a safe and warm place to land for anyone who needs it. This past year, we were open on the coldest nights, offering food, social services, warm winter clothing, sleeping bags, cold-weather gear specific to outdoor living, pet food, and more. Through a partnership with KHDS, families were able to take advantage of a motel room for the night when funding was available.

### In 2024, we saw the demand for many services rise over 2023.

In 2024, we received 1,106 housing support requests, but the number of successful placements remains limited.

You can help!
Support Our Housing
Programs Here



# Flurry Italiands and I Pantry Pups

Give a wagging welcome to our furry, four-legged volunteers! These therapy dogs are the pawsome secret to spreading cheer during service, mingling with clients and turning stress into smiles. Dogs are basically furry therapists, known for lowering anxiety and boosting the happy vibes.

These cuddly companions are comfort pros! Often called into hospitals or nursing homes, they're like fuzzy superheroes, swooping in to reduce stress and anxiety. Plus, kids who read to these tailwagging buds show off better social skills, sharing is caring, and cooperation becomes the name of the game. Even pesky behavioral issues seem to take a hike!

#### 1

#### **Meet Our Pantry Pups**



#### 2 years

- Longest furry volunteer
- Team player
- Loves kids & toys!



#### 5 years

- AKA Potato
- Gentle giant
- Loves being petted!



#### 7 months

- Newest fur volunteer
- Therapy Pup in Training
- Greets everyone with a wag!

Numerous families experiencing housing instability or homelessness cherish their pets. While it may seem surprising to keep a pet during financial struggles, these families have expressed that their pets offer them a sense of safety, love, purpose, responsibility beyond their own needs, motivation to persevere, and a glimmer of hope for the future.

The Center distributes over a ton of pet food annually, highlighting its significance: a decade ago, we discovered that families were parting with their pets due to an inability to feed them, often resorting to giving them bread or sacrificing their own meals.

Additionally, the Center has broadened its animal-friendly services. We partner with

Noah's Rest to care for pets when their owners are hospitalized or in shelter programs. Old fur donations are given to animal rehabilitation providers, as the fur helps abandoned young animals feel safe and secure during their recovery. By integrating veterinary services for the most severe cases in collaboration with local clinics, we adopt a comprehensive approach that positively impacts both people and their pets.

IN 2024,
THE CENTER
PROVIDED 2,115
POUNDS OF FOOD
TO LOCAL PETS

# Events To Ingage and Inspire!

Through creative partnerships and innovative ideas, we have been able to team up with local businesses and organizations to raise funds and collect various highly needed in-kind donations. Here are a few ways we collaborated creatively to fund our mission in 2024:

#### Pawty In The Park

Hosted by Noah's Rest, a nonprofit organization supporting victims of domestic violence, the event featured music, local vendors, games, food, and a silent auction. The Sharing Center was on-site to highlight our support for the well-being of furry family members through food and pet resource referrals.

#### Pickle Ball Strategies In The Park

This exciting event saw 150 pickleball enthusiasts gather to explore competitive strategies, organized by community members Jeff and Lisa Mertes. A team of experts—including a cardiologist, physical therapist, athletic trainer, and professional players—came together to share their knowledge and passion for the sport and helped to raise much needed funds to support The Sharing Center.

#### **Smoke Sip and Play**

HoneyDripperz Pub partnered with the Center to raise funds through a competitive smoked food competition, raffles, and a premium whiskey tasting.

#### **High School Spirit Night**

High School Spirit Night brought students, faculty, and staff together to celebrate Wilmot High School. Students could toss cream-filled pies at staff for donations, which were given to The Sharing Center, highlighting community spirit and generosity.

#### **Zumba Turkey Burn**

Participants raised funds at this high-energy event and provided much-needed food items to assist Center programs through sweating it out to a fun-filled Zumba dance session. The event was sponsored by 15 Lakes Prime Steakhouse and North Bridge Church.

#### **Pumpkin Launch and Christmas Tree Giveaway**

Both events created by Sandlots of Salem, customers had the chance to test their strength and accuracy by launching pumpkins at targets and winning prizes. A specially themed Sharing Center Christmas tree was also displayed and raffled off providing gift cards, clothing items, special treats and more!









#### **How Do We Do It?**

Through strong partnerships and the continued encouragement of our community, The Sharing Center continues to increase services and programs as the population we serve continues to grow. Providing support to Western Kenosha County residents would not be possible without the various donors, supporters, and volunteers who have given time, funds, goods, and hope.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS	18%
IN-KIND DONATIONS	74%
GRANTS	4%
INVESTMENT INCOME	4%

VOLUNTEERS	446	
VOLUNTEER HOURS	16,698	
NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED	6,652	

# Expanding Possibilities: Growing To Serve

The Sharing Center has made significant strides in enhancing its facilities and expanding its capacity to better serve the community. In 2024, the Center undertook numerous improvements, including tripling parking capacity, expanding storage with new pallet racking, increasing cooler space, updating landscaping, and refreshing the roof and building exterior. Interior updates, such as a new water heater and fresh paint in key areas, have also contributed to a more efficient and welcoming space. These upgrades reflect the Center's commitment to meeting the increasing needs of the community while ensuring accessibility and sustainability for years to come.

Looking ahead, The Sharing Center is embarking on the Brick by Brick Growth Campaign, a historic three-year, \$3.8 million investment in Western Kenosha County. This initiative will support facility expansion, sustain day-to-day operations, and grow essential programs. As the demand for services continues to rise, the campaign aims to strengthen the Center's ability to break cycles of poverty and trauma while fostering long-term community stability. This transformative investment will help create a brighter, healthier future for rural Kenosha families through collaboration and shared commitment.







## Special 'Thank You' to those who helped make improvements to The Center both inside and out in 2024:

KAS Roofing
Westosha Lakes Church
A.M. Woodland Outdoor Designs
Harpster Lawncare
Bristol Pallet
Advanced Tree & Stump Removal
Willis Dirt Works
Cicchini Asphalt
Southeastern Wisconsin Building Trades
Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 118
Karlsen Plumbing
Volunteers: Jodi, Ed, Mike and Paul









# Community Giving

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At The Sharing Center, we believe that every child deserves to experience the joy and excitement of childhood, no matter their circumstances. While we are a Crisis and Community Resource Center, we also bring hope and happiness to families—especially during special occasions and holidays. Our annual traditions ensure that children in our community not only have their basic needs met but also get to enjoy the magic of the season. From festive Easter baskets lovingly prepared with the help of local Girl Scout troops to back-to-school supplies and brand-new gym shoes that help students step into the school year with confidence, we are committed to supporting children in meaningful ways.

With the generosity of our donors, we make sure no child misses out on the simple joys of being a kid. Whether it's a Thanksgiving feast, holiday gifts through our Winter Wonderland event, or a special birthday present to celebrate their big day, we help create moments of happiness that every child deserves. These traditions do more than provide essentials—they offer encouragement, dignity, and the chance to just be a kid. Together, we are shaping a brighter future, one smile at a time!

EASTER BASKETS	303
HOLIDAY GIFT PACKAGES	701
SCHOOL SUPPLIES	367



#### 2024 GIVING TUESDAY RAISED \$16,414

Each year, The Sharing Center proudly participates in Giving Tuesday. On the last Tuesday of November, people worldwide come together to support causes that make a difference—whether through donations, volunteering, or spreading awareness. This day serves as a powerful reminder that every act of kindness, no matter how small, contributes to building a better world.

To make an even greater impact, this year, Matching Wednesday—the day after Giving Tuesday— was introduced to encourage supporters to check if their employers offer donation matching. Over 26 million individuals work for companies that match charitable contributions, doubling or even tripling the power of each gift. As we look ahead, we invite you to mark your calendar, get involved, and help us maximize the impact of generosity in our community!

### **SPECIAL REPORT**



During the holiday season, when the need in our community is at its highest, we at The Sharing Center were honored to be featured on TMJ4 for our commitment to supporting local families. As a 40-year-old organization rooted in Kenosha County, we serve over 5,000 families each year-offering even more during the holidays.



# John Our Mission



#### **Financial Contributions:**

Your monetary contributions make a difference and are tax-deductible. Many companies offer donation-match programs. Recurring donations through your financial institution or PayPal make donating easy.



#### **Corporate Partnership:**

Support our work through corporate giving, volunteer projects, in-kind donations, events, and food drives.



#### **Planned Giving:**

Designating the Center as a beneficiary is a lasting investment in your community.



#### **Board Member:**

Apply to become a board member of the Sharing Center. See our website for more information.



#### Volunteer:

Daytime volunteer shifts available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Check our website for annual fundraisers, drives, and seasonal programs!



#### Host a fundraiser or drive:

Collect food, paper goods, personal hygiene items, school supplies, etc.; create a fundraising event (Penny Wars, Fun Runs, Birthday Donations).



#### Walmart Spark Good:

Every time you shop on Walmart's app or website, you will be able to round up to support The Sharing Center.



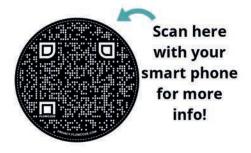
# Our goals in 2025 are to:

Increase Student Summer Nutrition program participation

Advocate for the implementation of preventive programs to help ease stress for local families

Provide bolstered, comprehensive services to unstably housed families

If you or someone you know possesses the skills, abilities, knowledge, or resources to help us achieve these goals, reach out and volunteer!



### OurTeam



Sharon Pomaville Executive Director The Sharing Center



Larry Ellis

President

Antioch Fine
Wines & Liquor



Jenni Hansen Vice President Hansen & Cleary, LLC



Rick Honaker
Treasurer
Retired



Kathy Koshgarian
Secretary
Food for Health



**Earl "Bud" Newton**Board Member

Retired



Ed Egan

Board Member

Double E Workplace
Solutions, LLC



**Lisa Howe** *Board Member*Re/Max Advantage



Malina Klug Board Member Gordon Food Service



Brandon Beauford
Board Member
Gordon Food Service



Abbie Rathmann

Board Member

Abbvie



Nancy Hoffstetter

Domestic Violence Advocate

Batterer's Intervention

Program Director



Maddie Murphy Domestic Violence Program Manager



**Tori Ray**Outreach Coordinator
DEI Coordinator



**Christy Villalobos** *Office Administrator Community Advocate* 



Stephanie Witkiewicz
Food Pantry Manager
Housing Coordinator

