



# ANNUAL REPORT

# REPORT

*The road to the 40th!*

20  
22



J.S. Rep. Lee Aspin, D-Wisconsin, is greeted by Kati





# From the Executive Director



**Sharon Pomaville**  
Executive Director



Hello Friends,

What an uplifting year it was here at the Center, despite all its challenges. I am humbled by the generosity of the community, humbled as a witness to the strength families muster when experiencing some of the most difficult life challenges, and humbled by the unwavering care our volunteers and staff provide to all who enter.

Now in my 12th year of leading the Center, the people who traverse our doorway, many thousands every year, have taught me the importance of humility, tender listening, and the power of joyous celebration for small and big wins. When life is difficult, the celebration becomes the salve to heal wounds, losses, grief, and disappointments that impact some more than others. Our families teach me to celebrate life at each opportunity, be grateful for the small things, and tell each other 'I love you' whenever you can.

Yesterday, a man who visits from time to time sought me out to thank me for helping him. It had been many months since we spoke, so we sat in the lobby together while he waited for his food order. Five minutes turned into forty as he offered me his story of gratitude, sorrows, drive, trauma, dreams, injustices, hopes, and a well-thought-out plan for transforming his new child's life. I know him well enough to know he is on his way to breaking the cycle of trauma and neglect he was dealt as a child. Sitting on the other side of me was a young man I met when he was 3, now 12, who shares the same hopes and dreams for himself, with wide eyes and excitement for the rest of his life yet to come. He's already endured more than most adults who have lived 50 years ever will, yet he persists with love, gratitude, eagerness, and a gentleness to his soul that I will honor at every turn.

This is why we persist in serving rural Kenosha County families; to provide the space, honoring, and grace to anyone who seeks to live their lives to the fullest and may want help to make it through life's toughest challenges.

**It's our 40th year of service, and we will celebrate "The Road to the 40th!"**

We will celebrate the lives of people who made it through the toughest of times. We will celebrate our founders who followed their hearts. We will celebrate our board, volunteers, and staff who, for the past 40 years, dedicated their time to ensure the Center's success. We will celebrate our community supporters who gave of themselves so others can thrive.

We thank you for more than 40 years of faith in our mission and work, and for letting us witness in you the generosity of the human spirit for one another.

Sharon Pomaville

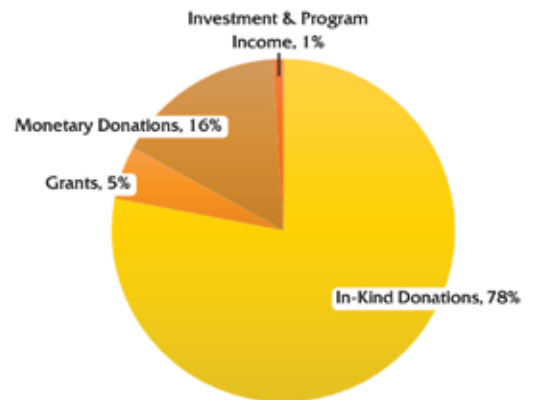


# By The Numbers

## Programs & Services

- Holiday Meals: 1858 Individuals
- Christmas Gifts: 548 Children
- Pet food: 3072 pounds
- School supplies/clothes: 359 Students
- Badger Boxes: 1159
- Senior boxes: 514
- Easter baskets: 348

Without our dedicated volunteers, the work at the Sharing Center would not be possible. In 2022, 126 dedicated volunteers provided 6721 volunteer hours as we continued our mission, serving 3300 individuals.



## Housing

The Sharing Center has assisted 198 individuals who were under-housed, couch surfing, doubled up, or residing in uninhabitable spaces, i.e. vehicles, tents, abandoned spaces, outdoors, or other structures with no access to utilities.

## Electronic Communication

- Social Media Reach: 3669
- Website visitors: 11,992
  - 8-fold increase from 2021
- Website searches: 6900
  - 212% increase from 2021
- LinkedIn Impressions: 4758



Keeping families informed is vital to achieving self-sufficiency successfully. A monthly E-Newsletter promotes new and existing services, program changes, employment opportunities, and event information in and around Kenosha County. Area businesses can sponsor the newsletter and provide information about their services, resources, or employment opportunities.

**Newsletters reached 2749 households with an average open rate of 44%.**

# What We're Hungry For

## DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING: "WHAT WE'RE HUNGRY FOR HOW FOOD PANTRIES FED RURAL WISCONSIN DURING THE PANDEMIC"



Join us for the award-winning documentary featuring stories of pantries from across the state including The Sharing Center in Trevor, followed by a discussion of food insecurity in Kenosha County

Monday, November 14, 2022  
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

UW Parkside - Student Cinema  
930 Wood Road, Kenosha, WI

### Proud Partners of this Initiative Include:

Emergency Services Network of Kenosha County  
Hunger Task Force  
Kenosha Area Family and Aging Services Inc.  
Kenosha Community Foundation  
Kenosha County  
UW Parkside Alan E. Guzik Center for Community and Business Engagement

Kenosha County Food Bank  
Racine County Food Bank  
Racine Kenosha Community Action  
Sharing Center, Inc.  
The United Way of Kenosha County

Like most organizations around the country and around the world, the Center was forced to adapt quickly during the beginning stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During 2020, director Jim Winship chronicled the response of five rural food pantries around Wisconsin, including The Sharing Center, in a documentary titled "What We're Hungry For". The documentary was officially released in September 2022.

Following the release of the documentary, the Center coordinated a number of free community showings throughout Kenosha County in conjunction with National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. Following the showings, a panel of experts discussed a number of important topics and took questions from community members in attendance. The documentary and panel discussion helped to educate and inform Kenosha County residents on poverty in our communities and began an important dialogue between residents, policymakers, and community leaders. The Center was also able to showcase the documentary and participate in a panel at Wisconsin's Poverty Matters Conference and Health & Hunger Summit.

We encourage you to learn more about this documentary by visiting [www.beechwoodtrue.com](http://www.beechwoodtrue.com) or scanning the QR code below.



*Executive Director,  
Sharon Pomaville,  
is interviewed during  
"What We're Hungry For"*

**Scan here with your smart  
phone for more information  
about the documentary!**



*Community members engage with the panel of experts following a showing at the Kenosha County Center*



# New Programs to Meet Community Needs



At The Sharing Center, the main goal is to support Kenosha County residents to be self-sustainable. We understand that a large part of becoming self-sustainable is earning a livable wage. In January 2022, the Center launched an Employment Partnership Program, working with area Human Resource Departments and Hiring Managers at various corporations, factories, and small businesses to offer Center visitors high-wage, good-benefit employment opportunities.



## Supporting Wisconsin's Farmers and Families

The Center partnered with Hunger Task Force for an innovative and Wisconsin-exclusive food program. The Badger Box reinforces the Center's commitment to offering fresh, nutritious, and healthy food options. All items are sourced in Wisconsin and afford our participants the opportunity to try new foods, encourage home cooking, and are aligned with federal nutritional guidelines. Boxes include products such as cheese, milk, beef, ham, bison, and other items. Boxes are free of charge to our participants and have become the most popular food program to date.



Sharing Center



*The road to the 40th!*

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**

**W Wilmot Mountain Resort**

12301 Fox River Rd., Wilmot, Wisconsin



As the calendar flipped from 2022 to 2023, The Sharing Center celebrates our 40th year serving Western Kenosha County residents.



Scan here to purchase your ticket to our 40th year celebration and learn more about sponsoring the event!

# Partnering for Success

The Center Partners with local organizations to solve the crisis needs of Kenosha County. One of those needs is providing fresh produce to our pantry participants.



Girl Scout Troop 10449 from Silver Lake chose to complete their Bronze Award by providing two new innovative compost bins for the Center's garden. The new bins were constructed with animal deterrents and lids with metal sheets built in to attract and retain more heat. These bins will help the Center continue providing beans, tomatoes, peppers, strawberries, and fresh dill for summers to come!

For the past 10 years, The Sharing Center has partnered with the Girl Scout Council of Western Kenosha County to provide Easter Baskets to pantry users. Collectively, Daisy and Brownie Girl Scout Troops from nine different schools come together to complete the Easter Basket Fill Event. In 2022, over 240 baskets were filled with snacks, hot cereal, small toys, games, stickers, and candy-filled eggs for Center children.



In partnership with recycling company NexTrex, local manufacturing company ViskoTeepak, and Festival Foods, The Center created two beautiful park benches.

With longtime volunteer Linda's assistance, volunteers collected over 1,000 lbs of plastic waste.

The program will continue as the Center creates collection partnerships with other non-profit organizations and schools looking to receive a bench of their own.



# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion



In 2022, the Center was accepted as a recipient of a collaborative grant focused on increasing mental health and mental health resources for Hispanic residents. As a recipient of the DHS mobilizing grant for mental health, the Center has continued our focus on embedding diversity, equity, and inclusion at every level of the organization. With the formation of a DEI Committee comprised of board members, staff, and community stakeholders, the Center aims to create and maintain an action plan to further intentionally integrate DEI values into organizational policies, planning, and practices.

The DEI committee will continue to review the Center's policies and practices, ensuring alignment with our core values and mission to serve Western Kenosha County to revise and improve through an equitable lens. As a core value of the Sharing Center, equity is vital to grow partnerships, connections to resources, and programs centered on the various needs of differing populations.

Fostering DEI principles throughout the organization's internal structure will create an equitable environment by promoting the active participation of all stakeholders to ensure that the organization is a welcoming and affirming place where diverse individuals are an essential part of all organizational functions. Expanding our current vision and practices and drawing new, informed talent will further diversify our team and community partnerships to serve Western Kenosha County best.

As we reflect on 2022, we are fortunate to have attained and surpassed the goals the organization had set out to accomplish. In connection with Leadership Kenosha, the Sharing Center has grown and expanded services to assist individuals with a non-English primary language. Leadership Kenosha is a professional development program that connects participants to community organizations, issues,

and leaders, building their network while developing essential leadership skills.

## 2022 Goals in Review

-  Offer more bilingual services 
-  Add an additional part-time staff member to meet our growing needs 
-  Work with local companies to provide more employment opportunities for individuals 

The Center has increased the translation of services and programs to include Portuguese, Spanish, English, American Sign Language, and Russian, plus an additional 35 languages.





# Staff Spotlight

Lauren Chandler joined the team as a volunteer in September 2021. Her positive energy and commitment to our mission led her to a paid position as an Administrative Assistant in June of 2022. Lauren assists with day-to-day operations, welcoming visitors, referring services, answering phone calls, and registering new families. Lauren has built strong relationships with visitors of the Center and finds those connections to be the most rewarding aspect of her work.



## "I am very touched to be a part of this mission"

"When I began volunteering at the Sharing Center, I had little knowledge of just how much we do for our community. I have loved being a part of something as impactful as our everyday work. Everyone involved with the Center has been incredibly kind and welcoming."



## Around Town

In 2022 the Kenosha County community came alive with creativity and The Sharing Center was happy to participate! Here are just a few ways our community worked together to increase funding and food donations:

### Cereal Dominos

Bristol School collected over 500 boxes of cereal to stock our pantry shelves and created a large domino track to celebrate the collection. They hosted a countdown and watched each box fall in a unique pattern while the whole school cheered!

### Penny Wars

Riverview School hosted a penny drive and raised \$1,000 to donate to our food pantry

### Meat Raffles

The Sharing Center partnered with Towne Square, Mills Pallets and Alternate Escape Travel to raise funds for Homelessness Advocacy

### Scoobie Night

Antioch Culvers hosted a Scoobie Night to raise funds for general programming

### Stuff The Bus

Wheatland and Randall Schools stuffed school busses with food and provided over 11,000 pounds of food!

### Socktober

Salem school collected much needed socks to donate to our clothing program

### Tubing Night

Wilmot Mountain hosted a family fun night at their tubing hill to help us raise awareness of services and raise funds for general advocacy

Wilmot High School, Westosha Central High School, Paris, Brighton, Lakewood, and Trevor all held very successful food drives to help stock our pantry shelves!

*Thank You*

# Get Connected



## 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 2023 are to:

Double our case management services

Increase partnerships with our providers in Western Kenosha County

Continue to address the need for workforce housing locally and at the state and federal levels

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



Scan here with your smart phone for more info!



# Our Team



**Sharon Pomaville**  
*Executive Director*  
Salem



**Larry Ellis**  
*President*  
Trevor



**Jenni Hansen**  
*Vice President*  
Salem



**Rick Honaker**  
*Treasurer*  
Trevor



**Chris Holmstrom**  
*Secretary*  
Paddock Lake



**Maria Dillman**  
*Board Member*  
Lake Geneva



**Scott Schupbach**  
*Board Member*  
Walworth Township



**Tom Neave**  
*Board Member*  
Trevor



**Ed Egen**  
*Board Member*  
Wheatland



**Dragutin "Danny" Djordjevic**  
*Board Member*  
Racine



**Sheree Hagen**  
*Board Member*  
Silver Lake



**Kathy Koshgarian**  
*Board Member*  
Trevor



**Abbie Rathmann**  
*Board Member*  
Antioch



**Nancy Hoffstetter**  
*Domestic Violence Advocate*  
*Batterer's Intervention*  
*Program Director*



**Stephanie Witkiewicz**  
*Food Pantry Manager*  
*Housing Coordinator*



**Tori Ray**  
*Outreach Coordinator*  
*DEI Coordinator*



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



**Lauren Chandler**  
*Office Assistant*





**Thank you to the countless donors, interns, volunteers, and community members who helped make 2022 a year full of accomplishments for our community.**

