

2023 ANNUAL REPORT




**The
Sharing Center**
SHARE | SERVE | ADVOCATE

 262-298-5535

 25700 WILMOT ROAD TREVOR, WI

 WWW.THESHARINGCENTER.NET

From the Executive Director

Dear Community Members & Supporters,

Once again, I am honored to showcase the impact of the Center's work in our community and across southeastern Wisconsin.

2023 was historic in many ways: we turned a vibrantly healthy 40 years old, met record-high community need, distributed the highest amount of healthy food ever, bought our facility mortgage-free, and then topped it all off with a well-deserved community celebration to honor the reason for all the successes: You.

We are poised for change: we seek it, embrace it, research it, and then follow the indicators of what is needed to serve this community better.

Our staff, volunteers, and board are committed and strategic, which shows in our 2023 impact. I couldn't be prouder of what our team accomplished in the most challenging of times. We will get it done, one way or another, with care, respect, and dignity.

I personally want to thank you for your many years of dedication to rural Kenosha County families. I am incredibly excited and humbled about our 2024 building expansion, which will help us meet our community's burgeoning and complex social needs.

Enjoy the 'big picture' view, and know your individual contributions made it all possible. We thank you!

Sincerely,



Sharon Pomaville
Executive Director



Community Response

Thank you so much. You guys are truly an amazing group! Not just for this help, but for everything you and everyone there have helped us with. There aren't a lot of people willing to help others or people who are just kind to others no matter what, in general. I just really hope you know how grateful we truly are.

I appreciate all of your help! It blesses my heart to know someone is actually seeing what I'm pushing for and supports me. I got a house! I go start cleaning today! You're amazing!

Thank you

The Sharing Center is the main resource for assistance and support for our homeless and low-income families within the rural Kenosha community. The staff and volunteers at the Sharing Center are always so helpful and kind to their clients and are always willing to help in any way they can. I always feel comfortable and confident when referring my families to the Sharing Center, knowing they will be treated with kindness and respect. The Sharing Center helps close food gaps for our most needy families as well as connect our families with other basic necessities. Our community would be at a complete disadvantage without the support of the Sharing Center.

-School Social Worker

I just wanted to reach out to The Sharing Center to tell you how thankful I am for everything you have done for my family. You got us off the streets and into a beautiful home where we are finally safe. If it wasn't for your kind hearts and willingness to help, I'm not sure where we would be. There's not much help out here like you guys! We are forever grateful!

-C

Hi S-
I was truly blown away by everything you and everyone at the Sharing Center did to help me! It's hard to even put into words. And saying thank you isn't nearly enough. Myself and so many others I see are struggling everyday, having little or nothing, battling with having any hope left, and want to give up.

You provided more than just food, a pair of Pumas AND brand new Steve Madden's (which I still can't believe, I've told everyone!), socks, gloves, etc. You gave me HOPE that day!! And for the next day! And provided me with the confidence to enter my interview today! You can't put a price on that. I wasn't expecting all the assistance you try to provide for housing, which is really needed out here. I hope that you're able to continue to receive the resources in this area. While food and clothing are definitely necessities, having a roof is a difficult challenge for so many of us.

Thank you for your follow up today!

Making An Impact

Program/Service	2022	2023
Community Referrals	27,000	27,638 ↑
Population Served	3300	4924 ↑

In 2023, we saw the demand for many services rise over 2022.

Pounds of Food Distributed	372,348	457,210 ↑
Senior Supplemental Meals	514	710 ↑
Holiday Meals	1858	3117 ↑
School Supplies	359	348 ↓
Christmas Gifts	548	616 ↑
Easter Baskets	348	304 ↓

In 2023, we received 409 housing support requests, but the number of successful placements remains limited.

We need your help. 🏠

Grateful to the many volunteers 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌		
Volunteers	126	223 ↑
Volunteer Hours	6721	11,645 ↑

**You can help !
Support Our Housing
Programs Here**



Kenosha County: Housing Conundrum or **Crisis?**

Estimated demand for housing in Western Kenosha County

30%

To meet the estimated demand for housing in Kenosha County, development of more than 1,000 housing units per year for the next 10 years is required

Zylke, Teddy. "COMING UP SHORT." Milwaukee Business Journal. 14 July 2023

Almost half of renters in Kenosha County pay more than 30% of their income towards rental costs

"Housing in Kenosha County." Building Our Future, Urban Institute, June 2020

Since 2017, Wisconsin home prices have risen by

50%

Albers, Andrea. "Wisconsin Home Prices Have Risen by 50% since 2017." Outpacing Incomes." TMJ4 News, 22 Apr. 2024.

Populations affected include:
Families
Single Adults
Seniors

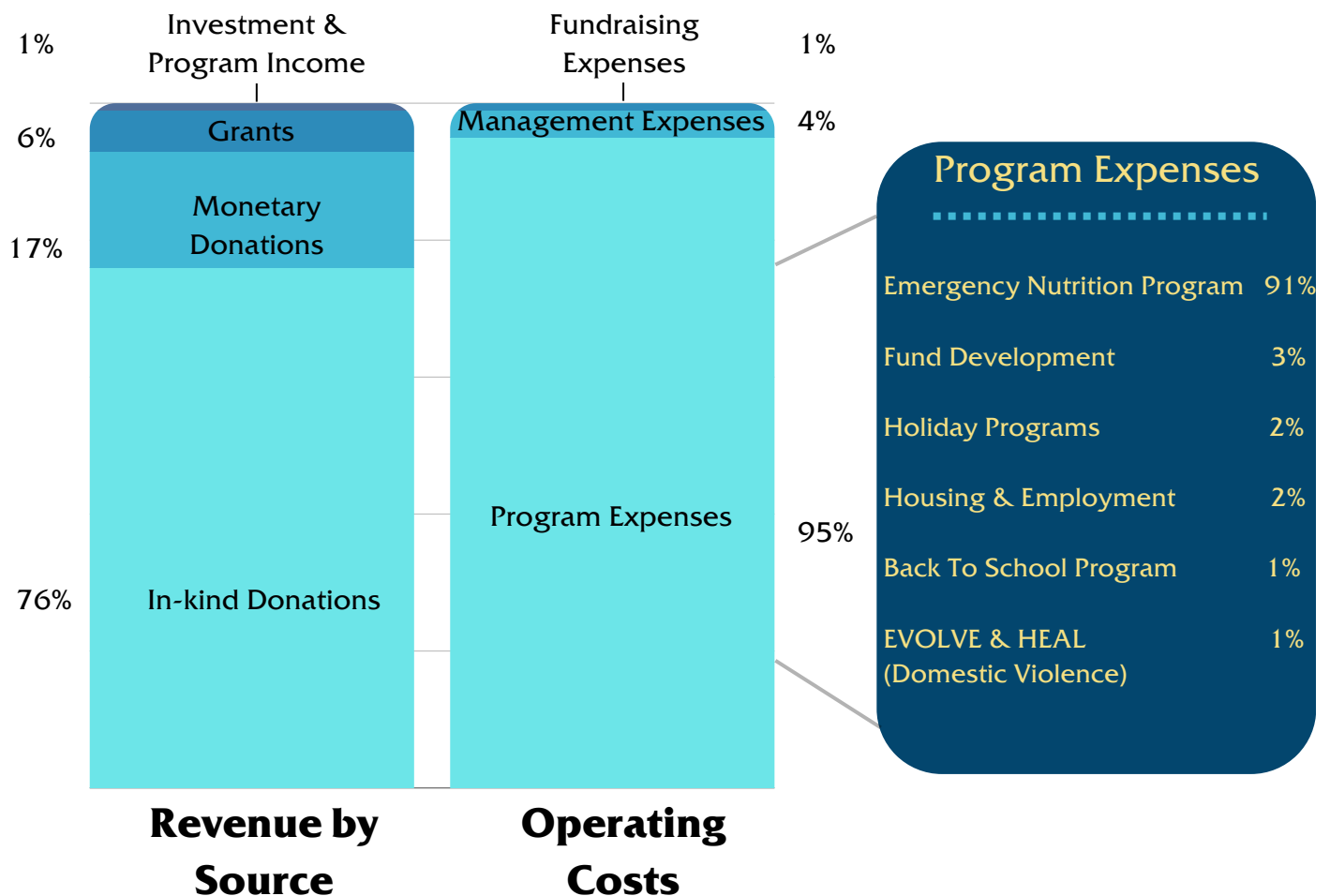
Rising food and rent costs have led to a significant increase in the utilization of The Sharing Center's housing services. Individuals are facing challenges in affording their current homes and finding cost-effective and secure alternatives.

Due to limited resources, there is a significant need to provide sufficient support to address the persistent housing crisis. Residents and businesses in Kenosha County are acutely aware of the area's housing affordability challenges and shortages. The County, City and multiple municipalities are actively exploring potential solutions. The demand in Western Kenosha County is substantial, estimated at around 30%.

At The Sharing Center, we are aiding a growing number of under-housed and homeless families, accentuated by the lack of housing options aligning with the community's income levels. Those in need range from capable, healthy adults to individuals in their 70s and 80s, as well as families with newborns. The Sharing Center actively engages in three county-wide housing committees that address these pressing challenges and encourage the community to get involved.

2023 Financial Information

The Center continues to be fiscally responsible with the resources provided and donated by our community. In 2023, 95% of our financial resources went toward our program expenses including Emergency Nutrition, Holiday Programs, Back to School programs, and more.



In 2023, we were able to make great progress toward our goals thanks to the contributions from community members and supporters. In 2023, we...

Assisted a record number of people seeking help securing better-paying jobs.

More than doubled our multilingual services.

Increased partnerships with local organizations allowing for a greater community impact.

Community Collaborations



Stamp Out Hunger is Back!

Stamp Out Hunger, the largest nationwide all-volunteer food drive run by US Postal Carriers is one of the most crucial food collection events to supply the shelves of The Sharing Center food pantry. Each May postal carriers from Bristol and Salem Lakes deliver bags for community members to fill with shelf-stable food items. The postal carriers deliver the filled bags to the Center where 70+ volunteers sort and organize products getting them ready to distribute to our families. In 2023 the community assisted in collecting 14,222 pounds of food!

The Sharing Center disbursed 457,210 pounds of food and 3,288 pounds of pet food in 2023.

That's 228 tons of food!

DID YOU KNOW?

Life-Saving Vending Machines

The Kenosha County Medical Examiner's office recorded 58 drug related deaths in 2022 with 38 of them being directly related to Fentanyl. In 2023 those numbers were 56 and 41 respectively with cases still pending. In response to this crisis, The Sharing Center was chosen as the rural location for one of two Narcan vending machines. Kenosha County Department of Health secured grant funding for the service, and the outdoor temperature-controlled machine allows community members 24-hour access to free Fentanyl test strips, Narcan, and Care Kits.



Around Town

In partnership with local organizations, The Sharing Center participated in several new and recurring events bringing awareness of our services to new audiences.

Recurring events

Families Branching Out - Bristol

Liberty Fest Parade - Twin Lakes

Bristol Progress Days - Bristol

Festival of Lights - Bristol

Aurora Children's Health Fair - Pleasant Prairie

Stuff The Bus - Randall and Wheatland Schools

Pumpkin Blow Out - Paddock Lake

Silver Lake Light Parade - Silver Lake

Culver's Scoopie Nights - Antioch



New events in 2023

Success Fair - Kenosha

Snowtubing Night - Wilmot Ski Hills

Meat Raffles - Sandlots of Salem

Pumpkin Launch - Sandlots of Salem

Hope Lutheran Car Show - Twin Lakes

Cereal Dominoes - Salem Grade School

Hold My Beer Grand Opening - Kenosha

Advocate Aurora Senior Fair - Trevor

North Bridge Church Christmas Giving - Antioch

Packer/Bear Penny War - Salem Community Library

Silver Bells Festival of Lights - Silver Lake

**If your organization has an upcoming event we would love to participate!
Please reach out to let us know about attending your event!**

Grow WITH Us in 2024

Center to launch \$3 million growth campaign in 2024!

In 2023, thanks to the support from community members like you, we were able to purchase the building we have called home (but rented) for 12 years. This building has served as a beacon of hope for thousands of individuals and families across western Kenosha County. Over the years, the building has received lots of TLC including the addition of a commercial walk-in freezer in 2013, the beautiful mural on the east wall in 2020, and optimization of space inside the Center.

The purchase of our building in our 40th year lit the spark for new and innovative plans for years 41 and beyond.

As we continue to grow, expand our services, and add additional high-quality staff, we will quickly outgrow

this new space. Therefore, we are launching our Growth Campaign. With a goal of \$3 million dollars, The Sharing Center's Growth Campaign will focus on scaling our ability to serve, making space and building improvements, and telling the stories of impact. Visit our website at www.thesharingcentergrows.org for more information and learn how to get involved.



Staff Spotlight



**Maddie
Murphy**

In addition to working with domestic violence/sexual assault/human trafficking survivors, I also work with people to try to secure stable housing. During pantry service hours, I'm usually assisting with client check-in at the front desk or meeting one-on-one.

I really enjoy how people-focused The Sharing Center is. It's a building full of people who truly care about connecting with and helping others. On any day, I can look around and see volunteers and staff laughing and sitting with pantry visitors, visitors chatting with each other, and Zelda the pantry dog saying hello to everyone. It makes it so easy to enjoy coming to work.

I'm looking forward to being at the Center during the upcoming expansion. It's exciting to be a part of the Center as it expands to meet the growing community needs.

How to Support Us

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 2024 are to:

Continue to expand our community partnerships

Help more western Kenosha county residents secure living-wage employment and safe, affordable housing

Fully fund our capital campaign to meet community needs for the future

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!

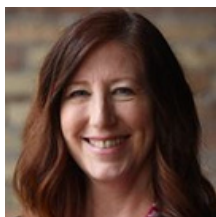
40 Years of Service



2023 marked the Sharing Center's 40th year serving residents of Western Kenosha County. We celebrated by bringing together those in the community who have had an impact on the Center since our humble beginnings in 1983. The night was filled with great company and great memories as guests reminisced on the growth and changes the Center has gone through over the years.



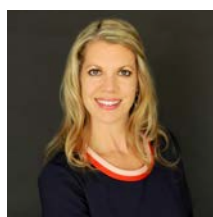
Our Team



Sharon Pomaville
Executive Director
Salem



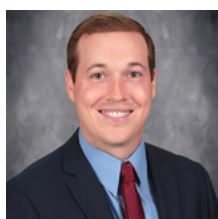
Larry Ellis
President
Trevor



Jenni Hansen
Vice President
Salem



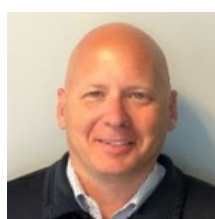
Rick Honaker
Treasurer
Trevor



Tom Neave
Secretary
Trevor



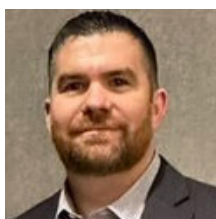
**Dragutin "Danny"
Djordjevic**
Board Member
Racine



Ed Egen
Board Member
Wheatland



Lisa Howe
Board Member
Silver Lake



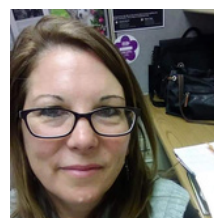
Shawn Keena
Board Member
Lake Geneva



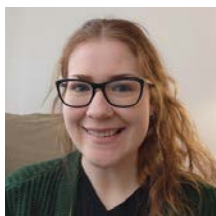
Kathy Koshgarian
Board Member
Trevor



Abbie Rathmann
Board Member
Antioch



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



United Way
of Kenosha County

