



COMMUNITY ADVOCATES
Where Meeting Basic Needs Inspires Hope

Annual Report 2010





COMMUNITY ADVOCATES

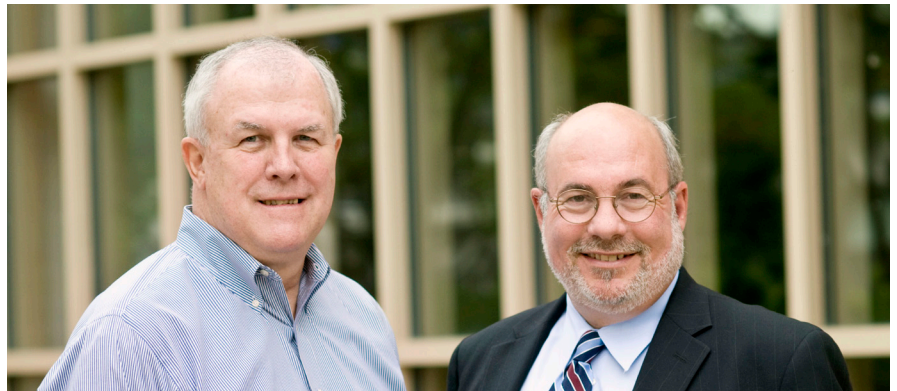
Where Meeting Basic Needs Inspires Hope

Our Mission

To provide individuals and families with advocacy and services that meet their basic needs so they may live in dignity.

Our Vision

A community in which each person envisions a future with hope.



Dear Friends,

Each year, Community Advocates must address new challenges and embrace new opportunities to improve our programs and offer effective, personalized services to an increasing number of clients.

In 2010, the most visible challenge was the acquisition and completion of our new offices at 728 North James Lovell Street. For those of you familiar with our former headquarters, the outdated and cramped location compelled us to seek larger and better organized space for our agency.

Our new facility allowed us to consolidate several satellite sites and our entire non-residential services staff in a central location that is easily accessible to our clients, staff and stakeholders. The completely remodeled downtown warehouse now presents a welcoming and professional setting that permits staff to efficiently serve our clients and community while demonstrating the same concern and compassion that has always been the hallmark of Community Advocates.

For more than 35 years, Community Advocates has set the highest standards for meeting people's basic needs and treating all with the dignity they deserve. From housing to health care to public policy advocacy, Community Advocates provides services directly and indirectly, helping to build and maintain cooperative networks among human service providers.

Our programs focus on assisting the poorest individuals and families. Your support is helping us transform a vacant warehouse into a community distribution center for success and independence.

We want to personally thank the many donors, board members, staff and volunteers that make our efforts possible.

Sincerely,

Tom Brophy
President, Board of Directors

Joseph L. Volk
Chief Executive Officer

Delivering Essential Services

A social worker at another of Milwaukee's human service agencies often refers her clients to Community Advocates for services that help prevent eviction. She was advising a friend in another city who was being illegally charged for a "second" security deposit. "Don't you have a Community Advocates there?" she asked.

Not every city has a Community Advocates nor, in fact, any single agency with the expertise to help fulfill the basic needs that must be met in order to sustain the lives of Milwaukee's most vulnerable residents.

CA's **Basic Needs Division** specializes in advocacy and services that address the most fundamental requirements needed to maintain housing and health. Programs include utilities assistance, healthcare advocacy, benefits enrollment, SSI appeals and more than 15 distinct housing programs designed to assist homeless individuals or families at risk of homelessness. These range from short-term rent assistance to rapid placement of families who are homeless in permanent, affordable, safe housing. Each program is designed to be a bridge to self-sufficiency for low-income Milwaukeeans.

Community Advocates' **Behavioral Health Division** provides mental health-related services to people who are homeless and living with mental illness. Within the division, the Autumn West Safe Haven provides short-term housing beds and supportive services to men and women who are homeless and mentally ill. The Homeless Outreach Nursing Center offers healthcare assistance and social services outreach to homeless individuals with mental health problems living in shelters, streets or other places not meant for human habitation. The Case Management and Project Bridge departments provide a personalized combination of immediate safe housing, engagement in physical and mental health and AODA services, income advocacy, meals, outreach services, case management, life skills training and ultimately, permanent housing placement for homeless individuals with mental illness.



Eliminating Stereotypes

In 2010, Community Advocates began planning a photo/audio exhibition entitled *Homeless Is Not My Name*. Its purpose was to draw attention to the humanity and individuality of people and families who find themselves seeking emergency shelter assistance or living in places not meant for human habitation.

All too often, we succumb to categorizing persons by their situation rather than remaining open to who they really are.

In partnership with FUEL Milwaukee*, Community Advocates recruited local artist/photographers and sound technicians to volunteer their time to capture and record the faces of homelessness. We hope the images and stories will help us begin to see the faces and hear the voices rather than assume a stereotypical portrait.

The situations that lead to homelessness are as varied as the people portrayed in the photographs and each story is unique. Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design presented the first exhibition. Please visit our website to see some of these powerful images and meet these compelling people. Schedules for additional shows will also be posted.

*FUEL is an economic development initiative of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce whose members are dedicated young professionals working to promote and positively influence their community.

Community Advocates established the **Public Policy Institute** to identify and carry out specific, evidence-based policy changes that will help reduce poverty and improve the quality of life for low-income individuals and families in Milwaukee and throughout Wisconsin. PPI is intensely engaged in strategizing, organizing, communicating, and developing



policy and legislation in order to persuade policy makers to create public policies and legislation that directly help impoverished people lead better lives.

Uniquely situated, the Institute operates within the environment of CA's direct service divisions and interacts with both clients and the staff who provide advocacy and supportive services. To this end, it joins with individuals and organizations at every level—local, state and national— to develop and implement a practical strategy to reduce poverty throughout Wisconsin. This approach includes constant monitoring and consideration of the policies and issues affecting healthcare, housing, criminal justice, job creation, education, and prevention initiatives to ensure both the safety and success of Milwaukee and Wisconsin's low-income communities.



COMMUNITY ADVOCATES
Public Policy Institute



JUSTICE 2000

A Division of Community Advocates



The **Justice 2000 Division** is a leader in efforts to improve Milwaukee's public safety by working closely with the local justice community. Through evidence-based programs, Justice 2000 seeks to eliminate treatable causes of criminal behavior to reduce the number of non-violent inmates within the overcrowded jail and prison systems. The program saves Milwaukee County hundreds of thousands of dollars by allowing non-violent offenders

recovery options instead of incarceration.

PRE-TRIAL SERVICES

The Division's nationally recognized Pre-trial Services Program works closely with local justice officials to assess each defendant's social, clinical and criminal history, and identify individuals who may be eligible for Treatment Court, Deferred Prosecution, pre-trial release or referral to appropriate, community-based treatment services.

MUNICIPAL COURT ALTERNATIVES

Justice 2000 intervenes on behalf of defendants who have been cited for City of Milwaukee ordinance violations and are at risk of incarceration due to indigence, mental health and/or AODA issues.

Programs that satisfy Milwaukee Municipal Court obligations include community service, referrals for AODA and/or mental health treatment, and employment services.

Empowering Women and Families



MILWAUKEE WOMEN'S CENTER

Where Abuse Ends and Hope Begins

Our Mission

To provide holistic care to empower women and families who are experiencing abuse to live safe, independent and healthy lives.



Anthea was terrified. She lost her job and was behind on her rent. She was living with an abusive boyfriend and the abuse escalated as Anthea's financial situation got worse. She was the sole provider. She gathered her son and the courage to leave and tried to live out of her car until "things got better". Then her car broke down and so did Anthea. "I just didn't know how to make things work," she said. Luckily, she refused to return to her abuser and sought shelter at the Milwaukee Women's Center.

Anthea (not her real name) is just one of the victims of domestic violence who have made a new beginning—a new life—with the help of the professional and compassionate staff of the Milwaukee Women's Center. Like many before her, Anthea found safety, shelter, food and clothing. She found a support network and a base from which she could seek new employment. Her son was able to continue at his old school and received homework assistance and special services to help him deal with the issues of past violence and prepare for a safe and gentle future.

The programs of the [Milwaukee Women's Center](#) are designed to help women like Anthea and hundreds of others each year.

Special thanks to our loyal volunteers who in 2010 gave the gift of 6,583 hours, which equals a donation value of more than \$140,600. We deeply appreciate the expertise, knowledge and time shared with our clients and staff.

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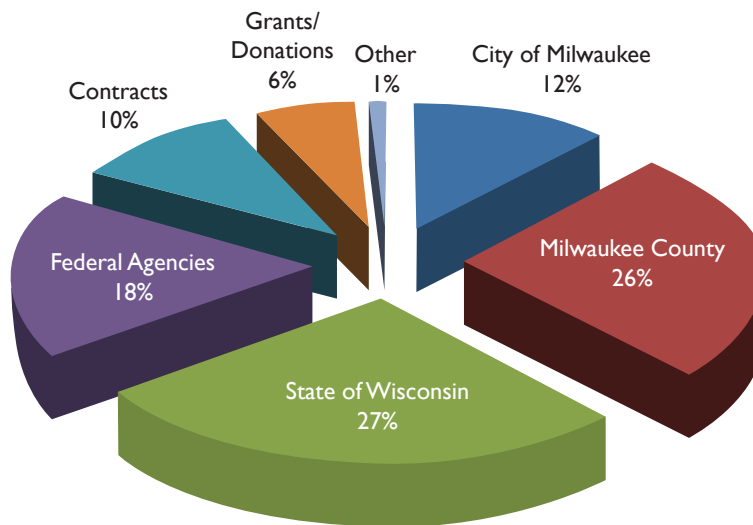
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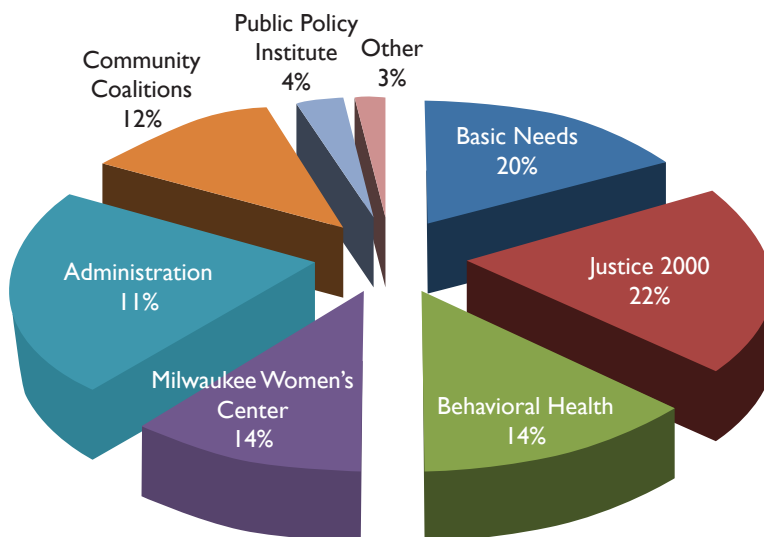
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Annual Operating Budget: \$15,911,273

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**Every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list.
We apologize if any errors have occurred. For more information, please contact the
Development Office at Community Advocates at (414) 270-2942 or
the Milwaukee Women's Center at (414) 270-2956. Thank You!**

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