

LEADERSHIP



Dear Friends,

OUR VISION A community in which each person envisions a

future with hope.

In 2007, Community Advocates was both encouraged and challenged by opportunities to provide additional services, programs and advocacy to individuals and families in Milwaukee County. The stories within this annual report illustrate our many accomplishments highlighting the dedication and vision that define our management and staff.

Community Advocates served a record number of clients and added much needed personnel and programming to better serve our community. We merged with the Milwaukee Women's Center to continue providing safe shelter and services for women and children who are victims of family violence. We started a \$2 million permanent housing program for the chronically homeless, giving stability to men and women diminished by the struggles of living day to day on the street. The establishment of Community Advocates' Public Policy Institute formalized our commitment to advocate for sound policy measures that will effectively reduce poverty and its devastating effects.

This was also a year of consolidation, a year of evaluating and improving our capacity to develop and expand our services to the Milwaukee community, all the while maintaining the high standards and fiscal integrity for which we have become known.

OUR MISSION

To provide individuals and families with advocacy and services that meet their basic needs so they may live in dignity. In today's troubled economic times, sound planning in the non-profit world is of the utmost importance. We've all felt the effects of the economic downturn, but we must remember that as hard as this crisis has been for us, it has been devastating for the poor. For proof we need look no further than the record number of emergency energy and housing assistance calls which we received last year.

We thank each of you, our friends and benefactors, for your support in such difficult times. We ask for your continued assistance in helping Community Advocates serve as the compelling voice for Milwaukee's low-income and at-risk individuals and families.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph L. Volk

Executive Director

Thomas A. Brophy
President, Board of Directors

Bonnes G. Brogsky

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It is estimated that 85% of all homeless individuals suffer from some form of mental illness.

PROJECT BRIDGE

In 2007, Community Advocates implemented *Project Bridge*, a program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that provides safe, affordable, permanent housing each year for 60 chronically homeless individuals who suffer from mental health and addiction issues. *Project Bridge* offers intensive case management services designed to reduce the chances of becoming homeless again. Other supportive social and health services allow clients to establish a history of consistent rental payment, ongoing mental and physical health maintenance, and enrollment and compliance in SSI or SDI programs. Community Advocates has established open and cooperative relationships with local landlords to ensure secure housing and positive intervention if behavioral issues jeopardize a tenant's lease.

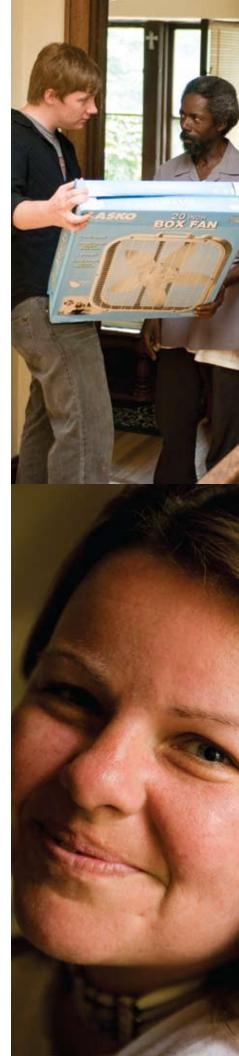
Miss Annette was one of *Project Bridge's* first clients. She lived on the streets or was in and out of homeless shelters. When in shelter Miss Annette was often disruptive; she rarely talked, and when she did it was in a raspy voice that people couldn't understand. She would ask the same questions over and over again, becoming embarrassed when people didn't respond, and her seeming inability to follow the rules led to multiple expulsions from the shelter.

When Miss Annette was referred to *Project Bridge* by Healthcare for the Homeless it was determined that she had suffered significant hearing loss—it wasn't that she *wouldn't* follow the rules, she just couldn't *hear* them. With the help of Independence First her caseworker was able to obtain a voucher through the Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for equipment that allowed Annette to hear. Now, with the aid of this equipment, Miss Annette can hear the telephone and television, the doorbell and her friends' voices. More importantly, she can now hear her own voice, which allows her to communicate with others. Within hours of getting the equipment, Miss Annette's caseworker was able to establish her needs for personal hygiene and healthcare.

Miss Annette has her own apartment through *Project Bridge*. Her hair is fluffy, she's well-groomed and has new, clean clothes. After years of neglect she has an appointment with a dentist to regularly examine her teeth. She now knows where to shop for food. And, for someone who rarely spoke, Miss Annette is positively chatty.

Home Sweet Home. Home is Where the Heart Is. Faith, Joy and Happiness.

For the formerly homeless clients of Community Advocates' *Project Bridge*, these phrases are more than just platitudes. Whether executed as a cross stitch or presented in an inspirational photo, every person in the project is given a framed picture that helps them celebrate their new home. Miss Annette's picture reads "Home is What You Make It."





More than 8,500 domestic abuse charges are filed each year in Milwaukee alone.



MILWAUKEE WOMEN'S CENTER: WHERE ABUSE ENDS AND HOPE BEGINS

In June 2007, the Milwaukee Women's Center became a division of Community Advocates. The merger was completed at breakneck speed and in record time. Community Advocates was approached to help stabilize an important and effective resource for victims of domestic violence. It was also imperative to maintain supportive client services and help preserve jobs for those who can and do make a difference. The result of the merger met all of those challenges and more. Community Advocates is proud to have joined with the Milwaukee Women's Center to affect a significant agency and staff relocation and restructuring while continuing to offer uninterrupted services and support.

Since 1980, the Milwaukee Women's Center has been serving individuals and families affected by domestic violence and co-occurring issues.

Today, the Milwaukee Women's Center continues its mission of providing holistic care to empower women and families who are experiencing abuse to live safe, independent and healthy lives. Each year, more than 1,000 women, men and children benefit from intervention, prevention and treatment services and 12,000 individuals receive assistance through the 24-hour crisis line and community education program.

2007 CONSUMER IMPACT

- 137 women and 201 children received emergency shelter and support away from their abusers.
- \bullet Of the 86 women who requested housing assistance while in shelter, 69 (80%) transitioned to safe housing.
- \bullet The 24-hour crisis line provided crisis counseling, information and referrals to 11,844 callers.
- 45 pregnant women and mothers received intensive, long-term substance abuse treatment through the POWER Program.
- 11 women (25%) acquired employment and/or returned to school and 29 consumers (64% of participants) relocated to safe and affordable housing with their children.
- 87 women age 50 and older received services and support through the Older Abused Women's Program. Thirty-nine women received crisis counseling, information and referrals, and 48 women participated in ongoing weekly support groups.
- 77 low-income, homeless families received housing counseling and assistance in securing safe, stable housing away from their abusers.
- 68 men participated in the Nevermore Batterers Treatment Program. Of the 68 who began the intensive, 26-week educational program, 60 (88%) completed all of the program requirements and 48 had not re-offended after six months.







A family of four making \$20,650 qualifies as poor within the federal guidelines. One in four Milwaukeeans lives in poverty.

REDUCING POVERTY IN MILWAUKEE

Poverty is not natural. It is also not inevitable. We reduced poverty dramatically in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s. We can do it again here in Milwaukee.

Community Advocates' new Public Policy Institute was conceived and established in late 2007 with a clear and simple goal: to explain why so many Milwaukeeans are poor, and then to put in place policies that will greatly reduce the level of poverty in our community.

Above all else, the poor simply want to be in the mainstream. They want stable jobs. They want decent incomes. They want good childcare and early education. They want accessible and affordable health care. Their hopes and dreams are the same as everyone's.

What's missing are the right public policies—policies that ensure that low-income people have access to the job opportunities, earnings and earning supplements, childcare and early education, and health care that can lift them out of poverty and into the middle class.

According to Community Advocates' Director of Policy and Planning, David Riemer, who heads up the Public Policy Institute, widespread poverty in Milwaukee is primarily the result

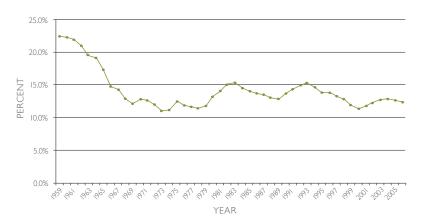
of missing—or misguided—public policy: "By putting in place the right policies, we can again cut poverty in half in Milwaukee within a decade. And eventually, we can liberate the poor almost entirely from the poverty prison."

"The heart of Community Advocates is providing effective advocacy 'downstream' for the poorest among us, but at the same time we need to go 'upstream' and help the poor escape the poverty trap in the first place. That's why we created the Public Policy Institute."

JOE VOLK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Institute also aims to lower the many burdens that the poor face as they navigate through life. Its mission includes working closely with other advocates to ensure that low-income individuals can easily obtain and afford the alcohol and other drug addiction treatment, mental health services, decent housing, utility services and quality education they need to lead healthier and more hopeful lives.



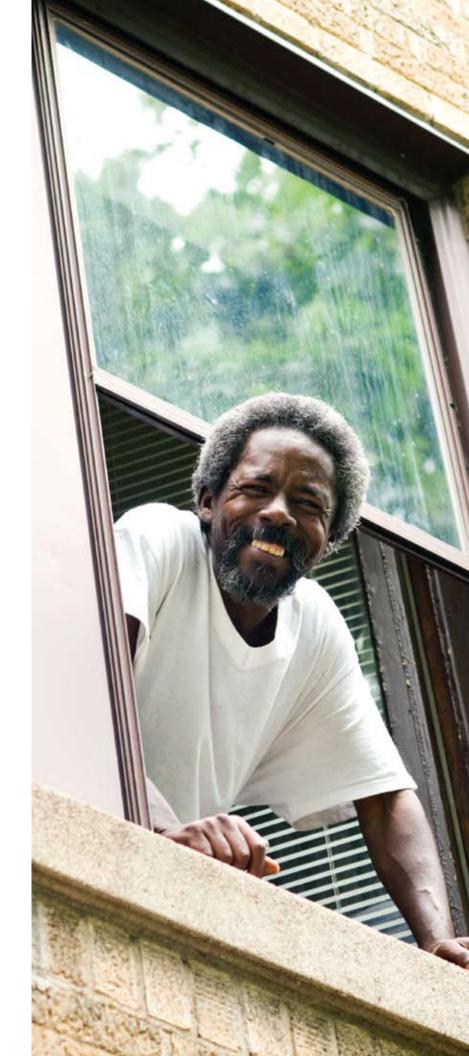






ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Healthcare Advocacy Department established a program in the Milwaukee Public Schools connecting uninsured children to health care insurance.
- The Disabilities Department now experiences an 85% success rate in appeals of decisions for Supplemental Social Security disability claims.
- Of the more than 3,100 persons served in the Utilities Department, disconnection was prevented for more than 1,400 households, which set up payment plans and attended energy conservation workshops to improve their retention of energy services.
- Brighter Futures' direct prevention program served 23,251
 Milwaukee County residents with sustained prevention
 activities that involved 11,795 children, youth and adults.
- Community Advocates' departments conducted more than 1,000 training sessions and workshops in energy conservation, health care benefits, budget management, landlord/tenant issues and disability issues.
- Community Advocates implemented an agency-wide management information system which allows us to measure the success and quality of our work and provides data which will be used to improve our services.
- In the Housing Advocacy Department's Security
 Deposit Guarantee Program, 678 low-income households
 were able to secure housing with the help of a security
 deposit guarantee agreement. Only 10 of these households
 defaulted on their agreement.

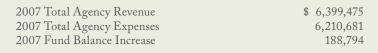


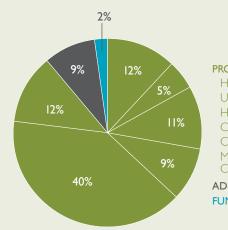
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2007

ASSETS
Current
Cash as
Certific
Client

Current assets:	
Cash and equivalents	\$ 71,847
Certificates of deposit	272,605
Client trust funds	105 424
Receivables	105,424
Grants	1 255 714
	1,355,714
Colortyme loans	52,063
Interest	8,426
Other	4,023
Total receivables	1,420,226
Prepaid expenses	11,588
Total current assets	1,881,690
Property and equipment:	
Land, buildings and improvements	723,457
Vehicle	17,143
Furniture and equipment	191,999
Total property and equipment	932,599
Less: accumulated depreciation	(266,318)
Net property and equipment	666,281
Other assets:	
Intangible assets	133,203
Colortyme restricted:	
Cash and equivalents	19,657
Certificates of deposit	137,719
Total other assets	290,579
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	PROGRAM SERVICES	89%
	Housing	12%
	Utilities	5%
	Health Care/Disabilities	11%
%	Case Management	9%
	Community Coalitions	40%
7	Milwaukee Women's	
	Center	12%
7	ADMINISTRATION	9%
	FUNDRAISING/OTHER	2%

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Total other assets TOTAL ASSETS

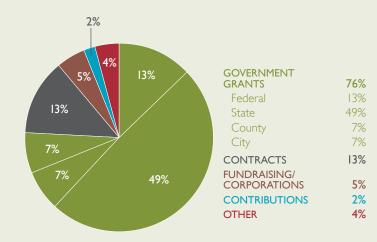
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Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$ 68,349
Current portion of long-term liabilities	16,539
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	159,081
Accrued retirement	33,616
Subcontracts payable	385,675
Deferred revenue	75,000
Other accrued expenses	9,847
Client trust funds	105,424
Total current liabilities	853,531
Long-term liabilities:	
Long-term debt, less current maturities	599,792
Total long-term liabilities	599,792
Net assets:	
Unrestricted	996,514
Temporarily restricted	388,713
Total net assets	1,385,227

INCOME

\$ 2,838,550

\$ 2,838,550

EXPENSES





WHAT WE DO

More than 25 specialized programs help meet the basic needs of our clients. The following is a list of the major programs and services available to Milwaukee residents.

HOUSING ADVOCACY

Department of Neighborhood Services Relocation Program helps families and individuals living in severely substandard housing find affordable, permanent housing.

Department of Neighborhood Services Liaison Program helps tenants negotiate rent compensation and/or repair for health and safety code violations through the Rent Withholding Program.

Family Transitional Living Program provides permanent supportive housing, case management, money management and general advocacy services to formerly homeless families.

Homelessness Prevention Program provides advocacy, case management and rent payment assistance to families and individuals at-risk of becoming homeless.

Home Needs Loan Program provides zero interest loans for household essentials including beds, appliances and furniture to individuals who successfully complete the Security Deposit Guarantee Program.

My Home provides case management to low-income families with a parent in substance abuse recovery.

Rent Abatement Program assists tenants living in substandard housing by negotiating repairs or rent compensation.

Security Deposit Guarantee Program assists families and individuals at-risk of becoming homeless to secure permanent housing through negotiated agreements between the tenant and prospective landlord.

Tenant Landlord Counseling Program provides information, referral and advocacy services concerning renter's rights and responsibilities for tenants and landlords.

UMOS W-2 Housing Advocacy provides advocacy services to W-2 participants experiencing a housing-related crisis.

HEALTH CARE ADVOCACY

Covering Kids & Families, a Robert Wood Johnson-funded program that provides information, referrals, community resources and advocacy for health care needs through the Med-Line and community outreach.

Hospital Advocacy Program Aurora Health Care and Wheaton Franciscan Health Care provides patients with application assistance for SSI, entitlement programs (T-19, FoodShare, childcare) and general advocacy.

Medicaid Outreach advocates provide community and advocacy to increase enrollment and utilization of Medicaid and BadgerCare.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Stable Housing for Individuals with Disabilities provides case management and financial payee services for formerly homeless individuals receiving SSI or SSD for severe and persistent mental illness and/or dual diagnosis.

Homeless Family Protective Payment provides case management and oversees monthly budgeting for formerly homeless families referred by shelters or other homeless service providers.

Project Bridge provides stable housing and intensive case management services for dually diagnosed, chronically homeless individuals to reduce chances of becoming homeless yet again.

DISABILITIES ADVOCACY

SSI Appeals Representation provides legal and certified lay representation for SSI appeals cases.

IDAP assesses individuals' disability claims to determine likelihood of SSI/SSDI approval.

Kenosha County SSI Advocacy Program provides SSI application assistance, advocacy and representation to W-2 participants in Kenosha County.

MILWAUKEE WOMEN'S CENTER

Milwaukee Women's Center Shelter provides safe, temporary housing and services for women and their children who are victims of domestic violence.

POWER provides in-home, group counseling sessions and case management for women who have substance abuse issues.





FIP provides culturally sensitive in-home counseling and case management services to African American and Hispanic individuals who have substance abuse issues.

Older Abused Women's Program provides assessment, support, case management and group education services to women over the age of 50 who are victims of domestic violence.

Nevermore provides intervention and counseling for batterers through weekly support group sessions.

UTILITIES ADVOCACY

Low Income Pilot Program assists customers (who have high energy bill arrears and a history of service disconnection) develop affordable payment plans.

Energy Assistance Outreach Program provides educational workshops, case management and mediation services to Energy Assistance recipients to establish affordable payment plans.

Telephone Assistance Program assists customers to develop reasonable payment agreements to avoid service interruption, or if disconnected, to re-establish basic telephone service.

PUBLIC POLICY AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

The Public Policy Institute, the newest department of Community Advocates, focuses on public policy issues that adversely impact low-income individuals and families and develops effective strategies and efforts to bring about social policy change.

Milwaukee Brighter Futures Initiative, for which Community Advocates serves as lead agency, is Milwaukee County's largest coalition of child, youth and family-serving agencies working cooperatively to prevent child abuse, teen pregnancy, gang violence and alcohol/drug abuse.

Milwaukee Continuum of Care, coordinated by Community Advocates, is the planning body for all homeless services in Milwaukee County. The more than 75 human service and government entities that make up the CoC's membership have a common goal to "eliminate homelessness in Milwaukee."

HealthWatch, founded by Community Advocates, is an 80-member coalition of health service providers and advocates that provides strategy and oversight to address the health care needs of Milwaukee's low-income, underserved and uninsured populations.

MAJOR REVENUE SOURCES

FEDERAL

Department of Housing and Urban Development Federal Emergency Management Agency

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Department of Administration - Division of Housing Department of Children and Families Department of Health Services Department of Justice

MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Behavioral Health Division Disability Services Division Division of Housing Economic Support Division

CITY OF MILWAUKEE

Department of Administration Community Development Block Grant
Department of Administration - Emergency Shelter Grant
Department of Neighborhood Services
Housing Authority

PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND CORPORATE CONTRACTS

Aurora Health Care

CHILD

City of Milwaukee Health Department - Protect All Kids Continuum of Care

Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program

Horizons - Project Heart

Kenosha County - SSI

Managed Health Services

Public Service Commission

United Way

We Energies

Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare

OUR DONORS

The work of Community Advocates, Inc. and the Milwaukee Women's Center would be impossible without the generous support of the following corporations, foundations, individuals, and civic and religious organizations. On behalf of our staff, board and volunteers, we thank you for investing in our clients and missions.

Tom and Denise Curtis

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Greater Milwaukee Foundation

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\$25.000+

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\$2,500 - \$4,999

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\$500 - \$999

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\$1 - \$99

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AAUW Northshore Branch
Aala Reed
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Appleby Decor Centre
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Milwaukee Brewers

Milwaukee Art Museum

Milwaukee Public Library

Milwaukee Wine Cellar

Milwaukee Repertory Theater

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra

Merry Maids

Milwaukee Yoga Center Miss Groove Ms. Monterey Mitts Monreal's El Matador Mount Mary College, Graphic Design Art Dept. Mike Murphy's Swingin' Door Ms. Beverly Myers National Council of Jewish Women North Star American Bistro P.F. Chang's China Bistro Pasta Tree and Wine Bar Peabodys Furniture The Pfister Hotel Pius XI High School The Buffet at Potawatomi Bingo Casino RSVP-Interfaith Linda Rice Ms. Lucrecia Roberts Roots Restaurant & Cellar St. Robert Parish Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops The Soup Ladle Spa Roma Beth Stafford/Key Milwaukee Steinhafels Ms. Meghan Steinmeyer Stone Creek Coffee Style-Line Furniture Summerfest Sunset Playhouse That's Amore Italian Cafe Three Graces Ms. Meredith Trimboli The Turkey Club Urban Behavior Verizon Business Veteran's Hospital -HBPL Program VICI Capilli Beauty School Vino 100 Ms. Sally Wagner Gary White/PyraMax Bank F. Maggie Williams Michelle Williams Wisconsin Athletic Club Women's Club of Greenfield YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee Emily Yuenkel

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, Inc. at (414) 449-4767 x 154 or the Milwaukee Women's Center at (414) 875-2055. Thank you!

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