



Making a Difference Every Day



COMMUNITY ADVOCATES  
Where Meeting Basic Needs Inspires Hope

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

## **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.

# A Message to Our Friends

It is with sincere appreciation that we thank you for your support of Community Advocates' programs and services. 2014 was a year of transition for our agency and our dedicated staff who day-in and day-out provided client-centered care to help low-income individuals and families address housing and utility needs, mental health and disability issues, addiction, and domestic violence.

During 2014, Community Advocates faced a number of challenges and together – with the unyielding support of our volunteer Board of Directors, staff, agency volunteers, donors and friends – we were able to turn those challenges into opportunities. Simply put, we focused on our core mission and client services – the reason why we do what we do every day.

As President of the Board of Directors, we are honored that under the leadership of Andi Elliott, who was officially named CEO in September 2014, the agency has thrived. Andi's 25-year history with Community Advocates and her preceding role as COO, as well as her relationships with all of our partners, have proven to be beneficial to the short-term and long-term stability of Community Advocates and all of its affiliates and services.

On behalf of the tens of thousands of lives we touch each year, we cannot thank you enough for your interest, generosity, compassion and investment in our work in the greater Milwaukee community. Thank you for making a difference!

With gratitude,



Pam Klein  
President  
Board of Directors



Andi Elliott  
Chief Executive Officer

# Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

Years Ended December 31, 2013 and 2014

ASSETS	2013	2014
<b>Current assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 396,638	\$ 548,658
Investments	\$ 399,914	-
Receivables:		
Grants	\$ 1,522,436	\$ 1,010,545
Pledges - Current portion	\$ 221,390	\$ 280,017
Prepaid expenses and deposits	\$ 36,305	\$ 70,634
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,576,683</b>	<b>\$ 1,909,854</b>
<b>Restricted assets:</b>		
Restricted cash - Client trust	\$ 188,178	\$ 139,330
<b>Total restricted assets</b>	<b>\$ 188,178</b>	<b>\$ 139,330</b>
<b>Property and equipment:</b>		
Land, buildings and improvements	\$ 9,905,116	\$ 9,905,116
Furniture and equipment	\$ 912,069	\$ 912,069
Vehicle	\$ 17,143	\$ 17,143
Total property and equipment	\$10,834,328	\$10,834,328
Less accumulated depreciation	\$ 2,494,180	\$ 2,924,769
<b>Property and equipment - Net</b>	<b>\$ 8,340,148</b>	<b>\$ 7,909,559</b>
<b>Other assets:</b>		
Pledge receivable, less current portion, net	\$ 76,722	-
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$11,181,731</b>	<b>\$ 9,958,743</b>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2013	2014
<b>Current liabilities:</b>		
Current portion of notes payable	\$ 203,907	\$ 320,260
Line of credit	\$ 400,000	-
Accounts payable	\$ 1,084,315	\$ 497,039
Accrued payroll and related liabilities	\$ 272,015	\$ 238,232
Deferred revenue	\$ 12,834	\$ 74,605
Other accrued expenses	\$ 27,428	\$ 42,838
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 2,000,499</b>	<b>\$ 1,172,974</b>
<b>Client trust payable</b>	<b>\$ 191,813</b>	<b>\$ 142,964</b>
<b>Long-term liabilities:</b>		
Line of credit	\$ 1,145,000	-
Notes payable, less current portion	\$ 3,719,437	\$ 4,530,549
Total long-term liabilities	\$ 4,864,437	\$ 4,530,549
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 7,056,749</b>	<b>\$ 5,846,487</b>
<b>Net assets:</b>		
Unrestricted	\$ 3,382,920	\$ 3,273,447
Temporarily restricted	\$ 742,062	\$ 838,809
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,124,982</b>	<b>\$ 4,112,256</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$11,181,731</b>	<b>\$ 9,958,743</b>

# Major Revenue Sources 2014

## Federal

Department of Housing & Urban Development  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

## State of Wisconsin

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

## Milwaukee County

Behavioral Health Division  
Housing Division  
Management Services Division

## City of Milwaukee

Department of Administration - Community Development Block Grant  
Department of Administration - Emergency Solutions Grant  
Department of Administration - State of Wisconsin Emergency Solutions Grant, Transitional Housing Program & Homelessness Prevention Program  
Department of Neighborhood Services  
Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing  
Municipal Court

## Public, Private, & Corporate Contracts

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin  
Aurora Health Care  
Children's Community Health Plan  
CommunityConnect Health Plan  
Heartland Housing  
Kenosha Department of Human Services  
Managed Health Services  
Open Society Foundation  
Outreach Community Health Centers  
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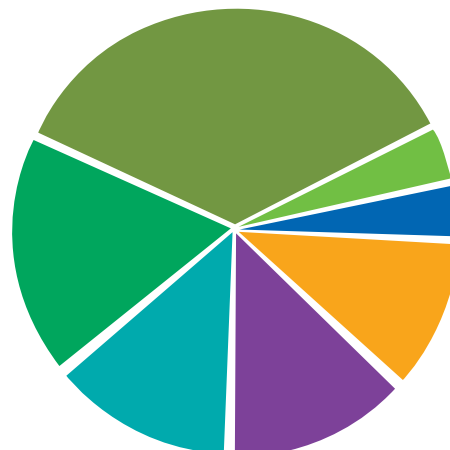
### What Funds Pay For

■ Public Policy Institute	36%
■ Basic Needs	18%
■ Behavioral Health	17%
■ Milwaukee Women's Center	15%
■ Administration	8%
■ Fundraising/Other	3%
■ Justice 2000	3%



### Where Funds Come From

■ State of Wisconsin	37%
■ Milwaukee County	18%
■ City of Milwaukee	13%
■ Grants/Donations	13%
■ Federal Agencies	11%
■ Contracts	4%
■ Other	4%



# Basic Needs Division

## Karmen's Path to Stability

**K**armen reached out to Community Advocates in April 2014 to apply for assistance that would help her with her rental debts after she received a five day notice to vacate from her landlord. At that time, she had resided in her apartment for five years, but was in jeopardy of being evicted because she had recently lost her job and was unable to pay her past due rent. Staff in the housing program worked with Karmen to provide financial assistance to pay her overdue rent.

They also provided budgeting and money management services to ensure that she would be able to maintain her rent payments and housing. Karmen was able to secure two new jobs. She is now a six year tenant at her apartment and is able to meet her rent payments each month. Karmen expressed her gratitude for the assistance that she received and feels confident in her ability to sustain her housing for the long-term.



**36,500**

individuals and their families received critical assistance through the Basic Needs Division in 2014.

Comprehensive **Housing Programs** provide case management, advocacy, relocation services, and financial assistance to reduce the risk homelessness for individuals and families who are low-income and vulnerable to becoming homeless.

**12,000**

families received assistance to resolve tenant/landlord issues to sustain housing.

**2,100**

clients were placed in permanent housing and maintained their housing for at least 6 months.

**Utilities Programs** help low-income individuals and families avoid service interruption and disconnection.

**16,000**

Energy Assistance Applications were processed providing needed financial assistance and payment plans for these families to maintain their utilities.

**3,000**

individuals completed Crisis Applications to prevent disconnection or have their utilities restored.

**960**

clients received assistance with filing for SSI benefits through the **Disability Advocacy Program**.

# Behavioral Health Services Division

**Autumn West Safe Haven** is a low-barrier, housing refuge for individuals who are homeless and experiencing severe and persistent mental health challenges. This program provides more than shelter; it closes the gap in housing and services available to a vulnerable population who have been unsuccessfully served through other traditional homeless programs.

**42 people (81% of clients served)** achieved housing stability through residing at the Safe Haven or through permanent housing placement.

**62% of clients** also increased their income/benefits prior to leaving the Safe Haven.



## **Project Bridge/Autumn West Permanent Housing Program**

**86 individuals** who have experienced chronic homelessness and are affected by mental health and/or substance abuse issues or other disabilities received immediate, safe and affordable housing and case management services to support long-term program engagement and independent living success.

The **Homeless Outreach Nursing Center** provides person-centered mental health outreach to individuals in homeless shelters, meal programs and for those living on the streets or in places not meant for human habitation. Clients are assessed by Nurse and Social Worker advocates and are provided services to assist them in stabilizing their mental and physical health and homeless situations.

**Over 1,000 people** were served through the Homeless Outreach Nursing Center in 2014.

**Protective Payee** services provide financial management for people with mental/behavioral health challenges.

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## **Bradley's Journey**

**A** soft-spoken man who spent years staying in emergency shelters or living outside, Bradley was diagnosed as having Schizophrenia and upon entering Autumn West had many unmet needs including having no income and lacked any mental health treatment. Bradley wanted to be able to support himself and have a place where he could live independently. Autumn West provided a stable environment where Bradley was able to tackle the challenges in front of him.

While at Autumn West, Bradley was able to enjoy his own private room and bath -a safe place where he could decompress. The staff worked with him to establish goals, to draw on past successes, and to create a plan to achieve those goals. During his stay, Bradley was able to establish an income. He applied for Social Security and with the assistance of support staff; he was approved. Bradley joined in Peer Support groups, participated in resident meetings, and established and maintained mental health services. Today, Bradley lives in his own one bedroom apartment where he also has the support of a Case Manager and a Peer Support Specialist to aid in his long-term independence and success.

# Milwaukee Women's Center Division



MILWAUKEE WOMEN'S CENTER  
A division of Community Advocates  
Where Abuse Ends and Hope Begins

## 149 women and 132 children

received comprehensive domestic violence services through the **Emergency Shelter**. More than 90% of the adult women prepared a safety plan and reported knowing more about their rights and options in the legal system prior to leaving shelter.

## 91

women age 50 and older who were abused at the hands of their long-time partners or adult sons or daughters received assistance through the **Older Abused Women's Program**.

## 234

men learned how to become better Dads and role models through their participation in the **Fatherhood Program**.

## 409 men

began batterers' prevention and intervention education.

## 286 (70%)

completed the six-month **Nevermore Program** to help them change abusive and controlling behaviors in their intimate partner relationships

## 52 women

received intensive substance abuse treatment through the **POWER Program** to overcome alcohol and other drug abuse issues.



## 225 low-income, homeless women and 381 children

received shelter and assistance through the **Family Support Center**.

## 468 women and 218 men

who were entering or re-entering the workforce received free clothing and job preparedness assistance from **The Bottomless Closet**.

## Sarah's Story

**S**arah, a 60-year-old woman who was being abused by her adult daughter, was referred to the Emergency Shelter and the Older Abused Women's Program (OAWP) by the Crisis Resource Center. In addition to being verbally and physically abusive, Sarah's daughter had also been stealing her medications. While in shelter, OAWP's case manager was able to work with medical professionals to replace some of her missing medications. The case manager assisted Sarah in being freed from her lease due to domestic violence. During her stay, she attended the OAWP's support groups and was connected to the Grand Avenue Club, Community Outreach, and Renew Counseling Services. Upon leaving, Sarah moved into her own apartment – an apartment that she had been trying to get into for a long time. Now, she is happy, safe, and enjoying her life.



# Public Policy Institute



The Public Policy Institute (PPI) division of Community Advocates, founded in 2008, works to promote and implement evidence-based policies that will prevent and reduce poverty and improve the quality of life for individuals and families in Milwaukee and throughout Wisconsin.

PPI advocates for policy changes, coordinates coalitions, and distributes funds to community-based programs while offering them training to increase impact.

**Policy work** in 2014 included a continued focus on the Affordable Care Act, Transitional Jobs, and testing and researching a five-part package of policies that could reduce the poverty rate by more than half.

The **Milwaukee Brighter Futures Initiative** managed more than 10 competitively awarded sub grantees in a wide variety of programming including teen pregnancy, AODA and violence prevention work.

The **Milwaukee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (MCSAP)** focuses on youth marijuana

prevention, and opiate abuse prevention, and also re-grants funds to local agencies doing youth substance abuse prevention work. In 2014, a special campaign called Just Like You encouraged parents not to smoke marijuana in front of their children.

The **City of Milwaukee Tobacco-Free Alliance** released its “Opening the Doors to LGBTQ+ Tobacco Prevention” report that sought to address tobacco use disparities in Milwaukee’s LGBTQ+ community. An event presenting the report brought in a national speaker and has spurred ongoing work.

The **Minority Male Achievement Program** facilitated collaborative work to establish Milwaukee’s first annual Boys & Men of Color Week, a first-in-the-nation achievement. The week of events focused on building opportunity for boys and men of color in Milwaukee.

The **Coming Together Partnership** provided grants to six youth gun violence prevention projects and hosted a summit for more than 200 youth and adults.



## In 2014, the Public Policy Institute's work included:

**6,301** people served by Milwaukee Brighter Futures sub grantees

**368** Wisconsin WINS tobacco compliance checks

**20+** sub-grants to local programs

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Ms. Latoya Washington  
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Whole Foods  
Ms. Katie Wick  
Ms. Melissa Winklebeck  
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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 email us at [kuhen@communityadvocates.net](mailto:kuhen@communityadvocates.net) or call (414) 270-2984. Thank You!*

## **Special Thanks to Our Volunteers!**

In 2014, 190 volunteers  
donated a total of 5,445 hours  
valued at \$118,592.



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