OPENING DOORS FOR A BETTER MILWAUKEE

ADDICTION TREATMENT SUPPORT HEALING

AGEMENT EMPOWERMENT



COMMUNITY ADVOCATES

Where Meeting Basic Needs Inspires Hope

40th Anniversary

DISABILITY ADVOCACY SZI DISABILITY ADVOCACY SZI DIGNITY FOUR FOUND SCOMPASSION S FOUR FOUND DECADES TO SERVICE SERVICE SERVICE TO SE

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.



To learn more about our work, please visit communityadvocates.net. Thank You!

ENCOURAGEMENT

A MESSAGE TO OUR FRIENDS

In 2016, Community Advocates commemorated its 40th year of service to individuals and families in the greater Milwaukee area. It is incredible that what started out as a one-room storefront, founded by our beloved and longtime Executive Director Ramon Wagner, has grown into a multisite organization that reached and touched the lives of 69,284 individuals this year. For those of you who may not know, Ramon was a former priest with the Catholic Church who found his calling in wanting to help others in a more hands on and meaningful way. That calling, along with two other volunteers, led him to incorporate Community Advocates as a not-for-profit organization in 1976 whose goal was to provide basic life-sustaining services for Milwaukee's needlest individuals and their families until they could move forward on their own.

All these years later, we are honored, as are our Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, to carry the torch for Ramon to create better lives for the families and communities we serve. Community Advocates is proud of the positive impact that we have had over the last four decades because of Ramon's grit, determination, vision, and compassionate heart. We are also especially thankful for your interest, support, and investment in our mission to help people meet their basic needs so they may live in dignity. Ramon embraced treating people in a dignified and respectful way and we honor him by living those values every day.

As you read through this report, you will see firsthand the difference that Community Advocates makes on a daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis. On any given day, Community Advocates helps several hundred families in need of safe housing and stability, utility assistance, disability and mental health assistance, and addiction and domestic violence services.

It is because of Ramon and special friends like you that Community Advocates continues to make our community a better place to live. Thank You!

Sincerely,

Pam Klein President

Board of Directors





Andi Mallmann-Elliott

and Mallow Elliot

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

\$10,477,135 \$10,213,084

Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

ASSETS			
	2016	2015	
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents Investments Receivables:	\$603,041 -	\$509,282 -	
Grants	1,900,919	1,720,060	
Pledges - Current portion	478,218	218,542	
Prepaid expenses and deposits	54,890	52,956	
Total current assets	3,037,068	2,500,840	
Restricted assets:			
Restricted cash - Client trust	137,812	128,660	
Total restricted assets	137,812	128,660	
Property and equipment:			
Land, buildings and improvements	9,944,826	9,944,826	
Furniture and equipment	935,294	935,294	
Vehicle	39,872	17,143	
Total property and equipment	10,919,992	10,897,263	
Less accumulated depreciation	3,617,737	3,313,679	
Property and equipment - Net	7,302,255	7,583,584	
Other assets:			
Pledge receivable,			
less current portion, net	-	-	

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS					
	2016	2015			
Current liabilities:					
Current portion of notes payable Line of credit Accounts payable Accrued payroll and	\$336,422 - 967,057	\$325,573 100,000 780,245			
related liabilities Deferred revenue Other accrued expenses	241,953 43,318 37,629	288,513 73,236 37,087			
Total current liabilities	1,626,379	1,604,654			
Client trust payable	141,446	132,294			
Long-term liabilities:					
Line of credit Notes payable, less current portion	3,905,762	4,127,785			
Total long-term liabilities	3,905,762	4,127,785			
Total liabilities	5,673,587	5,864,733			
Net assets:					
Unrestricted Temporarily restricted	3,937,136 866,412	3,437,150 911,201			
Total net assets	4,803,548	4,348,351			
TOTAL LIABILITIES &	\$10.477.135	\$10.213.084			



TOTAL ASSETS

2016 MAJOR REVENUE SOURCES

FEDERAL

Department of Health & Human Services –
Substance Abuse & Mental Health
Services Administration

Department of Homeland Security -Federal Emergency Management Agency

Department of Housing & Urban Development

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Department of Administration - Division of Housing

Department of Children and Families

Department of Health Services

MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Department of Child Support Services

Department of Health & Human Services - Behavioral Health Division

Department of Health & Human Services - Disability Services Division

Department of Health & Human Services - Housing Division

Department of Health & Human Services - 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

PUBLIC, PRIVATE, & CORPORATE CONTRACTS

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin

Children's Community Health Plan

Kenosha Department of Human Services

Managed Health Services

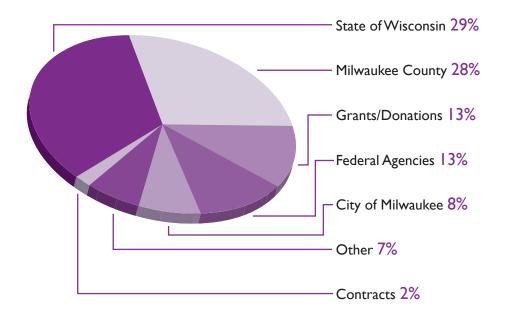
Open Society Foundation

Public Service Commission

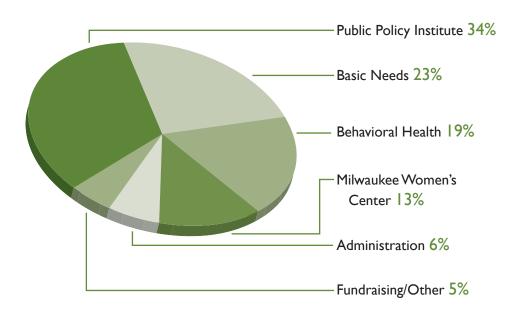
United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County

We Energies

WHERE FUNDS COME FROM



WHAT FUNDS PAY FOR



BASIC NEEDS

66,925 individuals and their families received critical assistance through the Basic Needs Division in 2016.

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

3,220 clients were placed in permanent housing and maintained their housing for at least six months.

12,250 families received assistance to resolve tenant/landlord issues to sustain housing.

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

41,600 Energy Assistance Applications were processed, providing needed financial assistance and payment plans for these families to maintain their utilities.

8,752 individuals completed Crisis Applications to prevent disconnection or have their utilities restored.

35 individuals received a matching telephone assistance grant to connect and/or maintain home telephone service.

Disability Advocacy Programs provide SSI/SSDI application assistance to individuals with disabilities and protective payee services to individuals and families needing help managing their finances.

958 clients received assistance with filing for SSI/SSDI benefits.

110 individuals with disabling conditions received protective payee and financial management services.

ELLA'S LETTER OF THANKS

"I cannot thank Community Advocates and Maria enough. They saved my life. I lived in my home part of last winter without heat. I came to Community Advocates and prayed for a guardian angel. That angel turned out to be Maria. She sat with me and listened to my personal problems regarding what I had gone through with my soon to be ex-husband. Maria worked with me from the beginning to the end. She was so eager and willing to do all she could do to get my heat turned on and a new furnace for my home. I am truly blessed to have worked with Community Advocates and the Energy Assistance program. Thanks Maria and Community Advocates for being the resources that came to my rescue!"

RACHEL'S NOTE OF APPRECIATION

"Dear Suzy,

Just a note to express my gratitude for helping us with Energy Assistance this winter. You listened and came up with a solution. I am indebted to you and want you to know that your professional approach eased the discomfort of my requesting help. Likewise, your supervisor was kind and efficient. Keep up the good work."



Ramon Wagner's values greet clients in need of assistance.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

In 2016, the Behavioral Health Services Division touched the lives of 468 individuals.

Autumn West Safe Haven is a low-barrier housing refuge for individuals who are chronically homeless and experiencing severe and persistent mental health challenges. This program is an alternative to emergency shelter and designed to provide safe, short-term housing along with supportive services for residents as they transition out of homelessness. Autumn West embraces Housing First and Harm Reduction principles.

Of the 58 individuals served by the Autumn West Safe Haven, 78% were safely and stably housed by Autumn West or moved on to permanent housing by the end of the year.

The Homeless Outreach Nursing Center (HONC) provides person-centered outreach and engagement to individuals with mental illness who are homeless and living on the streets, in vacant buildings, under bridges, or in parks. Clients are assessed and engaged by Nurse and Social Worker advocates and are provided services to assist them in stabilizing their mental and physical health, and homeless situations.

During 2016, HONC served 270 men and women through 1,660 engagement contacts.

HONC staff also provided case management services to 40 formerly homeless clients who are in permanent supportive housing as part of the Housing First initiative.

Project Bridge/Autumn West Permanent Housing Program Founded in 2007, this Housing First program provides immediate access to safe and affordable housing to 100 Milwaukee residents who have been identified as chronically homeless and living with a disability. The program provides case management services that employ up-to-date best practices such as Trauma-Informed Care, Motivational Interviewing and Harm Reduction to help program participants achieve housing stability. The average length of stay for residents currently in programming is 4 years and 8 months.



Former client Jesse created this beautiful eagle, which is on display in the lobby at Autumn West Safe Haven.

MARIE'S PATH TO RECOVERY

After suffering a traumatic life event, Marie found herself in a downward spiral that left her homeless. Marie slept in community gardens and other places before meeting Kristen, a Registered Nurse with the Homeless Outreach Nursing Center. Over the course of several weeks Kristen earned Marie's trust, which resulted in Marie agreeing to go to Autumn West Safe Haven. Once there, she was so relieved to finally have clean clothes after months on the streets and she was thankful that she didn't have to worry about where her next meal was going to come from. The staff at Autumn West immediately connected her to health care, therapy, and peer support. She was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and secured new medications. While at Autumn West, Marie completed the Certified Peer Specialist training and passed the state exam. She obtained employment soon after and was so excited to be returning to the workforce to help others experiencing mental illness. Marie was also connected to Project Bridge, which provides supportive housing and case management to individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. She credits the staff at Project Bridge for helping her to navigate a confusing health care system and for providing needed support to help her live independently in the community. Marie stated, "I am so grateful to all of the staff and programs that I was able to access at Community Advocates - they saved my life."

40TH ANNIVERSARY



This year, Community Advocates celebrated 40 years of service to individuals and families in need in our community. Over the course of our history, we have embraced founder and longtime Executive Director Ramon Wagner's spirit of service by developing and implementing a continuum of client-centered programs and services to help our most disadvantaged neighbors meet their needs and improve their lives. As one of the largest human needs advocacy agencies in Wisconsin, our services reach and impact tens of thousands of lives each and every year. We are proud of our history and, as we look forward, we are honored to carry on Ramon's dedication and compassionate vision to help our friends in need.

Organization highlights over the last 40 years:

- In September 1976, Ramon Wagner, formerly a priest in the Catholic Church, and two volunteers opened the doors of Community Advocates in a small storefront on Milwaukee's north side with an operating budget of \$8,000. During the first year, 800 clients received assistance.
- In 1982, Community Advocates became a United Way funded agency.
 4.000 clients were served.
- During 1986, Community Advocates played a key role in the development of the Energy Assurance Program, which later becomes a national model for energy assistance to low-income consumers.
- In 1990, Community Advocates had one location, 30 employees, and a budget of \$1 million.
- 1996 marks Community Advocates' 20th Anniversary. The agency's operating budget exceeds \$2 million and employs 40 full-time advocates serving 15,000 clients.
- In 2000, Community Advocates and Ramon Wagner as Project Director, are awarded a \$2.1 million contract from the State of Wisconsin's Brighter Futures Initiative for Milwaukee County.
- On April 15, 2005, Ramon Wagner passed away, leaving behind an agency with tremendous heart and a commitment to carry out his vision and passion for helping others.
- In June 2007, Community Advocates completed a merger with the Milwaukee Women's Center.
- The Public Policy Institute was created in 2008.
- Additional mergers occurred in 2009 with Horizons, 2010 with Justice 2000, and 2011 with the Bottomless Closet along with the transfer of the homeless program from the American Red Cross in 2009 and the Social Development Commission in 2010.
- In 2016, Community Advocates operated out of five service locations with three 24/7 service sites and had an annual budget of nearly \$12 million.
 125 staff members delivered more than 30 programs, which address housing/homelessness, poverty, utility assistance, behavioral health, addiction, disability assistance, domestic violence, and job readiness.



Our Lovell Street facility offers a one-stop shop of vital resources for consumers.



On September 15, 2016, Community Advocates held its 40th Anniversary Celebration event at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Nearly 400 friends, donors, clients, and staff gathered to raise awareness and funds to benefit all of the programs and services provided by Community Advocates. The event featured a silent auction, a three-course meal, and a touching program that included remarks by former client Gary Ingram. Thelma Sias, longtime Board Member, helped to generate \$24,000 during the bid paddle call to action portion of the program. Because of the generosity and participation of our amazing Presenting, Major, and Supporting Sponsors, as well as our Table Sponsors and individual attendees, we were able to raise more than \$102,000! Thank You!

Special Thanks to our Presenting Sponsor



Sincere Thanks to our Major Sponsors







Many Thanks to our Supporting Sponsors

AF Technical Resources
MHS Health Wisconsin
WaterStone Bank



Former client Gary Ingram shares his personal story with our guests.



Event attendees mingle and visit prior to being seated for dinner.



Silent auction items on display at the event.



PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

The Public Policy Institute (PPI) was founded in 2008 to prevent and end the poverty that brings people through our doors at Community Advocates. PPI works to promote and implement evidence-based policies that will minimize and reduce poverty and improve the quality of life for individuals and families in Milwaukee and throughout Wisconsin by advocating for policy changes, convening coalitions, and supporting community-based programs to increase our collective impact.

One of our greatest accomplishments in 2016 was the introduction of **The Stronger Way Act** by U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ). The proposed legislation is rooted in the **Working Our Way Out of Poverty** policy package that PPI has promoted as proven methods to cut poverty in half. While it was not passed as part of the 114th Congress, Senator Baldwin used the legislation to build support for the individual policies and the role that government can play in reducing poverty. She is committed to continuing the effort, and we will continue to work with all members of the Wisconsin delegation to promote these policies.

PPI continued its efforts to **protect and expand health coverage** for low-income Wisconsinites by encouraging jails across Wisconsin to implement a policy that allows individuals leaving incarceration to enroll in BadgerCare before returning to the community to ensure continued care. In many counties, we also successfully advocated for a change to the policy that terminates the BadgerCare coverage of those who are incarcerated and their families.

Building on **The Milwaukee Transitional/Subsidized Jobs Collaborative**, PPI received a new five-year \$1 million grant from the Wisconsin Partnership Program at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health to fund **Improving Health Through Expanded Work**. The pilot is working to improve the health and economic wellbeing of residents in some of the poorest communities in Wisconsin through subsidized employment and providing access to effective mental and physical health care.



A Milwaukee Brighter Futures participant shared in a focus group that "Participation in this program gives youth opportunities to learn new things and make better choices."

We were included as partners in a three-year **U.S. Department of Justice Smart Reentry Grant: Focus on Evidence-Based Strategies for Successful Reentry from Incarceration to Community Program.** Partners will help individuals returning from prison to Milwaukee with access to transitional jobs, health care, and mental health care, in an effort to reduce their probability of recidivism.

In September, PPI was a partner and played a close role in planning and designing the program for the **Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma (ReCAST)** grant awarded to the City of Milwaukee's Office of Violence Prevention by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The grant will advance the city's efforts to promote resilience and equity in communities that have recently faced civil unrest.

We are grateful to have been awarded the state's most recent **Milwaukee Brighter Futures Initiative (MBFI)** contract, which runs through 2018, enabling us to continue to serve as administrator of the state's youth development and prevention funding in Milwaukee, a role we have filled for over 10 years. As MBFI administrator, PPI convened MBFI grantees throughout the year to foster collaboration and provide technical assistance to improve program outcomes.

HOPE



PPI is the home of the Milwaukee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (MCSAP), a county-wide initiative with a focus on preventing youth marijuana use and prescription drug overdose. In 2016, The Marijuana Prevention Subcommittee expanded the opportunity for youth to develop messaging through its youth-driven "Marijuana Prevention Social Norms and Marketing Campaign." As part of the Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Subcommittee, volunteers delivered postcards to more than 150 pharmacies throughout Milwaukee County to spread the word about safe drop box locations. The subcommittee also solidified a partnership between MCSAP and Marquette University Sports to bring awareness to the dangers of prescription painkiller misuse.

PPI administers the southeast Wisconsin region of the **Alliance for Wisconsin Youth (AWY)**, an alliance committed to supporting substance use disorder prevention coalitions. A new **Partnerships for Success (PFS)** grant provided technical assistance to substance use prevention coalitions in the two southeast Wisconsin counties hardest hit by the opioid epidemic.

As a part of our **Drug-Free Communities (DFC)** work in the 53206 zip code, nearly 300 students at Auer Avenue Community School took the "A Drug-Free Me" Pledge and made commitments to live a drug-free life and spread the message to their peers and community. DFC also sponsored COA Goldin Youth & Family Center's Above the Influence poster contest, where more than 20 middle school students created posters envisioning "A Drug-Free 53206 for Me."

In November, the City of Milwaukee Common Council voted to prohibit smokeless tobacco in all sporting venues in the city following Alderman Michael Murphy's education through the City of Milwaukee Tobacco-Free Alliance and its partners on the Knock Tobacco Out of the Park campaign! The PPI-housed Alliance also conducted over 500 tobacco compliance checks with assistance from youth and the Milwaukee Police Department to ensure tobacco is not sold to youth under 18, educated 100 retailers on the state statutes related to tobacco sales, and promoted smoke-free housing with 200 area landlords with the City of Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services. Environmental scans were also conducted in 40 retail shops in order to track differences in marketing and product placement between neighborhoods as part of a county-wide research project.



Community Advocates was proud to host several community leaders at the introduction of The Stronger Way Act. At that event, the legislation was praised by Brian Osei, a successful Transitional Jobs participant.



MCSAP Coordinator, Kasaundra Brown staffed a prevention table at a Marquette basketball game to highlight the dangers of prescription drug misuse.

MILWAUKEE WOMEN'S CENTER



A Division of Community Advocates

A total of 1,891 individuals received services and support through the Milwaukee Women's Center Division in 2016.

122 women and 92 children were safely housed and received comprehensive domestic violence services through the Emergency Shelter.

173 low-income, homeless women and 290 children received shelter and assistance through the Family Support Center.

95 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. 96% of program participants prepared a safety plan.

Of the 193 men who began batterers' prevention and intervention education, 68% completed the six-month Nevermore Program to help them change abusive and controlling behaviors in their intimate partner relationships.

105 men learned how to become better dads and role models through their participation in the Fatherhood Program. 73% successfully completed the program.

5 I women received intensive substance treatment through the POWER Program to overcome alcohol and other drug abuse issues. I 0 families (30 participants) engaged in POWER's Celebrating Families, which included supervised visitation to aid women in the process of reunification with their children.

59 men and women received outpatient substance abuse treatment through the Family Intervention Program, which provides treatment and support to African American and Latino families.

The Bottomless Closet provided free clothing and job readiness assistance to 442 women and 269 men who were entering or re-entering the workforce.



Stephanie Morris, Older Abused Women's Program Outreach & Community Case Manager

AMARAH'S STORY Amarah, a 29 year-old single

mother of two young daughters, entered Emergency Shelter in March 2016 due to homelessness. She had been employed but lost her job due to domestic violence issues with the children's father and she became unable to sustain her housing. Amarah was determined to better her family's situation. She actively engaged in all support groups to address domestic violence, substance use, and positive parenting/family nurturing. Working closely with a Case Manager, she received information, referrals, and ongoing support to access benefits, seek employment, and secure housing. Amarah and her Case Manager, completed applications for transitional living programs as well as contacting private landlords. During her two-month shelter stay, Amarah was approved for W-2 benefits, an Emergency Assistance grant, and the Hope House Safe Landing Program. The Case Manager also helped her to create an affordable budget and referred her to Community Advocates' Utilities Program to avoid any interruption of utilities. Amarah secured full time employment and successfully transitioned from Shelter into permanent housing. She is very grateful for the support, resources and encouragement she received during her stay and looks forward to raising her daughters in a safe and happy home.



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Special thanks to our dedicated volunteers! During 2016, 578 volunteers donated a total of 4,216 hours valued at \$91,824!



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Every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list.

We apologize if any errors have occurred.

Questions can be directed to Kris Uhen at

kuhen@communityadvocates.net or by calling (414) 405-6054.

Thank You!

\$50 to \$99

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