



kinship  
COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER



## Annual Impact Report 2023

“  
Here, it’s a lot of love, nobody’s  
different from the other one. That’s  
how I want to be in this world.

– Dorothy, dedicated community volunteer

15,261

Community Members Served



86K

Pounds of Produce Distributed

↗ 9% increase

FORMERLY RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY  
EST 1979

346K

Pounds of Food Distributed

↗ 19% increase



459

Referrals Made for Families in Crisis

for mentoring and other direct assistance to find greater stability

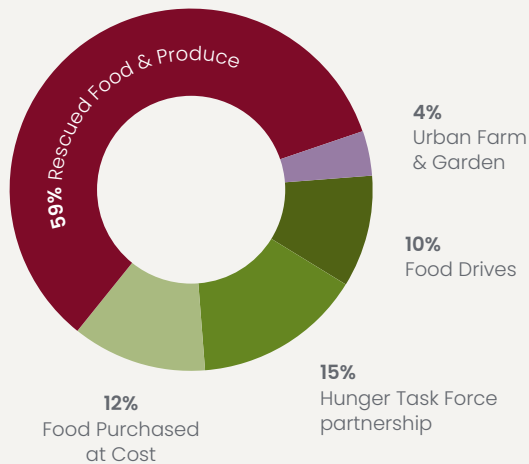


AT A GLANCE:

# Annual Snapshot 2023



## Sources of Food Distributed



We are blessed to work with many community partners such as Hunger Task Force, Feeding America, and Maglio Companies.

30,643

Pounds of Eggs, Dairy, and Oil Distributed



27K

Volunteer Hours

↗ 35% increase

# When love permeates the heart, anything is possible.



Photo by Tom Grimm

A community member once said to me, “it’s how Kinship has shown up for me that made the difference in my life.”

How we show up. That’s what makes the difference at Kinship. Our lead volunteers and staff are not just here to “help those in need”. We have a deep hunger to be in community

ourselves, to give and to receive, to welcome and to be welcomed in return.

2023 tells us several stories. One is a story of increased need—Kinship saw a 40% increase in new shoppers in our market due to pandemic related benefits ending.

This past year also tells the story of increased engagement. Households deeply engaged in our programs increased by 38%. Shoppers also volunteered 6,750 hours, that’s one quarter of the total 27,000!

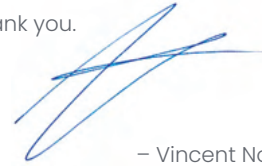
There is a correlation between engagement data and the countless stories of transformation like David’s on page five. Our market, our delicious café meals, the culinary events at our urban farm, and other aspects of our work create the context for social connectedness and trust. When love and trust grow, we show up for each other differently.

In 2023 we saw dozens more stories of people showing up in extraordinary ways—asylum seekers getting settled, pregnancy crises being averted, records getting expunged for employment, families facing eviction getting help to put their stuff into storage, seniors suffering with dementia finding support. The list goes on.

It’s how we show up. When someone knows you mean it, that you’ll show up for them, that you love them and need them in your life...new beginnings become possible.

Thank you for supporting our work. Thank you for showing up for Kinship in 2023! May you feel a deep pride about what you’re helping us build.

Thank you.



– Vincent Noth, Executive Director

## Our Theory of Change

### IF WE CREATE:

#### **A Dynamic Food Culture**

Where people grow, shop, cook, and eat together

#### **A Place of Radical Kinship**

Where people find belonging, through giving and receiving in mutual vulnerability

#### **A Pathway to Health & Economic Opportunity**

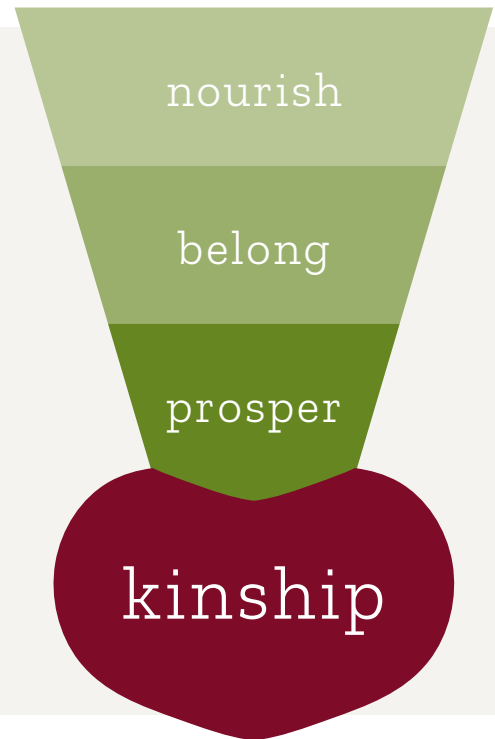
Where people are accompanied to overcome crises & barriers to long-term stability

### THEN WE WILL SEE:

**People who are nourished.**

**People who belong.**

**People who Prosper.**



MISSION PILLAR  
**NOURISH**



THE SITUATION:

**1 in 3 of our shoppers** have someone in their home living with a dietary-related illness like Type 2 Diabetes or High Blood Pressure.

WHAT WE KNOW:

**Food is the Entry Point.**

Expanding food access and education provides opportunities for people to become more deeply engaged around their health.

OUR IMPACT:

**89% of community members say they are now cooking at home as a result of shopping at Kinship.**

# Expanding Food Access



”

*Kinship is not only for food,  
but is for physical, mental,  
and spiritual needs.*

Andrea and Alex came from Columbia with their two children in 2022. At Kinship, they not only found food to nourish their bodies, but also found a family, a godmother for their child, and numerous friends who come over for birthdays and other celebrations.

# Access in our Community



**40%** Increase in New Households Served



”

*It's a real privilege that people trust me to open up about their health concerns.*

Jane, a retired nurse, started as a volunteer in the meat department. As her relationships deepened, she noticed real healthcare needs in our community. Soon the "Nurses Corner" was created to take vitals and make referrals. Through building relationships and simple conversations, Nurse Jane has expanded how we address wellness.



**12,000** Café Meals Distributed



**125** Shared Recipes and Cooking Demos



**15k** Pounds of Organic Produce Grown at our Farms & Gardens

MISSION PILLAR

## BELONG



### THE SITUATION:

**Social isolation is 6 times more likely** to affect low-income households, worsening the effects of poverty.

### WHAT WE KNOW:

**A sense of belonging** and acceptance creates a culture of mutuality enabling us to build trusting relationships.

### OUR IMPACT:

**96% of community members say they feel accepted in our community at Kinship.**

# Community of Ge



*Will, staff member, with David on right*

”

*I love people today more than I used to. I love me today more than I used to.*

“When I first started coming here, I came just to see what I could get. But all these individuals started coming up to me, giving me hugs and telling me they’re glad I’m here. I was like, wait a minute, I don’t know you. From then on, I started to open up. To have someone tell you how much they care about you, how much they love you, that was hard for me. I’m from the streets, I did fifteen years in prison, and I had a hard time with my addiction. I kept coming back, trying to figure out, why did you care about me so much?”

When I was evicted, I came here early on a Saturday and told Natalie I lost my place and was living under a bridge. She immediately said, we are going to figure something out. Kinship made the call to Milwaukee Rescue Mission and once I was in the program I had to let go, I had to surrender. When I look back on it, having people tell me how much they cared about me and seeing something in me that I couldn’t see in myself made all the difference.”

David continues to work on his sobriety, is close to finding his own stable housing, and has a steady job as a custodian. When asked about his journey of ups and downs, which he points out is far from over, he credits Kinship for walking alongside him through it all.

# Generosity



**351** Collaborative Meal Participants



**1/4** of our Volunteers are also Shoppers



**8,169** Volunteers in 2023



Mission Intern Anna Penzcover with staff member Bernard

“

*Really knowing  
who my neighbor is has  
deeply impacted my life...*

## Mission Internship

We welcomed 8 new Mission Interns to our team this past August! In the Mission Intern program, young adults live a life of service for one full year, working at the Food Center and living in the neighborhood where they serve. Focused on prayer and community in the Catholic tradition, the Mission Interns help run operations and develop relationships within the community.

Their work here always changes depending on the needs of our community, from helping displaced families move, to coordinating Feast Meals, and picking up more than 1,000 boxes of donated cereal!

MISSION PILLAR  
**PROSPER**



THE SITUATION:

**Trauma and a lack of support systems**

diminish people's ability to find health and stability.

WHAT WE KNOW:

**Trusting relationships**

foster a culture of accompaniment, creating a road to stability for many members of our community.

OUR IMPACT:

**98% of community members said they know they can get support at Kinship.**

# Community Char



Gary, left, with his Stride Mentor, Fred, on the right

”

*Kinship has helped with rides, getting me to the hospital, helping me with my kids, getting them to their appointments, it's just outstanding.*

“We were at a shelter when I first came here for food and resources. At the time, I had three kids, one on the way, and my wife has epilepsy. I didn't have a job or a house after two brain surgeries. I went from having a masonry job to having nothing. I mean, we had no money. For three months straight, Kinship was working around the clock and I was busting my butt to

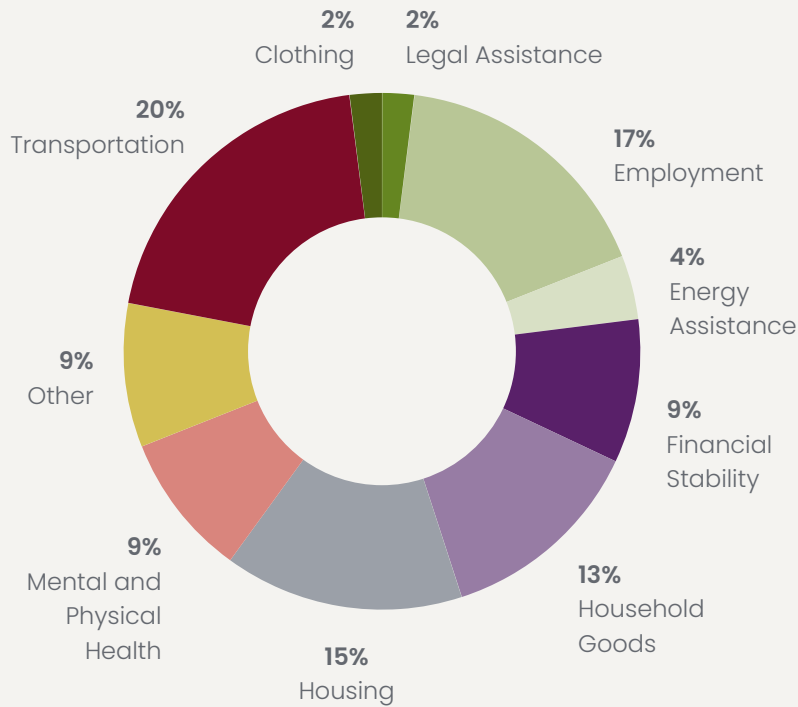
literally pay the fees for three or four housing applications. My Stride Mentor Fred was driving me to all my appointments, driving my kids, and walking me through applications. One time, my furnace went out and Stride even showed up making sure my whole family was okay. It's just ridiculous how much love they show everybody here.”

Gary is still navigating how to provide for his family while his health challenges prevent him from holding a job. Team Stride's referrals to other resources as well as countless day-to-day efforts have kept Gary and his family out of various dire circumstances, for which they are forever grateful.



# Changes Our Lives

## Community Partner and Resource Referrals



**459** Referrals to **88** Partner Agencies



**94** Households protected from housing instability



**73** Long-term mentoring relationships

## Introducing: Workforce

Kinship officially launched its Workforce Development Program in 2023.

The program disrupts generational poverty by walking alongside individuals facing complex barriers to steady employment and economic mobility.

Our holistic care model integrates training in culinary arts, urban agriculture, and grocery operations with case management and human development programming.



# Our Programs at a Glance

Our programs are designed to address food scarcity and help the whole person thrive.



## Shop

### FRESH FOOD MARKET

A fresh food market that integrates health education, cooking demonstrations, a food bar, and connections to community resources.



## Grow

### URBAN FARM

A 27,000 square foot urban hoop house vegetable farm that grows thousands of pounds of organic produce to feed and educate the community.



## Feast

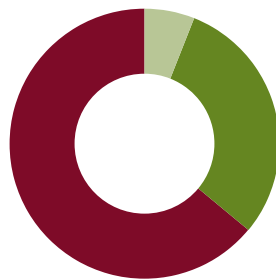
### COLLABORATIVE MEALS

Collaborative meals that bring a diverse group around a common table to explore food traditions and whole food culinary skills.

# Financials

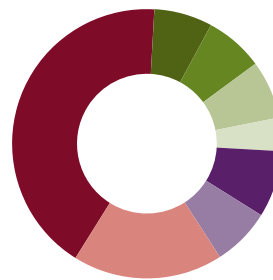
Our hearts are filled with gratitude as we celebrate the generosity of our community which enables us to accomplish our mission.

## Income



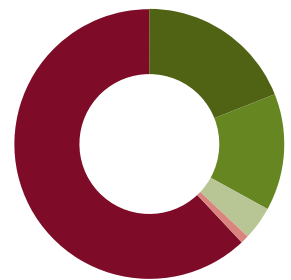
- 64% - Philanthropic
- 30% - In-kind
- 6% - Investments & Other

## Expenses



- 42% - Shop
- 7% - Grow
- 7% - Feast
- 7% - Mission Year
- 4% - Form
- 8% - Stride
- 7% - Workforce
- 18% - Philanthropy & Administration

## 2023 Annual Fund Philanthropic Sources



- 62% - Individuals
- 19% - Foundations
- 14% - Corporations
- 4% - Organizations
- 1% - Parishes



## Form

EDUCATION AND  
ENGAGEMENT

Service-learning and workshops that empower volunteers and neighborhood residents to become leaders of generosity and advocate for the betterment of society.



## Mission Internship

A YEAR OF SERVICE

A residential “mission-year” of service and Catholic spiritual formation for young adults.



## Stride

CRISIS ASSISTANCE  
& MENTORING

A mentoring program that accompanies people in crisis to overcome their barriers to health and economic stability.



## Workforce

EMPLOYMENT READINESS  
& TRAINING

Paid work experience that integrates social connection and human development to create a healing path toward steady employment and economic mobility.

”

*We embrace and promote Kinship’s philosophy of both giving and receiving with sincerity and generosity.*

Jack and Debra have been shoppers and volunteers for several years. They attribute their experience at Kinship with changing how they view themselves and how they connect with neighbors in the wider community. Their belief in generosity and in our mission is why Jack and Debra are also generous donors and give from the foundation that was established in memory of their daughter.



Everyone  
Gives.

Everyone  
Receives.



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[kinshipmke.org](http://kinshipmke.org)