



# kinship

COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER

## Annual Impact Report 2021

FORMERLY RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY



”

We are not coming to get food,  
we are coming to spend time with  
the friends that feel like family.

– Lauren, mom and community member

# Introducing Kinship. The change is in the name.

Our story  
started  
over four  
decades ago.

## **A focus on food scarcity.**

We are proud of our history which began by providing food to the undernourished in Milwaukee.

Through a simple idea...

## **We all have a gift to give. We all have a gift to receive.**

People began to grow, shop, cook, and eat together to address our wider challenges of hunger, isolation, and poverty.

## **It's a change in the way we see hunger.**

Food is a way to serve the whole person and share our lives.

## **It's a change in how we see our city and community.**

## **We belong to one another.**

We help each other thrive through belonging, giving, and receiving. Through friendship and mentoring, we share our struggles and our joys, our lives and wisdom.

That's what kinship is all about.

It's with full hearts that we have some big news to share with our friends and neighbors.

## **Riverwest Food Pantry is now called Kinship Community Food Center.**

It's a new name but the same heart.

And our story continues.

We're looking forward to sharing the next chapter, together with you.



## Our Mission

Kinship Community Food Center engages volunteers and neighborhood residents to end hunger, isolation, and poverty. Our innovative programs nourish food security and wellness, foster belonging and community engagement, and empower stability and economic prosperity in our city.

# The Work of Kinship



“  
The secret to our work is about a deepening of trust, and healing that happens in the soul.”

## Dear Friends,

We have so much to be thankful for as we celebrate another year and take the next step in the evolution of our organization.

A small shift of the coordinates drastically changes the trajectory and the destination. A few years back we shifted our coordinates to focus on the power of relationships and community through food. It sounds simple but it has changed the whole map.

Our 2021 report sheds first light on a new horizon for how to measure the impact a community food center can make. We are developing more robust methods to measure the health, social cohesion, and future stability and prosperity of our community through a variety of tools you do not yet see here. Measuring impact in the lives of people is complex and elusive. Yes, it's important to see how

many pounds of nutritious food we distribute and how many people remained housed because of our center. But the secret to our work is about a deepening of trust, and healing that happens in the soul. Like nurturing a seedling, it can't grow if you are constantly digging it up to measure its growth.

How do you measure repeated warm-hearted conversations over a meal in our center with an individual who is homeless sleeping under a nearby bridge because his teenage daughter overdosed and the pain and stress was too much for his marriage to bear? You can ask him what he needs... But the hard answer that comes back is..."I just need to be where I am right now, but being here with you guys helps a lot".

All of us must learn patience and shift our perspective if we want to build a healing-focused community.

Change and healing in all of our lives requires cultivation of the soil. Then the growth happens when the time is right.

This is the work of kinship. This is different than just distributing food. This is the future.

Thank you for being part of our community of generosity. Thank you for supporting us in this work through your time, your money, and (most importantly) growing in your perspective.

– Vincent Noth  
Executive Director

# A Year in Kinship



## One of our biggest blessings from this past year has been our amazing class of Mission Interns.

As our largest class of Mission Interns yet, we have seen the incredible impact they've had on our neighborhood through their year of service. More than just learning to coordinate the operational functions of our center, they have especially established real relationships to support our shoppers, our volunteers, and one another. The transformation that has happened in these young adults is incredible, as they are learning so much by giving in sacrificial love, and in their own ways, becoming leaders of generosity. We are so thankful for their commitment and dedication to our mission.



Coming here, I am learning how to love well and learning how to be loved well. And so, I'm really understanding what it means to be a whole person.

– Savannah, Mission Intern

## Current Mission Interns

*Pictured above, from left to right*

### Emma Holtan

Food Wellness Coordinator

### Eva Grumbine

Human Services Coordinator

### Savannah Hagen

Communications & Events Coordinator

### Tyler Madden-McCardle

Human Services Partnership Coordinator

### Jack Bolog

Volunteer Engagement Coordinator

### Megan Roehl

Food Acquisition Coordinator

### Matthew Davenport

Formation & Training Coordinator

### Krista Fuller

Development & Board Administration Coordinator

### Temesgen Wessel

Human Services Coordinator



**Interested in a year of service or know someone who might be?**

Learn more online at: [kinshipmkc.org/mission-year](https://kinshipmkc.org/mission-year)

# Annual Snapshot 2021



**291k lbs**  
**Food Distributed**

**14,924**  
**Community Members Served**

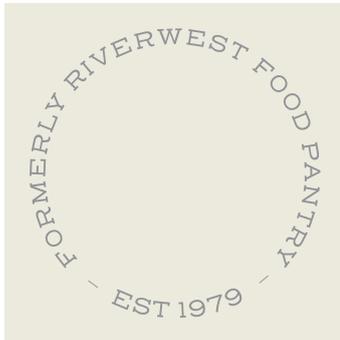


**47k lbs**  
**Produce Rescued & Sorted**

**258**  
**Referrals Made for Families in Crisis** for mentoring and other direct assistance to find greater stability



**11,005 hours**  
**of Volunteer Service Contributed by Community Members**



**10k lbs**  
**Produce Grown in Our Community-Run Gardens & Farm**



# Partners in Kinship

## A healthy and vibrant community is a well-connected, collaborative community.

We are grateful for the partnerships which allow us to focus our limited resources to feed and nurture our community by not replicating services that other organizations offer and have expertise in.

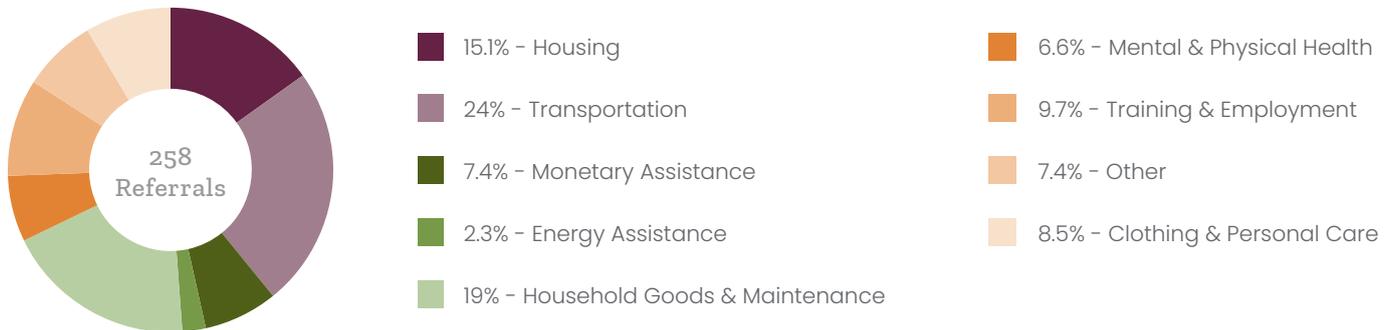
### Food Resource Partners

|                   |                        |  |
|-------------------|------------------------|--|
| Hunger Task Force | Groundwork MKE         | Outpost Natural Foods                                |
| Feeding America   | Just One More Ministry | Stone Creek Coffee                                   |
| Maglio Companies  | Teens Grow Greens      | UW-Madison Division of Extension<br>FoodWise program |

## Those who struggle with hunger are often in need of other resources.

Our model is built upon gathering around food to share our lives and build trusting relationships. In that trust, our staff and volunteer mentors can assess these needs and walk with our shoppers to navigate the myriad barriers that often accompany food insecurity.

### Community Partner and Resource Referrals



## Below highlights only some of the hundreds of partnerships we have developed to strengthen program effectiveness and to walk with people in crisis in their journey toward long-term stability.

#### STABLE HOUSING

- Impact 211
- Community Advocates
- Eviction Defense Project
- Milwaukee Christian Center
- Milwaukee Rental Housing Resource Center
- Milwaukee County Housing Division
- WE Energies

#### FINANCIAL WELLNESS

- BMO Harris Bank
- Riverworks Development Corporation

#### HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Outreach Community Health Centers
- UW-Milwaukee Nutritional Sciences
- Mount Mary Natural and Health Sciences
- MCW Center for Advancing Population Science
- Advocate Aurora Health
- Dohmen Company Foundation

#### SUBSTANCE ABUSE & RECOVERY

- META House
- The 4th Dimension Recovery Center
- The Milwaukee Group (AA)

#### WORKFORCE & EDUCATION

- Goodwill Workforce Connection Center
- JobsWork MKE
- Project RETURN

#### OTHER PARTNERS

- Family of Four Parishes
- Digital Bridge MKE
- The Saint Vincent De Paul Society
- Fr. Gene's Help Center
- Goodwill Cares
- Legal Action
- Legal Aid Society
- Milwaukee Diaper Mission

Developing community partnerships over the decades has been key to the success of our Community Food Center model. *We also are grateful to the network of hundreds of churches, businesses, and schools that are a key part of our coalition.*

# Stories of Kinship



”

I understand what it's like to be alone. So, when people come here... I pull up a chair and sit next to them.

Lilly is a single mom who has struggled with a disability and works hard to provide for her children. The food center is a place she can call home and has volunteered to walk with others going through difficult situations.



”

The women who have volunteered regularly with me have become very close and I can't see myself volunteering without them.

As an art teacher, Julie was looking for a volunteering opportunity to fill her time in the summer. Though her passion lies in gardening, she has been surprised by the deep friendships she has made with those around her.



”

It's an experience of real connection, from people who you may not have met otherwise. Our differences are something that unite us.

Mary first heard about the food center growing up in one of the local churches. Though her family regularly donated food, it wasn't until she was in college that she started to volunteer. Since her first time here, she has been blown away by the relationships she has been able to make with her neighbors.



”

Sharing my love with others reminds me that I'm wanted.

Tyrome came to the food center seeking assistance to get his belongings out of storage. After receiving this generosity, he knew he had to find a way to give back. He started volunteering and made this community his home. Knowing what it's like to experience homelessness and hardships, he brings kind words of joy and hope to others.

# Our Programs at a Glance



## 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.



## Stride

### CRISIS ASSISTANCE & MENTORING

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



## Form

### TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Service-based training for volunteers and neighborhood residents in spiritual formation, social justice, and civic action.



## Mission Internship

### A YEAR OF SERVICE

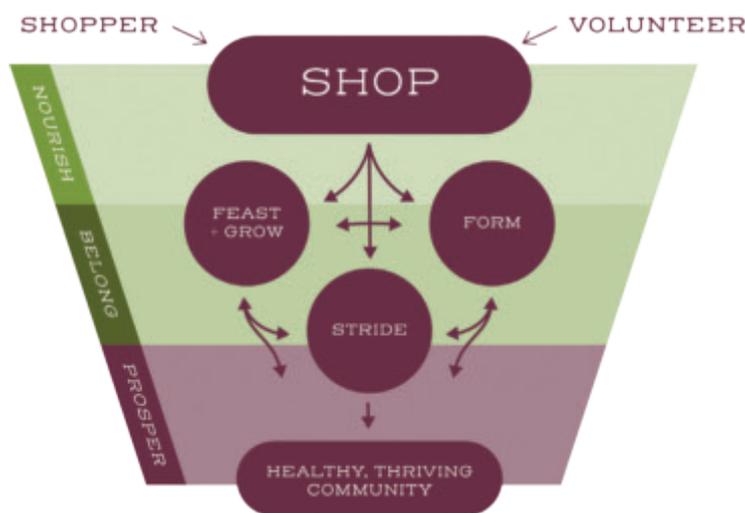
A residential "mission-year" of service and Catholic spiritual formation for young adults.

# Who Shops With Us?

## Many shoppers come through our doors every week.

We aim to restore the dignity of those who are most marginalized in our society. Even if you have little in material goods, you still have something incredibly important to give to others.

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <h3>Children</h3> <p>1/3 are children, roughly 70% from single parent households.</p> | <h3>Underemployed Adults</h3> <p>Roughly 2/3 of families are underemployed with an average monthly income of \$1,300/month.</p> | <h3>Those On A Fixed Income</h3> <p>1/4 are socially-isolated, elderly, veterans, or those with a disability.</p> | <h3>Those In Crisis</h3> <p>Homeless or those suffering mental illness and/or addiction.</p> |
|---|---|---|--|



## We Go Deep Into Each Other's Lives.

We welcome all people to journey deeper with us, to be involved, and discover new growth within themselves and one another.

### The journey looks different for each of us.

Whether someone from our neighborhood comes once, or comes a thousand times, our programs and wholistic approach have a tremendous impact on lives in our community – shopper, donor, and volunteer alike.



Anybody's life can be rehabilitated. But you need people listening and support. Rolling up your sleeves, getting involved.

Chris was battling homelessness and PTSD when he first came to our community, and through the help of our Stride team and close friends, he was able to find the resources and the strength to find stable housing and become an appliance repair technician.



Chris' Journey



# Financials

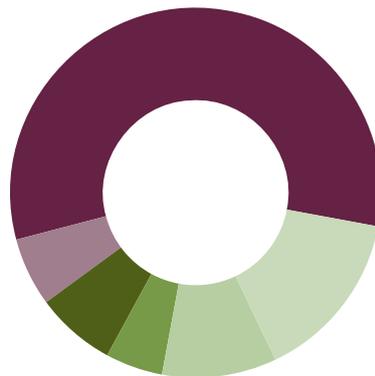
It takes all of us coming together to make sure that our neighbors have food to gather around. Our hearts are filled with gratitude as we look at the resources our community members bring together to help us move our work forward.

## Income



- 74% - Philanthropic
- 18% - In-kind
- 8% - Investments & Other

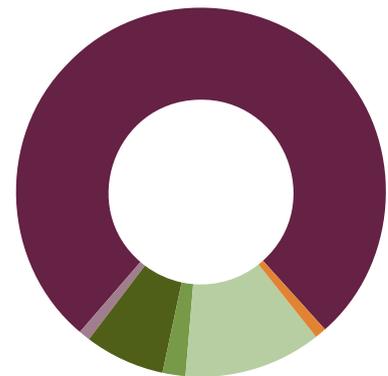
## Program Expenses



- 57% - Shop
- 6% - Feast
- 7% - Grow
- 5% - Form
- 10% - Mission Year
- 15% - Stride

## Philanthropic Sources

for 2021 Annual Fund



- 77% - Individuals
- 1% - Parishes
- 7% - Corporations
- 2% - Organizations
- 12% - Foundations
- 1% - Government

# Our Team

## Our work takes many hands and hearts.

The kindness and resilience of our neighborhood residents, the passion and dedication of our volunteers, and the incredible generosity of our supporters continues to bless and inspire us.

## Board

*Our board's passion for community building around healthy food drives their commitment to serve their fellow neighbors.*

### Ellen Bartel

#### President

Sponsorship Consultant  
Sisters of the Divine Savior

### Paul Burgoyne

#### Vice President

#### Chair, Development Committee

Retired Vice President  
The Boelter Companies

### James Hegarty

#### Secretary

Senior Counsel  
GE Healthcare

### Tracy L. Meeks

#### Treasurer

#### Chair, Finance Committee

VP, Head of Small Business Banking  
First Midwest Bank

### David Bourne

#### Chair, Facilities Committee

Partner, Quarles & Brady

### Jacquelin

#### Coby-Beaver

Clinical Operations Director  
Diversity & Inclusion Advocate  
Aurora Health

### Lori Craig

Senior Vice President/  
Market Leader  
PNC Private Bank

### Nicholas Fallucca

Chief Product and Innovation Officer  
Palermo's Pizza

### Chad Griesel

Pastoral Associate of Formation and Justice  
Family of Four Parishes  
Milwaukee

### Berent Kowarick

Vice President, Banker  
J.P. Morgan Private Bank

### Melinda Krueger

#### Chair, Communications Committee

Retired Senior Client Partner  
Salesforce

### William Michaels, Jr.

#### Chair, Governance and Nominating Committee

Retired Partner, Deloitte

### Eugene E. Nelson, Jr.

Case Manager/FSET  
Coordinator  
Project RETURN



This is a place where each one of us learns to offer what we can to others and receive what we need from the relationships we build and the work that we share.

– Ellen Bartel,  
Board President

## Staff

*Our staff is an incredible team that always strives to work for the betterment of our entire community.*

### Vincent Noth

Executive Director

### Wayne Breitbarth

Managing Director

### Caitlin Cullen

Food Center Director

### Jennifer S. Mehr

Advancement Director

### Mark Bergemann

Operations Manager

### Cole Compton

VISTA Intern,  
Urban Farm Coordinator

### Amanda Fahrendorf

Communications Associate

### Isabel Guerrero

Community Care Associate

### Lindy Meer

Controller

### Maddie Mueller

Development Associate

### Nancy Rodriguez

Community Care Manager

### Natalie Ross

VISTA Intern,  
Food Acquisition Coordinator

### Samantha Vosters

Volunteer Engagement  
Manager



The clichés about food and community are so abundant because they are true— when we are able to share even the humblest meal, strangers become friends and community becomes family.

– Caitlin Cullen,  
Food Center Director

FORMERLY RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY  
— EST 1979 —

# Everyone Gives. Everyone Receives.



**kinship**  
COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER

A community of generosity.

## Kinship Community Food Center

2610 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive  
Milwaukee, WI 53212

To learn more or plan a visit,  
please contact us:

414-301-1478  
info@kinshipmke.org

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