



OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

Wisconsin Community Services, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD



Dear Friends and Supporters of WCS,

When someone tells me the story of how they have changed the trajectory of their life with support from WCS, I am filled with hope for our future. I invite you to read through the pages of this annual report as some of the individuals we serve tell us how they have reached their goals with encouragement and guidance from the WCS staff.

WCS continues to grow as an agency, adding new programs and increasing its infrastructure to enable the organization to provide as many services as possible. WCS is honored to walk beside thousands of individuals each day as they work hard to overcome the challenges they face.

I am proud of what WCS has accomplished and grateful for all of you who have supported the agency through funding, collaborations and partnerships. It is good to hear from those we serve that we are making a difference!

Thanks to your support and partnership, WCS is a powerful force for individual and community change. Thank you for standing by our side!

With appreciation,

Celia Jackson, WCS Board President

WCS AWARDED CARF ACCREDITATION

We are pleased to announce that WCS has received a three-year Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accreditation for our Bakari Residential Treatment Center (Children and Adolescents) program. By pursuing and achieving accreditation, WCS has demonstrated that it meets international standards for quality and is committed to pursuing excellence. CARF is an international, nonprofit accreditor founded in 1966 that sets standards of excellence for human service organizations whose programs and services cover the spectrum from youth to older adults in a variety of settings. This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards.



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ONGOING SUPPORT TO ADDRESS SUBSTANCE USE CHALLENGES

Caroline decided to take the opportunity offered to her to participate in the Waukesha County Drug Treatment Court program and break her cycle of addiction. The Drug Treatment Court is a challenging, 14-month-long program that offers individuals the chance to end their drug dependence, improve their chances for a sober, crime-free, and healthy life, and contribute to a safe community.

Caroline reflected that at the start of the program, she felt desperate, broken and tired – but those feelings slowly changed as she moved through the program. The program helped her to become open and honest with herself and to begin loving herself as a person. She developed goals and was motivated. Through her journey in the program, Caroline worked hard and was truly dedicated.

On December 7, 2022, Caroline officially graduated from the Waukesha County Drug Treatment Court program. She said she is proud of herself and is finally hopeful about her life. Her journey in the program helped Caroline build a better relationship with her family and a good career path.

“I am grateful for the program,” she says. “They don’t give up easily. They gave me support even when I didn’t know how to ask for it, and for all of that I am forever grateful.”

“They gave me support even when I didn’t know how to ask for it, and for all of that I am forever grateful.”

– Caroline



What is the Waukesha County Drug Treatment Court?

The Waukesha County Drug Treatment Court (DTC) provides supportive case management services including individualized case plans with participant goals, referrals to community resources to meet basic needs, employment support, treatment referrals, and alcohol and drug testing.



MANY FIND SUCCESS ...

In the past year, 19 individuals graduated from the Waukesha County Drug Treatment Court. This makes a total of 225 graduates since the program’s inception in 2006.

During the past year the program served 64 individuals. Since beginning 16 years ago, the Waukesha County Drug Treatment Court has helped a total of 418 individuals overcome their substance use challenges.

WHAT IS CDLRE?

Center for Driver's License Recovery & Employability

CDLRE provides case management and legal services to help individuals recover a valid driver's license after suspension or revocation for failure to pay fines.

MANY FIND SUCCESS ...

During the past year at CDLRE, 201 individuals were enrolled in the program where they received case management and legal services. Of those, 118 have their driving privileges reinstated.

Expert advice was provided to an additional 287 individuals providing them with steps to take to recover their license. They were deemed to not need the program's legal services.

Since the program's inception in 2007, CDLRE has enrolled 7,341 people and has recovered 4,273 driver's licenses. The long-term license recovery rate is 68%. Expert advice has been given to an additional 8,051 individuals.

“This type of job was not available to me until I got my license. Not only am I able to make more money, but I also have a job now that provides health insurance. I feel like I’m finally able to get ahead in life.”

– CDLRE participant

“I’m a single parent who lost my job during COVID and ended up staying in a shelter. I was looking to start a new job and get back on my feet. I am extremely grateful to the program for helping me obtain a valid license and get one step closer to getting my life back on track.”

– CDLRE participant



“I wanted to get my commercial driver’s license (CDL), but my regular license was suspended. The program helped me obtain a valid license, and now I can sign up to take CDL training classes and look for other job opportunities.”

– CDLRE participant

“It feels good doing the right thing, and I owe it all to WCS.”

– Morris



DOING WHAT IT TAKES TO LIVE A SUBSTANCE-FREE LIFE

After decades of dependence on alcohol and drugs, along with a felony conviction, Morris is finally sober, living a life that makes him happy and proud, and giving back to his community. A native of Milwaukee and a 1982 graduate of Bay View High School, Morris spent time in the Coast Guard and Army Reserves, and worked odd jobs before his substance use began to take over his life. “I spent 20 years going backwards,” he explains, “and finally, I just decided that I was better than that.”

“It feels good doing the right thing,” he says, “and I owe it all to WCS.” Actually though, WCS staff members who have worked with Morris over the past few years say that they just showed him the way, and Morris did all of the hard work.

According to Sankofa House Program Manager Torre Johnson, Morris is a “shining star” who was willing to do whatever it took to live a full and substance-free life. So, in addition to spending time at WCS Sankofa House, Morris has regularly attended therapy at the WCS Unlimited Potential Outpatient Mental Health and Substance Use Clinic. Plus, he actively participated in the WCS Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) program, and spent meaningful time with a WCS Peer Support Specialist. And he gained new work skills through the WCS Employment and Training Services program.

As part of a unique partnership between the City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works (DPW) and WCS, Morris was referred to the DPW for employment. He passed all of the city’s requirements and was hired as a temporary worker in March 2022. After establishing a good work record, Morris was hired by the DPW as a permanent, full-time sanitation worker.

He loves the stability and opportunities that the job has brought to his life. “I have my own car now, so I have been able to volunteer to drive people to church – and over the holiday season I drove bell ringers which I really enjoyed,” he reports. Morris also hopes to earn his Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) because then he’ll be able to drive the truck at work and earn a higher wage.

Morris said he is grateful to have had so many people at WCS who never gave up on him. In particular, he acknowledges the ongoing support of Torre (his mentor), Sarah (his therapist) and Christina (his peer support specialist). “Now,” he says, “I am not addicted, my family life is better, my personal health is better, and I’m living a stress-free life.”

Also, he now has dreams for the future. “One day,” he exclaims, “I’d like to have my own food truck ... who knows?” For those who know Morris, they wouldn’t be surprised at all.

WHAT IS CLASP?

Community Linkages and Stabilization Program

CLASP is a program where community-based Peer Specialists provide services for individuals beginning the process of recovery from their mental health, substance use or co-occurring needs.

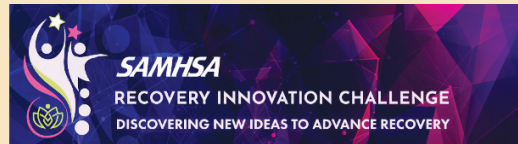
MANY FIND SUCCESS ...

Between June 2021 and June 2022, individuals served in CLASP rated the program a 4.82 on a 5-point scale when asked if their CLASP Peer Specialist helped them, treated them with respect and worked on things that were important to them. This overall average of the 53 completed surveys demonstrates the commitment of WCS to provide high-quality, person-centered care to individuals in need of supportive services during their recovery journey.



“My Peer actively listens, works with me on social skills and changing my perceptions on negative thoughts.”

– CLASP participant



WCS CLASP PROGRAM WINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) selected the WCS Community Linkages and Stabilization Program (CLASP) as a finalist in their first-ever Recovery Innovation Challenge. CLASP was one of 20 finalists chosen from more than 360 applicants across the country.

For SAMHSA, innovative solutions and services provided by nonprofits are an essential part of combating the opioid crisis and supporting the millions of Americans who are living in various stages of recovery from mental health and substance use challenges. The Recovery Innovation Challenge aims to identify innovations that advance recovery from peer-run or community-based organizations and their partners.

CLASP, which is a partnership between WCS and Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services, serves high-needs individuals who do not engage in traditional systems of care and frequently utilize emergency rooms, hospitals and crisis services. Using a non-traditional, person-centered and culturally informed approach, Certified Peer Specialists work one-on-one with individuals who are beginning the process of recovery. The Peer Specialists utilize their own unique lived experiences to engage the people they are serving, role model recovery during each interaction, and offer hope, support and education. WCS currently employs more than 50 Peer Specialists.

Being selected as one of 20 finalists in SAMHSA's Recovery Innovation Challenge speaks to the incredible and amazing work of our staff and their commitment to supporting individuals on their own self-directed recovery journey.





WHAT IS THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT TO RECOVERY+ PROGRAM (ED2 RECOVERY+)?

WCS provides Peer Specialists for individuals who have presented to an emergency room following an overdose. This is done in partnership with Advocate Aurora Health and Ascension. In the past year, 32 individuals were discharged from ED2 Recovery+. They were all connected to longer-term services to meet their ongoing recovery needs.

During the program's first year, staff participated in a Narcan Direct training that led to each WCS ED2 Recovery+ Peer Specialist becoming a certified Narcan trainer and distributor. WCS now has over 15 Narcan Administration Trainers that have trained more than 137 individuals in group and one-on-one trainings since January 2021.

As of December 31, 2022, the team had distributed 833 doses of Narcan. This exemplifies the WCS commitment to harm reduction and honoring the challenges individuals face during their unique pathway to recovery.

WHAT IS THE DOC PEER SPECIALIST PROGRAM?

The DOC (Department of Corrections) Peer Specialist program promotes the successful and stable transition of individuals into the community. The majority of these individuals are struggling with addiction in one form or another and on their own unique journey to recovery. Peer Specialists communicate and coordinate services with the individual, the individual's Agent of Record and other identified members of the individual's recovery support team. These services are based on a needs assessment that identifies where the participant may need additional support (examples: legal, housing, substance use, mental health).

“My Peer Specialist helped me budget my money and purchase a phone. She helped me believe in myself again and empowered me to leave a toxic relationship. I also have gained a sponsor since working with her.”

– Program participant

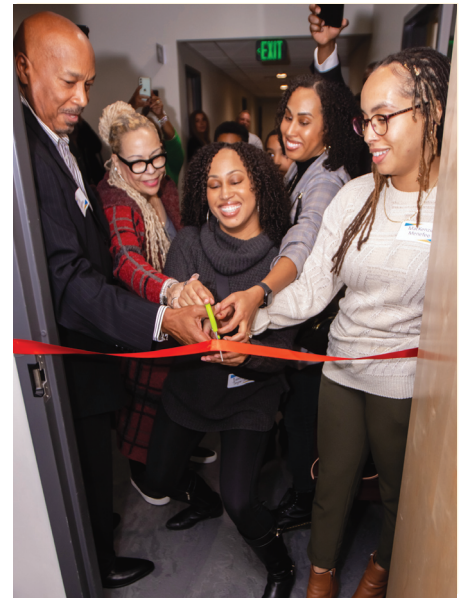


WCS REMEMBERS LYNN MENEFFEE WITH GRATITUDE

On October 20, 2022, WCS dedicated the new Lynn Menefee Conference Room. Lynn Menefee was appointed to the WCS Board of Directors in 2014. At the time of her unexpected passing in January 2022, she was serving as the President of the WCS Board of Directors. Lynn's contributions as the Board President and as a board member are innumerable and reflect the life that she lived and the many people that she touched along the way.

Lynn and her family decided to make Milwaukee their home many years ago. She quickly established herself as a thoughtful, committed, smart, and courageous advocate in our Milwaukee community. Lynn was charming, bright, warm, engaging, generous, no-nonsense, supportive and passionate – a born leader who was always full of good ideas.

In a lasting tribute to Lynn's passion, work and leadership, WCS dedicated this conference room to carry on her rich legacy. The conference room is located in our newly remodeled first floor at the WCS Wisconsin Avenue Campus. The room will be used by staff, community members and others to convene, plan, engage, lead, collaborate and advocate for the people we serve and for all underserved members of our community. Lynn would want us all to stay busy and to focus on the work of sharing our gifts and talents with others, to make beneficial use of the time that we have been given. The Lynn Menefee Conference Room is a space where we can all carry on the spirit and work of Lynn.



*Top: Lynn Menefee
Middle: The Lynn Menefee Conference Room is dedicated and open for use.
Bottom (from left to right): Lynn's husband Lee Menefee, and daughters Camille Taylor, Alexandra Menefee-Reed and Mackenzie Menefee officially open the conference room.*



“I’m in the best place I’ve ever been – mentally and physically – and I’m happier than I’ve ever been.”
– Sebastian

“SETTING MEANINGFUL GOALS TRANSFORMED MY LIFE”

Just one year ago, Sebastian was serving time in a federal prison in Oregon. Little did he know that in less than 12 months, he would be living and working in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and truly loving it. Although the path to Milwaukee was challenging, and Sebastian would not want to travel it again, he is thrilled to be where he is today. “I’m in the best job I’ve ever had, I’m in the best place I’ve ever been mentally and physically, and I’m happier than I’ve ever been,” Sebastian proudly explains. “Honestly, I have to say that it’s because of WCS.”

A native of San Diego, California, Sebastian grew up in Oregon. When he was in his 20s, his involvement with drugs and firearms led him to a felony conviction and a prison sentence at FCI Sheridan, a medium-security, federal correctional institution in Oregon. After serving three years, he was released to the WCS Parsons House Residential Reentry Center (RRC), an RRC in Milwaukee with an emphasis on employment services for citizens returning from the Federal Bureau of Prisons. At the time, he had a good friend who lived in Milwaukee, and it seemed like a great city for a fresh start.

Sebastian’s stay at Parsons House proved to be life-changing. He said the staff at Parsons House gave him the consistent boundaries and ongoing encouragement that he needed. While there, he also participated in employment counseling,

learned how to set meaningful goals for himself, signed up for health insurance, and took part in Community Warehouse’s inspirational Partners in Hope program, which helps formerly incarcerated individuals in Milwaukee become productive citizens.

After his time as a resident at Parsons House, Sebastian transitioned to Home Detention where he lived independently while being monitored by the WCS Electronic Monitoring program. He set out to find a good job where he could apply his general maintenance skills and somehow make a positive difference. As it turns out, WCS was looking for someone to work in the facilities department, so he applied and was hired soon after. Today, Sebastian works as the facilities maintenance lead overseeing the upkeep of different WCS locations.

“Honestly, I love that I can do this, and I love where I’m at in my life,” he says. “I can’t see myself doing anything else right now. I believe this is where I’m supposed to be!”

Most of all, Sebastian says he enjoys making sure that WCS sites are welcoming and well-maintained places for every individual who participates in WCS programming – because he knows firsthand how important it is to feel valued when you are working to transform your life.

AGENCY EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

President and Chief Executive Officer
Clarence Johnson

Vice President of Behavioral Health Services
Chad Meinholdt

Vice President of Finance/ Chief Finance Officer
Kristine Radeztsky

Vice President of Court and Community Reintegration Programs
Sara Carpenter

Vice President of Operations
Dwayne Marks



2022 WCS Black Male Advisory Council (BMAC) Community Resource and Job Fair

WCS Leadership Awards for Outstanding Community Service were presented to County Executive David Crowley and Chytania Brown, President and CEO of Employ Milwaukee, by Artis Landon, WCS Administrator, and Clarence Johnson, WCS President and CEO.

WHO WE SERVE

WCS provides services to children, youth, adults and families in the areas of behavioral health, criminal justice, community reintegration, and employment and training.



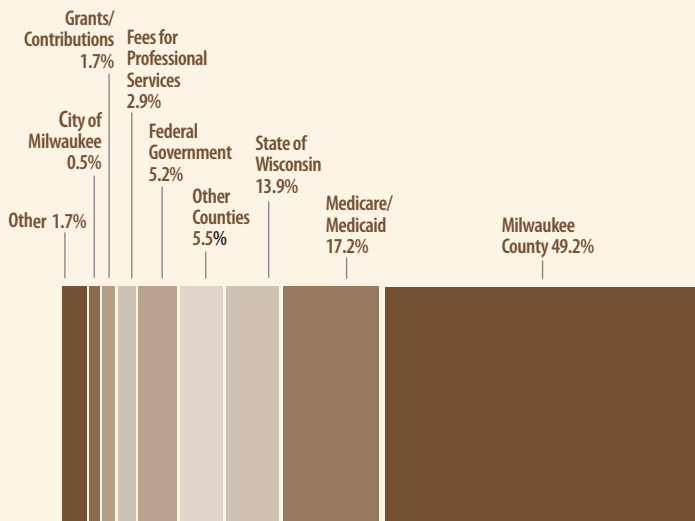
WCS FINANCIAL REPORT

Year ending December 31, 2021

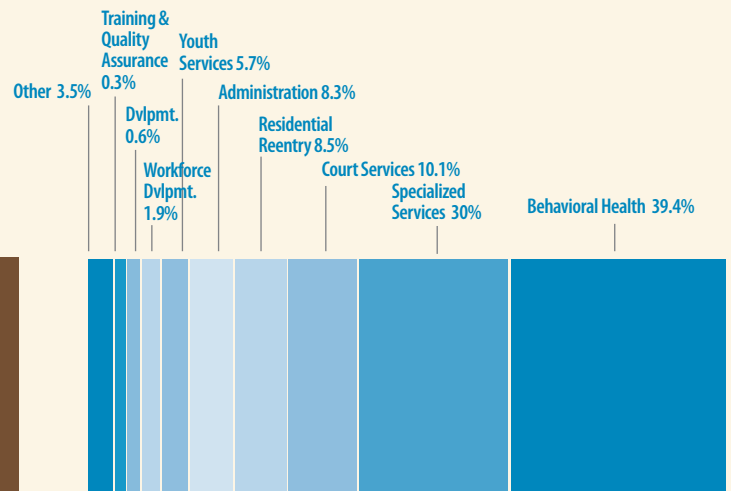
TOTAL INCOME.....\$44,375,985

TOTAL EXPENSES.....\$42,551,436

WHERE FUNDS COME FROM



WHAT FUNDS PAY FOR



FUNDING SOURCES

Bader Philanthropies, Inc.
 Behavioral Consultants, Inc.
 City of Milwaukee: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
 Dodge County
 Employ Milwaukee
 Greater Milwaukee Foundation
 Greater Milwaukee Foundation- Paul P. Lipton Fund
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 Manitowoc County
 Maximus
 Medicaid/Medicare
 Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC)
 Milwaukee County Combined Court-Related Operations
 Milwaukee County: Department of Child Support Services (DCSS)

Milwaukee County: DHHS - Children, Youth & Family Services (CYFS)
 Milwaukee County: DHHS - Behavioral Health Services
 Milwaukee County: DHHS - Housing Services
 Milwaukee County: Community Reintegration Center (CRC)
 Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) Community Partnership Grant Program
 State of Wisconsin: Department of Children & Families (DCF)
 State of Wisconsin: Department of Corrections (DOC)
 State of Wisconsin: DHS - Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS)
 State of Wisconsin: DHS - Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS)
 U.S. Courts: Probation and Pretrial Services
 U.S. Department of Justice: Bureau of Prisons (BOP)

United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County (UWGMWC)
 University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
 Washington County
 Waukesha County: Criminal Justice Collaborating Council (CJCC)
 Waukesha County: Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
 Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ)
 Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP)
 Wisconsin Voices for Recovery (WIVFR)
 Women & Girls Fund of Waukesha
 Zilber Family Foundation



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*Annual Report Photography: Saturn Lounge and John O'Hara
 Design/Production: Caprile Marketing/Design • Editor: Anne Osterwind*



YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS IN OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

It's never too early or too late to donate to WCS and help individuals obtain the opportunity to improve their quality of life and empower them to confidently move forward. By donating, you can help WCS address the critical issues of mental health, substance use and criminal justice involvement through programming that focuses on person-centered care. Your gift is important and supports our mission of advocating for justice and community safety by providing innovative opportunities for individuals to overcome adversity.

To donate, please visit wiscs.org, or you can mail your donation to the WCS Development Department at the address below. A "wish list" of needed items is also available on our website (wiscs.org) if you prefer to shop or donate specific items.



MISSION STATEMENT

Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. advocates for justice and community safety, providing innovative opportunities for individuals to overcome adversity.