



Celebrating Women's History Month: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future

March is a time to celebrate Women's History Month in America—a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the resilience, achievements, and contributions of women throughout history. For generations, women have faced oppression and marginalization, yet they have persevered, breaking barriers and shaping the world we live in today. Like other historically marginalized communities, many women were once hidden figures, their accomplishments overlooked. Thankfully, that is changing, and Women's History Month continues to elevate the impact women have across all aspects of society.

Today, we see the powerful influence of women in every profession and at every level of the workforce. As a society, we have become more intentional about supporting the advancement of women as innovators, catalysts, leaders, entrepreneurs, and icons. The talents, dedication, and leadership of women enrich our workplaces and communities, benefiting us all.

Personally, I have been deeply inspired by many remarkable women who have shaped my views and strengthened my commitment to social and economic justice. Among them are Eleanor Roosevelt, an influential political figure and human rights activist; Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund and a tireless advocate for disadvantaged Americans; Frances Perkins, the first woman to serve in a U.S. presidential cabinet and a driving force behind the New Deal; and Barbara Jordan, the first Black Southern Congresswoman and a trailblazer in American politics.

At Wisconsin Community Services (WCS), we are proud to celebrate the women who lead, serve, and make a difference within our organization. Their dedication, compassion,

and commitment are the foundation of the work we do. As a premier Human Services organization in Southeast Wisconsin, WCS remains steadfast in its commitment to empowering women in our workplaces, recognizing that their leadership is essential to our mission and our continued impact on the communities we serve.

This Women's History Month, let us celebrate the achievements of women past and present, and recommit to fostering a future where all women have the opportunity to thrive.

Clarence Johnson



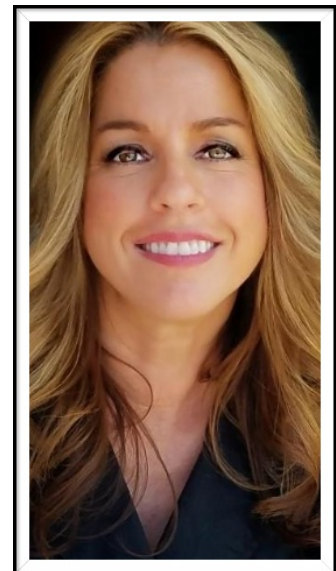
Staff Spotlight

Meet Sara Carpenter - A Leader in Action

For **34 years**, Sara Carpenter has been a driving force at **WCS**, starting as an unpaid intern in **1990** and rising to her current role as **Vice President of Court & Community Reintegration Services**, serving on the Executive Leadership Team.

Carpenter has played a key role in launching impactful programs, including treatment courts and community alternatives across multiple Wisconsin counties. Recognized as a **WCS Outstanding Leader (2009)** and a **Woman of Distinction (2013)** awarded by Women and Girls fund of Waukesha County, she is celebrated for her dedication, innovation, and belief in the power of change.

"As a leader, I work to challenge, inspire, motivate, and support those I work with to examine difficult issues, problem solve and create viable solutions, and to strive for excellence in the programs to ensure the success of the people we serve. It takes a community to elicit effective change," **Carpenter** reflects.



Clarence praised her leadership, stating, "Sara has always given 110%—to WCS, our staff, and, most importantly, the individuals we serve."

As we celebrate **Women's History Month**, we recognize Sara Carpenter for her exceptional leadership and contributions to WCS and the communities we serve.

Her impact is a testament to the strength and influence of women leading change.

Event Recap

Celebrating Black History Month at WCS



February was a time of **reflection, learning, and celebration** as we honored **Black History Month** through engaging activities and community gatherings at WCS.

A key highlight was the **7th annual Black History Month Potluck Luncheon**, a signature staff event organized by the **WCS Black Male Advisory Council** to celebrate the rich heritage and history of African Americans.

This year's theme, inspired by the **Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)**, was "**African Americans and Labor.**" The theme encouraged thoughtful discussions about the historical and present-day impact of Black individuals in the workforce. President and CEO Clarence Johnson gave remarks at the February 20th event where 70 staff members gathered to share a meal, connect, and reflect. WCS provided catered dishes, while individual staff members contributed delicious homemade favorites.

Abstract artist Melva Darrough, the **WCS Human Resources Coordinator**, conducted a free art class, providing staff with an opportunity to express their creativity in honor of Black history and culture. Darrough has been practicing art for 25 years and teaching art for the last 5 years. Her artwork has been displayed throughout Milwaukee at libraries,

banks, community centers, and City Hall, and is currently on display at the WCS Wisconsin Avenue Campus! Darrough's artwork will be featured along with works from other Milwaukee artists at the [Friends of the Domes Art in the Green festival, April 26-27](#).

Several WCS departments hosted their own celebrations to commemorate Black History Month, ensuring that recognition and appreciation were felt throughout the organization. In addition, staff participated in Black History Month Trivia, with weekly questions fostering engagement and learning. Two winners were announced each Friday.

WCS is committed to honoring Black history, celebrating achievements, and fostering meaningful conversations that uplift our entire community. Thank you to everyone who participated in making this month a success!



Resilience Lunch - A Celebration of Strength and Progress



A **Celebrating Resilience Lunch** was hosted by WCS to publicly acknowledge and reward successful residents of both the **Sankofa House and Nova House Programs**. Designed by Torre Johnson, Program Director, the event was a powerful gathering that honored individuals reaching significant milestones in their recovery journey.

Attendees were welcomed by **Clarence, WCS President and CEO**, setting the tone for an inspiring afternoon. A highlight of the event was a special address from **Mayor Cavalier**

Johnson, who shared words of recognition and encouragement for the honorees. The event also featured a heartfelt awards ceremony where individuals received personalized wooden **plaques commemorating their perseverance and achievements**.

Guests were treated to a delicious **lunch** and enjoyed camaraderie with the honorees, staff and guests around the tables. The event underscored the importance of community-driven recovery efforts and the ongoing commitment of **Sankofa House and Nova House** to empowering individuals on their journeys.

We celebrate the resilience and dedication of all honorees—your progress is an inspiration to us all!

[Learn More](#)

We Are Looking for People to Join the WCS Team!

The dedicated staff at WCS works with individuals to overcome adversity by providing

access to a continuum of support services. Our efforts give individuals the opportunity to improve their quality of life, empowering them to lead independent lives and experience self-efficacy. In turn, WCS has transformative power in strengthening our community as a whole. We invite you to be a part of that change.

Recovery Navigator | Wisconsin Community Services (WCS) | Milwaukee, WI

Join our innovative Hub and Spoke Health Home program, supporting individuals with significant substance use and co-occurring mental health needs. As a Recovery Navigator, you'll develop personalized care plans, provide ongoing support, and empower individuals on their recovery journey.

[Apply Here](#)

Care Coordinator | Wisconsin Community Services (WCS) | Milwaukee, WI

Make a meaningful impact in the lives of children and adolescents through our Youth Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) program. As a Care Coordinator, you'll provide intensive, individualized support under the Wraparound Practice Model of Care, focusing on strength-based, trauma-informed, and community-focused support.

[Apply Here](#)

Case Manager | Wisconsin Community Services (WCS) | Milwaukee, WI

Support individuals with mental health and co-occurring substance use disorders as a Case Manager in our Community Support Program (CSP). You'll provide assessments, treatment planning, crisis intervention, and supportive psychotherapy, working closely with individuals in their homes and communities.

[Apply Here](#)

Visit www.wiscs.org/careers to view a full list of current job openings at WCS.

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