



Celebrating Caregiver Month: Honoring Strength, Hope and Community

This November, we pause to honor the caregivers among us, the individuals whose compassion, resilience, and steady presence make healing possible. Whether supporting a loved one, caring for a neighbor, or walking alongside individuals and families in professional settings, caregivers show us every day that community care is truly collective care. Their quiet strength uplifts families, stabilizes communities, and inspires all of us to lead with greater empathy and purpose.

As we embrace this season of gratitude, I'm reminded of how vital community support is to the individuals and families we serve at WCS. In that spirit, I invite you to join us in our holiday drive to ensure families in need have the essentials to stay warm, safe, and supported this winter. Your generosity, large or small, will make a meaningful difference.

Read the full blog on our LinkedIn page to learn more.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clarence Johnson".



[Read Full Blog Here](#)

Spotlight on Community Impact: WCS Represented at the Inaugural Waukesha County Partnership Summit



WCS was pleased to nominate Susie Austin as a guest panelist for the inaugural Waukesha County Partnership Summit, a first-of-its-kind gathering designed to bring together community partners, providers, and leaders working to strengthen responses to substance use and mental health challenges. The summit created space for collaboration, learning, and shared problem-solving, and Susie's voice was a defining highlight.

During the panel *Together We Can Make a Difference: Stories from the Substance Use Team*, Susie delivered a powerful testimonial about an individual served through the All-Peer Program. Her story illuminated the real-life impact of peer support and the transformative role lived experience plays in fostering trust, hope, and healing.

Her authenticity resonated deeply with the group. One attendee approached Susie after the session to share that her story moved them to tears, a reflection of how profoundly peer support can shift perspectives and strengthen communities.

We are grateful for Susie's leadership, compassion, and commitment to elevating the vital work of our peer support specialists. Her presence helped ensure WCS's mission and impact were felt throughout this important event.



WCS in The Media: Leadership Rooted in Purpose Leaves a Lasting Impact

WCS is proud to highlight Clarence Johnson, President & CEO, for his recent appearance on *PozCast* with Shannon Sims of TMJ4 News.

In this engaging conversation, Clarence reflects on the importance of mission-driven leadership and how WCS is advancing justice, mental health, and community well-being throughout southeastern Wisconsin. He shares how our programs support individuals facing systemic barriers, strengthen families, and contribute to safer, healthier communities.

Clarence's insights underscore a core belief at WCS: when leadership is rooted in purpose, it not only guides our work, it transforms lives.

We invite you to tune in and hear more about the impact WCS is making, one life at a time.



Finding Calm in a Busy Season: Mindfulness During the Holidays

The holiday season can bring joy, connection, and celebration, but it can also bring stress, busy schedules, and overwhelming emotions. At WCS, we recognize the importance of supporting both the individuals we serve and our staff with tools that promote mental well-being, especially during this time of year.

Mindfulness offers a simple yet powerful way to stay grounded. By slowing down, noticing how we feel, and giving ourselves permission to pause, we can create space for clarity, compassion, and calm. Whether you're navigating family dynamics, managing end-of-year responsibilities, or supporting others through difficult moments, mindfulness can help you move through the season with intention.

As we approach the holidays, we encourage everyone to take a moment to breathe, reset, and care for themselves. Small mindful practices, a quiet walk, a gratitude list, five deep breaths, can make a meaningful difference. By prioritizing our well-being, we're better able to show up for one another and for the communities we serve.

Mindfulness Tip: Before heading into a busy holiday gathering or task try to pause, lower your gaze or close your eyes and take five deep breaths.

This small act can help you stay grounded, present, and connected to what matters.

A Staff Spotlight: Kristine Radeztsky, Vice President of Finance & Accounting and Chief Financial Officer

WCS is proud to recognize Kristine Radeztsky, our Vice President of Finance & Accounting and Chief Financial Officer, whose leadership and expertise have strengthened our organization for more than a decade.

In her role, Kristine oversees our financial strategy, accounting, facilities, security, pharmacy, and IT operations, ensuring WCS remains fiscally strong, mission-focused, and positioned to serve thousands of individuals each year. Her extensive corporate experience and deep expertise in strategic financial planning, analysis, and operations allow WCS to make sound, sustainable decisions that advance our mission and expand our impact.

We are grateful for Kristine's steady leadership, her strategic vision, and her commitment to making a difference in the lives of those we





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.

Waukesha Reentry Employment/DRC Case Manager

This position has two tracks. Reentry Employment Case Manager: Responsible for all program coordination and daily operations, including new referrals, case management, collaboration with Electronic Monitoring staff, and program reporting. DRC Employment Case Manager: Case management with intensive support, supervision and monitoring of individuals ordered by court officials or by the District Attorney's office to participate in the Day Report Center (DRC), as part of their JOC or as a formal Deferred Prosecution.

[\[Apply Here\]](#)

Shelter Care Assistant Program Director | Milwaukee

WCS is seeking a Shelter Care Assistant Program Director to lead staff and support youth at our two state-licensed facilities. This on-site role is ideal for someone who thrives in a fast-paced environment, enjoys mentoring others, and is passionate about creating safe, supportive spaces for youth.

[\[Apply Here\]](#)

Youth Treatment Specialist | Jefferson County

This position works in a therapeutic milieu environment serving youth at a State Certified Youth Crisis Stabilization Facility (YCSF) serving male, female and gender non-conforming youth, ages 8-17, supporting youth through a mental health crisis that has resulted in a youth needing a safe space to reside for up to 30 days.

[\[Apply Here\]](#)

Certified Peer Specialist - CLASP/DOC/ED2 Recovery | Milwaukee

The Certified Peer Specialist is a person who has lived the experience of mental health, substance use or co-occurring needs, is in recovery, has had formal training in the peer specialist model of support, and has passed the State of Wisconsin certification exam or successfully becomes certified within one year of hire. Peer Specialists work 1:1 with people enrolled in the community-based Peer Specialist programs who are beginning the process of recovery. The Peer Specialists utilize their own unique lived experience to engage the people they are serving and role model recovery during each interaction.

[\[Apply Here\]](#)

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

We're proud to share recent media appearances that highlight the work and impact of Wisconsin Community Services:

- **Inside Sankofa House, Working With Older Adults Struggling with Substance, Behavioral Issue** | [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)
- **PozCast #22: The Hidden Giant: Wisconsin Community Services Transforms Lives in Milwaukee** | [TMJ4-TV Milwaukee](#)

WCS Events



Join us through **December 5** for our Winter Donation Drive and help ensure individuals and families served by WCS have the essential items they need this season.

We are looking for new/gently used clothing donations. Which can include:

- Hats, gloves, socks, coats
- Personal care items: Deodorant, Menstrual Products, Body-wash, Toothbrush/paste

Contact **Winter Kowalski** with questions:

wkowalski@wisc.org or (414) 840-3869

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