



Working to end homelessness, one life at a time. **CATHEDRAL CENTER**

Collaboration Builds Strength

TOGETHER, WE CREATE LASTING CHANGE

Looking ahead to 2025, it's clear that collaboration is the cornerstone of our success at The Cathedral Center. Our collective commitment to supporting individuals and families facing homelessness continues to grow stronger, and together with our community partners, supporters, and donors, we are making meaningful strides in addressing this critical issue.

In December 2024, the highly anticipated Point in Time data for January 2024 was released, showing a continued reduction in the number of people experiencing literal homelessness in Milwaukee. While this progress is encouraging, the reports also revealed that we still have much work ahead of us. Just before Christmas, street outreach teams and warming shelters reported over 180 individuals sleeping outside, a stark reminder of the urgency of our mission. As of January 2025, providers in warming and shelter networks have voiced concerns about the capacity of the system. The warming room system, which serves as a vital resource for those facing extreme cold, is stretched beyond its limits and is set to close at the end of the month, leaving many without the emergency shelter they so desperately need.

This is where collaboration becomes essential. The challenges we face are not insurmountable when we work together—when local providers, community leaders,

and compassionate supporters come together, we can continue to provide vital services and resources. One shining example of this spirit of collaboration is the story of a single mother at our emergency shelter. With the help of individual donors, we were able to provide her with a new stroller and car seats for her premature twins, allowing her to care for them as she works to regain stability. It's small acts of kindness like these, combined with the larger efforts of our community, that make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

This past year, we also celebrated a significant milestone with the success of our **10th Annual Empowerment Challenge**.

flexible funding needed to support our guests facing homelessness and housing crises as they navigate unique barriers on their journey to stability. We are deeply grateful for the support of our \$25,000 match pool donors, **Peter Geisert** and the **William N. and Janice V. Godfrey Family Foundation**. Their generosity helped propel us beyond our goal. We also want to express our gratitude to **Radio Milwaukee** for running Empowerment Challenge PSAs during their air time, helping to raise awareness and spread the message of empowerment throughout the community.

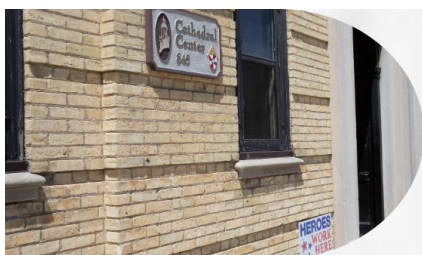
As we look toward 2025, we are reminded of the strength that comes from working together. The road ahead may be challenging, but with continued collaboration—between donors, service providers, and supporters—we can build a stronger, more resilient community for those experiencing homelessness. The progress we've made thus far is just the beginning, and we know that by staying committed to our shared vision, we will continue to make a lasting impact.

Thank you for being an integral part of this important work. We are excited to continue this journey with you in 2025 and beyond. Together, we will build strength, hope, and a brighter future for all.



Thanks to the generosity of our community, we not only met but exceeded our fundraising goal by raising **\$53,806**. This success is instrumental in stabilizing the

Urgent Needs



We are currently in need of:

- New Underwear
- New Sports Bras
- Twin & Full Bed Sheets
- New Pillows
- Toiletry Items
- Household Supplies
- Individually Packaged Snacks
- Paper Goods



Scan to purchase items off our Amazon Wishlist or email volunteer@cathedral-center.org to schedule a drop-off.

Moving Beyond Homelessness



Emergency Shelter

In 2024, Cathedral Center was honored to provide 16,395 nights of shelter to 238 women and 205 individuals across 65 families, each facing their own struggles and uncertainties. For many, our shelter was not just a roof over their heads—it was a safe haven where they could begin to rebuild their lives, free from the trauma of homelessness and crisis. Our compassionate team of Case Managers worked hand-in-hand with each client, offering personalized guidance and unwavering support. Together, they created Individualized Plans for Independence, setting goals to secure safe housing, increase income, and improve overall well-being. With the encouragement and resources they needed, clients began to see a path forward, one step at a time. By the end of the year, 105 women and 35 families had successfully exited the shelter, moving into stable homes and new beginnings. These outcomes represent more than just numbers—they are stories of resilience, courage, and hope. They are lives transformed, families reunited, and futures rebuilt, all thanks to the strength of the individuals we serve and the unwavering support of our dedicated staff. We are proud to stand beside them as they take these life-changing steps toward a brighter, more stable future.

Community Case Management

We are deeply moved to share the story of Jessica, a courageous mother of three who fled an abusive relationship and a painful divorce, leaving behind everything she knew to seek safety for herself and her children. With little more than the clothes on their backs, they arrived in a new state, staying in a motel for a month, paying out of pocket, as their savings quickly ran out. Despite the overwhelming obstacles, Jessica refused to give up on her children. With the help of Cathedral Center's support, she found a job and took the brave step of finalizing her divorce, determined to rebuild their lives. Just a month after becoming a client, she found a home of their own—using the resources we provided to connect with reliable leasing agencies. We were honored to stand by Jessica, providing financial assistance, cleaning supplies, hygiene products, and essential household items to help her start fresh. Referrals for clothing and more household necessities also helped ease the transition for her children. Today, Jessica and her children are thriving in their new home, safe and stable for the first time in a long while. They are filled with gratitude, hope, and the peace of knowing they have a future to look forward to. We are proud to have been part of their journey and are inspired by their resilience.



*Names and images have been changed in all stories to protect the identity of our clients.

Friendship House

Ellen came into our program after being in other shelters for nearly 1.5 years. She came in with increased depression, anxiety and often appeared closed and mistrustful of those around her, including staff.



The first few weeks of her being here she was still very closed off and was not very open to receiving help. Throughout several meetings with our Clinical Case Manager, Nikki, and with the support of everyone on staff, Ellen has started opening up and feeling more comfortable. She has been willing to accept referrals and support around her medical and mental health needs and has even started attending appointments for these issues. She has also appeared much happier, open and communicative with everyone. When asked about the shift in her demeanor that we've seen recently, she stated she feels "the safest I have been in a long time because I am actually feeling supported [here at Friendship House]." While she still has work to do to find employment, housing and continue to work on her mental health, she is in a much stronger position to do so because of the support she is receiving here. Thank you for allowing us to creatively provide support to Ellen who can now really work on the changes she needs to move forward.

Upcoming Events



DATE: Thursday, May 8, 2025

TIME: 6 pm - 9 pm

LOCATION: Mainstream Boutique (159 N Broadway)

INFO: Join us for an exclusive sip and shop event in support of our mission to end homelessness, one life at a time.



DATE: Wednesday, July 30, 2025

TIME: 5 pm - 8 pm

LOCATION: Italian Community Center (631 E Chicago St)

INFO: Contact Evan Barbian at ebarbian@cathedral-center.org for sponsorship opportunities. Tickets on sale soon!



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A Year of Progress and Hope

FROM THE DESK OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – DONNA RONGHOLT-MIGAN

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A PARTNERSHIP OF:
Cathedral of St. John the
Evangelist
Friendship House



Serving as the Executive Director of The Cathedral Center is both an honor and a privilege. I've witnessed the

transformative power of collaboration in our work. Our successes in supporting women and families stem from the dedication of our board, volunteers, staff, partners, and the many individuals who believe in our mission. Together, we've provided life-changing services to those facing homelessness and housing crises. Your ongoing commitment inspires me every day.

The year 2024 brought challenges, including a growing affordable housing crisis, an increase in elderly and disabled individuals seeking shelter, and more families with children in need of refuge. Despite these obstacles, we continue working as a united community, meeting our guests with compassion and creativity. I'm proud of the progress we've made in expanding outreach, shelter, meals, and essential

support. The lives we've touched reflect the strength of our collective vision.

Looking forward, I'm excited to build on our momentum, especially in expanding services and implementing trauma-informed practices. The Cathedral Center aims to enhance primary prevention efforts and integrate improvements with all levels of case management. Your support will be key as we push boundaries and empower those we serve to find stability, dignity, and hope.

While we face limited financial resources, we remain committed to finding creative solutions and strengthening partnerships. I urge you to embrace the idea that our community can support multiple causes and invest in our shared future, helping more people—whether women, men, or families—find the stability they need to thrive.

As always, I invite you to stay engaged with our mission, whether through volunteering, serving meals, or contributing financially. Every effort, no matter the size, has a profound

and lasting impact on the lives of the women and families we serve. Looking ahead, I remain inspired, hopeful, and deeply grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such a compassionate and dedicated community. Together, we will continue to create a future where homelessness is not an inevitable reality, but a challenge we can overcome through dignity, empathy, and collaboration. Thank you for your steadfast partnership, your generosity, and your unwavering commitment to our mission.

Donna Rongholt-Migan
Executive Director

Volunteer with Cathedral Center

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT CATHEDRAL CENTER

1 PROVIDE AN EVENING MEAL FOR GUESTS IN SHELTER
Our program offers healthy meals every day of the year to shelter guests. Volunteers can sign up to provide a home-cooked or catered evening meal. Whether dropping off or serving in person, it's a fantastic opportunity for corporate, church, sports teams, or friends to make a difference!

2 HOST A DRIVE FOR URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS
Challenge others to collect basic needs items and urgent program supplies. Items can be purchased from our Amazon Wish List!

3 BE AN ADVOCATE: FOLLOW, LIKE, SHARE POSTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



To learn more about our Hospitality Meal Program or other ways to get involved, contact Jeannie Strenzl at jstrenzl@cathedral-center.org or 414-831-0394 ext 2133.

CATHEDRAL CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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The Cathedral Center

710 N. Plankinton Avenue, #803, Milwaukee, WI 53203
www.cathedral-center.org

mission

PROVIDING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR WOMEN & FAMILIES WHILE WORKING TO END HOMELESSNESS ONE LIFE AT A TIME.

VISION

Through compassionate care and excellence in service delivery, Cathedral Center will serve as a leader in ending homelessness for women and families with children in Milwaukee. Cathedral Center envisions a community in which women and families with children are empowered to access support to meet all of their basic needs.



HEART MATTERS



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Join Our Team!

CURRENT VACANCIES:

- Guest Services Specialist - Friendship House (Full-Time)

Responsibilities Include:

- + Manage daily operations for women and families in emergency shelter and housing programs.
- + Handle client admissions, activity scheduling, and data entry.
- + Support program director, ensure ethical service delivery, and communicate professionally.

- Child & Family Specialist (Full-Time)

Responsibilities Include:

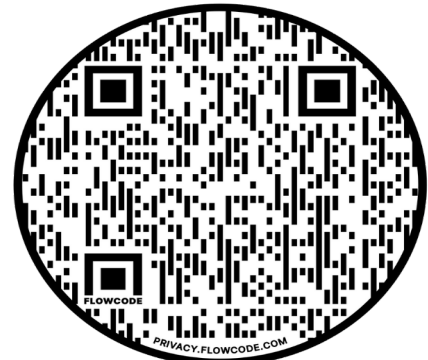
- + Provide direct care for children and youth while parents engage in meetings or activities.
- + Coordinate resources and services for families in emergency shelter, housing, workforce, and community programs.
- + Support trauma-informed, client-centered services, promoting education, positive play, and healthy emotional development.

CATHEDRAL CENTER HUB
ESTD 1996



CATHEDRAL CENTER

TO FIND WAYS TO SUPPORT
SCAN ME!



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SHELTER & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES – 845 N. VAN BUREN STREET, MILWAUKEE, WI 53202 | SATELLITE OFFICE – 710 N. PLANKINTON AVENUE, #803, MILWAUKEE, WI 53203
FRIENDSHIP HOUSE – 1029 N. MARSHALL STREET, MILWAUKEE, WI 53202