HEART MATTERS

Issue 7 - 2026

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

# Thank You for Making BluTender a Night to Remember

## WALKING ALONG THIS PATH, TOGETHER

With nearly half of 2026 in the rearview, we reflect on recent growth and successes while also looking ahead to what is yet to come. This year, we are emphasizing that there is dignity with every step, and with that comes the recognition that every step does not have to be taken alone. It is only with the support of our community that we are able to lead the women and families staying with us down a path that empowers them to build better future for themselves.

At the beginning of May, the Cathedral Center hosted our first ever BluTender event. Attendees gathered on the twenty-third floor of The Pfister Hotel in their Blu Bar & Lounge, which was decorated with flowers and other festive decorations in celebration of Cinco de Mayo. The evening was a testament to our community of supporters and your dedication to walking alongside us on our journey of ending homelessness, one life at a time.

The night would not have been possible without the support of our guest bartender duos: Liz Sellars paired with Joyce Garbaciak and Julie Larrivee with her husband, Wayne. Their electric energy fueled the night and as they mixed up Celebration Sangrias, we were reminded of the great cause we were gathered for: to ensure that the women and families who come to us seeking housing stability have the confidence to keep walking along their paths, armed with the knowledge that the support of Cathedral Center's community is there for them, every step of the way.

*Our amazing guest bartenders: Julie Larrivee (lower left), Wayne Larrivee (upper left), Liz Sellars (lower right), Joyce Garbaciak (upper right).*

This wonderful event truly was a group effort, with meaningful contributions from Jeanette Dvorak and Mainstream Boutique, as well as hands-on support from Accenture's volunteer team. The impacts felt during the execution of an event like this are not dissimilar to how significant connection and kindness are to an individual struggling on their journey. Just as our Development staff met with Accenture to solidify a plan for BluTender, our clients meet with their case managers to create an Individualized Plan for Independence to create and achieve their goals. Every single idea from volunteers, drink poured by our lovely guest bartenders, and tip from our community of supporters act as lending hands for the women and families we serve as they continue down their paths.

There's always some uncertainty around new events, but BluTender served as a reminder of just how lucky we are to be surrounded by compassionate and devoted community members. Whether you attended the event, kindly donated, or shared our social media posts promoting BluTender, you played a role in the success of the night. Your support helps sustain our programs and services that restore dignity in the lives of women and families with children.

*An active scene at The Pfister's Blu Bar & Lounge. Thank you to everyone who came out!*

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for supporting BluTender and for sharing your kindness. We hope you will join us again for Pathway Home, our signature fundraising event. As we continue supporting our clients taking steps forward on their journeys, we remain eager to continue on this path forward with you.

# Urgent Needs

## We Are Currently in Need of:

**Emergency Shelter**
- Women's & Men's Shorts, T-shirts, & Underwear
- Feminine Products
- Laundry Bags

**Friendship House:**
- Storage Bins
- Pots & Pans
- Cooking Utensils
- Diaper Refill Bags

**Community Case Management:**
- Pack & Plays
- Microwaves
- Dinnerware Sets
- Slow Cookers

Emergency Shelter Needs:

Friendship House Needs:

Community Case Management Needs:

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

CATHEDRAL CENTER | CATHEDRAL-CENTER.ORG | (414) 831-0394

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

# HEART MATTERS

## Moving Beyond Homelessness

### Emergency Shelter

We are reminded just how crucial it is to provide compassionate and individualized support to every guest that walks through our shelter doors through Danica's story. Before her most recent stay, Danica had been a guest at Cathedral Center's shelter a number of times. Dealing with mental health struggles and day-to-day uncertainty, Danica believed she would be stuck in the in-and-out-of-shelter cycle for the rest of her life. Thankfully, during her last three-month stay at our Emergency Shelter, Danica received the consistent support and encouragement she needed from her Case Manager to overcome the barriers she faced.

Danica's Case Manager advocated for her to receive the help she needed to stabilize her mental health and acted as an anchor during the fluctuating process. While providing this life-changing support, her Case Manager also worked to provide Danica with a housing voucher and housing caseworker, who assisted her in finding a safe and stable home. Danica credits her Case Manager for helping her transform her life, saying: "I had someone who finally believed in me, regardless of my past, and that belief gave me the motivation to take the necessary steps to get back into stable and long-term housing again."

A few months ago, Danica didn't believe she would ever have a place to call her own again. Today, she is healing and growing in her own apartment while she continues to take the necessary steps in ensuring that her future remains full of stability and hope.

### Friendship House

When Maria and her seven-year-old daughter, Kayla, arrived at Friendship House, they were exhausted and overwhelmed, having been in different emergency shelters for nearly seven months. Kayla struggled with behavioral challenges that made school and daily routines difficult, while Maria was carrying the stress of trying to provide for her child without stable employment or support. Through the support of our staff and partaking in the resources available to them, Maria and Kayla both began to heal and make significant improvements in their lives.

Our Child & Family Specialist and Clinical Case Manager helped connect Kayla with behavioral health resources and school-based support services. She was given access to counseling and tools that helped improve her emotional regulation and classroom behavior. At the same time, Maria participated in employment readiness services, including resume building, interview preparation, and job search assistance. Through ongoing support and her own determination, Maria secured steady employment and began working consistently again.

Over time, Maria was able to save enough money for security deposits and moving expenses and secured stable housing for her and her daughter. Today, Maria and Kayla are living in their own apartment, once again. Both are thriving with more consistency and structure as they continue building toward long-term stability. Their journey is a powerful example of resilience, determination, and how the right support can help families move from crisis to independence.

### Community Case Management

We are honored to share the story of Jada, a resilient single woman currently receiving services offered by our Community Case Management (CCM) team. Jada has struggled with a recent death in her life and only a few short months ago, she suffered a devastating setback and lost everything in a house fire. Facing a number of health issues, including impaired mobility and a condition called Hypoxia, meaning her body tissue receives insufficient levels of oxygen, Jada is only able to receive limited income through the Supplemental Security Income program.

Jada found herself doubling up with friends of her family upon connecting with our CCM team, who were able to provide the necessary services and resources she needed on her journey toward stability. Cathedral Center was able to help Jada find a tax credit apartment unit, help her complete the rental application and cover the fee, complete a walkthrough of the unit, pay the security deposit, and provide short term rent assistance. Additionally, we were able to provide Jada with items to ease her transition, including: a mattress, box spring, bed frame, shower chair and arm rail, and other necessities. We're happy to report that Jada moved into her new unit last month and continues to receive post-stabilization case management services. While Jada is still recovering from the 180 her life has gone through, we are grateful to have been able to provide her some relief and are utterly inspired by her strength.

## Upcoming Events

The Cathedral Center Presents

**Pathway HOME**

*A Celebration of Ending Homelessness*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2026

ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTER | 5:00 - 8:00 PM

COCKTAIL ATTIRE

**Scan this QR code to vist our event page and purchase tickets!**

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

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


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Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
Friendship House


# A Transition, Marked in Dignity

## FROM THE DESK OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – DONNA RONGHOLT-MIGAN

Dignity is the inherent right of every person to be valued and respected, regardless of history and status.

I think it is time to celebrate the people who push our mission forward by ensuring we have effective policies, enough resources to meet our goals and who are advocates for our women and families in rooms we do not all have the opportunity to enter. I hope you all will join me in saying, "THANK YOU," to the incredible group of volunteers who serve on our board. This year Cathedral Center's board leadership transitioned, as our two-term board president Elizabeth Sellars completes her term as officer.

For the past four years, Liz Sellars has been exceptional, leading us through the changes of post pandemic practices, recruiting new board members, serving meals in our shelter, securing donations, opening doors and being a sounding board for staff and volunteers. Liz remembers birthdays, sends us jokes via email and holds us to our commitment to serve because that is the right thing to do. **THANK YOU to Elizabeth Sellars!**

This is a great time to introduce you to our new board president Patrick Hickey. Pat joined us when he was Director of Wealth Services with Johnson Financial Group and continued serving as he transitioned to retirement. Pat has served as the Vice President of our board for the past two years and we are excited to grow under his leadership in the coming years. Pat, too, is one who leads with integrity, commitment and kindness.

You can see the full list of our 2026 board of directors on the left and on our website.

In April, Cathedral Center spent time with our board of directors and executive leadership team for a mini retreat hosted by Johnson Foundation at Wingspread. I couldn't be more grateful for the opportunity to take a step away from day-to-day business and connect with this truly committed and compassionate group of leaders. Thank you to Johnson Foundation for the gift of respite, time and space to consider our next steps thoughtfully. We all returned energized and mission focused as we look forward to what comes next! We continue to believe in the power of small moments and joy in lasting change.

I am asking you to stay involved and stay in touch, as we move forward providing mission focused services… ensuring *DIGNITY WITH EVERY STEP*.

Donna Rongholt-Migan
Executive Director


**CATHEDRAL CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Donna Rongholt-Migan
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
drongholt@cathedral-center.org
414-831-0394 ext. 2114

Kristen Halula
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS
khalula@cathedral-center.org
414-831-0394 ext. 2122

Evan Barbian
DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
ebarbian@cathedral-center.org
414-831-0394, ext. 2109

Jeannie Stranzl
VOLUNTEER & IN-KIND GIFT COORDINATOR
jstranzl@cathedral-center.org
414-831-0394, ext. 2133


# 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 Wishlists!

**3 HELP US TABLE AT UPCOMING FARMERS MARKETS**

We are starting our second season of tabling at local farmers markets to raise awareness about our programs and recruit volunteers. We need your help tabling at the following markets: Riverwest, Oak Creek, Cathedral Square, and Greenfield.

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

*Thank you to all of our Hospitality Groups! (Pictured: Cathedral of St. John The Evangelist Hospitality Group)*

**To learn more about our Hospitality Meal Program, tabling opportunities, and other ways to get involved, contact Jeannie Stranzl at volunteer@cathedral-center.org or 414-831-0394 ext 2133.**

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

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# 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:**

**- Case Manager (Full-Time / $2,000 Hiring Bonus!)**
+ Conduct comprehensive assessments and support guests to create and pursue goals to increase income, secure safe housing and attend to health and well-being.

**- Community Case Manager (Full-Time)**
+ Provide comprehensive assessments, case planning, and follow up services to families experiencing housing crises and homelessness in a compassionate and dignified manner.

**- Child & Family Specialist (Full-Time / $1,000 Hiring Bonus!)**
+ Develop and facilitate program components and ensure connection to community resources.

**- Custodial & Facilities Associate (Part-Time)**
+ Assist in maintaining a safe and clean physical environment at our Friendship House location

**- Shelter Guest Support Staff (Part-Time)**
+ Oversee guest activities while providing compassionate support to women and families in our programs.

CATHEDRAL CENTER HUB
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