

*Fostering*  
*2019 Annual Report*  
*Community*  
*Wellness*

**C@RE**

El Centro

Dear Friends of CORE El Centro:

It is with deep appreciation and gratitude that we share with you our 2019 Annual Report. Thank you for walking with us as we continue to strengthen our roots, develop an infrastructure to manage our growth and continue to develop new partnerships.

What is becoming very clear is that CORE El Centro's services foster community wellness. Our healing therapies and services are needed now more than ever, and we are humbled and honored to be a catalyst for change. Natural Healing is being sought out for so many different types of conditions because of its wholistic approach that taps the wisdom of the body, mind and spirit.

This year CORE El Centro provided direct health programming to 2,327 individuals many of whom have experienced trauma, and/or are dealing with serious chronic health issues, with an additional 3,286 individuals reached through outreach and education. These individuals and families have received close to 20,000 hours of service.

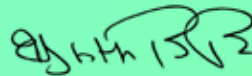
Please know that your support of our work over the last 17 years has been profound. You have supported us in elevating our services and assisted us in being seen as a leader in the health and wellness industry. In 2019 our services were sought out by many individuals, families, non-profits and businesses. We are grateful to have your financial support and the people resources needed through volunteerism to serve those most in need.

On behalf of our clients, staff and board members we offer our gratitude and ask that each of us stay faithful to our healing path so that we create a world that is rooted in love and compassion.

With Love and Peace,



Madeline Gianforte, CSA  
Executive Director



Elizabeth Bruderle-Baran  
President of the Board of Directors



# Vision

We envision individuals and families attaining a natural state of health and wholeness through healing services that respect the unique wisdom of each person and community.



# Mission

CORE El Centro offers healing services and has a passion to create access for all people regardless of income level. We provide natural healing therapies designed to integrate body, mind, and spirit in a culturally sensitive environment. Through coalition building and leadership development we create wholistic programs to increase health equity and to inspire individuals, families and communities to optimal health.

# New Needs, New Organizational Structure, New Positions

Growth has been an Annual Report theme for many years here at CORE. In the course of 2019, realizing how much CORE El Centro had grown as an agency, we embarked upon an update and adjustment of our organizational structure, which led to the creation of two new positions, that of Program Director and Director of Clinical Services. This reorganization freed up more of the Executive Director's time to continue to vision and plan for the organization's vibrancy and mission into the future.

The Director of Clinical Services is an integral member of the CORE El Centro leadership team. She is responsible for the ongoing development, growth and oversight of CORE's one-on-one holistic healing services at our Bruce Street location, Sojourner Family Peace Center, and future off-site locations.

She assures the delivery of quality services to all clients by promoting high standards of practice through development of policies, protocols and guidelines for practitioners and interpreters and by working closely with our Health Navigators to provide clients with a comprehensive approach to healing. She assures our one-on-one services are in compliance with all applicable regulatory and licensing agencies. In addition to training our clinical staff in our integrative health model and the internal systems that support our trauma informed services, she works collaboratively with the Program Director to implement all HIPAA requirements.

Also a part of the CORE El Centro leadership team, the Program Director ensures that CORE El Centro's mission and vision is sustained in all its programming. The Director ensures that only the highest quality of care is given to all clients. She oversees the mission, vision, management, and administration of all programming, including off-site locations, seeing that all programming and activities are in accordance with CORE El Centro's mission and goals. With this position, we can be sure that all program activities comply with relevant legislation and professional standards. With program managers, she develops new initiatives to support the strategic direction of the organization.

These two positions work closely with practitioners, health navigators, program managers and staff, to deliver all services and educational opportunities to the community and continue the implementation of our mission through new programs.



**Rebeca Heaton Juarez**  
Program Director



**Carla Del Pozo**  
Director of Clinical Services

# Building Infrastructure

Organizational growth also surfaced the need for building infrastructure to create access and support the expansion of programs. In 2019, CORE El Centro transitioned to a new electronic scheduling system, restructured the sliding fee scale, and opened two new treatment rooms. We solidified a number of partnerships in the community, and it has opened up new doors for CORE El Centro as we start to implement two major programs that extends our services free of cost to victims of crime and clients facing behavioral health and substance abuse challenges.

## Increasing Accessibility to Movement Classes

In 2019 CORE El Centro continued to work towards diversifying our movement classes and increasing accessibility. One of the ways we did this was by adding a Yoga class in Spanish or Yoga en Español. CORE El Centro continued to offer Children's movement classes including yoga for kids to encourage whole family wellness. Alejandra, a member of CORE El Centro's community testifies to this. When she was asked "how has CORE impacted you and your family?" "Health" she said. Her kids have been taking Children's Yoga class. "Now when my children see me doing yoga at home, we can do it together! It gives us a connection as a family".

# Volunteer Program Embraces Accessible Career Options

In the spring of 2019, CORE El Centro's Volunteer Program was honored and elated to establish a partnership with a Milwaukee based agency called Accessible Career Options (ACO). ACO's mission is to support people who have disabilities in acquiring valuable employment experience. They set job seekers up for success by equipping them with resources that support their individualized needs.

Since establishing this partnership, CORE has had the pleasure of hosting six different ACO interns. Over the course of 12-weeks, interns cultivate resume-boosting skills while receiving a fair hourly wage for their work, paid by the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. Meanwhile, CORE El Centro employees gain insight into what it means to nurture a truly accessible workplace. This has proven to be a win-win for all involved.



# CORE El Centro's First Ever

In 2019 CORE El Centro hosted our first Walk/Run "Step to the Beat of Healing" The event was a great success! Not only did CORE raise money to support the organization, but the event was a reflection of the power of community!



# Building Partnerships

2019 marked the formation and development of two new partnerships for CORE El Centro: Milwaukee County's Behavioral Health Division with its Comprehensive Community Services Program and the State of Wisconsin Department of Justice with its Victims of Crime Act grant program.

Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) is a program offered by Milwaukee County for people who receive Medicaid and are struggling with substance abuse and/or mental health issues. CCS's creative thinking led them to realize that the power of natural healing was absent in the services that they had been providing for their clients. They contacted CORE El Centro to inquire about making our services available and to partner with us, designing a new wellness-focused approach to address the often debilitating nature of a mental health and/or substance use disorder.



CORE's partnership with CCS allows the CCS teams to learn and educate the community about the healing services available at CORE. In turn, much of CORE's service array will be offered to hundreds more throughout Milwaukee County, reaching a more diverse population.

Places like Guest House of Milwaukee, which provides shelter, education, housing and a range of supportive services for Milwaukee's homeless, can refer their Medicaid clients to CORE El Centro and CORE, in turn, will be reimbursed for many of its services.

The Victim of Crimes Act (VOCA) is a fund established over 30 years ago to compensate people who have been victims of crime. It is funded by fees paid by federal offenders. For the first time ever, VOCA opened up its grant proposal process to allow organizations like CORE El Centro to apply for a grant.



CORE received a five-year grant from VOCA that began in October of 2019. CORE clients from Bruce St. and Sojourner Peace Center will be eligible to apply for free services, including acupuncture, massage and energy work, and CORE will be fully reimbursed by VOCA. Our practitioners receive training in trauma-informed care, so it is a natural fit for them to treat victims of crime.



People who formerly didn't have access to CORE, couldn't afford integrative medicine or perhaps had never heard of it, can now be part of CORE's powerful healing community. Traditional and non-traditional supports will focus on skill building to promote optimal physical, mental and spiritual well-being for those looking to sustain long-term recovery. We are honored to know that the healing community realizes the impact that natural healing services can have on persons dealing with mental health and AODA issues.

CCS and VOCA funding will allow CORE to reach a broad and more diverse population throughout Milwaukee County while at the same time provide long-term financial viability for CORE.

"It is our yearning to give voice and to consciously create a beloved community that celebrates and honors the giftedness, brokenness and transformation of every life. The wish to heal personally and to be a healing presence for others is universal."

Madeline Gianforte, Executive Director of CORE.

# Mujeres con Poder: Women with Power

Mujeres Con Poder, or Women with Power, is a group of community leaders at CORE El Centro. The Mujeres advocate and educate for better recycling in Milwaukee neighborhoods. In 2019 the Mujeres began giving tours of Milwaukee's recycling plant in Spanish – these were the first tours ever offered at the plant in Spanish! The Mujeres are also working to improve relationships between the community and the police. The Mujeres attend District 2 Target Team Meetings. Their attendance at these meetings is very important because it gives People of Color who are from the community a voice at the table.



## Herbs and Honey

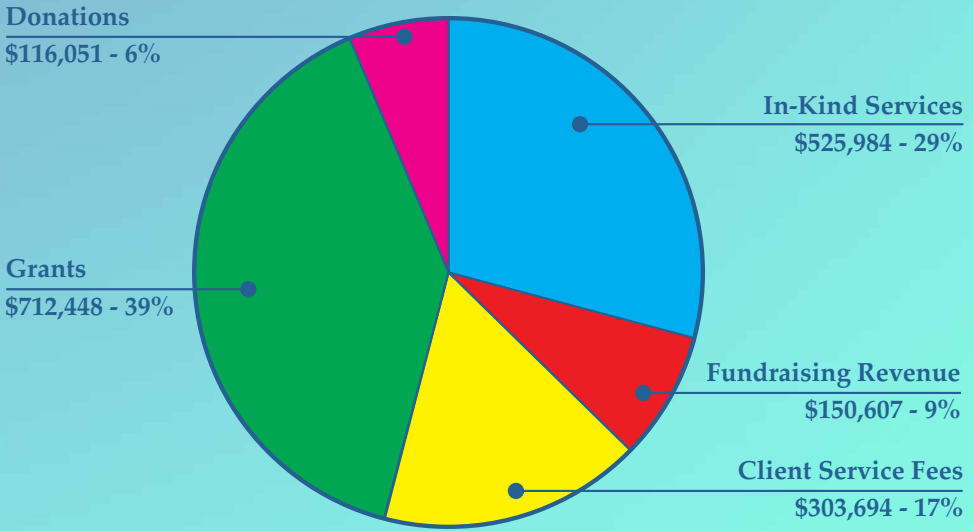
In 2019 the Garden and Nutrition Program shifted its emphasis from growing food in the garden to growing tea herbs and harvesting honey from the bees that live on our rooftop garden. We sold seasonal tea blends and honey. There was high demand and we sold out almost immediately!



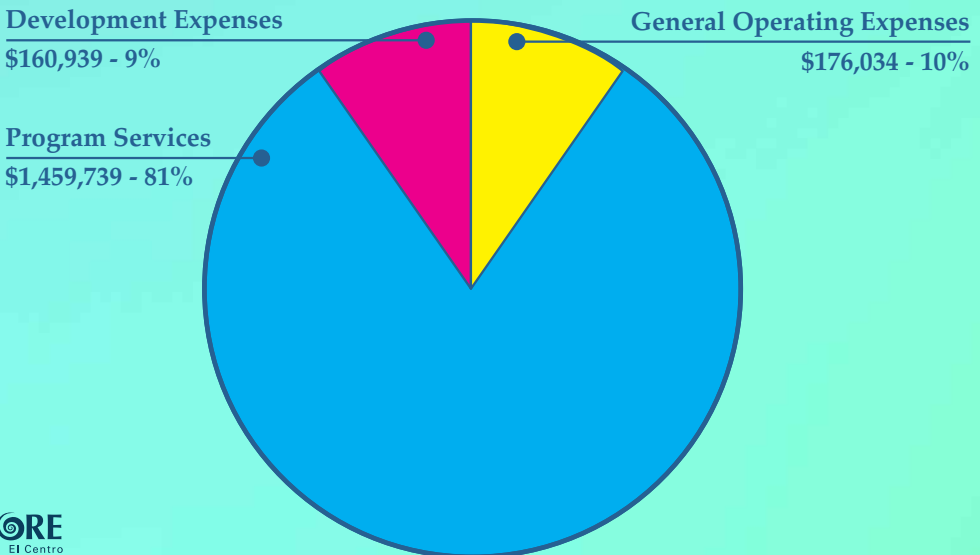
The Garden and Nutrition Program also began to offer one-on-one nutritional counseling in Spanish. The counseling focuses on helping people achieve their wellness vision in a safe, nonjudgmental environment. The counseling supports six main dimensions of wellness including emotional, occupational/professional, physical, social, intellectual, and spiritual.

# 2019 Financial Highlights

## Revenue Total: \$1,808,784



## Expenses Total: \$1,796,712



# Volunteers

- Over all volunteer hours – 17,184
- 14,156 were professional hours
- 3,028 were for services which are not eligible for recognition in the financial statements.

## Impact

Clients report that natural healing therapies, in combination with western medicine, provide pain relief and healing that medications don't seem to touch.

Besides pain relief, clients experience:

- increased energy levels
- improved mental health
- ability to sleep
- being more focused

People see significant changes in:

- ability to let go
- feeling empowered
- hope
- forgiveness
- decreased anxiety
- feeling safe



# Thank You to Our Donors!

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• **In Honor Of . . .**

**All CORE/EI Centro does**

Tom & Bev Pilarzyk  
Aurora Solis

**All my teachers and healers**

Rita  
Burlingame-Toppen

**Amelia Coffaro**

Ginny Finn &  
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• **Foundations**

Aetna Foundation  
Anonymous Foundation  
Bader Philanthropies, Inc  
Isabel & Alfred Bader  
Fund  
The Catholic Community  
Foundation  
The EveryDayGood  
Foundation, Inc  
Forest County  
Potawatomi  
Foundation  
The Gardner Foundation  
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R.A. Stevens Family  
Foundation  
The ROS Foundation  
Truman Heartland  
Community  
Foundation  
WE Energies Foundation  
Whole Kids Foundation  
WI Women’s Health  
Foundation

• **Businesses & Organizations**

88.9 Radio Milwaukee  
A and N Mortgage  
Services, Inc  
AHEC  
Allstate Giving  
Campaign  
Amazon Smile  
Ameriprise Financial  
Anick & Associates  
Ascension Hospitals  
Aurora Health Care

Bartolotta Catering  
Bettenhausen  
Automotive  
Boone & Crockett  
Owl Club LLC  
Bowls  
Common Ground  
Healthcare  
Cooperative  
DLG Management  
Eaton Corp  
Charitable Fund  
Fix Development  
Float Milwaukee  
Goodwill Industries  
Google  
Greco & Sons  
Hall, Render, Killian,  
Heath & Lyman, PC  
Indeed Brewing  
Company  
Klein Development  
Language Source  
Liberty Mutual  
Val Loftus, LTD  
Market America  
Meraki Restaurant  
Mickey’s Drive In  
of Bellwood  
Mobile Car Care  
Muk Luks  
Pete’s Marketplace, Inc  
Pic Six, LLC  
PT Plus Bay View  
Purple Door  
Ice Cream Shoppe  
Riley’s Gathering House  
Roselle Car Care  
Sobersalski  
Immigration Law  
Therapywithrosie  
USAA  
Wilson Sporting Goods

• **Religious Congregations**

Claretian Social  
Development Fund  
Congregation of Sisters  
of St. Agnes  
Felician Services Inc.  
Hospital Sisters of  
St. Francis  
Racine Dominican  
Mission Fund  
School Sisters of  
Notre Dame

• **Churches**

St. Benedict the Moor  
Parish, Milwaukee

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Robin Anderson  
Araceli Arevalo  
Laura Ashworth  
Lori Baldwin  
Rosemarie Balistreri  
Alison Bengry  
Danielle Bergner  
Lucy Birschbach  
Rachel Bloom-Pojar  
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Katie Brewer-Berres  
Reann Brockhaus  
Elizabeth Bruderle Baran  
Judy Byrnes  
Ellen Callahan  
Cindy Carlson  
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Amelia Coffaro  
Sonia Colon  
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Ellen Mary Cook  
Kayleigh Crosby  
Bob Daly  
Mandi Degner  
Zaira De Leon  
Deirdre Dempsey  
Suzanne Denzine  
Victoria Detering  
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Chris Doerfler  
Terry Dorr  
Betsy DuCanto  
Jacob Duckworth  
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Lori Faber  
Anita Facchini  
Amanda Fahrenda  
Clifford Flink  
Kari Foote  
Ilanna Gabriel  
Elvira Garcia  
Emeliza Garcia  
Juana Garcia  
Daniela Garcia

Margarita Garcia Rojas  
Jenny Gianforte  
Joey Gianforte  
Madeline Gianforte, CSA  
Patrick Gianforte  
Rosie Gianforte  
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Guadalupe Hernandez  
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# Fostering 2019 *Annual Report* Community Wellness





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*Thank You!*

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