FORMERLY RIVERWEST FOOD PANTRY

We are not coming to get food, we are coming to spend time with the friends that feel like family.

— Lauren, mom and community member
Introducing Kinship. The change is in the name.

Our story started over four decades ago.

A focus on food scarcity.
We are proud of our history which began by providing food to the undernourished in Milwaukee.
Through a simple idea...

We all have a gift to give.
We all have a gift to receive.
People began to grow, shop, cook, and eat together to address our wider challenges of hunger, isolation, and poverty.

It’s a change in the way we see hunger.
Food is a way to serve the whole person and share our lives.

It’s a change in how we see our city and community.

We belong to one another.
We help each other thrive through belonging, giving, and receiving. Through friendship and mentoring, we share our struggles and our joys, our lives and wisdom.
That’s what kinship is all about.
It’s with full hearts that we have some big news to share with our friends and neighbors.

Riverwest Food Pantry is now called Kinship Community Food Center.
It’s a new name but the same heart.
And our story continues.
We’re looking forward to sharing the next chapter, together with you.

Our Mission

Kinship Community Food Center engages volunteers and neighborhood residents to end hunger, isolation, and poverty. Our innovative programs nourish food security and wellness, foster belonging and community engagement, and empower stability and economic prosperity in our city.
The Work of Kinship

Dear Friends,

We have so much to be thankful for as we celebrate another year and take the next step in the evolution of our organization.

A small shift of the coordinates drastically changes the trajectory and the destination. A few years back we shifted our coordinates to focus on the power of relationships and community through food. It sounds simple but it has changed the whole map.

Our 2021 report sheds first light on a new horizon for how to measure the impact a community food center can make. We are developing more robust methods to measure the health, social cohesion, and future stability and prosperity of our community through a variety of tools you do not yet see here. Measuring impact in the lives of people is complex and elusive. Yes, it’s important to see how many pounds of nutritious food we distribute and how many people remained housed because of our center. But the secret to our work is about a deepening of trust, and healing that happens in the soul. Like nurturing a seedling, it can’t grow if you are constantly digging it up to measure its growth.

How do you measure repeated warm-hearted conversations over a meal in our center with an individual who is homeless sleeping under a nearby bridge because his teenage daughter overdosed and the pain and stress was too much for his marriage to bear? You can ask him what he needs... But the hard answer that comes back is... “I just need to be where I am right now, but being here with you guys helps a lot”.

All of us must learn patience and shift our perspective if we want to build a healing-focused community.

Change and healing in all of our lives requires cultivation of the soil. Then the growth happens when the time is right.

This is the work of kinship. This is different than just distributing food. This is the future.

Thank you for being part of our community of generosity. Thank you for supporting us in this work through your time, your money, and (most importantly) growing in your perspective.

– Vincent Noth
Executive Director
A Year in Kinship

One of our biggest blessings from this past year has been our amazing class of Mission Interns.

As our largest class of Mission Interns yet, we have seen the incredible impact they’ve had on our neighborhood through their year of service. More than just learning to coordinate the operational functions of our center, they have especially established real relationships to support our shoppers, our volunteers, and one another. The transformation that has happened in these young adults is incredible, as they are learning so much by giving in sacrificial love, and in their own ways, becoming leaders of generosity. We are so thankful for their commitment and dedication to our mission.

Current Mission Interns

Pictured above, from left to right

Emma Holtan
Food Wellness Coordinator

Tyler Madden-McCardle
Human Services Partnership Coordinator

Matthew Davenport
Formation & Training Coordinator

Eva Grumbine
Human Services Coordinator

Jack Bolog
Volunteer Engagement Coordinator

Krista Fuller
Development & Board Administration Coordinator

Savannah Hagen
Communications & Events Coordinator

Megan Roehl
Food Acquisition Coordinator

Temesgen Wessel
Human Services Coordinator

“Coming here, I am learning how to love well and learning how to be loved well. And so, I’m really understanding what it means to be a whole person.”

~ Savannah, Mission Intern

Interested in a year of service or know someone who might be?
Learn more online at: kinshipmke.org/mission-year
Annual Snapshot 2021

291k lbs
Food Distributed

14,924
Community Members Served

258
Referrals Made for Families in Crisis for mentoring and other direct assistance to find greater stability

47k lbs
Produce Rescued & Sorted

11,005 hours of Volunteer Service Contributed by Community Members

Sources of Food Distributed

- 33% Rescued Food & Produce
- 23% Donated Food
- 3% Wellness Initiative Donations
- 4% Urban Farm & Garden
- 30% Hunger Task Force Partnership
- 7% Food Purchased at Cost

We are blessed to work with many community partners such as Hunger Task Force, Feeding America, and Maglio Companies.

10k lbs
Produce Grown in Our Community-Run Gardens & Farm

kinshipmke.org
Partners in Kinship

A healthy and vibrant community is a well-connected, collaborative community.
We are grateful for the partnerships which allow us to focus our limited resources to feed and nurture our community by not replicating services that other organizations offer and have expertise in.

Food Resource Partners

| Hunger Task Force | Groundwork MKE | Outpost Natural Foods |
| Feeding America | Just One More Ministry | Stone Creek Coffee |
| Maglio Companies | Teens Grow Greens | UW-Madison Division of Extension |
|                   |                   | FoodWise program |

Those who struggle with hunger are often in need of other resources.
Our model is built upon gathering around food to share our lives and build trusting relationships. In that trust, our staff and volunteer mentors can assess these needs and walk with our shoppers to navigate the myriad barriers that often accompany food insecurity.

Community Partner and Resource Referrals

Below highlights only some of the hundreds of partnerships we have developed to strengthen program effectiveness and to walk with people in crisis in their journey toward long-term stability.

STABLE HOUSING
Impact 211
Community Advocates
Eviction Defense Project
Milwaukee Christian Center
Milwaukee Rental Housing Resource Center
Milwaukee County Housing Division
WE Energies

FINANCIAL WELLNESS
BMO Harris Bank
Riverworks Development Corporation

HEALTH & WELLNESS
Outreach Community Health Centers
UW-Milwaukee Nutritional Sciences
Mount Mary Natural and Health Sciences
MCW Center for Advancing Population Science
Advocate Aurora Health
Dohmen Company Foundation

SUBSTANCE ABUSE & RECOVERY
META House
The 4th Dimension Recovery Center
The Milwaukee Group (AA)

WORKFORCE & EDUCATION
Goodwill Workforce Connection Center
JobsWork MKE
Project RETURN

OTHER PARTNERS
Family of Four Parishes
Digital Bridge MKE
The Saint Vincent De Paul Society
Fr. Gene’s Help Center
Goodwill Cares
Legal Action
Legal Aid Society
Milwaukee Diaper Mission

Developing community partnerships over the decades has been key to the success of our Community Food Center model. We also are grateful to the network of hundreds of churches, businesses, and schools that are a key part of our coalition.
Lilly is a single mom who has struggled with a disability and works hard to provide for her children. The food center is a place she can call home and has volunteered to walk with others going through difficult situations.

"I understand what it’s like to be alone. So, when people come here... I pull up a chair and sit next to them."

Mary first heard about the food center growing up in one of the local churches. Though her family regularly donated food, it wasn’t until she was in college that she started to volunteer. Since her first time here, she has been blown away by the relationships she has been able to make with her neighbors.

"It’s an experience of real connection, from people who you may not have met otherwise. Our differences are something that unite us."

Tyrome came to the food center seeking assistance to get his belongings out of storage. After receiving this generosity, he knew he had to find a way to give back. He started volunteering and made this community his home. Knowing what it’s like to experience homelessness and hardships, he brings kind words of joy and hope to others.

"Sharing my love with others reminds me that I’m wanted."

As an art teacher, Julie was looking for a volunteering opportunity to fill her time in the summer. Though her passion lies in gardening, she has been surprised by the deep friendships she has made with those around her.

"The women who have volunteered regularly with me have become very close and I can't see myself volunteering without them."

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Our Programs at a Glance

**Shop**
**FRESH FOOD MARKET**
A fresh food market that integrates health education, cooking demonstrations, a food bar, and connections to community resources.

**Grow**
**URBAN FARM**
A 27,000 square foot urban hoop house vegetable farm that grows thousands of pounds of organic produce to feed and educate the community.

**Feast**
**COLLABORATIVE MEALS**
Collaborative meals that bring a diverse group around a common table to explore food traditions and whole food culinary skills.

**Stride**
**CRISIS ASSISTANCE & MENTORING**
A mentoring program that accompanies people in crisis to overcome their barriers to health and economic stability.

**Form**
**TRAINING AND EDUCATION**
Service-based training for volunteers and neighborhood residents in spiritual formation, social justice, and civic action.

**Mission Internship**
**A YEAR OF SERVICE**
A residential “mission-year” of service and Catholic spiritual formation for young adults.
Who Shops With Us?

Many shoppers come through our doors every week.
We aim to restore the dignity of those who are most marginalized in our society. Even if you have little in material goods, you still have something incredibly important to give to others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Underemployed Adults</th>
<th>Those On A Fixed Income</th>
<th>Those In Crisis</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/3 are children, roughly 70% from single parent households.</td>
<td>Roughly 2/3 of families are underemployed with an average monthly income of $1,300/month.</td>
<td>1/4 are socially-isolated, elderly, veterans, or those with a disability.</td>
<td>Homeless or those suffering mental illness and/or addiction.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We welcome all people to journey deeper with us, to be involved, and discover new growth within themselves and one another.

The journey looks different for each of us.
Whether someone from our neighborhood comes once, or comes a thousand times, our programs and wholistic approach have a tremendous impact on lives in our community – shopper, donor, and volunteer alike.

Anybody’s life can be rehabilitated. But you need people listening and support. Rolling up your sleeves, getting involved.

Chris was battling homelessness and PTSD when he first came to our community, and through the help of our Stride team and close friends, he was able to find the resources and the strength to find stable housing and become an appliance repair technician.
Financials

It takes all of us coming together to make sure that our neighbors have food to gather around. Our hearts are filled with gratitude as we look at the resources our community members bring together to help us move our work forward.

**Income**
- 74% - Philanthropic
- 18% - In-kind
- 8% - Investments & Other

**Program Expenses**
- 57% - Shop
- 6% - Feast
- 7% - Grow
- 5% - Form
- 10% - Mission Year
- 15% - Stride

**Philanthropic Sources**
- for 2021 Annual Fund
- 77% - Individuals
- 1% - Parishes
- 7% - Corporations
- 2% - Organizations
- 12% - Foundations
- 1% - Government
Our Team

Our work takes many hands and hearts.
The kindness and resilience of our neighborhood residents, the passion and dedication of our volunteers, and the incredible generosity of our supporters continues to bless and inspire us.

Board

Our board’s passion for community building around healthy food drives their commitment to serve their fellow neighbors.

Ellen Bartel
President
Sponsorship Consultant
Sisters of the Divine Savior

Paul Burgoyne
Vice President
Chair, Development Committee
Retired Vice President
The Boelter Companies

James Hegarty
Secretary
Senior Counsel
GE Healthcare

Tracy L. Meeks
Treasurer
Chair, Finance Committee
VP, Head of Small Business Banking
First Midwest Bank

David Bourne
Chair, Facilities Committee
Partner, Quarles & Brady

Jacquelin Coby-Beaver
Clinical Operations Director
Diversity & Inclusion
Advocate Aurora Health

Lori Craig
Senior Vice President/Market Leader
PNC Private Bank

Nicholas Fallucca
Chief Product and Innovation Officer
Palermo’s Pizza

Chad Griesel
Pastoral Associate of Formation and Justice
Family of Four Parishes
Milwaukee

Berent Kowarick
Vice President, Banker
J.P. Morgan Private Bank

Melinda Krueger
Chair, Communications Committee
Retired Senior Client Partner
Salesforce

William Michaels, Jr.
Chair, Governance and Nominating Committee
Retired Partner, Deloitte

Eugene E. Nelson, Jr.
Case Manager/FSET Coordinator
Project RETURN

"This is a place where each one of us learns to offer what we can to others and receive what we need from the relationships we build and the work that we share.

— Ellen Bartel, Board President

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The kindness and resilience of our neighborhood residents, the passion and dedication of our volunteers, and the incredible generosity of our supporters continues to bless and inspire us.

Staff

Our staff is an incredible team that always strives to work for the betterment of our entire community.

Vincent Noth
Executive Director

Wayne Breitbarth
Managing Director

Caitlin Cullen
Food Center Director

Jennifer S. Mehr
Advancement Director

Mark Bergemann
Operations Manager

Cole Compton
VISTA Intern,
Urban Farm Coordinator

Amanda Fahrendorf
Communications Associate

Isabel Guerrero
Community Care Associate

Lindy Meer
Controller

Maddie Mueller
Development Associate

Nancy Rodriguez
Community Care Manager

Natalie Ross
VISTA Intern,
Food Acquisition Coordinator

Samantha Vosters
Volunteer Engagement Manager

"The clichés about food and community are so abundant because they are true—when we are able to share even the humblest meal, strangers become friends and community becomes family.

— Caitlin Cullen, Food Center Director
Everyone Gives. Everyone Receives.

Kinship Community Food Center
2610 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53212

To learn more or plan a visit, please contact us:
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kinshipmke.org