



From the Board President

When Our Residents Face Hardship, They Turn to Human Concerns

Many of us who live in South Milwaukee are fortunate. We have a wonderful community that is celebrating its 125th anniversary as a city. No small accomplishment! We have an abundance of caring, involved and hardworking people who strive every day to make better lives for themselves and their families. I am proud to call South Milwaukee home for 55 years.

Many of us know challenging times, too ... challenges that we often overcome and that make us stronger. For some, the challenges they face are insurmountable, at least temporarily.

When residents do face hardship, they often turn to South Milwaukee Human Concerns. For 50 years SMHC has been a source of help and hope when life events hit hardest. These are a few examples of those who need our food pantry, which also offers clothing, household items and personal grooming supplies in a welcoming and friendly environment:

- Single Moms and Dads who cannot always wait until payday to feed their families.
- Retirees on a fixed income who struggle to get the nutrition they need to stay active.
- Recent widows whose tragic loss is compounded by the loss of a primary income.
- Parents who need to leave employment to care for a special needs child, whose loss of income strains the family budget.
- The adult child who must take an extended leave from work to care for aging parents, compromising the family's finances.
- Parents who must cut work hours to care for a new born, affecting an already tight budget.
- Single people who must balance rent, student loans, a car payment and other bills, living paycheck-to-paycheck.

These are the South Milwaukee residents that SMHC helps every day. We lift those most in need because of generous monetary donations. **We receive no taxpayer funding and are completely supported by donations.** Any monetary gift you provide is greatly needed and appreciated. It will help us continue our work for neighbors whose challenge is providing for themselves and their families.

On behalf of the SMHC Board of Directors and volunteers, thank you and have a blessed and safe holiday season.

George Becker
President, SMHC Board of Directors

Donors Make Our Critical Work for South Milwaukee Possible

South Milwaukee Human Concerns is the place of help and hope for South Milwaukee residents who experience all types of adversities.

Serving about 1,000 unique/unduplicated clients each month with essential and nutritious food in a dignified and welcoming environment, it's only because of the generosity of our donors that we are able to meet the challenge.

In addition to our primary mission as a food pantry, SMHC assists the community in other ways, especially its children. Two examples:

- More than 700 children of our clients will receive modest Christmas gifts distributed in early December.
- About 200 school children received school supplies, per their grade lists.

Your monetary help is critical for SMHC to offer its services in 2023 and beyond. Here's how to help:

- Go to smhumanconcerns.org and click on the "Donate Now" button.
- Mail your donation in the enclosed return envelope (Checks payable to: South Milwaukee Human Concerns).
- Drop off your contribution at the center during our open hours.



Eaton Corporation Charitable Fund Recognizes the Important Work of SMHC

South Milwaukee Human Concerns (SMHC) board members and staff are incredibly pleased, grateful and humbled to have received a \$30,000 grant from the Eaton Corporation Charitable Fund in September. It was one of the largest grants awarded by the Eaton Corporation Charitable Fund. The grant will help fund operating expenses, especially aiding with the center's energy costs throughout the winter. Eaton has a manufacturing and administrative division in South Milwaukee and has previously awarded generous grants to SMHC.



“We are overwhelmed by the generosity of Eaton Corporation,” said Deb DeBoer, SMHC director. “A great company like Eaton recognizing the important work we do in the community is beyond appreciated. Being totally supported by donations, this helps us to continue to serve so many in South Milwaukee.”

Eaton Corporation employees, city leaders and Human Concerns staff celebrate Eaton's grant donation to Human Concerns. From left are William Jessup, South Milwaukee Police Chief; Deb DeBoer, Human Concerns director; Adam Vannieuwenhoven, Eaton; Cydney Millhisler, Eaton; Denise Arnold, Human Concerns Board member and Eaton; Paul Koester, Eaton; Conner Linden, Eaton; and Tim Shafer and George Becker, Human Concerns Board members.

Support of Many Businesses and Organizations Help Us Meet Community Needs

South Milwaukee Human Concerns thanks these vital partners who generously work with us to help keep our food pantry stocked and/or provide needed monetary and in-kind support in 2022. A big thanks to:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aldi's (SM)• American Legion (SM)• Aurora Healthcare• Azteca Mexican Restaurant• Barbieri's Italian Restaurant• Bucyrus Erie Foundation• Carlisle Technologies• Caterpillar Mining Corp.• City of South Milwaukee• Cousins Subs (SM)• CR Electric• Divine Mercy Parish• Dollar General (SM)• Dollar Tree• Doug Proebsting Memorial• Eaton Corporation• Feeding America• First Congregational Church• Gordon Food Service (GFS)• Gordon Flesch Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater Milwaukee Foundation• Green Bay Packers• Hampton Inn• Hearts for Families• Hunger Relief Fund• Hunger Task Force• JX Gives Back• Knights of Columbus• Kwik Trip (27th & College)• Lucas Milhaupt• McDonald's (SM)• Milwaukee Admirals• Milwaukee Brewers• Milwaukee County Zoo• Molthen Bell Funeral Home• Mulligan's Irish Pub• Northwestern Mutual• Pick n' Save• Piggly Wiggly• PPG Industries, Inc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ridge Community Church• Rotary Club of Mitchell Field• SM Lion's• SM Old Fashion Christmas• SM Fire Department• SM Police Department• SM School District• SM United Methodist Church• South Shore Chiropractic• Spirit's Bar & Grill• St. Luke's United Church of Christ• St. Mark's Episcopal Church• Suburban Women's Alliance• Tap Room• TASC Services, LLC• Tracey's Sewer & Drain Cleaning• Trinity Lutheran Church• United Steelworkers #1343• Walmart |
|---|--|--|
- Please patronize the businesses that support SMHC.*

New Year Marks Milestone 50th Anniversary of Human Concerns

The New Year, 2023, marks the 50th anniversary of South Milwaukee Human Concerns (SMHC) providing sorely needed help to city residents. To commemorate the milestone, look for a special event later in 2023 to celebrate the anniversary.

In 1973, volunteers began a modest emergency food and clothing bank in dedicated space in the former St. John's Catholic Church at 801 Marquette Avenue (now a parking lot for Divine Mercy Catholic Church). There have been four SMHC locations; its current location (1029 Milwaukee Avenue) has been home since 1998.



Lifelong Resident Mayor Shelenske Lauds SMHC’s ‘Kindness, Assistance’

Mayor Jim Shelenske believes that a community is only as strong as its most vulnerable residents. Mayor since April 2022, Shelenske’s South Milwaukee roots run deep. A lifelong “Rocket,” among his many involvements includes city clerk for many years, a long-time member of the South Milwaukee Lions, and being instrumental in starting the city’s successful Farmers Market that attracts thousands to downtown throughout the summer and early fall.

Throughout his positions of leadership and great affinity for South Milwaukee, Shelenske is also aware that many in the community need help, often with life’s most basic necessities. He believes South Milwaukee Human Concerns (SMHC) often does the unseen and underappreciated work that makes those most vulnerable among us more cared for.



Mayor Jim Shelenske

“As the mayor of all South Milwaukee residents, I have a great deal of concern for those who are hurting economically,” Shelenske said. “Some do not always have the resources to provide good nutrition for their families. SMHC is that essential community service that bridges the gap when times get tough.”

Shelenske fully supports SMHC, its mission and volunteers. He feels that the services SMHC provides often prevents a South Milwaukee child or senior citizen from going to bed hungry.

“Throughout my interactions with residents inevitably I will come across a mom and dad who are struggling,” he said. “It’s comforting to know the good works of SMHC can always be relied on to step in and be that source of kindness and assistance.”

Memorials and Honorariums Honors Special People, Provides a Lasting Gift



To honor the memory of a family member, friend, colleague or other person in your life that has made a difference, donate to South Milwaukee Human Concerns (SMHC) through a memorial or honorarium in their name. They are recognized at smhumanconcerns.org/memorials

To initiate a memorial or honorarium, contact SMHC director Debra DeBoer at debrahcsomilw@gmail.com

Help Us Make the Holiday Season a Bit Brighter for South Milwaukee Children

South Milwaukee Human Concerns (SMHC) will help make the holiday season a bit brighter for South Milwaukee families who cannot afford to provide their children with Christmas gifts. Because of your generosity, SMHC hopes to provide hundreds of children of our clients with modest gifts.

This program is also in need of gift cards in any amount. Popular gift cards are from Amazon, iTunes, Kohl’s, Target, Walmart, and Marcus Theaters. Bring your gift cards to SMHC during open hours.



Children’s Christmas gifts are readied at Human Concerns for distribution.

South Milwaukee Human Concerns

P.O. Box 314

1029 Milwaukee Avenue

South Milwaukee, WI 53172

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MISSION

South Milwaukee Human Concerns is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization receiving no taxpayer funds that delivers critical help and hope to needs-based residents through emergency food, clothing and other essential services.



*South Milwaukee Human Concerns
is proud to be supported by
Hunger Task Force and Feeding America.*



During the holidays,

South Milwaukee Human Concerns will be closed:

Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25

Friday and Monday, December 23 and 26

SM Company Provides a Clean Sweep and Seal of Main Floor



A special thank you to TASC Services, LLC and its owner Tony Goodenough. The long-time South Milwaukee janitorial services company provided SMHC a complete floor cleaning and sealer in late October at no cost. Maintaining the 65-year-old facility is often costly, and this generous gift was needed and fully appreciated.



SMHC Open Hours:

Monday, Noon – 3 p.m.

Wednesday, 3 – 6 p.m.

Friday, 9 a.m. – Noon

Board of Directors

George Becker, President

Peggy Bartelt, Vice President

Michelle Adamec, Treasurer

Denise Arnold

Jill Kallay

Dan Reszel

Tim Schafer

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Debra DeBoer, Director

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Cariann Schwichtenberg