



From the Board President

Giving, Kindness Define the Work of South Milwaukee Human Concerns

I have been fortunate to be involved in volunteer leadership roles at South Milwaukee Human Concerns for about 20 years. Through those years there have been challenges, deep empathy for what SMHC accomplishes, and a personal, continued resolve to carry on our mission of help and hope for so many in this community. One personal attribute, though, that is my constant companion as I reflect on these years: how rewarding it is to help those who need our invaluable assistance. What we give to others is often returned to us many times over. How true. There are quotes from two of the most influential people of the 20th Century that I keep close; quotes that help to exemplify the work of our 40 SMHC volunteers, who are the critical link to serve our thousands of clients.

The first, from Winston Churchill, *“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”*

And, from Mother Theresa, *“Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.”*

Giving is truly one of the defining qualities of our lives. Small acts of kindness are far reaching and potentially life changing. Giving and small acts of kindness are what SMHC puts into practice every day. Please consider a monetary donation to help us keep giving kindness to those in need in South Milwaukee in 2024 and beyond. Have a blessed Christmas and holiday season.

George Becker
President, SMHC Board of Directors

Your Gift Goes Directly to Work for Thousands in South Milwaukee

There are multiple ways that you can help South Milwaukee Human Concerns survive and thrive in its mission to deliver critical help and hope to needs-based residents. SMHC receives no taxpayer funding and is completely supported by donations and volunteers. We serve more than 7,000 unique/unduplicated clients annually, including many seniors and children. Monetary gifts are especially needed to help with on-going expenses. In addition to its primary mission, SMHC also:

- Provides children of our clients with modest Christmas gifts
- Offers school children school supplies at the beginning of the academic year.



Here is how to help SMHC deliver its vital services in 2024 and beyond:

- Go the smhumanconcerns.org and click “Donate Now”
- 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.



Mayor and City Leaders Honor Longevity, Service of Human Concerns

In honor of its 50th anniversary year of service to South Milwaukee, Mayor Jim Shelenske presented the following proclamation to South Milwaukee Human Concerns from city leaders at a community wide celebration in September.

Proclamation of Recognition and Appreciation

Whereas South Milwaukee Human Concerns (SMHC) is celebrating 50 years of invaluable service to South Milwaukee in 2023, and

Whereas SMHC provides essential help and hope to thousands of residents annually as the city’s food pantry, and

Whereas SMHC also provides residents with access to clothing, household items and social service referrals, and

Whereas SMHC offers the city’s young people an important start to academic learning through its annual school supply distribution, and

Whereas SMHC makes the Christmas season brighter for children of its clients through its annual holiday gift program, and

Whereas SMHC offers the entirety of its services to the community at no cost, and

Whereas decades of donors and volunteers have been integral to the operation and success of SMHC, **therefore be it**

Resolved that the South Milwaukee Mayor and Common Council congratulates, commends, and places enormous value on the exceptional and selfless works and actions of SMHC, its volunteers, donors, staff and Board of Directors.

September 16, 2023

Mayor James Shelenske and the South Milwaukee Common Council



Mayor Jim Shelenske (left) presents the city’s proclamation to SMHC Board members at the 50th anniversary celebration. From left are George Becker, Denise Arnold, Peggy Wranovsky, Dan Reszel, Peggy Bartelt and Tim Schafer.



Human Concerns Director Deb DeBoer (center) with her daughter and volunteer Tamra Kaczmarowski and volunteer Izzy Zamora.



The South Milwaukee Lions present SMHC with a \$3,000 check at the 50th anniversary celebration. From left are Mayor Shelenske, SMHC President George Becker and SM Lion and SMHC volunteer Deb Polzin.

That’s a Big Check!

Eaton Corporation employees, city leaders and Human Concerns volunteers and staff celebrate the recent ceremonial gifting of a \$30,000 grant from the Eaton Corporate Charitable Fund to SMHC. From left are Denise Arnold, HC volunteer and Eaton employee; Dan Reszel, HC Board member and volunteer; William Jessup, SM Police Chief; Deb DeBoer, HC Director; Adam Vannieuwenhoven, Eaton; Paul Koester, Eaton; Lieutenant Andy Mahn, SM Fire Department; Jared Rentmeester, SM firefighter; and Tim Schafer and George Becker, HC Board members and volunteers.

“This incredibly generous grant from Eaton Corporation will make such a positive difference throughout our community,” said DeBoer. “We are humbled and so thankful that Eaton Corporation continues to partner with us in such a supportive way.”



Eaton Corporation check to SMHC



Valued Donor Carlson says ‘Every Small Act of Kindness is Meaningful’

Bob Carlson, a Human Concerns cherished donor, left South Milwaukee years ago but the city’s inspiration and influence on him remains ever-present. Carlson ran through a litany of Rocket lore that profoundly touched him and his family. His father worked at Bucyrus Erie for 43 years; Bob worked teenage jobs at Bernie’s Pharmacy (10th and Milwaukee); the city’s weekly newspaper, The Voice Graphic; and the Garden Theater (yes, South Milwaukee had a movie theater, in fact, two). The family home was on 13th and Marion where his mom lived until her passing at 103. Local education for Bob was St. Mary’s and South Milwaukee High School.

College, life circumstance, marriage and career opportunities took him away from his boyhood hometown. Despite the years (decades, really), professional successes and the curveballs that life throws our way, a magnetic-like lurch back to South Milwaukee seemed inevitable. It happened in 2001 when Bob and three colleagues started Hearts for Families, a charitable foundation to assist those in need. The foundation was expanding into local food pantries and South Milwaukee Human Concerns became a beneficiary. Essentials such as new comforters, pillows, bath towels, cookware and more became regular and abundant donated items from Hearts for Families. SMHC clients are exceedingly grateful, often overcome with gratitude and heaping thanks for the unexpected and sorely needed gift. Monetary support is also in the offing from Carlson through Hearts for Families.

Carlson calls his relationship with SMHC “wonderful” and said, “Helping your community can make a huge impact on someone’s life ... it’s important to lend a hand. Every small act of kindness is meaningful.”

Returning favors now to the hometown that nurtured him and his family years ago helped to give Bob a strong work ethic and an early start at his flourishing careers. Getting back involved in South Milwaukee through SMHC seems a perfect end and beginning to his ongoing story.

“South Milwaukee is still a special place,” Bob said. “Giving back to my hometown is important.”

Children’s Christmas Gifts, Memorials Are Ways to Show Your Support

There are many ways to support SMHC, including a donation to help make the holidays brighter for South Milwaukee children and honoring a family member or other loved one.

- We are accepting Christmas gift donations to give to the children of our clients. This season SMHC will provide about 800 children with modest gifts. Donations of gift cards in any amount to Amazon, Kohl’s, Target, Walmart and Marcus Theaters are ideas, along with winter clothing. Bring your donation for this program to the center during our open hours.
- A memorial or an honorarium in the name of special person in your life can be made through center director Deb DeBoer at debrahcsomilw@gmail.com. Those honored are prominently listed at smhumanconcerns.org/memorials.



Some of the Christmas gifts that are readied at Human Concerns for distribution to children of clients.

Ever Thankful for Our Business, Civic and Faith-Based Partners

South Milwaukee Human Concerns thanks these vital partners who generously work with us to help keep our food pantry stocked and/or provided needed monetary and in-kind support in 2023. A big thanks to:

Aldi’s (SM), American Legion (SM), Aurora Healthcare, Azteca Mexican Restaurant, Bucyrus Erie Foundation, Carlisle Technologies, C3 Designs, City of South Milwaukee, Cousins Subs (SM), CR Electric, Divine Mercy Parish, Dollar Tree, Doug Proebsting Memorial, Eaton Corporation, Feeding America, First Congregational Church, Gordon Food Service, Gordon Flesch Foundation, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Green Bay Packers, Hearts for Families, Hunger Task Force, JX Gives Back, Knights of Columbus, Kwik Trip, Lucas Milhaupt, Mario Inc., Milwaukee County CDBG, Pick n’ Save, Piggly Wiggly, PPG Industries, Inc., Ridge Community Church, Rotary Club of Mitchell Field, SM Lion’s, SM Fire Department, SM Police Department, SM Sausage and Meats, SM School District, SM United Methodist Church, South Shore Chiropractic, St. Luke’s United Church of Christ, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Ryan’s Tap Room, Texas Roadhouse, Trinity Lutheran Church, United Steelworkers #1343, Walmart.

Please patronize the businesses that support SMHC



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.*



Human Concerns provides children of clients with winter coats.

**During the holidays,
South Milwaukee Human Concerns will be closed:**

Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24

Friday and Monday, December 22 and 25

Monday, January 1



*May the Spirit of Christmas
be with you throughout the New Year.*



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

Dan Reszel

Tim Schafer

Peggy Wranovsky

Staff

Debra DeBoer, Director

Part-Time Assistants:

Robin Eskridge, Julie Schramm,

Cariann Schwichtenberg