



Benedict Center

Compassion • Justice • Action • Transformation

2014 Annual Report

The Benedict Center is a leader in providing innovative, effective programs for women involved in the criminal justice system. Our valued partners, collaborators and donors give us our strength and enable us to make community impacts.

We could not do this without you.

***Celebrating four decades of
Compassion, Justice, Action
and Transformation***



Message From Our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In 2014 the Benedict Center made headlines as we celebrated 40 years of service and advocacy to help improve the lives of individuals in the criminal justice system.

A highlight of the year was our 40th Anniversary Luncheon featuring Dr. Marilyn Van Dieten, an internationally recognized expert on women's issues in the criminal justice system. The event affirmed that the Benedict Center has long been a trail-blazer in providing gender-responsive care to justice-involved women and that we have strong supporters in the community that make our work possible.

Building on our strong and proud legacy, we have forged ahead to meet critical needs in the community.

We built the Sisters Program as an innovative, harm reduction model for women engaged in street prostitution that reaches over 150 women annually.

We piloted a new Re-entry Program for women at the House of Correction (HOC), ensuring that 75 women left the HOC with a plan for a better life.

We added a new Employment Training component to the Women's Harm Reduction Program so that graduates have the job skills they need to support themselves and their families.

In the financial section of this report, you might note that the Benedict Center's budget is modest, but financially sound. While we are steadily growing, we work hard to ensure every dollar is spent wisely and for maximum impact in changing the lives of our participants for the better.

In 2015 and beyond, we are working on some big goals: expanding the Sisters Program to the south side, establishing a city wide prostitution diversion policy; and adding mental health services to our Women's Harm Reduction Program.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the supporters, community and system partners, board members, Friends of the Benedict Center, volunteers, staff and participants who have made four decades of compassion, justice, action and transformation possible.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Geraci
Executive Director



2014 Board of Directors

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2014 Staff

Administration

Jeanne Geraci, Executive Director

Joan Prentki, Director of Finance and Operations

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Women's Harm Reduction Program

Meagan Winn, Director of Programs

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Andrew Ward, MATC Adult Ed Instructor

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Sisters Program

Donna Hietpas, Director

Shavon Pope, Outreach Worker

Geneve Williams, Outreach Worker

Milwaukee County Day Reporting Center

Coey Sephus-Chapman, Day Reporting Center Coordinator

Our Mission:

The Benedict Center is an interfaith, nonprofit criminal justice agency working with victims, offenders and the community to achieve a system of justice that is fair and treats everyone with dignity and respect.

Thank you to our Primary Agency Partners

The Benedict Center has established strong credibility for success within all sectors of the criminal justice system, as evidenced by ongoing referrals from the District Attorney, Courts, Milwaukee County House of Correction, Wisconsin Department of Corrections and the Milwaukee County Day Reporting Center. The partners for the Sisters Program include: the Milwaukee Police Department- District 3, the District Attorney, the Medical College of Wisconsin and neighborhood groups like Washington Park Partners. The Benedict Center is also grateful for the support of foundations, community members, religious organizations, corporations and the Friends of the Benedict Center.



Community partner Dave from Amaranth Bakery with Sisters Street Outreach Workers, Shavon and Geneve



Johnson Controls Women's Resource Network sponsored the holiday party for our clients

Mission Results

From the expansion of the Sisters Program, to creating a new program for the women leaving the House of Correction, these accomplishments would not have happened without the ongoing support of our donors and community partners. Thanks for helping us make 2014 such a success.

In 2014, we
CELEBRATED



YEARS
of compassion,
justice,
action and
transformation.

Financial Stability

Because of your generosity, the Benedict Center is in a stable financial position to continue our mission in 2015.

Financial Report for January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014

Revenue

Individuals, Foundations, Corporations and Congregations	\$392,043
Government Contracts	\$261,790
Fee For Service	\$59,855
Service Organizations	\$27,214
Special Event	\$39,908

Total 2014 Income: \$772,305

Expense

Women's Program	\$338,975
Sisters Program	\$112,909
Justice Advocacy	\$21,974
Community Service	\$55,706
General and Administrative	\$112,821
Development	\$52,256

Total 2014 Expenses: \$694,640

82%

of women

SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

Deferred Prosecution Agreements or were still making progress towards completion.

71%

of women in the Sisters Program

COMPLETED THEIR DIVERSION CONTRACT

and stayed beyond the minimum 6 months required.

78

women were

SERVED VIA THE NEW PROGRAM

at the House of Correction Re-Entry Program



3,992

HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

provided by the men and women in the Restorative Community Service Program



Words from a *Benedict Center Butterfly*



When I first came to the Benedict Center, I was lost, afraid and angry at the world, bottling everything up. At that time in my life I felt no one could help me, but there were a lot of people willing to help me at the Benedict Center, I just had to let them help me to want to help myself.

I've never had anyone to care about my health before, and I have to tell you it feels great! Don't take my word for it, come join us and see for yourself. Put your feet on a branch, hold on tight and take a spin so that you can grow into a Beautiful Benedict Butterfly like myself and others.

I am a Benedict Center Butterfly

- Katrina

Benedict Center Programs

The Women's Harm Reduction Program

This program provides evidence-based treatment, education and support to justice-involved women as an alternative to incarceration. Women are referred by the criminal justice system because our system partners recognize that our program can ensure better outcomes in a more cost-effective way than incarceration. By providing a gender-responsive, trauma-informed program that meets women where they are, we are able to walk with women toward safer, healthier lives in a safer, healthier community.

The Women's Harm Reduction Program (WHRP) served 210 women in 2014. Each woman received an individual plan that incorporates our holistic set of services, including substance abuse counseling, cognitive behavioral therapy, anger and stress management, trauma groups, parenting classes, adult education and a pre-employment course. In 2014, 82% of women successfully completed Deferred Prosecution Agreements or were still making progress toward completion.



The Restorative Community Service Program

In a program collaboration with the Milwaukee County Day Reporting Center and Wisconsin Community Services, 86 men and women provided 3,992 hours of community service in 2014 such as graffiti removal, litter clean up, stocking of food pantries and assisting in urban garden projects. Participants are engaged in lessons about team building, civic responsibility and the harm caused by crime. Most projects are in neighborhoods seriously affected by crime, so the program helps restore the relationship between the participants and the community.

House of Correction – The Women's Re-entry Program

New in 2014, this project provides services for women incarcerated at the Milwaukee County House of Correction. The goal of this project is to reduce recidivism by providing women with individualized case management and support, life skills training, group treatment for co-occurring trauma/PTSD and substance abuse, and re-entry planning. This pilot successfully served 78 women in 2014.



Justice Advocacy Program

The core of the Benedict Center's mission is the call for justice. We have a long history of advocating for fairness and effectiveness in the criminal justice system. Our work emphasizes a public health approach to breaking the cycles of incarceration, violence and poverty. For our justice system to work as it should, those most affected by it must have a voice. Through leadership development of justice-involved women, community engagement, research and partnerships, we pursue social change to build more just, healthy and safe communities.

Our current advocacy focus is to change the way Milwaukee addresses the issue of street prostitution from arrest and incarceration to a public health model that provides treatment and support to women. In partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin, the Milwaukee Police Department-District 3, the District Attorney's Office and neighborhood stakeholders, the Benedict Center completed the first phase of this project in 2014. From 2011-2014, the Benedict Center

and its partners created an innovative model and implemented a pilot program with strong results. Police diverted women to the Sisters Program in lieu of a ticket, fine or incarceration. At the Sisters Program, women found respite, support and resources to overcome trauma, violence, addiction, poverty and stigma and have begun to build better lives for themselves. Key to this policy change is the leadership development of women in the Sisters Program who continue to play a growing role in shaping the policy and program as well as helping to educate the community. This success is laying the groundwork toward an eventual city-wide prostitution diversion policy.

Jail Outreach

The Benedict Center trains and facilitates volunteers to offer unconditional care for those who are incarcerated. These volunteers offer visitation, books, and ecumenical spiritual support to those who request them.

The Sisters Program

This innovative program is designed to provide outreach and support to women engaged in prostitution, whether they are working for survival or being coerced by another person (sex trafficking). The Sisters Program includes street outreach by peer workers and a neighborhood drop-in center that provides respite, crisis management services, case management and programming. Services are designed to support women on a journey to healing and recovery, improved health and safety and renewed hope.

The Sisters Program also serves as a community-based diversion program, where police refer women for treatment instead of criminal charges. In 2014, Sisters Outreach Workers contacted 152 women (533 encounters) through outreach efforts. 106 women participated in the Drop-In Center programs. From 2011-2014, 71% of women completed their diversion contract and stayed beyond the minimum 6 months required.



photo by Angela Peters



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First United Methodist Church of West Allis
Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church

Holy Family Congregation
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The Province Of St. Joseph
Wauwatosa Avenue United Methodist Church

Service Organizations

American Association Of University Women - Milwaukee
Friends of the Benedict Center
Friendship House Of Milwaukee

Justice Point
Local Initiatives Support Corp. Milwaukee
Mental Health America Of Wisconsin
Pompeii Womens Club
Wisconsin Community Services Inc
WISDOM

We are thankful for individual donors like you. The financial support, encouragement, and commitment you provided to the Benedict Center in the past year have been enormously important in keeping us vibrant.

Your Continued Support is Important

To continue offering important programs and services, we need your support. Whether it's a monthly gift, a bequest, honorarium, or a gift of your time through volunteerism – it's all vitally important to our success.

To find out how you can make a lasting impact, visit: www.benedictcenter.org/Donate. or call 414.347.1774

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