



# 2013

## Annual Report



FRIEDENS COMMUNITY MINISTRIES, INC.  
 1220 W. Vliet St.  
 Milwaukee, WI 53205  
 414-289-6030  
[www.FriedensPantry.org](http://www.FriedensPantry.org)



# History of Friedens

## **Friedens Overview: (1978 to present)**

Friedens Community Ministries has been building ladders of peace throughout Milwaukee for over 35 years.

### **Mission Statement:**

*“Friedens Community Ministries, Inc. is a network of food pantries building ladders of peace throughout Milwaukee. We believe that a dependable supply of food is a means of bringing hope and dignity to our community.”*

At Friedens, we believe that without a steady supply of nutritious food that it is difficult to focus on other needs in life. It may be a life of survival, instead of peace. Friedens addresses the emergency food needs in some of the low income populations in Milwaukee. Through our pantries, we are able to serve some of the most food insecure families in our community with dignity and respect. In 2013, we served about 30,000 individuals at one of our three food pantries. Currently, we operate three pantries 1) Coggs Center pantry at 1220 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee (Central city) which operates 5 days per week and served over 2,700 families in 2013; 2) Despensa de la Paz pantry at 1615 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Milwaukee (South Side of Milwaukee) which operates every Saturday and served around 5,000 families in 2013; 3) John C. Cudahy YMCA pantry at 9050 N. Swan Road (North Side of Milwaukee) which operates two afternoons per week and served just under 1,400 families in 2013.

Friedens Community Ministries, Inc. opened its first emergency food pantry in 1978 as a community outreach program of Friedens United Church of Christ. Our pantry incorporated as an independent nonprofit in 1993. In 2007, Friedens received a Best Practice Award from the USDA for being the only Food Share enrollment site with a food pantry attached in the State of Wisconsin. Friedens opened a neighborhood pantry in 2009 on the southside (22<sup>nd</sup> and Mitchell). Subsequently, in 2011 opened a pantry on 91<sup>st</sup> and Brown Deer Road located in the John C. Cudahy YMCA.

# Pantry Operations

## **Food Insecurity**

We strive to provide a 3-5 day supply of nutritious food including meat protein, fruits and vegetables (fresh when possible), dairy products, soups, breakfast foods, bread and starches such as pasta. We not only try to avoid hunger but we also provide healthy

food choices to our many clients. Also, Friedens is a significant provider of baby and infant formula for newborn children in our service area and also works with the Department of Aging to provide food to handicapped and home bound elderly residents who are facing hunger. Two of our pantries have a free library. In addition to our food pantry services, our Despensa location also runs a small clothing bank.

In surveying our clients, we have found that over 55% of our clients had to either skip meals or eat less because they were short of food in the last 30 days. With the help of the food that our clients received, 60% of our clients were able to use some of the money normally budgeted for food to cover other expenses; 50% of them used it to help pay rent and 15% of our clients used it to cover utilities.

We help our clients become more empowered and in control by encouraging them to access all available resources to address their needs. We inform them of the County 211 program and provide literature regarding healthy eating provided by the USDA and supply recipes.

Three years ago, Friedens in a joint venture with an area nonprofit Guest House, created Cream City Gardens. The 2013 version of Cream City Gardens saw the expansion to cover 3 city lots, on 13<sup>th</sup> & Juneau, just three blocks from our Coggs Center pantry. This garden allows us to make sure we can provide healthy food to our clients.

Our primary goal is to distribute a 3-5 day emergency supply of food to everyone who comes to our pantry and are food insecure. We are able to provide this food because of partnerships with Hunger Task Force, Feeding America, United Way of Greater Milwaukee, and local farms; along with the generosity of our donors, grants and volunteers.

One of the unique areas that we work to build ladders of peace is by encouraging those who volunteer in our pantries. In 2013 over 20,000 hours of volunteer hours were tracked between our three food pantries. This would be equivalent to 11 or more full time staff. We find that our unique mix of volunteers allows opportunities of growth. Friedens works with a large variety of organizations, businesses, schools, court systems and churches to solicit and provide volunteer opportunities. We are heavily dependent on volunteers to run our operations with only 2 staff on Friedens payroll. We actively seek individuals with varied religious, ethnic, economic and educational backgrounds to work in our pantries. Our volunteer corps is a mix of stable long term volunteers, and new volunteers who come to us for their first time.

Our volunteer program also functions as a work experience and job training program. We work with W2 agencies, YWCA Transitional Job Program, Justice 2000, Hamilton High School (MPS) cognitively disabled job program, Milwaukee Center of Independence, Driver's License Recovery Program, the Guest House, and other avenues that place clients in our pantries which ultimately assists them in serving community service hours, obtaining job skills, and finding gainful employment.

Often today's client for food becomes tomorrow's volunteer and hopefully a long term member of the Friedens' Community. We believe that this relationship allows us to help our clients build the needed skills to move up in the work force, and ultimately to the peace that self-sufficiency may provide.

**Numbers of customers served:**

No. of families served in 2013: 8,751

No. of individuals served in 2013: 29,153

# Friedens Financial Statements

**Financials:**

**Income Revenue:**

Grants:	
Racine Dominican	\$5,000
SE Wisconsin UCC	\$4,500
Government (FEMA)	\$2,714
Other (United Way)	\$66,958
Brady Walk	\$13,908

Donations:	
Individuals	\$12,440
Institutions	\$44,065
Fundraising	\$1,800

In-Kind \$231,441

Investment Income \$9,021

**Total Income/Revenue \$391,847**

**Expenses:**

Staff	\$77,903
Program	\$61,788
Non-Cash	\$231,441

**Total Expenses: \$371,132**

# Management Team

## Board of Directors

Amanda Frazer-Collins -  
President  
Bill Hintz - Vice President  
John Dorr - Treasurer  
Mellissa Minich - Secretary  
Jim Dorr - Past President

John Fatica  
Todd Fox  
Tracey Magyar  
Michelle Nabak  
Lesley Strong  
Joseph Timm

## Executive Staff

Catherine Draeger  
Executive Director

Andre Pirtle  
Food Management Specialist

## Program Sites

Coggs Center Food Pantry  
1220 W. Vliet St

Despensa de la Paz Food Pantry  
1615 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street

JCY Food Pantry  
9050 N. Swan Road