

2019 - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



“There’s a light at the end of every tunnel. Some tunnels just happen to be longer than others.”

ANONYMOUS



 **SILVER SPRING** EST. 1958
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
A COMMUNITY OF SUCCESS

Dear Friends of Silver Spring Neighborhood Center,

It goes without saying that 2020 has been one of the more challenging years of our life. Covid has greatly tested our collective ability to balance health goals with economic goals. Social justice events have come painfully to the forefront – and this tests our collective ability to be truly human and deeply appreciate that Black Lives Matter.

These two challenges, and more, have certainly been at the forefront for us. Nevertheless, we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel for SSNC:

- » **Devin Hudson, our Executive Director, has worked tirelessly to keep vital neighborhood programs afloat,** either live or virtually, at the risk of her health and the health of all our managers and staff; my deepest admiration and thanks go out to our entire team
- » **We made a commitment to keep our entire staff employed and productive,** even in this year's quiet times; it was important to stand with members of our team – they are people that help people
- » **Leadership of the Center has gotten stronger,** with the addition of a talented young man, Derrick Shoates, who returns to the agency from Running Rebels, as our Senior Director of Programs
- » **We weathered the uncertainty and maintain a sound financial position**
- » **We have begun a strategic planning process with key community stakeholders** to look into our future; and we are confident that it is bright

In these times, all of these are great achievements and a source of pride. **However, none of this would have been possible without the continued support of each and every one of you.** Thank you, from the bottom of my heart for your ongoing commitment to the SSNC mission — helping to build a stronger and safer neighborhood and community; helping individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency.



DAVID NESTINGEN
Chairman of the Board



Dearest Friends,

When I stepped into the role of Executive Director in May of 2019, I was excited and honored to serve the community and work with the exceptionally talented and dedicated SSNC staff. Despite the challenges we have all faced this year, I remain excited and honored to lead SSNC. The successes of our past continue to provide a strong foundation to confront the challenges of the present and create a future of hope. In working toward that future, we added new leadership in our Schreiber Child Development Center, Programs division and Philanthropy department. Little did I know the challenges that were ahead.



DEVIN HUDSON
Executive Director

When our country came to a screeching halt in March 2020, we had many tough decisions to make — decisions that would impact the SSNC staff as well as a community that depends on the many services we provide. I drew upon the valued input of the staff to make these decisions and determine policy. Collectively, we decided to keep our Emergency Food Pantry open without interruption. Between March 1 and June 30 alone we served over 4,704 individuals facing food insecurity. We reopened our Schreiber Child Development Center in May in compliance with the local and federal guidelines. A phased reopening of many of our other programs began in June. I am filled with gratitude to the SSNC staff who worked extremely hard to implement new safety and cleaning procedures that enabled us to continue to provide needed services to our community.

Reflecting over the last year, many things became clear. With the continued challenges of the health pandemic and the social and racial injustices, our work is more important now than ever. The community continues to be heavily hit, and the inequities are painfully obvious.

Conversely, the strength and resilience of the individuals we serve is inspiring. I'm amazed and proud of the staff's passion, commitment, talent, and enthusiasm despite the uncertainty.

Lastly, our community partners, friends, and donors showed their support in both big and small ways. **Without this support, we would not have been able to continue our work.** Despite the many challenges we faced this past year, we provided services, remained fully staffed, and ended the year financially stable. To everyone who helped us along the way, we say thank you, and we look forward to 2021.

Early Childhood + Youth Development

Silver Spring Neighborhood Center (SSNC) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to build a safer, stronger neighborhood and community by helping individuals and families work towards self-sufficiency. SSNC has a proven track record of delivering high-quality programming in the areas of Education, Employment, Health & Wellness and Youth Recreation all in one facility. Most importantly, SSNC has remained in the same location since its inception, offering a level of accessibility and stability that is rarely seen in low-income communities.

Even in the toughest of times, Silver Spring Neighborhood is committed to providing top-tier services to our community's most valuable resource; the youth. Whether an infant or a teenager, we provide assistance throughout the entirety of our most important developmental stages in life.

Elaine Schreiber Child Development Center

Prior to March, approximately **80** children were served daily. COVID attendance is around 50 daily

87% of children displayed developmental improvement in literacy skills

92% of children displayed developmental improvement in social/emotional skills

Youth / Teen Programming


83% of students reported improvement on attending school each day

92% of youth reported improvement on spending time with friends who didn't use drugs or alcohol


A Community of Success


SSNC's capacity to provide high quality early childhood education is evidenced by our consistent 4 Star YoungStar rating and our demonstrated track record of exceptional results.

SSNC's After-School Youth Social Development Program (YSDP) helps youth ages 12-18 develop social skills, promote healthy lifestyles, achieve academic success and increase cultural awareness.

www.SSNC-milw.org 

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(414) 463-7950 

info@SSNC-milw.org 



MEET L.J.

A SSNC Success

By the time L.J. was a teen, she'd already faced more hardship than most adults do their entire lives. Her mother and brother were in a house fire when she was 7 years old. Her mother was burned on 65% of her body and her brother became disabled. When L.J. was 9, she essentially stepped into the role of mother, caring for both her mother and responsible for raising her brother. Within a few short years, L.J. began to regularly miss school and eventually wound up failing the 10th grade.

At this point, according to the statistics, L.J. should've become pregnant and never finish high school. But, since L.J. had been a regular participant at SSNC in the previous years, LADY coordinator, Latisah Holt, wasn't about to give up on her. Latisha reached out to L.J. and found out that, while she was still very interested in attending SSNC programming, she had no way to get to the center. With Latisha's help, L.J. would get transportation to and from programming, allowing her to regularly attend LADY group sessions. With the help of the LADY, Teen talk, and Teen Leadership programming, L.J. re-enrolled in an alternative high school. By her senior year, L.J. was the youth council treasurer and a regular leader of programming sessions. ***In June of 2020, L.J. graduated high school with a 3.8 GPA and now plans to attend the University of Milwaukee to major in accounting.*** With the help of SSNC, L.J. now has a bright future.

“Dare to reach out your hand into the darkness, to
pull another hand into the light.”

NORMAN B. RICE



GETTING THROUGH THE TOUGH TIMES

Dealing with COVID-19

When the going gets tough, the tough get going. One of the truly inspirational stories of the food pantry in 2020 is seeing the “all hands on deck” mentality to keep such a crucial service alive. As the shutdown started, to say we were concerned about the Food Pantry remaining consistent is an understatement. We had no idea if we had the manpower to continue such a logistically difficult program afloat. But then something amazing happened...

The community... stepped up. Our Opportunity Youth program participants helped unload shipments from the Hunger Task Force. Our staff stayed extra hours to make sure the work was completed. We had an influx of donations and volunteers from the community rallying around the food pantry. An incredibly generous supporter of ours even bought the SSNC a new conveyor belt to lessen the workload on a short handed staff! We weathered the storm due to the people who care about what we do. Big and small, people pitched in what they could and it led to something miraculous.

“Look at how *a single candle* can both defy and define the darkness.”

ANN FRANK



Health and Wellness

Food Pantry

The community served by SSNC is being hit especially hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Food insecurity is on the rise and the SSNC has experienced a significant increase in the number of our Emergency Services Food Pantry participants, especially early in the year. In times of emergency, our services are more important than ever.

SSNC's food pantry provides food to residents in the 53218, 53209 and 53225 zip codes. On Fridays, Senior citizens from any zip code can receive a stock box, which contains a three-day supply of emergency food. In addition, we support pregnant women and their families by providing baby food, diapers, formula, and more.

Despite all of the obstacles thrown our way in 2020, our emergency services remained open throughout the year, thanks to your support. Our food pantry staff and volunteers remain on site every day to receive deliveries, stock shelves and prepare boxes. We've had to make changes to keep things hygienic, but it hasn't stopped the services.

Over **2,400** individuals served

Zip Codes Served

(more served this year due to the pandemic): 53204, 53208, 53209, 53210, 53216, 53218, 53223, 53225

Nursing Clinic

The UWM Silver Spring Community Nursing Center provided onsite primary care services for over 20 years. While several challenges led to the discontinuation of these services this year, our goal remains to work with our long-established community partners to address the health needs of the community members. Our focus of holistic health and wellness services and programs will be provided by community health nurses, clinical instructors and students and will include:

- » Health screening and health care navigation for individuals with chronic health conditions
- » Health education to promote wellness and self-care
- » Collaborative programming to address health disparities

In 2019, **189** individuals received health services through more than **2,100** visits to the UWM Silver Spring Community Nursing Center.

55 group sessions were held for a total of **610** participants

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Workforce Development

Adult Employment

For SSNC to help build a safer, stronger neighborhood and community, individuals and families must have steady employment in order to achieve self-sufficiency. There's no way to sugarcoat how difficult this year has been in terms of employment. ***That's why our adult employment department is more crucial than ever and the work they've done this year is exceptionally noteworthy.***

SSNC serves as one of four administering agencies of Transform Milwaukee Jobs Program (TMJP) through our Adult Employment department. Our staff works to maintain a strong relationship with employers to support pathways to jobs with family sustaining wages.

The ultimate goal for participants enrolled in TMJP is to eventually secure unsubsidized jobs with their host employer or other permanent employment through the program's

job training, preparation and readiness services, and subsidized hands-on work experience. SSNC supports each participant throughout the process by providing job coaching, assistance to address barriers (i.e. purchasing work uniforms and boots, paying for specialized training, etc.) and retention services.

Opportunity Youth

Since the Opportunity Youth Re-Engagement Program was launched in 2018, hundreds of participants have overcome barriers, obtained critical job skills, and started on their way to having a successful career.

The program is designed to:

- 1) Re-engage individuals** between ages 16 and 24 who are out-of-school and out-of-work;
- 2) Identify and eliminate barriers,** such as housing, transportation, mental and physical health, or lack of education, that can hinder the start of a career;

3) Develop a mindset of community and accountability;

4) Provide personalized support through coaching and case-management in order to help the individual develop self-advocacy, self-accountability, and problem solving skills;

5) Secure career shadowing opportunities that provide participants with hands-on experience in their desired career fields;

6) Get entry-level job placements within their chosen fields ;

7) Build relationships with employers, investors, elected officials, recruits, and communities to support, design, fund and establish a track record of success.

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MEET L.S.

A SSNC Success

L.S. joined the program in its pilot year. In addition to participating in programming, L.S. served as a peer connector and recruiter. L.S. attended group therapy, life coaching, and professional development training. Using the skills he acquired, L.S. created a fashion design business plan. Realizing the need for financial support to achieve his dream, L.S. decided to focus on securing employment to save money for his business. Since June of 2019 L.S. has been gainfully employed at Froedtert Hospital in the Environmental Services department. Recently, L.S. received a pay raise and an acknowledgment for his outstanding service to patients in the imaging area.

We believe in equality for all.

We strive to build a safer, stronger community.

We support systemic change.

We hire staff that represent the individuals we serve.

We listen. We learn.

We think everyone needs a voice.

We have always known that Black Lives Matter.

We are Silver Spring Neighborhood Center.



“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the *obstacles which he has overcome.*”

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON



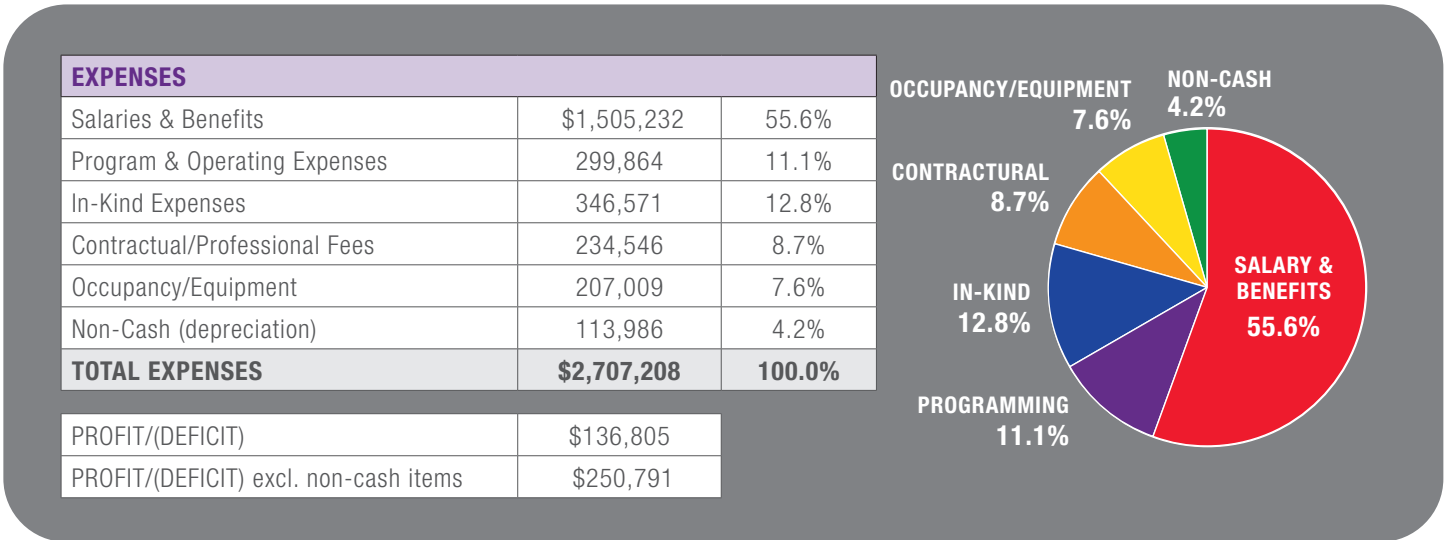
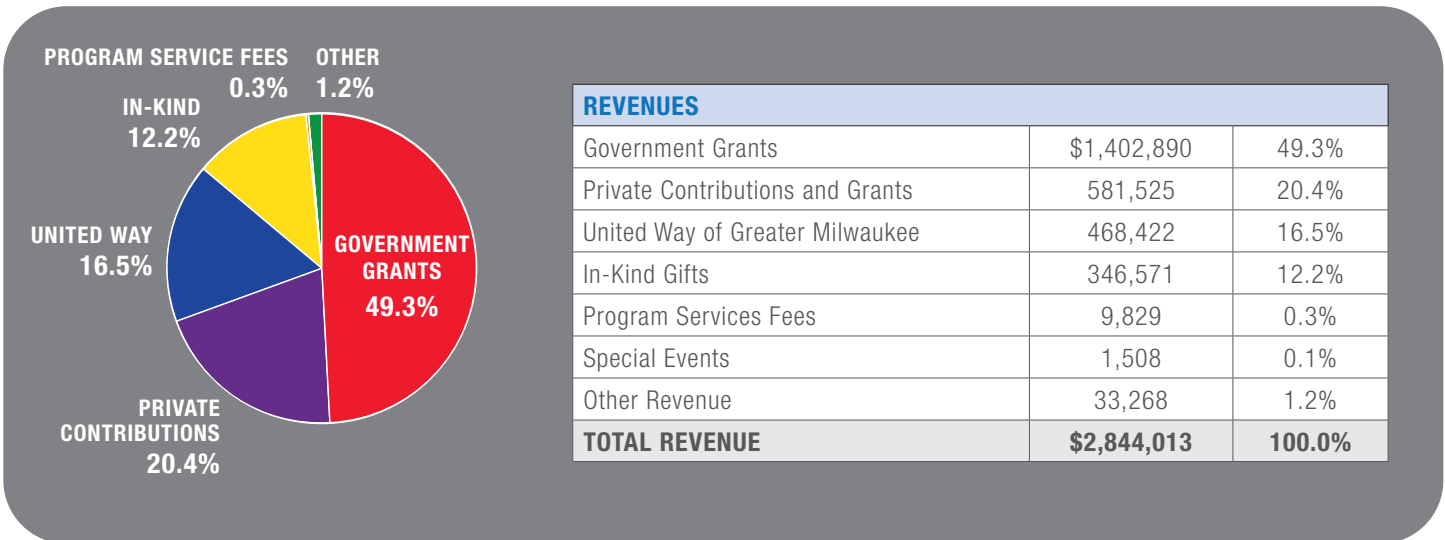
Our Financial Report

FINANCIALS AS OF
JUNE 30, 2020

Your Neighborhood Center has reported it's third consecutive year of surpluses and our cash position is strong in the new year. We continue to strengthen our infrastructure to support the four pillars of programming: Education, Employment, Youth Social Development and Health & Wellness.

We rely on the help of many friends who support our mission, including The United Way, The Housing Authority, Hunger Task Force, and many public and private foundations and donors.

We work effectively with many partners and volunteers to make your hard earned dollars more impactful on the lives we serve. We encourage all who are interested to stop for a visit to see first-hand the ways we help others.



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as of 6/30/2019

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5460 N 64th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53218
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*After School Programs Operated by
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 (414) 463-7950

 info@SSNC-milw.org

EDITOR: SILVER SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER STAFF

CREATIVE: MELINDA CAUGHILL, MOONLIGHT DESIGN

COPYWRITERS: BENJAMIN HOLT

PHOTOGRAPHY: SILVER SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: DEVIN HUDSON

