

2008 Annual Report

COMMUNITY SHARES OF WISCONSIN

DEAR FRIENDS,

A sincere thank you for supporting Community Shares of Wisconsin. 2008 was a good year for us in so many ways. Our fundraising, at \$973,989, was slightly down from 2007 revenue. But given the economic situation, it's impressive.

Most important, we are so grateful for our thousands of supporters who joined together to keep Community Shares of Wisconsin a strong force for social change.

2008 was a year of far-reaching accomplishments.

- Our board voted to add up to 15 new member nonprofits in 2009.
- We raised money to purchase a new database designed specifically for umbrella groups like Community Shares. With the data from the old system converted and the new system in place—helping improve our efficiency—there is a collective sigh of relief from the Community Shares staff.

- We met our \$10,000 goal for the endowment campaign.
- We began collaborating with Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee on certain administrative tasks. By working together, we're not only more efficient, we're saving money and resources too.

The addition of new member groups during 2009 will be an especially important milestone. By bringing new nonprofits into Community Shares, we offer our donors even more choices in supporting long-term, grassroots change.

You'll also notice that we have a new, scaled-down format for our annual report. The new design allows us to save well over \$2,500—and to save more than 100 pounds of paper, which is a 59% savings.*

Though this annual report is shorter than past years', we have complete information on our website at communityshares.com. I encourage

you to take a look. For instance, you can find information about: awards our members have received; our member groups' successful work; and the names of our more than 4,400 dedicated donors. Thanks to all of you!

In my first year as President of the Board, I was impressed once more at how well not only our donors but also our member groups pull together to ensure Community Shares' success. Clearly our member groups *are* Community Shares—but I also believe they best represent what it means to build a brighter future for our community.

Joan Karan
President, Board of Directors

** Compared to previous years' annual reports, this year's report also:*

- Saved 2 million BTUs of energy;
- Prevented release of 367 pounds of CO₂ equivalent;
- Avoided using/producing almost 1200 gallons of wastewater.

(Estimates made using the Environmental Defense Fund calculator.)

Our Thanks to Those Raising Funds Through Workplace Giving

AFSCME Council 40	Great Lakes Higher Education Corp.	Monona Grove School District Combined Campaign	Union Cab
Alzheimer's Association	Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau	Monona State Bank	UW Credit Union
BT Squared Engineering & Science	Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin	Morgan Murphy Media (Madison Magazine, WISC-TV, My Madison TV)	UW Foundation
Badgerland Combined Federal Campaign	Heartland Credit Union	M3—Mortenson, Matzelle & Meldrum	UW Medical Foundation
Bethel Lutheran Church	The Hiebing Group	Natural Resources Consulting, Inc.	Veridian Homes
Boardman Law Firm	Home Savings Bank	Oregon School District	WEA Trust
Breast Cancer Recovery Foundation	Isthmus Publishing	Park Bank	WEAC
Capitol Bank	Johnson Bank	Park Printing	Wegner LLP
City of Madison Combined Campaign	Johnson, Block & Co.	The Payroll Company	Wells Fargo
Community Action Coalition	Lakeview Veterinary Clinic	Promega	Wells Print and Digital Services
Community Car	Lathrop & Clark	QTI Group	WiCell
Cullen, Weston, Pines & Bach	Madison Area Technical College Combined Campaign	RenewAire	Wildwood Family Clinic
Dane County Combined Campaign	Madison Community Foundation	Stafford Rosenbaum LLP	Wipfli
Dane County Credit Union	Madison Development Corporation	State Bar of Wisconsin	Wisconsin Alumni Association
The Douglas Stewart Company	Madison Environmental Group	State Environmental Leadership Program	Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF)
First Business Financial Services	Madison Metropolitan School District Combined Campaign	State, University, and UWHC Employees Combined Campaign	Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (WECC)
Flad Affiliated	Mental Health Center of Dane County	Stoughton Area Schools	Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation
Flad Architects	MetaStar	Teamwork Associates	Wi Sys
Foley & Lardner		Thermo Fisher Scientific	
Godfrey & Kahn SC		Timpano Group	
Gordon Flesch Company		UBS Financial Services	

In addition, most of our Community Shares of Wisconsin member groups have workplace giving campaigns.

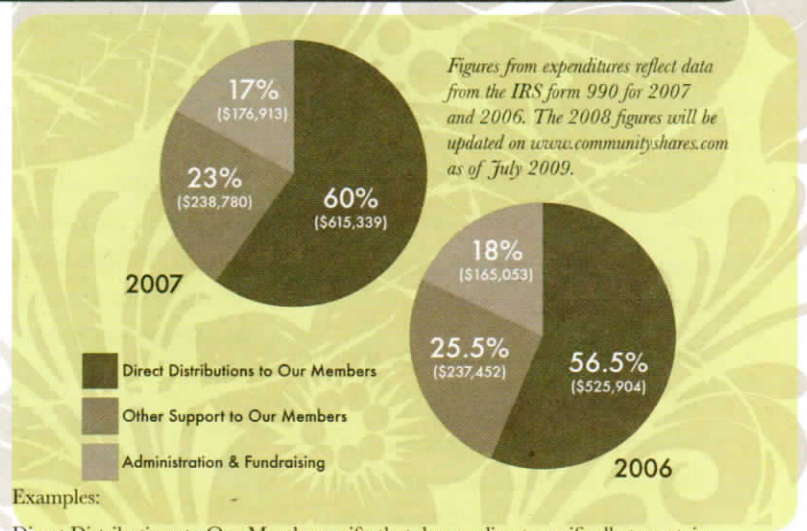
Funding Sources

Public Employee Giving Campaign	42.7%
Private Employee Giving Campaign	26.0%
Individual Donors/Direct Mail	12.4%
Special Events/Corporate Sponsorships	4.5%
Contracts/Dues/Other	14.4%

Thanks to all who contribute specifically to Community Shares, since your gifts:

- Support the training and services we provide to our members.
- Benefit all of our nonprofits—with a portion of the gift divided equally among our 52 member groups.

*Remember: you can also direct donations to one or more of our member groups, and they receive **100%** of your gift.*



Direct Distributions to Our Members—gifts that donors direct specifically to certain member groups, as well as a share of the money given to Community Shares of Wisconsin.

Other Support to Our Members—training and tech assistance to our groups; ensuring that our groups have all eligibility materials to be part of public campaigns; helping campaign site coordinators.

Administration—state and federal reporting; accounting and bookkeeping.

Fundraising—creating materials to help our members raise funds; doing presentations at work sites; raising funds for/at annual event.

How do you want to change the world?

Your donations to Community Shares of Wisconsin go to help all of our 52 nonprofits working on long-term social change. All of our groups accomplish great things every year. Here is a very small sampling of some of their recent work.

Renee Miller, owner of Reneeglass Factory, at work in one of Common Wealth Development's business incubators.



CREATING JOBS

Common Wealth Development

Common Wealth Development builds community through affordable housing, youth programs, small business development, and the arts.

Common Wealth Development's two business incubators play a critical role—especially in our current economic climate.

Between those two business incubators, 544 new jobs have been created in Madison in the last 20 years. And 114 new businesses have gotten their start. Both incubators, housed in two formerly abandoned and now renovated buildings, provide small business space to start-up companies—which are the job creation engines in our economy.

Today with many large Wisconsin companies having moved all or part of their operations overseas, small business support from Common Wealth Development is increasingly important.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Clean Wisconsin / Citizens Utility Board

Clean Wisconsin, an environmental advocacy organization, protects Wisconsin's clean water and air and advocates for clean energy.

Citizens Utility Board advocates for reliable and affordable utility service.

In 2006 Clean Wisconsin teamed with Citizens Utility Board to stop Alliant Energy's proposed coal plant. At that time, no one thought this victory would be possible because a coal plant proposal had never been defeated in Wisconsin. The two groups worked together to present expert analysis and testimony on both environmental and economic impact. It took thousands of Wisconsinites working together to stop this coal power plant. Its defeat, in late 2008, is a victory for both groups in preventing global warming pollution and in promoting renewable energy options.

FOSTERING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund contributed to a smooth, high-turnout 2008 election by educating voters, advocating for voting rights, hosting candidate forums, and preparing voter guides and other materials.

The League also successfully advocated for a rule allowing for statewide special deputy voter registrars. This allowed the League to register new citizens from all over the state as they emerged from their naturalization ceremonies.

WORKING TOWARD EQUALITY FOR ALL

OutReach

OutReach promotes equality and quality of life for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals.

The following note says a lot about the service and education that OutReach provides our communities. The note is from a community college instructor who invited OutReach to speak to a class in southwestern Wisconsin.

"I want to thank you for your presentation. Your warmth, humor, and vitality were appreciated. You've succeeded in opening a dialogue here—even now students are still stopping by my office to talk about it.

"While some of the students are still questioning their opinions, many have commented that this type of open dialogue and strong message of acceptance has been long-needed on this campus. Thank you for making all our students and community members feel comfortable regardless of their personal views. You do important and powerful work."

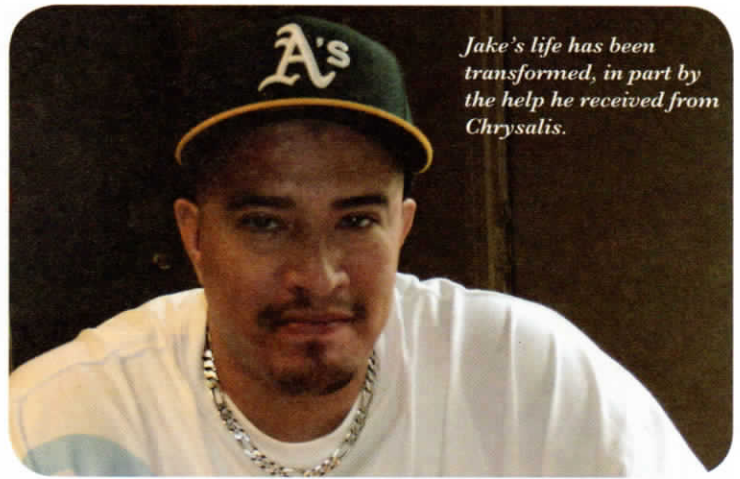
SUPPORTING WOMEN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Women in Transition

Women in Transition provides residential, case management, and social services to adult women with severe, persistent mental illness.

Carol was admitted to Women In Transition's (WIT's) Halfway House. She said in several months the voices and images were under control, and she credits WIT for offering her "a safe place" where she could begin her journey toward recovery. With help from her case manager at WIT, she eventually received disability benefits and Medical Assistance to ensure continued psychiatric treatment. Carol has now transitioned into the WIT Corner House where she shares an apartment with one other woman. She most recently began working part-time for an agency that supports women through stressful life challenges.

While Carol periodically struggles with the symptoms of her illness, she is still reaching for and achieving her potential. She is an inspiration to all people with mental illness.



Jake's life has been transformed, in part by the help he received from Chrysalis.

EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Chrysalis

Chrysalis provides vocational and work-related services to those in our community who have mental illnesses.

Jake came to Chrysalis with the hope of one day achieving his dream job of being a graphic designer. After three years of volunteering in the Chrysalis Work Center program, Jake was ready to pursue competitive work in the community.

With the help of his Employment Specialist, Jake found a great job match as a part-time custodian. He worked at Edgewood College for several years before moving on to a job in a retail store.

Jake, an extremely talented artist, then decided to pursue his passion: he applied to and was accepted into the Graphic Design Program at MATC.

Jake has transformed his life in many ways as he has grown to fill several roles: student, employee, and volunteer. Now when Jake comes to volunteer in the Chrysalis Work Center, his affable personality is infectious. Chrysalis is part of the support system that empowered Jake—and many other persons with disabilities.

Your support allows all of our 52 groups to continue their work in advocacy and activism. Thank you!

READ ABOUT THE WORK OF MORE CSW GROUPS AT WWW.COMMUNITYSHARES.COM



612 West Main Street, Suite 303 • Madison, WI 53703 • 608.256.1066 • www.communityshares.com



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Wisconsin Early Childhood Association offers vital services and quality training to early childhood teachers.

2008 ALLOCATIONS (IN DOLLARS)

1000 Friends of Wisconsin	14,921	Madison Audubon Society	12,623
ABC for Health	8,661	Midwest Environmental Advocates	7,542
ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation	21,344	New Harvest Foundation	12,175
Arts Wisconsin	6,337	OutReach	16,406
Bayview Foundation	12,890	People First Wisconsin	3,737
Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin	16,246	Physicians for Social Responsibility-Wisconsin	7,949
Center for Family Policy and Practice	2,900	The Progressive	8,317
Chrysalis	8,692	Project Home	13,780
Citizen Action of Wisconsin Education Fund	2,971	Rape Crisis Center	39,631
Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger	4,513	River Alliance of Wisconsin	14,937
Citizens Utility Board	5,976	Sierra Club Foundation	17,346
Clean Wisconsin	16,316	Tenant Resource Center	12,466
Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups	7,156	UNIDOS Against Domestic Violence	7,340
Common Wealth Development	10,407	Wisconsin Apprentice Organizers Project	3,356
Community Action on Latin America	4,784	Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence	14,720
Disability Rights Wisconsin	10,993	Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault	9,000
Fair Housing Center of Greater Madison	4,539	Wisconsin Community Fund	8,047
Fair Wisconsin Education Fund	10,785	Wisconsin Council on Children and Families	14,736
Friends of Wisconsin State Parks	19,361	Wisconsin Democracy Campaign	13,074
Gathering Waters Conservancy	11,838	Wisconsin Early Childhood Association	8,789
Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) for Safe Schools	17,691	Wisconsin Family Ties	8,191
Grassroots Empowerment Project	4,624	Wisconsin Literacy	10,843
Housing Initiatives	10,701	Wisconsin Wetlands Association	14,968
League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund	13,674	Wisconsin Women's Network	5,971
Legal Action of Wisconsin	12,874	Women in Transition	8,196
Madison Area Community Land Trust	6,355	WORT 89.9 FM Community Radio	34,081

How do you want to change the world?

READ ABOUT

- Our member groups' successful work
- The revenue our groups received
- The environmental impact of this smaller print annual report

Visit www.communityshares.com for additional report information.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2008

Wisconsin Wetlands Association welcomes the next generation of conservationists to get involved early.

GRASSROOTS NONPROFITS CREATING CHANGE IN DANE COUNTY AND THROUGHOUT WISCONSIN.
 THE OLDEST SOCIAL ACTION FUND IN THE COUNTRY, COMMUNITY SHARES OF WISCONSIN CONNECTS DONORS WITH MORE THAN 50 LOCAL,
 BUILDING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY AND A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT.

Front cover photo by John Urban (in collaboration with Boytrevé Foundation). Back cover photo by Gail Epping Overholt.

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Member of Community Shares-USA

OF WISCONSIN

