



**Deepening Roots,  
Spreading Branches**

**C**  **RE**

**El Centro**

**2016 Annual Report**

Hearing about another woman's healing experience at CORE, I sought more information about the organization and scheduled an acupuncture appointment. On the day of my first appointment, I realized how special CORE El Centro was, a unique place that has something different from other organizations.

Immediately, I felt connected, and after my first visit half of my back sores were gone. I was then motivated to engage in Movement Classes, Cooking Classes, Reiki, massage, and CORE's Spanish TOPS program.

Feeling so much better, I began to volunteer, and I experienced the respect, empathy and the confidence the staff had in me. I was able to develop work skills, especially a strong self-esteem, and now I have begun a job in an educational setting.

This place is full of joy, happiness, success, respect, love, support and positive energy. CORE El Centro has a complete treatment plan to be successful in life. I progressed from client in pain - to confident woman and mother - to full time employee, and I am deeply grateful.

—*Maria Figueroa*



Dear Supporters and Friends:

It is with overwhelming gratitude and joy that we share with you our 2016 annual report. CORE El Centro continues to be a place where transformation happens. What we have learned in this past year is that our services of healing are needed by all people and are in great demand. Our 15 years of service in the field of natural healing has been an incredible journey. We have witnessed so much healing, growth and positive change in people's lives.

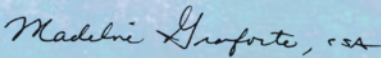
In 2016, we have strengthened and increased our programming on Milwaukee's south side, opened a satellite program on the north side in partnership with the Sojourner Family Peace Center, worked in collaboration with Aurora Walker's Point Community Clinic and Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare to improve the health of their patients, and we have expanded our reach into the schools. We are honored and humbled to share in the transformative power of individual, communal and global healing.

This year CORE El Centro provided health programming to 3,781 individuals and reached an additional 1,998 individuals through outreach and education. These individuals received more than 20,200 hours of service. Your support has made a tremendous impact on the lives of our clients. Personal stories have been gently broken open, healed and transformed. We invite you to continue to partner with us as we spread our wings of healing and embrace the most vulnerable in our Milwaukee community and beyond.

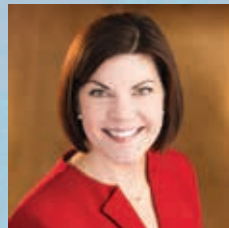
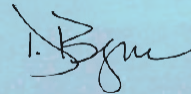
On behalf of our clients, staff, volunteers and board members, we offer our gratitude and ask that as each of us continues our journey, we be mutually transformed by the gift of each other.

With love and peace,

Madeline Gianforte, CSA  
Executive Director



Danielle Bergner  
President of the Board of Directors



# Vision

We envision individuals and families attaining a natural state of health and wholeness through healing services that respect the unique wisdom of each person and community.

“I love what CORE El Centro offers our community and all those that it touches. That is why I have volunteered at CORE, financially support its mission, and include it in my estate planning. In these three ways, I am supporting what is closest to my heart and most beneficial to the public - service, advocacy, and integrative healing with a compassionate touch. Its contributions to both community health and personal well-being are only possible because of a caring staff and committed leadership.”



—Tom Pilarzyk, PhD

# Mission

CORE/El Centro offers healing services and has a passion to create access for all people regardless of income level. We provide natural healing therapies designed to integrate body, mind, and spirit in a culturally sensitive environment. Through coalition building and leadership development we create wholistic programs to increase health equity and to inspire individuals, families and communities to optimal health.

# Carrying the Mission into the Future

As CORE El Centro continues to become a vital part of the community, it is imperative that financial resources are available both to firmly solidify its mission now and to sustain its mission for generations to come. Throughout its fifteen-year history, CORE has celebrated many milestones in its growth and maturity. In 2016, to insure its financial sustainability into the future, CORE launched a legacy society, called the Torch Society, allowing donors to “carry the mission into the future” and to leave a legacy.

A legacy gift is a planned future donation, given through a will or other form of designation. It is a decision that each person makes in the financial planning process, considering their chartable wishes and desires. By including CORE in their estate planning, donors enable CORE’s mission to continue after they have died and are no longer making their annual contributions. It is an easy decision; it is an easy process.

CORE is excited and grateful to be at this point in its history, where it has launched the Torch Society. If you are not yet a member, and are interested in more information, contact Pat Bogenschuetz, Development Director at 414-225-4260 or at [patb@core-elcentro.org](mailto:patb@core-elcentro.org)

*“From the very early days of Core, I have been committed to supporting them, including financial support. It was an easy decision to become a member of the Torch Society. By doing so I would continue my commitment even after I am gone. I want my legacy to live on and on.”*

*—Joan Schilke, Charter Member of the Torch Society*



### **Charter Members of the Torch Society include:**

L to R – Sarah Dean, Kate Zbella & Chris Doerfler, Dave & Debbie Hoffman, Bob & Anita Pietrykowski, Jim (not pictured) & Jane Hodnik, and Joan Schilke.

Charter Members not pictured include Rosie Gianforte, Cliff & Sharon Hollander, Doug Jansson, Alice Kujawa, Tom Pilarzyk, and Sandy Schauer.



# Deepening Roots on Site: Expanding Services in the Community

When CORE first opened its doors fifteen years ago, some people thought the mission was quite crazy, providing natural healing services, focused on an underserved population. As those fifteen years have unfolded, more and more people are coming to realize that the holistic approach of body, mind and spirit is the most effective way to heal.

Clients often come to CORE to address a physical ailment. In treating that physical symptom, they sometimes discover an underlying emotional issue or an experience of trauma which is causing this physical disease. CORE's "whole person wellness" affords them the opportunity to address issues at each level of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. Going to their core to heal, they are then able to come back out and give back to the community. It is an experience of wholeness that everyone desires.

CORE's mission of creating access, building community, and inspiring wholeness is larger than its service provision. CORE intentionally creates a healing environment, a place where individuals feel safe to pursue deep healing.

Because of your generosity in 2016, CORE has been able to increase capacity on site at CORE El Centro. In addition to increased onsite capacity, CORE's services are being requested beyond this building. In 2016, CORE began to offer acupuncture and massage services onsite at Sojourner Family Peace Center to those who have experienced domestic violence, helping them to address the trauma in their lives.

CORE is in conversation with Walnut Way in the Lindsay Heights neighborhood, responding to their invitation to offer natural healing services to their clients. CORE has also responded to various schools in the city who have requested either mindfulness classes or Yoga classes for staff and students.

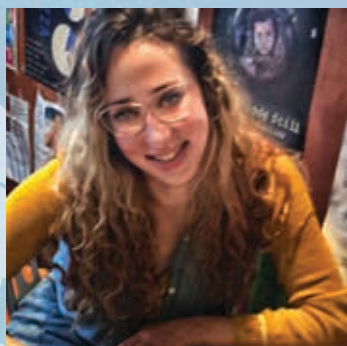
People have expressed the need for a CORE in every community, every neighborhood. Given the importance of culturally competent healing experiences, CORE's services would look different in each community, but the deep, transformational healing would be the same. People would have the tools to self-direct their own healing.

## Yoga Class at St. Catherine School



"I found CORE through seeking out natural treatments and support that I was unable to receive through the allopathic medicine provided by my insurance. The first day I toured the building I was brought to tears. After dealing with chronic conditions and navigating the medical system for so long, it was easy to see how a place like CORE in every neighborhood could literally change the world by paving the way for us regaining personal power over our health. Thanks, CORE, for doing what you do!"

—Deven





# UNITED VOICES

United Voices Collaborative (UVC) is a grassroots, multi-cultural collaborative group founded and led by Community Health Workers (CHWs) from and serving Wisconsin's African-American, Asian, Latino, Native American, and refugee communities. We are Community Health Workers, Promotores de Salud, Health Promoters, and Navigators. Our mission is to stand as one true collective voice of multicultural CHWs to support each other, alleviate health disparities, and influence policy making.

The diverse CHWs in our network come from 40 community organizations, and work with multiple health care facilities and systems, government health units, and academic institutions across the state. We are governed by a CHW Leadership Council and a Partners' Council with members from: CORE El Centro, WI State Government, WI Pink Shawl Initiative, Aurora Walker's Point & Salvation Army Clinics, Pan African Community Association, Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers, Southeast Asian Educational Development, Inc (SEAED), Planned Parenthood of WI Inc., Loyola University—Chicago, Medical College of WI, Community Member/Entrepreneur, University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee.

Immigration, poverty, unemployment, segregation, and racism are some of the most devastating underlying causes of health disparities in the state. Heart disease, diabetes, cancer and other health problems are also disproportionately affecting our communities of color. CORE El Centro has invested in the CHW model as a strategy towards achieving health equity. One of the ways CORE does this is by having two inhouse CHWs connected with Aurora Healthcare System and Wheaton system by fostering true integrative health care.





CHWs alleviate health disparities and deliver culturally-appropriate care. However, for CHW to be effective, we need to support them personally and professionally. UVC does this by providing capacity building opportunities and as well as self-care initiatives. Through our 3 Key Areas of UVC programs and services: Training and Education Program, Outreach Program, and Healthy Communities Program we strive to create health equity, develop and support a strong workforce, and foster economic stability through policy and advocacy.



# 2016 Financial Highlights

## Revenue

• In-kind services	\$491,192	30%
• Fundraising revenue	\$168,643	10%
• Client service fees	\$146,770	9%
• Grants	\$638,151	38%
• Donations	\$217,692	13%
<hr/> Total	<hr/> \$1,662,448	

## Expenses

• Development Expenses	\$154,018	10%
• Program Services	\$1,293,221	83%
• General Operating expenses	\$116,795	7%
<hr/> Total	<hr/> \$1,564,034	

## Volunteers

- Over all volunteer hours – 13,498
- 8,902 were professional hours
- 4,596 were for services which are not eligible for recognition in the financial statements.

# Thank You to Our Donors!

## • Individuals

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Jose & Eduardo Acosta  
Jayne Ader  
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Jim Alviti & Rose Mancini  
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Every effort has been made to ensure that all donors and their contributions have been accurately reflected here. We apologize if we have inadvertently omitted anyone.

Please contact  
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***Thank You!***



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