

## 40th Anniversary Edition

Ever wonder how The Gathering got started? In 1982, a priest, a lawyer and an accountant were walking down the street when they encountered someone looking for a hot meal. After the encounter, the three individuals were inspired to open a soup and sandwich kitchen which has since grown into what it is today. A thriving operation with 4 meal sites across the city of Milwaukee.

“The first Executive Director of The Gathering did not seem to be such a daunting task. Being a woman wasn’t such a concern either even in the 1980’s. Even though I didn’t have any staff, a \$25,000 grant from the Milwaukee Foundation to pay for everything including my salary, the first year, and closet office at the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee with no equipment other than a desk, it seemed like my dream job...No book could teach me what I learned [at The Gathering]. For it was listening and living in community with hundreds of volunteers and guests that taught me that we weren’t any Angels, only human beings who had the luck to find out what true humanity was. Is there anything in life better than that?”

**- Michelle Mooney, First Executive Director**

“Hunger in America is so huge and complicated that any one person can quickly despair. The Gathering breaks down both the problem and the solution into bite sized pieces (pun intended): one meal at a time, one person at a time, one day at a time. When you work with The Gathering you know you are making a difference....I treasured my years leading this organization because I see The Gathering’s work as one way the kingdom of God breaks through the mess we humans have made. Every meal, every interaction, every shared despair, every sign of hope testifies to the goodness we can be...”

**-Ginny Schrag, Second Executive Director**

“My tenure at The Gathering has not been dull; to say the least! From the need to relocate our downtown facility within 3 months of my arrival, to the pandemic, to the move of our Southside location in the midst of the pandemic, to our new partnerships and longtime friends of The Gathering, and to our planning to reopening with a hybrid of our dine-in, grab and go meal service, life has been less than dull! We adopted the phrase, “roll with the punches” as we have needed make modifications on a moment’s notice, all while keeping our eyes on the prize – our mission – to provide food and associated services to those who would otherwise go without. I often tell folks that my job is a selfish job, because at the end of every day I feel blessed and appreciated – by our meal guests and my colleagues.”

**- Lyn Hildenbrand, Current Executive Director.**



*Michelle Mooney, Lyn Hildenbrand and Ginny Schrag*



## 40th Anniversary Golf Classic - SAVE THE DATE - Monday July 18, 2022 - IN-PERSON!



To kick-off celebrating our 40th anniversary, meet us on the Green! Join us in-person at Brown Deer Park Golf Course on Monday, July 18 for a day of celebrations, food, golf, games and more. Our goal is to raise \$40,000 for 40 years of service. We are very excited to be hosting this event, once again, and we can't wait to see our community come together for a fun day in the sun. So gather your golfing partners and sign up to golf, sponsor a hole or be an event sponsor the opportunities to support The Gathering are never-ending. If you are not a golfer, this year you can sign up join us for dinner at 5:30, for our 40th Anniversary Celebration, or sign up to volunteer **For details, visit [www.thegatheringwis.org](http://www.thegatheringwis.org)**

**Join us this summer to celebrate! Our 40th Anniversary Golf Classic will kick-off a week of celebrations!**  
The Gathering's 40th Anniversary Week, Monday, July 18 – Saturday, July 23, 2022.  
Visit [www.thegatheringwis.org](http://www.thegatheringwis.org) for more details, coming soon!

### Thank you, Volunteers!

**April is Volunteer Appreciation Month** and this one goes out to the courageous, selfless volunteers continuing to see us through this pandemic. To the Breakfast volunteers, the people who get out of bed before the sun rises, Monday-Friday. For the Dinner volunteers, the individuals who are so loyal they know almost every guest's name by heart. For the Saturday Lunch volunteers, who run all operations, from coordinating to cooking and serving, across four locations. Thank you.



### We Need Volunteers!

#### Serving Teams

We need folks to serve our meal guests dine-in once again, as we restart dine-in meal service we need more folks to sign up to be servers; individuals and teams are needed Monday – Friday mornings at Running Rebels, Monday and Wednesday evenings at Ascension Lutheran and Saturdays at Running Rebels, Ascension Lutheran, and Our Next Generation.

#### Cook Saturday Lunch

We need cook groups, up to 7 individuals, to cook Lunch on Saturdays, 8:00-10:00 am. Cook groups are first to arrive on-site, along with staff, and are responsible for following a recipe provided to cook a hot, nutritious meal for the Milwaukee community. No "professional" cooking experience required. Training is provided.

#### Coordinate Saturday Lunch

This is a leadership volunteer opportunity, available for individuals or pairs. Shifts are 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. once every 4-6 weeks at one of our three main lunch locations. Volunteers for this leadership opportunity should be 21+ and willing to commit to one year of service. Training is provided.

#### To learn more or to sign-up, please contact:

Stephanie Sprewer, Meal Program Manager | [ssprewer@thegatheringwis.org](mailto:ssprewer@thegatheringwis.org)

Or

Lisa Murray, Dinner & Volunteer Coordinator | [lmurray@thegatheringwis.org](mailto:lmurray@thegatheringwis.org)

**The Gathering would like to thank the following generous supporters who have given \$250 or more during the first quarter of 2022 (January – March).**

**\$15,000-\$25,000**

Catholic Community Foundation  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
Naomi Strehlow Fund

**\$10,000-\$14,999**

Herb Kohl Philanthropies

**\$5,000-\$9,999**

Herman Family Charitable Fund

**\$2,500-\$4,999**

Community Methodist Church  
Johnson Controls  
Bill & Missy Levit  
Richard Schreiner  
American Advantage-  
Lindow Insurance Co.  
Hunger Relief Fund  
Hunger Task Force  
Immanuel Presbyterian Church  
Nancy & Dan Kiernan

St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

**\$500-\$999**

Jeffery & Susan Allen  
Paul Counsell  
Christine L. Ebert  
Hazel Griffin  
Paul E. O'Connor  
Pere Marquette Jesuit Community  
Salem United Church of Christ  
Rosemary Selep  
Gary & Maureen Shebesta  
St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

**\$250-\$499**

Patricia Clark  
Wanda Zilmer-Cizewski  
Sarah Fanjul  
Dean & Anne Fitzgerald  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
Nelson/Pfluger Family Fund

Stephen Heyroth  
Kjell A. Johansen  
Ken & Sandy Lavelle  
Luedke Family Fund  
Andrew Martin  
James L. McCormick  
Robert M. Miller  
Johnathon Thompson

**Honorariums and Memorials**

Memory of Ambrose,  
Emma & Robert McCormick  
Memory of Andrew Telford  
Memory of Dick Iverson  
Memory of Angelina Drinkwater  
Memory of Pat & Kaye O'Connor  
Honor of Marian Byers  
Honor of Lyn Hildenbrand  
Honor of Juene Kueffer  
All God's Blessings  
Thanksgiving & Family Health

\*We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this information, if we missed you or spelled your name incorrectly, please let us know. [soulfood@thegatheringwis.org](mailto:soulfood@thegatheringwis.org)

**In-Kind Donations Needed**

We are running low on supplies and encourage in-kind donations! Donations can be made in bulk, to The Gathering at Running Rebels. Drop-off Monday-Friday, 7-11 AM.

- 3-compartment clamshell to-go containers
- Ziplock sandwich bags
- #10 brown lunch bags



Or shop online, ship it and support The Gathering at the same time! AmazonSmile.com is the same Amazon you already know - same products, prices and service - but 0.5% of your eligible purchases go to the charitable organization of your choice. On your first visit to AmazonSmile you will be prompted to select a charitable organization. Type in "Gathering of Southeast", click SELECT on our organization. Then you are good to go.

**Items can be shipped directly to our office, 804 E Juneau Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53202**





## Covid-19 and Re-Opening Plans

We're two years into the COVID-19 pandemic and, at our meal sites, we've been maintaining our Emergency COVID-19 Response first implemented in March 2020. Our protocols are reviewed on a monthly basis and adjusted, if needed. As of April 2022, in effort to keep Gathering staff, volunteers and meal guests healthy, The Gathering is still requiring masks to be worn on-site, regardless of vaccination status. Beginning this fall we will implement a hybrid style of serving our guests with both dine in and carry out meals. Please make sure to subscribe to our e-newsletter, via our website, to receive further updates on our reopening plans. All updates will be posted to [www.thegatheringwis.org](http://www.thegatheringwis.org).



### Your gifts empower us to continue feeding those who would otherwise go without!

As we begin dine-in meal services, along with our grab and go services – our costs will increase significantly.

If you are able, please consider a gift to The Gathering today.

## The Gathering Board of Directors

### Executive Committee:

Nicole Hermann – President  
John Hickey – Vice President  
Cindy Berndt – Treasurer  
LeighAnn Zimmer – Secretary  
Tiffany Dillon  
Guillermo Gutierrez  
Joan Smasal

### Board Members

Maggie Broeren  
Joe Bruno  
Joe Graf  
Mark Hohensee  
Jim Leurquin  
Chris Meadows  
Share Morrison  
Mary Thickers  
Sherry Walker

## The Gathering Staff Contact Information

Lyn Hildenbrand – Executive Director – [lyn@thegatheringwis.org](mailto:lyn@thegatheringwis.org) 414-272-4122 x1001  
Stephanie Sprewer – Meal Program Manager – [ssprewer@thegatheringwis.org](mailto:ssprewer@thegatheringwis.org) 414-272-4122  
Natalee Kashou – Marketing & Development Manager – [natalee@thegatheringwi.org](mailto:natalee@thegatheringwi.org) 414-272-4122  
Lisa Murray – Dinner & Volunteer Coordinator – [lmurray@thegatheringwis.org](mailto:lmurray@thegatheringwis.org) 414-272-4122  
General Information – [soulfood@thegatheringwis.org](mailto:soulfood@thegatheringwis.org)

To donate online go to: [www.thegatheringwis.org/donate/](http://www.thegatheringwis.org/donate/)