



840 N. Old World 3rd Street, Suite 600
Milwaukee, WI 53203

(414) 312-7531
lynnea@rtmilwaukee.org
www.freehomerepairs.org



2020 Annual Report

Transforming neighborhoods, home by home, block by block



OUR MISSION

Transforming communities by providing FREE, critical home repairs and comprehensive services for low-income seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities.

A Letter From the CEO



“ A home repair is not just a home repair. It’s community connection, independence, and what keeps us whole.

In 2020 we continued our work as the largest provider of free home repairs in Southeast Wisconsin.

Our year-round repair programs provided nearly 540 people with the safety and peace of mind we all expect when we’re in our homes.

Our work is critical to the well-being of our community, and it would not be possible without

our staff, board, volunteers, donors, sponsors, and community partners.

Last year had several highlights, including our annual Block Build MKE event that brought together more than 250 community members to perform 300 home repairs, and our first ever virtual Holiday Bash that raised

over \$42,000 to help more homeowners.

As we look forward to 2021, we plan to build on our success by helping more homeowners, but we can’t do it without your support. I encourage you to find a way to get involved with our organization that fits you best and change someone’s life.

[Lynnea Katz-Petted](#)
CEO



Older Adults

69%



Veterans

21%



People w/ Disabilities

47%



*Homeowners can be in more than one category

2020 Year In Review

This year was unlike any other. While many organizations and city services scaled back or shut down completely, we continued to serve our community in bigger and better ways. This speaks to the hard work of our stakeholders as well as the growing need for our services.



- **296** homes made safe
- **350+** referrals to partners for comprehensive services
- **207** Emergency repairs (water heaters, exposed wires, etc.)
- **81** water heaters installed, 7 repaired
- **15+** local, licensed contractors employed
- **356** accessibility modifications
- **300** individual repairs in two days during Block Build MKE in Clarke Square

2,292

Life Changing Repairs

\$1.8

Million Invested in Our Community

533

Lives Changed

Homeowner Stories

Our homeowners are the reason we started this work in 2000 and the reason we continue to fight for them every day.

The lives and backgrounds of our homeowners vary greatly, but they all have one thing in common: the desire to be safe and comfortable in their homes regardless of their financial situation.



55% of our homeowners are still paying mortgages



Out of those 55%, the average mortgage amount is \$636



Their average monthly income is \$1,676



After paying their mortgage, utilities, and other bills, they have very little to survive on, let alone repair their home.



Vernita, 58 | income = \$1,376/month

Vernita has lived in her home for 14 years. In September, she was leaving her home and fell through her front porch, breaking her foot. Because her front porch is her main entrance, she was having a very difficult time going in and out of her home for her doctor's appointments. One of four contractors repaired her porch and Vernita is happy to feel safe in her home.



Mike, 63 | income = \$2,040/month

Mike lost both legs after he was hit by a drunk driver and is Barbara's primary caregiver as she is in the second stage of dementia and has diabetes. When their water heater went out, they didn't know where to turn but they knew they wanted to stay in their home, which meant finding a free resource. They found us, and we installed a new water heater for free so they can stay in their home and age in place.



Monserrate, 84 | income = \$1,573/month

Monserrate has lived in her home for over 17 years. She had a heartbreaking two years, losing two grandchildren and her husband. She hired a family friend to repair her bathroom, but all that was done was tile over the shower and floor, failing to install adequate subflooring and plumbing. Without enough money to hire a plumber, she resorted to putting buckets in the basement to catch the water. We remedied the many issues that appeared in Monserrate's bathroom to keep her safe in her home,

Our Services

As the only organization that offers free home repairs in Southeast Wisconsin, we make sure our services are professional and comprehensive. When someone calls us and we can't help them, we *always* make sure they're referred to a trusted partner.

All of our repairs are performed by licensed contractors. In 2020, we provided 15 contractors with local work and sustainable wages.



Critical Repairs

Repairs that are critical to preventing deferred maintenance which causes bigger problems in the future. Examples include carpentry, porch repair, and updating electrical items.



Emergency Repairs

Repairs that mitigate immediate threats to someone's home and well-being. Examples include water heater repair/replacement, and fixing gas leaks.





Accessibility Modifications

To create a safer home for older adults and people with disabilities, we modify appliances and other basic household features. Examples include wheelchair ramps, grab bars, handrails, and walk-in showers.



Chore Services

This program provides older adults with services that became more difficult with age and can lead to fines and accidents if not taken care of. Examples include mowing, snow shoveling, and replacing lightbulbs.



Block Build MKE

The biggest home repair event in Milwaukee! Every year, dozens of corporations and hundreds of volunteers come together to transform 20-30 homes in two days.



REO Home Sales

We rehab foreclosed homes and turn them into safe and affordable homes for low-income homeowners. This stabilizes neighborhoods, adds to the city's tax base, and provides more money to increase repairs.



Before & After



"I'm so glad y'all came to help me out, I didn't know what else to do. You're a life saver"



"Before [Revitalize Milwaukee] came to fix my porch I was worried someone was going to fall through it."

Above Par Golf Cars, LLC
Aimes Trucking
Bader Foundation
Balloonie Toons
Bliffert Lumber & Hardware
Brian Slawson Photography
Briggs & Stratton Corp
Burton & Mayer
Direct Supply
Entercom Communications
Everbrite
Feeding America
John Krause (graphics)
Jumping Beans Tent
Kitchen by Design (Cheryl Ryan)
Kwik Stop at 24th & National
Lisbon Storm, Screen & Door
Marcus Morrow Photography
McDonald's at 25th & National

Milwaukee Forestry
Milwaukee House of Corrections
Milwaukee Police Department
National Warehouse
Nola J. Hitchcock Cross
Pete's Fruit Market
Port-A-John
Print Pack & Ship
Self Storage on Wheels
Sherwin Williams
Small Quantity Boxes
Social Development Commission
Topline Results Consulting
United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha
County
Walden Production Resources / DJ Shawna
Wilma's Smokehouse
Wisconsin Club
Wisconsin Disposal

Thank you for your support!

In-Kind Donors

Key Supporters

\$50,000+

City of Milwaukee Housing Trust Fund
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Catherine and Walter Lindsay
Foundation
Cellene and Brian Byrne Family Fund

Greater Milwaukee Foundation cont'd.
The Eleanor G. Buetschli Fund
The Hummel, Gregg and Wells Fund
The Locke A. Sprague Fund

Joseph & Vera Zilber Charitable
Foundation

\$15,000 - \$49,999

Associated Bank
City of Milwaukee CDBG

Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation
Milwaukee Tool

Pieper Electric, Inc./Ideal Mechanical
Tri City National Bank

\$5,000 - \$14,999

Brady Corp Foundation, Inc.
Charter Communications
Christin Cleaver
Drexel Building Supply
Direct Supply

Great Midwest Bank
Green Bay Packers Foundation
Herb Kohl Philanthropies
JH Findorff & Son, Inc.
Lippert Flooring and Tile

Nonprofit Management Fund
Social Development Commission
US Bank Foundation
Waste Management

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Adaptive Technology Resources
Albert Cutler
American Friction Welding
Big Horn Equipment Finance
BMO Harris Bank
Boerke Co, Inc.
Bruce Elliott
Catch 22 Creative
Colleen Horner
Community Insurance Info Center
Continental Properties
Dan Woods
Daniel Brophy

David Schulz
Dawn Ovokaitys
Deep River Partners, Ltd
DeWitt Law Firm
El Rey Grocery, LLC
EWH University LLC
First Midwest Bank
Froedtert Health
Gerry Severson
Gregory Lyons
Horner Plumbing
Jack & Linda Anick
Jaime Hurtado

Jeffery Solie
Jennifer & Bryan Montgomery
JP Cullen
Kimberly Grimm
O'Leary & Anick
Paul & Juliene Seifert
Paul Petted
Robert & Lisa Dietz
Ryan Folger
Tech Financial Services
The Boerke Co Inc
WaterStone Bank

\$500 - \$999

Ashley Nenninger
Berghammer Construction
Colleen Cheney-Trawinski
Daniel Minihan
Edward Madell
Hammel Green & Abrahamson, Inc
Harriet Pederson

James Schloemer
Joseph Bagby
Julio Ricardo
Leslie Hauser & Karl Wuesthoff
Lisa Mauer
Marie Millard
MaryBeth Gyulay

Matthew Tadisch
PPG
Shawn Govern
Ted Matkom
WEC Business Services
William Kopka

\$250 - \$499

Aaron Thrower
Allison DeVan
Barbara Charlton
Brad Dagen
David & Diane Wolfson
David Pike
Delia Sava & James Kleiss
Gary Ebert
Howard Tanner
Jane Gellman
Jean DiMotto

John & Jackie Rozga
John Miceli
Kevin O'Leary
Kirsten Swenson
Lori LaGrow
Lynn Morgan
Marc Colletti
Margaret Salinas
Mark and Barb Charlton
Melanie Varin

Melissa Agar
Philipp Mueller
Robert Ferriday Family
Robert Heimerl
Rose Spang
Scott & Julie Slater
Steve Rozansky/Debra Brenegan
Victoria Fox
Yvonne McCaskill
Zachary Solie

\$10 - \$249

Alberta Dhillon
Alex Roth
Alex Zielinski
Alissa Peeters
Alyssa Flandermeyer
Alyssa Geisler
Amanda Baltz
Ana Simpson
Andrea Petrie
Ann DeWeerdtd
Anne Furey
Anne Nordholm
Anne Orville
Anne Wal
Antonio McDoniall
Audra Brennan
Barbara McKillop
Ben Menzel
Benjamin Thorpe
Beth De Bord
Beth McDougall
Bethany Daniels
Bonnie Andrews
Brenda Lewison
Brittany Hill
Bryan Johnsen
Byron Monzon
Carole Hodes
Cay Landowski
Celina Mandli
Cellene Byrne
Chad Hoffman
Charlotte Fairburn

Charlotte Ghazarian
Christine Noelle
Cindy McGill
Claire Meyer
Damian Buchman
Dan Wasserman
Daniel Jessup
Daniel Peterson
Danielle Nett
David Knepk
Dean & Debbie Zemel
Deanne Phillips
Debbie Knepk
Debra Wolniak
Dennis Grzezinski/Jane Porath
Diane Marie
Donald Miller
Doug Mitcheson
Elizabeth Earl
Emily Ptasinski
Faith Renner
Frank Martinelli
Gael Cullen
Gwyn Wheeler
Heidi Jeter
Helena Laven
Honeywell
Ivan Gamboa
Jackie & Chris Mortenson
Jaclyn Stephan
Jacqueline De Bauche
James Temmer
Jennifer Vallier

Jerome Wick
Jesse Cortez
Jessica and Vincent Noth
Jessie Reginato
Jim Bernthal
JLA Architects
John Birdsall
John Quesnell
Joseph Piette
Julie Kerksick
Julie Polzin
June Perry-Stevens
June Wright
Justin Andaloro
Kaius Bowman
Kara Priem
Karen Van Hoof
Kathleen Goratowski
Katrina Cravy
Kelly Andrew
Kelly Bohman
Kent Lovern
Kim Jankowski
Kim Muench
Kirsten Koz
KP Goratowski
Larry Jones
Laura Loop
Laura Mason
Leland Montgomery
Leona Knobloch
Lisa Attonito
Lisa Martin

Lisa Schuldt
Marcy Stutzman
Margaret Thom
Marie Janzen
Marilyn Boeldt
Mark and Laurie Foote
Mark Medrek
Mark Missurelli
Mark Silverman
Martha Collins
Martha Pincus
Mary & Shane Fields
Mary Anne Martiny
Mary Voell
Maryanne Mullaney
Matthew Albright
Maureen Conrad
Megan Wiza
Melanie Crape
Michael Strusz
Michelle Schoenherr
Mike Coakley
Missy Wright
Molly Graham
Natalie Yahr
Olivia Montgomery
Olivia Slater
Pamela Pepper
Patricia Mueller
Patti Lomas
Quentin Hatfield
Richard Kerhin
Rick Spaulding

Rob & Lana Wiese
Rob & Lynette Melin
Robert Meiksins
Roger Smith
Ruth Peters
Ryan Daniels
Sadhna Lindvall
Sandy Wysocki
Sara Pudlosky
Sarah kendall
Shannon Kirsop
Sharon Szatalowicz
Sheree Anderson
Siara Berry
Stacey Anick
Stephanie Wesselowski
Steve Smith
Steven Vanden Noven
Suzanne Gorecki
Suzanne Zwaska
Sylvia Brandhagen
Tanja Behnke
Tanya Widenhoeft
Terri Coughlin
Theo King
Theresa Gabriel
Timothy Nemec
Timothy Stewart
TJ Buczak
Trevor Arnold
Vickie Deutsch
Viola Hawkins
William Kravit

Our Board

Bruce Elliott

Tri City National Bank
President

Bradley Dagen

Dagen Law Office
Vice President

Marie Millard

Baker Tilly
Treasurer

Greg Lyons

O'Neil Cannon Hollman
DeJong & Laing
Secretary

Shawn Govern

DeWitt LLP

Quentin Hatfield

Wisconsin Veterans
Network

Jennifer Montgomery

BMO Harris Bank

Daniel J. Jessup

JLL

Karl Johnson

Lippert Flooring & Tile

Matthew D. Tadisch

Selzer-Ornst Construction

Daniel Woods

Associated Bank

Rick Ziller

Adaptive Technology
Resources

Lynnea Katz-Petted

Revitalize Milwaukee
CEO

Staff

Lynnea Katz-Petted

CEO

Kathy Snyder

Construction Manager

Debbie Knepke

Director of Transformation

Amy Sorenson

Homeowner Advocate &
Resource Manager

Mitch Slater

Advocacy & Education Coordinator

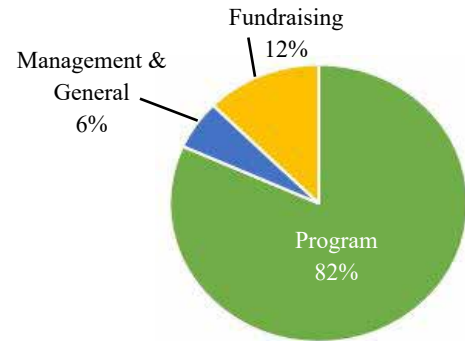
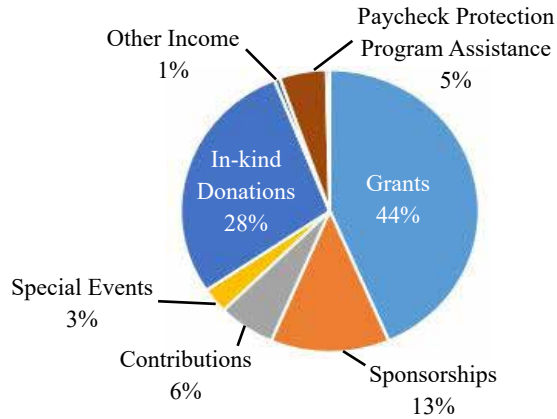
Allison Sweere

Homeowner Coordinator Intern

Alisa Andrews

Assistant to the CEO

Financials



Revenue & Support

Grants	\$510,642
Sponsorships	\$151,423
Contributions	\$72,544
Special Events	\$34,013
In-kind Donations	\$333,196
Service Fee and REO Property Revenue	\$247
Other Income	\$6,960
Paycheck Protection Program Assistance	\$59,535
Interest Income	\$4,454
Total:	\$1,173,014

Expenses

Program	\$1,124,710
Management and General	\$78,973
Fundraising	\$172,347
Total:	\$1,376,030

Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenses and Losses	(\$203,016)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$1,733,395
Net Assets, End of Year	\$1,530,379



Get Involved

Donate

With 86 cents of every dollar going directly to homeowners, you can be sure your contribution, no matter the size, will make a lasting impact.

www.freehomerepairs.org/donate

Volunteer

Performing over 2,500 repairs/year is a lot! No matter your skills, we can find a way for you to make an impact on your community.

www.freehomerepairs.org/volunteer

Sponsor

Partner with us! We understand every company has a different budget, so we have different sponsorship levels to fit each one.

www.freehomerepairs.org/sponsors

Work

We're growing! We're always looking for reliable, licensed contractors that want to help us serve more low-income homeowners than ever before.

www.freehomerepairs.org/careers

Keep in Touch

Address

840 N. Old World 3rd St., Ste 600
Milwaukee, WI 53203

Contact

(414) 312-7531
lynnea@rtmilwaukee.org

Web

www.freehomerepairs.org
[@revitalizemilwaukee](https://www.instagram.com/revitalizemilwaukee)