



Advocating for Recovery

John Hopkins

Alderman of New Berlin &
ARC Board Member



Addiction Resource Council, Inc.

2016 Annual Report



Annual Report 2016

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Lindsay Just
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Finance Manager

Bernie Mangers
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Chelsey Wasielewski
Assessment Specialist

Adam Kindred
Outreach Coordinator

Harisimran Kaur
Community Outreach Coordinator

Jenn Anderson
Marilyn Meyers
Administrative and Marketing Assistants

Madyson Rhynor
Office Assistant

Joe Orlofski
Stop & Think Instructor

Elizabeth White
Clinical Supervisor

Dori Lowery
Intern



"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." - Lao Tzu

Letter From the President

Dear Friends and Supporters of ARC,

The Addiction Resource Council's mission is to promote the prevention and treatment of substance abuse and support the recovery of individuals and families affected by the chronic disease of addiction throughout Waukesha County in measurable ways. Annually the Board of Directors and staff develop a strategic plan to determine how ARC can satisfy and exceed its mission each year. I encourage you to review this annual report that will provide specifics on how ARC's many programs and services have accomplished ARC's mission in 2016.

ARC continues to be recognized as a leader in Waukesha County and Wisconsin. ARC staff is a member of more than 20 committees. Some of these committees and leadership roles include:

- Waukesha County Heroin Drug and Task Force (Joe Muchka, Prevention Pillar Co-Chair)
- Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Committee (Joe Muchka, Vice-Chair)
- Children and Family Services Advisory Committee (Lindsay Just, Chair)
- State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Intervention and Treatment Committee

ARC is extremely proud of the special recognition received by the Waukesha County Executive Awards program as the Large Non Profit of the Year for 2016. Our dedicated and talented staff drives ARC's success. This award recognizes their relentless efforts and continued commitment to help all members of our community.

In 2016, the ARC Board of Directors welcomed two talented members to our Board: Kathy Chiaverotti, Mayor of Muskego and Marcia Rupp, Educational Specialist at ProHealth. We appreciate their willingness to join our team at ARC. As you review the accomplishments of ARC in this report, if you or someone you know feels your talents are well suited for ARC, we welcome you to consider joining our Board of Directors.

As we move forward into 2017, we know one notable change will occur at ARC. Ellen Lasecki, ARC's Finance Manager, will be retiring before year-end. Ellen is truly a team player and has served as a mentor to many of her co-workers. Ellen has consistently demonstrated her loyalty and support for ARC and its mission, and ARC unquestionably is a better organization as a result of her efforts. Thank you, Ellen.

In closing, on behalf of the ARC Board of Directors, thank you to our community partners, volunteers, contributors, and supporters. ARC could not fulfill our mission without your support and ongoing efforts. We look forward to continuing and expanding our partnerships going forward "Supporting Recovery".

Sincerely,

Greg Johnson
ARC Board President



Help for Today ~ Hope for Tomorrow

The Addiction Resource Council, Inc. promotes the prevention and treatment of substance abuse and supports the recovery of individuals and families affected by the chronic disease of addiction throughout Waukesha County.

We are committed to serving residents of Waukesha County by providing alcohol and other drug prevention education, intervention, assessment, referral services, and leadership for collaboration among institutions, organizations, and community-based agencies.

We are a proud affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD). The NCADD is the nation's leading voice in the fight against our #1 health problem: alcoholism, drug addiction, and the devastating consequences of alcohol and other drugs on individuals, families, and communities.

To view NCADD resources please visit: www.ncadd.org



It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Addiction Resource Council. It has been an honor to work with Joe Muchka, ARC Executive Director, his dedicated staff, and the hard-working Board of Directors.

As you can read in the papers and see on the news programs, alcohol and drug abuse continues to be a major problem in our area, as well as throughout the state. ARC continues to be the leader in fighting this epidemic through education at all levels of our society; from grade schools to our elderly population. The fight to eliminate these problems cannot be won overnight but ARC is certainly at the forefront in combatting these diseases, especially here in Waukesha County.

Respectfully,

Chester Dobrowski

ARC Board Chairman

Community Memorial Hospital Clinic



2016 Patients Served

Initial Intake: 503

Patients Seen: 74

The Community Memorial Hospital Clinic serves patients who are uninsured or underinsured. At the clinic, patients can find assistance with alcohol and drug abuse assessments and assess their mental health needs. In addition to these services, the clinic also offers referrals, brief interventions, and other support services in collaboration with volunteer doctors, nurses, and psychiatrists. Offering care and assistance to those in need of the clinic's help is a challenging task given the stigma attached to AODA and mental health issues. But when patients complete the simple assessments at the clinic they are able to see the body and mind connection. Based on those results, patients are better able to make healthier decisions as well as utilize referrals/brief interventions and other support services. Such work is difficult yet very rewarding seeing patients bring positive change to their lives by achieving their goals and reaching their full potential.





Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) / Independent Driver Plans (IDP)

Driving while intoxicated continues to be a concern in Wisconsin. That is why the Addiction Resource Council partners with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Waukesha Department of Human Services to help Waukesha County residents navigate through the OWI Process.

Objective analysis by professional assessment staff who employ active listening, motivational interviewing, and non-judgmental feedback helps our clients to understand how their decision to drink and drive not only affects their own lives but their family and loved ones, as well.

Substance Abuse Assessment (Non-OWI)

During this assessment process, which is commonly referred to as AIR assessments (Assessment, Information, and Referral), a client and/or your loved one will meet with the assessor for approximately one hour. During this time, the assessor gathers information to better understand the root cause of the alcohol and substance use, mental health, or trauma and provides educational or treatment based referrals.

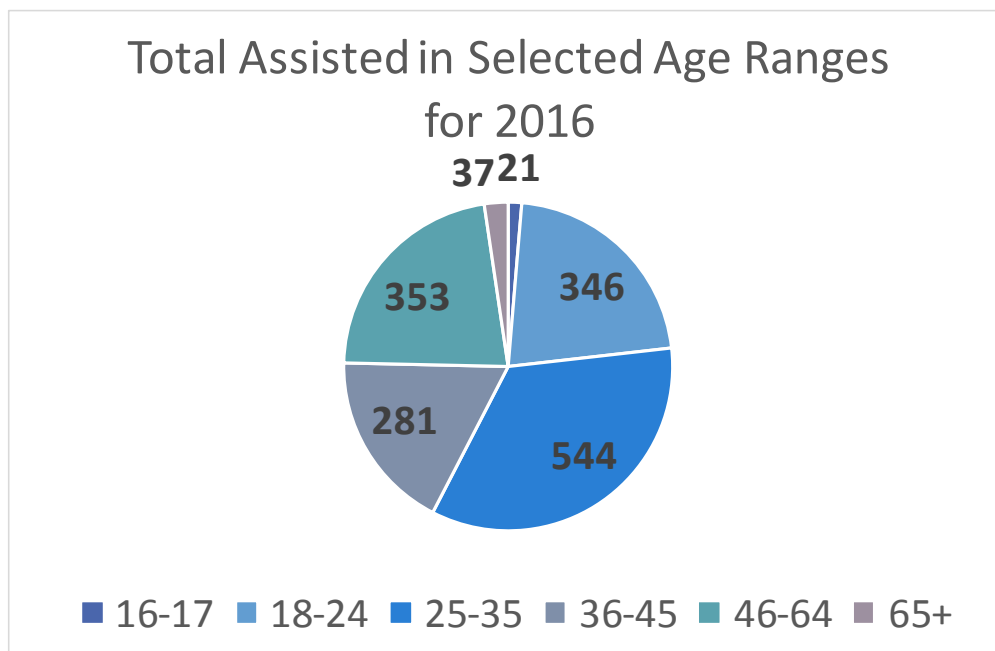
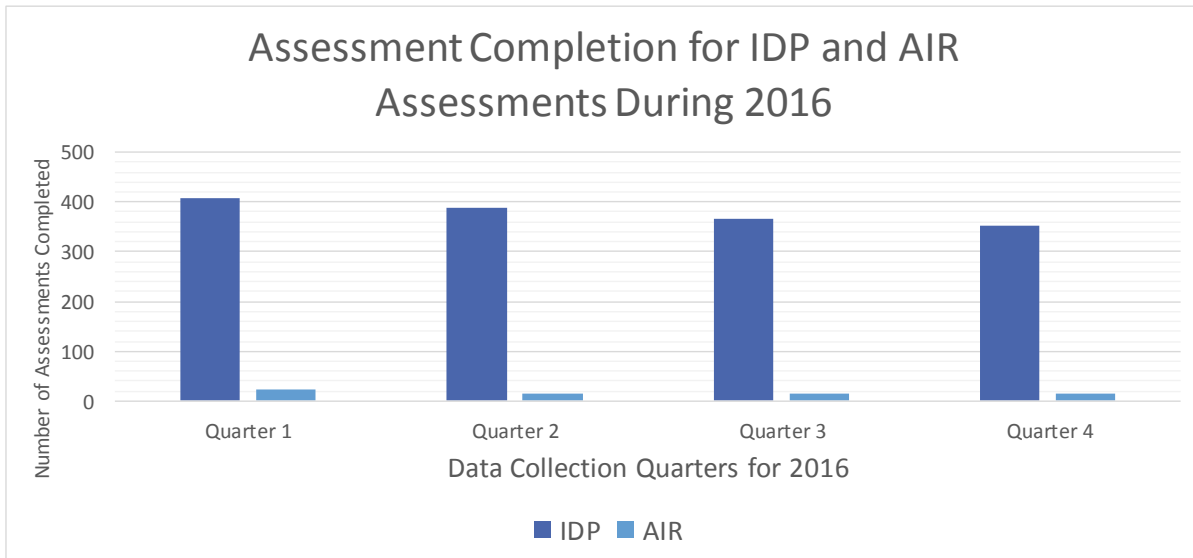
Victim Impact Panel

This panel consists of a small group of victims of drunk driving tragedies. The panel shares how their lives were affected by the sudden loss of a loved one and is designed to help change the drinking and driving behavior of offenders. The panel can help offenders realize the dangers and consequences of their behavior and commit to making a change.

The Victim Impact Panel is held at the Waukesha County Expo Grounds. Please see our calendar (news/events tab) at addictionresourcecouncilwaukeshawi.org for upcoming dates.

In 2016, ARC held 4 Victim Impact Panels with a total of 338 attendees.

2016 OWI and Non-OWI Assessment Data



The average age range of clients seen in 2016 for IDP or AIR assessments was 25-35 years of age.



Our goal is to prevent alcohol and drug related health and impairment problems by increasing abstinence and reducing high-risk choices related to substance use among youth under 21.

We use an evidence-based Prime for Life® curriculum which is based on biological, psychological, and sociological research designed as a Lifestyle Risk Reduction model that systematically works towards increasing the incident of abstinence.

“When going through this course, there was a lot that I realized I didn’t know. Before the class, I always thought that there was something all addicts shared, like how they acted or the way they looked. I was wrong.”

~ Student, age 17

“From this program, I have learned how our bad decisions can spiral and ways I can move forward now knowing about my personal risk. I have not consumed alcohol since this class and do not plan on doing so.” ~ Student, age 18

“Overall, I have become a more informed young adult by going through this program. I had a good experience and learned facts I had no idea of before. It helped me to realize my high-risk choices and has encouraged me to live a more fruitful life.” ~ Student, age 19

2016 Data:

Total Classes : 13

Total Students: 179

Average Age: 16

Parent Power Night

Parent Resource Panel

Once a quarter, the Addiction Resource Council, Inc. (ARC) brings together a panel of experts to answer questions about alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA). The panel consists of representatives from law enforcement, public health, treatment providers, school counselors, experienced parents, Stop and THINK Instructors, and ARC's Executive Director.

Come to listen, learn, and engage in conversation.

The panels are FREE and OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY.

In 2016, ARC held 4 Parent Power Nights with a total of 54 attendees.

Location

Addiction Resource Council

741 N. Grand Ave., Suite 200

Waukesha, WI 53186

Parent
POWER



visit addictionresourcecouncilwaukeshawi.org to see future PPN dates



Resist the Influence (RTI) is a research-based, universal intervention designed to reduce early first use of e-cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, and misuse of prescription (Rx), and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs among school age youth (7th and 8th grade).

The program explores social and peer influences which youth will encounter as they transition into high school. With a proper understanding of the influences and pressures which they will encounter, students are able to resist the influences and make decisions that REFLECT WHO THEY ARE.

RTI also provides preventive education on the outcomes and consequences of e-cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, and Rx/OTC drug use in order to increase perception of risk and delay initiation of use.

The program is currently available in a 4 hour curriculum and is designed to be taught by ARC trained RTI instructors.



In 2016, ARC taught Resist the Influence to approx. 750 students in 6 different schools.

Thunder & Rain Family Support Group

Wednesdays, 6:30p to 8p, ARC Office
741 N. Grand Avenue Suite 200, Waukesha



**“Life isn’t about finding shelter in the storm...it’s
about learning to dance in the rain.”
~ Vivian Greene**

In 2012, the Addiction Resource Council created and began hosting a support group for individuals whose lives have been impacted by a loved one’s journey of addiction and recovery. In 2015, the ShaoLin Center began facilitating this incredibly important activity under the name of Thunder & Rain Family Support Group, a mindfulness-based community outreach effort. The group continues to meet weekly at ARC’s office, offering a safe haven for families in crisis.

Thunder & Rain recognizes that addiction is a family disease and understands that there is an evidence-based argument for including families and loved ones, also known as concerned significant others (CSOs), in addiction treatment and recovery. ARC and the ShaoLin Center also believe that through education, support, and unconditional regard for each family’s ability to seek and maintain wholeness, we can play a pivotal role in bringing people to treatment, reduce recidivism, and increase the number of individuals in recovery.

In addition to its current curriculum, Thunder & Rain is looking to purchase the Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT) program. CRAFT is an NREPP (National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices) approved intervention program designed to help a CSO facilitate treatment.

Thunder & Rain meeting schedules can be found on Facebook, on Meetup.com, or addictionresourcecouncilwaukeshawi.org

Group Blog: <https://thunderrainblog.wordpress.com>
Or you can email directly at sklearningtodance@gmail.com

2016 Data:

Total Attendees: 568

Community Talks

The Addiction Resource Council, Inc. is available to provide community presentations which provide information with a message of help and hope, in order to combat alcohol dependence and drug addiction.

ARC is available to present in schools, universities, technical colleges, businesses, parent groups, religious organizations, hospitals, health care facilities, service clubs, and other community-based organizations.

There is no fee for our outreach services and we are happy to offer this service to our community.

The Addiction Resource Council can tailor a presentation to meet your group's specific needs.

2016 Community Talks Presentations

Total Presentations: 15

Approx. Total Attendees: 734

2016 Community Resource Fairs:

Stairway to Heroin-Menomonee Falls, Hartland, & Waukesha

Spring Fest-Sussex

ProHealth Care

St. John's Resource Fair

GE Health Fair

New Berlin Safety Saturday

Fathead Golf Outing

International Overdose Awareness Event

All About Living

WI Voices of Recovery

ARC Recovery Event

Brookfield Congregational Church



We listen, provide support, and offer community resources to assist families and individuals overwhelmed with the myriad of complications alcohol dependence and drug addiction have at any given moment. Our trained staff will do their best to give callers the strength to carry on despite seemingly insurmountable problems.

There is hope, help, and support available.

NOT SURE WHICH WAY TO GO?

Let us point you in the right direction.

24 HOUR RESOURCE LINE:

2016 Resource Line Data:

Total Calls: 200

Male: 69

Female: 126

Concerns: #1-Alcohol; #2-Heroin

The Advocate

Last year, ARC re-launched its monthly newsletter, The Advocate. Check it out at:
www.addictionresourcecouncilwaukeshawi.org

Featured Articles

- ◆ ARC Programs & Services
- ◆ Q & A
- ◆ Rx Drop Off Locations
- ◆ Create A Buzz
- ◆ Donation Corner



December 2016

635 Subscribers

Email your subscription request to:

info@arcouncil.net

In 2016, ARC's social media presence stayed strong. We recognize the importance of our role in the community to spread AODA awareness and prevention. We are very proud to announce we have taken our information to the masses through social media.

Facebook December 2016
Avg. of 245 people reached each month

Twitter December 2016
826 followers

Meet the Staff



Joe Muchka—Executive Director

When not working on behalf of our organization, my wife, Patty, and I enjoy spending time with our family — especially our four grandchildren! I also enjoy playing acoustic guitar (something I have done for most of my life), practicing Tai Chi and Qigong, and if there’s any time left, picking up a good book.



Ellen Lasecki—Finance Manager

I enjoy spending my free time with family and friends. My greatest stress relief is a long walk in the evening with my son Jon and our newest family member, Buddy. I am very passionate about reading and spending a lot of my free time with a good book. Getaways to the “Great North Woods” are enjoyed by my husband and me and give us much needed peace and quiet from our busy lives.



Lindsay Just—Assistant Director

I am passionate about helping Waukesha County residents struggling with addiction and supporting those in recovery through my work at Addiction Resource Council. When I am not working at Addiction Resource Council, I enjoy spending my free time with my husband, Tim, and my two children. I am a recent graduate from Devry University with my Bachelors in Business Administration and a minor in Marketing. My hobbies include crocheting, playing cribbage, and enjoying an occasional coffee date with my best friends.



Bernie Mangers—Lead IDP Assessment Specialist

I have worked at Addiction Resource Council for 31 years and in my free time I enjoy spending time with my daughter, grandson, and horse named Snooks. I also enjoy horseback riding, training horses, camping, cooking, and taking trips to Nebraska. In Nebraska, I enjoy going to rodeos, county fairs, and visiting family and friends.



Adam Kindred—Outreach Coordinator

I am passionate about providing help and hope to the individuals and families who suffer from alcohol and other drug addiction. At ARC, I get the chance to design, implement, and evaluate many of our community programs. When not at work, I enjoy spending time with my lovely wife, Erin, and our very young and beautiful daughter, Stella Rose. I am also attending Zilber School of Public Health-UWM, and am in the process of completing a Masters of Public Health (MPH) degree through the Community and Behavioral Health Promotion tract. Whenever possible, I enjoy going to Bradford Beach, training for beach volleyball, and playing competitive beach volleyball tournaments.



Chelsey Wasielewski —IDP Assessment Specialist

I began working with Addiction Resource Council as the new IDP Assessment Specialist in August. I am a graduate from UW-Milwaukee with my Masters Degree in Social Work, with a certificate in Trauma Informed Care. Currently, I am working on becoming a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) with a Substance Abuse Specialty (SAS). When I am not working with and advocating for those who have mental health and substance use disorders, I enjoy attending my spin class, taking in the outdoors, and relaxing with friends and family.



Jenn Anderson – Administrative and Marketing Assistant

I joined the ARC staff in November 2016. I am currently in school for Marketing and will minor in Social Media Marketing. I enjoy working for ARC as the marketing and administrative assistant and look forward to growing my career here. I am grateful for the opportunity to use my skills to assist those seeking recovery. When I am not at work, I am spending as much time as possible with my 18 month old daughter, going to the park, art projects, doing puzzles, and reading books. I also enjoy going for long walks, yoga, baking, and rock climbing.



Dori Lowery—Intern

I am currently a graduate student earning my Masters Degree in Social Work. When not working at Addiction Resource Council, I keep busy with my three beautiful daughters and husband. We love to play board games, work on puzzles, hike, and swim. My personal hobbies include knitting and crocheting, reading, and crafting with my kids. I have been so grateful for all the opportunities afforded to me from the amazing team here at Addiction Resource Council and I look forward to applying that knowledge to my career after graduation.



Elizabeth White –Clinical Supervisor

I'm working at Addiction Resource Council providing Clinical Social Worker supervision for Chelsey. I earned my Master's Degree in Social Work at UW-Milwaukee. In my free time, I am hoping to run a 10k race.



Harsimran Kaur—Community Outreach Coordinator

I started working with Addiction Resource Council in June 2015 and since then it has been a wonderful journey. On behalf of ARC, I work at Community Outreach Health Clinic as an Assessment Counselor and life coach. I am passionate about helping patients reach their fullest potential and achieve their personal goals.

I received my undergraduate degree in Psychology and Behavioral Science as well as my Masters in Counseling from Mt Mary University. In my free time, I like to create art and crafts.



Madyson Rhyner—Office Assistant and Social Media Coordinator

I started working at Addiction Resource council in June of 2015 as an office assistant. I have volunteered at the Annual Corn Roast Event since 2011 and enjoy volunteering for ARC at every opportunity.

I am currently attending UW Eau-Claire as a sophomore, where I am working towards a Wildlife Biology degree as well as a Critical Studies in Literature degree. When I am not at work or studying, I spend as much time with family and friends as possible. My hobbies include reading, hiking, taking nature walks, and trying out new restaurants and recipes.



Joe Orlofski –Stop & Think Instructor

I started at the ARC as a volunteer guest speaker. I was trained in May 2016 to be a Stop and Think instructor and have been a part of teaching those classes ever since. Besides teaching at ARC, I also work as a chemical engineer. During my down time, I enjoy a ridiculous amount of different activities, including: watching the Badgers, playing all sports, going to the gym, trying new restaurants with my wife, Deanna, geocaching, and many other activities. My main goal is not only to work on recovery, but to also help other young adults who may be at risk.



Marilyn Meyer –Program Assistant

After 20+ years in higher education, I'm again working in an environment where the intention is to help people navigate through and succeed in life. Working part time allows me to connect with friends and investigate opportunities leading to fresh, retirement-inspired goals.

Waukesha County 2016 Large Non-Profit of the Year

Addiction Resource Council is honored to receive the
Waukesha County Executive Awards—2016 Large Non-Profit of the Year

This award recognizes an established Waukesha County non-profit organization that improves individual lives and the community at large through a range of social and civic endeavors.

Please go to the link provided below to watch our video:

<https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/countyexecutiveawards/>





2016 Funding Sources

Waukesha Co. Community Foundation/
Rhody and Carolyn Megal Fund
WI Women’s Business Initiative Corp.
Oconomowoc Area Foundation
Spa Indoor Speedway/Veloce Speedway
New Berlin Lions Club

2016 Supporters

Carla Rees
Raymond & Sue Kaczmarek
Bo & Lynn Wasielewski
Joe and Patty Muchka
Tanya Hinz
Marc LaPorte
Stephanie Ohlfs
Gregory Johnson
Cheryl & Vic Schneider
Todd Niesen & Elisa Stearns-Niesen
Catherine Stewart
Janette Leverenz
Michael & Amy Haas
Mike Ingrassia
David & Wendy Krumrei
Jean Schultz
Michael O’Brien
Cathy Scharles
Cathy Kuethy-Stewart

Sherry Fickau

Bruce Rasmussen

Jon Bosetti

Sandy Anderson-Payne

John Hopkins

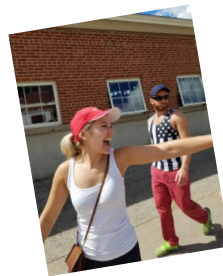
Sara Shaffer

Melissa Ford

Chester Dobrowski

Sky Zone

Thank you to all
who volunteered to
help at the 2016
New Berlin Lions
Corn Roast!



2016 Volunteers

Mike Ingrassia
Denise Marisch
New Berlin Police Dept.
Dawn Cagney
Barb Whyte
Alissa Darin
Emma Kane
Kim Babel
Lesli Boese
Allison Norris

Stop & Think Speakers

Jessie F.
Bridget M.
Troy C.
Ben B.

Recovery Event Speakers

Tyler W.
Jessie F.
Rosalie S.

Meet the Board

Greg Johnson, President

Senior Municipal Advisor/Vice President Ehlers



I am a Senior Municipal Advisor/Vice President with Ehlers. Ehlers provides public finance and economic development consulting services to local governments. I have also worked for municipalities in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Kansas serving as City Administrator and Assistant City Administrator. I received my undergraduate degree in Public Administration and Political Science from UW-Stevens Point and my Masters in Public Administration from the University of Kansas. I enjoy hiking and traveling in my free time, especially in national parks around the country.

Chester Dobrowski – Chairman

Vice President & International Representative - MTM Association for Standards and Research



I enjoy spending time with my wife, Jane, my children and my four granddaughters. I'm also very proud to be the Board Chairman of the Addiction Resource Council and their dedicated staff. I am also very active in my church. My hobbies are fishing, golfing, and stamp collecting. I also enjoy traveling and my role as the International Representative for the U.S./Canada MTM Association.

Mike Ingrilli –Vice President

Operations Manager—Mike Ingrilli Plumbing



I have been working in the plumbing industry for over 32 years, have been a master plumber for 28 years, and a business owner for over 8 years. I truly love spending time with my wife and children. The other passion in my life is helping all of us in the recovery world. I stay involved with and connected to many different organizations revolving around recovery.



Joseph Rieder - Secretary

New Berlin Chief of Police

I was hired as a police cadet by Mike Hanrahan in 1984. I currently serve as the Police Chief for the City of New Berlin. My free time is spent working on cars, bicycling, reading, and spending time with my wife, Julia.



Leslie Boese—Treasurer

Deputy District Attorney—Waukesha County

I am currently a Deputy District Attorney at the Waukesha County District Attorney's Office and have been a prosecutor for over 22 years. I am also a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin Law School. When not working, I enjoy spending time with my two “rescue” dogs, Winston and Sasha, working in my gardens, reading, and spending time with my family and friends.



John Hopkins—Board Member

City of New Berlin Alderman

My wife, Mary Lou, and I enjoy getting away a few times a year to relax away from our busy lives around New Berlin. We are both active in our church. I enjoy golfing and fishing whenever I have the chance,. Being an Alderman in the City and the President of the New Berlin Veterans Memorial Society keeps me occupied on a daily basis.



Amy Haas—Board Member

Parish Nurse—St. William's Catholic Church, Waukesha

I enjoy spending time with family, my three children and granddaughter, along with traveling to see both my extended family and my husband, Mike's, family. I also make an attempt at a few hobbies like gardening, walking, cooking, and reading. Being on the board for ARC has allowed me to be involved in the community I have lived in for 30 years.



Dr. Brett Linzer, MD –Board Member

Residency: Indiana University Medical Center

Education: Loyola University of Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

Hobbies: Spending time with family, bicycling, hiking and swimming.

Practice Philosophy: The role of the physician is changing. Today, patients are more informed and empowered. They want to partner with their physician. With that in mind, my goal is to be compassionate, flexible and to treat the whole person. I enjoy caring for the whole family—from infant to older adults.



Kathy Chiaverotti –Board Member

Mayor of Muskego

In 1984, Kathy and her husband Clark chose Muskego to invest in their first home in the southwest section of the community. Approximately eight years later, they purchased their second home in the northwest section of Muskego, where they continue to reside. Kathy and her husband’s two children, Melanie and Tony, attended and graduated from the Muskego-Norway School system and both are successful in their own right. Kathy and Clark enjoy their growing family with one grandchild to date and look forward to additional family members in the future.



Marcia Rupp –Board Member

Manager of Volunteer Services, ProHealth Care

I enjoy spending time with family, going to Brewer games, golfing, boating and traveling – especially to the beach. My husband and I reside in Waukesha with our adorable Shih Tzus: Frank & Ed.

The ARC staff would like to extend a sincere thank you to our Board of Directors for all they do to oversee and facilitate the agency’s work in our community.

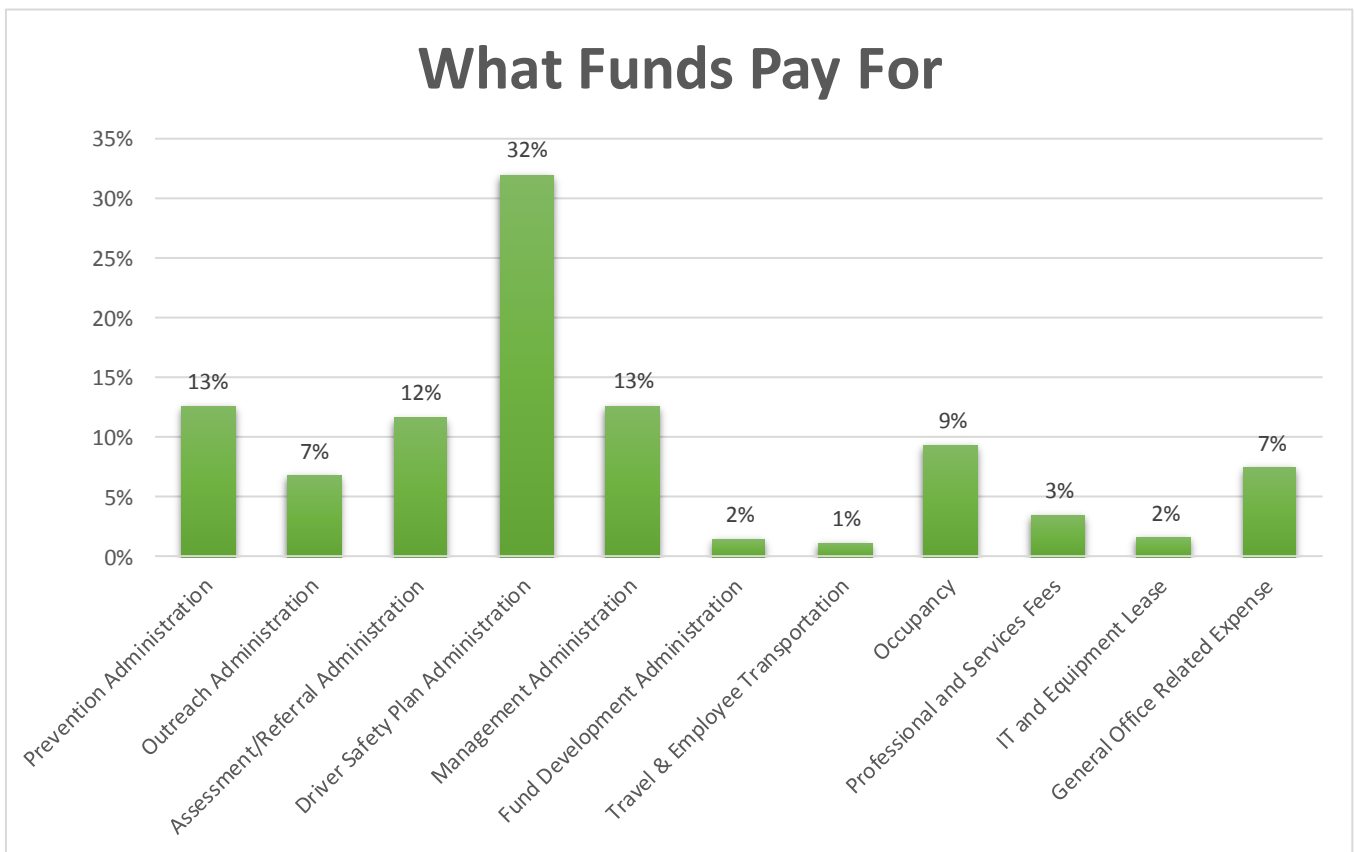
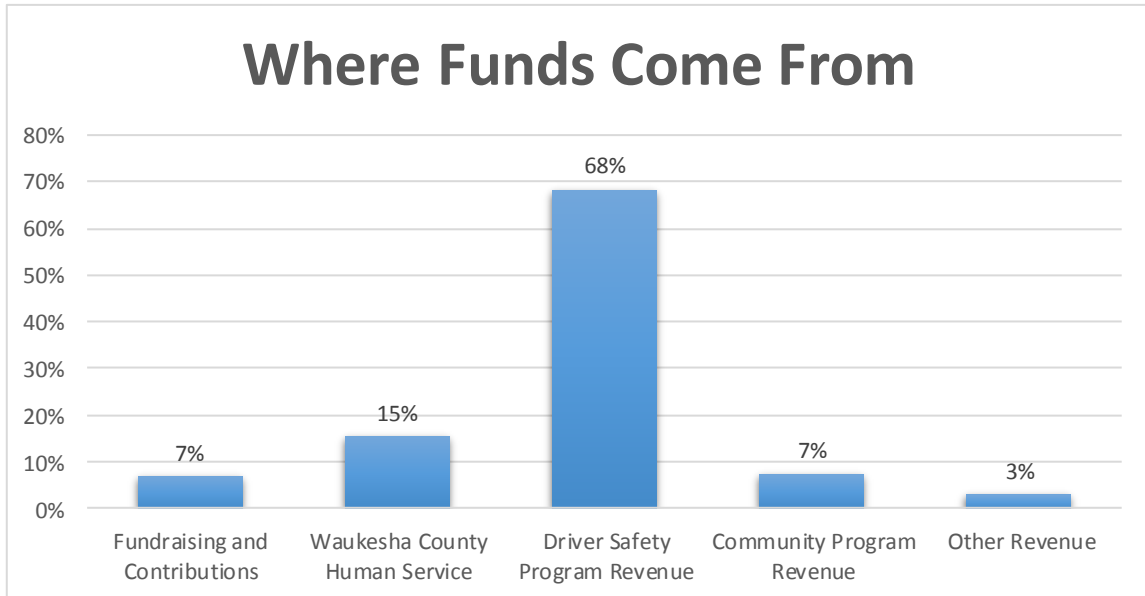


FINANCIAL REPORT

Year Ending December 31, 2016

2016 Net Expense (\$9,926)

2017 unaudited Statement





Letter From the Executive Director

The year 2016 was one of tremendous challenge for our entire community, given the ongoing heroin and opioid-related overdose epidemic across the lifespan. The loss of life, injuries sustained and the trauma experienced by many of our families has broken our hearts and challenged our entire service delivery system. Notwithstanding, ARC and our many devoted, dedicated community partners have ‘rolled up our sleeves’ and put our collective ‘shoulders to the grindstone’ to help fight back in support of our community’s recovery – that includes those struggling with addiction, their families, friends and concerned others who love them and struggle to cope themselves.

Here’s a few examples of ARC’s involvement in this effort and what was new in 2016:

We developed and have been teaching a middle school- age program of substance use prevention called, ‘Resist the Influence.’ In 2016, over 750 students received substance use education and strong prevention messages aimed at improving their awareness of substance abuse now to support positive life choices as they enter their high school years.

ARC immersed itself in the work of Waukesha County’s Heroin and Illicit Drug Task Force’s Prevention, Drug Affected Infant and Treatment Pillar. Through the development of a web presence on our own website to build awareness and support for pregnant mothers addicted to opioids, we hope to reduce the rise in Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) that plagues newborn children born into addiction. ARC actively participated in the new ‘Provider Network’ of substance abuse treatment providers. Additionally, ARC lent its voice on behalf of Waukesha County as a participant-member of the Intervention and Treatment Committee (ITC) of SCAODA (State Council on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction).

Further, in 2016 ARC provided important leadership as a member of the ‘ITC’ in updating and improving the ‘Workforce Report’, along with other committee members. This report will help advise SCAODA and provide recommendations to address the critical shortage of substance abuse counselors and other professionals needed to provide substance abuse treatment services. These would include all levels of substance abuse treatment, medication assisted treatment and sober living environments.

Additionally, ARC in cooperation with the Shaolin Center, LLC and its family support and outreach program, ‘Thunder and Rain’, established a ‘safe harbor’ for family members needing peer support, helpful information, engaging presentations by community leaders and community resources to help them cope with addiction in their families. However, equally important, the group experience provides ways to protect and preserve family members’ own health and well-being through self-care.

ARC strongly supports the ‘recovering community’ and its members throughout Waukesha County and the state of Wisconsin. The ‘face’ of recovery is changing and those of our citizens in long-term recovery are coming forward in ever increasing numbers advocating for treatment services, sensible laws and initiatives and working to reduce the stigma of addiction.

In 2016, ARC was proud to be a supporting member of the national effort, 'Unite to Face Addiction' through letter writing campaigns and teleconference participation to promote the passage of CARA (The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act), participation at the 'Wisconsin Voices of Recovery Rally' in September (Recovery month) as a Waukesha County information resource and we held our own 'Celebrate Recovery' event that drew over 150 members of the local recovering community.

Finally, in 2016 ARC spearheaded a community-wide effort to bring greater awareness to the ever-growing problem of substance misuse and abuse in Waukesha County's elderly population. With 20% of our county's population projected to be age 60+ within a few short years and approximately 17% of those elderly citizens having an undiagnosed and untreated substance use and/or mental health disorder, an evidence-based, community prevention program is essential. ARC plans to continue its advocacy for this critically important program.

As we look ahead to 2017, Waukesha County can be proud of the many 'grass root' efforts that have formed through committed, dedicated family members affected by addiction. Our own work with local law enforcement to develop initiatives like 'deferred sentencing' with referrals to treatment has already begun. ARC's middle school-age substance abuse prevention programs continues to grow and will have an important impact on encouraging our youth to make healthy choices for themselves.

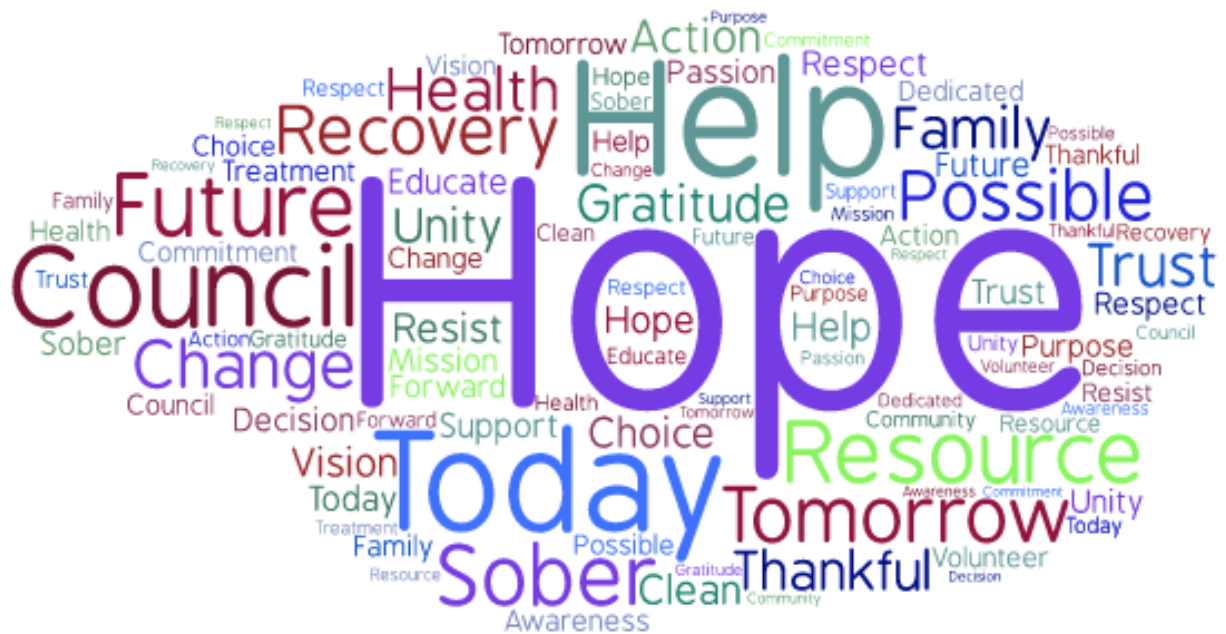
Major health care systems in our county, along with other human service agencies and nonprofits are continuing to explore additional collaborations with ARC regarding program development. As an organization, we remain committed to collaboration and the value of collective impact in service to the community

In all the above prevention efforts, initiatives, programs, task forces and dedicated work throughout our county, ARC is honored to be considered a valued and trusted community partner. We'll continue to walk 'arm in arm' with our fellow citizens, colleagues and community partners committed to overcoming addiction, supporting recovery, reducing stigma and protecting our families.

In retrospect, 2016 has helped to galvanize all of us here at ARC to work even harder at furthering our mission of providing help, support and most of all hope to all who struggle with addiction.

Sincerely,

Joe Muchka



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