

2017 Community Impact Report



SIEBERT
LUTHERAN FOUNDATION

2017 Community Impact Report

"And the priest said to them, 'Go in peace. The journey on which you go is under the eye of the Lord.'" Judges 18:6

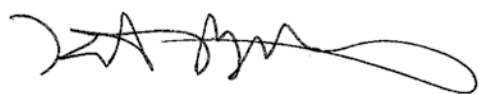
The Lord guided Siebert Lutheran Foundation on an exciting journey in 2017. In June, the foundation officially moved to its new location in the SoHi Building on the corner of N. 27th and Wells Streets in the Avenues West neighborhood on the Near West Side (learn more on the back cover). We have been warmly welcomed by our new neighborhood and enjoy the proximity to Siebert funded ministries that serve the city of Milwaukee.

Alongside the office move was the implementation of Siebert's strategic plan, completed in 2017. The five-year plan was approved by the Board of Directors in April and reflects feedback from a grantee survey, lessons and observations gleaned from past grant making, and knowledge from our Directors and external experts. The new plan is the next leg of the journey to honor Albert F. Siebert's intentions to use his legacy for "...spreading the Gospel, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and alleviating human suffering..."

However, our work merely fuels the work of many devoted leaders serving Lutheran churches and ministries throughout Wisconsin who work tirelessly to serve "the least of our brothers and sisters." In 2017, \$4.2 million was granted to 89 organizations and ministries to support journeys to Grow the Body of Christ, Educate while Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and Serve as the Hands and Feet of Christ.

With the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a compass and God as our North star, Siebert Lutheran Foundation is blessed to move forward confidently alongside our valued partners and collaborators.

In His service,



Kurt Bechthold
Chair, Board of Directors



Brenda Skelton
Chief Executive Officer



Who We Are

- A private, independent foundation governed by an independent Board of Directors and incorporated in the state of Wisconsin.
- Pan-Lutheran in nature, funding requests are accepted from ministry programs associated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.
- The Foundation has no formal affiliation with any administrative church body.

Vision

People, families, and communities filled with peace that passes all understanding that comes from Christ.

Mission

The Siebert Lutheran Foundation stewards its resources and relationships and fosters partnerships to enable the Lutheran Christian community to be more effective, collaborative and innovative. Our funded partners share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, while educating children and youth in Christ-filled environments, and/or serving the needs of our neighbors. Our geographic focus is Wisconsin, especially Milwaukee, Waukesha, Racine, and Kenosha counties.

Principles Underlying Our Work

These principles are foundational to our work, guide our funding decisions and, we believe, lead to effective outcomes in funded programs:

- We fund only Lutheran-affiliated ministries and programs to honor our founder's legacy.
- We believe effective ministries require strong leaders, therefore, we invest in programs that grow and sustain leaders.
- We believe intentional focus is required to overcome the barriers faced by the "least of our brothers and sisters."
- We believe business and financial models need to be sustainable.
- We encourage use of data, best practices, continuous improvement, and/or innovation in program design and delivery.
- We encourage collaboration and partnering among funded ministries and programs.

Our Founder

Albert F. Siebert, son and brother of Lutheran pastors, had a deep love for the Lutheran church. Mr. Siebert left a lasting legacy when he established Siebert Lutheran Foundation in 1952, originally under the auspices of Milwaukee Electric Tool Company, which he founded.



Change or Die Conference

While the church and Christ will never die, congregations can and do. After decades of witnessing the decline of congregations, Siebert Lutheran Foundation and Lutheran leaders from Milwaukee and throughout Wisconsin decided to motivate a focus on growth in the church. In 2010, Lutherans across various denominations gathered at the first annual Change or Die Conference.

“Bringing denominations together is almost unheard of, but we’re all facing the same challenges,” said Rev. Lisa Bates-Froiland, a pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Milwaukee and a past member on the Change or Die Conference planning committee. “The Conference is revealing that when we come together, we can do a lot more of Christ’s work.”

Each year, with Christ as their guide, the committee works to invigorate the hearts and minds of attendees. Relevant themes are developed, sponsorships acquired, and new Lutheran leaders showcased who have unique perspectives on how to build and grow inspirational, Christ-centered ministries.

“This year, we got real with one another,” said Pastor Lisa. “We didn’t hide our sins and confronted topics like poverty, addiction, and mental illness. Then we discussed how Christ meets us in those trials of life.”

By spending a day together with interesting, engaging speakers, and absorbing wisdom from each other, ministry leaders can reframe their thinking. As a result, leaders from all Lutheran churches are building bonds, forming alliances, finding mentors, and discovering ways to connect with people of all backgrounds and ages.

And it continues to grow. The first Change or Die Conference brought 44 ministry leaders together. In 2017, more than 300 attended, listened, challenged with grace, embraced old and new friendships, and walked away with excitement, renewed hope, and fresh ideas for their own congregations. It’s a shining example of the power of Christ growing His body of believers.

Save the Date! October 11, 2018
at the Milwaukee Marriott West in Waukesha, Wis.

“This conference is based on inspiring others and showing each other that change is possible.”

- Rev. Mark Jeske, Change or Die Conference Founder and Senior Pastor at St. Marcus Lutheran Church



ELCA Outreach Center

As the Executive Director of the ELCA Outreach Center, Karl Erickson sees men, women and children with debilitating hardships walk through the Center's doors. One middle-aged woman with developmental disabilities stands out.

"She would often come for our clothes closet and leave," said Karl. "Over time, she became more comfortable and began to attend our Bible study. Last year, it was a joy-filled moment when she asked to say a prayer. It ended with 'I love you, God.' Now, she comes to spend time with us every day."

In Kenosha, the need for support is high because over 19 percent of the population lives in poverty. Through adult education programs, youth programs, and outreach, the Center and its partners are sharing Christ's love and getting people back on their feet.

Education is a major step in helping people become more self-sufficient. The Center offers free GED classes in both Spanish and English. Free childcare alleviates additional barriers for families to learn and participate in classes. With the support of numerous business collaborations in the community, they also provide resume building and job search support, prescription assistance, and financial and legal guidance.

Kenosha's youth are also supported through the Center. Kids are involved in everything from life skills groups and self-image building to attending summer camp. Each year, the Center stages a Christmas gift collection and distribution. In 2017, more than 1,035 gifts of love were given to kids throughout the community.

"The Center is a place where people can feel safe and get vital services – it's a place where they can come to feel God's love," said Karl.

In February 2017, the Center celebrated 20 years of service. From day one, Siebert Lutheran Foundation has remained committed to helping fund the Outreach Center's life-changing efforts in Kenosha. With Christ's helping hands, all things are possible.



"Everything we do is about building relationships - with Christ, people, and businesses."

**- Karl Erickson, Executive Director
ELCA Outreach Center**

Urban Counseling Program, Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service, Inc.

Each day, a large population of Milwaukee students come to school with heavy burdens no child should have to bear. Family traumas that are rooted in poverty challenge students' ability to learn. Often masked as behavioral problems both in and outside the classroom, these challenges prohibit optimal learning.

Many are finding new paths for help through the Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service's Urban Counseling Program. "While we can't take away the effects of trauma, the counseling program helps students navigate them," said Caroline Horn, Vice President of Student and Family Services for LUMIN Schools. "Counselors help with coping skills; develop strategies to deal with pain, sadness and loss; and work with parents and educators as well."

What is driving student success is the evidence-based clinical treatment the Urban Counseling Program brings into the schools. At one time, the Medicaid-funded services were only provided offsite, resulting in just three percent of referred students showing up.

Through creative thinking, the Urban Counseling team found a way to provide access to more students. In 2008, three Lutheran schools started covering the costs of on-site clinical counseling. The Urban Counseling Program was a massive success. But it was costly and school budgets were already slim.

In 2010, Siebert Lutheran Foundation began funding the Program. This provided certified mental health clinics in each school, which allowed for another necessary funding source: Medicaid. Since then, the Program has expanded to an impressive total of 17 schools.

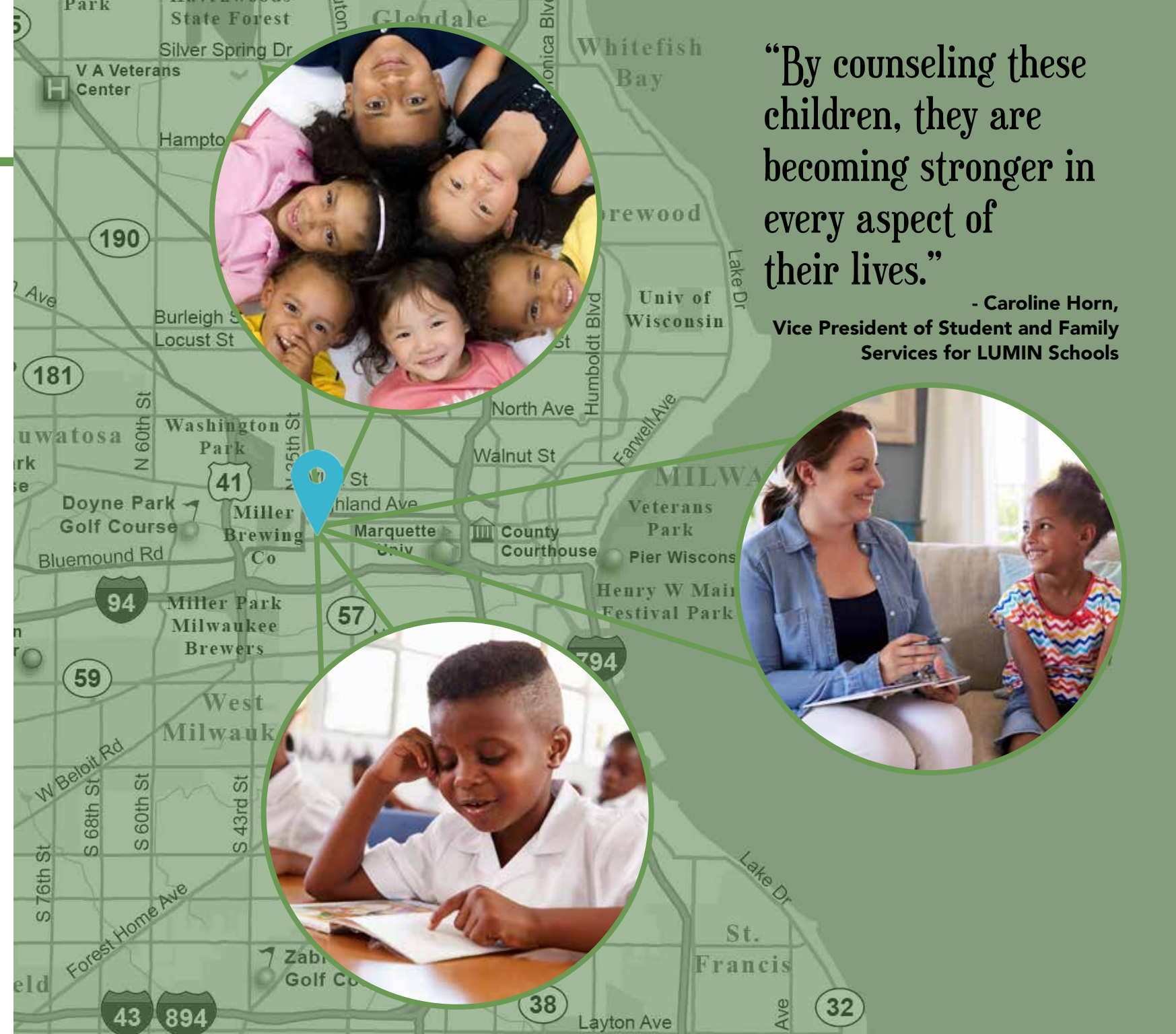
Going even further, Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service has also added the STRONG Program – a day treatment program – in one of the schools. Here, students with more in-depth mental health needs receive psychotherapy from an entire team of professionals, the first program of its kind in the state.

"Before the programs, some behaviors were so severe that we couldn't keep those students in school," said Caroline. "Now, on-site counseling intervenes earlier and greatly improves students' academic and social lives. There's no doubt this is successful."



"By counseling these children, they are becoming stronger in every aspect of their lives."

**- Caroline Horn,
Vice President of Student and Family Services for LUMIN Schools**



Millennials Research - New Resources!



Siebert Lutheran Foundation extended the **Engaging Millennials in Ministry** research project in 2017 by commissioning another research study that engaged a national sample of Millennials, asking them to share their spiritual beliefs and practices, as well as those of their peers and family members. There were 2,223 survey respondents: 1,500 from a national panel and 723 from Lutheran organizations. The survey screened out Millennials who have no interest in spiritual ideas and anyone who follows a non-Christian tradition. Therefore, the respondents are Millennials who have some degree of spiritual interest and are Christian or have a Christian background. Special thanks to the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis for funding support for this research project.

Now available:

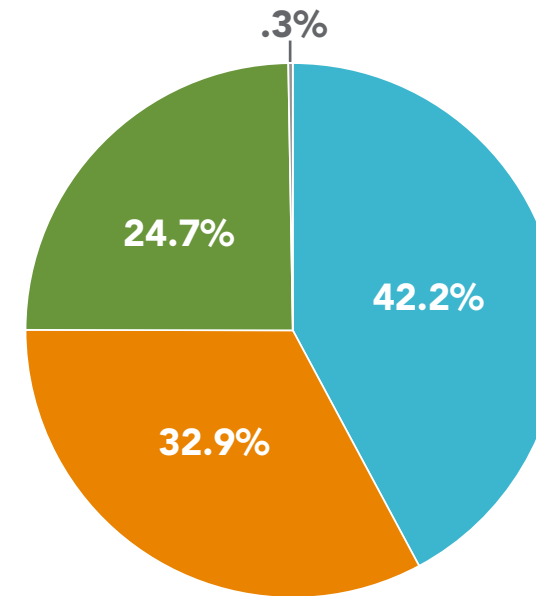
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RESEARCH REPORTS

CASE STUDIES

For more information and to download visit
www.siebertfoundation.org/engagingmillennials

2017 Grants Paid: \$4,214,671



\$1,777,121 Growing the Body of Christ by investing in Lutheran leaders, ministries, and evangelism.

\$1,385,130 Serving as the Hands and Feet of Christ by supporting effective strategies at Lutheran churches and church-affiliated organizations to meet the basic short-term needs of disadvantaged people, and to create pathways toward greater self-sufficiency and empowerment for all people.

\$1,041,000 Educating while Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by funding high-performing Lutheran-affiliated schools and other education programs that provide children and youth in socioeconomically disadvantaged communities a path to Christ-centered academic success, empowerment, and hope for themselves and future generations.

\$11,420 Foundation Governance

\$1,777,121 • Growing the Body of Christ

- \$517,700** Seminary Student Financial Aid
- \$131,500** Vibrant Faith Ministries - Leading Well, Naugatuck, CT - Leading Well Sustainability Project and Pastoral Leadership Development
- \$110,000** Reformation Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Ministry Support
- \$100,000** Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, IL - Enhancements to Advancement Database
- \$90,700** Lighthouse Youth Center, Milwaukee, WI - Vicars and Student Assistants
- \$86,921** Pastoral Leadership Institute, Wheaton, IL - Pastoral Leadership Development
- \$72,180** Grace in Action - Ministry Leadership Institute, Minneapolis, MN - Pastoral Leadership Development
- \$60,000** Living Water Lutheran Church, Cameron, WI - Satellite Worship, Pilot Project for Rural Congregations
- \$55,440** ELCA South-Central Synod, Madison, WI - Natural Family Systems Academy and Latino Ministries for Growth and Evangelism

Growing the Body of Christ (continued)

\$45,000	ELCA Greater Milwaukee Synod, Milwaukee, WI - Congregational Vitality and Bishop's Community Engagement Initiative
\$45,000	St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, De Pere, WI - Millennial Outreach
\$37,500	Victory of the Lamb Lutheran Church, Franklin, WI - Community Evangelism
\$34,500	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Chicago, IL - Collaboration and Board-designated Grant
\$32,500	LINC Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI - Capacity Building and Board-designated Grant
\$30,000	Redeemer Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Interfaith Center Planning Grant
\$22,000	ELCA Lutheran Campus Ministry, Milwaukee, WI - Peer Ministers and Board-designated Grant
\$20,500	All Peoples Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Cross-generational Ministries, Stabilization Funding, and Change or Die Conference Honorarium
\$20,000	Divine Word Lutheran Church, Plover, WI - Mission Start-up Congregation
\$20,000	Emaus Lutheran Church, Racine, WI - Mission Start-up Congregation
\$20,000	The Table Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Mission Start-up Congregation
\$20,000	The Village Church, Milwaukee, WI - Urban Millennial Outreach
\$18,000	The Point of Grace, Milwaukee, WI - Campus Ministry and Mission Advancement Support
\$16,500	ELCA Greater Milwaukee Synod - Breaking the Chains Church, Milwaukee, WI - Mission Start-up Congregation
\$15,300	Wisconsin Philanthropy Network, Brookfield, WI - Leadership Development
\$15,000	Crossways Lutheran Camping Ministries, Appleton, WI - Servant Leader Internship Program
\$15,000	Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, Amery, WI - Effective Camp Research Project
\$12,000	Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Menomonee Falls, WI - Board-designated Grant
\$12,000	Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Urban Retreat Center
\$11,000	Frank Zeidler Center for Public Discussion, Milwaukee, WI - Supporting Congregational Change and Change or Die Conference Honorarium
\$10,000	Chicken Coop Ministry, Grantsburg, WI - Mission Start-up Congregation
\$10,000	St. John Lutheran Church, Luxemburg, WI - Mission Start-up Congregation
\$10,000	St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Board-designated Grant
\$10,000	Wisconsin Lutheran Chapel, Madison, WI - Board-designated Grant

\$10,000	Women's Leadership Institute at Concordia University, Mequon, WI - National Conference Sponsorship
\$7,500	Outreach for Hope Fund, Milwaukee, WI - Board-designated Grant
\$6,500	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Board-designated Grant
\$6,000	Luther Memorial Chapel, Shorewood, WI - International Student Ministry
\$5,000	Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Board-designated Grant
\$5,000	Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, New Berlin, WI - Board-designated Grant
\$3,500	Hephatha Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Change or Die Conference Honorarium and Board-designated Grant
\$3,000	South Wisconsin District - LC-MS, Milwaukee, WI - Board-designated Grant
\$2,380	Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Milwaukee, WI - Support for New Location
\$1,000	First Immanuel Lutheran Church, Cedarburg, WI - Change or Die Conference Honorarium
\$1,000	Hales Corners Lutheran Church, Hales Corners, WI - Change or Die Conference Honorarium



\$1,385,130 • Serving as the Hands and Feet of Christ

\$191,000	Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI - Lutheran Food Pantry Support and Board-designated Grant
\$132,000	Cross Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Bread of Healing Empowerment Ministry, Year-round and Summer Youth Programs, and Board-designated Grant
\$90,000	Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin & Upper Michigan, Inc., West Allis, WI - Program for Trafficked Youth, Refugee Resettlement, and Board-designated Grant
\$83,700	Just One More Ministry, Wauwatosa, WI - Program Support and Capacity Building
\$77,500	Serenity Inns, Milwaukee, WI - Operational Support and Board-designated Grants
\$75,500	Emaus Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Summer Youth Program, Neighborhood Minister, EASY & SALT Programs
\$75,000	Milwaukee JobsWork, Milwaukee, WI - Operating Support and Capacity Building
\$67,000	Ascension Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Sisters Program-South, Summer Youth Program, and Board-designated Grant
\$60,000	Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Community Engagement Project and Neighborhood Minister
\$50,000	Bread of Healing Clinic, Milwaukee, WI - Health and Wellness Services
\$50,000	ELCA Outreach Center, Kenosha, WI - Helping Citizens Toward Self-sufficiency

Serving as the Hands and Feet of Christ (continued)

- \$50,000** Project Return, Milwaukee, WI - Ex-offender Employment Program
- \$50,000** Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, Madison, WI - Lutheran Food Pantry Support
- \$46,800** Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Central City Churches Outreach and Summer Youth Program
- \$35,500** Faith/Santa Fe Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Year-round and Summer Youth Programs and Neighborhood Minister
- \$32,500** Redeemer Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Noon Run Meal
- \$30,000** Unity in Motion, Milwaukee, WI - Summer Youth Program at All Peoples Lutheran Church
- \$28,230** Hephatha Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Year-round and Summer Youth Programs and Neighborhood Minister
- \$25,000** New Threads of Hope, Wauwatosa, WI - Lutheran Clothing Ministries
- \$25,000** Outreach for Hope, Milwaukee, WI - Commemorate 10th Anniversary Bike Ride
- \$21,800** Incarnation Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Year-round and Summer Youth Programs
- \$20,700** Holy Ground 53206 (Project Return), Milwaukee, WI - 53206 Youth Development Program
- \$17,900** Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Year-round and Summer Youth Programs
- \$16,000** All Peoples Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI - Neighborhood Minister
- \$11,500** Crossways Lutheran Camping Ministries, Appleton, WI - SIMSA and SIMBA Camps for Milwaukee Youth
- \$10,000** Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Milwaukee, WI - Year-round and Summer Youth Programs
- \$10,000** ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response, Chicago, IL - Hurricane Relief - Church Rebuilding
- \$2,500** The Lutheran Home, Wauwatosa, WI - Board-designated Grant

\$1,041,000 • Educating while Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- \$150,000** Center for Urban Teaching, Milwaukee, WI - Urban Teacher Training Program
- \$150,000** St. Marcus Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI - School Capital Campaign
- \$135,800** Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, WI - Building Capital Campaign, Tuition Assistance, and Board-designated Grant
- \$73,000** Lutheran Urban Mission Initiative, Inc. (LUMIN), Milwaukee, WI - Classroom Technology



Educating (continued)

- \$52,200** Milwaukee Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, WI - Tuition Assistance and Board-designated Grant
- \$50,000** Mt. Lebanon Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI - Multi-disciplinary Curriculum Initiative
- \$50,000** PAVE, Milwaukee, WI - Lutheran Urban School Governance Initiative
- \$50,000** The Lutheran High School Association of Greater Milwaukee, West Allis, WI - Phase Two of the Career Academy Program
- \$50,000** Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service, Inc., Germantown, WI - Urban School Counseling
- \$50,000** Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI - Center for Christian Leadership
- \$45,000** Lutheran Special School & Education Services, Hales Corners, WI - Mosaics Curriculum
- \$35,000** Schools That Can Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI - Leadership Development at Lutheran Urban Schools
- \$30,000** College Possible Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI - Expansion to Lutheran High Schools
- \$21,700** HOPE Christian High School, Milwaukee, WI - Tuition Assistance
- \$20,900** Martin Luther High School, Greendale, WI - Tuition Assistance
- \$20,000** Racine Lutheran High School, Racine, WI - Tuition Assistance and Board-designated Grant
- \$10,500** St. John's Lutheran Church, Bloomer, WI - Early Childhood Program
- \$10,000** Lutheran Counseling & Family Services of Wisconsin, Wauwatosa, WI - In School Counseling for At-Risk Students
- \$10,000** Trinity Lutheran Church, Freistadt, WI - Karenni Mission for Refugees
- \$9,500** Shoreland Lutheran High School, Somers, WI - Tuition Assistance
- \$7,500** Pilgrim Lutheran Church & School, Menomonee Falls, WI - Early Childhood Program
- \$6,100** Sheboygan Lutheran High School, Sheboygan, WI - Tuition Assistance and Board-designated Grant
- \$3,800** Living Word Lutheran High School, Jackson, WI - Tuition Assistance

\$11,420 • Foundation Governance

- \$8,000** Wisconsin Philanthropy Network, Brookfield, WI - Programming Support
- \$1,920** Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, Washington, D.C. - Membership Grant
- \$1,500** Exponent Philanthropy, Washington, D.C. - Membership Grant



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New Office Location, June 2017

Siebert Lutheran Foundation's new office location confirms the foundation's commitment to having a positive impact in the city of Milwaukee. The new office in the Avenues West neighborhood, part of the re-developing Near West Side, gives Siebert the opportunity to strengthen relationships with urban congregations and organizations and better serve as a capacity builder, catalyst, collaborator, and facilitator.



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