



# SIEBERT LUTHERAN FOUNDATION

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Siebert Lutheran Foundation Relocates to Milwaukee's Near West Side**

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017 (Brookfield, Wis.)** - Siebert Lutheran Foundation is moving its office to the SoHi Building at 27<sup>th</sup> and Wells Streets in June. The new office at 758 N. 27th Street is owned by real estate developer Hennessy Group, Inc. Siebert Lutheran Foundation was supported in its 18-month process to find an office location in the city of Milwaukee by Jack S. Jacobson, Principal, NAI MLG Commercial.

The SoHi Building is a three-story mixed use commercial property, with retail on the first floor. Daddy's Soul Food & Grille currently operates in one of the two retail suites, with the other open for lease. Siebert will now occupy the second and third floor of the building located in the Avenues West neighborhood, part of the Near West Side Partners redevelopment target area.

For Siebert, the new office means being closer to many of its funded ministries and supporting the redevelopment of the Near West Side. "Moving to the city of Milwaukee is significant for Siebert," said Kurt Bechthold, Chairperson of Siebert Lutheran Foundation's Board of Directors. "70% of our funding serves Lutheran churches and ministries in Milwaukee and this will be the first time our offices have been located in the city. Being on the Near West Side makes us more accessible to those ministries and confirms our commitment to having a positive impact in the city of Milwaukee." In addition to its offices, the new space will contain a conference center for foundation and community group use.

In its immediate new neighborhood alone, Siebert funds 12 churches and ministries that are all making an impact on this stabilizing community. "The Foundation's vision includes serving as a capacity builder, catalyst, collaborator, and facilitator. Having a physical presence on the Near West Side gives us the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with congregations and organizations serving those in need, as well as foster more partnerships," said Brenda Skelton, Siebert's President.

"The Near West Side is thrilled to welcome Siebert Lutheran Foundation," said Keith Stanley, Executive Director of Near West Side Partners. "We are tremendously excited by the Foundation's leadership and vision in deciding to invest in this vibrant and growing neighborhood."



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“In recent years the stars have begun to align for Milwaukee’s Near West Side central business district, also known as the SOHI District,” so named because of its location south of Highland Blvd. “A much needed revival of North 27th Street has begun, and Siebert’s decision to move to the SoHi Building is likely the tipping point to cause this revival to accelerate!” said John Hennessy, President of Hennessy Group, Inc.

Siebert offices have been in Brookfield since 2007, and prior to that the foundation operated from offices near Mayfair Mall in Wauwatosa for many years. The Foundation focuses its funding on ministries and projects based in Lutheran churches and organizations that are working to achieve one or more of these outcomes: sharing the Gospel; breaking the cycle of poverty through high-performing, faith-based education; and supporting Bible-based human care and youth development programs.

### **About Siebert Lutheran Foundation**

Siebert Lutheran Foundation, as a steward of its resources and relationships, enables the Lutheran community to be more collaborative, creative, and effective in how it shares the Word of God, how it educates and instills Christian values in our youth, and how it serves people in need. Siebert is a private independent Foundation and was established by the late Albert F. Siebert to fund Christian ministries identified with Lutheran churches and organizations within Siebert’s funding priorities in Wisconsin. [www.siebertfoundation.org](http://www.siebertfoundation.org)

### **About Near West Side Partners, Inc.**

Near West Side Partners, Inc. is a non-profit organization with a mission to revitalize and sustain the Near West Side as a thriving business and residential corridor, through collaborative efforts to promote commercial corridor development, improved housing, unified neighborhood identity and branding, and greater safety for residents and businesses. Near West Side Partners, Inc. is an organization of businesses and civic leaders from throughout the Near West Side, including the organization’s five anchor institutions – Aurora Health Care, Harley-Davidson, Marquette University, MillerCoors and Potawatomi Business Development Corp.

### **About Hennessy Group, Inc.**

Hennessy Group, Inc. (started in 1987 on Milwaukee’s Near West Side) has initiated, completed and managed multiple neighborhood development projects. These projects typically involve strategic market analysis, tax credits, layered financing, tailored management planning/execution, and intensive customer focus. Moreover, Hennessy Group, Inc. and John Hennessy are genuine neighborhood stakeholders and remain particularly immersed in redevelopment and associated ongoing property management in Milwaukee’s Near West Side and Westown neighborhoods. [www.hennessygroup.net](http://www.hennessygroup.net)

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