



# The Helping Hand

Father Gene's Help Center Newsletter

Summer 2023

## FGHC Serves Record Number of Clients

Father Gene's Help Center continues to experience major growth, having served a record number of clients – more than 6,000 - in the first six months of the year. In addition, we distributed more than 110,000 articles of clothing.

We attribute the growth to two significant changes that took place in the first quarter of the year. The first is the expansion of the shopping area to the middle room of the center, a move that doubled the shopping area for clients. The middle room underwent a major renovation with fresh paint, new flooring, shelving units, and slat walls, among other changes.

In our previous storefront, we were limited as to how much clothing we could display. If a client needed a different size or style, staff or volunteers often needed to go back to the middle room to search the rest of the inventory. Clients now have full access to our inventory of clothes, shoes, and accessories.

The second change is the elimination of pre-scheduled client shopping appointments. Previously, clients often had to wait weeks for a shopping appointment. Now, clients can shop for clothing when they need it and at a time that works with their schedules.

We have made our services more accessible, which helps individuals and families in the community and makes the work of case managers even easier. Case managers from local agencies provide critical transportation for their clients so they can shop for clothing.

We ask for your support as we continue to look for ways to serve our clients more effectively. Your clothing donations and monetary contributions make it possible for us to expand our reach and continue our mission of providing dignity through free clothing to people in need in the community.

**Thank you!**

### JANUARY-JULY 2023

**6,041**  
people served

**5,045**  
through shopping

**996**  
through orders

**85% increase**  
**over same period,**  
(January to June 2022)



**112,408**  
items distributed

**91,729**  
through shopping

**20,679**  
through orders

**52% increase**  
**over same period,**  
(January to June 2022)

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Website: [FatherGenesHelp.org](http://FatherGenesHelp.org)

Facebook: [@fathergeneshelpcenter](https://www.facebook.com/fathergeneshelpcenter)

Instagram: [@fathergeneshelp](https://www.instagram.com/fathergeneshelp)

Twitter: [@fathergenes](https://twitter.com/fathergenes)

# Clothing Integral to Recovery



Chay Hazelwood

One of the lesser-known ways that FGHC serves the larger community is by partnering with agencies to provide clothing to their clients. We partner with more than 30 agencies that provide life-saving services for individuals struggling with addiction, mental health issues, and homelessness, among others. In this issue, we highlight two agencies: City Outreach and Sirona Recovery, Inc.

City Outreach supports individuals with severe and persistent mental health issues. Targeted case managers link individuals with resources within the community. Case Manager Chay Hazelwood frequently brings clients to FGHC to shop for clothing. She says the center is an important resource for her clients.

“Often my clients don’t have clothing that is appropriate for the season, for example they might be wearing a winter coat in the summer,” Chay said.

***She said it’s empowering for her clients to shop for their own clothing. “My clients love being able to select clothing in their style instead of having clothing picked out for them.”***

Noah Codner, case worker with Sirona Recovery, helps clients recovering from addiction re-establish themselves. He provides support as they pursue their goals, which often include finding housing and obtaining clothing.

He said that when he brings clients to the center to shop for clothing they are a low point. “Finding clothing they feel good in gives them a boost,” Noah said. “Their demeanor changes and they carry themselves differently. It’s often the impetus they need to make a fresh start.”

## Service Opportunities

Looking for a volunteer opportunity where you can directly impact the community? FGHC offers a variety of group and individual service experiences. We welcome students looking to complete service hours, church and school groups, alternative spring break groups, and corporations, to name a few. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Jessica Luebbing by phone at (414) 258-4357, ext. 101 or by email at [director@fathergeneshelp](mailto:director@fathergeneshelp).



A group of volunteers from Amazon

## Critical Needs



- Children’s clothing, especially for school aged children
- Athletic & casual shoes
- Sweatshirts & hoodies
- Plus size tops for men & women (2XL+)
- New underwear
- Pajamas & loungewear

## How to Donate

Donations can be dropped off at: **Father Gene’s Help Center** | 5919 W. National Ave., West Allis, WI 53214

## New Hours

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. | First Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please call the center at **(414) 258-4357** with any questions regarding donations.