



Edgerton Outreach
serving those in need

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

“SERVING THOSE IN NEED”



Prepared by:
Sarah Williams
Executive Director
April 2026



United Way Blackhawk Region
Program Partner



Our Mission

To provide programs and services that help those in need by breaking down barriers that decrease one's ability to achieve greater self-sufficiency

Progress in Action: Brighter Futures

At Edgerton Community Outreach (ECO), progress is more than a goal—it is a journey made possible through compassionate support, community partnerships, and the generosity of donors. Every day, individuals and families move closer to stability and independence, demonstrating the transformative impact of ECO's programs. The following stories illustrate how progress unfolds when people are given the opportunity, resources, and encouragement to succeed.

A Fresh Start for a Young Family

For one young family, the Transitional Living Program became a turning point during a time of uncertainty. Facing the threat of eviction and struggling to keep their rent current, they found hope and stability through ECO's support.

The program's affordable and predictable rent provided the breathing room they needed to focus on removing barriers to long-term success. With guidance from ECO staff, the family worked diligently to pay down debt, develop budgeting skills, and access vital community resources. In addition to housing, they received assistance with food, clothing, and even winter coats—ensuring their children were cared for during challenging times.

Progress in Action: Messages from Participants

“We were having a hard time getting our rent current and we were going to be evicted, but then we were rescued by Outreach and provided with a safe place to stay and regroup. Outreach helped us with food, clothing, and even coats. They have always checked in with us to make sure we had things for the holidays and even presents for the kids. Now my husband has gotten a raise and we are doing so much better and working on paying off our debt.”

Today, this family is on a path toward financial stability and independence—an inspiring example of how compassionate intervention can create lasting change.

“I don't know where we would be without Outreach. They helped me find other kinds of help and even get on the phone to help me navigate other resources or just talk me through issues as they come up.”

Progress Made Possible by Community Support

These stories of transformation are made possible through the generosity of community members, partners, and donors. Their support ensures that individuals and families have access to safe housing, essential resources, and the encouragement needed to build brighter futures.

Because of you, progress is happening every day. Families are regaining stability, veterans are achieving independence, and hope is being restored throughout the community. Together, we are not just meeting needs—we are creating pathways to lasting change.

From Service to Stability: Charlie's Journey

ECO's affordable housing for Veterans has made a profound difference in the lives of those who have served our country. “Charlie,” one of the first veteran tenants to move into 210 W. Fulton Street, entered the program with clear goals: to save money while working and finishing his education and ultimately purchase a home.

During his time in the program, Charlie was able to focus on his future without the burden of housing insecurity. The stability and affordability of his living situation allowed him to make meaningful progress toward his aspirations.

After successfully completing his first year, Charlie proudly shared that he would not be renewing his lease—not because of hardship, but because he had achieved his goals and was ready to move into a place of his own.

The PORTER CENTER

Whether it's a wedding, corporate meeting, birthday celebration, or anything in between, The Porter Center offers the perfect setting to bring your vision to life.

Our Services

- Flexible Event Space Rental
- Commercial Kitchen
- Weekday Rental Deals
- FREE WIFI

Contact us for availability, and to schedule a tour!



 ThePorterCenter.net

 EdgertonPorterCenter@gmail.com



Be A Part of Our Journey!



THE PORTER CENTER

A New Home for Community Connections

In 2025, Outreach opened The Porter Center, an inviting and affordable space designed to bring people together. Created to serve both public and private needs, The Porter Center has quickly become a hub for connection, collaboration, and celebration within our community.

Since opening its doors, The Porter Center has hosted a wide range of events, including bridal and baby showers, family holiday gatherings, birthday and graduation parties, and pop-up sales events. Its flexible layout and welcoming atmosphere make it an ideal venue for groups of all sizes and occasions.

Beyond private events, The Porter Center also serves an important civic role. We are honored to provide a dedicated home base for our local VFW Post and American Legion, ensuring that those who have served our country have a place to gather, connect, and continue their mission of service.

At Outreach, we believe that access to affordable, high-quality meeting space strengthens the fabric of our community. The Porter Center reflects that commitment—offering a place where memories are made, milestones are celebrated, and community bonds grow stronger.

For more information, rental details, and frequently asked questions, please visit www.ThePorterCenter.net or reach out directly to Outreach or email EdgertonPorterCenter@gmail.com

 ThePorterCenter.net

 EdgertonPorterCenter@gmail.com



Be A Part of Our Journey!



Karen's Outreach Story

For more than 20 years, Karen has been a familiar and valued presence at Outreach. What began as a volunteer opportunity has grown into a meaningful part of her life—filled with purpose, connection, and personal growth. Karen has spent countless hours serving at the cash register for both Outreach and Feels Like Home. She greets customers with a warm smile and likes to build lasting friendships with fellow volunteers, staff, and community members. She's also enjoyed working in the food pantry.



“The people at Outreach became the caring family that I’ve needed. I’ve been able to build friendships with people that I know truly care about me. They have taught me patience, work skills, and fun ways to interact with people. I’ve learned first hand what a family is because they showed me about love and support. I pretty much raised myself and wasn’t used to asking for help or support. The people at Outreach adopted me and made sure I was ok during tough times. They have helped me secure a safe place to live and have helped me move several times,” said Karen. “When I’m at Outreach, I can be myself, joke around, have people listen to me and know that they care about me. They are always concerned about my feelings even when I’m having a bad day. I know they care about me no matter what. They celebrate me. It’s the best feeling ever! I can’t tell these people enough how much I care about them and appreciate all that my Outreach family has done for me.”

Beyond her regular volunteer work, Karen is always ready to lend a hand at events like Soup’s On!, Coldest Night of the Year, meat raffles, and wine walks. Her enthusiasm and reliability make her an essential part of every event she supports.

Karen’s story is a powerful example of the impact of Outreach—not only in serving the community, but in empowering individuals. Her dedication, growth, and kindness continue to inspire all of us.

We appreciate you, Karen.

Thank you for being part of our Outreach family!

ECO Opportunities: Donor Report Summary



ECO Opportunities, a program of Outreach (ECO), provides meaningful employment for adults who benefit from additional structure and support in the workplace. Now in its ninth year, the program continues to grow—offering participants the opportunity to build job skills, confidence, and independence in a supportive environment.

Participants contribute directly to ECO's daily operations, assisting with retail, donation processing, food distribution, and community programs. Their work is essential to advancing ECO's mission and strengthening services for the broader community. With guidance from staff and job coaches, participants develop critical workplace and life skills, including communication, teamwork, and time management. These experiences foster a strong sense of purpose while improving long-term employability.

The program's impact extends beyond participants. Families gain reassurance, staff and volunteers benefit from increased engagement and positivity, and the community is strengthened through a more inclusive and supportive environment.

Since its launch, ECO Opportunities has expanded from serving one individual to supporting multiple participants who now play a vital role in daily operations—demonstrating that, with the right support, everyone can contribute meaningfully. With continued donor support, ECO Opportunities creates pathways to purpose, connection, and independence.

ECO Opportunities Continued

“ECO Opportunities is a shining example of what can happen when a community invests in people. The program creates meaningful work while fostering dignity, independence, and connection.” — **Financial Supporter**

“Seeing participants grow in confidence and take pride in their work is truly inspiring. They are not just part of the team—they are essential to our mission.” — **Anonymous Financial Partner**

Thank You to The Steve Stricker American Family Insurance Foundation



Edgerton Community Outreach extends our heartfelt gratitude to The Steve Stricker American Family Insurance Foundation for their generous support. Since 2016, the American Family Insurance Championship has raised an incredible \$21.7 million for charitable causes, and through the Foundation, 1,117 grants have been distributed to organizations dedicated to supporting strong families and healthy kids.

We are honored to be among the recipients of this impactful generosity. Your commitment to strengthening communities directly supports our mission and helps ensure that individuals and families in Edgerton have access to the resources they need to thrive. Thank you for making a meaningful and lasting difference.

Coldest Night of the Year

On February 28, 2026 more than 70 dedicated walkers braved the winter cold to participate in our 2nd Annual Coldest night of the Year fundraiser. The inspiring force of our community spirit helped raise over \$13,000 with generous contributions coming from supporters ACROSS THE COUNTRY-including New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Oregon, California, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.



We look forward to building on this momentum and invite you to join us for the next Coldest Night of the Year on February 27, 2027.

Together, participants walked through the snow to raise awareness of the harsh realities faced by our neighbors experiencing homelessness in Wisconsin during the winter months. Their commitment not only brought critical funding to our mission but also amplified the voices and stories of those we serve.

Soup's On!

The Annual Soup's On! event was more successful than ever, bringing an incredible display of community talent and generosity. Our guests enjoyed a Soup's On! record breaking selection of over 30 soups, prepared by a diverse group of returning favorites and new home chefs & local restaurants.



This event would not be possible without the many individuals who contributed their time and talents crafting delicious soups, to the volunteers who helped run the event smoothly, and our community members who joined us to taste test and raise money for those in need in their community.

Coldest Night of the Year & Soup's On! 2026 Supporters



FIGHTING HUNGER

In 2025, our agency's Hunger Programs made significant strides in combating food insecurity within our community. Here's a breakdown of our key initiatives and their impacts.

Lunch in the Park

Lunch in the Park played a vital role in providing nourishing meals to those in need, with a total of 1,965 meals served.

Weekend Grub Club

We distributed 708 meals, contributing to alleviate hunger over the weekends, when access to food may be limited for some families.

Overall, our Hunger Programs have demonstrated a commitment to addressing food insecurity in our community by providing consistent support, nutritious meals, & innovative approaches to reach those in need.

Breakfast Club/Snack Pack

18, 523 snack packs were distributed ensuring that children have access to nutritious meals and snacks to fuel their day.

Food Pantry

79,639lbs of food were distributed averaging around 90 households each month.

Through these efforts, we have made a tangible difference in the lives of individuals and families facing hunger, fostering a healthier and more resilient community.

Community Impact in 2025

Emergency Shelter

727 Nights of
Emergency Shelter

Rent Assistance

2025: 37 Months
2024: 34 Months
2023: 22 Months

Volunteer Hours

14,824
4,245 More Hours
Than 2024

Giving Tree/ Gifts For Kids*

194 Kids Served



School Supplies

104 Kids Served



Pet Food C.A.F.E.*

701 Pets Fed



*NOTE ECO Partners with Gifts For Kids to help with their registration as they are their own non-profit organization

*NOTE ECO Partners with Friends of Noah. They provide ECO Food Pantry with pet food.

"Our volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization, and their unwavering commitment to Outreach reflects their dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of others. We deeply appreciate their tireless efforts and recognize that we couldn't fulfill our outreach mission without their invaluable contributions."

-Sarah Williams, Executive Director

Board Members

Executive Members

Executive Director: Sarah Williams

President: Amber Lyons

Vice President: Amy Richardson

Treasurer: Dr. Drew Wellman

Secretary: Dr. Jenny Baeseman

Members

Eric Diedrick

Pastor Daniel Whitford

Zack Wilke

Cindy Cheney

Martha Yakel