



# The Helping Hand

Father Gene's Help Center Newsletter

Summer 2022

## Connecting Over Clothing and Coffee



FGHC volunteer Sofia Villareal said she enjoys volunteering at FGHC because “you never know what to expect.” Indeed, little did she know when she came to the center to volunteer on a Thursday in April that she would form a friendship with a client shopper.

When Michelle Walker came in for her shopping appointment, Sofia approached her and asked if she needed assistance.

“Michelle said, ‘I love your style’ and asked if I could help her select some clothing,” said Sofia. “I picked out some stylish clothes for her, but also some comfy pieces.”

As Michelle shopped, she opened up to Sofia. “I noticed that she was having trouble walking and she confided in me that she just got out of a nursing home,” said Sofia.

While Michelle waited for her clothing to be counted and bagged, she enjoyed a cup of coffee and conversation with Sofia. “She told me about her children and grandchildren and showed me photos of them,” said Sofia. Michelle has four sons and a daughter. She had another daughter, Erica, who died when she was 19, a victim of homicide.

“Sofia listened without judgment. She is so genuine and caring,” said Michelle.

“I invited Michelle to come back the following Thursday if she’d like to talk again,” said Sofia.

Although Michelle hasn’t made it back to the center yet, she said she plans to come back and looks forward to spending time with Sofia again. “Sophia was a bright light at the end of a long, dark tunnel,” she said.

We are grateful for volunteers like Sofia who help us carry out our mission of providing dignity through free clothing to people in need. If you’re interested in volunteering, contact Jessica Luebbering by email at [director@fathergeneshelp.org](mailto:director@fathergeneshelp.org) or by phone at (414) 258-4357, ext. 101.

## Service Opportunities

Looking for community service opportunities? Father Gene’s Help Center offers a variety of group and individual service experiences. We welcome youth groups, students looking to complete service hours, alternative spring break groups, scout troops, and corporations, to name a few. To learn more, contact Jessica Luebbering by phone at (414) 258-4357, ext. 101 by email at [director@fathergeneshelp.org](mailto:director@fathergeneshelp.org).



Connect with us:

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

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

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

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# IMPACT

JANUARY-MAY 2022

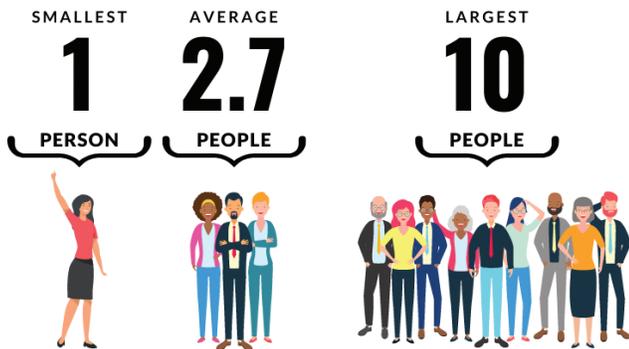


NUMBER OF ITEMS SELECTED DURING SHOPPING APPOINTMENTS

**42,920**

TOTAL # OF ITEMS SELECTED

NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED PER SHOPPING APPOINTMENT



## SAVE THE DATE

### Vintage Trade-up at Brady Street Festival

Calling all fashionistas! Do you love vintage clothing? For the first time, FGHC will have a vintage clothing booth at the Brady Street Festival on July 30 from 11 am – 8 pm.



The FGHC booth will feature a variety of men's, women's and children's clothing and shoes. For only \$10, you can fill a bag with fabulous vintage finds! We will use the proceeds to purchase new underwear for our clients.

To learn more, visit [fathergeneshelp.org/events](http://fathergeneshelp.org/events). Hope to see you there! If you are unable to make it to the festival, but would still like to support us, you can donate directly through our website: [fathergeneshelp.org/support-us](http://fathergeneshelp.org/support-us).

### Critical Needs List

- New underwear
- New socks
- Children's clothing, size 5
- Athletic/tennis shoes, sandals, slippers
- Sweatpants & leggings
- Plus-sized clothing

**Did You Know?**  
FGHC accepts donations of jewelry and accessories.

### 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.