



CONVERGENCE  
RESOURCE  
CENTER

*“Works of ART Progressing”*

ANNUAL  
SUMMARY  
2019

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# TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU - without your support in time, talents and resources it is doubtful that we would have been able to have such an amazing year!

## Strategic Highlights

We've added services and enlarged our reach. We've increased our partnerships and added new ones. We've invested in additional training for our staff and expanded our national reach.

## Financial Highlights

We've reached some financial milestones and strengthened our fiduciary experience.

## Operating Highlights

We've continued to keep our staff on the cutting edge of new trainings as well as creating more services to meet the needs of our Works of ART.

## Looking Ahead

CRC is planning to provide more services, expand its areas of expertise by continuing to equip its staff, leveraging the power of its board of directors and most importantly helping more people. Turn the page so you can see how you've helped us be world changers.

**Debbie Lassiter, D.Div**  
**Executive Director and Co-Founder**

# WHAT DID WE DO WITH YOUR SUPPORT?

- Provided services for 33 new intakes
- Delivered 108.87 hours of support through our Solace Support Line. We added out of state operators to increase the number of folks monitoring the line
- Paid for 2737.35 hours of Earned Survivor Support allowing human trafficking survivors to earn a stipend while receiving on the job training and other support services.
- Provided 435.63 hours of onsite psychotherapy and substance abuse counseling
- Distributed 33 SOS (Solace Offering Support) Bags with socks, hygiene products, books, and jogging suits. These items were largely provided through drives from several of our supporters and community partners.
- CRC has opened its first assessment house at a non-disclosed location.
- SYNC (Solace Youth Network Club - pictured below) provided over 300 hours of support and interaction with girls ages 12-17 for 8 weeks during the summer. Community leaders shared their expertise and experiences.



Sandra White from The New Testament Church of Milwaukee and Shannon Reed from The United Way are just a few of the community leaders that challenged and motivated the young ladies with their stories and talents. Some of the others were:

Judge Nancy Joseph (Milwaukee Links)

Denise Vielehr (Freelance Writer)

Dr Debbie Lassiter (CRC)

Dr Thelma Newby (CRC).



The young ladies also witnessed a naturalization ceremony and had lunch in the Judge Joseph's chambers

# COMMUNITY REACH AND AWARENESS

## TRIUMPH Rising

Our weekly radio broadcast Triumph Rising raises awareness to human trafficking including methods and warnings. The show airs on Mondays at 12:30pm on JOY1340. Past shows are uploaded to our website.

## The Epidemic and The Game

Convergence participated in over 50 community awareness events in 2019. Our signature event The Epidemic and The Game was held at Cardinal Stritch University and hosted over 100 community members. The topic this year was human trafficking and women in transition.

## Goodwill Industries SEW Community Days

Convergence became an official Community Partner of Goodwill Industries of South Eastern Wisconsin. We have partnered with the Goodwill to provide vouchers and job readiness with placement assistance. Our Executive Director presented at the Goodwill's Lunch and Learn to raise awareness and prepare them to work the human trafficking survivors. Through this partnership at least 10 survivors have obtained permanent employment.



Relationships with our community partners allows Convergence create an atmosphere of success for our Works of ART. Some of our partners are:

The New Testament Church of Milwaukee  
 Goodwill Industries of South Eastern Wisconsin  
 JL Promotions

Two Men and a Truck

Rahab's Daughters Inc

For a more complete list visit the **CRC Centurion Champions** page on our website.

# Staff and Volunteers

## The Team

We have added one full time HSTSI Facilitator that performs case management and has lived experience of human trafficking. Our volunteer staff continues to grow. CRC continues to command a very strong volunteer base with more volunteers signing up every month. The total staff and volunteer hours for 2019 = 9,696 hours.

## The Bowl Games

Convergence once again provided on the ground support as well as telephone support during the ProBowl and Superbowl games. CRC provide 5 volunteers to provide on the ground support to rescue volunteers and do outreach with an additional 20 volunteers to provide phone support. These efforts accounted for 55 rescues of adults and children.

## Code The Way

Convergence was able to launch its app with the help of Code The Way. Code The Way works with high school students to perform software development projects for non-profits. They are seeking to expand into more Milwaukee area schools. These are some of the brilliant minds that worked on our app. You can launch it from our website.



## A WORD FROM THE FOUNDERS



It has been such an exciting year we are unable to capture it all. We are planning more expansion and partnerships and we continue to forge ahead to provide quality services to all of our Works of ART and keep the community aware. We are delighted that HEMAD has become a movement and appreciate all of the men that came alongside to make that happen. Thank you so much for all of your support. Now let's roll up our sleeves and move ahead.

Dr Debbie Lassiter  
Executive Director and Co-Founder  
Convergence Resource Center

Watching the growth of CRC and the growth of our clients is what makes this all worthwhile. We had clients that found jobs and were able to secure housing. This is always challenging when starting over. I am so grateful and filled with thanks to our supporters and partnerships that made this happen. The future is always unknown, but with your help our Works of ART are on their way to securing a new future for themselves and their families.

Carla McKiver, MBA  
CFO and Co-Founder  
Convergence Resource Center





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