

# 2017-2018 annual report

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**DamianoCenter**  
*serving people in need*



# Dear Friend,

The Damiano Center has completed another fiscal year thanks to the support of the Twin Ports community, and especially thanks to you! You play a critical role in our success when you partner with us as a donor – without your support, we could not have served nearly 117,000 meals last year, given away hundreds of thousands of items of clothing, or fed more than 200 kids and their families in Kids' Kitchen.

Perhaps you are a volunteer as well as a donor. If so, hats off to you for pulling double duty to partner in the critical work of the Damiano Center. If you have not volunteered, I encourage you to try it out. Damiano volunteers enjoy their work so much that they collectively shared more than 8,000 hours of their time and talent with us last year. There are volunteers who are here multiple times per week, volunteers who have been working in the kitchen for 36 years and counting, church groups, school groups, court-ordered and community service workers, and many others who dedicate their time to achieving our mission. We wish we had the

## Our year by the numbers



**4,926 hours were volunteered  
in the Community Kitchen**



**116,778 meals were served  
in the Community Kitchen**



**3,119 hours were volunteered  
in the Free Store**



**Kid's Kitchen served 2,483  
meals and was open 183 days**



**The Free Store gave away  
225,093 items of clothing**

time and space to tell you about all of them, but we decided to focus on two volunteers, Arlene and Katie, whose faces we see frequently.

Damiano volunteers care deeply and put in the extra time that it takes to meet someone new, learn from them, and understand what they truly need. If you are like Katie or Arlene, this might include helping girls find birthday dresses, helping a gentleman find history books on the free book shelf, or simply supporting a space where families can make their own “Saturday morning memories.”

Everything that we do here truly is a community effort that is powered by contributions from people throughout the Northland. The Damiano Center was built by the community for the community. Whether you offer donations of time, clothes, food, or financial gifts, the Damiano Center is fueled by your generosity. Together, we can achieve so much.



Seth Currier  
Executive Director



**947 guests were assisted with transportation needs through our Community Services program**



**55% of participants believe that our Health Realization program has helped them change the way they think about their problems for the better**



**470 guests were provided with hygiene items through our Community Services program**



**930 people received apparel to help them attain or retain employment through our Clothes That Work program**



## An Open Heart and Mind

“Becoming a volunteer at this organization taught me how important it is to be grateful for what you have rather than what you do not have, and to never judge a book by its cover,” says Kaitlyn Thompson. Katie has volunteered with Damiano since 2016, primarily in Clothes That Work and the Free Store. She is originally from southern Minnesota, and she came to the Northland to go to the University of Minnesota Duluth, where she is studying pharmacy.

Katie initially connected with Damiano after she got in trouble for shoplifting and was required to complete eight hours of community service. She believes that everything happens for a reason, we all make mistakes, and “it is just important to learn from them and move on.” She learned to move on from that mistake, but fortunately she did not move on from the Damiano Center. Those first eight hours had such an impact on Katie’s life that she has been volunteering to provide services to Damiano guests for nearly two years.

She was and is still inspired to volunteer by the people she serves, saying, “I see many of the people who come to the Center around town and instead of being nervous because of their appearance or living conditions, I am compelled to reach out to them with an open heart and mind.” She says that when guests get the help they need, “You can see the smile on their face and the sparkle in their eyes.”

Katie sees the diversity of the people who visit the Damiano Center, from children who tell her about their school day, to the elderly who share stories about their lives, to a deaf man who loves learning about history through the free books on the shelf on the second floor. As a young woman with Hispanic heritage in a primarily Caucasian community, this diversity is important to her.

About becoming a volunteer, Katie says, “I learned to be strong and confident in who I was and what I had to offer in the world. I learned that in me giving back to the community and teaching others, the community was also giving back to me.”



## Damiano Center staff

- Maria Alicea, Kids’ Kitchen Assistant
- Sandy Bennett, Program Director
- Johnny Brown, Kitchen Worker
- Seth Currier, Executive Director
- Ashley Grimm, Children’s Program Manager
- Kyra Gustafson, Administrative Specialist
- Doug Happy, Community Services Specialist
- Phillip Howell, Kitchen Worker
- Richard Howell, Maintenance Coordinator
- Keith McKenzie, Weekend Custodian
- Joanna Menchaca, Kids’ Kitchen Assistant
- Debra Moore, Free Store Assistant
- Katherine Mueller, Development Director
- Michele Naar-Obed, Cook
- Barb Parks, Accounting Associate
- Robin Tomczak, Free Store Specialist
- Paul Travaglione, Community Kitchen Assistant
- Richard Van Meter, Cook
- Donna Verhel, Clothes That Work Coordinator
- Flora Woodfork, Lead Cook

# Making good memories possible

Arlene has been volunteering at the Damiano Center for almost a year. She began working in the Free Store every Tuesday, and she enjoyed herself so much that she started to work in the Community Kitchen occasionally as well. Arlene has two adult daughters and she is retired from her job at a dental clinic. She shared that she really needed something more in her life to keep her busy after her husband passed away. She had been his primary caretaker, and she said that after his passing “[she] lost purpose in life.”

Volunteer work is taking up plenty of her time these days. The Free Store and Community Kitchen are very different, but Arlene’s favorite aspect of both is that she is exposed to people of all ages. The Community Kitchen is always full of activity and the cooks keep volunteers busy. The Free Store is quieter and has a slower pace.

Arlene remembers working in the Community Kitchen one Saturday and seeing a family eating breakfast. She thought of her own weekend breakfasts as a child, when her family would have a big home-cooked meal together. At first she felt like the kids were missing out and felt sorry for them, but then she “noticed that they looked happy while they were eating.” They were making their own Saturday morning memories.

The calm work of sorting clothes in the Free Store gives Arlene an opportunity to socialize with volunteers and guests. She enjoys volunteering





alongside college and high school students and hearing about their lives. One of her favorite memories of the Free Store is of some “girls finding dresses for a birthday party,” and how excited they were to find what they were looking for. She also enjoys sorting the children’s clothes that are donated and helping mothers and soon-to-be mothers find clothing for their babies and children. Arlene says, “they are so appreciative of the help.”

Damiano couldn’t operate its programs without the generosity of Arlene and hundreds of other volunteers. Her hard work doesn’t just feed and clothe people in need, but it also makes good memories possible for the individuals and families who visit the Damiano Center.



## Thank you to all of our volunteers, including our Board of Directors:

Matt Thibodeau, *President*  
Thibodeau, Thibodeau & Feriancek

Sr. Lois Eckes, OSB, *President-elect*  
St. Scholastica Monastery

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North Shore Bank

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Benedictine Living Community

Jim Doyle  
Retired

Steve Glonchak  
Members Cooperative Credit Union

Lt. Jeff Kazel  
Duluth Police Department

John Kelly  
Hanft Fride Law

Jennifer McEwen  
Falsani, Balmer, Peterson & Quinn

Tina Silverness  
Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment

Bilin Tsai  
Retired, University of Minnesota Duluth

Cathy VonRueden  
UCare

Nola White  
maurices

# Our generous donors

## \$100,000+

Ordean Foundation

## \$50,000 – \$99,000

Head of the Lakes United Way

## \$20,000 – \$49,999

Community Development – City of Duluth  
Essentia Health Community Contributions  
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Walmart State Giving Program

## \$10,000 – \$19,999

Arsher Charitable Trust  
Blue Cross Blue Shield Center for Prevention  
Hailey Sault  
Lahti Charitable Trust  
Miner's Inc. – Super One

## \$5,000 – \$9,999

Anonymous Friend Fund of the Duluth  
Superior Area Community Foundation  
Benedictine Sisters Benevolent Association  
Diocese of Duluth  
Rotary Club #25  
Emergency Food and Shelter Program

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Medica Foundation  
Miller-Dwan Foundation  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Wildey Mitchell Family Foundation

## \$2,000 – \$4,999

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Junior League of Duluth  
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Area Community Foundation  
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Area Community Foundation  
Whole Foods Community Co-op

## \$1,000 – \$1,999

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Fair Chance Fund of the Duluth Superior Area  
Community Foundation  
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LHB Engineers & Architects  
Lutheran Church Of The Good Shepherd WELCA  
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St. Louis County  
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Arrowhead Professional Chefs, Inc.  
Bethany Lutheran Women  
Bethesda Lutheran Church  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women  
Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 6  
Dougherty Funeral Home  
Dougherty Veterinary Clinics



Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce  
Duluth Owl's Club Auxiliary  
Duluth Police Welfare Association  
Duluth Superior Friends Meeting  
Ericson Builders  
First Lutheran Church Women  
First Presbyterian Church  
First Presbyterian Church Wrenshall  
Women's Association  
First United Methodist Church  
French River Lutheran Church Women  
Gift of Love  
Glen Avon Presbyterian Church  
Glen Avon Women's Association  
Hope Lutheran Church  
Language Of Hair  
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Our Saviors Lutheran Church  
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Shopko Foundation  
St. Joseph's Ladies Guild  
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
St. Peter's Esther Circle  
Twelve Holy Apostles Church  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Duluth  
United Methodist Women  
West Duluth American Legion Post No. 71  
Wilderness Wellness Chiropractic  
Women Living Our Faith Of St. John's  
Church  
Zlonis Family Fund

**Up to \$99**  
AmazonSmile  
Asbury United Methodist Church  
Church World Service, Inc.  
Coastal Community Foundation Everyday Hero  
Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation  
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Italian-American Club of Duluth  
Kalahwood's Design  
Northern Yearly Meeting Of Quakers  
Order of Ahepa/Twelve Holy Apostles Church  
St. John's Lutheran Church WELCA  
St. Margaret's Guild/St. James Church  
St. Mary's Catholic Church  
Touchpoint  
United Baptist Christian Church  
United Protestant Church Women's Guild

**Together, we can achieve so much!**

# Special thanks to participants of our Sustenance Partners program:

Anonymous · James & Julienne Abelsen · Maria Alicea  
Marion Barta · Jennifer Beers · David & Pamela Benson  
Liz Carlson · Julie & Tim Cerar · Erin & Seth Currier  
Barbara Currier · Matt & Kay Doyle · Katherine Mueller &  
Kevin Farnum · Ronald Gagne · Steve & Kelli Glonchak  
Jared Strasburg & Briana Gross · Carol & Dennis Healy  
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VonRueden · Luanne & Michael Wachula · Stephen &  
Karen Wedel · Andrew Wheeler · Nola White  
Women Living Our Faith of St. John's Church



# Financial report

## 2017 — 2018 Revenue

In-kind donations	32%
Individual gifts	30%
Foundations and community groups	22%
Corporations	8%
Rental	4%
Government grants	3%
Miscellaneous	1%

## 2017 — 2018 Expenses

Program expenditures	85%
Administration	12%
Fundraising	3%





# Damiano Center

*serving people in need*

*206 W 4th St.*

*Duluth, MN 55806*

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DULUTH, MN

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