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# WENDY M. WECKLER

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Nonprofit executive leader with 25 years of experience in Milwaukee's homeless services system, including 11 years as Executive Director of a multi-program housing and shelter agency. Proven track record of system-level leadership, major fundraising success, organizational transformation, and deep collaboration with the Milwaukee Continuum of Care. Recognized for building high-performing teams, aligning programs with HUD and CoC expectations, and advancing community-wide strategies to prevent and end homelessness.

Key strengths include: strategic leadership, HUD compliance, CoC governance, fundraising, staff development, budget growth, systems improvement, community partnership, and equity-centered service delivery.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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2000-Present Hope House Milwaukee, WI

*Executive Director—2014-present*

- Led agency in new direction following retirement of long-time Executive Director to create a successful mission driven non-profit tasked to end homelessness and create healthy communities.
- Duties include fundraising, government grant writing, grants management, and quality and compliance assurance for mid-size agency.
- Doubled size of budget in last 5 years through combination of sound financial management and smart program growth.
- Secured gift of St. Catherine's Residence, a 164 unit building in downtown Milwaukee in 2021, which was incorporated into the Hope House mission, while maintaining integrity of neighborhood.
- In 2023, secured largest grant in agency history from Day 1 Family Funds in the amount of \$2.5 million dollars to expand family homelessness initiatives.
- Developed system to ensure consistency and cross program training to meet multiple funding source requirements in single case file
- Built a staff of diverse, committed leaders that work to meet families where they're at and help them find the best path to the next step in their lives. Ensured and funded staffing levels safe and appropriate for 2 24-hour buildings, and empowered managers to be confident in decision making around stated goals.
- Played a key provider/partner role in implementing Coordinated Entry and Housing First in the Milwaukee Continuum of Care
- Leader on NOFO Committee—aiding Milwaukee in getting \$16,000,000 of grant funds on an annual basis

*Project Manager/Community Liaison—2000-2013*

- Designed and implemented Adult Education and Youth Education programs.
- Recruited and supervised outside educators for youth and adult programming.
- Recruited and trained neighborhood leaders, planned and executed major neighborhood relationship building events, maintained an on-going door to door canvas.
- Supervised up to 100 volunteers on an on-going basis, created, planned and implemented on-going neighborhood programming, and taught neighborhood residents to more effectively utilize service of city/county/state governments.

1998-2000      Senator Russ Feinggold, Mayor John Norquist, and School Board Campaigns      Milwaukee, WI

*Political Campaigns*

- Organized fundraising events, performed individual contribution solicitation, and maintained donor data base.
- Supervised 20-30 volunteers to perform fundraising tasks, assisted in executing field plan, assisted in developing voter contact plan, and helped with volunteer recruitment and coordination.
- Organized volunteers for literature drops, phone banks, and mailings.
- Simultaneously consulted on winning School Board campaigns for Johnson, Spence, Dannecker, and Werra. Instructed candidates on fundraising, voter targeting, voter contact, and volunteer recruitment.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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- *2019-present* Member of the Safe and Stable Homes Advisory Committee
- *2019-present* Co-Chair CoC Leadership Committee
- *2017-present* NOFO Committee Leader
- *2012-present* Chair/Co-Chair of Shelter and Transitional Housing Task force

EDUCATION

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1994-1998      Marquette University      Milwaukee, WI  
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Broadcast/Electronic Communications