

...office, waiting area, conference room, and kitchen break room furniture, as well as appliances, televisions, white boards, and other office supplies so none of it ends up in landfills. Being from Seattle, Amie had no prior knowledge of the nonprofits in the Greater Milwaukee area. Fortunately, Renee (as Outreach chair) has worked extensively with our past grantees, and was able to connect Amie with 30 local nonprofits who were already vetted through Impact100's rigorous grant review process! In total, 12 of our past recipients were able to utilizes items from the Milwaukee, Middleton, and Chicago Humana offices.

Upon returning home, Renee sent an email to her contacts at all 30 past grant and merit recipient organizations, introducing them to Amie, and briefly explaining about the items Humana had for donation. All were very appreciative of the generous offer. Twelve organizations connected with Amie to secure items including: Revitalize Milwaukee, Just One More Ministry, Operation Dream, Hope Street, Lighthouse Youth Center, Pathfinders, Community Warehouse, Benedict Center, NAMI Southeastern Wisconsin, Kids From Wisconsin, River Revitalization Foundation, and Neighborhood House. Turn around time to select and move out items was just a matter of weeks. Amie commented that our nonprofit partners were extremely courteous, respectful, prompt, professional, and appreciative... in short, they were a pleasure to work with!

Community Warehouse even offered to be a transportation and storage resource for the other nonprofits if necessary. Amie worked with Community Warehouse executive director, Jose Hernandez, to work out the complicated logistics of moving and transporting items from the downtown Chicago office to Milwaukee. Ultimately a moving company semi was loaded with all the items for six of our grantees and driven straight to Community Warehouse's Green Tree Milwaukee location. Their staff then assisted in the distribution and loading of each nonprofit's Chicago-Humana donated furniture. In addition, Community Warehouse stored the items for NAMI Southeast Wisconsin, in the middle of opening the United for Waukesha Resiliency Center, and then delivered the furniture to NAMI when ready!

*Similar to our annual \$100,000 grants and merit awards, these donations have made a true impact on these nonprofit organizations' operations. As we all learned from the women's clothing drive for Community Warehouse last year, donations big and small make a huge difference to our nonprofit organizations. So, do remember to look to our grant recipients' websites to see if you may have items to donate that match their needs.*



**Read additional stories shared by the nonprofits receiving donations from Humana:**

**Benedict Center** received booths with charging stations and a table to update their lunchroom. Executive Director, Jeanne Geraci commented, "This donation helped us create a more inviting space for clients to enjoy. It is part of providing a more trauma-informed environment. Since these items arrived, clients and staff alike are using the space more. "

**Revitalize Milwaukee** acquired some office furniture, including desk sets, file cabinets and two beautiful conference room tables. This donation helped them expand their offices to accommodate 7 new employees who make up their lead abatement department, starting in early 2023. Additionally, donated appliances will be made available to low-income homeowners who are unable to replace theirs when broken.

Jose Hernandez, CEO of **Community Warehouse**, compared the furniture donation received from Humana to the donated professional attire each of their Partners In Hope graduates receive. He refers to the similar impact in the boost of self-worth they both provide. He shared this story in a thank you letter he wrote to Amie, "Prior to our weekly huddle/dinner, I brought a truck load of new tables and chairs you had given us. Our participants were so excited they did not want to begin the meeting until all the new furniture and chairs were in place! They helped carry tables and move chairs, so the process went very quickly, and it was inspiring to see them all working together. While we may not "need" new items, (because we had old chairs and tables), but, just as with the business suits, I could physically see people feeling better about themselves. They were sitting up straighter and truly enjoying the new chairs and eating at the new tables you had blessed us with."

Anita Rodriguez Cordero, Executive Director of **Operation Dream**, commented, "We are very thankful for the new desk and conference room chairs. Our old ones were so decrepit we had to toss them! Thank you so very much for including us in the donation project."

Pastor James Buske, Executive Director of **Lighthouse Youth Center**, shared, "This gift from Humana was a true gift from God! Lighthouse Youth Center was able to update and upgrade some of our current facilities with "new to us" chairs, desks, workstations, whiteboards, and TV's. Some items will also help propel the launch of our 4th youth outreach facility! These "gifts" have fast tracked our opening and reduced the dollars spent on "stuff," so we are able to put more investment into our amazing programs! I truly believe this was a divine appointment that brought Humana and Impact100 together! Thank you for thinking of us!"

**NAMI Southeast Wisconsin** was recently awarded a grant to establish and oversee the offices of the United for Waukesha Resiliency Center ([unitedwaukesha.org](http://unitedwaukesha.org)). Director of UWRC Nichole Voss wrote to Renee, "I am so glad you were seated next to Amie! We feel really fortunate to have been a part of that donation. We actually received the majority of our furniture from the Humana donation site in Algonquin, Illinois. Amie arranged for Jose, CEO of Community Warehouse, to pick up our items, store them until we had office space, and then deliver them to us once we did."

"It was really an amazing team effort all around, saving us thousands of dollars that can instead be used for ongoing mental health treatment of those affected by the Waukesha Christmas parade tragedy. People often think of those who were physically injured in an incident. However, we are helping a much larger group. We are working with first responders, business owners along the parade route, family members of those directly affected, as well as witnesses of the event or just in attendance at the parade. While we had been doing phone work earlier, our physical space opened up December 1, 2022. Therefore, we now host a variety of music therapy, art therapy, peer support, and compassion resilience groups. Essentially, UWRC helps individuals to find trauma-informed therapists, get involved with peer support, connect with healing activities, and more. All mental health services are provided at no cost to the recipient."

**Donations for UWRC included: Desks/chairs for staff offices; reception area- table, chair and brochure holder; conference room, all tables and chairs.**

