

Sheboygan County  
Warming Center

# 2025 – 2026 Winter Recap

The 2025 - 2026 SCWC season marked a pivotal chapter in our journey toward sustainable growth and transformation.



# Message from Leadership

## Because of you, winter looked different this year.

From **November 9 through April 15**, the Sheboygan County Warming Center served as a place of refuge, safety, and dignity for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. On the coldest nights in Sheboygan County, when options were limited, your generosity ensured there was always a door open.

Each evening, guests walked in carrying more than the weight of the weather. They came in tired, often unseen - but in need of something simple and powerful: a place to belong.

And because of you - they found it.

About halfway through the season, it became clear that overnight shelter alone was not enough. Each morning, many of our guests were returning to the cold with nowhere to go during the day.

So together, we did something more.

In collaboration with Hope Church and Grace Episcopal Church, we launched a daytime solution: **The Middle Ground**. While the Warming Center provided staffing and coordination, both churches opened their doors daily, creating a safe, welcoming space for guests who would otherwise be outside all day. This partnership became a critical extension of care, offering warmth, rest, and connection beyond overnight hours. It was a powerful reminder that when organizations come together, we can meet needs in deeper and more meaningful ways.

One guest arrived early in the season unsure if he would even stay. He kept to himself, spoke very little, and sat quietly during meals. Night after night, he returned. Over time, small changes began to happen. A "thank you" turned into conversation. Conversation turned into trust.

By mid-season, he was helping others—welcoming new guests, offering guidance, and assisting where he could. What began as survival slowly became connection. When The Middle Ground opened, he had a place to go during the day. He was no longer wandering—he was resting, engaging, and becoming part of a community. And when the Warming Center closed for the season, he didn't disappear. He continues his journey at the Herb Kohler and Natalie Black Community Cafe, where familiar faces, daily meals, and ongoing support remain.

While the Warming Center is seasonal, the support system you helped build is not.

The **Herb Kohler and Natalie Black Community Cafe** remains open year-round, providing daily meals, connection, and stability. **The Landing** continues to serve as a critical resource, allowing guests to safely store their belongings. During Cafe hours, individuals can return to retrieve clean clothes and personal items—giving them the dignity of moving through their day without carrying everything they own.

These resources ensure that when winter ends, care does not.

Meals are served. Belongings are safe. Names are remembered. Stories continue.

## Thank You

Your support whether it was financial or in-kind made every warm night, every meal, every conversation, and every next step possible.

You didn't just fund a program. You created a system of care.

With sincere gratitude,  
Liz Kroll, Executive Director



## Mission

The mission of the Sheboygan County Warming Center (SCWC), a privately funded organization, is to provide a safe, warm, low barrier facility for any single adults that find themselves without safe overnight shelter. SCWC also provides and partners with community resources that support permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

# Services We Offer

01

## Herb Kohler & Natalie Black Community Cafe

More than just a meal—this is a place to belong. The Community Cafe offers a welcoming space where people can grab a bite, build connections, and get linked to resources.

02

## The Middle Ground Collaborative

A steady space during the toughest months. The Middle Ground is our winter day program, offering warmth, safety, and a place to come in out of the cold when it's needed most.

03

## Warming Center

When the temperatures drop, we show up. Our low-barrier shelter offers a safe, overnight refuge to adults during the coldest months—keeping people warm while opening doors to resources, support, and a path ahead.

04

## The Landing

A safe place to set things down. The Landing is our storage program, giving individuals reliable storage so they don't have to carry their belongings all day—restoring dignity and reducing daily stress.



# Warming Center Snapshot

**Guests Served**

**218**  
unduplicated guests served

**Total Number of Services**

**8,391**

open 158 nights for shelter

**58**

average occupancy

**74**

max occupancy

## Guest Demographics

**70%**  
men

**28%**  
women

**2%**  
other

**75%**

living with a disability

**46%**  
age 18 - 44

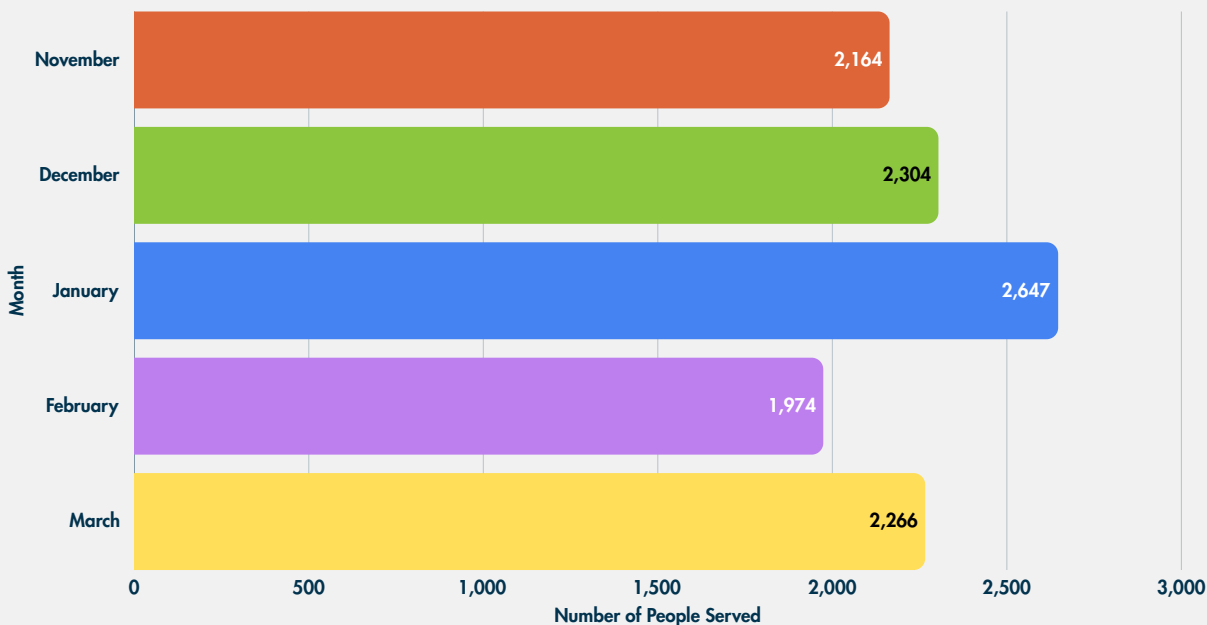
**54%**  
age 45 - 62+

**Chronic Guests**

**68**  
unduplicated chronic homelessness

# Community Cafe Snapshot

Herb Kohler & Natalie Black Community Cafe  
November 2025 - March 2026



**Guests Served**

**11,355**  
total number

**Guests Served**

**2,271**  
average number

## Guest Highlight

After more than two years of experiencing homelessness, one of our guests closed out the season with something incredible—keys to a place of his own. Through strong collaboration with a partner organization and his own persistence, he was able to move into permanent housing just in time. What makes this story even more meaningful is that he still stops in every morning—checking in with staff, sharing updates, and continuing to build a positive, stable life. It's a reminder that the relationships built here don't end at the door—they grow into something lasting.

## Volunteer Highlight

### 180+ hours of volunteering....

Lisa, Maximus, and Santiago gave so much of their time and heart this season. Their fun, upbeat energy and constant positivity brought so much light to our space.

They took time to truly listen to guests, creating meaningful connections and lasting impact. Because of them, we are reminded that when community comes together, we can help change someone's future.



# Thank you!

We couldn't have done it without the generous support of our volunteers, donors, and staff.



As this season comes to a close, the need for safety, connection, and support continues year-round. While the warming center closes, our work carries on through ongoing programs and community partnerships. We move forward committed to building on what this season has shown us—that when we come together, meaningful change is possible.

