

# **SOUTHSIDE HARM REDUCTION SERVICES**



## **2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

Deliveries: 612-615-9725 | Referrals: 612-355-1267  
[SouthsideHarmReduction.org](https://SouthsideHarmReduction.org)

Drop-in Center: 810 East Franklin Ave.  
Minneapolis, MN 55404



## LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In our relatively short existence as an organization, we have experienced transformational change. From Southside being just Jack Loftus and myself, we quickly grew into a full-fledged volunteer-run organization, then became the largest syringe exchange in the state, and now a staffed organization with deep roots within the community. Time and time again, we have transformed to meet our community's needs.

Now, we are embarking on our most exciting chapter - in 2024, we purchased a building that is now becoming our home. It is a space to anchor our work, expand our services, and create something bigger than we ever have been able to before. It's a response to an urgent crisis but also an investment in care, community, and possibility. Here, participants will find safety, support, and connection without judgement.

Over the past year, we have continued to witness the devastating impacts of overlapping public health and housing crises. We are experiencing near-record high overdoses and devastating losses of people we care deeply about. Our participants confront encampment sweeps, lack of housing and health services, and continued elevated risk of HIV, hepatitis, and other preventable diseases due to insufficient resources and stability. Minnesota has the highest overdose death rate disparities in the country - an unacceptable reality we and our participants witness daily.

And yet, despite these challenges and grief, our communities bring me immense hope.

Southside is powered by amazing communities of care. Every day we witness people reversing countless overdoses, distribute harm reduction supplies and education, and provide essential support to one another. These are communities that recognize the power, and cultural and historical strengths of people too often discussed only through the lens of disparities and marginalization.

As we settle into our new space, I've come to see our new home as a place that can hold the complicated realities of our work—the grief and joy, the pain and possibility. It is a space that will help Southside better meet the needs of and be with our participants, start new programming, and act as the soil in which bigger and better things can grow.

With that we are excited to share the deeply impactful work we accomplished in 2024 in this annual report. I am unbelievably proud of the amount of care and dedication our staff and volunteers have for the work that we do, our organization, and communities we are all a part of.

Thank you for walking beside us, believing in us, and building with us. We truly couldn't do this without you.

With gratitude,  
Jack Martin  
Executive Director

## ABOUT SOUTHSIDE HARM REDUCTION SERVICES

SHRS is a grassroots, community-based harm reduction organization founded in 2017 to promote the human rights to health, safety, and autonomy of people who use drugs (PWUD). Based in South Minneapolis, SHRS primarily serves unsheltered Indigenous and African American PWUD who are impacted by systemic racism, criminalization, and profound barriers to care. While our home is South Minneapolis, we provide harm reduction supplies and services across the entire city.

Southside Harm Reduction Services is one of the largest syringe service programs in Minnesota, and the only program offering deliveries in the Twin Cities metro area. Southside offers harm reduction, naloxone, and basic need supplies directly to our participants through delivery and outreach programs, hosts free naloxone trainings, offers rapid HIV/HCV testing, and linkage to care and resources. All of our resources are provided free of charge and low barrier. In 2024, we served approximately 4,000 unduplicated individuals—approximately 40% American Indian, 40% Black, and 20% white. At least 50% were unhoused or housing-insecure.

We were founded to fill critical gaps in services for PWUD, particularly those who are homeless, engage in sex work, or are living with or vulnerable to infectious diseases such as HIV and HCV. Our programming is designed in direct partnership with participants and reflects their lived realities.

### STAFF

- Abby Walker - Delivery Lead
- Angela Richards - Outreach Lead
- Claire King - Finance Manager
- Desmond McCloud - Harm Reduction Specialist
- Dezy Newell - Volunteer Coordinator
- Grace Hallberg-Cain - Harm Reduction Specialist
- Jack Martin - Executive Director
- Kieran Hitchcock - Program Manager
- Lexus Stokes - Infectious Disease Specialist
- Maria MacDonald - Infectious Disease Specialist
- Michael Pugh - Delivery Service Specialist
- Michaela Krawec - Development and Communication Manager
- Onishona Villarreal - Harm Reduction Specialist
- Rodrick Fields - Operations Director
- Shannon Clancy - Linkage to Care Lead
- Zach Johnson - Program Director

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

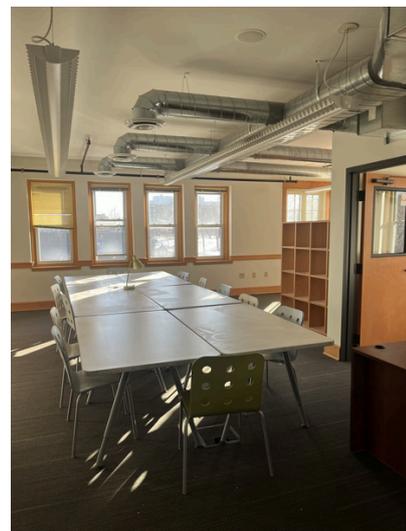
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## A NEW HOME: THE COMMUNITY HUB

In 2024 Southside purchased a building that is now the home of all our programming including our new Drop-In Center called The Community Hub! This has been a huge undertaking to create a new home for Southside. Construction finished at the end of 2024, allowing us to open to Community Hub in 2025. We are all extremely excited for this new space and all the services we will be able to offer. For the first time in our history, we have space that we can call our own and large enough for offices, coworking, and hosting guests.

SHRS's Community Hub is a drop-in center space designed by and for people who use drugs. A space that is comfortable, welcoming, and safe, the Hub will offer low-barrier access to harm reduction and overdose prevention services, medical care, treatment for substance use disorder, community events, and other resources and support designed for people who use drugs (PWUD) or are experiencing houselessness, including restrooms, hygiene supplies, and food/snacks. In the Twin Cities metro area, there are no low-threshold spaces specifically designed for houseless PWUD, resulting in profoundly unmet needs. The Hub will fill many of the gaps left by current systems, including health and human services. We began opening up the building to offer services to the community in 2025.



## STREET OUTREACH: OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

At Southside, outreach is more than handing out supplies—it's about showing up, consistently and compassionately to meet people where they are at.

In 2024, our outreach team hit the streets of South Minneapolis 196 times, connecting with over 7,000 people. Five days a week, our staff and volunteers built trust, offered safer use supplies, and shared critical resources with people living outside. We focused on meeting immediate needs—like food, water, naloxone, hygiene items, and shelter supplies—while also helping participants connect to healthcare, housing, and supportive services.

Despite encampment evictions, extreme weather, and countless systemic barriers, we stayed rooted in community. We kept showing up and so did our partners. This year, we worked alongside grassroots collectives that brought hot meals, delivered water, built yurts, and showed up with us in mutual aid efforts that extended beyond survival, they helped people feel seen and supported.

Our outreach is grounded in a person-centered, trauma-informed approach. Every interaction starts with respect and autonomy. We're not here to dictate choices - we're here to build relationships that lead to safer outcomes, on each person's terms.

We've seen real impact: individuals accessing stable housing, providing essential items, and connecting with each person we meet. And we've seen the ripple effect through more neighbors stepping up, learning about harm reduction, and taking part in community care.

Outreach is where our values meet action. Thanks to your support, we were able to be there for thousands who needed someone to show up.



## DELIVERIES: CONSISTENCY, CONNECTION, AND CARE

In 2024, our Deliveries Team continued to provide life-saving supplies and human connection directly to people across Minneapolis. Each week, our team was on the road every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, averaging 20 to 35 stops per day. Over the course of the year, they connected with 3,868 individuals, offering not just resources, but reliability and care.

Deliveries remain one of our most effective ways to reach folks who might not otherwise access harm reduction services. In 2024, we expanded our reach, especially into North Minneapolis, an area where we've historically had less of a presence. Hiring a new staff member dedicated to deliveries helped boost our capacity and deepen our commitment to equitable access across the city.

Our delivery team is powered by 3 staff members and 21 incredible volunteers, 10 of whom joined us in 2024. Together, volunteers logged 720 hours of service by bringing essential supplies and a sense of consistency to people who often face daily instability.

While numbers tell part of the story, the real impact lies in the trust that's built. Whether it's someone just reaching out for the first time, or a participant we've known for years, these deliveries are about showing up with care—no judgment, no barriers, just consistent support.

## OVERDOSE PREVENTION TRAININGS: SHARING KNOWLEDGE, SAVING LIVES

Education is a core part of harm reduction and we were able to get out into the community to provide this essential service.

Over the past year, we facilitated 42 private training sessions for organizations and community groups, reaching 626 people. These sessions covered critical topics like how to respond to an opioid overdose, principles of overdose prevention, and the fundamentals of harm reduction. We also shared practical guidance on wound care and explored approaches to person-centered, trauma-informed care. These are tools that participants could take back to their workplaces and communities.



In addition to those private sessions, we hosted 7 public trainings open to community members, with 76 attendees learning how to use naloxone and test strips, overdose recognition and response, and get involved in harm reduction work in a meaningful way.

Whether it's a health worker learning new ways to support their clients or a concerned community member getting trained on naloxone for the first time, each training helps build a stronger, more informed community; one that knows how to show up and respond in moments that matter.



## **SECONDARY EXCHANGE: SUPPORTING PEER-LED HARM REDUCTION**

People who use drugs are often the first—and sometimes the only—ones present when an overdose occurs. While our staff and volunteers distribute naloxone and harm reduction supplies, it is our participants who are on the frontlines: administering naloxone, performing rescue breathing, and reversing overdoses. They also distribute harm reduction supplies, provide safer use education, and are able to meet people who use drugs but do not directly access services like Southside's.

To further support this peer-driven network, our Secondary Exchange Program equips participants with additional supplies and training so they can better serve their communities. In 2024, we provided supplies to 122 different folks in the community with supplies to give out to their networks. We gave out over 120,000 syringes and 4,000 doses of naloxone.

Participants enrolled in this program are given additional harm reduction supplies and education to distribute in their communities. These secondary exchangers get biweekly or weekly drop off of all of our core supplies for them to distribute as they see fit. While anyone can sign up we aim to try to support communities that may not have as much access to harm reduction supplies, many of which live outside of Minneapolis and in areas that do not have a syringe service provider (SSP) or where the SSP programs are severely limited.

It's important to note that many, if not most, of our participants act as secondary exchangers, even if not officially enrolled in our program. Their efforts are critical to expanding access and saving lives.

## PARTICIPANT SUPPORT GROUPS: COMMUNITY BUILDING

Every Monday, Southside hosts a weekly participant meeting at the Franklin Library in South Minneapolis. This is a space where 30 to 60 community members gather not just to access services, but to connect, collaborate, and care for one another. These meetings are about more than harm reduction supplies. They're about building a culture of mutual support, creativity, and collective action among participants. .

This space is designed with participants at the center. People come to: access resources like food, wound care, and harm reduction supplies, share knowledge and skills, ask for help or offer it, rest, play games, drink coffee, work on creative projects, volunteer and participate in the direction of the group, and build meaningful relationships and connections to other groups in the area.

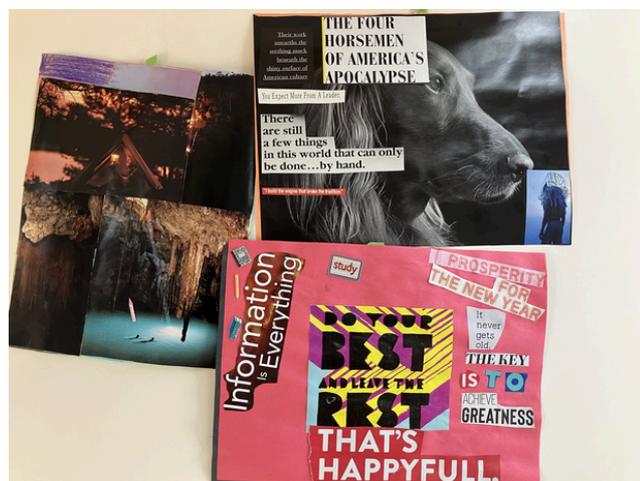
Every week, we serve hot meals, offer games and art supplies, provide referral handouts, and make space for healing and growth. We collaborate with participants to help shape how the group is run, encouraging shared leadership, problem-solving, and innovation. The result is a strong, supportive culture built on reciprocity, trust, and shared knowledge.

Throughout the year, we also welcomed rotating community partners who offered presentations, trainings, and workshops. In 2024, this included:

- Writing workshops with Deeq
- First aid and CPR trainings with North Star
- Harm Reduction is Traditional presentation
- Steve's Law and paraphernalia discrimination training with the Legal Rights Center
- Narcan Saturation Plan with the Minnesota Department of Health
- T-shirt design workshops
- Minnesota drug laws presentation with Eddie Krumpotich

New Projects in 2024:

- The Bike Program: Launched in fall 2024, this project partners with a local bike mechanic who refurbishes and distributes free bikes to participants. Even more exciting, participants have the opportunity to learn repair skills and work alongside the mechanic. This helped in creating access to transportation and new practical knowledge.
- Franklin Library Art Show: In partnership with the Franklin Library, we're proud to support five participants who will display their artwork in a public show in 2025 as paid artists. This project celebrates the creativity, vision, and voices of our community.



These gatherings are about dignity, possibility, and showing what happens when people who use drugs are trusted to lead, create, and care for one another.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE PROGRAM: EXPANDING ACCESS THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

In 2024, our Infectious Disease team provided 220 HIV tests and 60 Hepatitis C (HCV) tests, meeting people where they are—whether at pop up events, deliveries, or on the street—with low-barrier, judgment-free testing services.

Throughout the year, we partnered with local organizations to host pop-up testing events that made access easier for those often left out of traditional care systems. This included monthly HIV testing pop-ups at Native American Community Clinic and 9 interagency events hosted in collaboration with groups across the city. These efforts ensure that participants can get tested in familiar, trusted spaces and often alongside other harm reduction services they already rely on.

We're proud to work closely with partners like:

- Native American Community Clinic
- Healthcare for the Homeless
- Red Door
- Mobile Health Initiative
- Clare Housing
- Community-University Health Care Center (CUHCC)
- Indigenous Peoples Task Force
- The Aliveness Project

Together, we're creating a community-led model of care that centers dignity, cultural safety, and accessibility.

A major highlight of the year: our team's participation in the Minnesota Department of Health's Hepatitis Elimination Coalition. We were honored to contribute our on-the-ground perspective to help shape the state's strategy for eliminating hepatitis in Minnesota. This is helping to ensure that the voices of people who use drugs are included in public health planning.

Looking ahead to 2025, we're excited to expand our testing efforts even further both in the community and at our new Community Hub drop-in center.



## ***VOLUNTEER EVENTS: THE HEART OF OUR WORK***

Southside simply wouldn't be Southside without our volunteers. They're at the core of so much of what we do by showing up with time, energy, and care to help move harm reduction forward in real, tangible ways.

In 2024, our incredible volunteer community contributed over 1,000 hours of service. We welcomed more than 70 new volunteers, expanding our reach and strengthening our capacity to connect with participants across the Twin Cities.

One of our biggest volunteer-driven accomplishments this year was the restructuring of our kit-packing program. Thanks to these efforts, we packed and distributed over 6,700 safer use kits, getting essential supplies directly into the hands of those who need them.

Beyond kit-packing, our volunteers led Community Clean-Ups throughout the summer. These events helped remove syringe litter and trash from public spaces while opening up conversations with neighbors about harm reduction, safe disposal practices, and how to support people who use drugs with compassion and understanding. Clean-ups are more than service—they're a way to build bridges, shift narratives, and reduce stigma.

Every hour, every conversation, every kit packed makes a difference. Our volunteers bring consistency, heart, and hope to this work, and we're endlessly grateful for each and every person who has joined us on this journey.

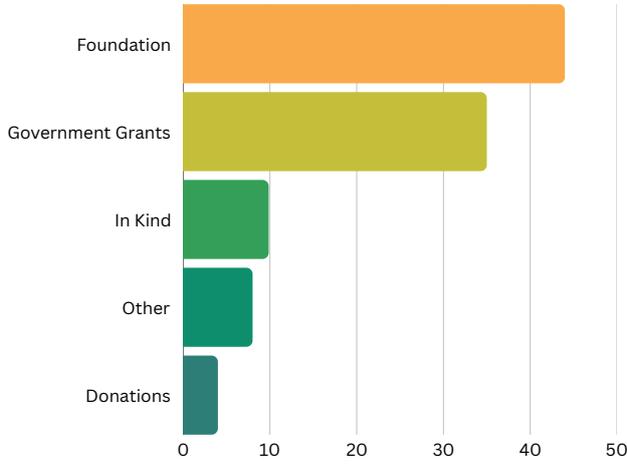


## ***VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES***

- **Kit Packing:** Help assemble safer use kits for community distribution. Join us during the week to pack supplies that save lives
- **Neighborhood Cleanups:** Walk with us as we clean up public spaces, safely dispose of syringes, and engage neighbors in conversations about harm reduction.
- **Supply Delivery:** Drive life-saving supplies directly to participants—wherever they are. Flexible schedules and full training provided.
- **Street Outreach:** Accompany staff to deliver harm reduction supplies, water, and resource info to people in encampments and public spaces.

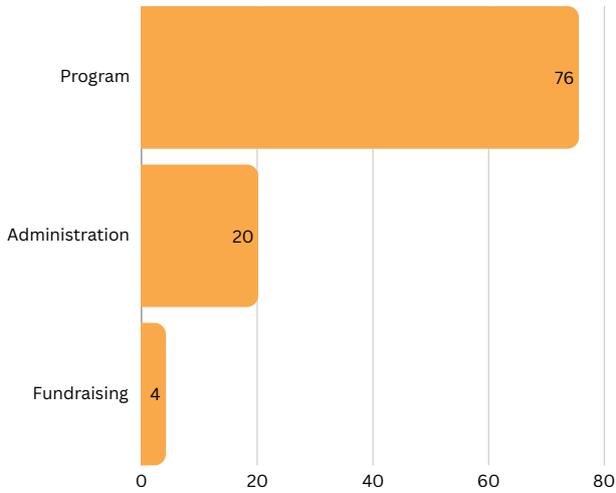
# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## Revenue



REVENUE	
Foundation Grants	\$1,069,644.00
Government grants	\$844,011.00
In kind (naloxone)	\$240,697.00
Other	\$177,836.00
Donations	\$109,453.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,441,641.00</b>

## Expenses



Expenses	
Program	\$1,602,942.00
Admin	\$427,879.00
Fundraising	\$89,173.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,119,994.00</b>



## SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED:

- Syringes given out: 883,000
- Estimated syringes collected: 106,705
- Fentanyl Test strips: 8,100
- Xylazine test strips: 8,600
- Smoking supplies given out: 98,128
- Naloxone Doses: 44,457

# CONTACT US

## Volunteers

Southside welcomes volunteers who care about the health and autonomy of people who use drugs, and offers a variety of roles. Learn more and apply at: [SouthsideHarmReduction.org/volunteering](https://SouthsideHarmReduction.org/volunteering)

## Donate

Please consider donating either one time or recurring donations. Recurring donations provide the stability and predictability that are so crucial for our long-term success. This allows us to plan ahead, maintain our often essential programming, and ensure that we're able to meet the needs of those we serve without interruption.

## Learn more and get involved

Visit our website to learn more about SHRS, how to get involved, and information about harm reduction at [SouthsideHarmReduction.org](https://SouthsideHarmReduction.org)

## Address

1925 Chicago Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55404



Thank you to all of our supporters. We could not have done this work without the support from Bush Foundation, Constellation Fund, Department of Human Services, Minnesota Department of Health, Hennepin County, NASTAD, National Association of County and City Health Officials, monthly donors, and you!

Your support—whether through financial contributions, volunteer time, or advocacy—has made a direct impact on the lives of many individuals. You are a vital part of the movement that is changing lives, and for that, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.