

Sister Madeline Milwaukee, WI

CORE/El Centro stands for “Creative Opportunities for Rebirthing Energies.” Conceived in 2002, it is the name of a holistic clinic located on the south side of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Sister Madeline is co-founder and co-administrator. The approach used is complementary natural healing modalities serving the healthcare needs of people who for the most part have no health insurance or other means to pay for their medical treatment.

Our center began as a health care center and has evolved into a community center. We are a safe place for people to come to be part of a network of people who are thriving and supporting one another. We believe healing needs to begin on the inside. We strive to create an environment that nurtures a person and supports them in healthy life style choices.

One of our successes has been to create a community city garden where, with many volunteers from the neighborhood, people grow fresh produce throughout the summer. It is located at the Mitchell Park Dome area not too far from our area. This opportunity brought people together, they are proud of what they produced and we have plans to build off this success.

Staff for the center is hired from the over 350 volunteers and neighborhood members who serve the center. More than six colleges and universities in the Greater Milwaukee area place their students for internships and service learning opportunities. The goal is to have the center run by community members completely with ongoing leadership development from within the Hispanic community. The hope is to replicate the CORE/El Centro model in another part of Milwaukee in the distant future.

CORE/EL Centro can be reached at www.core-elcentro.org