



SOC has a very small staff of organizers and relies on residents, student interns, volunteers, and other near South side stakeholders to fulfill our mission and work.

Volunteering has many benefits including contributing to a better near South side of Milwaukee and the greater community; developing greater knowledge, skills, abilities, and networks for your portfolio and life; gaining a deeper understanding of the community, its strengths, and its challenges; exposure to diverse people and organizations; and the list goes on and on.

You can help with:

- a single task like mailings and cleaning
- an event like our 25th Anniversary celebration Sat. Oct. 17th
- a project like neighborhood clean ups or resident surveys
- an infrastructure need like social media or IT
- a program like translations or housing info. & resources workshops

Our **interns** focus on one major area of interest and also complete a full circuit through each organizational department.

If you are interested in volunteering or in an internship, contact us at:
(414) 672-8090 or SOC@SOCmilwaukee.org

(updated 06/17/16 tlr)

Southside Organizing Committee - SOC



North: Menomonee Valley

West: Miller Parkway

East: the Lake

MISSION:

Southside Organizing Committee (SOC) is a neighborhood-based organization dedicated to the development and sustainability of Milwaukee's near South side neighborhoods.

South: Oklahoma Ave.

SOC serves the Near South Side, which has almost 90,000 residents. It is the most densely populated and diverse neighborhood in Wisconsin, has the largest concentration of non-English speaking residents in the State, and serves one of the only areas experiencing growth in the City.

SOC was established in 1990. It kicked-off the celebration of its 25th anniversary in 2015 by launching the **GO BLUE** Campaign - taking its work to the next level of **Grassroots Organizing** focused on **Building Leadership, Unity, and Engagement**.

SOC is funded by individual donors, service contracts, foundations like the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and public sources like the Community Development Block Grants.



1300 S. Layton Boulevard 2nd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53215
(Located on the campus of Ascension Lutheran Church – South Building)
(414) 672-8090 • SOC@SOCmilwaukee.org • www.SOCmilwaukee.org

GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING

SOC works with and for residents to create a safe, livable, and economically vibrant community and is committed to providing residents with: greater voice in the affairs of their community, greater vote in matters of public concern and resources, and greater vehicle to act together to make positive changes in their neighborhoods

LEADERSHIP

SOC provides a Leadership Academy and, pending funding, continued leadership development for residents in our district interested in either forming or further developing neighborhood groups and doing grassroots organizing. Based on resources available and prioritized needs, leadership efforts are provided and targeted in different areas.

UNITY

Milwaukee's near South side is the most diverse community in the state, despite Milwaukee's national reputation for being the most segregated metropolitan area in the nation. SOC works to capture that success and move diversity and inclusion to greater strengths for all by celebrating our rich heritage and evolution including: great history of immigrant communities, numerous racial/ethnic groups, wide spectrum of socio-economic households, concentration of small businesses, strong faith community, beautiful architecture and landscape, and our integral contribution to the greater Milwaukee area and beyond. To this effort, SOC absorbed the Old South Side Settlement Museum in late 2015.

MUSEUM (located at 707 W. Lincoln Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53215)



The Museum is the only known neighborhood settlement museum in Wisconsin. It promotes education regarding the area's strong tradition of immigrant families and communities. There are three rooms dedicated to different eras of time and distinct immigrant communities to the South side (Polish, Kashubian, and Mexican). Among the many treasures the Museum offers are tours, photos albums, histories, stories, artifacts, art, and educational programs. SOC is increasing its ability to work with and for neighbors in the immediate area with a satellite office at this site as well.

To book a tour contact the SOC office at:

(414) 672-8090 or Musuem@SOCmilwaukee.org

SOC works to build coalitions that bring expertise and resources together to address our community's needs.

- Driver's Card Program for immigrants
- 5th Place Revitalization
- Street Prostitution with a focus on Harm Reduction to women involved through a Partnership with the Benedict Center

ENGAGEMENT

SOC collaborates with and provides support to residents and resident groups. SOC develops customized relationships with each resident and group. Several factors are considered in the selection of each year's neighborhood efforts including: funding available to SOC, critical needs, history of resident voice and organizing, and equitable distribution of resources.

Some additional supports available:



Housing & Neighborhood Information, Resources & Revitalization

Connecting you with information and resources to help improve your homes and your community; helping with applications for rehabilitation grants, loans, and memberships to other resources as well as coordinating a Targeted Investment Neighborhood T.I.N.; and hosting community projects like neighborhood clean ups and our annual Bloom & Groom (low cost plants and flowers).



Neighborhood Safety

Linking you with resources to increase safety and reduce crime through our Community Prosecution Unit to abate nuisance complaints at properties; communicating upcoming Milwaukee Police Department's crime and safety meetings: sharing crime information and trends; and increasing safety efforts.



Bilingual Services

Providing English and Spanish materials and services at our headquarters and events and interpretation for key community meetings. Interpretation/Translation services are also available for fee to groups including equipment rental, interpreters, and translations.