

## **MMAC AWARD:** MCFI is Focus on the Future Award honoree

MCFI is proud to announce that it was selected as an honoree for a **Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce** Focus on the Future award. The MMAC will recognize 65 area organizations for their work to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Our business community has faced unprecedented challenges in 2020," said Stephanie Hall, MMAC Vice President of Membership and Small Business. "Through it all, these 65 companies, organizations and individuals have shown us examples of the Milwaukee region at its best, and give us hope for the future."

The honorees will be celebrated during a virtual event on Sept. 18, from noon to 1 p.m. BizTimes Media is the media sponsor for the event. Registration details for the event are forthcoming, the MMAC said. Read more [here](#).



## **Forward Academy re-opens** Check out all the safety steps taken to ensure clients, staff remain healthy!

Milwaukee Center for Independence's **Forward Academy** is up and running, with clients learning how to properly wash their hands and maintain physical distance as well as job-readiness skills!

Forward Academy assists people with barriers to work -- including disabilities, literacy gaps and criminal convictions -- learn self-management skills and receive on-the-job experience in the food service, custodial, and assembly and packaging industries.

The program was temporarily suspended in spring due to COVID-19, but today it's re-opened and teaching skills that will help our clients stay healthy through the duration of the pandemic. Check out this [video](#) to see training in action!

## **MCFI pledges to diversify staff, board**

MCFI has joined others in pledging to take steps to dismantle structural racism in the community.

MCFI joins the executives of the Milwaukee Urban League, SaintA, YMCA of Southeastern Wisconsin and 18 other Milwaukee nonprofit organizations to take steps to dismantle structural racism in the community.

The group said it will support policy reforms related to the use of police force, criminal justice reform, discriminatory housing policies that perpetuate segregation and minimum wage. They said they will also promote racial equity in public education and voter registration among their staff and clients.

Read more [here](#).

---

## Thank you: We are humbled by your gifts!

Throughout the pandemic, we have been humbled and grateful to the many generous donations and in-kind gifts that have helped us continue our work of service.

Most recently, we have received these gifts:

- Face shields from [Milwaukee Makerspace](#)
- Another 55 gallon drum of hand sanitizer from [Hydrite Chemical Company](#)
- \$100,000 pledge payment to be used for our area of greatest need from the Melitta S. and Joan M. Pick Charitable Trust
- \$14,295 from [AF Group/United Heartland](#) employee gifts and company match from their 2020 Caring and Sharing campaign
- \$2,500 gift from the Frieda and William Hunt Memorial Trust for children's programs



We thank you for partnering with us!

---

MILWAUKEE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE

