

NEWSLINES OF *Hope*

Cross-Lines Community Outreach Newsletter

Cross-Lines Legacy Breakfast Honors Community Heroes and Raises Crucial Funds



On May 22nd, the **Cross-Lines Legacy Breakfast** gathered a vibrant crowd of 200 attendees at The Vox Theater for a morning of celebration and gratitude. The event honored esteemed community members, dedicated volunteers, and supportive partners who have been instrumental in advancing Cross-Lines' mission.

The atmosphere was filled with camaraderie and appreciation as attendees recognized the outstanding contributions of those who tirelessly work to uplift our community. **This year's Legacy Breakfast was particularly successful, raising an impressive \$42,785.** These funds will directly support Cross-Lines' vital programs, ensuring continued assistance to those in need.

We are deeply thankful for the unwavering support from our community. Your generosity enables us to make a meaningful impact every day. **Here's to another year of positive change and collaboration!**



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Supporting Our Heroes: Cross-Lines' Commitment to Homeless Veterans



At Cross-Lines, we are proud to highlight our active participation in a community-wide initiative aimed at ending veteran homelessness in Kansas City by 2025. This ambitious goal reflects our deep commitment to supporting those who have bravely served our country.

One key strategy we have employed to achieve this goal is enhancing our data collection processes. By improving the quality and accuracy of our data, we can better understand the needs of homeless veterans and tailor our services to meet those needs effectively. Accurate data allows us to identify and reach out to the most vulnerable veterans—those who may not be connected with Veterans Affairs (VA) services. **Our central objective is to reduce homelessness among veterans by providing targeted outreach to those who need it most.**

We strive to connect these veterans with essential resources, including housing, healthcare, and employment opportunities, to help them rebuild their lives.

A cornerstone of our success in this initiative is our strong partnership with the VA. Nate and Wendy, two dedicated members of the local VA team, regularly visit the Kitchen, a safe space where veterans can receive meals and support. During these visits, Nate and Wendy engage with veterans, offering assistance and connecting them with vital resources.

Through these efforts, we have witnessed significant progress. For example, one chronically homeless veteran, Dennis*, who has been without stable housing for years, has now secured a permanent home.

Cross-Lines first encountered Dennis*, a veteran suffering from severe mental illness, at the KCK Cold Weather Shelter. Prior to visiting the shelter, Ernie had been hospitalized and lost access to his veteran's benefits. Through our dedicated efforts, we built a trusting relationship with him and eventually connected him with Wyandot Behavioral Health and the VA. As a result, Dennis* regained access to his benefits and recently moved into permanent housing, marking a significant milestone in his journey to stability and well-being. This achievement underscores the impact of our work and the importance of continued community support.

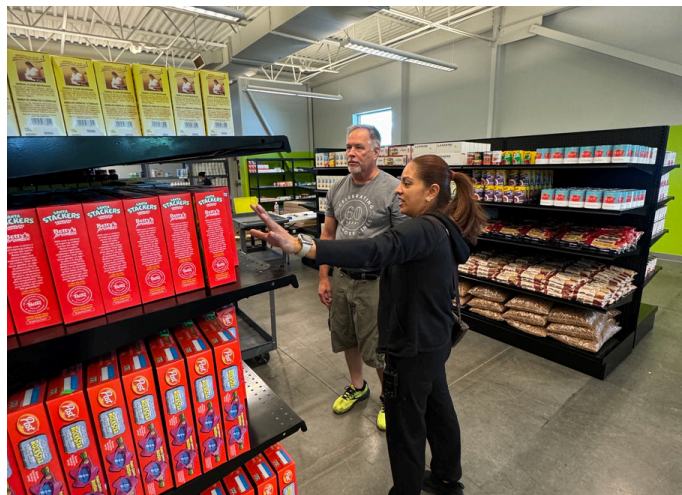
We are honored to be part of this critical mission and are inspired by the resilience and strength of the veterans we serve. **With your continued support, we can make homelessness among veterans a thing of the past, ensuring that those who have sacrificed so much for our country have a safe and stable place to call home.**

Making Space in the Market

Exciting changes are underway at Cross-Lines with the reorganization of our Community Market!

If you've been to the Market lately, you may have noticed some changes! We are spreading out the Market's shelves to utilize the entire half of our food distribution building, significantly enhancing the shopping experience for our community members.

The expanded space will allow shoppers to navigate the store more easily, reducing congestion and making their visits more pleasant. With more room on the shelves, we can keep a larger stock of food items available, minimizing the need for constant restocking and ensuring a more consistent supply for our shoppers.



Additionally, the new layout will provide dedicated areas for community partners to set up tables, fostering greater collaboration and access to resources. The check-out process will also see improvements, becoming more efficient and comfortable for everyone involved.

This space reorganization reflects our commitment to serving the community better and ensuring that everyone has access to the food and resources they need in a welcoming environment. We are excited to continue enhancing our services to meet the needs of our neighbors!

2024-2028 CHIP: A Healthier Wyandotte

Over the next five years, the WyCo Public Health Department (WyCo PHD), the CHIP Lead Agencies, and Steering Committee, alongside many community partners and community members, will be working together to address five key health priorities in our community: **1) Jobs and Education, 2) Health Care Access, 3) Safe & Affordable Housing, 4) Violence Prevention, and 5) Behavioral Health.**

Cross-Lines has served as the lead agency for the Safe and Affordable Housing Action Team for the last three years and will continue to serve in this capacity moving into the 2024-2028 CHIP Cycle.

The Action Team will work on the following core strategies: **increasing affordable housing availability, reducing cost-burden for homeowners, increasing programming that supports safe and healthy rental arrangements, expanding policies and programs that support tenants, and increasing resources for unhoused populations.**

Are you interested in learning more about the Housing Action Team or other areas?

Get involved here: wycokck.org/CHIP



Community Collaboration

Cross-Lines welcomes friends and collaborators as part of community partnership event

In mid-June, Cross-Lines was honored to co-host the **WyCo Housing Supports Ecosystem Bus Tour/Lunch & Learn** with [United Community Services of Johnson County](#). During lunch and along the way, participants learned about the unique challenges that WYCO is facing and gained a deeper understanding of the opportunities to improve the lives of Wyandotte County residents. The event started with lunch at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown KCK. From there, we took a ride around town, heard from several community speakers and organizations, and also stopped to tour Cross-Lines' campus and the brand-new tiny homes at [Eden Village of Kansas City](#).

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success, including our wonderful attendees. We are looking toward a bright future for Wyandotte County!

[Avenue of Life](#)

[Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools](#)

[Community Housing of Wyandotte County, Inc. \(CHWC\)](#)

[Wyandot Behavioral Health Network](#)



Thank You, Markie!



After many years of dedicated service, it is with heartfelt gratitude that we say farewell to Markie Crabtree, our beloved team member at Cross-Lines. Markie's unwavering commitment to helping our clients has been nothing short of extraordinary. Her work in connecting individuals and families to vital health and dental care services, as well as other essential resources, has made a profound impact on our community.

Markie's kindness and dedication have always been the heart of her service. She has gone above and beyond to ensure that those in need receive the support they deserve. Her compassion and special ability to make every person feel valued and cared for have left an indelible mark on Cross-Lines and all who have had the pleasure of working with her.

As we bid farewell, we extend our deepest gratitude to Markie for her many years of exceptional service. Her legacy of kindness and dedication will continue to inspire us all. Cross-Lines will undoubtedly miss her, but we are excited for her as she embarks on her next chapter.

Thank you, Markie, for everything. You will always be a cherished member of the Cross-Lines community!

Upcoming Events

CROSSING PATHS:

Understanding Hunger
and Housing at Cross-Lines

*Evening includes dinner
and immersive simulation*


RSVP

THURS, AUG 29TH
5:30-7:30 PM

**Join us on Thursday, Aug 29th to
take a deeper dive into Cross-Lines'
services and programs!**

Attendees will enjoy a casual meal in
the Cross-Lines Kitchen, take part in a
service/program simulation
throughout campus, and finish with
treats and a Q&A session in the
Market.

We hope to see you there!

Free to attend;
Seats are limited!



GALA FOR HOPE

Building a brighter future

Friday, September 27th, 2024

Clear your calendar for the last Friday in September because **we will be seeing YOU** at
The View at Briarcliff again this year for our annual Gala For Hope!

We can't wait to host an evening of fun, gratitude, and support! There will be an amazing catered
dinner, open bar, luxury raffles, exciting LIVE auction, and inspiring stories of Cross-Lines' impact
on our community. *We can't wait to party with YOU!*

Sponsorships and Tickets are available TODAY!

Reach out to Kelly Gough Moran;
Kelly@cross-lines.org for more information

Purchase
HERE



Help Us Feed Our Community: Support Cross-Lines Community Outreach and The Community Market

For several years, the Community Market has been a beacon of hope for individuals and families in Wyandotte County struggling with poverty and food insecurity. Every day, we provide nutritious food to those who might otherwise go hungry. For many, the Community Market is more than just a place to receive food—it's a lifeline that ensures they can put meals on their tables.

However, we are now facing an unprecedented challenge. The expiration of funding from the American Rescue Plan *has left us with a significant budget shortfall*. This crucial funding has been instrumental in sustaining our hunger relief programs and keeping our shelves stocked with essential food items. Without it, our ability to fully serve our community is at risk.

We believe that no one should have to worry about where their next meal will come from. That's why we are turning to you, our dedicated supporters and compassionate neighbors. We need your help to continue providing this vital service to those in need.

Your donation can make an immediate and tangible difference:

- A gift of \$50 can provide a week's worth of groceries for a family of four.
- A gift of \$100 can help us purchase fresh produce to ensure our clients have access to healthy options.
- A gift of \$250 can support our efforts to expand our reach and serve even more families in crisis.

Every contribution, no matter the size, brings us one step closer to ensuring that no one in Wyandotte County goes to bed hungry. Your generosity will directly impact the lives of our neighbors and help us bridge the funding gap left by the end of the American Rescue Plan. Please consider making a donation today.

Together, we can continue to fight hunger and bring hope to our community. Thank you for your unwavering support and kindness.



736 Shawnee Ave. Kansas City, KS 66105

Our life-saving programs depend on YOUR support. Please donate to Cross-Lines today via www.cross-lines.org or mail your donation in the enclosed return envelope. You can help us make a real difference TODAY.

Quick, easy, and
secure donation

