

# Hopeful Horizons

Cross-Lines Community Outreach Monthly Update



April 2024

Hello Susila,

As we embrace the beauty of Spring, we're excited to share our latest news and updates with you in this month's email. April brings with it a special significance as we celebrate **Volunteer Appreciation Month**, a time to honor the incredible individuals who dedicate their time and energy to making a difference in the lives of others. Join us as we express our heartfelt gratitude to our amazing volunteers and highlight their invaluable contributions to our mission!

Read on to discover the latest happenings and how you can get involved in spreading hope and compassion throughout our community. **Let's make this April one to remember!**

Kindly,  
Kelly and the Cross-Lines Team

*Do you have suggestions for what you'd like to see in this monthly email? Share your ideas!*

Contact Kelly Gough Moran: [kelly@cross-lines.org](mailto:kelly@cross-lines.org).

*I'd love to hear from you!*

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# February Service Numbers



Urban Plunge KCK in the Market



**Market Visits: 1,121**  
**Households served: 1,100**



**Meals served: 4,273**



**Bills Paid: \$3,642**  
**Outreach Contacts: 89**  
**People Housed: 3**



**Volunteer Hours: 989**

# April Volunteer Spotlight

**Romona Robson  
& Judy Lofflin**



**Q. How long have you been volunteering at Cross-Lines?**

**A.** We have been volunteering together at Cross-Lines for 4 years. We started at the Christmas store. Previously, we worked together at Wyandotte High School and started volunteering together at Cross-Lines after a recommendation from a colleague.

**Q. What do you love most about volunteering at Cross-Lines?**

**A.** We love the experiences we have working with clients, staff, and other volunteers. While volunteering at the market we've seen former students, which makes us very happy. And we love working with the staff and other volunteers. They are fantastic. We love the set-up of the

market and how it prioritizes dignity and choice.

Romona: "It feels good to help people, and here, it's an easy way to help. We help them [clients/customers] read their cards to understand how much food they can get. I appreciate the patience and kindness of the staff. Cross-Lines is an amazing place to be."

**Q. Where can we usually find you volunteering?**

A. I (Romona) volunteer at Cross-Lines, my church, Camp Fire, and voting centers during election season. I (Judy) only volunteer with Cross-Lines, usually at the Market and the Christmas store.

**Q. What do you like to do in your spare time?**

A. Romona: I like to read. I used to be an English Teacher.

A. Judy: I love to garden.

**Q. If you had a superpower, what would it be?**

A. Romona: I would change the world so there would be no poverty or homelessness.

**Q. Which KC BBQ is best?**

A. Judy: Woodyard!

**Thank you, Judy and Romona! We appreciate YOU!**

*If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Manager of Community Engagement, Kitana Lemus (Kitana@cross-lines.org) or visit <https://www.cross-lines.org/how-to-help/volunteer.html>*

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## Good Deeds Day is April 14th!

Good Deeds Day is an annual day that is celebrated across the world, by more than 100 countries. It is a day to unite people spreading kindness to others and the planet.

Here is a list of a few ideas you can do with Cross-Lines or on your own! We hope you feel inspired to take on a good deed and remember that you can spread kindness on *any* day of the year.



1. Gather a group of friends to create hygiene kits or non-perishable lunch bags that can be given to individuals experiencing homelessness
2. Donate to one of your favorite non-profit organizations
3. Volunteer at a local community kitchen
4. Organize a neighborhood clean-up with family or friends
5. Encourage friends to volunteer at Cross-Lines'
6. Provide 3-5 items from Cross-Lines' Needs List

**Enjoy your day and shine bright!**

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## April Market Support

**To support the Market, we are collecting DIAPERS this month!**

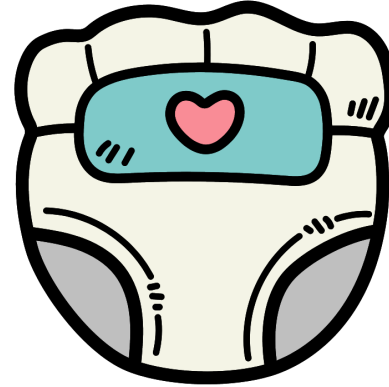
As you know, many who are struggling in our community are often caring for others and the cost of essential hygiene items continues to rise.

We invite you to bring in your donation of diapers (any size) or other essential hygiene items to spread the love and compassion each and every person deserves!

**Stop by The Market any time in April to drop off your contribution.**

□ *Want to collect a larger amount at work or school? Let us know, and we can supply a bin (while supplies last) for your group's efforts.* □

**DIAPERS NEEDED!**



**FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS**

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## Mission Moment

**"I didn't know where to start."**

Don\*, a veteran in his late 50's, lost his housing and had been staying with friends and sleeping in his car for over a year. He struggled with social anxiety and other health challenges. The situation seemed hopeless.

Don knew that he could get a meal at Cross-Lines, but he didn't realize he could find help in other ways, too. One day last month, Don met Vanessa, Cross-Lines' Outreach Navigator, in the Community Kitchen. As Vanessa learned more about Don's situation, it became apparent that he had several options for accessing help that he wasn't aware of. At Don's request, Vanessa jumped into action, referring him to several programs who provided assistance to veterans and people with the same challenges Don was grappling with.

Within days, Don was enrolled in a mental health support program, was working with a case manager to access his VA benefits, and was connected to an emergency shelter housing program. Vanessa kept in constant contact with Don, ensuring he could make it to his appointments, navigate required paperwork, and move forward with finding permanent housing.

**Not only is Don not sleeping in his car anymore, he has hope for the first time in years.**

"I wake up thankful every day. I think to myself, 'I can do this'. I'm getting better."

*Thanks to supporters like you, Don is safe and looking forward to a healthier and happier life.*

\*Name changed to protect the privacy of those we serve



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## 2024 Events

Legacy Breakfast

Wednesday, May 22nd



We are excited to return to **The Vox Theater** for the second annual Cross-Lines Legacy Breakfast!

**Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 22nd, at 8am!**

We will gather to share a delicious meal and honor the outstanding legacy of Cross-Lines, our supporters, volunteers, and community partners. We hope to see you there!

**Tickets on sale NOW!**  
**Sponsorships are available.**

**Get Tickets to The  
Breakfast**

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## **Gala for Hope 2024** *Friday, September 27th, 2024*

Clear your calendar for the last Friday in September because we will be seeing YOU at The View at Briarcliff once 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, silent and live auctions, and inspiring stories of Cross-Lines' impact on our community.

**We hope to see you there for a beautiful evening of supporting Cross-Lines and making a BIG difference. Make sure you bring your dancing shoes!**

**Sponsorships available NOW! Contact [kelly@cross-lines.org](mailto:kelly@cross-lines.org) for more information!**



**Learn more about Gala for  
Hope**

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## **Cross-Lines Values and Guiding Principles**

**Collaboration:** We actively collaborate with partners to maximize our impact in addressing poverty and social inequality.

Learn more here: <https://www.cross-lines.org/who-we-are/our-values-and-principles.html>



Support Our Work

Volunteer

Learn More

# CROSS • LINES

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## COMMUNITY OUTREACH, INC.



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