

NEWSLINES OF *Hope*

Cross-Lines Community Outreach Newsletter

Hope Shines Bright: Gala Breaks Fundraising Record with Unprecedented Support



Gala for Hope Surpasses Fundraising Goal, Thanks to Generous Sponsors and Community Support

In a remarkable evening filled with hope and compassion, Gala for Hope 2023 achieved an extraordinary milestone by raising an astonishing \$251,024 for our noble cause. The event, held at the beautiful View at Briarcliff, brought together a community of dedicated supporters, sponsors, and community partners, all united by a common goal: to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need.

One of the key factors behind Gala for Hope's unprecedented success was the unwavering support of its generous sponsors. Leading the charge were Platinum Sponsors, **True North Hotels**, **Niagara Water**, and **Kansas City Steak**, whose commitment to the cause is truly remarkable. We are truly grateful to these companies for partnering with Cross-Lines and working to bring an end to hunger and homelessness in our community!



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One of the evening's highlights was an incredible short film by Geered Up Films highlighting Cross-Lines' current work and long history of supporting Wyandotte County.

Eileen, a single mother who has received crucial assistance from Cross-Lines, shared the impact that Cross-Lines has had on her life. "I didn't know that my life could be different... My recovery has held a very strong foundation because of Cross-Lines' support. If Cross-Lines wasn't here, I know our community wouldn't be as strong as it is," Eileen states in the film. You can see it now on our homepage, www.cross-lines.org.



As the night unfolded, the silent and live auctions exceeded all expectations, with attendees bidding generously on an array of unique items and experiences. The overwhelming support from the community transformed these auctions into a resounding success, contributing significantly to the overall fundraising achievement.



We would like to express our gratitude to every sponsor, attendee, and community member who participated in this monumental accomplishment. This year's Gala for Hope was a testament to the incredible power of a united community. We are profoundly grateful for the unwavering support we have received, and we look forward to channeling this momentum into even more significant positive change.



In a world that often feels divided, Gala for Hope serves as a shining example of what can be achieved when individuals, businesses, and community members come together with a shared vision. **This year's record-breaking success will undoubtedly pave the way for even greater impact, as hope continues to light the path towards a brighter future for all.**

Sponsor Spotlight



We'd like to give a special shoutout and big **THANK YOU** to our newest Local Hero sponsor, Advantage Metals Recycling.

Advantage Metals Recycling stepped up to push our proceeds over the edge when we were just short of our super-stretch goal for the Gala. Their commitment to our community is admirable. Advantage employs many of our neighbors, operates honestly, and gives back in many ways, including partnering with numerous local non-profits to help improve the lives of those living and working in the metro.

We are grateful for this new partnership and look forward to working together in the future!

If you or your company are interested in learning more about becoming a Local Hero Sponsor, please reach out to Kelly Gough Moran: kelly@cross-lines.org

Legacy Breakfast Honors Dedicated Volunteers, Companies, and Supporters in Heartfelt Celebration



The much-anticipated Cross-Lines Legacy Breakfast unfolded at The Vox Theater with heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for our community in August. The first annual gathering was a touching tribute to the dedicated volunteers, steadfast companies, and loyal long-time supporters who have always been the backbone of Cross-Lines' success.

As attendees shared stories of their contributions and celebrated their unwavering commitment, it was evident that the spirit of giving and hope is the bedrock upon which our mission thrives.

The Legacy Breakfast served as a reminder of the enduring impact that these remarkable individuals and organizations have had on furthering our mission, inspiring us all to continue striving for a brighter and more hopeful future. We are already looking forward to next year!

Upcoming: The 2023 Cross-Lines Christmas Store

The Cross-Lines Christmas Store returns in 2023 and continues a heartwarming initiative that brings joy and hope to families in Wyandotte County who may otherwise struggle to provide Christmas gifts for their loved ones.

This remarkable program embodies the spirit of giving and underscores the power of community support. The store is divided into several departments, each thoughtfully designed to cater to the diverse needs of the families it serves. From gift cards that offer choice and flexibility to housewares that bring comfort and utility, and from a wide selection of toys that light up children's faces to a department filled with essential food items to ensure festive meals, the Cross-Lines Christmas Store provides a one-stop solution to make the holiday season special for those in need.

What makes the Cross-Lines Christmas Store genuinely remarkable is the dedication of its volunteers, who come from supporting churches in the community. These volunteers selflessly give their time and effort to ensure the store runs smoothly and efficiently. Their unwavering commitment keeps the shelves stocked and creates a warm and welcoming atmosphere for families who visit. It's a true testament to the community's unity and compassion, where people come together to make a positive impact on the lives of others during the most wonderful time of the year. **The Cross-Lines Christmas Store is a shining example of how collective goodwill and shared efforts can transform the holiday season into a time of abundance, joy, and togetherness for all.**

The Christmas Store plans to serve 400 Wyandotte County families this year.

Interested in supporting The Christmas Store? We are accepting Wal-Mart gift cards in increments of \$20, cash, or checks to support gifts for families.

Christmas Store Schedule: Monday, Dec. 4th-Saturday, Dec. 9th. (Shopping by appointment only)

Note: The Community Market will be closed during the week of the Christmas Store operation.



Program Updates: Jan-Sep 2023

MARKET

The Community Market continues to be a vital resource for those struggling with food insecurity in our community. The Market provides respectful and dignified service to our shoppers and culturally diverse food options.

Shopper Visits:
13,937

KITCHEN

The Community Kitchen provides hot breakfast, lunch, and take-away sack lunches to anyone who needs a meal. The Kitchen also serves as a community gathering place, providing stability to those seeking it.

Meals provided:
48,324

HOUSING

Cross-Lines' Rent and Utility Assistance program serves families and individuals at risk of losing their housing or access to utilities. Often, participants have experienced a crisis and have nowhere else to turn.

Bills Paid: 359
Total Assistance:
\$199,070

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are incredibly important to Cross-Lines. Whether from faith communities, corporate offices, or community groups, we appreciate and celebrate all of the amazing people committed to supporting the people we serve.

Volunteer Hours:
13,725

Cross-Lines' Ongoing Commitments

Expanding food distribution programs: Increasing the frequency and reach of food distribution efforts to ensure that no individual or family goes hungry. Collaborating with local partners, farms, and food banks to maximize the resources available.

Advocating for affordable housing policies: We are working with local government officials and other housing organizations to promote the development of affordable housing options in our community. We strongly encourage the implementation of fair housing policies and rent control measures to safeguard vulnerable individuals from homelessness and displacement.

Strengthening community partnerships: We continue to forge stronger alliances with local businesses, faith-based organizations, and community leaders to establish a comprehensive support network. By combining efforts and resources, we can make a more significant impact and create sustainable solutions for our community.

Increasing awareness and fundraising efforts: We continue to promote public awareness to educate the community about the challenges faced by those in need. We organize fundraising events, seek corporate sponsorships, and engage in grant writing to secure the necessary financial resources to expand and sustain our programs.

2023 Cross-Lines Award Honorees



Margaret Ackley Legacy of Hope Award

This year, the Margaret Ackley Legacy of Hope award was presented to **The Wiens Family** for their remarkable dedication to Cross-Lines. Lew and Susan Wiens have been fervent supporters for over 30 years, not only as leading individual backers but also through Lew's company, **True North Hotel Group**, which has consistently been a leading corporate supporter. They've actively volunteered their time at Cross-Lines, with Lew previously serving on the Board of Directors and assisting with meals.

The spirit of service and philanthropy has been passed on to their son and daughter-in-law, Brad and Lisa Wiens, who continue to uphold the tradition through True North's generous support and Lisa's tenure on the Board of Directors. The entire family, including their children and grandchildren, actively engage in volunteering at Cross-Lines, further enriching their commitment to philanthropy. **Their legacy of service extends beyond their family, touching the lives of countless individuals, and they are undoubtedly exemplary champions in every sense.** Thank you to the Wiens family for your unwavering support!

Legacy Breakfast Award Honorees



Don Bakely
Humanitarian Award-
Char Charette



Kris Illum Emerging
Leader Award-
James Martin,
Iziah Ferguson,
Trevor Spratz



Helping Hands
Appreciation Award-
Synchrony Bank,
Old Mission UMC



Volunteer Service
Appreciation Award-
Pastor Gary Roellchen



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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

