



CROSS • LINES
COMMUNITY OUTREACH, INC.

2023 Impact Report



www.cross-lines.org



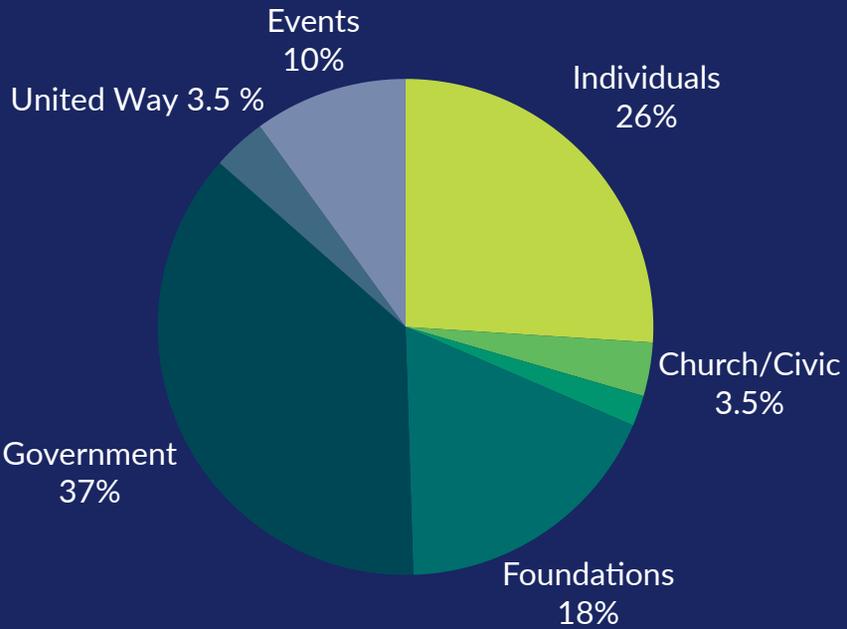
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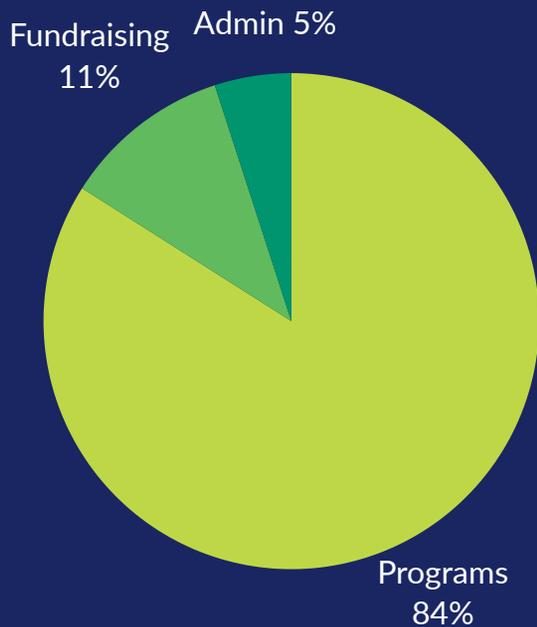
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Charting Progress: Reflections from Our Executive Director

2023 Revenue: \$2,658,068*



2023 Expenditures: \$2,374,485*



*Unaudited Financials

Dear friend,

On behalf of Cross-Lines Community Outreach, I sincerely thank you for your generous support for our organization and our community.

Whether it's a warm meal, a safe place to sleep for someone experiencing homelessness, or access to vital health and financial resources, your donation has made a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals and families in Wyandotte County.

Poverty, hunger, and homelessness are complex issues that require comprehensive solutions. Your support enables us to address not only the immediate needs of those we serve but also to work toward sustainable solutions to uplift our community.

With your support we have increased our impact in the community.

We have expanded our hunger relief programs to ensure that our neighbors do not have to go without a meal. Our enhanced homeless outreach services help address and alleviate the barriers facing people experiencing homelessness and provide continued support as people move from homelessness into permanent housing. As we continue our work, **we invite you to stay engaged with our organization and the impact your generosity helps to achieve.**

Whether through volunteering your time, spreading awareness about our cause, or further financial support, your continued involvement is invaluable to our success. **Once again, thank you for your unwavering support of Cross-Lines.**

With
gratitude,

Susila Jones
Executive
Director



The Difference We Make Together



Providing critical support. Leo*, a former employee of the Cold Weather Shelter and an individual with lived experience of homelessness, found invaluable support through Cross-Lines. Navigator Katie was crucial in helping Leo access the Medicare Savings Program, providing him with essential healthcare assistance. Cross-Lines' commitment to assisting vulnerable individuals like Leo addresses immediate needs and empowers them to navigate complex systems and improve their quality of life. By facilitating access to vital resources, Cross-Lines ensures that individuals facing homelessness or other challenges receive the assistance they need to rebuild their lives.

Richard didn't think help was available to him. When our Outreach Navigator, Vanessa, met Richard (45), he had been living outside for several years. He didn't trust anyone offering to help. Eventually, Vanessa was able to build a relationship with Richard through consistently showing up, proving to him that Cross-Lines' offer wasn't going anywhere. First, Vanessa helped Richard regain his legal identification documents. After a few months, Richard agreed it was time to find a safer place to live. With Vanessa's help, Richard is now in a safe living situation and is able to look for stable employment.



Thank you, Cross-Lines: "To Everyone Involved with the Medicine Cabinet (now Access KC), allow me to express my deepest gratitude for giving me back the ability to hear as well as see properly again. These are the most wonderful Christmas gifts I could have possibly gotten this holiday season. No one wants a forklift driver that can't see. The door to a real life has been opened and I intend to walk right through it. I'll see you when I get there. And I won't miss you because I'll hear you coming." -Matt, 55
Through our partnership with Access KC, Navigator Markie helped Matt receive eyeglasses and hearing aids, allowing him to resume steady work.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Cross-Lines Community Outreach, I extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support throughout 2023. Your generosity has been instrumental in achieving remarkable milestones, allowing us to make a meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve. Together, we have witnessed incredible accomplishments that have strengthened our community and brought hope to those in need.

Thank you for being champions of positive change.

-Kristina Belshe, Board Chair

Hunger Relief

17,305 Visits to the Market

Cross-Lines' Hunger Relief programs play a crucial role in supporting individuals and families facing food insecurity in Wyandotte County.

The utilization of the Community Market saw another significant surge throughout 2023, serving as direct evidence of the growing demand within our community and underscoring the effectiveness of the Market's respectful and dignified approach to its operations.

Cross-Lines is proud of the strides we've made in our innovative market model. Each person who visits The Market is greeted and welcomed to shop at their own pace while choosing just the right food (including meat, dairy, and fresh produce) and products for their family.

62,376 Meals Served

In addition to the Market, Cross-Lines' Community Kitchen provides warm breakfasts, lunches, and sack lunches for takeaway to the community every weekday. **Anyone needing a meal can rely on Cross-Lines for support from Monday to Friday.** Thanks to the generosity of our community and volunteers, we can ensure that thousands of individuals in need receive a hot and nutritious meal.

The Community Kitchen not only provides meals but also a safe and welcoming community gathering space. Often, a person's first experience with Cross-Lines is through the Kitchen. Our Navigators are able to share in that safe space with our guests and create relationships that can lead to connections to an array of services in and outside of Cross-Lines.



Housing Stabilization

\$281,019 in Rent and Utility Assistance

The challenges of homelessness and the lack of affordable housing pose significant obstacles for individuals in Wyandotte County. Cross-Lines' Housing Team is dedicated to creating avenues toward secure housing for those facing homelessness, housing instability, or financial strain.

Our team of case managers prioritizes identifying appropriate resources for our clients, emphasizing whole-person care, addressing immediate relief of presenting needs, health & well-being, and devising strategies for achieving lasting financial stability.

Throughout 2023, our community witnessed a notable escalation in demand for assistance. As many federal COVID-era aid initiatives ended, a record number of individuals sought support from Cross-Lines.

61 People Moved into Stable Housing

Thanks to your generosity, the Cross-Lines Housing team successfully provided aid in covering over 500 rent and utility payments while facilitating the transition of 61 formerly unsheltered households into permanent housing.

Your contributions prevented numerous families from slipping through the cracks, ensuring that a single late rent or utility payment did not result in homelessness for hundreds of households. Your support also played a vital role in aiding families during medical emergencies, sudden job loss, or unexpected vehicle breakdowns.

“Cross-Lines helped me pay our light bill when my son had a medical emergency. Thanks to you, our lights stayed on and I could care for my family without having to worry too much.” -Danielle, 38





Collaboration

KCK Cold Weather Shelter

Alongside numerous partner agencies, Cross-Lines took the lead in operating the 2022-2023 KCK Cold Weather Shelter. This collaborative initiative offered vital sanctuary to individuals experiencing homelessness in Wyandotte County during the harshest of weather conditions.

2022-2023 Season Stats:

- Open 28 nights; met capacity of 40 people on 17 nights
- Sheltered 234 unique guests

- 12 guests connected to permanent housing
- 84 guests connected to supportive services



Street Outreach

On a weekly basis, Cross-Lines, the KCK Police Department, and collaborators from the Wyandot Behavioral Health Network unite to conduct street outreach, endeavoring to contact our homeless neighbors in their current locations. Street outreach personnel listen attentively to individuals experiencing homelessness, provide links to essential services, and convey that there are compassionate individuals who genuinely care about them, irrespective of their circumstances or history. **In 2023, our team made 400+ unique contacts and worked to provide assistance to everyone who accepted it.**

WYCO Housing Summit

Housing advocates, community development professionals, and other stakeholders gathered to focus on strategies to increase safe and affordable housing options in Wyandotte County, Kansas. Organized by Cross-Lines' Rachel Russell and hosted by the Wyandotte County Safe and Affordable Housing Action Team, the 5th annual Housing Summit highlighted organizations working to address the community's affordable housing needs.



Volunteers



20,733

Hours



2,090

People



\$659,310

Labor

2023 was a record year for volunteers! Every day, Cross-Lines volunteers embody kindness, generosity, and tenacity, inspiring hope for a brighter tomorrow, where financial struggles and food insecurity are relics of the past.

Volunteers from diverse backgrounds, spanning all ages and ethnicities, dedicated their time to support Cross-Lines and our community throughout 2023.

We are immensely thankful for the fantastic spirit of giving within our community of heroes. In 2024, we eagerly anticipate welcoming new volunteers and embracing the return of those who continue to uphold Cross-Lines' enduring legacy of hope.

"It started as a sort of 'audit' process to verify and understand where our donation dollars were going. As you observe the efforts and learn the values of the organization, its people, and its beneficiaries, it seems natural to be a part of the process.

*At Cross-Lines, I feel comfortable with the team; they are patient with my learning and very appreciative of my efforts. **My life experiences are more informed, more diversified, and I like that. I feel like I make a difference.**"* -Jack, Board Member and volunteer



WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER



COMMUNITY KITCHEN
62,376 meals



RENT AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE
\$281,019



COMMUNITY MARKET
17,305 visits



KC MEDICINE CABINET
110 vouchers



MONTHLY COMMODITIES
12,155 boxes



BASIC NEEDS
3,118 showers



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
2,090 volunteers



TIME VOLUNTEERED
20,733 hours

2023 Board of Directors:

Kristina Belshe- Chair
Bill Magee- Vice Chair

Jack Podoll- Secretary
Jon Gossman- Treasurer

Sheyvette Dinkens
Jackie Lynn

Josh Shelton
Jessica Smith