

NEWSLINES OF *Hope*

Cross-Lines Community Outreach Newsletter

Hunger Crisis in Wyandotte County



Community Market Serves over 1,100 Households in April

As the line of shoppers stretched out the door of the Community Market on a recent Tuesday morning, we were reminded just how much the Market means to our neighbors. Rising housing, energy, and food prices have left many residents of Wyandotte County living with the stress of not being able to make it to the next paycheck with enough to eat. Many utilizing the Market are doing so for the first time.

"The Market is seeing unprecedented levels of need. Some days we are serving well over 100 households", says Executive Director Susila Jones. **"There is a hunger crisis in Wyandotte County, and we are doing all we can to stem the tide."**

Prices have not only risen at the grocery store for our neighbors but have risen for Cross-Lines as well. Despite food donations from various sources and working to find the best deals from local vendors, during the first quarter of 2023, Cross-Lines spent over \$50,000 on food for the Market. With rising needs, our costs are going up as well. We are actively planning for ways to keep the Market funded and to continue providing this vital service to residents of Wyandotte County.

As always, individual donations play a huge role in sustaining the Market for our neighbors in need, and we thank you for your continued support. If you'd like to help, please donate today.

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24 Pallets of Food and Hygiene Items

In late April, Cross-Lines received an unprecedented donation of food and hygiene items from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. On the recommendation of Governor Laura Kelly and coordinated by the Church of Jesus Christ Greater Kansas City, a full semi-trailer of donated food and goods arrived at Cross-Lines' doorstep.

Representatives from the church toured Cross-Lines' campus to see our programs in action.

After touring the Community Kitchen, the Market, warehouse, and offices, Michele Stitt, Community Outreach Leader for the church said later, "It was great to see in person the many ways you are lifting our neighbors in Wyandotte County. Wishing you continued success and inspiration in your service!"

Cross-Lines is grateful for the support of organizations that share our values of collaboration and community support. When we work together, good things happen!

**Want to help? Donate online and earmark your gift
"Community Market."**



Advocacy Efforts for a Better Kansas



March was a busy month for Cross-Lines and our advocacy efforts to fight for a more just and better Kansas.

Cross-Lines leaders and staff traveled to Topeka, KS, to speak against passing harmful House Bill 2430 at a Kansas Legislature committee meeting. Director of Programs Rob Santel and Director of Community Engagement Rachel Russell spoke passionately against passing the bill that would have criminalized homelessness and put far more stress on non-profit organizations and local governments battling homelessness. Ultimately, the bill did not move forward this session but is expected to come up again in a future session. Cross-Lines is proud to stand with residents and organizations from across the state in opposition to harmful legislation.



In addition to speaking in committee, Cross-Lines staff traveled to Topeka again in March to join Governor Kelly and state congressional leaders in a rally to support the expansion of Medicaid. Polls show that 8 in 10 Kansans support Medicaid expansion, and research proves that expanding will not cost the state or residents more money. Kansas is one of only ten states that has not expanded Medicaid coverage. This leaves millions of people in a coverage gap because they fall into the income level that makes them eligible but can not access coverage due to failure to expand. We see people at Cross-Lines every day suffering from physical and mental health issues that Medicaid expansion could relieve.



We will keep working for them and ask you to join us in calling for much-needed reforms to help the most vulnerable in our community.

Program Updates

Housing
140 bills

paid Jan-April to avoid utility disconnection or loss of housing

Hunger
4,522 visits
to the Community Market Jan- April 2023

Seasonal
1,193 nights
total bed-occupancy over the course of the Cold Weather Shelter

Upcoming Events



Do you want to help support the breakfast?
Sponsorships available!
Contact Kelly to get involved! Kelly@cross-lines.org

Legacy Breakfast

Tuesday, August 29th

8:00-10:00 am

The Vox Theatre

Join us to celebrate Cross-Lines' six-decade-long legacy of helping those in poverty find a way out. For 60 years, Cross-Lines has been a beacon of hope in our community. It's time to celebrate!

Tickets on sale now!

Visit www.cross-lines.org/news-events to learn more!

Gala for Hope 2023

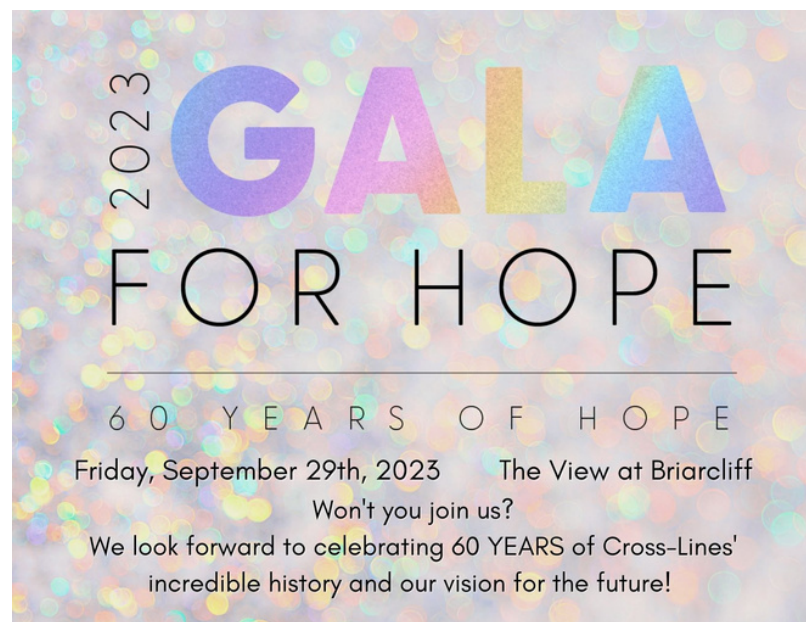
It's our biggest fundraiser of the year! We hope you'll join us to celebrate 60 years with Cross-Lines' faithful supporters, volunteers, and sponsors for a unique and sparkling party at The View!

As always, there will be a beautiful plated dinner, open bar, silent auction, live auction, and inspiring stories of hope and triumph.

Tickets on sale SOON!

Visit www.cross-lines.org/news-events

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Reach out to Kelly Gough Moran: Kelly@cross-line.org



There is Always Hope: Julio Finds a Home

One of the many positive results of the 2022-23 KCK Cold Weather Shelter is that it introduced Cross-Lines to many more people struggling with being unhoused. **One of those people was Julio.**

Cross-Lines met Julio, 67, on a frigid night at the Shelter this past winter. The shy, Spanish-speaking Cuban refugee lived on the street for several years after losing his housing and personal documents. Though he speaks little English, our Community Resource Navigator, Vanessa (who is bilingual), was able to learn more about his history. Vanessa invited Julio to Cross-Lines to work with him to find a way out of his current predicament. **Julio shared with Vanessa that he was hopeless- frustrated by the red tape** and challenging nature of obtaining paperwork that would allow him to apply for housing, jobs, and social security benefits. Julio has been a legal resident of the US for over four decades, yet minor missteps with his belongings and a language barrier led to living on the street.

Vanessa worked tirelessly with Julio to follow the steps to obtain his legal paperwork and gain solid footing in his life again. Luckily, Julio still had access to his government ID. The problem was with his immigration paperwork. His documents, which prove he is a legal resident, were expired and needed to be renewed. To obtain new documentation, Julio had to participate in a meeting with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). As you can imagine, Julio was terrified. He had terrible experiences with immigration authorities in the past and was scared of being misunderstood and possibly taken into custody or even deported. It was understandable. **Despite Julio's hesitation, Cross-Lines was determined to walk alongside him on his journey and overcome the barriers.** With Vanessa's support, Julio made it through the meeting and obtained renewed immigration paperwork. Successfully getting his immigration documentation was not the only challenge of navigating a highly complex system. Vanessa shared that even having a productive meeting at the Social Security office was highly challenging, having to confront rudeness, apparent racism, and unnecessary red tape.



If Cross-Lines had not been there, Julio would have undoubtedly become frustrated and perhaps given up on the whole thing. **Not to be deterred, the Cross-Lines team pressed on, helping Julio navigate the process,** renewing his immigration paperwork, and eventually obtaining his social security card, despite the challenges of a system not constructed to support the people that need it the most.

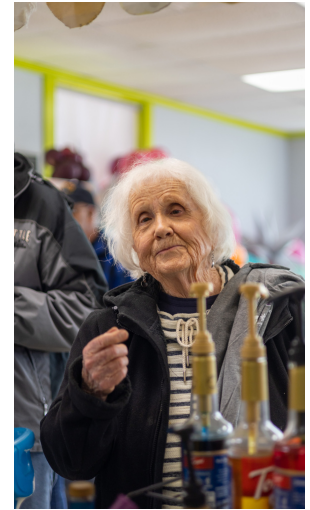
Julio didn't give up, and Cross-Lines didn't either. Soon after he obtained his updated legal documents, Vanessa connected him to another organization with a transitional housing program. Julio now has a safe and dependable place to rest for the first time in years. Shalom House will provide Julio with a residence for one year to heal, learn new skills, and ultimately transition to permanent housing.

For 60 years and to this day, Cross-Lines has been supporting folks who the system has beaten down, who need a hand overcoming challenges to make it to a place where they can support themselves and their loved ones. *This work saves lives.*

It's because of supporters like YOU that this work is possible.

With your incredible support, we look forward to sharing more stories like Julio's in the future.

Cross-Lines Volunteer Appreciation Party



WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS so we threw them a party! Volunteers attended a super fun appreciation luncheon in April featuring food from local food trucks, sweet treats, raffles, and Cross-Lines goodies. It was wonderful to come together on the weekend, socialize, celebrate, and show our appreciation and love for all our volunteers do for Cross-Lines daily.

YOU are the reason Cross-Lines can do what we do, and we are so THANKFUL!

Interested in joining in on the fun? Reach out to Roxanne: Roxanne@cross-lines.org



60 Years of Hunger, Housing, and Hope

Written for a retrospective in 1993, the following perfectly summarizes Cross-Lines' humble beginnings. Little did they know at the time, but Cross-Lines would go on to touch thousands of lives over the next six decades!

1963: It could have been another poverty agency, but the genius of Cross-Lines was in two factors: its willingness to be flexible and the integration of the poor and affluent. In the early 1960s, a group of clergy and lay people began to explore the possibility of a team effort in dealing with poverty. They came from two neighborhoods: Roanoke in Kansas City, Missouri, and Rosedale in Kansas City, Kansas.

Early records are sketchy, but what written records exist show these pastors as being some of those involved: -Rev. Stan Bohn, Rainbow Boulevard Mennonite Church. -Rev. Maurice Culver, Rosedale Methodist Church, -Rev. Marion Moyes, Roanoke Presbyterian Church. -Rev. Don Anderson, Rosedale Christian Church.

As has always been the way of Cross-Lines, these founders looked around their neighborhoods to see who was already helping the poor. They began working with Rev. "Pop" Knoche, pastor of the Loyalty Mission Chapel, a small storefront church serving the poor. Working with him, they learned the needs of the community and honed in on a purpose. They began calling on other churches and groups to help them begin the programs they felt were needed, including those from urban, suburban and rural areas. Because several other sections of the city wanted to be included, the geographical focus was expanded to all of Kansas City, Kansas, south of Interstate 70, and the Roanoke and Westport section of Kansas City, Missouri. Staffing was strictly part-time, by Rev. Bohn and Phyllis Beamer.

Cross-Lines Is Born

It came time to establish a formal group. On May 6, 1965, the Cross-Lines Cooperative Council was incorporated. Shortly thereafter, on June 15, 1965, the Rev. Donald C. Bakely arrived to become Cross-Lines' Executive Director. *...More in the next NewsLines!*



FLASHBACK! In 1963:

A postage stamp: \$0.05	A gallon of gas: \$0.30
Four lbs of carrots: \$0.29	Median monthly rent: \$70
A dozen eggs: \$0.55	A year of college tuition: \$100



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

