

NEWSLINES OF *Hope*

Cross-Lines Community Outreach Newsletter

Cross-Lines Community Outreach Triumph: Unhoused Resident Finds Hope and a New Home

Leslie and Romeo*, who were previously living outdoors, now have a place to call home thanks to the dedicated efforts of our community.*

An important portion of Cross-Lines’ work focuses on the arduous but rewarding process of assisting those experiencing homelessness in securing safe and secure living conditions. This past late-November, in a collaborative effort including Alice of Angel Hearts Rescue, Inc., Vanessa and Rob from Cross-Lines, along with friends Jim, Jennifer, and Josh, we successfully transitioned Leslie and her pet dog, Romeo, from their camp in the woods to a warm and sheltered home, equipped with essential amenities like heat and lights.

Navigating the challenges of finding suitable accommodations for unhoused individuals becomes even more complex when they have beloved animal companions, underscoring the persistent obstacles faced by individuals like Leslie and Romeo in their journey toward stable living conditions. Despite facing cold and rainy conditions that afternoon, the joy of helping secure a new beginning for Leslie and Romeo prevailed. During the relocation process, Romeo, overwhelmed with happiness, energetically ran back and forth, becoming a symbol of the positive impact made by Cross-Lines and our partners.

Leslie’s determination and resourcefulness, the dedication and advocacy of our staff, along with the supportive involvement of Angel Hearts, all played crucial roles in facilitating this significant change.

This heartfelt effort emphasizes the importance of our community’s support, collaborative initiatives, and the enduring commitment of Cross-Lines Community Outreach to improve the lives of those in need.

*Names changed to protect the privacy of our neighbors



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Annual Christmas Store Spreads Joy to Nearly 400 Families, Fueled by Community Support

Cross-Lines Community Outreach successfully organized its annual Christmas Store from December 4th to 9th, 2023, leaving a lasting impact on nearly 400 low-income families with children.

The Christmas Store, a cornerstone event for Cross-Lines, aimed to spread joy and alleviate the burdens those in need face during the holiday season. Generosity overflowed as the outreach program provided an array of essential items, including food, toys, household items, and gift cards. These offerings not only brought cheer to families but also addressed practical needs, creating a brighter Christmas for all involved. Central to the success of the Christmas Store was the unwavering support from long-serving congregations and compassionate individuals like you. The collaboration of dedicated volunteers, donors, and community members made it possible to extend a helping hand to those facing economic challenges during the festive season.



The event exemplified the true spirit of giving, fostering a sense of community and compassion. Cross-Lines Community Outreach continues to stand as a beacon of hope, showcasing the positive impact that collective efforts can have on the lives of those in challenging circumstances. As we reflect on this year's Christmas Store, the enduring commitment of the Cross-Lines community shines brightly, reminding us all of the power of coming together to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.



Program Partner Spotlight



Health Forward Foundation awards \$125,000 grant to support Housing Stabilization Program Efforts

Cross-Lines was awarded \$125,000.00 in funding from the **Health Forward Foundation** to increase capacity within our Housing Stabilization programs. **Increased capacity will allow Cross-Lines to reach more individuals experiencing homelessness, reduce the individual barriers preventing stable housing, and provide ongoing connection to vital wraparound services that facilitate successful housing once housed.**

Cross-Lines plans to hire a peer support worker to assist our Community Resource Navigators within the Cross-Lines Homeless Outreach program and the new Cross-Lines Permanent Housing program, which will become operational in the second half of 2024. The new peer support worker will build relationships with clients, engage with the

overarching community, and establish working relationships with community partners. The new Permanent Housing program aims to provide permanent housing for individuals in Wyandotte County experiencing unsheltered homelessness and ensure they are connected to vital supportive services such as document assistance, health & benefits navigation, behavioral health & substance use treatment, food access, and income resources.

Funding from the Health Forward Foundation will ensure that all crucial program components, including all technology needs of the new Permanent Housing program, are in place, guaranteeing a smooth transition to the start of a new Cross-Lines Housing Stabilization program.

We are so grateful the incredible support!

KCK Cold Weather Shelter Provides Warmth for WYCO Unhoused Community

Sleeping on the street is never safe. Sleeping on the street when temperatures fall below freezing can be deadly.



- Location: 550 State Ave, KCKS
- Open 6pm-8am when temperatures fall below 25 degrees
- Shelter Hotline:
 - (913) 214-1104

Together with many partner agencies and Wyandot Behavioral Health, Cross-Lines operates the KCK Cold Weather Shelter each year. The shelter welcomes unhoused guests on nights when the temperature falls below 25 degrees. (Cont'd next page)

Cold Weather Shelter Cont'd

Welcomed into our shelter each freezing night, individuals receive a warm meal, access to medical services such as COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, and are provided a private space to sleep and store their belongings, safe from brutal winter weather. The shelter ceases operations as planned when the weather warms with the season.

Wyandotte County does not currently have a permanent overnight shelter location. Our unhoused population has nowhere to turn in dire situations like extreme weather, illness, or injury.

Cross-Lines is dedicated to working with the community to find long-term solutions for those experiencing homelessness in Wyandotte County.

Interested in volunteering or supporting the shelter? Visit our website: <https://bit.ly/4bkgxYH>



Save the Date for our 2024 Events!



Legacy Breakfast

Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024

We are excited to return to The Vox Theater for 2024's second annual Cross-Lines Legacy Breakfast! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 22nd, at 8am!

We will gather to share a delicious meal and celebrate the outstanding legacy of Cross-Lines, our supporters, volunteers, and community partners! **See you there?**

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!

For more information about upcoming events: Reach out to Kelly@cross-lines.org

Organizational Values and Guiding Principles

Cross-Lines leadership team, Board, and staff recently gathered to reflect on the past few dynamic years at Cross-Lines. We decided it was time to add some further context to our Mission, to endeavor to explain in writing who we are, what we do, and why we provide services the way we do.

These conversations led to the creation of new Organizational Values and Guiding Principles. We wanted to share what makes Cross-Lines and our community so unique and what beliefs guide our decision-making process, current work, and future.

Values

Inclusion: Cross-Lines Community Outreach values and promotes an inclusive community where everyone feels welcomed and respected.

Dignity and Respect: We treat every individual with dignity and respect, fostering an environment where self-worth is restored.

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

Empowerment: We empower individuals and families to take control of their futures through dedication to life skills and navigation of resource access.

Integrity to Build Trust: We operate at the highest standards of integrity by being transparent, accountable, and ethical in all our actions to build and maintain the trust of our community.



Guiding Principles

Choice: We uphold the principle of choice, recognizing that individuals and families should have the autonomy to make decisions about their lives, ensuring that our programs and services provide options and support informed decision-making.

Hope: Hope is the driving force behind our work. We believe in the transformative power of hope, providing individuals with the inspiration and belief that they can overcome challenges and build brighter futures.

Adaptation/Responsiveness: We are committed to adaptability and responsiveness, continually evolving our programs and services to meet the changing needs of our community, ensuring that we remain agile and effective in our mission.

Advocacy/Justice, System Change: We advocate for social justice and systemic change, actively addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality while advocating for equitable policies that uplift those we serve.

Value Diversity: We value diversity as a fundamental strength, fostering an inclusive environment where diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences are recognized and celebrated, enriching our organization and the communities we serve.

Cross-Lines Community Market Expands to Enhance Shopping Experience

Cross-Lines Community Market is thrilled to announce a significant expansion that will elevate the shopping experience for our valued community members.

The expansion involves utilizing the entire Food Distribution building, allowing us to create a more spacious and welcoming environment for shoppers at every stage of their visit.

In 2023, the Market served 5,376 households and accommodated 17,305 visits, and demand continues to rise.

Expanding the Market entrance will provide a more comfortable and organized space, ensuring a smoother and more enjoyable start to the shopping journey. **This improvement aligns with our commitment to making the Cross-Lines Community Market accessible and user-friendly for everyone.**

As shoppers navigate the market, they will also benefit from additional space. The new layout will accommodate a larger variety of products, making it easier for individuals and families to find the needed items. **Whether it's fresh produce, pantry staples, or household essentials, the new arrangement ensures a more convenient and efficient shopping experience.**



Furthermore, the expansion extends to the exit area, enhancing the overall flow of the market. This improvement adds practical value and creates a more pleasant, stress-free shopping atmosphere. The improved space will make shopping more enjoyable and contribute to a sense of community and belonging.

Together, we are creating a space where everyone can access fresh food and household items in a welcoming environment. Stay tuned for more updates as we work towards providing an even better shopping experience for our community.

As we look forward to the official unveiling of the expanded Cross-Lines Community Market, we invite you to support our work with a donation or by holding a food drive to help keep our shelves full.

Ready to hold a Food Drive in support of the Market? Reach out to Kelly@cross-lines.org



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*

