

NEWSLINES OF *Hope*

Cross-Lines Community Outreach Newsletter

Hope in Action: Gala for Hope's Success Fuels Initiatives to Combat Hunger and Homelessness



On September 27th, Cross-Lines hosted a memorable evening as over 250 supporters gathered for the annual Gala for Hope at The View at Briarcliff.

The night was filled with excitement and community spirit, as attendees came together to make a difference in the lives of those facing poverty, hunger, and homelessness in Wyandotte County.

The event featured a variety of engaging activities, including a wine pull, luxury raffles, a live auction, and an emotional paddle raise. **These efforts culminated in an impressive total of \$236,640 raised to support Cross-Lines' essential programs.**

These contributions will go directly toward providing vital resources such as food assistance, connections to housing, and other services for individuals and families in need.



IN THIS ISSUE

GALA FOR HOPE

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

CHRISTMAS STORE

2024 PROGRAM UPDATES

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

LOOKING AHEAD

Hope in Action: Gala for Hope Cont'd



One of the most moving moments of the evening was the premiere of a special video highlighting the story of Julio, a recipient of Cross-Lines' services. His journey of perseverance and hope resonated deeply with the audience. You can view Julio's inspiring story by scanning the QR code below.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the event sponsors, generous donors, and all who participated in making this night a success. Your commitment ensures that Cross-Lines can continue its vital work, bringing hope and stability to those who need it most!



WATCH Julio's story now 

 See More Gala Photos

Cross-Lines Super Stars: Volunteer Spotlight

Susan and Russ' decade of growing for good



For the past ten years, our amazing neighbors, Susan Clevenger and Dr. Russ King, have been managing a community garden in Wyandotte County, donating all of the produce to the Cross-Lines Community Market. Their dedication has yielded thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables and fruits, helping to feed those in need. In 2021, Susan began volunteering regularly at the Community Market, further strengthening her connection to Cross-Lines. The garden began as a project of the Village West Rotary Club, of which Susan was a member. "We saw an empty plot of land owned by Medical Solutions, a company Russ co-owns with three partners, and thought it would be the perfect place for a community garden," Susan recalls.

The garden was built by an Eagle Scout project and designed to resemble the Rotary Club emblem—a six-spoke wheel. Over the years, the garden has produced an array of crops including squash, tomatoes, onions, potatoes, cucumbers, melons, eggplants, and peppers, delivering 3,300 pounds of fresh produce just last year. Now, the Bonner Springs Rotary Club sponsors the garden while Medical Solutions continues to supply the water.

For Susan, the most rewarding part of managing the garden and working with Cross-Lines is the relationships she's built. "I love volunteering at the Community Market," she says. "The people I work with—staff and shoppers alike—make it a joy. I also help Russ with delivering the produce and step in to manage the garden when he's away."

Russ, who shares a passion for gardening, sees it as both a hobby and a way to stay active.

"Gardening is great exercise and comes with health benefits," he says. In addition to his work with the garden, Russ volunteers with the Boy Scouts, helping with physical and medical missions.

Together, Susan and Russ have made a remarkable impact on our community, combining their love for gardening with a deep commitment to serving those in need. We are grateful for their ongoing generosity and dedication to Cross-Lines!



Giving Hope: The 2024 Cross-Lines Christmas Store



The beloved tradition of the **Cross-Lines Christmas Store** returns in 2024 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. 2nd-Saturday, Dec. 7th. (Shopping by appointment only)

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



Jan-September 2024 Program Updates

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:
11,480

KITCHEN

The Community Kitchen continues to provide 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:
39,690

HOUSING

Cross-Lines' Financial Assistance and Housing Stabilization programs serve families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of losing their housing or access to utilities. Often, participants have experienced a crisis and have nowhere else to turn.

People Housed: 48
Total Assistance:
\$130,297

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are incredibly important to Cross-Lines.

However you connect with Cross-Lines, we appreciate and celebrate all of the amazing people committed to supporting our community. If you have volunteered with Cross-Lines, we appreciate YOU!

Volunteer hours:
10,265

Community Collaboration

Cross-Lines welcomes group effort and donation from NAED conference



In October, we had the incredible support of over 200 enthusiastic volunteers at the National Association of Electrical Distributors (NAED) conference, who came together to pack 1,500 celebration and chili kits for Cross-Lines. These kits will provide warmth, comfort, and nourishment to families in need during the colder months, ensuring that they can share a meal and celebrate together.

As part of the event, attendees also had the opportunity to learn about Cross-Lines' mission and the vital work we do to support the most vulnerable in our community. **The energy and dedication of these volunteers made a tremendous impact, and we are deeply grateful for their hard work and commitment to helping us serve our community with dignity and care.**

Looking Ahead: Cross-Lines' Strategy for 2025

Dear Supporter,

As we move into 2025, Cross-Lines remains steadfast in our mission to provide direct assistance to those in need, especially the most vulnerable members of our community. We are deepening our commitment to serve with dignity and respect, ensuring that every person who walks through our doors feels valued and supported.

To meet the ever-changing needs of our community, Cross-Lines is becoming more nimble in how we deliver our services. This means adapting our programs to respond quickly to emerging challenges, whether it's housing insecurity, food access, or other challenges faced by our neighbors. By streamlining operations and focusing on real-time needs, we can better provide meaningful assistance to those who need it most.

None of this would be possible without our incredible volunteers. They are the heart of Cross-Lines, dedicating their time, energy, and compassion to help us serve the community. In 2025, we will continue expanding opportunities for volunteers to get involved in new and meaningful ways, from working in The Community Market to assisting with special initiatives and events. Their dedication not only enables us to reach more people but also fosters a sense of connection and community that is vital to our mission.

In 2025, mission focus will be at the heart of everything we do. We are strengthening our partnerships with local organizations, government agencies, and community groups to create a network of care that extends beyond our walls to serve our community. Together, we can tackle complex issues with a united approach, amplifying our collective impact.

Our mission remains the same, but our approach is evolving—always with the goal of empowering our neighbors and building a more compassionate community. **We are excited for what's to come and invite you to support us in this journey of hope, service, and respect by volunteering your time or making a recurring monthly gift. Thank you for your ongoing support.**

With gratitude,
Susila and the Cross-Lines Team



CROSS • LINES
COMMUNITY OUTREACH, INC.

736 Shawnee Ave. Kansas City, KS 66105

Our vital programs rely on your generosity.
Make an immediate impact by donating to Cross-Lines today at www.cross-lines.org, or by sending your donation using the enclosed envelope.

Your support helps us change lives every day—join us in making a difference now!

Quick, easy, and secure donation

