

Hopeful Horizons

Cross-Lines Community Outreach Monthly Update

August 2024

Hello Susila,

We hope you are enjoying the winding down of Summer. While it is still very warm out, we are already planning for next season!

This month, we are coming to you with a special request: our Community Market is in urgent need of your support. You can make a difference by donating your time, food, hygiene items, or making a monetary gift. Together, we can continue to provide essential resources to those who need them most. Read on below to learn more.

We are also excited to remind you about a few upcoming events that bring our community together in support of those in need. *Mark your calendars for two significant dates:* **Crossing Paths: Hunger and Housing** at Cross-Lines on August 29th, and **Gala for Hope** on September 27th. Both events promise to be inspiring gatherings, and we encourage you to register now to secure your spot.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and commitment to our mission.

Kindly,
Kelly and the Cross-Lines Team

P.S. Our Directors are looking for opportunities to speak to the community! We'd love to come out and tell your workplace, school, church, or neighborhood group more about Cross-Lines! If you'd like a member of our team to set up a time to visit, please reach out to Director of Development, Kelly Gough Moran: Kelly@cross-lines.org

Questions? Reply to this email or reach out to kelly@cross-lines.org

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June Service Numbers



Associated Wholesale Grocers



Market Visits: 1,040
Households served: 991



Meals served: 4,320



Bills Paid: \$11,607
Outreach Contacts: 102
People Housed: 7



Volunteer Hours: 1,068

August Volunteer Spotlight

Susan Clevenger & Russ King



Hello, Susan and Russ!

Our wonderful neighbors, Susan and Russ, have been managing a community garden in Wyandotte County for ten years and donating all produce that comes from the garden to the Cross-Lines Community Market. Susan started regularly volunteering at the Community Market in 2021.

Q: How did the garden get started?



Susan: The garden started ten years ago. I was a member of the Village West Rotary Club, and we had the idea to create a community garden. This plot of land was empty, it is owned by Medical Solutions, a company owned and operated by Russ and three other partners. The garden itself was built by an Eagle Scout project. It was designed to resemble the Rotary Club emblem, a six-spoke wheel. Currently, Medical Solutions supplies the water for the garden and until it disbanded, the Village West Rotary Club sponsored and donated funds for the seeds and other materials.

Since then, I've joined the Bonner Springs Rotary Club, who will now sponsor the garden. The garden grows squash, tomatoes, onions, potatoes, cucumbers, cantaloupe, watermelon, eggplant and peppers. Last year the garden produced 3,300 pounds.

Q: What do you love most about working with Cross-Lines and doing the garden?

Susan: I love volunteering at the Community Market. I like the people I work with; not just staff, but also the shoppers. I help Russ with delivering the produce and whenever he's away, I help manage the garden.

Russ: I enjoy gardening, it's good exercise and has great health benefits. (In addition to working with Cross-Lines, Russ volunteers his time with Boy Scouts, assisting them with physical and medical missions.)

Thank you, Susan and Russ!

If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Community Engagement Manager, Kitana Lemus (Kitana@cross-lines.org) or visit <https://www.cross-lines.org/how-to-help/volunteer.html>

Help Us Feed Our Community: Support The Community Market



For several years, the Community Market has been a beacon of hope for individuals and families in Wyandotte County struggling with poverty and food insecurity. Every day, we provide nutritious food to those who might otherwise go hungry. For many, the Community Market is more than just a place to receive food—it's a lifeline that ensures they can put meals on their tables.

However, we are now facing an unprecedented challenge. The expiration of funding from the American Rescue Plan *has left us with a significant budget shortfall.* This crucial funding has been instrumental in sustaining our hunger relief programs and keeping our shelves stocked with essential food items. Without it, our ability to fully serve our community is at risk.

We believe that no one should have to worry about where their next meal will come from. That's why we are turning to you, our dedicated supporters and compassionate neighbors. We need

your help to continue providing this vital service to those in need.

Your donation can make an immediate and tangible difference:

- **\$50 provides a week's worth of groceries for a family of four.**
- **\$100 can help us purchase fresh produce to ensure our clients have access to healthy options.**
- **\$250 can support our efforts to expand our reach and serve even more families in crisis.**

Every contribution, no matter the size, brings us one step closer to ensuring that no one in Wyandotte County goes to bed hungry. Your generosity will directly impact the lives of our neighbors and help us bridge the funding gap left by the end of the American Rescue Plan. Please consider making a donation today.

Together, we can continue to fight hunger and bring hope to our community. Thank you for your unwavering support and kindness.

**Support the Market
Today**

Upcoming Events You Don't Want to Miss!



Join us for our August Coffee with Cross-Lines!

Start your morning right with a cup of coffee and engaging conversation around the issues that matter most to our community and the work we do. Let's get together to share ideas, connect, and make a difference!

Special Guest: Erika Holliday from the UG Health Department will join us for the August Coffee as we talk about substance use/addiction.

Date: Wednesday, August 7th

Time: 7:45 AM

Location: Cross-Lines Community Market Volunteer Room

Your support and voice are invaluable to us. We can't wait to see you there!

**RSVP to Coffee with Cross-
Lines**

Crossing Paths: Understanding Housing and Hunger at Cross-Lines

CROSSING PATHS:

Understanding Hunger and Housing at Cross-Lines

Evening includes dinner and immersive simulation

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RSVP

THURS, AUG 29TH
5:30-7:30 PM

Join us on Thursday, Aug 29th to take a deeper dive into Cross-Lines' services and programs!

Attendees will enjoy a casual meal in the Cross-Lines Kitchen, take part in a service/program simulation throughout campus, and finish with treats and a Q&A session in the Market.

We hope to see you there!

Free to attend;
Seats are limited!

RSVP to Crossing Paths

Gala for Hope

Friday, September 27th

We are thrilled to invite you to our annual Gala for Hope, a night dedicated to celebrating our community's resilience, generosity, and unwavering support. This year's gala promises to be an unforgettable evening filled with elegance, inspiration, and impactful moments that showcase the heart of our mission.

By attending the Gala for Hope, you are not just purchasing a ticket to an event; you are making a profound difference in the lives of those we serve.

Your presence helps us continue our vital work, providing resources and support to individuals and families in need. Together, we can create a brighter future for all.

The evening will feature a sumptuous dinner, live entertainment, and exciting raffles and LIVE



Cross-Lines Values and Guiding Principles

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.

[Learn more here: Cross-Lines Values and Principles](#)

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