

NEWSLINES OF *Hope*

Cross-Lines Community Outreach Newsletter

Christmas Store Helps Hundreds



The Cross-Lines Christmas Store once again welcomed over 350 low-income Wyandotte County families who signed up to shop for food, toys, and household items this past holiday season. Volunteers and Cross-Lines staff joyfully worked each day throughout December 5th-10th to provide holiday presents to needy families from our community. Over its amazing 55-year long history, The Christmas Store has become a vital resource for WYCO families who need assistance with holiday gifts and food.



We offer our sincere thanks to volunteers from **Rainbow Mennonite Church**, **Knox United Presbyterian Church**, **Colonial Church in Prairie Village**, and all others who gave of their time and resources, to spread joy, generosity, and hope throughout the holiday season.

We hope you'll join us next year in supporting and celebrating this beautiful and benevolent tradition!

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Remembering Margaret



We wish to share our condolences and profound gratitude with the family and friends of Margaret Ackley, an incredibly passionate and dedicated long-time supporter and volunteer, who passed away at the age of 97 on December 20th, 2022. Margaret was a true hero and inspiration to Cross-Lines. Prior to the pandemic, Margaret volunteered consistently with Cross-Lines for over 20 years.

Whether at the front desk, kitchen, or thrift store, Margaret made a profound impact on those we serve, other volunteers, and our staff. Margaret truly embodied Cross-Lines' mission to serve those living in poverty with dignity and respect. Her lifelong dedication to her faith and other people reminds us all to strive to do better every day.

Margaret's memory lives on through not only her large and loving family, but through all the people who have been served by Cross-Lines in the past two decades. Margaret inspired all she met to be more kind, more grateful, and more hopeful. Cross-Lines is incredibly blessed to have known her.

A Memorial Service/Celebration of Life will be held on June 10th, 2023 at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 6422 Santa Fe Drive, Mission, Kansas 66202. In lieu of flowers, financial donations may be sent to St. Mark's United Methodist Church or to Cross-Lines Community Outreach at 736 Shawnee Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66105. (Or you donate online at www.cross-lines.org)

In hopes of inspiring others to consider their own legacy, Margaret's family would like to note that she has designated Cross-Lines to receive nearly her entire estate upon her passing. Even from heaven, Margaret continues to bless us and those we serve. May she rest in eternal peace.

Cross-Lines Anniversary: 60 Years of Hope

Throughout the year, Cross-Lines will be celebrating our **60th Anniversary!** We are planning various events in the coming months to honor the legacy of our venerable organization.

We are also setting ambitious funding goals to mark the auspicious anniversary. With prices for goods and services higher than ever, we are hoping our community will come together to show their support for Cross-Lines' six-decade long history of service, support, and hope. How many people have been touched by Cross-Lines in 60 years? While the true number may be incalculable, we are sure it is in the tens of thousands. **We look forward to celebrating the legacy of Cross-Lines with you throughout the year!**



A Few Highlights from 60 Years of Service and Hope

- 1963- "Rosedale-Roanoke Cooperative Ministries" is formed by a group of concerned clergy bridging the Missouri/Kansas state line
- 1965- Don Bakely becomes first Executive Director and goes on to serve in the position for 25 years, speaking over 6,000 times and traveling to 49 states.
- 1975- Emergency Assistance, like help with rent and utilities, provided by Cross-Lines to those in need rose 5,750% in 5 years.
- 1976- Cross-Lines and Reverend Bakely honored by President Ford and the Mayors of KCKS and KCMO.
- 1982- Cross-Lines Thrift Store is established, serving hundreds of households.
- 2013- Don Bakely Community Kitchen opens, serving hot breakfasts and lunches to anyone in need of a nutritious meal
- 2016- After a successful Capital Campaign, Cross-Lines opens the new Food Distribution Center and Thrift Store, the first new building in Cross-Lines' history.
- 2021- The former Thrift Store space is converted into the Cross-Lines Community Market, offering free food in a grocery-store like setting to people facing food insecurity.

Look for more highlights in our next NewsLines... We may play a special trivia game at The Gala for Hope concerning Cross-Lines' history!

MLK Family Day of Service



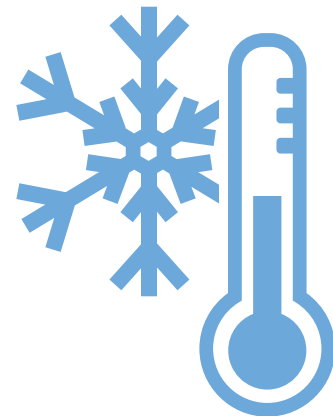
A very big THANK YOU to all of the families and community members who joined us to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day by participating in our **Family Day of Service**. These super special volunteers helped us pack homeless assistance packs, and birthday celebration kits, stocked and organized shelves in our Community Market, and even helped us come up with more ideas for future volunteer opportunities! We are honored to provide family-friendly and fun opportunities for all ages. Special shout out to Country Club Christian Church for bringing a lot of this great group!

Cold Weather Overnight Shelter

The 2022-2023 Wyco Cold Weather Overnight Shelter opened over the Christmas holiday, welcoming over 40 guests each night throughout the weekend. As bitterly cold temperatures (under 25 degrees) endured, unhoused community members were provided hot meals, warm beds, and opportunities to connect to additional services to address any personal barriers to obtaining permanent housing.

The WYCO Cold Weather shelter is staffed by social workers, behavioral and mental health professionals, and visited by medical professionals experienced working with the homeless population. The shelter is a lifeline for many in our community when temperatures drop to extremely dangerous levels.

If you are interested in providing support or dinner for the shelter when it is open, please contact Rachel Russell: Rachel@cross-lines.org



2023 **GALA**
FOR HOPE

60 YEARS OF HOPE

The Gala will take place on
Friday, September 29th,
2023, at The View at
Briarcliff, 4000 N. Mulberry
Dr., Kansas City, MO 64116

Interested in getting involved?
Please email Kelly Gough Moran;
Kelly@cross-lines.org

Staff Update: Programs Director Accepts Subcommittee Assignment

Cross-Lines is pleased to announce that Director of Programs, Rob Santel, has accepted an invitation to join the **Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council Subcommittee on Housing & Homelessness**.

In this role, Rob will act as a voting member of the Subcommittee on Housing and Homelessness with full authority and responsibility to develop recommendations to the Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council. The Governor's Council fulfills the federal mandate that all states have a mental health services planning and advisory council. The Council is made up of a cross section of mental health consumers, family members of mental health consumers, mental health service providers, state agency staff, and private citizens. The Council is actively involved in planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and advising state government regarding Kansas' mental health services.



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH, INC.

736 Shawnee Ave. Kansas City, KS 66105

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