

NEWSLINES ^{OF} Hope

www.cross-lines.org

Winter 2019



The Cross-Lines Young Professionals Board.
 Back: (left to right) Vladimir Garcia, Colin Peck, Cory Boulanger, Kelsey Boulanger, Cari Olberding, Spencer Culver. Center: Sarah Kaldenberg, Alyssa Zapata. Front: Hillary Dunaway, Natalia Albanese, Christina Hofer.
 Not pictured: Kristin Agar, Robert Castillo

HO HO HOPE!

The newly-formed Young Professionals Board spread some extra holiday cheer by raising over \$900 for Cross-Lines Community Outreach at the group's inaugural event, Ho Ho Hope. The holiday fundraiser took place on Saturday, December 7 from 6-9PM and was held at The Mockingbird Lounge, a nearby Kansas City, Kansas bar.

To support Cross-Lines' work in the community, the Young Professionals Board requested attendees donate \$10 or a cold weather clothing item at the door. Once inside, guests had the opportunity to enjoy free mini cupcakes, a holiday photo booth with professional photos, and "Santa's Mystery Gift Game."

Later in the evening, the Young Professionals Board led a high-spirited game of Holiday Movie Trivia. Throughout the night, The Mockingbird Lounge supported the group's efforts by donating \$1 per drink for two pre-selected drinks. Given the overall success of Ho Ho Hope, the group hopes to continue hosting similar events to benefit Cross-Lines in the future.

The Cross-Lines Young Professionals Board was formed this past April and includes thirteen members. To inquire about getting involved with the Young Professionals Board or to discuss potential partnerships, please contact Christina Hofer at christina@cross-lines.org.

GALA FOR HOPE

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GALA FOR HOPE

UNDER THE KANSAS CITY SKY



An Evening to Remember

The reviews are in and the consensus was clear: the 16th annual Gala for Hope fundraiser was a huge success for the Cross-Lines Community Outreach community. The highly-anticipated event was held Saturday, September 28 at the Gallery Event Space in downtown Kansas City, a major location change from previous years. It was a record-breaking event, raising over \$200,000 to support Cross-Lines' programs and services.

"All was perfect!" commented one attendee via an online follow-up survey. "Enjoyed it very much," said another. "Cross-Lines has been the favorite charity for our family for many years, and I am confident that will continue," wrote a third.

Guests were greeted by the sound of the Mullinix & Miquelone Trio as they bid on Silent Auction items, enjoyed the open bar, and connected with familiar faces around the room. Following the meal, guests heard from board chair, Cindy Moore, and executive director, Susila Jones, before diving in to the thrilling live auction. The program was emceed by Tony Temple, former star running back for the Missouri Tigers and current owner of Temple Made Fitness (left side, top right) The auctioneer was Trisha Brauer with Taking Bids Benefit Auctions, LLC.

This year, the Don Bakely Humanitarian Award was given to Brad Culver, son of Maurice Culver, one of the founders of Cross-Lines. Brad has served many roles at Cross-Lines and continues to actively support the Cross-Lines community in many ways (right side, middle), Cross-Lines also awarded a brand new award, the Emerging Leader Award, to Brooke Illum, an essential leader behind the annual Plant Sale fundraiser with huge potential for the future (right side, bottom).

Cross-Lines staff and board members want to extend a whole-hearted thank you to all who attended the Gala for Hope. Additionally, we want to acknowledge our incredible sponsors: True North Hotel Group, Knit Rite, Jean Dorsey Memorial Fund, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City, Business Coaching Plus, Flaherty Lawn and Tree Service LLC, JE Dunn Construction, KPMG, Midwife Partners in Women's Wellness, Capitol Federal, Kansas Gas Service, Luxury & Imports, Mark One Electric Company, Inc., and 2 Friends Printing.

SAVE THE DATE: The 2020 Gala for Hope will be held Saturday, September 19, 2020 at the Gallery Event Space.

Volunteer Feature: Marla Porter

It's a Wednesday afternoon and Marla Porter is leaving the Cross-Lines Thrift Store balancing an armful of items that might include a stained children's coat she plans to treat and wash, several vases to return to the local florist, and a sweater that is missing a button that she can skillfully sew back on. No one has asked Marla to do these things, but her years of Thrift Store experience have helped her to see how a little extra time and care might help these donations sell and save them from the trash.

For nearly ten years, Marla has dedicated one day a week to processing, sorting, and hanging clothes in the back room, doing her best to keep up with the endless flow of donations.

"I've organized my whole life around Wednesdays," said Marla.

Before settling in as a regular Thrift Store volunteer, Marla would visit the Cross-Lines campus with her parents to deliver boxes of food to the Food Pantry or drop off bags of clothes and other donations at the Thrift Store.

It was during one of these routine visits that Marla remembered noticing an old woman sorting donations by herself, unable to walk, and clearly overwhelmed by the mess of donations surrounding her. Sensing the need for help, Marla signed up as a weekly volunteer with the Thrift Store.

From Plants to Pants

Marla is a master gardener and has a background in horticulture, making her an irreplaceable volunteer at the Spring Dig Plant Sale fundraiser for Cross-Lines. It's in the Thrift Store, however, that Marla makes a regular impact, utilizing her attention to detail and organizational skills to guide new volunteers and make the Thrift Store a better place to work and shop.

"Everyone deserves to have a nice, clean, organized experience," said Marla. "That's why I'm so picky. If it's clean and organized, people want to buy stuff."

In her time at the Thrift Store, Marla has seen many volunteers come and go, seeing firsthand how a lack of regular volunteers affects the Thrift Store experience from beginning to end.

"We need help," said Marla, identifying numerous reasons as to why interested volunteers should get involved. "You can save money by shopping here and people that work here get first selection. Plus, you can save stuff from going into the landfill."

Marla also deeply values the friendships she has made with other Wednesday volunteers. It's the people and the purpose that keep her coming back – the volunteers she gets to work alongside and the shoppers that are served by the Cross-Lines Thrift Store.

"You really are helping a whole community of people," she said.



Marla Porter, right, and Susan Able, left.

We Need Help!

To get involved at the Cross-Lines Thrift Store, you can fill out an online application found on our website or contact Christina at christina@cross-lines.org or 913-281-3388. We are looking for regular weekly or bi-weekly volunteers with a heart for the community. Thrift Store experience not required.

Did you know that you can save on taxes by giving via your IRA?

If you are older than 70 ½ and must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA, you can direct some or all of it to a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) instead. Money taken from your IRA and sent directly to a charitable organization will count toward satisfying your RMD but will not be considered taxable income to you. The funds must go directly from your brokerage to the charity and must be tagged as a QCD for you to avoid taxes on the contribution. Please consult your tax advisor and your brokerage house for more information.

A Wyandotte Christmas Tradition

CROSS-LINES CHRISTMAS STORE



From December 9-14, nearly 500 Wyandotte County families had the opportunity to visit the Christmas Store to pick out clothes, toys, food, and other Christmas presents for their families. With guidance from Cross-Lines staff and over fifty volunteers a day, Christmas Store shoppers chose from a selection of brand new items procured by volunteers throughout the year. For the third year, the Christmas Store was held on the campus of Cross-Lines Community Outreach.

Started in 1970, the Christmas Store is integral to the mission of Cross-Lines and remains a valued Christmas tradition for many people around the city. The first executive director of Cross-Lines, Don Bakely, was the visionary behind the Christmas Store, and believed in offering each family the dignity and respect of choosing and gifting Christmas presents to their families, regardless of income level. Although the Christmas Store has changed locations and format over the years, it remains closely connected to the values and vision of its original founders.

For many years, Cross-Lines has relied on volunteers from around the area to procure the bulk of the contents for the Christmas Store and to staff each department. Local churches have been especially valuable in leading this effort by heading up sections of the Christmas Store by recruiting volunteers, stocking their department with gifts, and managing it during the big week. Without each church's years of commitment to the families of Wyandotte County, the Christmas Store would struggle greatly to function year after year. We are deeply grateful for all the support from local churches, businesses, organizations, and volunteers that make this annual tradition possible. **Thank you!**

A shopper is guided through the Toy Department.



A volunteer from Rainbow Mennonite Church (right) takes a shopper through the Food Department.



A personal shopper, or a volunteer who assists shoppers through the clothing department, holds up a coat.



Feeding the Hungry

A Look at the Cross-Lines Community Kitchen in 2019

It's a statistic we know all too well: one in four kids in our community faces hunger on a daily basis. Our team of staff and volunteers at the Cross-Lines Community Kitchen believe that no one should go without food and we make it our mission to make sure that everyone who visits our campus has more than enough to eat. Not only that, we strive to help people meet their nutritional needs by offering an assortment of fruits, vegetables, and other foods.

This year, our Community Kitchen served nearly 70,000 meals! Those we serve is not determined by income level or county of residency, but instead by self-determined level of need: if you feel that you need a free hot meal, for whatever reason, you will receive it. In other words, everyone that walks through our doors gets a meal, no questions asked. But food is not the only thing on the menu in our kitchen. Each morning before breakfast, showers and laundry services are available as well. During the cold winter months, a hot cup of coffee and a joke from our long-time volunteer, Pastor Gary, can make all the difference to the people in need the most.

The Community Kitchen is able to operate each day because of our army of faithful volunteers and supporters. The Kitchen has just one full-time paid staff member, our Kitchen Manager, Carmelina Cabrera. We rely on volunteer groups and individual volunteers to help prepare and serve meals each day as well as donors to make sure we have healthy food options each day. We are fortunate for our longtime faith partners such as St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Old Mission UMC, and Countryside Christian Church as well as our corporate partners like Knit-Rite, Nebraska Furniture Mart, and True North Hotel Group. THANK YOU for helping to keep our kitchen running and for another great year of serving our clients with upmost care.

Cross-Lines Community Outreach serves breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday. We also provide sack lunches to people on their way to work. If you would like to learn more or get involved, please contact Christina at christina@cross-lines.org.



Volunteers from United Healthcare outside the Kitchen.



Members of the Young Professionals Board prepare salad.



The monthly volunteer team from Country Club Christian.



Volunteers from Hillcrest Christian ready to serve drinks.

HONORARIUMS

Chris and Esther Grenz

Melissa and Rick Kuykendall

Denise Holcom's Birthday

Dennis and Judy Tull

Kelley Carpenter and David Eulitt

Mary Steeb and Glen Littleton

Jim and Vicki Ensz

Stephan Stout

Ron and Kellee Hercules

Fred and Maureen Crouch

MEMORIALS

Robert (Bob) Brook

Kenneth and Danis Bobbe
Jeffrey and Lynne Dykstra
Ellen and Stan McClintock

Sam Crawford

Jane and Phillip Bird
Judy and Gerald Smith
Joyce and Wayne Thompson

Betty Jane (B.J.) Diedrich

Ann Nelson
Rosemary Schrepfer

Denise Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Johnson

Donald Ferguson

Dale and Lois Ferguson
William and Antoniette Ferguson

Kris Illum

Michele and Garry Dooley
Steve and Virginia Duggan
Cathy and Terry Matlack
Tracy Remy
Sandra Holt

Robert Allan Webber

George and Carol Bigelow
Walter and Pamela Blood
Mary and Holly Blythe
Brenda and Victor Boyd
Angela Brown
Julie Burns
Geri and Ray Cunningham
Margaret Ann DeBey
Jeff and Jamye Dutton
Jim and Claudia Hannah
Larry and Ann Hill
Catherine Mae Hodges
Alice and James Jenkins
Ellen Kalousek
Beverly McAuley
Kim McCormick
Ruth Miller
Thomas and Kristi Morelock
Craig and Barbara Ramsey
W.B. and Diane Ransom
Lois and Vernon Rausch
Randy and Rosie Shoaf
Bill and Jean Shull
Virginia Sims
Julie Sinclair
Mark Sorell
Lavera Tolson
Danny and Anne Vealey
Niza Webber
Harold and Judith Webber

Watner Neufeld

Cornie Neufeld

Carol Saunders

Wesley United Methodist Church

Marilyn Uppman

Colonial Church in Prairie Village

Cathy Goodger

JPJ Investments, LP

Joann Wisdom

Michael Casparian
Kathleen Doherty
Everell Francisco
Kathleen Goehring
Alice and James Jenkins
Phoebe May and Sons
Eugene and Maggie McGill
Walter and Marilyn Rieger



CROSS • LINES
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BOARD:

Board Chair: Cindy Moore *Vice Chair:* Lisa Wiens
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Members: Kristina Belshe, Vladimir Garcia, Chris Grenz,
Jorge Herrera, Marty Hoeffy, Kam Howard, Jason Moss,
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