

NEWSLINES^{OF} Hope

www.cross-lines.org

Summer 2018



BBQ Helps Hunger Programs

The third annual Smoke Out Hunger BBQ Challenge was held on June 8-9 and raised \$25,000 for Cross-Lines Hunger Relief programs.

The two-day event featured a Kansas City Barbeque Society-sanctioned contest between 47 professional teams.

The event also featured a Barn Party

on Friday night where about 250 people had a chance to eat BBQ, sides and vote in the People's Choice Chicken Wing Competition while enjoying performances by two local bands, **Yes You Are!** and **OLIVIA FOX**.

Thank you to everyone who attended or volunteered at the event!

Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, **True North Hotel Group**. We are also grateful to our other generous sponsors: **Manos Wines, Knit-Rite, 90.9 The Bridge, CSTK Inc., Kansas Gas, Design Mechanical, BPU, Business Coaching Plus, and Megan Frederickson & D.J. Pierre.**

Homeless Individuals Find Permanent Homes

The Cross-Lines Housing Stabilization program was extraordinarily busy rehousing homeless individuals and families the last three months. In April, May and June, 16 homeless clients, including four children, moved into homes thanks to your support!

Brittney, 26, and her four children, ages 9, 6, 3 and 1, reached out for help because they were homeless. Thanks to you, we were able to rehouse the family on May 1.

When she emailed Cross-Lines

reaching out for help in March, Brittney was at the end of her rope. "Homeless with kids - please help!" her first message said.

Brittney and her four children were staying with a friend and her three children in a two-bedroom apartment. The management at her friend's apartment would kick her out if they'd found out she was staying there, so Brittney was desperate for help. "I can't sleep in my car with my kids," she pleaded. "I just can't do that to my kids."

Before she found Cross-Lines, Brittney had been calling and emailing every agency and shelter she could find look for a place for her family. She had been told to wait and see and been disappointed when she would later be told there was no room. "It was a constant disappointment until I found Cross-Lines."

Thanks to your help, Cross-Lines was there for Brittney as she went through the incredibly difficult journey of finding a place she could afford.

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Finding her two-bedroom, with no air conditioning for \$780 a month home was just the first hurdle in her housing journey. Landlord licensing issues, delayed inspections, plumbing problems and lists of repairs delayed her moving into the unit.

When she finally moved in and put her groceries in the refrigerator, she discovered they had spoiled because it had not been plugged in due to a missing outlet adaptor. On her first load of laundry in the unit advertised as having a washer/dryer, she discovered neither worked, so the landlord simply said they would reduce her rent by \$20 a month.

Despite all of that, Brittney is incredibly grateful for her home and the peace of mind that comes with not worrying about where her children will have to sleep tonight. She keeps an upbeat attitude despite setbacks and the obstacles of being a single parent of a child with mental health needs.

The struggles of living in poverty and navigating the difficulties of life also continue. Brittney applied to get help with child care, but then her food stamps were cut in half.

She and her children had Medicaid,

WELCOME HOME KITS

Cross-Lines is looking for help in putting together Welcome Home Kits for our clients who are re-housed. Because clients are homeless, they do not have all of the basic necessities to set up their household. Though we try to find as much as possible in our Thrift Store, these items are often not available. If you would like to help, here are some of the most needed items for Welcome Home Kits:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Twin Mattress | Frying and Sauce Pan |
| Sheets | Plates/Bowls |
| Blanket | Kitchen Towels |
| Pillow | Utensils |
| Laundry Basket | Can opener |
| Towel Set | Trash can |
| Shower Curtain/Rod | Broom & Dust pan |

but then the renewal forms were mailed to her old address and their coverage was dropped.

She had a job but the transmission in her vehicle broke and without transportation, she soon lost it.

Today, despite all of that, she is optimistic as she meets with her case manager, Rob, at Cross-Lines and talks about budgeting and a job interview she has this afternoon.

"I feel a lot more relief now," she said. "I'm glad you helped me. I hope that I can help somebody like me who needs it. I would tell them where there is a will, there is always a way."

Another person your donations helped escape homelessness is Bob, 53.

Bob is a soft spoken man who takes

great pride in his work. He is the kind of guy who really doesn't like asking for help. While he was homeless for a couple of months, Bob managed to keep his job despite all the challenges.

Even today, Bob works hard just to get to work -- commuting more than an hour and riding three different buses just to get to his job from the apartment where Cross-Lines helped him get housed, thanks to your help.

Affordable housing is increasingly hard to find, but Cross-Lines works diligently to find clients safe, clean apartments they can afford on their tight incomes.

It's still a real challenge to make ends meet for Bob because he has to spend a chunk of his income on cabs to get home when his shift ends at 1:30 a.m. because the buses aren't running. You won't hear Bob complain. He is just happy to have a place to call home.

We are grateful for some special contributions which have helped our clients move into their homes with dignity. **Armourdale Furniture** provided clients with some twin beds, **Nebraska Furniture Mart** provided some recliners and **Sleepy Head Beds** provided some used children's beds.

"I have heard many good Americans say bad words about the poor. I'm trying to uncategorize the poor. I'm trying to put faces on my people. I want you to see them as individuals, as people with joys, pains, hopes and often overwhelming problems. I want you to see some of the traps they are in, feel some of the things they feel. I want you to walk with them just a little bit and try to see some of their almost impossible situations."

—REV. DON BAKELY, IN HIS BOOK, IF...A BIG WORD WITH THE POOR



2018 ARMOURDALE COMMUNITY PICNIC AT CROSS-LINES

Thank you to the approximately 200 people from the Armourdale Community who came out to the fourth annual Community Picnic at Cross-Lines on Saturday, May 12! It was an absolute blast!

There are so many people who helped make the day special, but we want to shout out to several individuals, organizations and local businesses who helped us make this fabulous, fun picnic possible.

Thank you for the amazing live music, **Enrique Dante Chi** of **Making Movies** and the youth musicians of the charity he founded, **Art As Mentorship**, as well as our own **Robert (Anthony) Castillo** who helped make it all happen!

Thank you to **The Kansas City Steak Company** for the delicious hot dogs and to **Carniceria y Tortilleria San Antonio** for the fantastic tacos!

And for keeping us in the shade, thanks to **Uplift Organization Inc.** for letting us borrow your big tent!

We can't wait to do it all again next year on May 11!

If you couldn't make it to the event, we wanted you to see what fun everyone had in the pictures above. If you are wondering who those two cuties are above right, they are good buddies Teagan, daughter of Cross-Lines Executive Director **Susila Jones**, and Melody, daughter of Cross-Lines Case Manager **Kenia Rodriguez**.

grow

COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

Though Summer has been sweltering, green things are flourishing in the Cross-Lines Community garden.

In addition to our dedicated weekly garden volunteer Dan Gabbert and staff, we've had a special new group working each month to help us get things growing.

Life Equals, a local business that makes health supplements to provide nutritional support, has taken on the garden as a project. One of their products is Balance the Superfood Shot, which provides half a day's servings of organic fruits and vegetables in one beverage.

"We volunteer as a company because we believe in leaving the world better than we found it," said Alex Dapp, of Life Equals. "We believe in gratitude and giving and coming to the table with open arms and minds. We strive to share our abundance with others, in whatever form that may take. For us, it takes the form of getting our hands dirty and giving back to our community."

The staff of Life Equals has volunteered several times in the garden. They started out with a big job: planting 200 tomato plants and 200 pepper plants!

The Life Equals team wasn't scared off by that tremendous task, so they came back and helped cage all the tomatoes they had earlier planted. In addition to helping in the



garden, Life Equals has donated some of their Balance the Superfood Shots to the Food Pantry.

The Life Equals group plans to continue to garden as part of their commitment to the community and feel that the working in a community garden that feeds the hungry in the community fits perfectly with their own mission.

"We are firm believers that if you are know where your food comes from and you play a role in its creation, your relationship with food will change," Alex said.



Not only does volunteering in the community feel good, it is also a great team building activity, Alex said.

"Having the ability to immerse ourselves into the community is incredibly rewarding," Alex said. "We physically get to see

the fruits of our labors in the form of watching the garden grow, but all of the hard work that goes into maintaining it is what forces us to come together as a team. It's gratifying to be a part of something bigger than ourselves."

HONORARIUMS

Lois Culver
Ann Ford

Kelley Carpenter and David Eulitt
Mary Steeb and Glen Littleton

Father's Day
Elizabeth Peck

Anne and Gordon Faubel – 60th Wedding Anniversary
Michele and Garry Dooley

Henrietta Frasier
Southminster Presbyterian Church

John Millard, My Father
Becky Johnson

Nancy Moylan's Birthday
Charles and Mary Haley
Mary Morin

Leo R. Goertz, M.D.
Wendell and Judy Selzer
Cornie Neufeld

Father Gerald Sheeds
Milton Arganbright

MEMORIALS

Connie Neufeld
Michele and Garry Dooley

Collene Newbold
Mark Newbold
Vicki Dorsch
Wesley United Methodist Church



MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Volunteers Needed

We are hoping to find volunteers interested in working a few hours a week on a regular basis. If you have a group of friends, family, co-workers or fellow members of your church who would like to join you, we would welcome everyone with open arms! Below are just some of the great jobs available to help you get involved in serving the community while having fun at the same time. To get started or find out more, contact Sarah Kelley at sarah@cross-lines.org or 913-281-3388.

THRIFT STORE

Are you an organizer by nature? Do you like to hunt for treasures? Then this is the volunteer job for you! The Cross-Lines Thrift Store provides shoppers with household, clothing, and furniture items at reasonable costs, as well as free clothing to qualified clients every 60 days. Volunteers are needed Monday-Saturday to help sort, price, and display donations. Volunteers are also needed to help assist customers and run the cash register.

FOOD PANTRY

Are you a people person? Do you like helping others? Volunteers are needed to help clients in our Food Pantry Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Volunteers talk to clients and help them shop for their food items, as well as helping restock the shelves of the pantry with healthy food items. Our pantry is very busy serving hungry families and individuals from Wyandotte, Johnson and Leavenworth County. Clients are able to come once every 30 days and receive enough food for 10 meals. Last year our pantry served more than 7,000 people. If you want to interact with clients and be a part of fighting hunger in the community, this is a great way to get involved.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Do you have a green thumb? Do you like to work outdoors and get your hands dirty? The Cross-Lines Garden grows thousands of pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables each year. The majority of the food grown is used to supplement groceries that are distributed to low-income families through our Food Pantry. Volunteers in the garden handle planting, watering, harvesting, and weeding.

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT



Meet Paul and Eliese Holt

If you've been to the Cross-Lines Thrift Store, you have probably had the pleasure of meeting Paul and Eliese Holt. The dedicated, dynamic duo have been hardworking volunteers in Thrift Store for five years. The couple works on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, primarily running the cash register, assisting shoppers and clients and helping out wherever they can.

When time permits, Eliese works to tidy and clean displays. Paul assists with evaluating donations, especially electronics.

Paul and Eliese also coordinate their church's (Church of the Resurrection) volunteers for the Christmas Store each year.

Why do you volunteer at Cross-Lines?

We have a passion for helping those in need. When we moved to Kansas City, we were looking for an agency who believed in making differences for those experiencing homelessness and/or poverty. But most importantly, an agency which believes in the worth and value of all persons. We found that place at Cross-Lines. It is a blessing for us to work with Cross-Lines staff, the dedicated volunteers at the Thrift Store, and the Cross-Lines community.

When you aren't serving at Cross-Lines, what are you doing?

We also volunteer weekly at our church, Church of the Resurrection. Paul is a camera man at one of the services and Eliese greets, assists guests and registers attendance. We also serve as tour guides for new visitors and work with with our church's hunger ministry. Our other big commitment is to our grandchildren, who all love to come and visit Cross-Lines.



Gala FOR Hope

9.29.2018

SHERATON OVERLAND PARK

TABLES & TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW
VISIT WWW.CROSS-LINES.ORG OR
CALL 913.281.3388



CROSS • LINES
COMMUNITY OUTREACH, INC.

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BOARD:

Board Chair: Cindy Moore *Vice Chair:* Lisa Wiens
Secretary: Jim Ensz *Treasurer:* Derek White
Members: Doug Brown, Megan Frederickson,
Cathy Goodger, Chris Grenz, Marty Hoeffey, Kam Howard