

# NEWSLINES OF *Hope*

*Cross-Lines Community Outreach Newsletter*

## A Fond Farewell and Thank You

One aspect of life that we can always count on is that every season brings change. This season is bringing a transition to our staff that is bittersweet. **This month, we bid a fond farewell to one of our longest-serving staff members, Carmelina Cabrera.**

Carmelina began her time with Cross-Lines in 2012 as a Food Pantry assistant and diligently worked her way up to Manager of the Community Kitchen, organizing and cooking thousands of meals over the years for hungry community members. Not only did Carmelina feed our hungry neighbors, but she worked with countless volunteer groups during their time in the kitchen, making each group's experience joyous and meaningful.

Cross-Lines is fortunate to have had such an incredibly dedicated, kind, and compassionate person working with us for so many years. We wish Carmelina the very best in the next stage of life and hope to see her often in the future. **We will miss you, Carmelina!**

## Mission Moment: Advocacy in Housing Practices

Over the past few years, Cross-Lines has actively increased our advocacy efforts in the areas of **Housing and Hunger**. This is an important part of our mission as we work to advocate for policies and practices that will improve the lives of people experiencing poverty. Our advocacy work directly impacts our ability to assist our clients who are experiencing homelessness or struggling to pay bills.

**What is nonprofit advocacy?** Nonprofit advocacy is any set of actions or activities that raise awareness, draw public support, or get people involved in a cause or policy with the intention of making a difference. For Cross-Lines, this means working in our community to change existing systems of oppression and exclusionary practices.



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# Mission Moment: Advocacy, Cont'd

**Context:** The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the health and well-being of individuals -especially people of color- who have been historically disadvantaged in the United States. More specifically, the pandemic has exacerbated longstanding inequities in income, food security, and access to affordable, safe, and stable housing. Throughout the pandemic, moratoriums were in place to protect families from eviction and foreclosure. Most of those pandemic policies have ended, leaving millions across the country facing instability and, potentially, homelessness.

**What are we doing?** One crucial part of Cross-Line's advocacy work involves our leadership of the Safe and Affordable Housing directive of Wyandotte County's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

In October, Cross-Lines partnered with the Unified Government Public Health Dept. (UGPHD) to host the Wyandotte County Housing Summit, drawing together other housing- focused organizations, community leaders, property owners, and invested parties to learn more about the state of affordable housing in WYCO. Workshop sessions included topics such as, "What is a Community Land Trust?" lead by Community Housing of Wyandotte County, "Tenant's Rights and Responsibilities" lead by the UGPHD and Kansas Legal Services, and "LGBTQ+ Housing" lead by Our Spot KC.



The aim of our work with CHIP and the housing summit is to bring together Wyandotte County housing stakeholders to learn more about current and future initiatives, strategies, and goals to increase access to safe and affordable housing for everyone in Wyandotte County.

In addition to our work with CHIP, Cross-Lines advocates for those we serve by forming positive working relationships with United Government and Health Department officials, Commissioners, and other community organizations.

By building these productive relationships, Cross-Lines strives to help provide better access to services for our neighbors experiencing homelessness, **raising awareness around the struggles of being unhoused and helping others understand what measures will make an impact.**

**Advocacy has always been a part of our work at Cross-Lines.** As we look forward to celebrating **60 years of Cross-Lines in 2023**, we are hoping to engage with long-time supporters who can speak to our organization's extensive history of working within the community to fight for systemic change. **If you feel you have something to add, please contact Kelly Gough Moran, [kelly@cross-lines.org](mailto:kelly@cross-lines.org).**

**We look forward to hearing from you!**



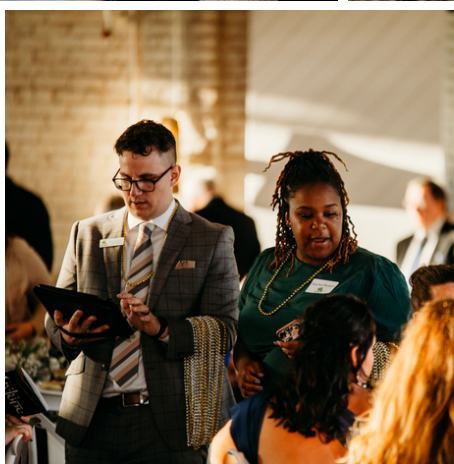
# Gala for Hope 2022: An Amazing Success



## Together, We Raised \$191,493 for Cross-Lines!

On September 24th, Cross-Lines long-time donors, corporate sponsors, new friends, staff, and community leaders gathered at The Abbott to celebrate and show their support for Cross-Lines' work in our community. It was an unforgettable evening filled with great food, drinks, fun, a little competition, and wholly inspiring acts of financial generosity.

We are incredibly grateful for the outstanding enthusiasm and encouragement expressed by those who have been familiar with Cross-Lines for years, and those just coming to learn about our work. It truly takes so many dedicated and passionate people working together to make Cross-Lines successful and we are thankful for every single one. We hope you can join us next year for the fun!



(All Photos: Jessica Dittmore Photo & Design)



# Christmas Store 2022

The 2022 Cross-Lines Christmas store will take place December 5th-10th. 350 eligible families from Wyandotte County will receive gift cards, food, toys, and houseware items to celebrate the holiday with their loved ones. We will no longer be providing clothing at the Christmas Store. Instead, each family will receive a gift card to Walmart to purchase the items they need for their family. Cross-Lines also provides McDonalds gift cards to people experiencing homelessness. Cross-Lines is collecting toys and gift cards to Walmart and McDonalds. Monetary donations are also gladly accepted. Donations should be delivered to Cross-Lines by November 25th, 2022. Please contact Susila Jones with questions: [susila@cross-lines.org](mailto:susila@cross-lines.org) or visit our website, [www.cross-lines.org](http://www.cross-lines.org)



Christmas Store 2021

## Staff Update: Director of Development and Communications

Cross-Lines is pleased to announce that Kelly Gough Moran has accepted the role of Director of Development and Communications.



Since beginning with Cross-Lines in March of 2021, Kelly has been an integral part of our Development team, taking the lead on planning the Gala, executing communications strategies, and managing data administration. Kelly says, "I am so excited to continue my professional journey with Cross-Lines and to work with our incredible team to serve the people of our community!"

Get in touch with Kelly:  
[kelly@cross-lines.org](mailto:kelly@cross-lines.org)

## Save the Date! Gala for Hope 2023: Celebrating 60 Years

We are already getting busy planning for Cross-Lines' Diamond Anniversary Gala for Hope, marking 60 years of working to make Wyandotte Co. a better place for all. Mark your calendars!

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

*We can't wait to see you there!*



736 Shawnee Ave. Kansas City, KS 66105

## Fall and Winter At A Glance

- Thanksgiving Holiday, Nov 24th-25th, Cross-Lines Office & Programs Closed
- Christmas Store, Dec 5th-10th, Community Market Closed
- Winter Holiday Closure, Dec 26th-Dec 31st, Cross-Lines Office & Programs Closed