

NEWSLINES OF Hope

Cross-Lines Community Outreach Newsletter

Gala for Hope Shines Bright!



This year's Gala for Hope was a night to remember! More than 300 guests gathered at The View at Briarcliff to celebrate community and compassion. Together, we raised an incredible \$268,150 to support Cross-Lines' programs.

These funds will directly feed the hungry, help to house our homeless neighbors, and provide essential support for our community in Wyandotte County.

The evening was full of excitement and generosity. Guests bid enthusiastically during the live auction, took their chances in the raffle, and gave from the heart during **the Gift of Giving paddle raise, which alone brought in an inspiring \$69,000!**

Our sincere thanks go to auctioneer Trisha Brauer and the talented team at Taking Bids Fundraising for keeping the energy high and the bids climbing all night long.



IN THIS ISSUE

GALA FOR HOPE

FOOD RESCUE

CHRISTMAS STORE

2025 PROGRAM UPDATES

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

LOOKING AHEAD

Gala for Hope Shines Bright: Cont'd



We are deeply grateful to every sponsor, donor, volunteer, and guest who helped make this year's Gala such a success. Your support ensures Cross-Lines can continue offering hope, dignity, and stability to those who need it most.

✨ *Want to help shape next year's celebration? Join the 2026 Gala for Hope Committee! We're looking for creative, passionate individuals to help plan and elevate this inspiring event. To learn more or get involved, contact Kelly@cross-lines.org ✨*



WATCH the Video 

 See More Gala Photos

Rescuing Food, Restoring Hope

How fresh food donations from our partners support our neighbors



Several times a week, Cross-Lines staff and volunteers hit the road to make sure good food doesn't go to waste, and that our neighbors have access to healthy, nourishing meals. Through our food rescue efforts, we collect donations from generous community partners including Amazon Fresh, Costco, Nourish, Harvesters, and Kanbe's Markets.

These weekly pickups help stock the shelves of The Market and provide ingredients for The Community Kitchen, ensuring families and individuals can find the food they need with dignity.

Volunteers are at the heart of this effort. They assist with pickups, sorting, and stocking, transforming what might have gone to waste into fresh produce, meat, dairy, and ready-to-eat meals that nourish hundreds of households each week.

"The donations of fresh and ready-to-eat foods are incredibly important to our shoppers," says Marione, Market Manager. "It helps us to keep our shelves stocked with items that people want and need to keep food on their tables at home".

But the need continues to grow, and you can help. Supporters can join the effort by donating to Cross-Lines or by bringing in shelf-stable foods and hygiene supplies to help fill the gaps between deliveries. Every can, box, and bottle contributes to a more secure and hopeful community.



Together, we're rescuing food, restoring hope, and ensuring that no neighbor is left hungry in Wyandotte County.

Giving Hope: Cross-Lines Christmas Store



The beloved tradition of the **Cross-Lines Christmas Store** returns in 2025 and continues a heartwarming initiative that brings joy and hope to families in Wyandotte County who may otherwise struggle to provide Christmas gifts for their loved ones.

This remarkable program embodies the spirit of giving and underscores the power of community support. The store is divided into several departments, each thoughtfully designed to cater to the diverse needs of the families it serves. From gift cards that offer choice and flexibility to housewares that bring comfort and utility, and from a wide selection of toys that light up children's faces to a department filled with essential food items to ensure festive meals, the Cross-Lines Christmas Store provides a one-stop solution to make the holiday season special for those in need.



What makes the Cross-Lines Christmas Store genuinely remarkable is the dedication of its volunteers, who come from supporting churches and volunteer groups in the community. These volunteers selflessly give their time and effort to ensure the store runs smoothly and efficiently.

Their unwavering commitment keeps the shelves stocked and creates a warm and welcoming atmosphere for families who visit. It's a true testament to the community's unity and compassion, where people come together to make a positive impact on the lives of others during the most wonderful time of the year. **The Cross-Lines Christmas Store is a shining example of how collective goodwill and shared efforts can transform the holiday season into a time of abundance, joy, and togetherness for all.**



The Christmas Store plans to serve 400 Wyandotte County families this year.

Interested in supporting The Christmas Store? We are accepting Wal-Mart gift cards in increments of \$20, cash, or checks to support gifts for families.

Christmas Store Schedule: Monday, Dec. 1st - Saturday, Dec. 6th. (Shopping by appointment only)

Note: The Community Market will be closed during the week of Christmas Store operation.

Jan-September 2025 Program Updates

MARKET

Shopper visits:
10,482
Impact: 83,856
meals

KITCHEN

Meals
provided:
39,874
Showers:
1,797

HOUSING

People
Housed: 40
Assistance:
\$75,377

SERVICE

Volunteer
Hours:
10,530
Value:
\$366,339

Knit-Rite Gets Creative to Support Cross-Lines

Community collaboration at its best



This summer, Knit-Rite found a fun and refreshing way to give back by selling popsicles to their employees!

What started as a simple idea to beat the heat turned into a meaningful fundraiser for Cross-Lines. Throughout the summer months, their marketing team raised more than \$700 to support our hunger relief, housing, and community programs. We are so grateful for Knit-Rite's creativity and generosity. Their efforts show how easy and enjoyable it can be to make a difference in our community. When neighbors support neighbors, we strengthen the entire fabric of Wyandotte County. Partnerships like this demonstrate the incredible impact that businesses can have when they collaborate to uplift our community.

If your workplace, club, or group would like to host a creative fundraiser for Cross-Lines, we'd love to hear from you! Contact Kelly at kelly@cross-lines.org with your ideas or questions.

Together, we can continue making sure no neighbor is left hungry and no family is without a home.

Standing Together Through Uncertainty

At Cross-Lines, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide hope and support to our neighbors who have nowhere else to turn. Yet today, we face an uncertain landscape. Federal funding for critical social service programs is in flux, leaving many community organizations, Cross-Lines included, unsure of what resources will be available in the coming year.

This uncertainty makes one thing abundantly clear: our community must stand together. Now more than ever, Cross-Lines depends on the generosity of individual donors, congregations, and corporate partners to ensure that no neighbor in Wyandotte County is left hungry or without a place to call home.

There is currently no permanent shelter in Wyandotte County, and the cost of both housing and food continues to rise. Each day, our team meets people who are struggling to survive in a system that often leaves them behind; families forced to choose between rent and groceries, seniors skipping meals to afford medication, and individuals sleeping in cars because there's nowhere else to go.

Through it all, Cross-Lines continues to serve as a safety net and a place of dignity, compassion, and connection. We remain guided by our core values:

- **Dignity:** Every person deserves respect, regardless of circumstance.
- **Empowerment:** We meet people where they are and help them move forward.
- **Collaboration:** Together, with volunteers, donors, and community partners, we can build a stronger, more compassionate Wyandotte County.

Your continued support makes this work possible. Whether you give financially, organize a food or hygiene drive, volunteer your time, or advocate for those in need, you are part of the solution. You help ensure that Cross-Lines can keep our Market shelves stocked, our Kitchen doors open, and our housing programs moving forward.

As we look ahead, we do so with deep gratitude for the unwavering generosity of this community. Together, we can weather uncertainty and continue to be a place of hope and help for those who need it most.



CROSS • LINES
COMMUNITY OUTREACH, INC.

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Our vital programs rely on your generosity.
Make an immediate impact by donating to Cross-Lines today at www.cross-lines.org, or by sending your donation using the enclosed envelope.

Your support helps us change lives every day—join us in making a difference now!

Quick, easy, and secure donation

