

NEWSLINES OF *Hope*

Cross-Lines Community Outreach Newsletter



St. Thomas ROTC organized by Barbara McCall

Creating a Culture of Kindness

By Kelly Gough Moran

It has been quite a busy summer at Cross-Lines! We have welcomed volunteers of all ages to help in our Community Market, Community Kitchen, and almost everywhere else on campus. Cross-Lines is fortunate to host hundreds of diverse volunteers each summer. In the first six months of 2022, we hosted over **700 volunteers** who donated over **6,700 hours of service!** Volunteers are vital to operating services at Cross-Lines, and **we are grateful for each and every one.**

One group we recently hosted was the energetic bunch of youngsters (pictured) from **St. Thomas's ROTC** program. This group of go-getters helped organize our stocking area in the Market, tag items going on the shelves, and pack commodities boxes for low-income seniors. Not only did this group accomplish a lot, but they also had FUN! Our Community Market staff loves having groups of young people come in to volunteer, often citing their contagious enthusiasm!

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Jim Stanley (left) is a retired attorney from Leawood, KS. Jim wasn't familiar with Cross-Lines prior to stopping in for a free COVID- 19 test in the Spring. His curiosity peaked, Jim talked with our Director of Programs, Rob Santel, who shared more about Cross-Lines' work, clients, and supporters. Rob volunteered to give Jim a tour of our campus to learn more about the daily activities at Cross-Lines. Now, Jim faithfully stops by a few times a week and drops off several gallons of milk for our shoppers in the market. Our Market staff loves to see Jim walking through our doors!

A dynamic duo, indeed! **Iziah** (left) and **James** (right) met while volunteering at Cross-Lines and quickly formed a strong and unique bond. You'll find this pair volunteering in the Market every Tuesday and Thursday morning. Iziah, who is on the autism spectrum, was encouraged by his mother, Eileen, to help at Cross-Lines to gain more job-like experience. James jumped at the chance to show Iziah around and help him grow accustomed to new experiences, meeting new people daily, and working independently.

Volunteers are truly invaluable to Cross-Lines and help us accomplish much more than we could on our own. There are always opportunities to pitch in. Are you ready to help? Reach out to our Volunteer Manager, Roxanne Vega- Roxanne@cross-lines.org



STAFF UPDATE

Congrats are in order! We are happy to announce a few recent changes in positions among Cross-Lines' staff. Rather than retiring, **Allen Pickett** has accepted the **Operations Manager** role amongst our administrative team. **Rob Santel** has accepted the role of **Director of Programs**, overseeing all of

Cross-Lines' Hunger and Housing programs. **Marlen Hernandez** has accepted the role of **Hunger Relief Manager**, tasked with managing the Market and the Kitchen. Our newest addition to the team is **Aracely Mendoza** who has accepted a **Market Assistant** position.

Market Use is on the Rise

By Ellie Oliphant

As grocery prices continue to escalate, the demand for healthy and accessible food for families and individuals in Wyandotte County continues to rise. We are fighting to keep the struggling community fed while maintaining Cross-Lines' bottom line.

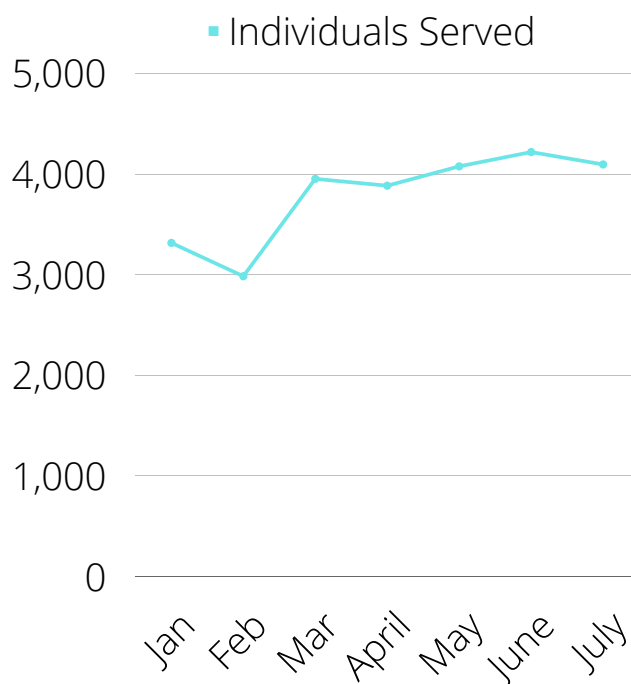
In just the first seven months of 2022, **the Community Market has served 26,526 individuals.** We have already surpassed 2021's record of 26,057! As Wyandotte County's vulnerable community is feeling the effects of rising prices, the Community Market is also. Marlen Hernandez, Hunger Relief Manager, states, **"I am stressed about the prices of our products going up and our shopper numbers rising. Some of our past suppliers cannot provide for us anymore because they also feel the effects of increased prices."**

The Community Market staff is seeing the effects of rising prices and inflation every day.

"As prices of the products on our shelves continue to increase, we are feeling the stress of not being able to provide the things we have in the past for our clients," said Marione Rangel, Community Market Assistant. The Community Market is a crucial resource for many, and the Cross-Lines staff is working hard to continue to support food insecure families and individuals in Wyandotte County.

The Market is currently serving over 4,000 people per month. LaShaunda Willis, a frequent shopper, says, **"I am on a fixed income, and I love to come to the Community Market in the months my family needs it. It is so helpful to come and grab household needs each month. I always tell people in similar situations as me about the Market."**

If you would like to help support the Community Market and our efforts to provide for the community, **please consider donating to Cross-Lines online today at www.cross-lines.org or mail your donation in the enclosed return envelope.**



Summer Heat: Cross-Lines Opens Cooling Center

With a **severe heat wave** affecting most of the country in late July, Cross-Lines leadership quickly coordinated the opening of our sanctuary to serve as a cooling center for those in need of a space to stay safe from dangerous temperatures. Scorching weather poses a significant threat to those experiencing homelessness, with adverse health effects possibly arising in just a few short hours in the heat.



Director of Programs Rob Santel shared, "As we were looking at what options were available for folks in this extreme heat, we found almost none, especially on the weekends in Wyandotte County. We knew we needed to be responsive to community needs. We have already lost eight individuals among the unsheltered population to heat-related deaths this season. We knew we needed to provide a place for people to stay hydrated and escape the elements."

Preparing for Gala For Hope 2022

We are busy preparing to make this year's Gala for Hope an elegant, inspirational, and unforgettable evening for our supporters. We hope you will join us to support Cross-Lines' life-saving work! The Gala will take place at the beautifully restored **Abbott event space** at 1901 Cherry St., Kansas City, MO on **September 24th, 2022 at 6pm.**

Guests will be invited to partake in cocktail hour, silent auction browsing, and socializing until our program begins at 7:30 pm. KMBC News anchor Kelly Eckerman will host our evening. Following the program, our fantastic auctioneer, Trisha Brauer, will lead the **live auction of high-end packages**. Frequent Gala attendees will be excited that KU Basketball Tickets and Chiefs Tickets are back again this year! Live auction bids are only available to attendees of the Gala, and **seats are limited**. Like last year, make sure you sign up to participate in the auctions, as bidding for the silent auction will be done on your mobile device and available to all supporters attending the gala and those at home.

Now is the time to secure your tickets to a beautiful evening of support, celebration, and fun!

Visit www.cross-lines.org to purchase your tickets!