

# NEWSLINES<sup>OF</sup> Hope

www.cross-lines.org

Spring 2020

## Together, We Do Amazing Things!

Every day at Cross-Lines, we are amazed and inspired by the dedication of our supporters and humbled by the tenacity and resiliency of our clients. These two things keep our small crew of hardworking staff going, even when we face the challenge of increasing demands.

Just this past week, one of our elderly clients rode multiple buses for two and a half hours in a long and confusing journey from his home in Leavenworth to our office in KCK. He was desperate for help getting his diabetes medication that he couldn't afford.

His case manager, Markie Crabtree, patiently listened and offered support when he arrived at Cross-Lines. She did all the work necessary to help the client get his medication costs covered by the Kansas City Medicine Cabinet program. But she didn't stop there. Markie saw the struggle the long journey had been. She didn't want him to have to find his way to a pharmacy and then try and navigate the bus system to get home. So Markie went and picked up his prescription for

him, and drove to take it to him all the way in Leavenworth.

Those are the kind of caring gestures that happen at Cross-Lines on a daily basis. Our small staff of 11 full-time and three part-time employees go the extra mile to help those in need. We are buoyed by the support of volunteers and supporters like you who go out of their way to help others.

You don't have to look hard to find moments, people and stories to help lift your spirits at Cross-Lines every day. These aren't the stories you see on the local news. But please know that good

things are happening every day because of you.

Thanks to you, last year we served nearly 68,000 meals to the hungry in our community kitchen. We helped more than 600 people avoid eviction, escape homelessness or get their utilities shut off when they faced an unexpected crisis. More than 1,800 caring volunteers donated countless hours of their time to help those in need in our community.

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In June, Cross-Lines will host an exciting new fundraiser called "Rock the Dotte."

Whether it's tastes or tunes, delight your senses and experience the flavors of Wyandotte County at this unique music and food celebration.

The first-ever "Rock the Dotte" will be from 5 to 10 p.m. on **Friday, June 12, 2020** at the **Vox Theatre**, a historic, hip venue near downtown Kansas City. Approximately 300 guests will enjoy live performances by some of the area's



hottest bands and a plate of food, filled with diverse flavors from favorite Wyandotte County eateries.

This event will attract a vibrant audience while raising funds to support the crucial hunger relief services provided by Cross-Lines.

A ticket includes an entire evening of entertainment as well as a tasting experience of different cuisines, along with non-alcoholic drinks. Beer and delicious sangria will also be available for purchase all evening.

Stay tuned to our website and social media for more details about our music lineup and menu selection.

*Rock the Dotte will replace "Smoke Out Hunger," the BBQ fundraiser held from 2016-2019.*

### FOOD PANTRY NEED GROWS

Keeping the shelves stocked in the Food Pantry is a growing challenge

### PLANT SALE

Place your pre-order for this year's Spring Dig Plant Sale

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet the Freds, father and son volunteers at Cross-Lines

# Together, We Do Amazing Things!

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In this issue of Newslines, you can read just a few of these inspiring stories. Read the heartwarming story of “The Freds,” an amazing father and son volunteer team living their beliefs by volunteering in the Cross-Lines Food Pantry.

Read about the explosive growth we have seen in our Food Pantry. Through your support last year, we helped more than 11,000 people get access to emergency groceries to have enough to feed their families. Like our clients, we are struggling to continue to put food on the table. Thanks to your support, we will persevere and provide our crucial life-changing programs.

The past year was a challenging one for Cross-Lines. In many ways, we are like our clients in continually trying to stretch a tight budget. Our hunger relief programs are strained to have enough healthy food to feed those in need in our community.

Thanks to your continued support, we are there to meet

the needs in our community and we are seeing results for our efforts. Our dedicated staff is spending more time with each client, helping people navigate the maze of problems that come when you are living in poverty. With your help, our clients take steps to make lasting changes in their lives that allow them to improve their circumstances.

Our work is far from done, and 2020 is filled with opportunities and challenges ahead for Cross-Lines.

Cross-Lines received a grant from the H&R Block Foundation to do a comprehensive strategic plan over the next year to help our agency take a careful look at our programs and plan for the future so that we can ensure we are an effective and vibrant beacon of hope in the community for another 50 years.

The key is YOU! We need you to continue to stand with us, work alongside us and provide your support so we can truly transform lives. Together, we can do so much! We are excited about the year ahead, and we hope you are, too.

## 5-Step Guide to a Food Drive

*Have you been thinking about doing a food drive for Cross-Lines but don't know where to start?*

All you need is a little bit of planning and a few friends to get things started! Follow our guide and see how easy it is to bring people together and make a big impact for those in need!

### 1. IDENTIFY YOUR TEAM.

A successful food drive requires a team of people to contribute – the more the better! Ask your coworkers and make it an office-wide effort. Delegate a few friends to help lead and encourage the group. Invite your church congregation, your rotary club, your high school, or your family and unite them around the cause!

### 2. CONNECT TO THE MISSION.

Be honest about why you care about Cross-Lines and why they should, too. Share some real client stories and invite them to visit our website and learn more. Take a tour of our campus or volunteer and show them why their donation matters.

### 3. PICK A TIMELINE.

Choose a start and end date. If your timeline is too broad or unspecific, you'll lose interest. Print fliers with the dates and send reminders.

### 4. BREAK IT DOWN.

The more specific, the better! Ask your team to choose from a huge list of items and they might feel overwhelmed. Pick a category of food and you might see better results.

Go the extra mile and have fun by picking a theme or naming your drive.

Bonus idea: Create a sense of competition and split your team up. Ask each group to contribute and reward the group that donates the most! Or reward everyone for trying!

### 5. CELEBRATE! KEEP THE LOVE GOING.

When we celebrate our efforts with a little party and genuinely thank our friends who donated, then they feel appreciated and will likely donate again.

Take pictures and make your team feel proud! Be sure to share them on social media and tag Cross-Lines so we can share the love, too.

### ITEMS TO COLLECT

*Here is a list of some of the most in-demand items at the Cross-Lines food pantry:*

Fresh Fruit (apples, oranges, etc.)

Peanut Butter

Large/family-sized cans of meals that include protein, such as chunky soups, spaghetti, ravioli

Low-sugar cereals

Canned fruit (low sugar)

Canned protein (chicken, tuna, salmon, spam, etc)

Baby Formula

# A Struggle to Stock the Shelves

## Cross-Lines Food Pantry Serves Growing Community Need

Hunger never takes a vacation.

The sad reality is that though many generous groups held end-of-year holiday food drives, by the end of January, the shelves in the Cross-Lines food pantry were once again nearly bare.

From 2016 to 2019, the number of people served by the Cross-Lines Food Pantry nearly tripled. Some of the growth can be attributed to the new building opening in January 2017, expanding the pantry's size and capacity to serve more people. But more than just the space, hunger is a growing need.

In Wyandotte County, one in three people are food insecure.

### WHY ARE PEOPLE HUNGRY?

There isn't just one simple reason why people are hungry and come to the pantry to get emergency groceries for their family, says Food Pantry Coordinator Natalia Albanese, who runs the pantry and talks with all of the clients who come in for help.

"Many of our clients are in some sort of difficult situation," Natalia said. "They've had a divorce, a job loss, a cut in their hours or some kind of medical crisis or injury at work."

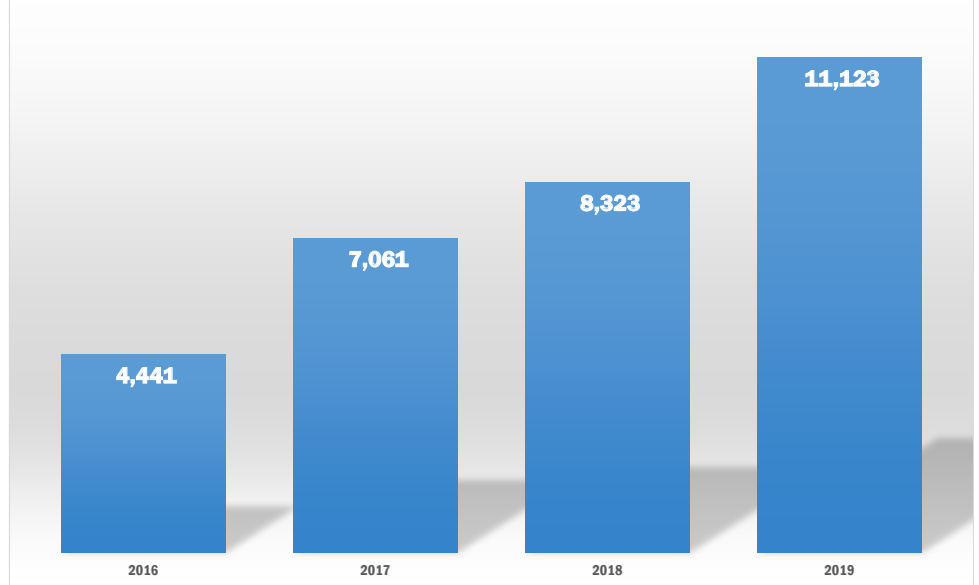
The majority of pantry clients have at least one person in the household who is working, but difficult circumstances make it impossible to put enough food on the table.

Many clients are struggling to pay their rent and cover unexpected costs that come up, such as medical bills and car repairs. Contrary to some negative stereotypes, it isn't because people have made bad choices about what to spend their money on that cause hunger.

"People are just struggling to survive," Natalia said.

Each client must verify that they qualify for services. Clients must be at or below 150% of the federal poverty level. For a family of four, that is an income of \$38,625 per year or \$3,218 per month.

NUMBERS SERVED BY CROSS-LINES FOOD PANTRY



### WHERE DOES FOOD COME FROM?

While Cross-Lines appreciates donations from food drives, to keep our shelves stocked in a pantry that serves an average of 370 households a month, we have to purchase most of our food.

For example, in February, we spent more than \$4,600 purchasing food items at Harvesters and Hy-vee.

Allen Pickett, Director of Operations at Cross-Lines, makes two trips per week to Harvesters, hoping to shop their "free floor" for food for the pantry. The free items are perishable items such as produce. In February alone, Allen picked up more than 1,500 pounds of food from Harvesters.

In the warmer months, the Cross-Lines community garden helps stock the pantry with fresh healthy produce, a client favorite and a crucial item for most of our clients who struggle to have access to fresh healthy food. In addition, Cross-Lines is fortunate to partner with After the Harvest, who generously supplies us with fresh produced gleaned from local farms.

Cross-Lines also has grants to help support our pantry, including from United Way of Wyandotte County and

the TJX Foundation. We are also blessed by several church partnerships that help, including Christ Church Anglican, who donates \$1,000 per month to support the pantry, and Church of the Resurrection, who donates several pallets of food every other month.

But, Cross-Lines simply cannot meet the hunger demand of the community without the support of our generous donors.

### GIVING CLIENTS A CHOICE

Clients of the food pantry really appreciate that Cross-Lines is a client-choice pantry, meaning that they get to choose the food they receive. Food is organized into seven food groups. A handy shopping guide shows the client how many items they can choose from each food group, based on the size of household. Staff help clients look through the shelves so they can select the items that will work best for their family. Having the opportunity to choose allows clients to have a sense of dignity and limits waste.

To help support the pantry, please donate online at [www.cross-lines.org](http://www.cross-lines.org) or in the envelope enclosed with your newsletter. Thank you for your support!



# Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

## Meet “The Freds”

It’s a Tuesday afternoon and Fred O. Desieghardt works in the Cross-Lines Food Pantry, his large, wrinkled hands tenderly transferring eggs, one by one, into six-count cartons.

“I’m getting beyond the age when volunteering is easy,” he said, carefully latching the Styrofoam carton.

At 94, he is uneasy on his feet but has been entrusted with some of the most fragile volunteer tasks, repackaging eggs and cutting and bagging bread with extreme care.

For at least 20 years, Fred O. has been volunteering with Cross-Lines, serving with his church, Knox Presbyterian, in the Community Kitchen, assisting with the Christmas Store, and lending a hand when Cross-Lines finds itself in a rough place, like during a flood. Just this past year, his son, Fred A., joined him in the Food Pantry and the friendly pair quickly became known as “The Freds.”

“You know you’re old when your son is on Social Security,” said Fred O.



***“I’m one of the more fortunate people so it’s what I ought to do,” Fred O. said. “If you are a Christian, this is how you do life.”***

with a smile.

The Freds are incredibly close, living in the same retirement community and maintaining regular contact so that Fred O. can support his son’s disability as needed. They share a love for travel and Royals baseball, even taking a trip to Surprise, Arizona in past years to watch spring training practices.

In 1982, Fred O. met with a handful of parents of children with disabilities to discuss the resources their children needed and how to insure those needs were met when family assistance was

no longer available. With his son in mind, Fred O. and the other parents founded Arcare, a nonprofit “designed to make certain that individuals with a disability would receive caring, planned, professional support throughout their lives.” Establishing the nonprofit remains Fred O’s proudest moment, giving him considerable comfort knowing his son is in good hands.

The Freds volunteer for the Cross-Lines

Food Pantry every Tuesday afternoon, engaging Cross-Lines staff, volunteers, and clients in conversation and working in tandem to complete their regular tasks before saying their goodbyes.

When asked why he has chosen to volunteer with Cross-Lines all these years, Fred O. takes a long pause, his blue eyes filling with tears. “Because I’m one of the more fortunate people so it’s what I ought to do,” he said. “If you are a Christian, this is how you do life.”



## SAVE THE DATE!!

*Our annual Gala for Hope fundraiser will be held*

**Saturday, September 19th, 2020**

*We’re returning to The Gallery Event Space in downtown Kansas City, Missouri for what is sure to be a thrilling evening of silent and live auctions, dinner and celebration of your support for the Cross-Lines community – you won’t want to miss it!*



# 2020 SPRING DIG PLANT SALE

Spring is just around the corner! Now is the time to start planning your gardens and flower beds.

Enclosed with your newsletter is an order form to help you stock up for your garden at the Friends of Cross-Lines 25th Spring Dig Plant Sale. The sale will be held Wednesday, April 29 through Saturday, May 2 at Shawnee Presbyterian Church.

The hours for the Plant Sale are listed below.

In order to ensure you get the plants you want, pre-order your plants by filling out the enclosed form and mailing it to the address listed with your payment. You can also come to the sale to shop. **Pre-orders are due by April 13.**

This year, we will have a wider selection of perennial varieties and sizes, many of which are newer hybrids.

If you order at least \$300 of plants by April 13, we will deliver free of charge. You may combine several pre-orders

(gather your friends and neighbors) to reach \$300, as long as the delivery point is one address. Orders less than \$300 will be available for pick-up beginning at 1 p.m. on April 29 at the Plant Sale.

The plant sale raises approximately \$10,000 to support programs for those in need at Cross-Lines.

It's a win-win partnership—you receive beautiful flowers and your generosity enables us to provide services to

people in need.

Friends of Cross-Lines would like to give a big THANK YOU to our corporate sponsor **Drexel Technologies** in Lenexa, KS, who donated all of the printing costs associated with the plant sale. The donation allows more of the profit from the sale of the plants to go to Cross-Lines programs.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Spring Dig!

**Pre-Orders are due by April 13. The Plant Sale will be April 29th-May 2nd at the Shawnee Presbyterian Church. Rain or shine!**

## SPRING DIG PLANT SALE HOURS:

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 29</b>	<b>1 p.m. to 7 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 30</b>	<b>8 a.m. to 7 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>May 1</b>	<b>8 a.m. to 7 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>May 2</b>	<b>8 a.m. to 1 p.m.</b>

**LOCATION: Shawnee Presbyterian Church  
6837 Nieman, Shawnee, KS**

*Make A Difference!*

## Featured Volunteer Opportunity

### THRIFT STORE CASHIER

For six days a week, our team of Thrift Store volunteers work nonstop to provide our community with access to discounted clothes, furniture, and more.

From tinkering with donated housewares to make them sellable to rehanging clothes and sweeping the floors to running the cash register and welcoming shoppers in and out, our Thrift Store volunteers are essential to the function of the store. If you're looking for a unique way to work directly with our clients, than this is the opportunity for you!

We are looking for several volunteers to run our Thrift Store cash register. Thrift Store volunteers must be able to commit to at least one shift every other week. Weekly commitment preferred. Training provided. Available shifts are listed below.

- Tuesday mornings 9AM-noon
- Friday mornings 9AM-noon
- Friday afternoons noon-4PM
- Some Saturdays 9AM-3PM

### ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

- Front Desk receptionist
- Community Kitchen breakfast server
- Community Garden volunteers
- Thrift Store volunteers - sorting room

*To inquire about the specific times and dates for the opportunities listed above OR to schedule a group volunteer experience, please contact Christina Hofer at [christina@cross-lines.org](mailto:christina@cross-lines.org) or 913-281-3388.*

## HONORARIUMS

### **Margaret Ackley**

James and Kathy Thomann  
Kathryn Pirman

### **Claudia Bakely**

Diana Chapel

### **Wayne & Margee Castle**

Marilyn Buchman

### **Jim & Nancy Dorsey**

Tony and Sonya Disidore

### **John Fish**

Lynne and Stan Fish

### **Jeanette Grenz**

Sandra and Francis Polson

### **Chris & Jenny Hansen**

Tony and Sonya Disidore

### **Leslie Holliday**

Willie and Tricia Holliday

### **John L. Millard**

Becky Johnson

### **Joe Anne Myers**

Andrea and Tori Jonson

### **Barb Shull**

Margaret Carr

### **Jean Shull**

Margaret Carr

### **The Shull's**

Allison Carr

### **Paul & Kim Snyder**

Tony and Sonya Disidore

## MEMORIALS

### **Nita Anderson**

Scott and Susan Anderson  
Robert and Bernadine Anwander  
Elizabeth and Neil Barnett  
Gary and Cynthia Batliner  
Dennis and Phyllis Bernardi  
Alice Blankenship  
Carrie Bowman  
Carrie Bowman  
John and Teresa Breitenstein  
Trey & Colleen Brown  
Lyn Channell  
Mike and Brenda Chumley  
Patricia Clark  
Daniel and Carrie Craig  
Dan & Marni Cummings  
Don and Mary Dibble  
Ed and Janice Eilert  
Katherine Faerber  
Brent and Jil Fuson  
Martha Gann  
Rita Glattes  
Hugh and Michelle Kimball  
Lawrence Kinder  
Tracey and Steven Loe  
David Macoubrie  
Marcus and Mary McCarty  
Gary and Mary Beth McCarty  
Jo and William McGowan  
Steve and Debra Meritt  
Robert and Sue Minor  
New Chelsea Social Committee  
Rebecca and Mark Nicholson  
Brandon and Tellen Oots  
Overland Park Christian Church  
Jill & Gary Roush  
Karen and Thomas Ryan  
David and Karla Shepard  
Morgan Scheib  
Kadhim and Ruth Ann Shuker  
Kevin and Janelle Sterling  
Gabriela Tharp  
George and Karen Uzelac

## MEMORIALS

### **Betty Jean Bingham**

James Bingham

### **Don Bakely**

Merrill and Kas Bakely  
Edward and Sandra Evans

### **Romaine Dodds Millick**

Melody and David Aldrich

### **Thomas Morris**

Dixie Morris

### **Robert Allan Webber**

Bill and Jean Shull

### **Carol Sanders**

Wesley United Methodist

### **Carol Ring**

Joan and Gerald Gibson

*\* Lists include gifts made before March 1, 2020. Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this list. We apologize for any errors or omissions.*

# 2020 EVENTS

*For more information about our events, please follow us on Facebook, visit our website at [cross-lines.org](http://cross-lines.org).*

## SPRING DIG PLANT SALE

Wed., April 29 - Sat. May 2, 2020

Shawnee Presbyterian Church

6837 Nieman Shawnee, KS

## COMMUNITY PICNIC

Saturday, May 9, 2020

5-10 p.m.

Community Kitchen parking lot

## ROCK THE DOTTE

Friday, June 12, 2020

5-10 p.m.

The Vox Theatre

1405 Southwest Blvd. KCK

## GALA FOR HOPE

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020

Gallery Event Space

61 E 14th St, Kansas City, MO

## CHRISTMAS STORE

December 7-12, 2020

628 S. Pyle KCK

(on Cross-Lines campus)



**CROSS • LINES**  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH, INC.

## ADDRESS:

736 Shawnee Avenue Kansas City, KS 66105

## PHONE:

913-281-3388

## WEB:

[www.cross-lines.org](http://www.cross-lines.org)

## BOARD:

Board Chair: Cindy Moore Vice Chair: Lisa Wiens  
Secretary: Jim Ensiz Treasurer: Derek White  
Members: Kristina Belshe, Chris Grenz, Jorge Herrera,  
Marty Hoeffey, Kam Howard, Jason Moss, Megan Pierre