An Urgent Message
From Executive Director, Susila Jones

For more than 50 years, Cross-Lines has been a crucial part of the community safety net for individuals and families struggling with the hardships of poverty. People like Shawn, who was sleeping in a park and struggling with mental health issues when he knocked on Cross-Lines’ door. People like Eileen, who was at the end of her rope and unable to feed her children. And people like Vicki, a 71-year-old grandmother who lost her home and was left carrying all of her belongings on her 10-year-old scooter.

But 2019 is different. Cross-Lines has found itself caught between two unflinching realities: demand for services is up while, at the same time, Cross-Lines has experienced a dramatic, unprecedented drop in individual donations.

This is a national trend being seen at many nonprofits across the country after changes in the tax laws prompted some donors to reduce their charitable giving. In the first five months of 2019, we have seen an 18% decrease in our individual giving, which makes up about 34% of our annual budget.

The timing couldn’t be worse. Demand for Cross-Lines services is up across the board. For example, in 2018, the number of people served by our Food Pantry grew by more than 25%. This year, even more people are seeking help at the pantry. And that is just one program.

Many of you have generously supported Cross-Lines so that we can continue to be a positive force for change in our community. Because of you, we are able to help people every day who are struggling to survive difficult, seemingly insurmountable circumstances. Because of you, we have been able to help people like Shawn. And Eileen. And Vicki.

But the reality is that Cross-Lines and the many people we serve need your help now more than ever. We don’t want to consider reducing services.

Your donation is much more than a tax deduction. Your donation changes lives. When you give to Cross-Lines, you are ensuring people like Shawn and Vicki escape homelessness. You are ensuring that people like Eileen and her children have a hot meal each day. You are ensuring that struggling, working parents are able to get enough food from our food pantry to feed their families.

Your support and investment in Cross-Lines truly makes a difference. Please consider making a gift to Cross-Lines today, either online or in the envelope we enclosed.

On behalf of the staff and many people served by Cross-Lines every day, thank you for your continued support.

From Executive Director, Susila Jones

Did You Know You Can Save On Taxes By Giving Via Your IRA?

With the increase of the standard deduction in the new tax law, more retirees will take the standard deduction and, therefore, not be able to take an itemized deduction for charitable contributions. Did you know you can do both?

If you are older than 70 1/2 and must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA, you can direct some or all of it to a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) instead. Any money taken from your IRA and sent directly to a charitable organization will count toward satisfying your RMD, but will not be considered taxable income to you. The funds must go directly from your brokerage to the charity and must be tagged as a QCD for you to avoid taxes on the contribution.

Please note: sending the RMD to your checking account and then writing the check yourself will not be considered a QCD. Please consult your tax advisor and your brokerage house for more information about QCDs, and consider Cross-Lines in your QCD planning.
After seemingly endless amounts of Spring rains, the sun arrived just in time for the fourth annual Smoke Out Hunger event.

There was nothing but sunny skies at the event on June 7-8. Between the Barn Party and the highly-contended BBQ Contest, Cross-Lines raised $26,000 for our hunger relief programs.

The event featured a Kansas City Barbeque Society-sanctioned contest between 47 teams. There was a festive Barn Party on Friday night where about 200 people had a chance to eat BBQ, sides and vote in the People’s Choice Chicken Wing Competition.

The crowd enjoyed performances by local band Carswell & Hope with special guests Jared and Kianna from Yes You Are!, Claire Adams and Dylan Guthrie.

Thank you to everyone who attended or volunteered at the event! Special thanks to volunteer Adam Gabbert for coordinating all of the teams during the contest and Jon Orr from Operation BBQ Relief for smoking all of the pulled pork for the meal.

Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, True North Hotel Group. We are also grateful to our other generous sponsors: Manos Wines, Knit-Rite, Design Mechanical, Kansas Gas, BPU and 90.9 The Bridge.

We also want to thank MW Builders and United Rentals for donating the generators that powered all of the competing BBQ teams during the event.

Special thanks also go out to long-time Cross-Lines supporters Byron & Sandy Whitaker for coordinating the event entertainment.

Please mark your calendars for next year’s Smoke Out Hunger, which will be held June 12-13, 2020.

### Sun Shines on Smoke Out Hunger Event

#### Young Professionals Board Formed

We’ve had an exciting development at Cross-Lines: the formation of our first-ever Young Professionals Board!

On April 25th, a group of about 21 individuals gathered at the Mockingbird Lounge, a local bar on Strawberry Hill, for a Happy Hour to learn more about the future of the Cross-Lines Young Professionals Board.

In June, the group met for their first board meeting. Members received a tour of the Cross-Lines campus and then had an engaging discussion about how a younger demographic might bring more awareness to Cross-Lines and a fresh perspective on areas of growth. The group discussed a wide variety of topics, including special event ideas, volunteerism as a group, and bringing awareness of Cross-Lines through social media and other marketing ideas.

As this group continues to establish themselves and develop goals, we welcome new participants who are eager to contribute their time, skills, and connections to further the work of Cross-Lines in the community.

The energy of our current members is contagious and it’s an exciting time to be involved! To learn more about the Young Professionals Board, please contact Christina Hofer at christina@cross-lines.org.
Spring Dig Plant Sale Grows

Despite some rainy weather, the 2019 Spring Dig Plant Sale was a record success! The 24th annual sale raised more than $11,000 to support Cross-Lines programs and services.

This event brings together a tight-knit group of dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to help run the sale. The knowledgeable volunteers organize the many pre-orders and help shoppers select the best choices from a wide variety of high-quality plants.

This event was led for many years by Kris Illum, whom we lost in May. Words cannot express how much Kris meant to everyone at Cross-Lines.

Special thanks go out to Brooke Illum, who led the sale from start to finish for the first time this year. Brooke will carry on her mother’s legacy and continue to lead the sale next year.

The Plant Sale committee that has already held their first meeting to start planning for 2020.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2019 sale a success, including Shawnee Presbyterian church, our host location.

Please mark your calendars now for next year’s Spring Dig, which will be April 29-May 2, 2020.

2019 Armourdale Picnic Brings Community Together

Thank you to the more than 200 people from the Armourdale Community who came out to the fifth annual Armourdale Community Picnic at Cross-Lines on Saturday, June 22. It was an absolute blast! There are so many people who helped make the day special, but we want to especially thank the dedicated volunteers who came out to help set up, serve food, face paint, plant basil, play games with kids and help clean up. Special thanks to our friends at the Armourdale Renewal Association for joining us and providing a booth with information and San Antonio for our delicious tacos. We are also grateful to Mariachi Oro de Mexico KC for donating their time and talents to entertain guests.
HONORARIUMS

Margaret Ackley, Get Well Wishes
Char and Richard Charette

Nancy Moylan, Happy Birthday
Charles and Mary Haley

MEMORIALS

Cathy Goodger Memorial
David and Elizabeth Anderson
James and Wanda Armfield
Teresa Biron
Landy and Mary Linda Boling
Duane and Terri Bond
Richard Brammell and Carolyn Corwin
Robin Buchanan
Michael Burns
Janet Buttery
Robin and Bill Carr
Terry and John Carson
Susan Catt
Richard and Char Charette
Rebecca and Thomas Cheatham
Donald and Sally Chew
Marci and Ron Chmielewski
Ann Marie Clark
Brenda and Mark Colburn
Alexa Cole
Mr. and Mrs. Copaken
Tim and Nan Corwin
Tim and Betty Corwin
Randall and Linda Cruse
Patricia and Dean Davidson
Sean and Donee’ Dawson & Family
Smith and Mary Jane De Voe
Nancy Dixon
Lois Durbin
Ron Edgmon
Thomas and Drenda Farrell
Laura and Don Fields
John Flatt
Janet Flatt
Barbara Frankland
Carolyn Freese
Fried Family
Tony and Martha Frook
Amy Funk
Clifford and Anne Gall
Charles and Michelle Gholl
Bruce and Heidi Godke
Chris and Esther Grenz
Tom and Beth Hall
Gale and James Hansen
Robert and Mona Hart
Christine and Joseph Heller
Gary and Susan Heyka
Jette Higgins
James and Diane Hillbert
Kenneth and April Hite
Jennifer and Stephen Hoak
Sandra Holt
Howe & Company
Christopher Huff
Theresa and Ken Hursh
Dan and Susan Hutchins
Donald and Georgette James
Holly Jenks
Kay Eileen Johnson
Robert and Karen Johnson
Ben and Valerie Kalny
Kembel Family
Debbie Ramirez Koch
Jacqueline Kodas
Gwendolyn and Gene Koski
Jill Kuehny
Robert and Marilyn Lake
Anita Link
Deborah and Bob Loomis
Scott and Patty Mach
Timothy and Alison Maier
Stephen Mangelsdorf
Sherlyn Manson
Pat and Mel McAnany
Marley, Franccie, Megan, Katie McCarthy
McCarthy, Rose & Mills LLP (Brett & John)
Robert and Deloris Mehlinger
Ruth Meinking
Kenneth and Kathy Meissner
Michael and Giovanna Michaelis
Jay Mitchell / Le-Ru Telephone Co.
Mize Houser & Co., P.A. (Brad Owen)
Cindy and Terry Moore
Courtney Morrill
Gerald and Ellen Mortell, III
Jerry and Carol Neill
John and Larie Nelson
Margaret and David Nowak
Mike and Lisa Olson
Kathleen, John, Danielle, Joe Orner
Kay Patterson
Megan and D.J. Pierre
Lori Pittman
Prevent Biometrics
David Ramirez
Leona Rieke
Dennisand Palle Rilinger
Kaitlyn Roach
Jill and Gerard Robke
Jeffrey Roblez
Robert and Karen Roth
Bill and Jean Seigle
Seneca Telephone Company
Steve and Lynn Sestak
Rex and Lori Sharp
Brooke Shepard
Tim & Theresa Shmidl
David and Anne Simms
Kevin Smell
Linda and Kenneth Sonnenmoser
Scott and Diane Stanley
Barry Stmane
Marlys Strobel
Anita and Michael Strong
Leigh Anne and Robert Thomas
Bernard and Nancy Thomsen
TKG Properties LLC
Rachael Webb
Robin Weems
Doug and Julie Welch
Byron and Sandy Whitaker
Jerry White & Family
Wade and Jennifer Williams
Kristin Wing
Jim and Carody Wise
Jo Yun
Diane and Joseph Zdeb

Betty Jean Bingham Memorial
James Bingham

Martha Chapman Memorial
Margaret Ackley
Lee and Kathie Glenn
Phyllis Nason
Kathie White
H.E. Wilkinson
Armond and Patsy Wurtlin
Paula Zarr

Sam Crawford Memorial
J.D. and P.A. Bennett
Nadine and Delman Davidson
Don and Margaret Grimes
Karla Kerschen Shepard
Larry and Nancy Kilpatrick
Bob and Pat Laporte
Linette Marcotte
Darla Neal
Richard Mather Builders, Inc.
Phillip and Stephanie Sitko
Cliff and Leslie Van Blarcom

Donald Ferguson Memorial
John and Loretta Ferguson
Hal and Colleen Galbraith
Joanna and Pete Jafferis
J.L. and M.A. Nelson
Claudia Plunkett
Barbara Shippers
Johnathan and Tricia Slade
John and Joyce Walker

Kris Illum Memorial
Margaret Ackley
Maxine and Timothy Bachtle
Gwendolyn Boyd
CRN Properties, LLC
Heather Geary
Ken and Jeanette Grenz
Jill Heidrick
Maxine Lewis
Jane Loge
John and Sue Manning
Jay and Cheri Mastin
Cornelius Neufeld
Vicki and Bob Reynolds
Terry and Libby Schoeni
Marilyn Spatz
Kathy Stamm
Sarah Suskovic
Cynthia and Steven Thyren

Emma Kuzmich Memorial
Michele and Garry Dooley

Carol Saunders Memorial
Wesley United Methodist
Volunteers Needed

Become a Part of the Team!

We are on the lookout for committed volunteers that would like to volunteer their time and skills on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Our regulars become a part of the Cross-Lines family, helping us to change and grow our programs in order to help those in need. With the added commitment, these volunteers are able to customize their schedule and be a bit more selective about how they spend their time at Cross-Lines. Below are just some of the opportunities where volunteers are needed. To become a part of our team, fill out our volunteer application on our website or contact Christina Hofer at christina@cross-lines.org.

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. Our biggest need is for volunteers who can run the cash register, helping clients with checkout and answering questions as they arise. Additional volunteers are needed Monday-Saturday to help sort, price, and display donations.

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. We are looking for individual volunteers with gardening interest that would like to help out on our designated garden days: Tuesday and Friday mornings 8-10 a.m.

Front Desk

Do you love feeling organized and efficient as you answer the phone, help walk-in clients, and hand out Hope Totes to qualified recipients? Do you have a heart for serving others and enjoy interacting with a diverse population? Our Front Desk Volunteers are the superheroes of the office building, answering questions and juggling responsibilities as the face of Cross-Lines. Our Front Desk team is small but mighty, and each individual is passionate about the work they do. We are currently looking for a few more individuals who would like to volunteer weekly or bi-weekly at the Front Desk. Friday morning and Wednesday afternoon availability needed.

Meet Pastor Gary

If you visit the Cross-Lines Community Kitchen on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday morning for breakfast, it’s almost guaranteed that you will see Pastor Gary serving clients as they shuffle through the line, greeting many of them with the familiarity of an old friend.

Rev. Gary Roellchen, informally known as “Pastor Gary,” began serving breakfast twenty-five years ago in the Argentine Food Kitchen, which eventually became the Cross-Lines Community Kitchen. He is the pastor for Central United Methodist Church, a local Methodist church located approximately six blocks from the Cross-Lines campus. Their congregation is small, barely numbering a hundred congregants, but their impact on the surrounding community is huge.

“We do a hot meal on Saturdays and Sundays when Cross-Lines is closed – about 1200 meals a month” said Pastor Gary.

In addition to the hot meal service, Central UMC also has a sack lunch program and a food and clothing pantry. Many of the same people that come to Cross-Lines also visit Pastor Gary’s church. As a result, Pastor Gary has come to know many of the clients on a first-name basis.

“Sometimes the only thing a lot of these people own is their name,” said Pastor Gary. “If you’re called by name, it shows you’re valuable enough – you’re not just a ‘hey you.’”

In the many years Pastor Gary has served with Cross-Lines, he has seen a variety of people walk through the door. He has been a steady presence in the food kitchen as many clients navigate difficult life experiences.

“I feel a real empathy for the people that come here,” he said. Whether he’s serving breakfast or handing out sack lunches to clients in need, Pastor Gary feels passionate about helping clients “move up” and providing a hot meal and a kind smile.
The Gala for Hope is getting a major makeover this year as we’re moving downtown to The Gallery Event Space, located in the Power and Light District. This elegant, urban event space showcases floor-to-ceiling windows, an outdoor balcony overlooking the city skyline, and a great menu from start to finish. Following the main event, guests can continue the festivities next door at The Kill Devil Club, a sleek and intimate space with a 1950s feel. The after party will have a live DJ, dancing, and a great selection of cocktails and drinks until late. We can’t wait to show you around!

**LIVE AUCTION**

Despite our big venue change for this fall, the Gala for Hope will operate much the same as previous years. The event will take place on Saturday, September 28th. Doors open at 6 p.m. and a live jazz trio will set the scene as guests visit the open bar, try a selection of hors d’oeuvres, and peruse the Silent Auction items. Dinner is served at 7:30PM. The evening will continue with a formal program with updates from Cross-Lines and the live auction. Although auction donations are still being procured, some of our exciting line-up so far includes:

- A one-of-a-kind Caribbean getaway to Mango House on the island of Nevis
- Chiefs tickets for the at Nashville game with hotel stay
- In-home wine tasting with hors d’oeuvres
- Barrel of Booze

**CARIBBEAN GETAWAY**

Located on the quiet island of Nevis in the heart of the Caribbean, Mango House is not your typical island escape.

When guests ferry in from neighboring St. Kitts Island, they discover a once-in-a-lifetime experience promising tropical beaches, delicious local cuisine, and endless adventures to explore – without the crowds, the overdeveloped beaches, or the hassling street vendors. Mango House is designed to comfortably host eight people, a spacious oasis where guests can choose to soak up the sun in the private swimming pool, cook up some local flavors in the fully-equipped modern kitchen, or simply enjoy the spectacular views of Mount Nevis. Beyond the villa, the island offers endless adventure for guests of all ages, from a trip to the birthplace of Alexander Hamilton to the nearby Hermitage Plantation Inn for Wednesday night pig roast! The locals are friendly and accommodating and want guests to experience the magic of their island. You can learn more about this wonderful home and see photos at mangohouse-nevis.com. This package includes a week-long stay in the Caribbean-styled villa, plus a breakfast, lunch, and dinner combo at local eateries in Nevis. It was generously donated by family members of longtime Cross-Lines supporters; therefore, our lucky winners will enjoy an experience that is personal and completely unique to them.

In addition to donating a week-long stay in their handcrafted villa, the hosts would like guests to freely use their Land Rover to navigate the streets of Nevis. It all adds up to be an incredible package that can only be found at our annual Gala for Hope fundraiser this fall.

**THINGS TO KNOW**

Tickets for this popular event go on sale July 15 and can be purchased on our website. All proceeds for the event support Cross-Lines Community Outreach and directly fund our programs and services. We are currently looking for event sponsors, individuals willing to donate an item or service to the auction, and attendees. Please contact kelley@cross-lines.org or christina@cross-lines.org if you are able to help in any of these manners.

**PARKING**

We suggest parking in the KC Live Parking Garage located on 13th & Grand, under KC Live. Guests can bring their tickets to get validation at the Gallery Event Space.

Valet parking will also be available in front the venue for $10.