

# NEWSLINES <sup>OF</sup> Hope

www.cross-lines.org

Summer 2019

## 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.**

### *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

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.

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.

#### COMMUNITY PICNIC

See moments from the 2019 Armourdale Community Picnic

#### GALA FOR HOPE

Learn about the exciting plans for the 2019 Gala for Hope

#### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Pastor Gary, Community Kitchen volunteer



Above left: Cross-Lines Board Vice Chair Lisa Wiens and Executive Director Susila Jones present the Grand Champion award to the Black Eye BBQ team. Below left: Carswell & Hope perform during the Friday night Barn Party. Above right: The crowd gathered to sample and judge the People's Choice Chicken Wing contest.

## Sun Shines on Smoke Out Hunger Event

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.

## 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](mailto: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 Gholi

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, Francee, 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 Gerad 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](mailto: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.

## Volunteer SPOTLIGHT



### 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.

# Excitement Building for Gala for Hope

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](http://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](mailto:kelley@cross-lines.org) or [christina@cross-lines.org](mailto: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.



**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 Ensz *Treasurer:* Derek White  
*Members:* Chris Grenz, Jorge Herrera, Marty Hoeffy, Kam Howard, Jason Moss, Megan Pierre