

NEWSLINES ^{OF} Hope

www.cross-lines.org

Spring 2018

Remembering Our Roots



Cross-Lines co-founder Rev. Maurice Culver was a true minister of social justice.

Following his theology studies in the inner city while at Boston University, Maurice was deeply affected by his urban experiences. When he returned to Kansas City, Maurice served in three pulpit posts in the Methodist faith at Grinter Chapel, Wyandotte and Rosedale UMC.

It was during those years when he

joined forces with a group of clergy from the Rosedale section of Kansas City, KS and Roanoke section of Kansas City, MO to form Cross-Lines to alleviate the tremendous effects of poverty they saw.

Rev. Maurice Culver joined with pastors Stanley Bohn, Marion Moyes and Don Anderson to form Cross-Lines in 1963. Two years later, Cross-Lines was incorporated and the founders hired Rev. Don Bakely as the first Executive Director. Maurice Culver and Don Bakely became and remained best friends.

“My dad’s proudest accomplishment was convincing Don Bakely to come

make Cross-Lines a permanent ministry,” said Brad Culver.

Though we lost Maurice in 2010, Cross-Lines has been fortunate that his wife Lois of 57 years, and his son Brad Culver, have continued to carry on his work. Brad served on the Cross-Lines Board from 2011-2017 and chaired the successful Capital Campaign that resulted in the opening of the first new building more than 50-year history of Cross-Lines.

“Maurice would be thrilled with where Cross-Lines is today,” said Lois

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Leaving A Legacy:

Longtime Supporters Include Cross-Lines in Estate Plan

The first time Sandy Whitaker volunteered in the Cross-Lines Community kitchen, her now 29-year-old son, Jacob, was in a baby carrier. She and her husband, Byron, had learned about Cross-Lines when they heard Rev. Don Bakely speak at their church at Lake Quivira Ministries.

For nearly three decades later, Sandy and Byron Whitaker remain active and loyal supporters. In March, Sandy will finish up a 6-year term serving on the Cross-Lines Board of Directors.

Sandy and Byron are so committed to the work Cross-Lines does, they decided to leave a legacy for the agency by including Cross-Lines in their estate plan.

“Cross-Lines is special to us - we have had a long history with them and know the work they do,” Sandy said. “We also have a fondness for KCKS and Wyandotte County and know that we always need to provide for the poor. Jesus said, ‘The poor you will always have with you.’ We feel that Cross-Lines is efficient and does a lot with a little. Having served on the board, I know how well-run Cross-Lines is and how efficiently the donations are managed.”

The Whitaker’s sons Jacob and Peter



are both extremely supportive of their parent’s commitment to their favorite charities.

“My boys grew up volunteering at Cross-Lines, whether in the Community

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HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS

Recognize and remember the special friends of Cross-Lines

PLANT SALE

Place your pre-order for this year’s Spring Dig Plant Sale, May 3-5

BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Meet Chris Grenz, a member of our Board of Directors

Christmas Store Brings Holiday Cheer

Thanks to dedicated supporters like YOU, the 2017 Christmas Store was a great success!

Cross-Lines served 433 families including 1,915 individuals who had a wonderful holiday complete with gifts, clothing and food, thanks to you!

While it's impossible to list everyone, heartfelt sincere thanks go out to all of the dedicated individual volunteers, businesses and churches who helped provide presents and volunteers.

Some of the churches who helped make the Christmas Store possible included Knox Presbyterian, who provided toys; Colonial UCC and Zion UCC, who provided household goods; Rainbow Mennonite, who provided Christmas dinner and food staples; Lake Quivira Ministries and Church of the Resurrection, who provided coats and Old Mission UMC, St. Paul's UMC, Aldersgate UMC and Indian Heights, who helped provide clothing.

We also thank all the wonderful



businesses, churches and organizations who provided lunch and volunteers!

Please mark your calendars for the 2018 Christmas Store, which will be

December 3-8, 2018, in the old thrift store building located on the Cross-Lines campus. This location worked out well for the store and helps save the agency money on utility costs.

For more information about the Christmas Store, please contact Sarah Kelley at sarah@cross-lines.org or call 913-281-3388.

HONORARIUMS

Char Charette
Carol Ellis

Janet Maus
Damien and Kris Illum

Dennis and Judy Tull
Thomas and Denise Holcom

L.D. and Barbara Schnake
John and Dawn Schnake

Laurie and Chip Ingram
Jill Reynolds

Margaret Ackley
Larry and Darline Cyre
Mike and Theresa Lobb

Mary Linda and Landy Boling
Emily Boling

Nancy Moylan
Mary Morin

Paula Rowe
Carol Ellis

Quentin Brewer
Barbara Brewer

Libby and Terry Schoeni
David Schoeni

MEMORIALS

Sandra Ackley Carter
Margaret Ackley

Alfred Hager
James and Elaine Hager

Barbara Christian Card
Mary Titterington

Charlene & Robert W. Shortridge
Mary Jo Mensie

Maxine Zeckser
Joe Carpenter

Carol Saunders
Friends@Wesley United Methodist Church

Betty Maurer
Sarah and Charles Olson
Pamela and Scott Stephenson
Evan and Karen Stewart
Friends@Kansas Health Foundation

Don Bakely
Edward and Sandra Evans
Rev. Allyson Sawtell

Gene Funk
Melanie and Larry Bowman
Barbara Funk
Mildred Huntoon
Glenna Osborn
Carl and Betty Ulrich

Fr. Gerald Sheeds
Milton Arganbright

Glenna Johnson
Robert Johnson

Joan Hahn
Robert Hahn
Denise Anderson
Ann Asher
Barbara Cavener
Natalie Holloway
Robert Justice
Larry and Charla Manica
Scott and Amanda Pfenninger
Kande Sell
Katherine and Richard Sullivan

Katherine Vineyard
Steve and Barb Bang
Jonnie and Jackie Cox
Katherine McGinley

Lois Jean Kinnaw
Cornie Neufeld

Mary Stoskopf
Lowry and Linda Arnold
Claudia Bakely
Doris Brown
Debra Collins
Lois Culver
Tmothy and Kathleen Curran
Carol Erickson
Ken and Jeanette Grenz
Sharon and Ron Hutchison
Cindy Leighton
Barbara Lukert
Don and Sandra McArthur
Craig and Akimi McKinney
Carol McNary
Connor and Nancy Morris
Dennis and Cathy Owens
Connie Richards
SpinOffs
Nancy Silverforb
Charlotte and Mary Anne Stevenson
Todd Wegener
Armond and Patsy Wurtlin



Save the dates:

2018 SPRING DIG PLANT SALE

Now is the time to start planning your gardens and flower beds!

Included with your newsletter is a yellow order form to help you with this process by stocking up for your garden at the Spring Dig Plant Sale!

The Friends of Cross-Lines 23rd Spring Dig plant sale will be held Thursday, May 3 through Saturday, May 5.

Please ensure you get the plants you want by pre-ordering your plants on the enclosed form and mailing it to the address listed with your payment. You can also come to the sale to shop.

This year we have added ALL NEW perennial varieties and sizes compared to what we have carried in the past, many of which are newer hybrids.

Pre-ordering your plants ensures that you get first choice among the various selections. Pre-orders are due by April 16th.

If you order at least \$275 by April 16th we will deliver free of charge. You may combine several pre-orders (gather your friends and neighbors) to equal \$275, as long as the delivery point is one address.

Orders less than \$275 will be available for pick-up on Thursday, May 3rd from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Shawnee Presbyterian Church, 6837 Nieman Road in Shawnee.

This annual benefit raises around \$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 basic needs to our clients, such as food, clothing and toiletries.

Friends of Cross-Lines would like to give a big THANK YOU to our corporate sponsor Drexel Technologies in Lenexa, KS. Drexel Technologies donated all of the printing costs associated with the plant sale, which allows for more of the profit

from the sale of the plants to go to Cross-Lines programs.

We are looking for additional corporate sponsor(s) to help offset the costs of the plant sale. A professionally designed banner will be at the plant sale thanking all of our sponsors as well as recognition in the next newsletter.

If you are interested in becoming a corporate sponsor, please contact Susila Jones at Cross-Lines, at susila@cross-lines.org or 913-281-3388.

Pre-Orders are due by April 16. The sale will be held May 3-5th at the Shawnee Presbyterian Church. Rain or shine!

Board SPOTLIGHT



Chris Grenz, left, with his wife, Esther Grenz at the 2017 Gala for Hope.

Meet Chris Grenz

Chris Grenz has served on the Cross-Lines Board of Directors since 2016. He lives in Shawnee with his wife, Esther, and two kids, Sam, 10, and Maddie, 6. He is an attorney for Sprint. We asked Chris, who grew up around Cross-Lines, to tell us a little about his history and passion for the organization.

What are your childhood memories of Cross-Lines?

I've known about Cross-Lines as long as I can remember. My family volunteered at the Christmas Store when I was a kid. I helped with service projects there when I was in youth group as a teen. The Rev. Don Bakely, who for decades was the face of the organization, was a longtime family friend. My family moved from Overland Park, KS, to Kansas City, KS, the summer before I entered middle school, after my dad, the Rev. Kenneth K. Grenz, was appointed to serve as pastor at Rosedale United Methodist Church. That was Don's church, so my dad was Don's pastor for a time, and my family went to church with Don and his family. I was in youth group with his daughter, Bethany. My family lived in a neighborhood that Cross-Lines serves, where I saw the needs firsthand.

How did growing up around Cross-Lines and Don shape your views and values?

You couldn't talk to Don Bakely about poverty and Cross-Lines without coming away affected. Don spoke about the plight of the poor so passionately and authentically because he had grown up in poverty. I also remember how he connected to people with his warmth and humor. Those experiences underscored for me how everyone has worth, everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, and we all can use some help from time to time.

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Remembering Our Roots

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Culver. "Cross-Lines continues to be successful because they always stick to the mission. Cross-Lines focuses on the needs of the people they serve. It is so important that Cross-Lines continues to treat everyone with dignity. This was a founding principle of Cross-Lines and remains the foundation of all of the services today."

Brad Culver said he believes his dad would be impressed by the many volunteers working every day at Cross-Lines to make a difference in the lives of people in need. Brad said that continuing to see committed volunteers makes him and his family proud.

"My fondest memories at Cross-Lines are every time I bring a new prospective

volunteer to Cross-Lines and you see the wheels start to turn in their head about all the things they can do to make a difference and you know they're hooked. The volunteers are there to really make a meaningful impact on people's lives."

Brad said it isn't surprising to see Cross-Lines supporters attract multiple generations of families to get involved.

"The DNA of the organization really drives you to want to make an impact," Brad said. "Of the charities I've been associated with, Cross-Lines is the most centered on meeting the needs of the people you are trying to help. You get to see the impact immediately."

Leaving A Legacy:

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Kitchen, the Community Garden or at the Gala," Sandy said. "We always emphasized the importance of giving back to the community. This year at the Gala, the boys attended in honor of my birthday."

For several years, Sandy helped lead the organization of the **Gala for Hope**. Today, she plays an active role in Cross-Lines **Smoke Out Hunger** event, helping form a partnership with one of the couple's other favorite local causes, 90.9 The Bridge radio station. Sandy and Byron helped bring great local, live music to Smoke Out Hunger which has played an integral role in attracting more people to the event.

As far as leaving a legacy to Cross-Lines, Sandy encourages other longtime supporters to consider doing the same. Every little bit helps Cross-Lines continue the organization's mission to help the less fortunate in our community.

"Think about what you have loved in our community and what organizations you think are making a difference," Sandy said. "We have been so blessed in our life and our boys are both in a good place, why not be generous with our community?"

If you would like to know more about leaving a legacy gift to Cross-Lines, please contact Susila Jones at susila@cross-lines.org or call 913-281-3388.

Meet Chris Grenz

What made you want to serve on the Cross-Lines Board?

After switching careers and finding myself in a corporate legal job, I had been looking for some way to give back to my community. When my longtime friend Kelley Carpenter coincidentally started work at Cross-Lines as Director of Development and Marketing, I reached out to congratulate her. It wasn't long before Kelley, Executive Director Susila Jones, and Board Chairman Ron Hercules were inviting me to serve on the board. And it was perfect for me. I'd known the organization all my life, and its crucial work is close to my heart.

Why is it so important that we have Cross-Lines in our community?

There are lots of good causes one could support in the Kansas City area, but what strikes me about Cross-Lines is that it cuts right to the most basic, fundamental needs of our community members. Cross-Lines exists to put a hot meal in the empty belly of someone who is hungry, clothes on the back of someone who has none, a roof over the head of a family who otherwise would be homeless. It's hard to find a job when you're hungry and lack basic needs like clean clothes and a hot shower. To me, there is no more important work to be done.



CROSS • LINES
COMMUNITY OUTREACH, INC.

ADDRESS:

736 Shawnee Avenue Kansas City, KS 66105

PHONE:

913-281-3388

WEB:

www.cross-lines.org

BOARD:

Board Chair: Ron Hercules *Vice Chair:* Lisa Wiens
Secretary: Derek White *Treasurer:* Roger Herting
Members: Anissa Brown, Doug Brown, Jim Ensz, Megan Frederickson, Chris Grenz, Marty Hoffey, Jeff McCullough, Cindy Moore, Sandy Whitaker