"WE RAISED OUR HAND"

As the final year approaches, it is old and anticipated news for the team, I like many of our colleagues on this list, the past has been less than idyllic. Last June we positioned ourselves at the ground floor of a very diverse and complex landscape, working closely with policymakers, funders, and advocates to instigate a comprehensive strategy and recommendations for ending homelessness. In July, we launched our coordinated entry system, which has become a reality this year – a critical component of our collaborative effort with other agencies and organizations.

As a data-driven organization, Community LINC uses analytics to not only inform our services, but also to share its success. Through such initiatives, we can identify areas where our programs are effective, and where they need improvement. This past year, we have focused on expanding our services and improving our outcomes. Our goal is to make Kansas City a place where everyone has a roof over their head and a sense of community.

We have also made strides in increasing our funding and partnerships. We have received grants from foundations and corporations, and have developed new relationships with local businesses and organizations. We are grateful to our partners for their support and commitment to ending homelessness in our community.

In the true spirit of community, we partnered for the betterment of a greater Kansas City and assumed a leadership role in bringing about positive change. We raised our hand to make a difference, to move forward, and to make Kansas City a place where everyone has a roof over their head. We are committed to ending homelessness and creating a brighter future for all.

We remain resolute in our mission to end homelessness and create a community where everyone has a roof over their head. We are grateful for our collaborations, for our funders, and for our community partners who have supported us in our efforts. We look forward to continuing our work in the years to come and are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

ONE YEAR OF TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

By Joshua Chittum, Children’s Program Manager

Every industry has its buzzwords, and social services included. It may be a new term to you or perhaps you heard it before, but what is Trauma-Informed Care and why is it important to us here at Community LINC?

Trauma-Informed Care refers to the way services are provided to those who have experienced trauma. It is an approach that recognizes the impact of trauma on individuals and communities, and aims to create a safe, supportive, and empowering environment. It is an approach that is becoming increasingly important in social services, as more and more people are being affected by trauma.

At Community LINC, we have embraced the principles of Trauma-Informed Care and have worked to create a culture that is responsive to the needs of our clients. We have developed programs and services that are designed to help individuals and communities recover from trauma, and we have created a culture that is trauma-informed.

We have accomplished so far. Below is a list of the things we’ve been busy working on:

• Providing family meals on program
• Completeing a staff toolbox of Trauma Stewardship on self-care
• Creating community bracelets with self-care and trauma-informed care for families when they enter the program
• Streamlining the move-in process for families
• Creating an interactive, online platform for children and youth to learn about ways to increase their resiliency and avoid an "emergent" learning badge to recognize their achievements

For more information contact Josh Chittum at jchittum@communitylinc.org or call 816.595.1353.

Legacy Gift

Legacy Gift

Thank you to everyone that helped make the 2017 Rent Party an incredible night! Nearly 600 guests gathered to be the key and Open Doors for the annual fundraiser.

WALKING OUT THEIR FAITH

A very special thank you to Village Presbyterian Church for a long history of providing hope and support. This year’s special mission grant provided resources for a Trauma-Informed Care and Two-Generational approach to serve homeless families and caring for staff. Funding includes a complete renovation of our lobby to provide a safe, welcoming environment for families seeking services. We are grateful for your generous support and look forward to seeing the projects being completed in the near future.

Every industry has its buzzwords, community LINC respects the dignity of all those we serve. To fulfill our mission of removing all barriers to self-sufficiency, we began implementing trauma-informed care practices one year ago. We have been hard at work to make our goal of becoming a trauma-informed agency a reality, creating a culture that is trauma-informed for all.

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We believe that no child and no family should have to experience the trauma of homelessness during this meaningful time of year. Providing a home for the holidays is one of the greatest gifts you can give. We hope you will consider a gift to Community LINC this giving season, as we continue to end family homelessness for over 300 children and their families.

Your gift of:

$1000 - provides four days of shelter and programming for a child
$500 - provides case management for a parent
$250 - provides dental care for a child
$100 - provides four days of shelter and programming for a child

As parents, we always pressure ourselves because we can’t give our kids all we want or give them. Imagine feeling as a homeless parent who cannot even provide a place to sleep for your children during the holidays. That topic came up when we chatted with Nasia, who graduated our program in 2011.

Nasia remembers the holidays and the feeling of not having a choice because they frequently moved around. Despite some rocky beginnings, Nasia graduated high school. After working some years and having two children, Nasia graduated as a Medical Technician. While in college, she had bad times and ended up homeless with two small children. Nasia learned about Community LINC. She called and told the staff, “I want to get on my feet. I need to focus on me and my kids.”

The holidays at Community LINC also reminded her of “A Bad Moms Christmas.” Despite being at her lowest, she fondly recalls being “adopted” by a Community LINC supporter for the holidays: Christmas that year was like no other. Every time I tell it I get teary-eyed. We walked in and there were gifts under the tree. That was the best Christmas Ever had.

Two weeks later, Nasia and her children moved into Community LINC. Nasia was apprehensive when starting the program. She was very guarded and didn’t want to open up. “The first couple of weeks I didn’t say anything. I just focused on how to get out and get my own place. I was so broken. I felt like a loner. I had no one to rely on in life.”

Eventually the floodgates opened and she completely embraced the program. Nasia remembers feeling supported by staff, but also held to a level of accountability to succeed. “Just because you think you’re alone doesn’t mean you are.”

Nasia got a better job, paid past debts and got a home of her own for her family. The family made friends in the program that are still in their lives today.

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Nasia graduated from the program six years ago and her future is bright. She and her partner are proud homeowners and eagerly expecting another child. She works at Children’s Mercy Hospital and plans to go back to school again to study pediatrics. Her two girls are thriving and keeping Nasia busy with dance lessons three times a week. Nasia knows she will always stay on her feet because of what she learned at Community LINC. When her feelings of inadequacy creep in, she reminds herself of how strong she is and that she is truly blessed to be achieving her dreams. She knows that all future holidays will be great for her family.

“I will never forget… that was the most enjoyable day of my life and my children’s life.”

WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WONDERFUL HOLIDAYS!