



ENDING HOMELESSNESS FOR
THIS GENERATION AND THE NEXT



DECEMBER 2020

A LITTLE HELP GOES A LONG WAY

This past year, despite the challenges of COVID-19, Community LINC has made a profound difference in the lives of families at the tipping point of homelessness as well as those experiencing homelessness. As the largest homeless services access point in Kansas City, we have received a 300 percent increase in calls due to the pandemic. Our focus has been to stabilize and house families as quickly as possible and your support makes a difference.

While the numbers are growing we must remember our most vulnerable neighbors are not just statistics. They are mothers and fathers like Sally, on whom our community’s children rely. Sally has been a proud school bus driver in Overland Park for over 14 years. Once her unemployment funds from the pandemic drained, she found herself living out of her truck with her daughter, Samantha.

Though Sally recently went back to work, her reduced hours were not enough to regain stability, resulting in fast food meals and an occasional hotel to freshen up. Thankfully, Community LINC was there to place Sally and Samantha in a hotel while we addressed their barriers.

This week, Sally and Samantha moved into their new home!

YOUR PAST GENEROUS SUPPORT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR SALLY AND SAMANTHA TO HAVE A HOME!

Homelessness and poverty aren’t character flaws. Many other hard working families like Sally and Samantha are finding themselves in financial hardship during this unsettling time. Creating stability for both parents and children alike is what Community LINC is all about.

With over 50,000 households expected to be homeless in the next six months, the holidays look bleak for many, but you made the investment and we thank you. This year, your support has been especially meaningful. **Eight out of ten families leaving for permanent homes over the next five years will not become homeless again.**

Thank you for your investment in changing lives. Your investment in our work is an investment in our community.

Your support has given families hope for this holiday season. It has also restored much-needed hope for a future that isn’t defined by current circumstances.

Happy holidays and heartfelt thanks,



Precious Stargell Cushman
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Our year-end campaign is responsible for one-third of our annual budget. Your support during these critical times means so much.

WAYS TO GIVE

Make a gift of honor
Give the gift that keeps on giving. Express the ultimate love and appreciation by making a gift in someone’s honor.

Make alternative gift arrangements
Consider a donation from your IRA or Donor Advised Funds.

Make a planned gift that will transform lives for years to come
For more information, contact Teresa McClain at 816.595.5553

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Despite the traumatic impact of COVID-19 we have remained steadfast in our resolve to prevent and end homelessness in our community.

We believe that no child and no family should have to experience the trauma of homelessness this time of year. Providing a home for the holidays is one of the greatest gifts you can give.

We hope you will consider a generous gift to Community LINC this giving season as we continue to end family homelessness and serve those on the cusp.

Your support will help hundreds of children and their parents find hope this holiday season.

Join our #HomefortheHolidaysKC campaign and make a gift for a family experiencing homelessness.

For more options or information, contact Teresa McClain at 816.595.5553 or tmcclain@communitylinc.org.

“ALONE WE CAN DO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH.”

-Helen Keller



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DREAMS CAN COME TRUE IF YOU WORK ON THEM

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Take a moment and think of a time your community has contributed to your success. Our former resident Chris is a prime example of how a strong community can help build a successful human being.

Chris grew up learning construction from his father – a trade he still uses today. When his father was imprisoned, his mother’s abuse and drug use left him alone at age 16 to fend for himself.

At age 20, Chris’s father was freed from prison and the two worked together. At age 25, Chris and his father parted ways and the mother of his children left him to raise their two children alone.

About a year after his wife left, Chris met someone with five children of her own, they dated for a while and eventually moved to a new place. Feeding seven children on minimal income made things extremely difficult for Chris. They found themselves falling behind on rent and eventually living in motels, trying to make ends meet.

When Chris’s partner became abusive, he found himself in another toxic relationship, reminding him of the situation with his mother. Although he felt badly, he had to leave her for the safety of his children and himself. Chris and his children were together but homeless. Chris reached out to his pastor who made the connection for an appointment with Community LINC, a situation he calls, **“The first of three miracles.”**

Chris came to Community LINC skeptical and nervous. It was hard for him to swallow his pride and accept help. Chris was pleasantly surprised with the patience and kindness expressed to him at Community LINC. He received the much-needed counseling to help him understand why he repeatedly chose toxic relationships. He even refers to his Community LINC counselor as his **“second miracle.”** Community LINC helped him develop the skills and stability he needed to be successful and Chris was able to exit the program for newfound independence.

Today, Chris owns his own construction company and a three-bedroom home with a pool. He recently married Lindsay who he calls his **“third miracle.”** Chris is a loving husband and father who found asylum and safety in the facilities and people at Community LINC. When asked about his successes, Chris responded, “...the changing point in my life was Community LINC and the people there.”

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“OUR COMMUNITY FLOURISHES WHEN WE INVEST IN EACH OTHER.”

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Since Chris left Community LINC, he has continually given back, donating furniture, orchestrating coat drives and even raising his paddle for a generous gift at our annual Rent Party in 2019.

Chris is an example of how our community flourishes when we invest in each other. Community LINC is ending homelessness for this generation and the next by investing in our residents and our community.

In a time where local homelessness is rising, we have been able to impact even more lives by ending homelessness for families and preventing hundreds of households from ever becoming homeless!

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BOARD MEMBERS

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2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wilma Collado, Board Chair
Community Volunteer

Tina Ussery-Franklin, Immediate Past Chair
Community Volunteer

Bob Wright, Vice Chair
Citizens Bank and Trust

Deb Eveans, Treasurer
Meritage Portfolio Management

Teresa Shriver, Secretary
Enterprise Holdings

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Jessica Borries
Burns & McDonnell

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Gary Hailes
Union Broadcasting

Ann Harbin
Chemical Data Resources, LLC

Jim Hoyt
Bottom Line Consultants, LLC

Jackie Hunter, Ex-Officio

Bob Kroeker, Attorney (retired)

Brian Schaefer
eCommerce Hallmark

DIRECTORS

Precious Stargell Cushman, CEO

Teresa McClain, Director of Development

Lynette Pearl, Director of Programs

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4-STAR RATING

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Once again, Community LINC is honored to have received the prestigious 4-Star Charity Rating! This distinction is the highest rating on Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent charity evaluator. It’s an outstanding indicator of our transparency, accountability and financial performance.

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

The Hometown Hero Award was established in 2018 to illuminate the extraordinary impact an individual, couple or organization has made to the greater Kansas City area for the betterment of the lives of our most vulnerable citizens.

“REAL CHANGE, ENDURING CHANGE, HAPPENS ONE STEP AT A TIME.”

This quote by the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is indicative of the transformative changes being initiated in our community by leaders like Christine Kemper.



Despite COVID-19 invading our lives, our communities, our families and our spirit, our extraordinary leadership team hosted our first ever online auction and virtual campaign, #OneStepAway. Our digital and direct mail fundraising initiative and online auction rolled out across social media and Kansas City lasting until mid-October.

This campaign gave us the opportunity to honor and highlight the impactful work of **Christine Kemper, Community LINC’s 2020 Hometown Hero**, a civic and philanthropic icon and Founder of the Kansas City Girls Preparatory Academy.

In 2003, Christine founded Kemper & Company, LLC, following her early endeavors in government, politics, entertainment and strategic communications. Her marketing and research consultancy has advised local, national and global brands since 2002. She is also co-founder of The Collectors Fund and The Kansas City Collection, two enterprises that invest in art and build markets for artists, as well as YEPKC, an internship and scholarship organization focused on nurturing entrepreneurship among high school students.

Christine has served in leadership roles for dozens of regional nonprofit organizations, including the Women’s Foundation, Women’s Employment Network, WIN for KC, the WWI Museum and Memorial, De LaSalle Education Center, the Symphony Foundation, and University Academy Charter School. Her current passion is in her role as Founder of the Kansas City Girls Preparatory Academy, an all-girls, college-bound public charter school in Kansas City, Missouri, which opened in August 2019.

2020-2021 RENT PARTY

A special thank you to our **2020-2021 Rent Party One Step Away Chairs**; You helped us raise vital funds for the most vulnerable families in our community during these challenging times!

1. Left to right: Jean McDonnell, Nancy Whitworth, Aviva Ajmera, Debby Ballard and Anita Newton.
2. This ultimate garage makeover with an epoxy floor and customized storage with shelves, overhead racks, bins and cabinets, gave this homeowner a winning showcase three-bay garage!
3. The highest bidder won this original painting of Mahomes II by Anthony Oropeza (AO) of AOART5.
4. One lucky winner received this special package with a two night stay at a luxury spa and personalized tours to wineries in Willamette Valley, the home of 500 wineries hosted by resident wine expert Chris Karlin.



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3.

COMMUNITY LINC /
20/20
A CLEAR VISION
FOR ENDING HOMELESSNESS
/ ONE STEP AWAY



4.

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MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

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Lynette Pearl joined Community LINC in May and brings over 17 years of experience with director-level positions in communities like Peoria, Dallas and Springfield. Lynette supported large teams working with clients to provide housing support and wraparound services as well as revising administrative plans to address program abuses and unauthorized occupancies (thereby reducing incidents of crime and trespassing).

She also has experience managing multi-million-dollar grants and the subsequent compliance efforts, developing corrective action plans, launching male mentoring programs as well as administering employment and financial literacy programs.

As a Marine, Lynette is passionate about veterans and has advocated for veteran housing access and stability with Catholic Charities and reStart. She won national attention for her efforts in supporting home ownership with Habitat for Humanity. Over the course of her career, she has amassed a reputation as a thoughtful leader and developed the deep respect of her teams. We are equally appreciative of Lynette’s strength, decisiveness and strong leadership.

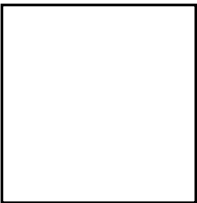
PLEASE JOIN US IN
GIVING LYNETTE A HUGE
COMMUNITY LINC WELCOME!



Lynette Pearl, Director of Programs



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VIRTUAL WAY HOME TOUR

Invite us to host a Virtual Way Home Tour and invite a friend.
Contact Teresa at tmcclain@communitylinc.org

VOLUNTEER

Expand our capacity through safe, socially distanced volunteering to help with our facility or by doing a collection drive for household necessities to give families a place to call home. Contact Daniel at dbarber@communitylinc.org

VIRTUAL OR LIVE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Invite us to speak virtually or live to your social, civic, faith or corporate group.
Contact Teresa at tmcclain@communitylinc.org

IN-KIND NEEDS

- Twin mattress and box springs
- Queen box springs
- Full-cover mattress protectors
- Cleaning supplies
- Copy paper
- Kids journals
- Flat-screen TVs
- Large, flat-screen computer monitors
- A four wheeler with plow for our small driveways.
(Snow plow trucks cannot get into our back lots.)



www.communitylinc.org