

CONNECTIONS

Annual Report, April 2016



521 People

302 Children

142 Families



Long Term Impact

82% families exited from 2010–2015 have remained housed

Follow Us On



The Jordans

It is true that it only takes one event to tip a family into homelessness, but sometimes families have a streak of bad luck that pushes them into it. This is unfortunately true for the Jordans.

The Jordans were happily and self-sufficiently living in Illinois until they had no choice but turn to their safety net in Kansas City.



Darion, a husband and father of two, had an incredibly traumatic experience after being the victim of gun violence during a home robbery years ago. He was shot and left unable to work. He receives some support through disability, but he assumed the role of fulltime caregiver for his children.

Arionna, a college graduate, was working full-time and was the family's main source of

support. Then Arionna was in a car accident that left her injured and unable to work. Not long after, she lost her job.

Arionna searched but was unable to find new employment. The family struggled financially and was eventually evicted. They came to Kansas City to rejoin family. The family bounced from relative to relative as long as they could, but spent the majority of time in their car.

Arionna found some seasonal work, but was mostly unemployed. It was the first time the family had been homeless. They had depleted all of their resources and worn out the generosity of their family and friends'.

The Jordans then found Community LINC and moved in immediately. Their sense of desperation was clear, just as their desire for independence was throughout their time in the program.

Arionna worked in the Employment Lab, and with a background rich in experience and now an address to claim, she found a job within days.

Darion, too, worked hard through Community LINC's program. He attended every budgeting session and even offered to help with whatever facility work he could.

Due to their hard work, Darion, Arionna and their children were able to exit the program in two months. Their children are stable and enrolled in school and the family is participating in Aftercare Services. The resilience this family demonstrated after multiple setbacks and curveballs is what inspires us to continue serving families like this in our community.

Leadership

Laura Gray: CEO/Executive-Director

Teresa McClain: Director of Fund
Development

JoAnne Owens: Director of Operations

Jeannine Short: Director of Programs

Board of Directors

Kent Cable

Dan Carroll

Blaine Degnan

Bill Dippel - Secretary

Deb Eveans

Carol Gilstrap - Treasurer

Ann Harbin

Jackie Hunter

Kris Kappel

Brad Korris - Chair

Bob Kroeker

Dave Lally

Greg Porter - Immediate Past Chair

Teresa Shriver

Rita Tiehen - Vice Chair

Tina Ussery-Franklin

The Moral Arc

by Brad Korris, Board Chair

What would Kansas City look and feel like if it were free of family homelessness? That would mean no child would ever experience the trauma of homelessness in our city.

Since I joined the Board at Community LINC, we have often considered that question.

My personal understanding of the complex and ever-changing issue of homelessness has evolved greatly since then, and Community LINC's evidence-based approach to the issue has convinced me that we are making progress.

Being homeless is not just standing on a corner with a cardboard sign. It was so revealing to me to learn that the majority of homeless people in families ARE CHILDREN. Also, not all people are looking for a free ride. Generational poverty and unforeseen circumstances, like sickness, death, loss of a job or juggling a household on a meager income when fair-market rent is \$800-\$900 a month can all lead to homelessness. In many cases, people have been forced to make decisions that you and I take for granted. In other cases a parent may not have not been equipped with the skills necessary to find their way out.

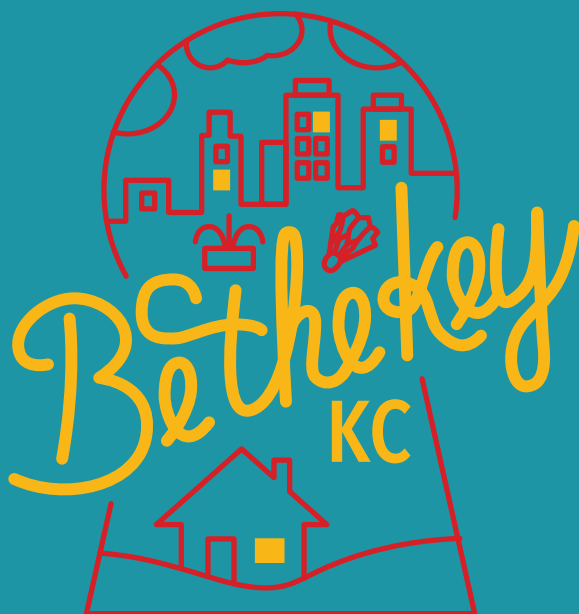
Community LINC works to provide those skills to approximately 150 families every year so that once a family achieves permanent housing, they remain stable. This is why I believe so strongly in the evidence-based approach to remove barriers to self-sufficiency.

Last year, 69 percent of families that exited moved to permanent housing and our five-year studies show that 93 percent of those families remain self-sufficient and do not become homeless again.

Because of these positive outcomes, I believe we are on the right track. Yes, it is difficult and complex, but it is worth it. As Dr. King once said, "The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward social justice." We cannot give up, we have to keep going.

I am sincerely grateful to you, our faithful supporters, who continue to make it possible for the talented and dedicated staff at Community LINC to work toward our mission of ending homelessness and removing barriers to self-sufficiency.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I offer my genuine thank you!



COMMUNITY LINC
THE RENT PARTY

SAVETHE DATE

October 1, 2016
Crown Center Exhibit Hall
5:30 pm Cocktails

2016 Wish List

NEW/GENTLY-USED FURNITURE

- Queen and Twin mattresses and bed sets
- Pillows
- Laundry baskets
- Bedding and towels
- Kitchenware
- Bathroom and toiletry necessities
- Basic cleaning supplies
- Vacuums
- Lamps



To make an in-kind donation contact Holly at hgardner@communitylinc.org or by calling 816.389.8256

Making an impact may not take as much time as you think! Our success depends on the partnership between our volunteers, families and staff. Individual and group opportunities include:

Ambassador, Short-term project

Invite 10 guests over the next 90 days for a tour.

Children's Volunteer, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings

Help our children learn resilience and life skills.

Apartment Set Up, According to your availability

Be on call to help set up an apartment for a homeless family.

Budget Partner, Every other Thursday

Help adults create and follow a budget.

Resource Closet Helper, According to your availability

Help organize and wash in-kind donations.

Auction and Sponsorship Committee Member, Seasonal

Have fun with amazing people and help collect auction items or secure sponsorships for Community LINC's biggest fundraiser, the Rent Party.

Receptionist, Tuesday and Thursday evenings

Welcome guests and residents for programming.

If you are interested in contributing your time to Community LINC, please contact Daniel at volunteer@communitylinc.org or 816.531.5862 to learn more.

Resilience in Practice

By Laura Gray, Executive Director

Just as it has been inspiring to watch our families grow and thrive, it has been equally inspiring to watch Community LINC grow and thrive over the past several years. 2015 was no exception.



In the last ten years, we have nearly tripled the number of families who ended homelessness and found permanent homes each year.

With your help and support, in 2015 we were able to reach and ultimately work with more homeless families than ever before. We served not only the families who came to our campus; we delivered aftercare in the homes for more families. We provided services to roughly 20-25 percent of the families projected homeless in Kansas City during 2015.

We knew that the community's referral system left many more homeless families vulnerable to falling through the cracks, so in January of last year we launched a new program to seek out those homeless families. We connected with more than 400 new families (about 1,200 people) seeking homeless services and shelter.

Although we did not have the capacity to provide services for all 400 families, we were able to refer more than half to other agencies and services.

We learned a lot from outreach.

We found that nearly 30 percent of the families could not be referred to other services despite being homeless or teetering on the edge of homelessness. They did not qualify for HUD-funded programs because they were not "living in a place not meant for human habitation." They might be sleeping in a hotel or on a friend's basement floor, but they were not considered "literally homeless."

We went ahead with our new outreach despite being hit during the first half of the year by some of the same kind of unpredictability and trauma that confronts our families.

We lost beloved long-time staff member Frenchie Pulluaim to cancer during the first part of 2015. It was a difficult

goodbye to someone who had a tremendous impact on hundreds of lives, including the staff, board and volunteers of Community LINC.

Another staff member changed careers, leaving us short-handed. At the same time, the Greater Kansas City Homeless Services Coalition asked all homeless service agencies to adopt a new tool for assessing the level of need for families seeking homeless services.

Just as we ask our families to look inside themselves for that spark that will help them overcome their barriers, Community LINC had to look inside itself to overcome what felt like the perfect storm during the first half of 2015.

Fortunately, with your support and the perseverance of board, staff and volunteers, we were able to confront the challenges, hire new staff and adjust how we deliver our services, and finish the second half of the year strong.

We were able to find permanent homes for more than 69 percent of the families who exited in 2015. Even better, 98 percent were no longer "literally homeless" when they left. Our five-year study shows that 82 percent of the families who moved to permanent housing remained stable in permanent homes.

At the end of the year, we asked the board to devote funds to help some of the 30 percent of the families we encountered that we couldn't assist in 2015 under HUD-funded guidelines. To this end, the board funded a program for 2016 to divert more families from homelessness.

Though 2015 started with a challenge, we feel our program is stronger, more effective and better equipped to serve even more families in our community in 2016.

Because of your generosity, we can make this plan a reality. Thank you for supporting the efforts of the families we serve. And, thank you for supporting Community LINC.



124 adults received housing education

69% of families exited to permanent housing

29% moved to other housing options

Thank You For Supporting Community LINC In 2015!

\$100,000 and above

City of Kansas City, via HUD contracts
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Hall Family Foundation
Karen and Hank Herrmann

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Church of the Resurrection
The Illig Family Foundation
McDonnell Foundation
Reimer Family Foundation

\$25,000 to \$49,000

American Century Investments Foundation
H & R Block Foundation
Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City
Victor E. Speas Foundation

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Bonnie and Herb Buchbinder
Children's Trust Fund - State of Missouri
Country Club Christian Church
DST Systems, Inc.
Enterprise Holdings
ESG-Neighborhoods and Housing Services Department
Helen Kretzer Schutte Homelessness Fund
Ina Calkins Trust
Jackson County
Jacob L. and Ella C. Loose Foundation
James 2 Charitable Foundation
Karen and John Maxwell
McGee Foundation
Bart and Diana Miller
Kimberley and Nikki Newton

Oppenstein Brothers Foundation
Prime Health Foundation
R.A. Long Foundation
Rally Point Capital, LLC
Second Presbyterian Church
Sosland Foundation
Toni and Phil Sanders
Rhonda and Zachary Shafran
Denise and Michael Strohm
Union Pacific Foundation
UPS Foundation
Waddell & Reed Financial, Inc.
Women's Foundation of Greater Kansas City

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Greg and Lisa Bernard
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City
Boston Financial Data Services, Inc.
Bull Moose, LLC
Anne and Chace Brundige
Melissa Cather and Roy Cashman
Kathy and Scott Chelton
Wilma Collado and Jim Walsh
Peggy and Terry Dunn
Deb and Mark Eveans
Graceway Church
Kansas City Royals
Michelle and Jeremy Kay
MacFarlane Group, Inc.
Mary Agnes Thornhill Charitable Fund
Jo and Sam McCormick
Meritage Portfolio Management, Inc.
Retail Management Solutions
Robbie Fantastic Flexibles
Robert Fitch Banker Designated Charitable

Fund
Brenda and Phillip Sanders
Mylinda and Gil Scott
Sprint Foundation
St. Thomas More Parish
Synchrony Financial
Unity Church of Overland Park
US Bank
The Village Church
Walton Family Foundation

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Amsted Rail
Assurant Foundation
Janet and Scott Bjerke
BNSF Railway Foundation
Missy Bruhn and Brad Korris
Bryan Cave, LLP
Melissa and Jim Carnes
Citizens Bank and Trust
Cosentino Foundation
Country Club Bank
Cindy and William Dippel
Carol and Tim Dykman
Kathleen and Phillip Farrell
Flo Harris Foundation of the Jewish Community
Foundation of Greater Kansas City
Amy and Kevin Fox
Casey and Jonathan Haase
Hallmark Cards
Hodgdon Family Fund
Beth Hull
Husch Blackwell
Mary and Brian Illig
The KCPL Fund
KPMG, LLP
Missy and Bob Kroeker
Tany and John Lannon
Susan and Jim Lund
The Morgan Family Foundation
JoAnne and Brick Owens
Clara and Joe Paris

Greg Porter
ProShred
Dave and Pat Schonger
Mike and Lori Seymour
Rita and James Tiehen
US Bancorp Foundation
Tina Ussery-Franklin and Wade Franklin
Susan and Tom Walker
Audrey and Brandon Williams
Ryan Zornes

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Ann and G. Kenneth Baum
Jenny and Gib Benschoter
Bess Spiva Timmons Foundation
Rita and Irwin Blitt
BlueScope Foundation
Jackie and Kent Cable
Kay and John Callison
Central States Thermo King, Inc.
Patricia and Steven Coleman
Commerce Bank
Daniel Connealy
The Conroy 2 Foundation
Brooke and Blaine Degnan
Frederick DeSieghardt
Leslie and Randy Dobyns
Don Harbin Family Fund
Dunn Family Foundation
Margie and Eric Dyck
Barbara and Jim Eiszner
EPR Properties
Susan and Brent Erwood
Janet and Doug Euston
Diana and Rand Foster
The Francis Family Foundation
Sue and Pete Gencarelli
Carol Gilstrap and Dennis Barger
Grant Thornton, LLP
Laura Gray
Eileen and Ron Grebowiec

Green Expectations
Landscaping
Jill and John Hartman
Heartland Combined
Federal Campaign
John J. Sullivan, Jr.
Charitable Trust
Amanda and Scott Jolley
Kris Kappel
John Kennyhertz
BC and Jo Kinsey
Sara and Jim Kircher
Tiffany and Matt Janssen
John Knox Presbyterian Kirk
Leah Joseph
Marcy and Dave Lally
Pauline and Floyd Lindsey
Teresa Mallare
Lissa and Lance Melber
Julie and William Miller
Martha and Mark Miller
Pamela Miller and Michael
Cummings
Diane Nygaard
Phil Paschang
Cynthia Prince-Fox and
Cary Fox
QuikTrip Corporation
Genevive and Grant
Ramsey
Jermaine Reed
Lauren and Justin Scholtes
Amy Scupham-Hoile and
James Hoile
Shawnee Mission Schools
Southminster Presbyterian
Church
Rob Stillely
Stratus Group, LLC
Bill and Bo Stueck
Matt Tantillo
Tantillo Family Foundation
Teamsters Joint Council
No. 56

Teamsters Local Union 41
Becky and John Turner
Visitation Church
Washington Companies

\$500 to \$999
Alliance Resource
Management
American Century
Investments
Lisa and Jacob Armour
Russell and Carolee Atha, Jr.
Sara and George Baldwin
Peggy and Andy Beal
Gail and Karl Becker
Debbie and Rod Bosma
Carolyn and Kenneth Brown
Kellie and Jeff Bryan
Nancy and Tom Bunker
Staci and Mike Burson
Business & Computers Inc.
Children's Mercy Hospitals
& Clinics
Maria Donigan and Mark
Thornhill
DeMarche Associates
Laura and Steve DeMaria
Heidi and Bob Eckart
Eden Alley Cafe
Randy Fikki
Arthur Gaskell
Garmin
Mike Gerken
Tracie and Scott Grisolano
Tonya Gum and Kevin Kaup
Stephen D. Hagelman
Shayla and Robert
Hammeke
Garry Hanna
Hertel Tank Service, Inc
Kauffman Foundation
Matching Gifts Program
Rebecca and Robert Kline
Jill and Nick Kroeker

Katie Lewis
Liz and Chuck Lillis
Kori and Henry Logan
Sandra and Charles Luetje
Adell and Kyle Martin
Marvins Tow Service, Inc.
Meredith and Chris Mays
Rachel and Andrew Muraca
Rex Newcomer
Valerie Nicholson-Watson
and Mark Watson
Chelsea and Tom O'Donnell
Gail and Robert Overly
Christine K. Peterson
Brooke and Steve Phelps
Shirley John Platt
Sandra and Cliff Pummill
Rockhurst Jesuits
Cynthia and John Romito
Emilie and Daniel
Rottinghaus
Cindy and Jerry Savage
Cathy and Rick Scholin
Sara and Tracy Shelby
Lois and Larry Skogerson
Phillip M. Spencer
David Stutzman
Joseph Taylor
Wendy and Robert Thill
Susan and Mike Thomas
Donna Thomason
Erin and Kent Ummel
Walters & Mason Retail, Inc.
Lyn Weller and Dave
Wakefield
Mary Ann and Daniel Welsh
Abby Windhorst
Susan and Don Woehrman
Lori and Steve Wolfe
Paula Wolff

Under \$500
Many many friends!



**249 healthy
lifestyles
classes**

**189 adult
counseling
sessions**

**185 child
counseling
sessions**

**97% of children
improved
coping/
resilience skills**

**85% of children
improved
reading skills**

Some of Our Heroes!

It is because of our faithful volunteers that Community LINC can provide services to families in this community. Those who selflessly give their time to our Children's Program, facility projects, the Rent Party, the budgeting program, the board and committees make Community LINC successful.

Two hundred and seventeen volunteers donated more than 5,400 hours of service valued at an amazing \$136,435!

April 11-16 is National Volunteer Week and Community LINC is taking the time to thank just a few of our special volunteers for all they do. Some of these invaluable volunteers include:



Lisa and Greg Bernard

This budgeting team “works magic” with the families they assist and they have dedicated more than 15 years to Community LINC. They continue to motivate and inspire every family they work with to achieve independence.



Tina McHudson

Tina works alongside her husband, part-time staff member Keith, in the Children's Program each Thursday. This amazing couple has dedicated more than nine years to the youth at Community LINC.



Rita and Jim Tiehen

These two amazing supporters have donated their time and money since 1997. Rita has served on Community LINC's board since 2012, and is now the Vice Chair. The Tiehen's have donated more than 600 hours and countless sources of support. They are also serving as the Chairs for the 2016 Rent Party.



Graceway Apartment Prep Team

Ruth and Donna are two of our most dependable volunteers from Graceway Church. Donna and her friends have spent countless hours this past year prepping apartments for homeless families waiting for a home.



Dan Carroll

In his year and a half of board service, Dan has helped transform Community LINC's brand and marketing initiatives. He brings amazing consultants to the table who donate countless hours, and he has helped secure nearly \$30,000 worth of marketing donations. His dedication and inspiration to help with the awareness campaign is followed by his passion to address family homelessness and sustain our programs.



Dan Mortiz

In only one year Dan has contributed 160 hours of work to help with our 100-year old facilities! He has made a huge impact with facility projects and improving efficiencies to better our space.



1,560 hours of employment services offered

\$9.96 average hourly wage

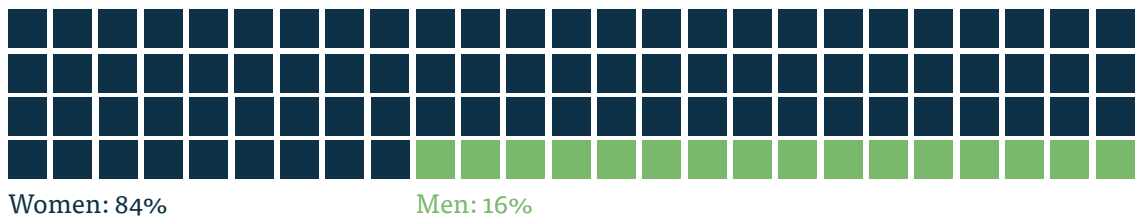
65% of adults secured employment

Interim and Immediate Housing Demographics

Race



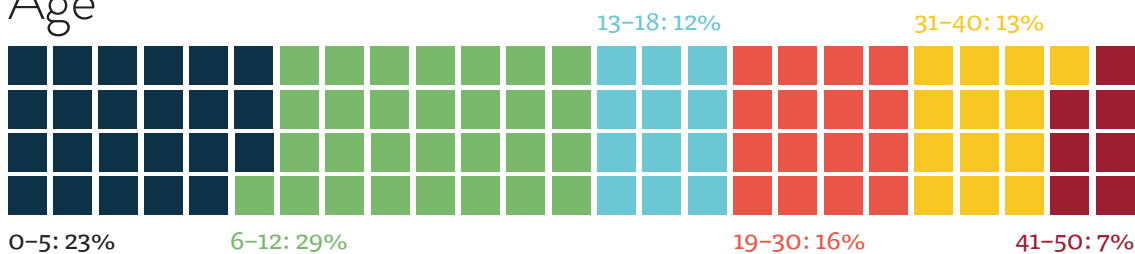
Gender



Household Composition



Age



Volunteer Hours

Adult Life Skills	8
Apartment Prep	332
Board/Committee Work	21,129
Budgeting	233
Group Projects	312
Maintenance	417
Office Assistance	867
Special Event	258
Youth/Children	695
Total	4,471

Generosity

Last year, Community LINC was gifted with in-kind goods valued at \$219,273.

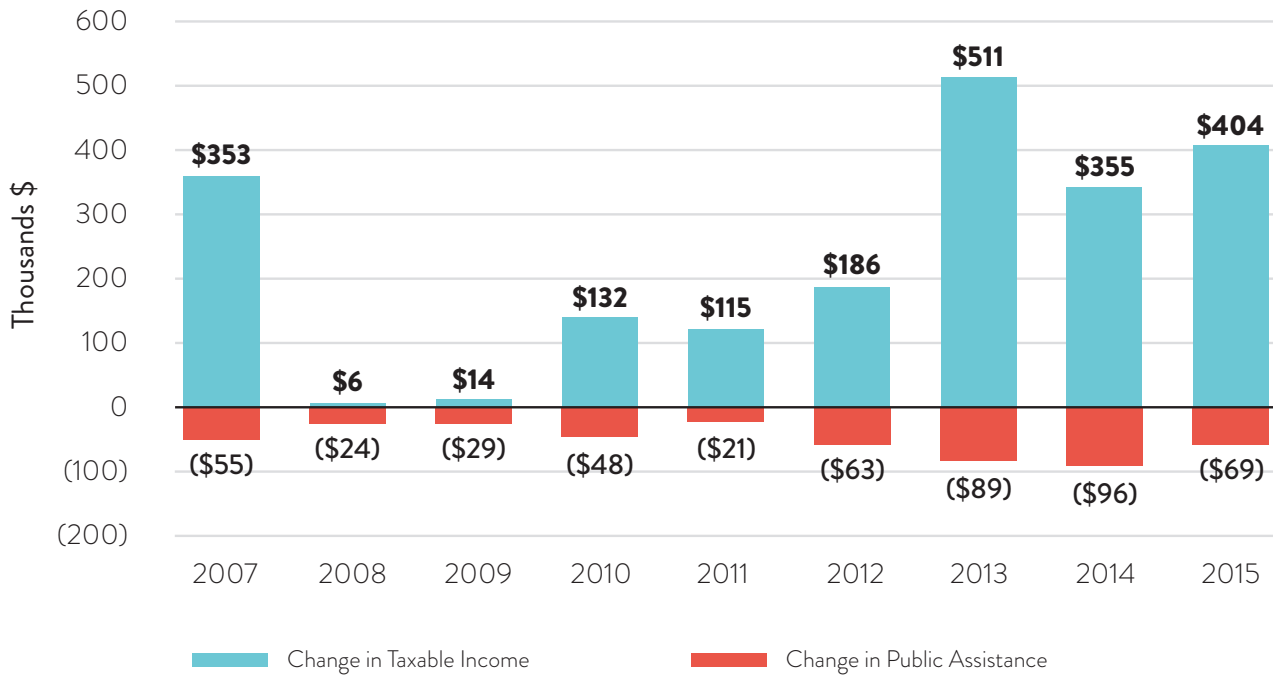
Thirty-five families were adopted for the holidays in 2015 with an in-kind value of \$14,000.

We received 236 packages for the Rent Party auction, valued at \$58,370.

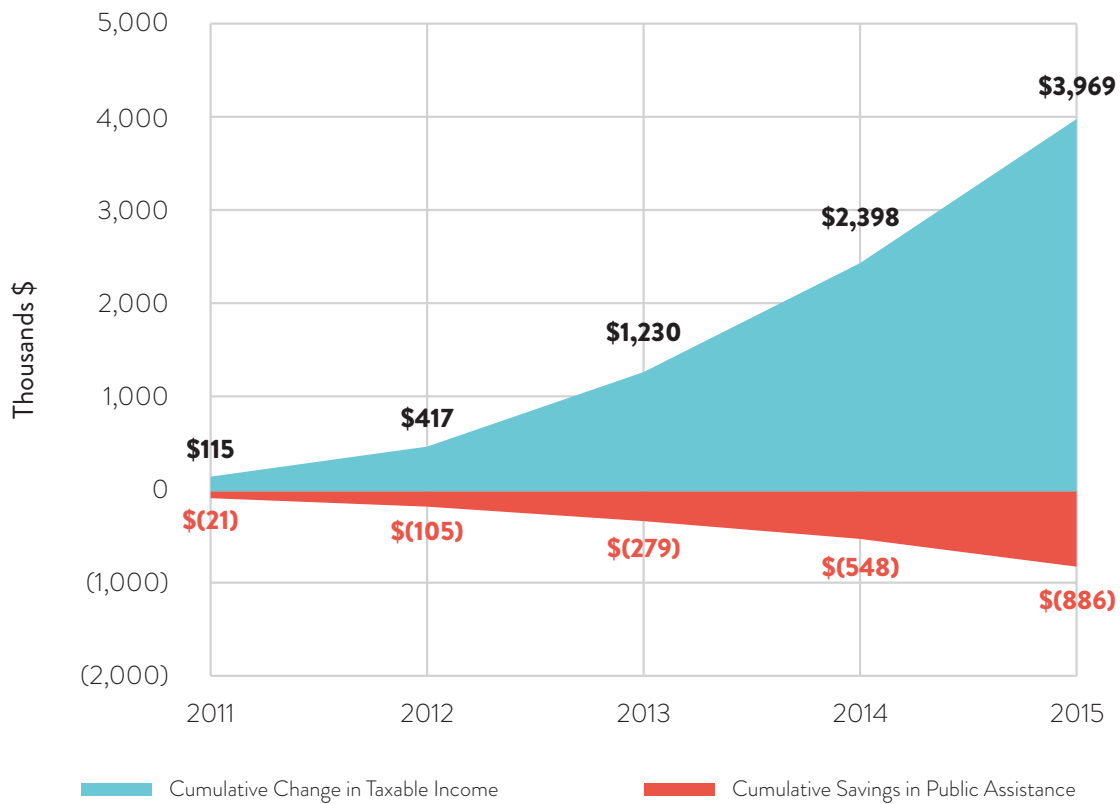
Household Goods	\$6,495
Marketing	\$115,551
Program and Office Supplies	\$6,251
Printed Materials	\$8,270
Rent Party	\$58,370
Resident Gifts	\$7,715
Food	\$1,281
Apartment Furniture	\$6,990
Adopt-a-Family	\$8,800

Client Community Impact

Impact On Self-Sufficiency Each Year



Cumulative Economic Impact Since 2011



Statement Of Financial Position

	12/31/2015	12/31/2014
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,191,583	1,184,272
Cash temporarily restricted for buildings and programs	170,868	216,374
Grants, contributions and contracts receivable	233,579	130,647
Other current assets	5,920	7,180
Total Current Assets	1,601,950	1,538,473
Property & Equipment, Net	1,234,905	1,241,332
Total Assets	2,839,563	2,779,806
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	50,002	20,070
Long-term Liabilities	86,952	118,328
Total Liabilities	136,952	138,398
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	1,924,288	1,924,001
Board-designated	582,604	501,033
Temporarily restricted	195,718	216,374
Total Net Assets	2,702,610	2,641,408
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	2,839,563	2,779,806



100% of families
reduced or removed
housing debt,
totaling \$50,000

Statement Of Activity And Changes In Net Assets

Contributions, Revenues And Other Support	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2015 Total	2014 Total
United Way and other non-profit	27,526	-	27,526	47,771
Churches and religious organizations	20,027	100,000	120,027	40,637
Civic organizations	1,020	-	1,020	500
Corporate donations	59,091	87,000	146,091	71,461
Foundations	95,207	331,994	427,201	269,361
Individual contributions	235,360	-	235,360	477,282
Special Events	650,745	-	650,745	747,507
Government grants & contracts	462,767	-	417,583	549,374
Other income	81,103	-	462,767	9,395
Subtotal	1,632,846	518,994	2,151,840	2,213,289
Net Assets Released from Restriction	554,070	(554,070)		
Total Revenues	2,186,917	(35,076)	2,151,840	2,213,289
Expenses			2015	2014
Program services			1,609,656	1,473,203
Supporting services				
Fundraising			247,641	199,491
Administrative			132,968	113,634
Interest expense			5,937	8,004
Depreciation			102,038	104,528
Subtotal			488,584	425,657
Total Expenses			2,098,240	1,898,859
Increase in net assets			53,601	314,429
Net Assets, Beginning Of Period			2,649,009	2,326,978
Net Assets, End Of Period			2,702,610	2,641,408

In-kind not included

Unaudited



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Kansas City, Missouri 64171

p: 816.531.3727
f: 816.531.4416
info@communitylinc.org

nonprofit org
us postage paid
kansas city, mo
permit 6376



Join us June 23 to celebrate Community LINC!

UMB **BIG** **BASH**[®]

Artist to be announced soon!

Tickets will be available at
UMBBigBash.org

  UMBBigBash

We are so excited to announce that Community LINC has been selected as the 2016-2017 UMB Big Bash beneficiary. Over the course of two years, Community LINC will receive \$75,000 in grants to support its Aftercare Expansion program.

UMB Big Bash is an annual concert that raises money and awareness for Kansas City-area nonprofits doing important work in our community. This event is not your average fundraiser. It's more jeans than suits, more chips than caviar. And it's all about having a great time while supporting a great cause.

Join us Thursday, June 23, 2016 at The Midland for an awesome concert as we celebrate the incredible work Community LINC is doing to end homelessness, impact poverty and remove barriers to self-sufficiency for families.