



Hope Network
10500 East 350 Highway
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www.HopeNetworkRaytown.org

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Hope Connection

Hope Network Newsletter Spring 2015

Mission

The mission of Hope Network is to offer hope to the hungry and hurting through delivering exemplary care, affirming value and meeting basic needs.



Quarterly Life Skills Class

A new era of Hope Network has begun! After much anticipation, excitement, and preparation, our first Life Skills was held on March 5, 2015. And what an impactful event it was! A wide range of topics were covered, including wise budgeting, savvy job interviewing, and healthy living. Feedback from the 27 attendees was very positive; 100% of participants stating they benefited from the class and would recommend it to a friend. Check out pictures from the event on our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages. We are thrilled to be offering a class that addresses so many facets of life. Our next Life Skills class will be held on June 2 as well as in the fall. If you own or manage a business, please consider sponsoring this event, helping us offset expenses. It's an easy way to market your business and support a truly life-changing initiative.



A Note From Christie

Greetings, friends! It has been said that people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. I've witnessed the truth of this sentiment repeatedly throughout my lifetime. With this in mind, I'm thrilled to report the results of our first Life Skills Class. One hundred percent of the attendees reported the training was beneficial and they would recommend it to a friend. My vision for Hope Network is to not solely meet immediate, emergency needs, but to care enough to address root causes of poverty, especially generational poverty. It's an unfortunate existence to walk through life unaware of what you don't know and live in poverty and despair. Hope Network's quarterly Life Skills Classes are equipping our clients and community for success, at home and at work, thereby contributing to a more robust Kansas City. Our next Class will be offered on June 2, featuring a Goal Setting presentation by Dr. Brandon Park and a Financial Management session with Larry Jones. Consider partnering with us for our fall initiative. Opportunities are available for business sponsorships; you also may help by promoting the Class in the community. I'd love to connect with you about the various options. Thanks for your generosity to Hope Network and your compassion for our community.



With hope,

Christie Hammond
Executive Director

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Mental health counseling

More people are affected by mental health problems than is often understood or recognized; additionally, mental health illness is often exacerbated by experiences of poverty and hunger. Hope Network is incredibly blessed to partner with two outstanding mental health professionals in our community. Lori Collins, of Truman Medical Center Behavioral Health, and Lynne Baker, an independent counselor at FBR, have both agreed to begin seeing Hope Network clients, for one session free of charge!! This is a crucial service and we are extremely grateful for the generosity and compassion of these women. To make a counseling appointment, please contact Lynn Baker at 816-868-6085 or goodytwoshoesnit@aol.com.

Summer internship

Are you a young person who is passionate about serving others and looking for a way to make a positive impact this summer? Does this sound like a high school or college student you know? If so, give us a call! We are seeking a summer intern who is interested in working with Hope Network. This is an excellent way to gain experience in the world of service and nonprofits as well as provide valuable assistance to our staff. Contact the Hope Network office for more information.

Golf tournament

A new fundraiser for Hope Network is underway, and we couldn't be more delighted! We are in the planning stages for Tee Up for Hope, our first golf tournament. If you are interested in participating or helping put it together, please contact Christie at the Hope Network office. The time is yet to be determined, but we are planning to hold the event in October. Tell your golf buddies to be on the lookout for the details!



Hope Network is a 501(c)3 organization, a member of the Raytown Chamber of Commerce, Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Nonprofit Connect, and the Mid America Assistance Coalition



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Harvesters 2014 Report

One of Hope Network's community partners most integral to our continued success and ability to meet basic needs is Harvesters. To give you a sense of the impact of their partnership, here are some figures from Harvesters' latest report. In 2014, Hope Network served 3,953 individuals and 1,323 households, and distributed 44,068 meals from food supplied by Harvesters. This food is purchased to supplement what is collected through our food drives at FBR. We are continually thankful for this incredible collaboration and the commitment of Harvesters to feed those in need in our city!

HUNGER HURTS

FBR Hunger Hurts Food Drive

Speaking of feeding our city, the FBR Hunger Hurts Food Drive just took place and is essential to the growth and continuation of our food effort. Grocery bags were distributed on Easter Sunday, April 5, and collected the following Sunday, April 12. We want to offer a big thank you to Chad and Jodee Melton and all the FBR students and volunteers who ensure this event goes off without a hitch every time. We couldn't do it without you!



Hillcrest Transitional Housing

One of our most cherished relationships is with Hillcrest Transitional Living, a program that diligently works to help people move back to self-sufficiency and independence through a rigorous 90-day program. Hillcrest seeks to grow participants' knowledge through a variety of classes such as budgeting and parenting; the program also provides food and laundry assistance, and an apartment for participants and their families. Currently, there is a vacancy in the one-bedroom apartment that we sponsor. To apply for the program or learn more information, go to www.hillcresttransitionalhousing.org. After submitting an online application, contact Christie at the Hope Network office for a recommendation.



Volunteer Training

An important volunteer training event took place on January 31. Volunteers and staff got to hear from Hope Network's Board Chair Paul Crisafulli. He spoke about pantry food accountability and our focus on streamlining resources in order to better meet our community's needs. Also, several people were identified as additional food pickup drivers. Thank you to those who stepped up to meet this need! If you're interested in being an on-call or regular pickup driver, or if you'd like to volunteer in the pantry or with other Hope Network initiatives, please contact Michele Workman at michele.workman@hopenetworkraytown.org or at 816-778-1105.

Annual Volunteer picnic

Volunteers are absolutely the force that keeps this big ship sailing! We are always so grateful for their tireless efforts and hope they continually feel united as a compassion-driven team. We all gathered for our annual volunteer picnic on May 3 at Kenagy Park. Our team is such a fun, dedicated group of people, and we are always looking for new people to join the fun! To learn about service opportunities with Hope Network, contact Michele Workman. Our next volunteer social event will be held on August 1 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. We will host a potluck lunch at FBR in Room A-101. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!



Volunteer spotlight

Mary Lou Davis
(Clothing Volunteer Coordinator)

How long have you volunteered for Hope Network:
7 ½ years

My favorite food:
Cake and ice cream

My favorite season:
Summer (because it's warm) and Christmas (because of the excitement of Jesus Birthday)

Pets?
None

What is your favorite aspect of Hope Network?
Meeting and Helping clients clothe and feed their families

Why do you volunteer at Hope Network and what does it mean to you?
I'm proud that my church provides a plan for all of us to minister in a small way to our community. It is a blessing for our clients and for the volunteers.



Supplied for Success

Every child, upon entering school, wants to feel like they are ready for what awaits them, that they are equipped for the challenges and adventures ahead. One of the ways Hope Network gets to help make this happen for Raytown students is our Supplied for Success initiative. Part of being ready for school means having all the necessary supplies, and this is simply difficult for some families to attain. This year, we will

partner with FBR in "adopting" a lower income based Raytown school to provide supplies for their students in the fall. Our desire is to assist the entire school with supplies as well as provide a little extra for the high population of transient students they see come in. Instead of actual supply donations being collected, this year we are asking that those interested in donating to the initiative purchase gift cards instead (Walmart, Target, or Visa cards are all welcome). These cards can be dropped off at the ROC Security desk beginning June 21. Our Supplied for Success team will then purchase supplies to cover each family. Thank you for all those who have participated in this endeavor in the past, and thank you in advance for those who will do so this year! What a meaningful source of support and hope in the lives of these children and families.