

Avenue of Life

"breaking the cycle of poverty through community development"

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



For more information, call (816) 787-6101.

Avenue of Life is a 501(c)(3). Donations are tax-deductible.

To view our Audit and 990, visit our website at: www.avenueoflife.org.

Friends and Family,

Thank you for your partnership and generosity throughout 2022! We continue to see the significant impact that is made through collaborative efforts. Because of your choice to pursue generosity in 2022, we impacted the lives of thousands of children in Wyandotte County!

Child homelessness is preventable. Avenue of Life is committed to ensuring every child has a safe place to call home. We are grateful for the number of committed volunteers that served each day alongside our staff to ensure families have the support, hope, and love they need as they move towards safety and self-sufficiency.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support throughout 2023 as we continue to stabilize families and prevent evictions, homelessness, hunger, inequity, and child trauma.



With Gratitude,

Desiree Monize

Executive Director/CEO

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."
- Helen Keller

AVENUE OF LIFE PROGRAMS

EQUIPPING CENTER

The Equipping Center Program provides a comprehensive range of programs and services designed to meet the emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual needs of Wyandotte County families and individuals. The Equipping Center serves hot meals, food pantry items, hygiene products, clothing, diapers, and provides classes such as GED and ESL.

Program Highlights:

- Served 6,280 unduplicated individuals
- Processed and distributed \$533,949 worth of in-kind donations
- Distributed 9,232 family food packs
- Distributed 2,082 frozen meals
- Distributed 39,584 Hygiene items
- Served 16,900+ hot meals
- Distributed clothing to 5,122 individuals
- Provided Christmas gifts to 134 households representing 269 children

BUSINESS TRAINING CENTER

The Business Training Center hosts innovative initiatives to provide job-training to low-income and reentry men with barriers to employment.

Program Highlights:

- Delivered furniture to 348 at-risk households.
- Recycled 71,400 mattresses, diverting over 3,500 tons from local landfills

IMPACT KCK PROGRAM

Impact KCK serves Wyandotte County McKinney-Vento children, youth, and families. The Impact KCK model is based on the Collective Impact model for community change. Avenue of Life is the backbone agency and coordinates the efforts of more than 90 partnering organizations committed to addressing the needs of homeless students and families. Impact KCK provides services which include intensive case management and housing solutions.

Program Highlights:

- Served 2,174 households with essential services such as housing, utilities, classes, and food
- Provided intensive case management to 842 households
- Served all 4 Wyandotte County school districts
- Impact KCK's Navigator housed at Wyandotte High School provided intensive case management to 89 youth and hosted 17 Harvesters distributions
- The Impact KCK model is being replicated in KCPS, will be called KCPS Empowerment Program, and Avenue of Life will be the backbone agency.

AVENUE YOUTH HOUSE

The Avenue Youth House is a partnership with Our Spot KC and Avenue of Life. It has 14 bedrooms and serves at-risk youth and young adults between the ages of 18-24 with emergency shelter, a transitional living program, and a full set of wrap-around services that make it possible for homeless youth to be safe, complete their high school education, and make a successful transition into adulthood. The home provides a safe space for LGBTQ+ youth.

Program Highlights:

- Served 31 youth, ages 18-24 in 2022

FAMILY TESTIMONIES FROM IMPACT KCK

"To anyone out there struggling. Whether it be homelessness, needing food, employment, etc., there is an amazing team of people who really care out there if you're willing to take the first step in bettering your life. Avenue of Life will help you."

- Ben, family of 2 with a baby on the way

"I would be homeless without Avenue of Life. They helped me with my classes and afterwards I felt that I was able to do better for my family because they teach things you don't learn in school. It may have taken a couple of times but now my family and I have stable housing and I don't need assistance."

- Aneisha, family of 3

"They don't make workers like you anymore. To have cancer and need to take care of my family and my foster children, I needed someone who for a change I could lean on. That's what Avenue of Life has been for me. A place where I can take a breath and move forward knowing I have someone on my side too."

- Sheila, family of 6

JUSTICE & EQUITY COALITION

The Justice & Equity Coalition assembled a group of 33 cross-sector leaders who are working with an emphasis on policy-change, bail-reform, law-enforcement relations, and advocacy for families who have been challenged with judicial system issues and beyond.