

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR VISION IN THE NEW YEAR

Pray for clear direction and wisdom as we step into a new year of serving children, youth and families.

FOR IMPACT THROUGH GENEROSITY

Pray that the generosity of our donors and partners continues to change lives and expand opportunities.

FOR STRENGTH AND WELLNESS

Pray for health, unity and encouragement for our staff and volunteers throughout the year.

FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Pray for growth, stability and renewed hope for every student and family we serve.

FOR PEACE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Pray for shalom – peace, healing and wholeness – to flourish in our neighborhoods.

Amen!

gala

Join us for our largest fundraiser of the year.



Thursday, March 5, 2026 • Midland Theater

Heart 4 Hope fuels programs, meals and opportunities for youth and families across our community.

Doors open at 6:00 PM
Silent auction begins at arrival

\$125 Per Ticket
Special pricing for tables of 8 available through February 17

Scan to Secure Your Seat
Seating is limited



Your support helps transform lives on Kansas City's East Side.

UPCOMING EVENTS • Spring Celebrations

The Hope Center's spring calendar is filled with events that celebrate creativity, connection and faith, creating opportunities for meaningful engagement across the community.

MARCH 5 6:00 PM	Heart 4 Hope Gala Midland Theater
MARCH 10 6:30 - 8:30 PM	Lip Sync Battle (Student & Family) The Gathering KC
APRIL 10 6:30 - 8:30 PM	After Easter Event The Gathering KC
MAY 9 12:30 - 3:30 PM	Mother-Daughter Brunch The Gathering KC
MAY 19 6:30 - 8:00 PM	Awards Ceremony The Gathering KC
MAY 20 6:30 - 8:30 PM	Grad Party The Gathering KC



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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To give to The Hope Center, please visit
hopecenterkc.org/donate

WINTER 2026



THE HOPE CENTER KC

SKYLINES

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: LEADING WITH HEART

A Hope Center alumnus and Kansas City Public Schools substitute teacher reflects on the mentors and relationships that shaped his life and career.

The Hope Center provided Randall Blackwell with a safe space to be himself, build meaningful relationships, and lean on trusted leaders and volunteers for guidance. He began attending The Hope Center in 2015 and has remained actively involved since, gaining leadership principles and a heart for servanthood that continue to shape both his personal life and his career in education.

"The genuine relationships I built at The Hope Center were life-changing."

During high school, Leaders in Training Director Rocky Hodge played a pivotal role in mentoring Randall, teaching him how to live as a man of God, pursue joy and believe that it is never too late to be great. Surrounded by mentors who invested in him spiritually, emotionally and as a leader, Randall also had the opportunity to work at The Hope Center, allowing him to give back to the organization that played a lasting role in his life. ■



THE HOPE CENTER | KC



FROM MARVIN
Executive Director

As I rush along in the winter chill, cold air pierces through my warm clothes and Mother Nature humbles me with another Kansas City winter. But soon enough, I arrive at The Hope Center ...

The children welcome me with hugs. Another group of young people shower me with smiles as they work on an art project. The older boys shake my hand (their style) and my staff and volunteers pause to greet me with joy.

Spending my days surrounded by such love and goodwill makes braving the winter cold more than worth it!

I hope you have a place like this that welcomes you with open arms out of the cold. If not, The Hope Center always awaits your arrival.

Consider this *Skylines* newsletter your open invitation to join us. And as you

read our stories and learn about upcoming events, please know how important your involvement and participation are to The Hope Center.

By the way, if you have not purchased a ticket or sponsored a table for this year's Heart 4 Hope Gala – please do so now! This will be another welcoming place ready to greet you with a warm smile and a big hug. ■

Marvin

A VERY MERRY HOPE CENTER KC CHRISTMAS

Community partners came together to make the season bright for Hope Center youth and families.

We closed out the year celebrating the birth of Jesus with Hope Center youth and families through two Christmas celebrations at The Gathering KC. Students shared the Advent story and enjoyed festive activities alongside families, volunteers and alumni.

Thanks to generous community support, **every student received a Christmas gift, meals and special experiences** – including gifts from Christ Community Church Leawood, Varsity Skate and Chick-fil-A Lenexa, as well as shopping and essentials provided by the Shift Up Foundation, Prospective Possibilities Foundation and Kristian Fulton Foundation.

Thank you to all who made the season memorable for our students and families.



You're always welcome at The Hope Center!

Drop in to see how we empower KC youth and families.

MEN'S FRATERNITY

Building strong men through faith, accountability and community.

Men's Fraternity, or Men's Frat, is a multi-generational, multi-ethnic gathering hosted by The Hope Center KC that brings men together for fellowship, accountability and spiritual growth. As one participant shared, "Men's Fraternity has been a breath of fresh air. It encourages my heart."

Built around four biblical tenets of manhood, Men's Frat focuses on:

- 1 Accept Responsibility
- 2 Reject Passivity
- 3 Lead Courageously
- 4 Invest Eternally

Men's Frat meets Monday nights for dinner, discussion and practical teaching. Guest speakers address topics such as finances, health, communication and leadership, equipping men to serve their families and live faith-centered lives. ■



DONOR SPOTLIGHT – Carol Copeland



"I have known the Daniels family for nearly 40 years and have followed their ministry from Merrill Avenue Baptist Church to K.A.A. and now The Hope Center. **For the past 10 years, it has been my privilege to support their work and witness the lasting impact they continue to make on children, families and the Kansas City community.** I am grateful to see God working through The Hope Center to bless all they serve."

THE GATHERING KC

In its first full year, The Gathering KC hosted more than 60 events – including 20 offered at a discounted rate – creating space for connection and impact.

In 2026, The Gathering KC will continue hosting celebrations, fundraisers and weddings, with **100% of proceeds benefiting The Hope Center.**

Interested in hosting an event that gives back?



Scan to learn more:
thegatheringkc.com

Questions?

Contact Chris Chandler,
Director of The Gathering KC,
at chris@thegatheringkc.org.

