



Annual Report: August 1, 2025 - July 31, 2026

You Make the Difference.

For 28 years, The Hope Center KC has been a steadfast neighbor on Kansas City's East Side serving, equipping, and empowering children, youth, and families to flourish.



- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Our Mission | Providing asset-based programs and opportunities for sustainable growth and development, where children, youth, and families can flourish on Kansas City's East Side. |
| Our Vision | Developing Healthy Communities where the vulnerable can have Hope and Flourish. |



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO

Dear Friends & Difference Makers,

This has been a tremendous year. As this report will illuminate, we started strong and finished strong thanks to your ongoing monthly support, significant investment, volunteer service, in-kind contributions and prayer support.

Our programs and services have impacted over 200 students through our youth development programs, delivered 43 parent engagement sessions and hosted 11 family and community events; and provided over 2,500 meals throughout this fiscal year along with monthly and holiday community events that attracted over 2,000 neighbors. You will enjoy getting to see these highlights.

The Hope Center KC's vision to develop healthy communities where the vulnerable can have hope and flourish provides the purpose behind what we do and why we do it. Hope Family Care Center is growing in its services to the community. Hope Leadership Academy has moved to the former Hogan Prep Elementary School building to serve an even larger body of students this Fall. The Gathering KC program venue has hosted over 70 events this year and growing. This Summer, we held a groundbreaking ceremony to launch Hope Village, our housing initiative to provide 21 homes to families for homeownership that will attribute to the sustainability of our community.

There is more to come as we prepare to build off-street parking; expand our health services and erect a Multiplex that brings education, recreation, arts, technology and specialty medicine in one location. This will be a transformative project for years to come.

***Hope deferred makes the heart grow sick,
but when dreams are realized they become
like trees of life. ~Proverbs 13:12***



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO
THE HOPE CENTER KC



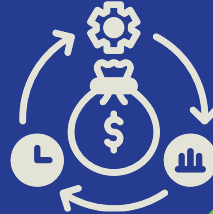
Impact by the Numbers

One Year. Hundreds of lives. Thousands of moments where hope became tangible. Here is a snapshot of what we accomplished together.

COMMUNITY & FAMILY



9 Parent & Family Events
868 Attendees
.....
Juneteenth
840 Attendees
.....
Fall Fest
1,400 Attendees



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Heart 4 Hope
337 Attendees
.....
Pickleball Tournament
25 Attendees

IMPACT

\$274,362.08 – Heart 4 Hope
\$7,225 – Pickleball Tournament

VOLUNTEER IMPACT



108 Volunteers Registered
9 Events
335 Hours Contributed
.....
Serve Day
10 Groups
190 Hours Contributed

IMPACT

\$11,685 Value Created



YOUTH & EDUCATION

Partner In-School Programs
100 Participants
.....
After-School Programs
119 Participants
.....
KAA Campers
89 Participants
37 Hope Center KC participants
.....
Learn to Earn
11 Participants
779 Hours Worked

IMPACT

\$11,650 Earned



THE GATHERING KC

72 Events Hosted
7,000+ Guests

IMPACT

\$189,432 Revenue
\$105,000 in-kind value

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

8 Parents as Partners Meetings
.....
35 Men's Fraternity Sessions



YOUTH



From kindergarten to career readiness, our programs meet young people exactly where they are and walk with them further than they ever imagined they could go.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."
Proverbs 22:6*

Shaping Leaders from the Ground Up

Our programming meets young people where they are, whether in the classroom, on the court, and in life, we're building the academic, emotional, and leadership foundations they need to thrive.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT K-12

A Proven Leadership Pipeline

At The Hope Center KC, youth development is not a program, it is a promise. For nearly three decades, we have committed to showing up for every child who walks through our doors, from kindergarten through twelfth grade, offering the structure, relationships, and resources that make growth possible.



S.A.Y. Yes! Saving America's Youth Yes!, empowers elementary students to build strong foundations for success through after-school programming that combines mentoring, group counseling, social-emotional yoga, and character-building activities.

CIT

Character-in-Training helps students develop strong character, leadership skills, and the confidence to make positive choices through interactive lessons and hands-on activities. C.I.T. assists in strengthening family bonds through active parent and caregiver engagement.

JLIT

Junior Leaders in Training empowers 7th and 8th graders through curriculum-based and hands-on leadership training, covering essential topics like conflict resolution, time management, and personal responsibility.

LIT

Building on the foundation of Junior Leaders in Training, the Leaders in Training program deepens students' leadership skills while strengthening servanthood, positive values and social competencies.

L2E

Learn to Earn equips youth with real-world job skills through hands-on landscaping and hospitality experience. Participants earn while they learn, mastering professional skills from property maintenance to client relations.

A young man, Ahmari, is standing in a grassy field, giving a thumbs up. He is wearing a white t-shirt and black pants. The background shows a clear blue sky and some trees.

A Place Where Everybody Knows Him

Ahmari

Incoming 9th Grader

Hope Center Student Since Kindergarten

Ahmari started at the Hope Center in kindergarten. Now heading into 9th grade, he's grown up there. He's a chill, funny, athletic teenager who gets along with everybody, and no matter how his day is going, he shows up. Ask him why he keeps coming back, and the answer comes fast: it's fun. "They do a lot of engaging activities," he says. "Everybody has a fun time." But talk to him a little longer, and it's clear the Hope Center means more to him than just an afterschool stop. It's a place where he gets to try things he might not otherwise get to experience, from field trips to places like Worlds of Fun, skating, and the water park, to swimming and activities like kickball and matball.

Friendships That Stick

Ahmari has made close friends at the Hope Center, kids who come from all over the Kansas City metro but who wouldn't have crossed paths without the center bringing them together. There's Tyree, a friend his own age who he's especially close with. The two of them like to hang out together outside the center too, and Tyree even comes over to Ahmari's house. These aren't just kids he sees at the center. They're part of his everyday life now.

A Mentor Who Feels Like Family

When asked if there's a staff member who stands out to him, Ahmari doesn't hesitate. "Mr. Tim, that's my dude. I love him. He's really cool." He describes him as funny, always ready to talk football, and someone who's teaching him right from wrong. "He's teaching me a lot that I need to know," Ahmari says.

That relationship goes both ways. Ahmari says the staff at the Hope Center truly know him, not just his name, but who he is.

In His Own Words

Asked to sum up the Hope Center in one word, Ahmari doesn't need much time to think. "Excellent."

SOCIAL - EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

Healing Whole People

Academics alone cannot unlock a young person's full potential. Our wellness programming addresses the whole student, mind, body, and spirit, creating the inner stability that makes learning and leading possible.

Social Emotional Yoga 50+

In partnership with Social Emotional Yoga with Mrs. V, free trauma-informed sessions offered every Monday and Thursday through S.A.Y. Yes! help students identify emotions, manage responses, and build confidence through mindful movement. Led by certified instructors Cierra Yvonne and Monique McDaniel.

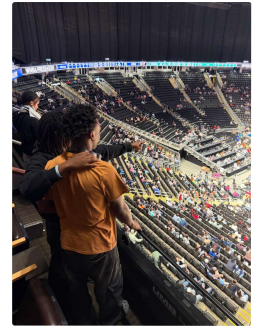
Group Counseling 100+

Through our partnership with Building Bridges Ministries KC, board-certified coaches, licensed counselors, and social workers provide weekly group sessions available to all K–12 students, a safe space to process life, grow, and heal. Services are free and accessible to every student we serve.



YOUTH OUTINGS & ENRICHMENT EVENTS

Every month, we organized off-campus activities designed to broaden our students' horizons and expose them to the full range of possibilities that the world holds. These were not field trips for the sake of fun; they were intentional investments in expanding what our young people could imagine for themselves.



FAMILY



Children flourish when the adults around them do. Our family programming wraps support around parents, caregivers, and the men and women who anchor our blocks. We host family fun nights, Men's Fraternity, Parents as Partners, and our annual Mother's Day brunch.

A Village When We Needed One Most

Rickyta's Family, 10 Years with the Hope Center

When Rickyta Smith moved her family from California, she had her mother, who lived in the same city, but was otherwise starting over, with no old friends nearby and none of the informal support system she'd built back home. So when her oldest son started kindergarten and she learned about the Hope Center's afterschool program, she saw an opportunity: a chance for him to make friends in a place where he had none.

Ten years later, that single decision has grown into something much bigger. Rickyta now has four children at the Hope Center: three, and, as she puts it with a smile, "a new addition."

A Village, By Design

"I do believe it takes a village," Rickyta says. And for her family, the Hope Center became that village, filling the exact gap she'd worried about when she first arrived in a new state.

She's watched it show up in her children's character: an openness to new people, a willingness to try new things, the confidence to step outside their comfort zone. "Not to take away from my parenting," she's careful to add, "but I do believe children need more than one hand shaping them." At the Hope Center, her kids have found adults who model kindness and good character, not just teach it, but live it in front of them.



They've also found something else: a safe place to talk. Rickyta is candid that her children don't always come to her first. Sometimes they need someone outside the family. At the Hope Center, they have that: staff and mentors her kids trust, in a space built around fellowship, a warm meal, and learning to be better people.

Continue next page

A Village When We Needed One Most

Rickyta's Family, 10 Years with the Hope Center

A Few Hours to Breathe

For Rickyta, the Hope Center has also given her something parents rarely admit they need out loud: a little time back. Those after-school hours let her prep dinner, get the house in order, and catch her breath before pickup, without the low hum of worry that so often follows working parents through their afternoon. "You don't have to wait until the very end," she says, "because you don't have to be stressed about your kids' safety. You sign them out, and you guys are good to go."

Her kids, meanwhile, aren't in any hurry to leave. She laughs recalling how her son Bobby reacts if she arrives even five minutes early, "like the world is about to end." They'd rather eat dinner at the Hope Center than at home. "That's how much they love it," she says. "It's a blessing, honestly."



Her Message to Other Parents

What she wants other parents to know most is simple: they don't have to carry it alone.

"You don't have to worry about your kids being in an unsafe environment, or anything happening to them. There's nothing but love and positivity around them. That's something you can count on."

"If you're going to help anybody," Rickyta says, "help those who love to help."

FAMILY ENRICHMENT & FAITH

Strengthening Families Beyond the Classroom

We believe that a child's best chance at flourishing depends on the strength of their whole family system. Our family programming wraps parents, men, and households in the same care and intention we give our students.



Men's Fraternity

50+

Men engaged in 30+ weekly sessions of personal growth and leadership development, building the skills and character to lead their families and communities with integrity.



Family Events

11

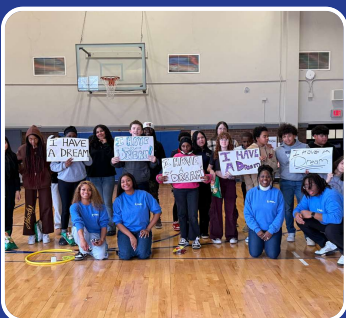
Free on-campus events brought families together around food, culture, celebration, and resources; Thanksgiving, and Lip Sync Battles to the Mother Daughter Brunch, and Hope Awards.



Parents as Partners

Year 11

Regular monthly meetings equip parents with tools to support their children's emotional, academic, spiritual development, and turning families into true partners in every student's success.



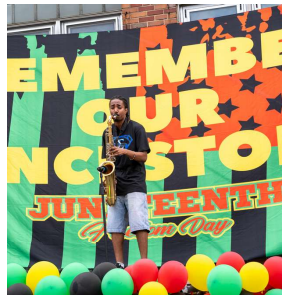
School Partnership Serving 100+ students

Our school partnerships are one of the most efficient ways we extend Hope Center's reach, meeting students where they are, inside the buildings they already trust, during the hours that might otherwise go unsupported.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Hope does not stay inside four walls. It spills out
into the neighborhoods, gathers on courtyards,
and fills every room where community is
welcomed.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

HOPE FALL FEST 2025

Hope Fall Fest brought hundreds of families together for an afternoon of trunk-or-treat, games, inflatables, a petting zoo, free food, live entertainment, and the kind of wholesome joy that every neighborhood deserves.

JUNETEENTH 2026

This year's Juneteenth celebration brought together a stellar line-up of local artists. Hundreds of community members gathered on our campus to honor the history, culture, and resilience of Black Americans and to celebrate what it looks like when a community refuses to stop dreaming.

HOLIDAY FAMILY CELEBRATION 2025

The holiday season is often when need is most acute and generosity most powerful. This year, The Prospective Possibilities Foundation and the Kristian Fulton Foundation collected wish-lists from 10 students. They delivered new shoes, clothing, gifts, and hosted meals to celebrate.

We're grateful to Christ Community Church for their toy drive and gift cards, ensuring every student in our programs received a gift this season. Thanks also to Varsity Skate for donating two skateboards to our Hope Center youth, Shift Up Foundation for helping several Hope Center families shop for Christmas presents, and Rolling Hills Church for gifting us their Christmas offering.

Thank you to all of our partners for making this holiday season bright for our students and families.



Fundraising Events

HEART 4 HOPE GALA 2026

This year's Gala raised over \$276,000 in a single evening, a testament to the extraordinary generosity of the donors, sponsors, and community members who filled the room. Every dollar raised at the Gala goes directly toward the programs, partnerships, and operations that make everything in this report possible.

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT 2026

Now in its second year, our pickleball tournament at KC Pickle Club brought together community members and donors for an afternoon of friendly competition and meaningful engagement. What started as a new idea is quickly becoming a community favorite and an important contributor to our annual fundraising efforts.





Volunteers

THE HEARTBEAT OF HOPE CENTER KC

Since 2012, TOUR de HOPE (TdH) has channeled the joy of cycling into lasting impact for Kansas City's East Side. Founded by Mike Darby on the belief that community is built through generosity and shared purpose, This year, TdH raised \$42,000 for The Hope Center KC. TdH has grown from a single charity ride into a year-round movement, including the Road Ride, TdH Gravel, and the Ride for Good club, raising more than \$250,000 in support of Hope Center KC. Every mile ridden helps fuel the opportunities Hope Center KC creates for children, youth, and families across Kansas City.



Serve Day 10 Groups

Volunteers from across the region donated time and energy to landscaping, painting, cleaning, and building projects. Their engagement contributes to The Hope Center KC saving significant operational resources and strengthening the community bond between our organization and its supporters.

Taking Hope to the Neighborhood

Santa Fe Palestine
Kansas City East Side
Neighborhoods
Ivanhoe Oak Park

BE A PART OF THE
Hope

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Community development begins with people. At Hope Center KC, we invest in children, youth, and families on Kansas City's East Side, and in the places where they learn, gather, and grow.



Hope Village: Groundbreaking for 21 (3 bedroom 2 bath) homes for home ownership that will be transformative to our community. This project will provide \$8M in community investment.



Community Garden: Healthy food is difficult to acquire in our community but our Garden has provided 100lbs of fruits and vegetables for our neighbors. This next season our Garden will be remodeled with new fruit trees and greater water resources for vegetation. THC invests \$10K annually to provide resources that care for our Garden.



Intern Housing: The Hope Center has three homes for our Staff who are engaged in our community and Interns who spend each year learning the principles, practices, and processes in Community and Youth Development. Ongoing maintenance on these historic homes continue to be a model for our neighbors while growing young leaders.



Hope Leadership Academy: HLA was asked to fill the gap for one of the lapsed Charter Schools. This transition to a new building will increase their student population and expand their reach into several communities.



Hope Family Care Center: HFCC in response to their Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), will transition to our former school building to expand their services; increase infrastructure needs and provide quality health care to our community in an intimate manner. The reconstruction will cost approximately a \$2M investment.



HOPE VILLAGE

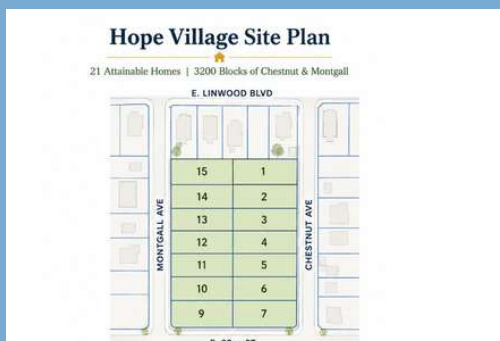
The Hope Center KC and Sankofa EDG celebrated the groundbreaking of Hope Village on Monday, July 13, officially launching a new housing initiative that will bring 21 attainable homes to Kansas City's East Side. Located at 3216 Chestnut Ave., the development will include nine single-family homes and six duplexes—each featuring three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a one-and-a-half-car garage—primarily serving families earning between 80% and 120% of the Area Median Income.

Hope Village builds on The Hope Center KC's more than 28 years of serving the East Side, extending our mission beyond youth and family programming into homeownership by transforming Hope Center-owned lots into attainable homes for middle-income working families.

The project is made possible through a public-private partnership, including support from the Central City Economic Development Sales Tax program (more than \$1.9 million), Murrell Homes Real Estate Group (exclusive seller's brokerage and premier sponsorship partner), Bell Bank (preferred mortgage lender), CHES, Inc. (HUD-certified homebuyer education), Pathway Financial Education (financial literacy training), and the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (community outreach), among other partners.

Beyond construction, the partnership is designed to set families up for long-term success, providing down payment assistance, preferred lending, and financial education to help eligible buyers move in with an estimated \$50,000 in equity from day one.

Hope Village is expected to be completed over the next 36 months.



THE GATHERING KC



In January 2025, after years of patient vision and a \$7 million investment, The Gathering KC opened its doors. The restored 13,000 square foot historic building, once the Annunciation Church, had been transformed by The Hope Center in collaboration with local architects into a stunning, mission-aligned program and event venue at the corner of Linwood and Benton Boulevards.

This year, The Gathering KC's bookings have doubled year over year. We've been able to host more neighbors coming together, more organizations finding a home for their work, and more memorable nights celebrating.

We've hosted a wonderful range of private events and weddings, plus some standout moments: the inaugural Champ Fit fundraiser, where we brought a full boxing ring inside to spotlight their powerful work in the neighborhood; the Urban Summit conference; and groups like the Black Economic Union, Cristo Rey, the Kansas City Chamber, and Great Jobs KC — 72 events in all.

But what matters most to us is not the awards. It is what The Gathering KC represents. Every event hosted there directly supports our mission, every rental fee reinvested into the children, youth, and families of the East Side. The Gathering KC is not a side project. It is a strategic expression of our belief that healthy communities require beautiful, functional, welcoming spaces. And we built one.



Photo by @heavyzay



Photo by @heavyzay



Photo by Urban Summit



Chris Chandler

Director, The Gathering KC

"This fiscal year we've seen more organic growth at the gathering. Originally we were seeing rentals and interest from people familiar with our work but now we see people who are booking that had no prior connection with our non-profit. This shows that our name and reputation are growing in the Kansas City market and we're being looked at as one of the premier event spaces in the city for our size."

Check us out
thegatheringkc.com



Looking Ahead: The Hope Center Multiplex

Building the next chapter of hope on the East Side

For generations, families on Kansas City's East Side have known The Hope Center as a place where children are seen, youth are challenged, and neighbors become family. As we look toward our 30th anniversary in October 2028, we are preparing to build the space that will carry this work forward for the next generation.

The Hope Center Multiplex will be a transformational community hub where children, youth, adults, and families can gather, grow, discover their potential, develop essential skills, access meaningful support, ignite neighborhood fellowship, and pursue opportunities that lead to thriving lives and a stronger East Side community.



What the Multiplex will hold

- **Places to connect.** A recreation room, an e-gaming room, and a neighborhood coffee shop where families, students, and neighbors can spend time together.
- **Places to discover.** Technology labs, art labs, and three virtual reality rooms that open doors to creativity and to careers many of our young people have never had the chance to explore.
- **Places to prepare.** Simulation rooms for skills like driver's education, and a podcast studio where young people can find their voice and tell their own stories.
- **A home for our team.** Office space for Hope Center staff, keeping the people who serve our families close to the heart of the work.

Where we are today

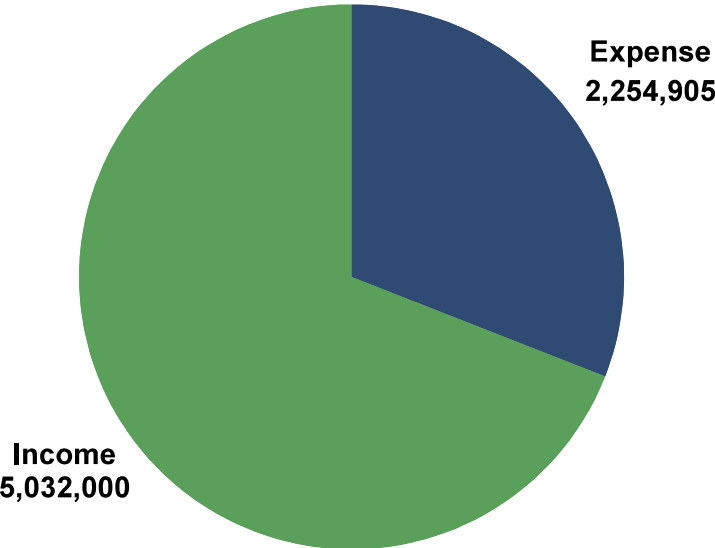
The capital campaign for the Multiplex is underway, and early supporters are already stepping forward. Our goal is to celebrate a major Multiplex milestone as part of our 30th anniversary in October 2028.

Where Your Support Goes

At Hope Center KC, we take our responsibility to donors, families, and this community seriously. Every gift is stewarded with care and the majority of our resources go directly toward programs that serve youth and families on Kansas City's east side. Below is a transparent look at how your support fuels our mission.

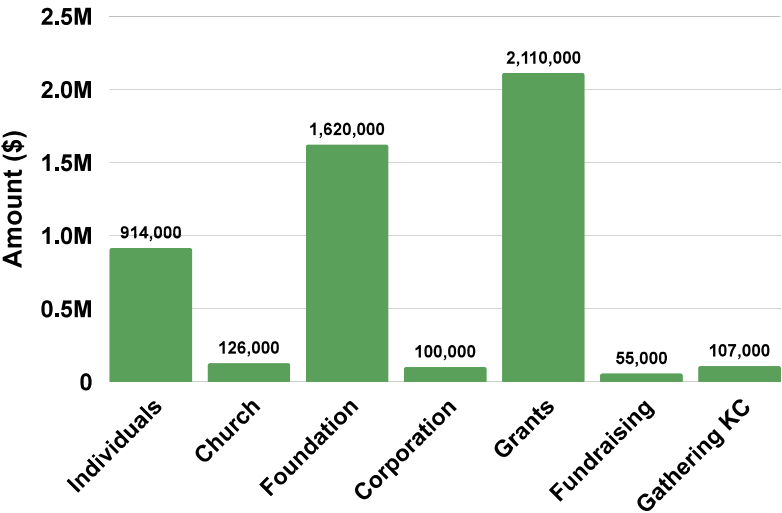
FY25 - FY26 Budget

August 2025 - July 2026



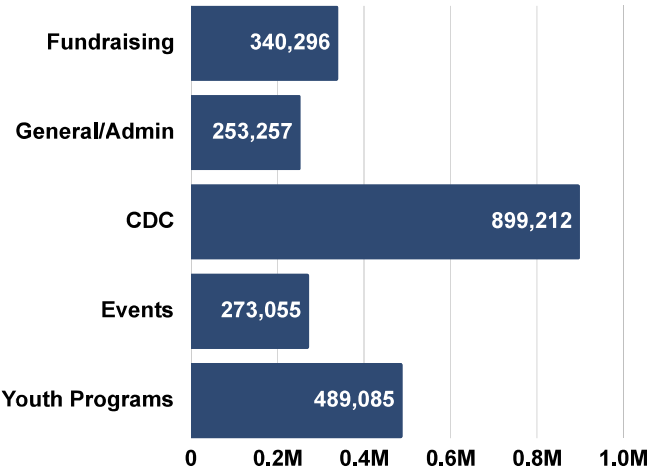
FY25-FY26 Income by Category

August 2025-July 2026



FY25-FY26 Operating Expense

August 2025-July 2026



MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Hope Center KC is guided by a Board of Directors whose experience spans law, finance, construction, education, and community leadership across Kansas City. United by a shared commitment to the East Side, our Board members bring their time, expertise, and vision to help steward the organization's mission of building vibrant neighborhoods where children, youth, and families can flourish.

Thank you to our Board for your generous investment of time, wisdom, and heart. Your leadership makes this work possible.

*Thank
you!*



Nita Daniels



Victor Teevan



Christopher Miles



Aaron Weins



Lester Mckinzy



Vanessa Brown



GET INVOLVED *Today*

DONATE

Give monthly, make a one-time gift, or sponsor an event. Every dollar directly supports youth and families on KC's east side. Visit hopecenterkc.org or scan the QR code to get started.

VOLUNTEER

Share your time, talents, and skills where they're needed most. Visit hopecenterkc.org/volunteer-information to find the right fit for you.

ATTEND

Show up for Serve Day, Juneteenth, Hope Fall Fest, and community events all year long. Your presence strengthens the community we're building together.

BOOK

Host your next event at The Gathering KC, our event venue on the east side. Every booking helps fund our mission, so your celebration becomes someone else's opportunity.

JOIN US IN SPREADING HOPE

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