



**2023**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
*Impacting  
Greater Kansas City  
Youth Since 2010*

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## ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

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Youth Ambassadors was founded in 2010 by Tiffany Poor Lynch and Paige O'Connor, two concerned citizens who saw a need to serve and support vulnerable youth. The initial cohort of youth served were 20 teens from the Argentine community in Kansas City, KS. Since that time, our organization has served more than 3,500 Greater Kansas City youth by providing essential life & job skills training and vital mental health support for young people on the pathway to a successful adulthood.

## OUR MISSION

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Our mission is to empower underserved teenage youth with important life skills, soft job skills, creative expression, and adult mentors, helping them become future community leaders willing and able to work for positive change.

## OUR VISION

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Youth Ambassadors' vision is to help youth reach their fullest potential through creative and innovative programming.

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2023 represented a year of exceptional growth for our organization and for youth in our program. Our Ambassadors completed a record number of community ambassador projects in service to neighborhoods throughout Greater Kansas City, while gaining skills in financial literacy, resume writing, interviewing, and teamwork. Our youth led public projects aimed at reducing violence and participated in programs supporting whole person development and social emotional learning, as they prepare for life after high school graduation.

Now more than ever, our city needs youth leaders who are willing and able to work for positive change. Our youth represent the next generation of business leaders, community members, home owners, and citizens. Investing in their uplift and development helps to make Kansas City a safer, more vibrant city for us all.

On behalf of our Ambassadors, our Board of Directors, and our dedicated staff—thank you for your continued support of our mission to empower youth to become future community leaders, willing and able to work for positive change.

***Dr. Monique Johnston***  
Executive Director  
Youth Ambassadors, Inc.



# 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Peter Long

MCH Strategic Data, Inc., CEO  
Youth Ambassadors,  
Board President



## Monique Johnston, PhD

Youth Ambassadors,  
Executive Director

## Tiffany Poor Lynch

Youth Ambassadors,  
Co-Founder



## Margie Glenn

Moneta Group, Family  
CFO, CPA  
Youth Ambassadors,  
Treasurer

## Alicia Douglas

Rockhurst University,  
Director of Community  
Relations & Outreach



## Brandon Haverty

ReCor Properties, Principal

## Brett Cooper

Black Rhino Transport, LLC,  
Principal



## Nikki Hutson

Dentons Law Firm, Partner-  
Employment & Labor

# 2023 TEAM



## DePrice Taylor

KC Current, Executive  
Director

**Monique Johnston, PhD** – Executive Director

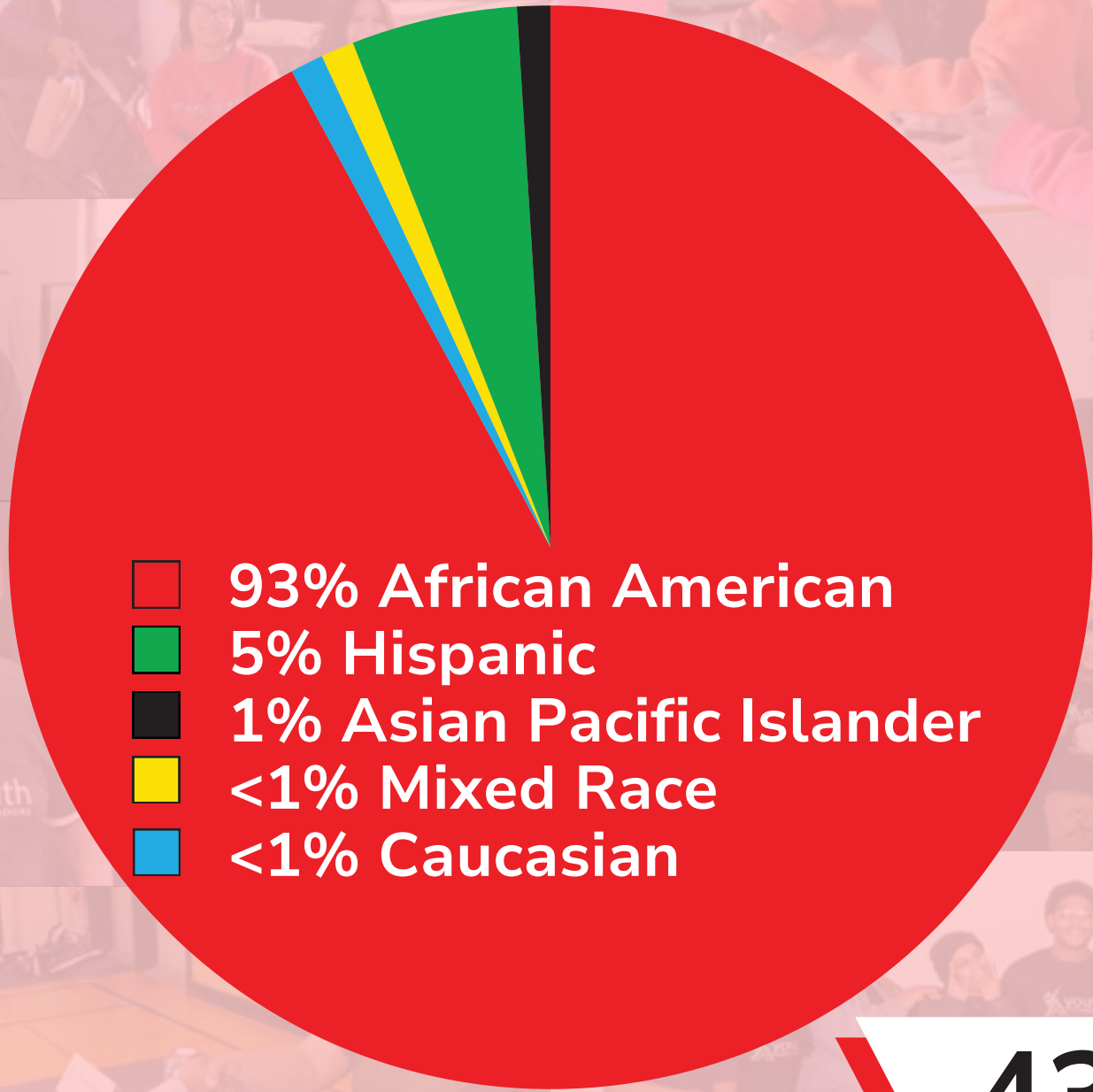
**Alexander Taylor** – Youth Program Director

**Deanna Snider** – Youth Program Manager

**Elizabeth Fernandez** – Community Projects Manager

**Lara Salgado** – Marketing & Communications Manager

# YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS



**432**  
TEENS SERVED

Male: 31%

Female: 65%

Nonbinary: 3%

Transgender: <1%

# YOUTH IMPACT STORIES



“I first joined Youth Ambassadors because it seemed to be a good opportunity for my first job. I could help the community along with evolving my skills as a person and leader. I like the community within Youth Ambassadors—it feels connected and welcoming through the interactions between all the teens and adults. I also like the opportunities Youth Ambassadors provides. They have connected me to many parts of the [Kansas City] community that I didn't even know existed. Youth Ambassadors has definitely made me more confident and curious about our world as a whole, while making me a better leader and person.”

**–Byron McMasters**

“I first joined Youth Ambassadors because my mom wanted me to have a simple job—I had no idea what all was to come. I used to be so shy back then, but Youth Ambassadors has pushed me out of my comfort zone. I have now created a successful non-profit and have had many opportunities to speak on panels and meet many great people.”

**–Aniyah Rowe**



“At first, I did not know how to save money or what a bank account was. I didn't know about entrepreneurship, how to grow your business, how to invest, or how to write a resume. But, Youth Ambassadors has taught me all of these things.”

**–Isaias Minton**



# OUR IMPACT

## Life and Job Skills

Life & Job Skills provides our youth with comprehensive training in essential life and career-building competencies. Sessions include financial literacy, goal setting, and identifying career strengths, with an emphasis on entrepreneurship.

## Health and Wellness

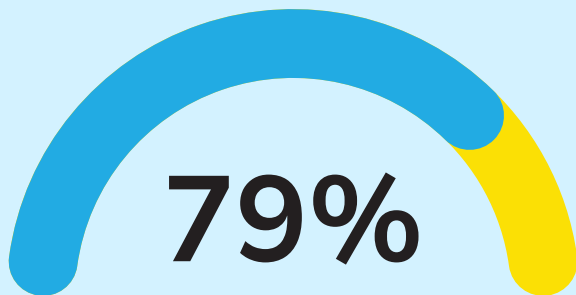
Youth gain essential coping mechanisms, while learning self-regulation, constructive conflict resolution and stress management, equipping youth with practical techniques to navigate life's challenges with resilience.

## Creative Writing

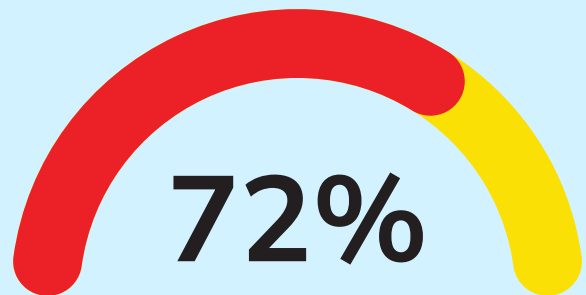
Youth engage in collaborative projects spanning short stories, poetry, spoken word, podcasting, and interpretive dance. Through this journey of self-expression, participants discover the power of storytelling to shape their identities and amplify their voices.

## Art Expression

Youth hone their skills in self-portrait painting, perspective art drawing, still life depiction, and abstract expressionism. The program provides a nurturing space for experimentation and growth, allowing participants to release their imaginations and cultivate a deeper understanding of art and themselves.




of Ambassadors **demonstrated an increase in self-regulation, social competence, empathy, and/or responsibility** on the SEARS-A Assessment (Social-Emotional Assets & Resilience Scale for Adolescents)



of Ambassadors participating in group therapy service **demonstrated an overall increase in mental wellness** on the Duke Health Profile



# GROUP CHAT THERAPY



The Group Chat program is a youth group therapy program where Ambassadors connect with one another and a licensed therapist. Our teens learn coping mechanisms, self-regulation, and other tools to reduce symptoms of anxiety & depression.

In 2023, the Group Chat program served

# 86 YOUTH



“I’ve changed since I’ve been in Group Chat. I was taught breathing exercises, how to calm down, and it was more of an understanding of mental health. It helped a lot.”

–Kalia K.

“I tell others that [Group Chat] was a great experience, and that everyone should do it. It brings you a lot of comfort, and you don’t feel alone.”

–Syrenitie W.



# S.A.V.E. PROGRAM

Our S.A.V.E program helps youth build supportive communities, self-confidence & violence prevention methods. Each S.A.V.E workshop brought teens together to advocate, raise awareness, and share information related to preventing and understanding various forms of violence. We look forward to growing our S.A.V.E program. 100% of assessed Ambassadors reported understanding the importance of mental health and have developed skills to help prevent a suicide crisis.



The  
S.A.V.E.  
Program  
impacted a  
total of  
**64,491**  
individuals  
on social  
media.

## Our teens partnered with...

- KCMO Health Department
- Our Healthy Jackson County
- KCMO Police Department
- Healing House Inc.
- Kansas City Public Schools

# MOCK INTERVIEW DAY

Each year Ambassadors participate in Mock Interviews. To prepare for Mock Interviews, teens create a resume, learn to properly complete job applications, work on personal branding, thank you letters, and more.



We want to thank all the volunteers who came out and spent their Saturday interviewing teens. Volunteers, from diverse careers and backgrounds, enacted mock interviews that provided youth with a meaningful, real-world experience. Our teens were shining in their interviews! We want to thank them for their hard work and commitment to putting their best foot forward.

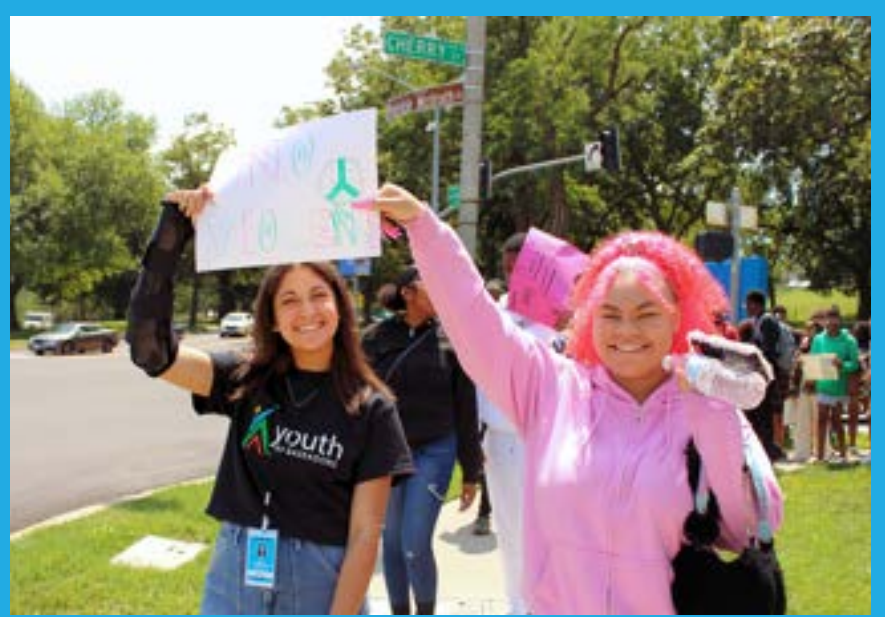


“It was kinda nerve-racking at first, but after we settled down and started talking to each other, it was easy and fun. I have way more strengths than I give myself credit for!”

**–Malcom Sampson**

# TEEN PEACE SUMMIT

Youth Ambassadors hosted its 3rd Annual Teen Peace Summit. Ambassadors came together to engage in conversations about preventing violence with community experts. The event culminated with a peace walk led by our youth. We want to give a huge thank you to all the community leaders and the Kansas City Police Department for supporting the event.



**93%** of Ambassadors feel more equipped to deal with conflict using non-violent methods

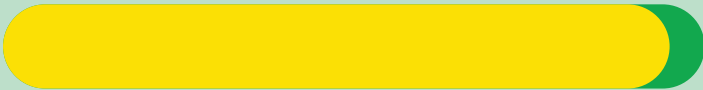


“Youth Ambassadors has done a good job at creating a safe space for people who may not already have one. They allow us to get involved in the community, and we have a way to voice our opinions and make a change in the community.”

**-D’Angelo Mays**

# COLLEGE & CAREER DAY

Youth Ambassadors' annual College and Career event was a success with over **70** Ambassadors in attendance. Teens took part in our real estate breakout session with our partners at Keller Williams Realty, and met with over ten universities and career organizations. Our Ambassadors were able to connect with community leaders and have important discussions about their career paths.



**95%**

of Ambassadors feel better prepared for future educational or employment opportunities



**90%**

of Ambassadors were able to identify what type of career & educational options they want to pursue after high school graduation



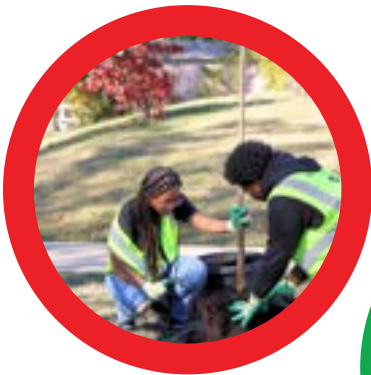
# COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR PROJECTS

Engaging teens in community work and connecting them with various organizations in Kansas City is crucial for their personal growth and the community's well-being. It helps them develop essential life skills, fosters civic responsibility, and promotes empathy. By learning about the city's resources and opportunities, they can explore career paths and build professional networks. Moreover, this involvement strengthens their sense of community, highlights local achievements, and inspires them to contribute positively to Kansas City's future.



**1,361 hours**

of youth community  
engagement work



**95%**

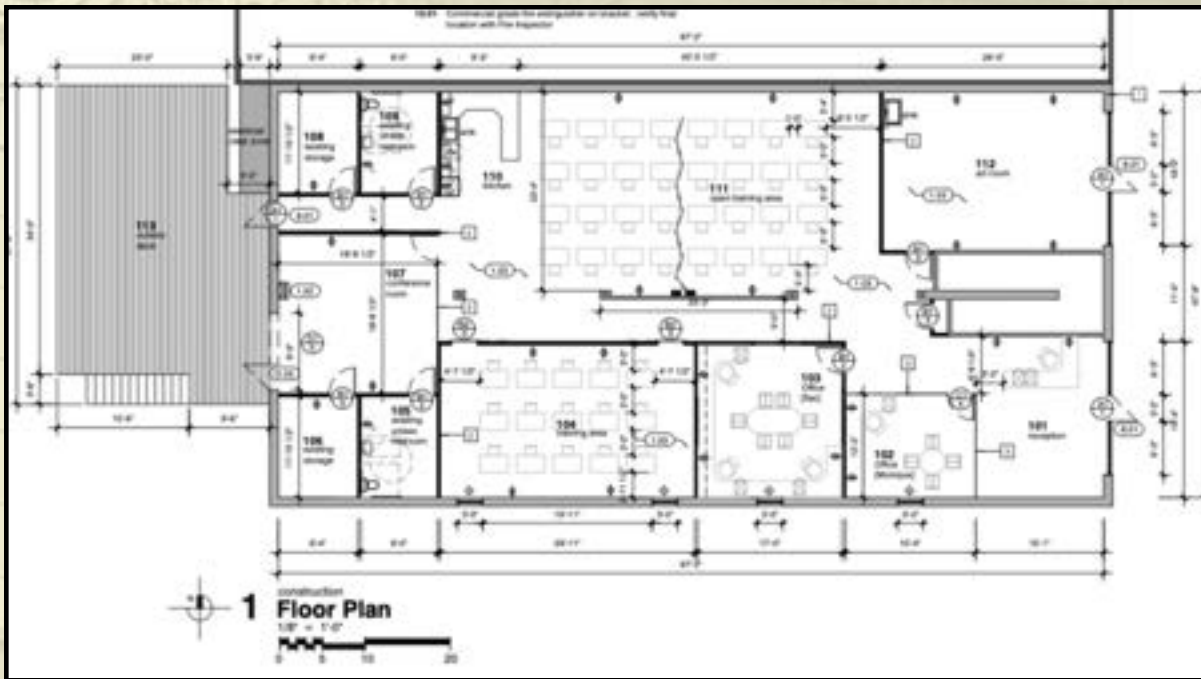
of Ambassadors realized the importance of  
being a leader in the community and  
improving spaces

# OUR PARTNERS



# OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As Youth Ambassadors continues to grow, so does community demand for serving the youth of Greater Kansas City. Since 2010, Youth Ambassadors has created a safe space for teens, and now we will also have a safe *place*! Our new headquarters is located at **3130 Troost Ave., Kansas City, Missouri.**





YOUTH AMBASSADORS

# BLUE JEAN Bash

DISCOVERY

On October 19, 2023 Youth Ambassadors hosted its *6th Annual Blue Jean Bash* fundraiser. More than 100 community members came together in support mentorship to celebrate the power and potential of our youth.



### Event Highlights:

- \$47,500 raised to support Greater Kansas City youth
- 20 original works of Ambassador art were sold
- 2023 Paige O'Connor Hope, Heart, and Healing Award presented to Ambassador Jacobi Hill
- 2023 Tiffany Poor Lynch Founder's Scholarship Award presented to Ambassador Armando Hernandez

# 2023 FINANCIALS



**Program Expenses – 70%**

- Youth Instructors
- Ambassador Pay
- Program Supplies
- Mental Health Contractors
- Other Program Expenses

**Management Expenses – 17%**

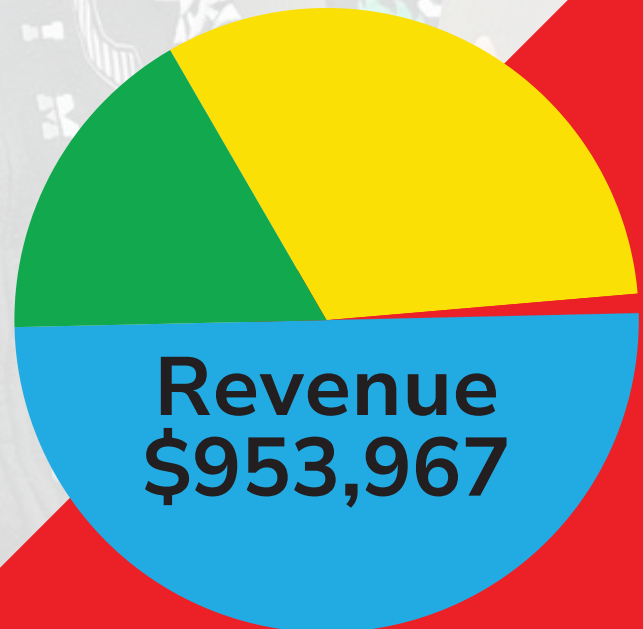
- Administration
- Travel & Meetings
- Professional Services

**Fundraising Expenses – 13%**

\*These figures depict cash withdrawals.

Since its founding in 2010, Youth Ambassadors has provided more than \$1,000,000 in direct support & pay to youth in the community

- Foundation / Grants – 50%
- Government Support – 32%
- Contributions – 17%
- In-Kind Contributions – 1%



\*These figures depict cash deposits.

# STAKEHOLDERS, DONORS & FRIENDS

## \$10,000+

- Barry and Suzanne Cooper Family Charitable Fund
- Forest Foundation
- Francis Family Foundation
- H&R Block Foundation
- Hall Family Foundation
- Health Forward Foundation of GKC
- Hulston Family Foundation
- Hunt Family Foundation
- Irv Robinson & Robinson Family Foundation
- Jackson County COMBAT
- Jackson County Mental Health Fund
- Kauffman Foundation
- KCMO Health Department
- Oppenstein Brothers Foundation
- Sherman Family Foundation
- The Hadley Project
- Tiffany & Gregory Lynch
- UMKC - Our Healthy Jackson County
- Victor E. Speas Foundation

- Ash Grove Charitable Foundation
- BlueScope Foundation
- Darren Harding
- Hallmark Cards, Inc.
- Henry E. Wurst Family Foundation
- Jennifer and Spencer Jones
- Tim Wurst and Gwen Wurst Family Foundation

## \$5,000–\$9,999

## \$4,999 & Below

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alayna Smith</li> <li>• Alicia Douglas</li> <li>• Amanda Grimes</li> <li>• Amalie Hovey</li> <li>• Andrews Family Foundation</li> <li>• Angel Byrd</li> <li>• Angela Edwards</li> <li>• Anthony Lee</li> <li>• Aquarius Fund</li> <li>• Bank of Prairie Village</li> <li>• Beth Rush</li> <li>• Bill &amp; Maureen Berkley</li> <li>• Black Community Fund</li> <li>• Boyer &amp; Corporon Wealth Management LLC</li> <li>• Brandon Haverty</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brett Cooper</li> <li>• Charles S. Mott Foundation</li> <li>• Children's Mercy Hospital</li> <li>• Christine Kemper</li> <li>• Clay Hartman</li> <li>• Community Capital Fund</li> <li>• David Caffrey</li> <li>• David Powell</li> <li>• Dentons US LLP</li> <li>• Drew Harding</li> <li>• Dutzel's Catering &amp; Events</li> <li>• Edward Halpin</li> <li>• Elizabeth Haden</li> <li>• Ellie Elliott</li> <li>• Geri Seavey</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geraldine &amp; RA Barrows Foundation</li> <li>• Gina Speese</li> <li>• Hickok Family Foundation</li> <li>• Hise Family Foundation</li> <li>• Jamie Berg</li> <li>• Jamie Hunt</li> <li>• Jamee Rodgers</li> <li>• Janet Dusch</li> <li>• Jennifer and Spencer Jones</li> <li>• Jill Harmon</li> <li>• Jody House</li> <li>• Joe Pindell</li> <li>• John &amp; Jennifer Isenberg Philanthropic Fund</li> <li>• Kauffman Foundation Matching Gifts Program</li> <li>• Kelley Wengler</li> <li>• Leigh Reynolds</li> <li>• Leslie Scott</li> <li>• Megan Hise</li> <li>• Michael and Carrie Robinson</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missouri After School Network</li> <li>• Moneta Charitable Foundation</li> <li>• Network for Good</li> <li>• Peter Long</li> <li>• Phyllis Hardwick</li> <li>• Platinum Title, LLC</li> <li>• Ronald &amp; Melissa Langstaff</li> <li>• Ruth Sosnoff</li> <li>• Ryan Murdock</li> <li>• SocialHeart</li> <li>• Stephanie Gershon</li> <li>• Stolzer Family Foundation</li> <li>• Susanne Mitko</li> <li>• Tammicole Benefield</li> <li>• Teesha Miller</li> <li>• The Blackbaud Giving Fund</li> <li>• United Way of Greater Kansas City</li> <li>• VMLY&amp;R</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|--|



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