

— 8TH ANNUAL —



STRENGTH IN UNITY *Gala*

An evening honoring those in our community who help us deliver invaluable services to the most vulnerable in our community.

**DECEMBER 9, 2022 | 6 PM
FIORELLA'S EVENT CENTER**



A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER & CEO

2022 has been an exciting year that has afforded Sisters in Christ the opportunity to sharpen our strategy and increase our commitment and presence in the community we serve. Since January of this year, our board and team have been going through an intensive strategic planning process to cast “a plan” for the next 3 years. We are close to finishing the draft of our strategic plan and I am so thrilled to start putting the plan into action! Sisters in Christ has made some huge achievements during these last eight years. The next step for us is to Think Big and Intentionally Give it Our All. We are no longer a small outfit, but a very important entrepreneurial non-profit that is on a journey of building, building, and building.

Thank you for joining us for the 2022 Strength In Unity Gala. We are humbled and encouraged to know that we can count on you as we assist our community. The many successes of those we support are only possible through their own efforts and the commitment and generosity of our many donors, volunteers, community partners, and friends.

Without you, our life-changing work would not be possible.

Thank you for being a part of what makes Sisters In Christ a place where women, youth, and families, feel safe, inspired, and ready to take the necessary steps forward. We want you to know how incredibly vital your support is in helping us achieve our mission. Thank you!

We are delighted to celebrate with you tonight!

Carolyn Whitney

Founder & CEO of Sisters In Christ

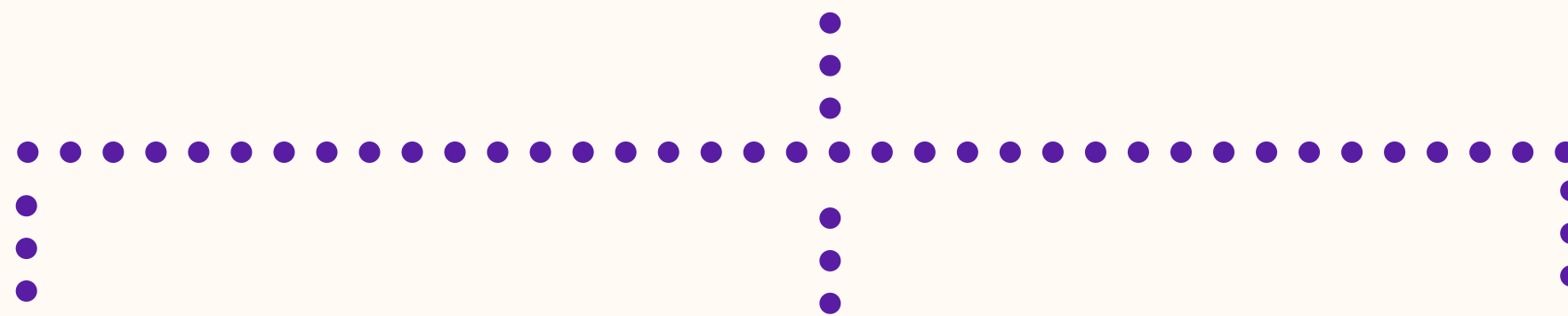


BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CAROLYN WHITNEY

Founder & CEO



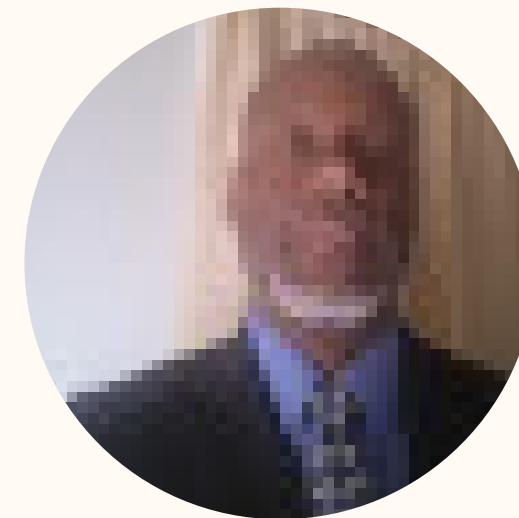
MARCIA HUMPHREY

Secretary & Treasurer



PATSY YBARRA

Vice Chair



TYRONE SMITH, SR.

Chair

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Authentic Talk LLC
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City of Raytown
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Dr. Madelyn Douglas, CC. PhD
Exceeds Expectations, Inc.
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Happy Bottoms

Harvesters
Haven of Hope LLC
Jackson County COMBAT
KC Recovery Coalition
Micah's Boutique
Raytown C-2 School District
Raytown Police Department
Raytown STRIVIN' Hub
Swope Health Imani House

SISTERS IN CHRIST TEAM



CAROLYN WHITNEY
Founder & CEO



SHERYL FLEMING
*Director of Finances
MSM & MSA*



DEBBIE BEECHAM
Director of Operations



PATRICIA RHODES
*Director of Administration
MRSS*



JEANINE CROOKSHANK
*Director of Programming
MBA*



ANTONIA UWAEKE
*COMBAT Strivin' Hub
Resource Coordinator
MEDIN*



IMELBA PRICE-LEE
*Missouri Recovery Support Specialist
MRSS*



TINISHA RHODES
Administrative Assistant



JOHNATHAN WHITELAW
Youth Education Coordinator



MICHELLE NEWTON
*Certified Peer Specialist
CPS*



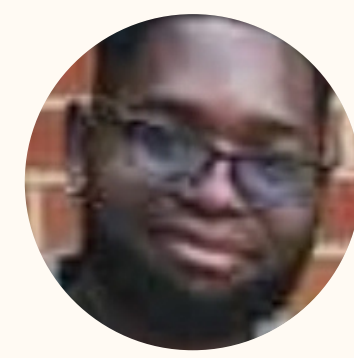
ROXANNE MCMULLEN
*COMBAT
Strivin' Hub Resource Specialist*



LAWANDA LAMAR
*Executive Administrative
Assistant*



RE'NNA WREN
*Case Management Specialist
MSW*



DA'JION LYMORE
*Marketing & Social Media
Specialist*



**SISTERS IN CHRIST
SINCERELY THANKS OUR**

2022 SPONSORS

Listing as of December 5, 2022

ADVOCATE SPONSOR (\$2,000)

Gregg & Beth Lombardi

FRIEND SPONSOR (\$1,750)

Health Forward Foundation
MySmart Plans

TABLE SPONSOR (\$1,550)

HS Interiors, LLC
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Marcia Humphrey
Marcia Pitts
JB Remodeling
Tyrone Smith, Sr.
Clyde & Vivian Smith
Clarence & Harriett Taylor
Carolyn Whitney

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James Shiebel
Your Natural Image

TABLE SPONSOR (\$620)

First Citizens Bank
LaWanda Lamar
Re'nna Wren
William Moore
Sheryl Fleming

SUPPORTER SPONSOR (\$500)

Carolyn Whitney
Ryan Companies, US, Inc.



OUR HISTORY

Birthed in 1997 as a grassroots community movement by four Black women to reach women in the Kansas City community who had experienced trauma, in July 2014, Sisters in Christ was formally established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and opened its administrative office in Raytown, MO. To this day, our leadership team has unmatched lived experience in serving individuals and families transitioning toward self-sufficiency. In fact, CEO Carolyn Whitney is a 21-year resident of Raytown and has more than two decades of experience providing case management to low-income families. Several other staff members have lived experience receiving public assistance such as SNAP, WIC, TANF as well as rent/utility assistance during their personal transitions toward self-sufficiency.

OUR MISSION & STRATEGY

Every day, Sisters in Christ works to confront a fragmented and inadequate system of community support for mental health, substance abuse, affordable housing, employment, and family cohesion, particularly for the formerly incarcerated and unhoused in the Kansas City community. Sisters in Christ's mission is to assist in the transformation of people by creating and weaving together a cohesive set of resources that promote their physical, emotional, financial, and spiritual wholeness. Sisters in Christ serves as a resource conduit, personal advocate, and supporter for those we serve. Our outcome areas include mental health, affordable housing, employment, education, and life transitions.



SPECIAL GUESTS



**JUDGE LISA
WHITE HARDWICK**
Missouri Court of Appeals,
Western District



DREA NYCOLE
Owner & CEO
Micahs Boutique



MIA RAMSEY
Executive Director
Kansas City Boys Choir
Kansas City Girls Choir



WILLIE THORNTON
Pastor
Mount Washington
Missionary Baptist Church



CAROLYNN WASHINGTON
Client Services Shelter Manager
Friends of Yates Inc.



STRENGTH IN UNITY *Gala*

SILENT AUCTION

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

CAROLYNN WASHINGTON, EMCEE

WORDS FROM OUR BOARD

MARCIA NOLAND HUMPHREY, TYRONE SMITH, SR., & PATSY YBARRA

DINNER

*PASTOR WILLIE THORNTON, PRAYER
SHOCKIE & COMPANY, ENTERTAINMENT*

PANEL DISCUSSION

CHRISTEL BELL, MODERATOR

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

KANSAS CITY BOYS & GIRLS CHOIR

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

PERSEVERANCE VIDEO

MICHELLE NEWTON

SONG OF INSPIRATION

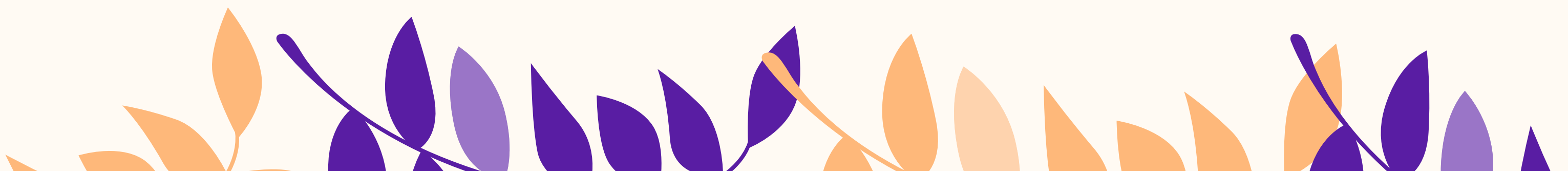
DREA NYCOLE

RECOGNITION OF WOMEN OF STRENGTH

CLOSING REMARKS

CAROLYN WHITNEY, FOUNDER AND CEO

MUSIC & DANCING UNTIL 10PM



OUR PROGRAMS

Sisters in Christ manages three transitional homes in the Kansas City, Missouri urban core: **Carolyn's House of Faith, Serenity House, and Habakkuk House** for women experiencing houselessness and reentering the community after incarceration. Annually, Sisters in Christ serves between 50 to 60 women through its Transitional Supportive Housing Program. The homes are accredited by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) and certified by the Missouri Department of Mental Health.



Sisters in Christ's **Dahomey Training Center** is a hands-on entrepreneurship education and job training program designed for women with histories of substance abuse, experiencing housing and employment struggles, and transitioning from incarceration. Classes are offered to equip women in mastering life and job skills needed to sustain living wage employment and thrive specifically in the skilled trade industry.

TRANSITIONAL SUPPORTIVE HOUSING & DAHOMEY TRAINING CENTER:

- **47 clients** served through transitional supportive housing and wraparound services (**5,217 visits**)
- **61 clients** served through transitional supportive housing, Dahomey Training Center, and other wraparound services (**20,157 visits including 20,113 class units and 44 intake assessments**)
- **4 women** served through GED/HiSET Tutoring (**184 visits**)

Through a partnership with Jackson County COMBAT, Sisters in Christ coordinates the **Raytown Safe Zone Neighborhood Hub**, “a one-stop shop” where individuals and families at-risk for violent lifestyles can receive case management and care coordination. Sisters in Christ regularly receives referrals for Safe Zone from the Raytown Police Department and Raytown C-2 School District.



Youth Life Link is a subprogram of Safe Zone that provides at-risk youth with team-building activities which build camaraderie and enhance their academic achievement, community involvement, financial outlook, and resiliency against crime and violence.

The Mental Health Services Program provides trauma-focused, evidence-based, and culturally sensitive therapeutic interventions and case management to women, youth, and children. Sisters in Christ partners with Black-led and minority-serving clinical therapists. Therapeutic interventions offered include Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR), Trauma Center Trauma Sensitive Yoga (TCTSY), and Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP).

SAFE ZONE NEIGHBORHOOD HUB:

- 1246 families including 5275 individuals through Safe Zone Monthly Food Distribution (documented 1246 visits over 8 months)
- Approximately 179 individuals through Safe Zone Food Pantry (documented 895 visits over 5 months)
- 45 youth through Safe Zone Youth Life Link Tutoring (308 visits)
- 105 community members through Safe Zone Youth Life Link Yard Service (105 visits over 2 months)

HONOREES



Judge Ardie Bland- Restorative Justice Award

Ardie A. Bland served as a Municipal Court Judge for the 16th Judicial Circuit Court of Missouri – Kansas City Municipal Division for fourteen years. He was appointed by Kansas City, Missouri Mayor Mark Funkhouser and the City Council in 2008. Prior to his appointment, Judge Bland operated his own law office. In addition to handling traditional Municipal Court cases, Judge Bland presided over the Veterans Treatment Court for thirteen years; and in 2015 became the judge for the Mental Health Court where he served for seven years. He also presided over the Municipal Court Truancy Court from 2012 to 2015. Under Judge Bland's direction, more than 400 students from the various school districts serving Kansas City, Missouri successfully improved attendance rates between 5 to 25 percent. In September 2022, he was appointed by President Biden to serve as a Veterans Law Judge for the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Judge Bland is a lifelong resident of Kansas City. He holds a Bachelor of Science in economics from Truman State University and received a Juris Doctor from Drake University Law School.



Dr. Robert Cordell- NextGen Catalyst Award

Dr. Robert Cordell serves as the Director of Student Support Services in the Raytown School District. Previously, he was a social studies classroom teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal. Robert earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and Secondary Education from Missouri State University, a Master of Education Degree in Secondary School Administration, an Education Specialists Degree in Secondary School Administration and a Doctor of Education in School Administration and Educational Policy Study from the University of Missouri- Kansas City. Dr. Cordell has been serving in education for 23 years. Robert's wife is Dr. Casey Cordell. They have been married for 23 years and they have three daughters: Cailyn (20), Claire (16) and Campbell (12).



Theresa Galvin - Authentic Leader Award

Theresa Cass Galvin has served on the Jackson County Legislature for eight years. For two of those years she held the leadership role of Chairman and two more years as Vice Chairman. Theresa began her career, which spanned 30 years in the construction industry, in the front office and worked her way up to owning her own construction company. Theresa is the daughter of a United States Air Force family. Her family moved back to Kansas City when Theresa was in grade school. She attended schools in the Hickman Mills School District and graduated from Hickman Mills Senior High School. Theresa and her husband, Billy, have 4 children and 5 grandchildren. Theresa is a member of the American Legion Post 21, American Legion Auxiliary and a life member of the Ladies Auxiliary with VFW Post 5789. She is also a dedicated member of the Raytown and Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce. She has a strong sense of community and enjoys spending her free time volunteering.



Lisa McIntire- Unsung Hero Award

Lisa is a native of the Kansas City area and has a passion for strengthening and supporting our Community. She has built a 26-year career in banking and as the Vice-President of Commercial Banking for First Citizens Bank, plays an active role in helping business owners, entrepreneurs and executives become successful and execute their dreams and visions for the organizations they lead. Lisa is also an advocate for supporting philanthropic needs throughout the Kansas City Community and invests her time and resources volunteering for various not-for-profit organizations and currently serves as the President of Dream Factory's Kansas City Chapter, a 100% volunteer-based organization. During her 5 years volunteering for Dream Factory, she has played an integral part leading the efforts to bring hope and smiles to more than 275 children battling chronic and critical illnesses. Lisa also serves on Dream Factory's Executive Board and the Boards of Blue Valley Industrial Association, Midwest Small Business Finance and Clay County Economic Development Council.



Vince Ortega- Transformation Initiative Award

Since 2018 Vince Ortega has served as the Executive Director of Jackson County COMBAT. He had previously serviced as the COMBAT Deputy Director since 2009. Vince brought to COMBAT a distinguished 30-year career with the Kansas City Police Department, rising through the ranks to become Deputy Chief. During his KCPD career, his assignments included serving as Executive Officer to the Chief of Police, Commander of the Patrol Bureau, Homeland Security, Intelligence Unit, Internal Affairs, Violent Crimes Division, Human Resources, and the Drug Enforcement Unit. He was also recipient of more than 70 awards and commendations. Upon retiring as a Deputy Chief, he served as the National Security Specialist for General Electric's Homeland Protection Division, where he was a Domain Expert. He holds a Master of Public Affairs degree from Park University, where he previously earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Vince is a life-long resident of Kansas City. He and his wife, Gillian, have been married 40 years.



Adrienne Powell- Perseverance Award

Adrienne Powell was born in Atlanta, GA and raised in Kansas City, MO. She graduated from Lincoln Prep and went on to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and then a Master's of Social Work from the University of Central Missouri and St. Louis University, respectively. She began her professional career in St. Louis, MO and worked in a number of different capacities such as clinical supervisor, director of Imani House, adjunct professor at UMKC, therapist and most recently, licensure supervisor for professional social workers in the state of Missouri. She was also included in Who's Who in Black Kansas City twice for her community leadership. She has a passion for implementing evidence-based therapy programs and developed two new programs while working for a local community mental health organization which are still in place today. Ms. Powell has always had a passion for working with those in need of assistance and support as well as developing skills in clinicians to effectively provide that support and has done so for three decades. She has 3 sons; Stanley, Brandon and Christian and one granddaughter, Raya. Ms. Powell is a member of Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated, KCMO Alumnae Chapter.



C.T. Taylor- Legacy and Provision Award

Colonel Taylor hails from Kansas City, Kansas, and is a 1974 graduate of J.C. Harmon High School and went on to play 4 years of football at Washburn University. He received his B.A. Business from Washburn and was commissioned into the Air Force in 1978. He received his M.A. in Public Administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco, California, and his M. A. National Resource Management from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, Washington DC. After 29 years of military service, he is the recipient of the Defense Superior Service Medal and numerous other military decorations. On Apr 3, 2008, Colonel Taylor opened the Chick-fil-A at Oak Park Plaza as the Owner/Operator. Colonel Taylor is happily married to the former Harriett McCallop of Shawnee Mission, Kansas for 44 years. They have a son, Clarence Taylor IV, a daughter, Christina Taylor and five grandchildren.



Dr. Jomella Watson-Thompson - Community Empowerment Award

Dr. Jomella Watson-Thompson is the Director of the Center for Service Learning, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Behavioral Science at the University of Kansas. Dr. Watson-Thompson is the Director of the Kansas City Youth Violence Prevention Research Center, a Center for Disease Control National Center of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention. Additionally, she is the co-Principal with Ad Astra Community Innovations Group, LLC. Dr. Watson-Thompson has been the recipient of numerous local and national awards related to her contributions to community-engaged scholarship. She serves on the Executive Council for the Association of Behavior Analysis International. She attained a Ph.D. in Behavioral Psychology, a Masters of Urban Planning from the University of Kansas, and a B.A. in Urban Studies from Jackson State University. She is married to Eric Thompson, a higher education professional and motivational speaker and they have three children.

PANELIST



Christel Bell (Moderator)

Christel Bell joined the FOX4 Kansas City family as an evening anchor in August 2020. A native of Houston, Texas, she knows a thing or two about some good ole' barbecue. She is an Emmy-nominated journalist with more than 13 years in the news industry. She earned her Bachelor's of Arts degree in Communications from the University of Houston and is currently studying for her Master's in Communication at Webster University in St. Louis. She has traveled to various events across the nation as a motivational speaker. She has also hosted and emceed numerous fundraising events throughout the years for non-profit organizations. Christel currently serves on the board of directors for the Neighbor to Neighbor non-profit organization and provides mentoring guidance for area youth programs. She is married to Stephen. He's the reason she has such a cool "on-air" name, and they have a wonderful daughter who is 4 and full of personality.



Branden Mims

Branden Mims is the Senior Minister of the Greater Metropolitan Church of Christ in Kansas City, Missouri. In 2013, He felt the call of God to plant a missional church on the eastside of Kansas City. The congregation has been blessed in the years since and secured a new location in 2015 to accommodate its growing membership. Branden Mims is a graduate of Southwestern Christian College where he received a bachelor's degree in Religious Studies. He currently holds the position of Chief Operating Officer for the Adhoc Group Against Crime, a 45-year-old, anti-violence prevention organization. In addition, he is the Executive Director of Greater Impact, a 501c3 subsidiary of the Greater Metropolitan Church of Christ. He is married to Sharee Mims and has a 2 year old daughter Daylie. He looks forward to a long and productive ministry in God's Kingdom.



Sharee Mims

Sharee Mims is a native of Kansas City, Missouri where she attended the University of Missouri-Kansas City for her undergraduate studies and received her masters degree in Clinical Social Work from the University of Kansas. Sharee is a licensed clinical social worker and therapist, serving individuals in Kansas, Missouri, and Florida. She currently operates her own private mental health practice, Haven of Hope, and is the clinical director of Greater Impact KC and the Greater Metropolitan Church of Christ. She has a passion for serving others and has worked in numerous capacities for non profits and organizations in the greater Kansas City area. She is married to Branden Mims and the two have a 2 year old Daughter, Daylie.



Judge Martina Peterson

Martina Peterson is a Municipal Court Judge with the City of Kansas City and presides over criminal and traffic cases. Prior to her appointment to the Kansas City Municipal Court in 2018, she served as a Family Court Commissioner for 9 years where she presided over abuse and neglect cases, delinquency cases, adoption cases, and the Family Drug Court Program. Prior to that, she spent 13 years as a criminal defense trial attorney with the Missouri State Public Defender's Office. Judge Peterson graduated from Ruskin High School and attended the University of Missouri Kansas City where she obtained her Bachelors in Business Administration, Masters in Business Administration, and Juris Doctor.



Judge Ardie Bland



Dr. Jomella Watson-Thompson

WOMEN OF STRENGTH

Today we recognize 30 women that have made significant contributions toward the advancement of women by providing services to women or by being a beacon for women to follow on their journeys toward self-realization & awareness - to becoming their authentic selves.

Thank you, ladies! Your investment in our mission and community is greatly appreciated!



**TERRI E.
BARNES**



**DEBBIE
BEECHAM**



**DARLA
BELFLOWER**



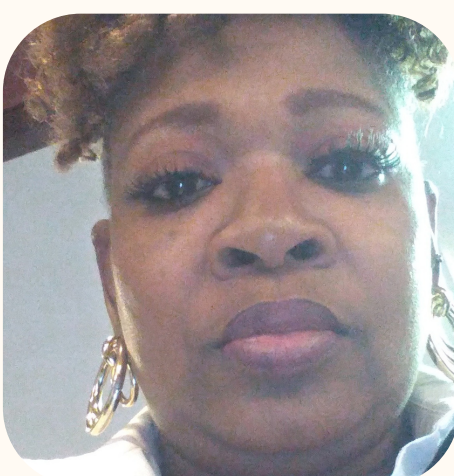
**ERIKA
BRAUN**



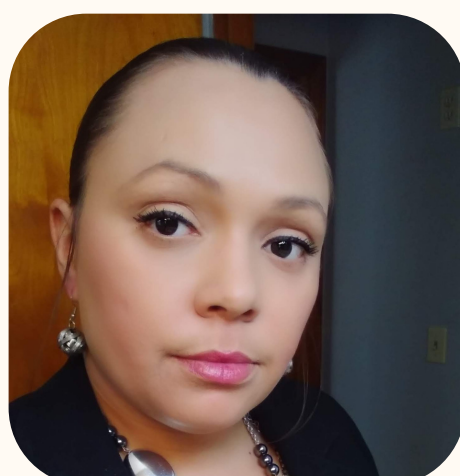
**WAKISHA
BRIGGS**



**DONNA
BUSHUR**



**MARILYN
BUTLER**



**LAURYN
CAMPOS**



**JEANINE
CROOKSHANK**



**DR. MADELYNE
DOUGLAS**



**TANIKA
EDMONDS**



**SHERYL
FLEMING**



**KENYA
HICKS**



**NINA
HOWARD**



**KIM
HUBBARD**



**MARCIA
HUMPHREY**



**DR. PHADRA
KEE**



**DR. SIABHAN MAY-
WASHINGTON**



**BONNAYE
MIMS**



**ROXANNE
MCMULLEN**



**KRISTEN
PENDER**



**JUDGE MARTINA
PETERSON**



**MARCIA
PITTS**



**PATRICIA
RHODES**



**HARRIETT
TAYLOR**



**MARQUITA
TAYLOR**



**ANTONIA
UWAEKE**



**DR. JOMELLA
WATSON-
THOMPSON**



**DENISE
WILLIAMS**



**PATSY
YBARRA**

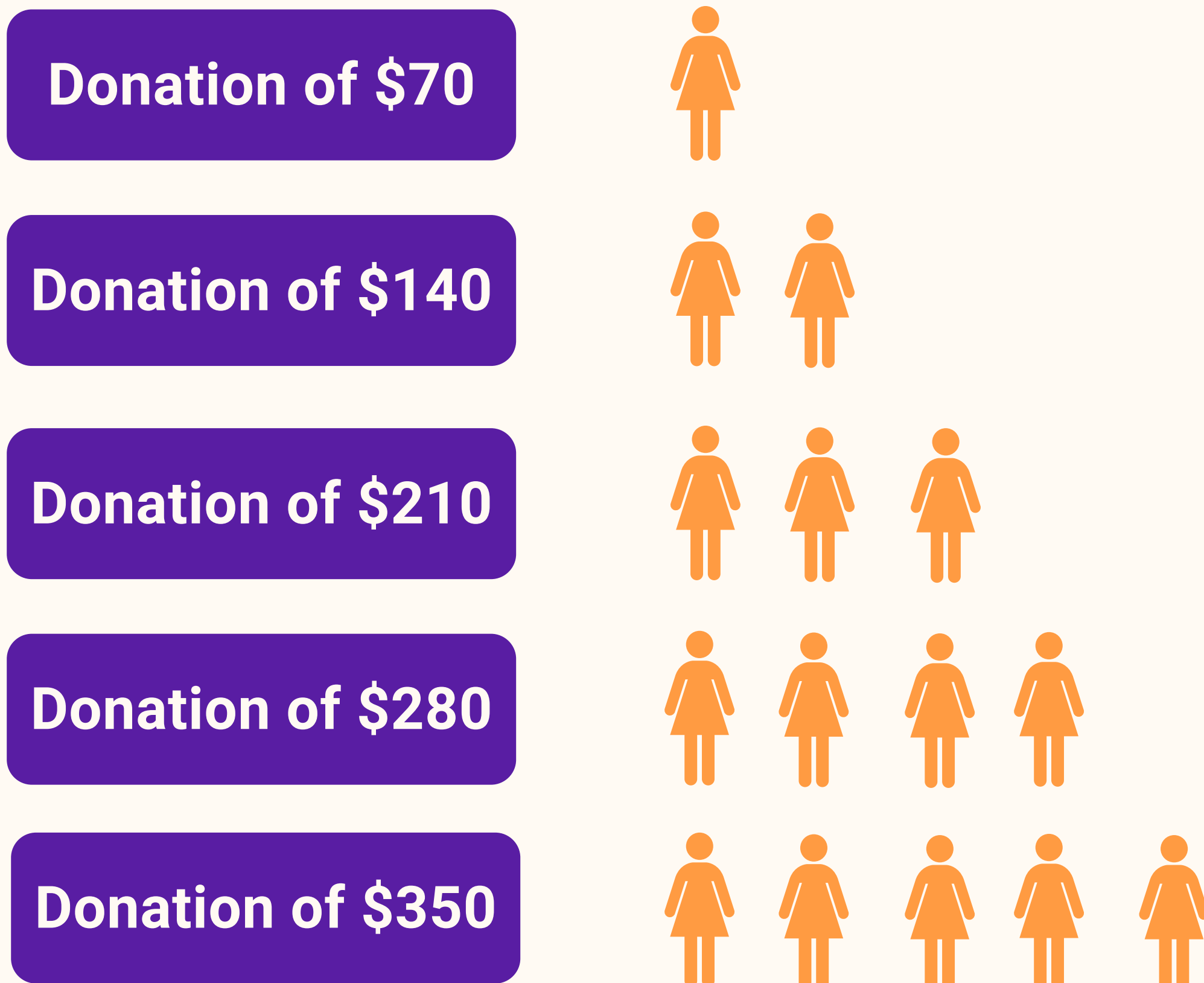
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SUPPORT SISTERS IN CHRIST

Please consider giving a gift that directly impacts the lives of the people we support!

3 WAYS TO GIVE:

1. Online at www.sistersinchristkc.org
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3. Scan the QR code below



With your donation of \$70, you help cover the cost for **ONE** woman to attend 2 weekly support group sessions.



**THANK YOU FOR
ATTENDING THE 2022
STRENGTH IN UNITY GALA!**



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