

2019 Organizational Sponsors

AdHoc Group Against Crime

AdHoc Group Against Crime was formed in 1977 when a group of citizens came together to address the unsolved murders of nine African American women. Alvin Brooks was one of the founding members and led the organization in combating crime and violence in the Kansas City Metro area. While Mr. Brooks continues to consult, he has retired and passed the torch to Damon Daniel in 2015. The mission of AdHoc is to be a community resource that, through prevention and intervention, supports youth and families who are affected by criminal behavior. Services include two 24-hour hotlines, free grief counseling, prayer vigils, neighborhood canvassing, radio appeals and flyers, as well as a monthly support group, healthy relationships classes and more.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church is a liberal religious community located in the heart of Kansas City. We welcome all people who seek lives of integrity, service, meaning, and spiritual maturity, inclusive of race and ethnic heritage, gender identity and sexual orientation, age, ability, financial and religious background, and theological persuasion. We are a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, a Welcoming Congregation and a Green Sanctuary.

The All Souls congregation has a Humanist heritage, and a long history of advocating for social justice and civic dialogue. Our members come from a wide variety of religious backgrounds, and our diverse community includes atheists, agnostics and theists; Humanists, Christians and Buddhists, as well as followers of the earth-centered traditions, and others. We are united by our desire always to be growing into the people we hope to become, and to help make the world we share a better place for everyone.

Center for Practical Bioethics

The Center for Practical Bioethics (CPB), founded in 1984, is a Kansas City-based nonprofit nationally recognized for its work in practical bioethics. They provide guidance to patients, families and clinicians grappling with hard choices. They also teach bioethics to medical students, clinicians and lay leaders. Finally, they address ethical issues by bringing diverse groups together to work collaboratively, recommend guidelines and policies, develop programs and disseminate thousands of free resources.

Children's Mercy Kansas City

Founded in 1897, Children's Mercy is one of the nation's top pediatric medical centers. With not-for-profit hospitals in Missouri and Kansas, and numerous specialty clinics in both states, Children's Mercy provides the highest level of care for children from birth through the age of 21. *U.S. News & World Report* has repeatedly ranked Children's Mercy as one of "America's Best Children's Hospitals." For the fourth time in a row, Children's Mercy has achieved Magnet nursing designation, awarded to fewer than seven percent of all hospitals nationally, for

excellence in quality care. Its faculty of more than 700 pediatric subspecialists and researchers across more than 40 subspecialties are actively involved in clinical care, pediatric research, and educating the next generation of pediatric subspecialists. Thanks to generous philanthropic and volunteer support, Children's Mercy provides medical care to every child who passes through its doors, regardless of a family's ability to pay. For more information about Children's Mercy and its research, visit childrensmercy.org

Colonial Church in Prairie Village, Board of Outreach

Colonial Congregational Church was founded in 1948. Congregationalism came to America with the Pilgrims in 1620. Its church government, both spiritual and temporal, is not subject to any other religious or ecclesiastical body. Colonial Church's bylaws state that ours is a free, independent, and self-governing church. Simply put, we are a group of people gathering in Christ's name and adhering to the bonds of our Covenant.

Colonial Church in Prairie Village is a member congregation of the **United Church of Christ**, a denomination that has always valued education and embraced diversity. It was responsible for the founding of Yale, University of California, the Pacific School of Religion and many other colleges and universities. It also ordained the first woman in the United States to the Christian Ministry, the Rev. Antoinette Brown, in 1853.

Community Christian Church

Community Christian Church celebrates 125 years of being a place for people of all ages, all abilities and all identities to know and be known as God's beloved. All are welcome here, and all means all; in today's church culture, we especially make clear our commitment to racial justice as well as our full embrace and inclusion of members of the LGBTQ+ community. Affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we strive to live out our Disciples identity as a "movement for wholeness in a fragmented world." Community's diverse membership comes from two states, eight counties, twenty-three cities and sixty-two zip codes across the Metro. We are a group of people searching for a faith that makes sense in the 21st century and we are committed to our core values of worshiping joyfully, celebrating the arts and doing justice.

Congregation Beth Torah

We are a vibrant, modern, Reform Jewish congregation offering our diverse congregants multiple paths to experience Judaism, including energizing worship with creative, meaningful prayer and music; robust social justice programming; learning opportunities for all ages; and deep personal and community connections.

Rabbi Javier Cattapan is the spiritual leader of Beth Torah. Rabbi Monica Kleinman, our director of Lifelong Learning, oversees our nationally-accredited Weiner Religious School as well as adult education and social justice programming.

Many of our 400 congregant families have been with Beth Torah since we were founded in 1988. Some joined us only last year. We welcome all who are interested in an open, warm, inclusive Reform Jewish community to join us.

Grandparents Against Gun Violence

Grandparents Against Gun Violence is a local 501c3 volunteer organization based in Kansas City, Mo., focusing on issues related to gun violence in both Kansas and Missouri. It represents more than 900 volunteers and supporters committed to reducing gun violence to keep all children safe at home, at school and in their communities.

The group is NOT against guns; and is FOR gun safety. In support of that commitment, our **Lock It for Love** program distributes free gunlocks to children's caregivers at community events throughout the region. GAGV leads the Heartland Coalition Against Gun Violence and its 30-plus member organizations in convening an annual Community Forum in October, as well as hosting events to commemorate the December 14 Sandy Hook tragedy and the National Wear Orange Day, June 2. For information, visit <https://moksgagv.org/> or contact us at info@moksgagv.org

Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council

The Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council (GKCIC)M is a non-profit 501c3 organization, which has a Board of Directors that strives for inclusiveness. The Council is comprised of Faith Directors, as well as At-Large Directors who belong to 22 distinct faith philosophies represented in the greater community, all of whom are passionate about multi-faith understanding. Working through Directors, Alternates, Advisors and Friends, the Council strives to provide engaging and educational programs about the many diverse faiths and traditions represented in Greater Kansas City by joining religion, spirit and community.

Health Forward Foundation

In April 2003, HCA purchased Health Midwest, a nonprofit health care provider serving areas in Kansas and Missouri. The sale was the largest hospital transaction in Kansas City and one of the largest in the nation at that time.

With 80 percent of the proceeds — amounting to \$400.5 million — from the sale, then-Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon established the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City (HCF) and appointed the inaugural 25-member board of directors. We began grant making in 2005, and our continued focus on the areas of mental health, safety net, and healthy communities have helped tackle the pressing health issues facing those most in need in our communities. We award \$20 million annually to grantees and community partners in our six-county service area.

In November 2018, Health Care Foundation changed its name to Health Forward Foundation and updated the logo. The new name and logo reflect the dynamic momentum happening in our communities and keeps us focused on the vision we have for healthy people in healthy communities.

Holmeswood Baptist Church

Welcome to Holmeswood. We intentionally see what God desires us to be at this place and time. We believe the Family of God is inclusive of everyone, and celebrate that God's community is made up of different types of people, with different perspectives, in different stages of life. God's love is working in and through each person and is to be shared inside and outside of the church walls. We embrace all of the questions concerning faith, recognizing that we do not have all the answers. Come and see.

Indivisible Kansas City

The mission of Indivisible Kansas City is to empower ordinary people to engage with their elected representatives. Our vision is that the Greater Kansas City area will be a model of civic engagement, demonstrating the power of progressive, grassroots activism to hold elected officials accountable. We believe an extreme and authoritarian agenda will take America backwards and must be opposed at the federal, state, and local level. We must model the values of inclusion, respect, and fairness through the actions of our group and our members. An informed and focused constituent message carries power, and functional democracy requires that constituents hold their elected officials accountable throughout their terms in office.

Johnson County Mental Health Center/#zeroreasonswhy

We serve Johnson County residents living with a mental illness, including adults with a serious mental illness, children with a serious emotional disturbance, as well as individuals with a co-occurring substance abuse disorder. Additionally, services are provided to those individuals who are experiencing acute psychological distress that may result in an intensive level of service, such as, hospitalization.

#zeroreasonswhy was formed in 2018 in six school districts in Johnson County, Kansas to launch a community mobilization campaign to prevent teen suicide. Focused on empowering community members to take action toward change, the campaign will organize, facilitate and support students, parents, educators, health providers, and other stakeholders in implementing

action plans, programs, events, and outreach efforts – as there are zero reasons why we cannot come together to make a difference on this community issue.

Campaign Priorities are to:

REMOVE THE STIGMA: Eliminate the stigma associated with suicide and open the dialogue for real change.

BUILD COMMUNITY SUPPORT: Bring the community closer to spur unconditional support without judgment.

COMMIT TO EDUCATION: Complete mental health education earlier and more thoroughly in school.

JoCo MoveOn

Johnson County Move On does far more than protest. We work towards progressive policies at both the local and national levels. We support a living wage, universal healthcare, humane immigration policies, fair and accessible voting, sensible gun laws, fair and adequately funded education, and a clean, safe environment. We support and work for progressive candidates as individuals and communicate our dissatisfaction with less than progressive candidates. We also support other groups that work to make things better for regular people. Our educational efforts include having legislators speak at our meetings, holding forums and showing movies on various topics.

Kansas City Veterans for Peace

Veterans For Peace is a global organization of military veterans whose collective efforts are to build a culture of peace. Veterans, family, and allies are invited to join us on the 1st floor of the Vietnam Veterans Hall for our monthly chapter meeting.

Kansas City Health Department

From food safety to immunizations, violence prevention to economic mobility, the Kansas City, Missouri Health Department (KCHD) addresses core public health needs and the root causes of diseases to increase the health, wellbeing, and longevity of everyone in the region.

Nationally recognized and accredited, KCHD works to promote, preserve, and protect the health of Kansas City residents, visitors, and workers through a variety of leading programs and services.

League of Women Voters of Kansas City MO, Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties

League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation on selected government issues. The League never supports or opposes any party or candidate. Members of the League of Women Voters of Kansas City, Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties are also members of the Missouri League of Women

Voters and the U. S. League of Women Voters. The League on the local, state, and national levels has been committed for 97 years to making democracy work through promotion and facilitation of voter registration; encouraging registered individuals to vote; opposing voter suppression; educating voters and the public at large about issues which LWV has studied through well-established processes, and more.

League of Women Voter Johnson County, Kansas

The League of Women Voters is a community-based organization that has fought since 1920 to improve our government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact our lives. The League is nonpartisan, which means it neither supports nor opposes candidates or parties. Formed from the movement that secured the right to vote for women, the League's central focus is to expand participation in democracy and give a voice to all Americans. The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and takes action on selected governmental issues. The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

MainStream Coalition

The MainStream Coalition was founded to guard against the encroachment of religious doctrine into the public space. While our sphere of advocacy has grown, the founding principles still inform MainStream's work today. Among those are respect for the rights, beliefs, and freedoms of all individuals; recognition that the political process is critical in securing and defending those rights; and the assertion that compromise around common values builds a just society.

MainStream began as an organization dedicated to countering extremist voices in politics, and while we have expanded our scope beyond just church and state issues, we still stand as a counter to extremism. This is what MainStream stands for.

MOMS Demand Action

MOMS Demand Action is a grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence. We pass stronger gun laws and work to close the loopholes that jeopardize the safety of our families. We also work in our own communities and with business leaders to encourage a culture of responsible gun ownership. We know that gun violence is preventable, and we're committed to doing what it takes to keep families safe.

National Council of Jewish Women

For 125 years, NCJW has advanced social change through advocacy and community service using a Jewish lens to bring activists and volunteers together in communities across the country and across generations. The Kansas City section is involved in a variety of programming

including the Back to School Store, Baskets for Babies, Mitzvah In a Minute, Mother's Day Store, Snackback Program, Suitcase to Start, and We Care for Eye Care.

New Reform Temple

The New Reform Temple is a dynamic congregation that embraces a progressive and inclusive vision of Reform Judaism. While remaining deeply connected to our roots, we create opportunities for spiritual enrichment, continuing Jewish education and community engagement. We thrive on thoughtful respect for diversity of expression.

You'll find us at the corner of Gregory and Main in Kansas City, Missouri, where our sanctuary, our office and our education and social facilities are all concentrated in a historic landmark. That makes us the only Jewish Reform congregation that offers all of its activities and services in the midtown area of Kansas City. Our congregation counts over 200 families who are dedicated to create an intimate community where everybody feels at home.

PeaceWorks Kansas City

Peace Works has a 35+ year history of working to abolish nuclear weapons and to reorder our country's priorities away from funding the military industrial complex. We also rally against weaponized drones, the death penalty, and gun violence. Our vision is "A healthy world of justice and peace without war and its weapons." Our mission is "To embody and empower our core truth – peace works!"

Saint Andrew Christian Church

Saint Andrew has been an inclusive, open and affirming community since its first gathering in 1990. We adopted this statement and became an "official" Open and Affirming Congregation early in our journey. The mission of the Open & Affirming Ministry Program is to build a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that welcomes persons of all gender expressions and sexual orientations to the table of Christ's communion and to the full life and leadership of the Christian Church.

Stand Up Blue Valley

In 2015, based on our desire to protect our public schools, property values and local economy, Stand Up Blue Valley was born. Our group immediately set about the work of defending our public schools, the foundation of this thriving community. Over time, we were joined by hundreds of other Blue Valley patrons who value our schools - parents, business owners, and elders in our community – all of whom want to elect officials who will support public education and protect our quality of life.

Village Presbyterian Church, Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force

Led by Christian beliefs, our Presbyterian heritage and a collective desire to make the world more reflective of God's peace and justice, the Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force at Village Presbyterian Church seeks to identify priority areas for advocacy, and responds through bold and faithful education and action in our church, denomination, city, state and nation. In all endeavors, we aim to live toward God's promised day.

Village Shalom

Our mission is to nurture the physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being of every individual whom we are privileged to serve, inspired by our heritage as a Jewish-sponsored continuing-care retirement community. Our vision is to enable senior adults to flourish in a safe, caring, compassionate community.

Honor, Provide, Respect, Foster, Uphold and Pursue. These values are our promise to our residents, families, staff and the entire Kansas City community.

Women For Kansas

The mission of Women for Kansas is to recruit, motivate, and educate women who will actively participate in the process of electing moderates to public office who will advocate for moderate policies.

Our goal is to form chapters of two or more within individual communities and/or geographical areas, bringing like-minded women together to discuss, advocate and get involved in local and state issues of importance and to promote the mission and statewide goals of Women for Kansas. We are looking to recruit like-minded women to become involved in the political process via W4K membership so women across the state become a significant body of influence that can help return the state to sanity.

Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice

Women's Voice was formally organized in May 2005, when 25 St. Louis-area women gathered at the University City Library to discuss their concerns about social justice issues. Within six months more than 150 women had added their names to the mailing list (their current membership is 468). Progressive women of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to join the organization. Women's Voices achieves their mission through education and advocacy.

Programs are held on the second Thursday of each month at The Heights, 8001 Dale Road, Richmond Heights. Programs are open to the public, free of charge.

Activities include writing letters or commentaries published in print media, attending educational meetings, disseminating information, public speaking, marching and witnessing. Women's Voices works with other social justice organizations, participates in coalitions and develops and implements programs and activities in collaboration with like-minded groups.