

"We, who acknowledge God's providence and fidelity to his people, especially those in poverty, do dedicate our efforts toward the support of those who are homeless. Our goal is to deliver to the homeless those basic human needs, care and compassion that is not usually received from other organizations."



NEWS

"Taking care and compassion to the homeless."

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A Letter from Our President



Dear Volunteers and Donors,
What an amazing year! As I look back on everything that happened in 2018 it is hard to grasp it all. I am overwhelmed with gratitude and love for the hundreds of people that stepped up and made this one of the best years ever for Uplift!

We have partnered with so many to make life just a little better for so many on the streets of Kansas City. It is time to realize that Uplift is no longer a small operation. The impact that we have had this past year is unbelievable!

I wish that I could name everyone that has been such a blessing to us, but there is no way to do that. Please know that I am truly grateful to every single person, every single church, every single company. From the \$5 per month donation to the \$20,000 donation, for every person that served for 1 hour or for those who

are always there, you are all so very appreciated.

When we are in the middle of the battles it is hard to realize all our accomplishments, but what a year we have had! There is not one minute that I don't realize that nothing could happen without each one of you by my side.

With God leading us, and you beside us, there isn't anything we can't do.

"Be the reason someone smiles today!"

Happy New Year!
God bless you and everyone you love!

Kathy

Urgent Needs

We are in the heart of the winter season. Our biggest needs this time of the year are: hand warmers, coats, boots, blankets, candles, thermal underwear, crew socks, stocking hats, gloves, scarves, lip balm and cough drops. We can always use men's and women's underwear, tampons and pads, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste and small toiletries.

Special Thanks

- DexYP Media
- War Horses for Veterans
- Kansas City Cattle Company
- Chris & Kelly Filer
- Smith Fries
- Judge C.F. Moulton Christmas for the Poor
- Our Lady of Presentation
- Flint & Field LLC
- Knights of Columbus – Lee's Summit
- Ameritrade Clearing – Donald Buckholz
- Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
- FortyLove.org



Search for **Uplift Organization Inc.** page to stay current with Uplift happenings!



Eagle Scout Project

My name is Cason Sollars and for my Eagle Scout project I collected long underwear for the homeless of Kansas City. I collected money from my relatives and friends of our family which bought some of the underwear and a few supplies. After I collected the money, I had my troop come to my house on a weekend to go around my neighborhood and put flyers on doors asking for donations and saying what my project was and what I was collecting and why. Then the next week, we went around collecting all the long underwear that was left on their front doors. Then a couple of weeks later, we wrote cards that were to go on top of the long underwear packages for when we handed them out. We taped the cards onto the top of them and sorted all the long underwear by sizes. The next week, we handed them out to the homeless. The night we were handing them out, it shocked me that there were so many homeless people in Kansas City. The entire night, all the people we handed them out to were really nice and thankful for the long underwear we gave to them. Every stop, when we handed them out, we would talk to a couple of them just telling them what I'm doing and why. When the night was over, it made me realize how fortunate my family and I are.

Uplift Partners with Spreetail

Spreetail partnered with Uplift this year by donating 40 sleeping bag coats made by EMPWR Coats from Empowerment Plan in Detroit, MI. EMPWR Coats are easy to carry and designed for maximum functionality. The water resistant garment can quickly transform into a sleeping bag or be used as an over-the-shoulder bag in warmer weather. This \$5,000 contribution has helped the homeless of Kansas City.

Empowerment Plan is a Detroit based nonprofit organization focused on permanently elevating families from the generational cycle of homelessness. They hire and train single parents from local shelters as seamstresses, allowing them to earn a stable income, find secure housing and ultimately regain their independence. To date, they have provided employment to 60 individuals, a majority of whom are low-income single mothers of color. Since 2012, they have produced and donated 30,000 EMPWR Coats globally.

How Two Combat Veterans Come to the Aid of Uplift

When Kevin Jamison introduced me to Patrick Benson, Founder and CEO of War Horses for Veterans and Patrick Montgomery, Founder and CEO of Kansas City Cattle Company, I had no idea what was about to happen!

Within a couple days of trading text messages and phone calls with Patrick Benson, I was informed that through the partnership of War Horses for Veterans and Kansas City Cattle Company, Uplift would be receiving a donation of 1,000 pounds of the best hamburger meat ever produced!

Since meeting the Patrick's, I have gone to their websites to learn more about what they do. I am grateful for the amazing donation that they gave us, but even more than that, I am extremely thankful for what they both have done for our country.

I feel that we often take the service of our men and women for granted. I will never know what sacrifices they made to protect us and keep our country safe, and I will never be able to thank them enough for what they did. I can't find words to express the gratitude that I feel for both of my new friends, Patrick and Patrick!

I would ask that everyone reading this go to their websites and read the inspiring stories of how War Horses for Veterans and Kansas City Cattle Company came to be, and how they are helping so many veterans that struggle to deal with transitioning back into normal life after their service.

<https://warhorsesforveterans.com/>

<https://kccattlecompany.com/>

Kathy Dean
Uplift President



Layla's Christmas Wish

In the busy hustle and bustle of getting ready for Christmas most kids are making their lists and making sure that everything they want is on it. But one little 9-year-old girl was working on her list, but it wasn't toys and dolls that she wanted.

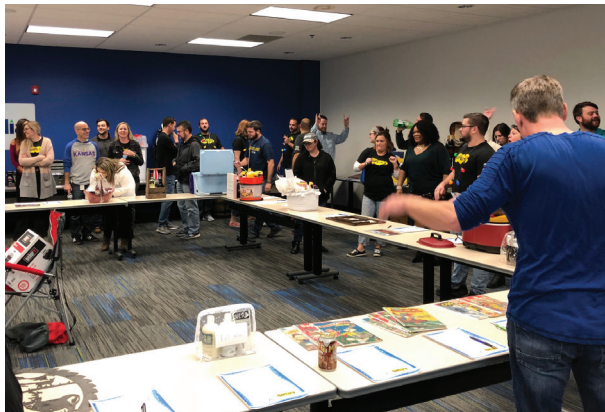
Layla told her family that she wanted to do Christmas a little different this year. She asked for the amount of money that would have been spent on her presents to be given to her so that she could purchase items to fill bags for the homeless. The only thing that she wanted was to still get her stocking on Christmas morning. She ended up with \$230.27 and went to work finding stores to purchase the items she had chosen. She filled her bags with a pair of socks, gloves, Hershey kisses, Chapstick, yogurt raisins, water, water flavoring, hand warmers, candles, matches, playing cards, cereal with a spoon attached and a pop tart.

She delivered the bags to the Uplift warehouse and gave 16 homeless people a very Merry Christmas this year! Thank you, sweet Layla, this is a Christmas they won't soon forget!



DexYP Media Overland Park Making a Difference

Each year DexYP Media in Overland Park, Kansas, chooses an organization to receive the proceeds from their Annual Holiday Fundraiser. This year the Uplift Organization was chosen. Some of the core values in the OP Hub is taking time to give back. This fundraiser makes it easy for employees to get involved and stay involved. It exposes their employees to local organizations, allowing them to make long term connections to these causes.



I was invited to speak at the November 8th kickoff meeting and Nacho Bar and Salsa Contest. I was greeted very warmly by Stephanie Ridge, Adam Bailey, Deidre Ross and about 300 employees. And then was invited to the Holiday Party on December 18, 2018.

Everyone was able to purchase t-shirts with the Uplift logo and there was a soup contest with so many kinds of soup! My favorite was the Very Cheesy Cauliflower, but it wasn't the grand champion. There were raffle items to win and a room with very nice silent auction items to bid on.

It was a day of fun, good food, a lot of laughs. At the end of the auction when they closed the doors to see who had gotten each item, I was a bit overwhelmed to see how everyone had worked so hard to raise money to help my friends on the street. The auction and raffles raised \$14,400.00 for the Uplift Organization. When I was asked to say a few words, I told them that they had no idea what they had just done, nor would they ever be able to understand the magnitude of their kindness, and I wish that every homeless person that will benefit from the money raised at the event could have seen everyone working so hard to make life a little better for each one of them.

All the employees were involved from start to finish, it was a great team building experience. Everything was so beautifully organized; the planning team was amazing!

DexYP is a great company and Uplift is very blessed to have been the recipient of their generosity! And I had a blast at the event and made friendships that will last a long time!

Thank you DexYP!
Kathy Dean
Uplift President



Heico Makes Smiles on Christmas Eve

Heico Construction Group donated 120 filled backpacks to Uplift to give to the homeless for Christmas. Backpacks are something that the homeless ask for each night, but we rarely have them to hand out. Thank you Heico for bringing a smile to the faces of the people on the streets of Kansas City!

Fortylove.org

Because of my experience with the homeless when I volunteered with my father at the City Union Shelter, I decided to do a fund raiser to help those who are homeless.



I am a tennis player and so having a tennis tournament seemed like a really good idea. It was named Fortylove.org. I partnered with the Uplift organization who works with the homeless. It was rainy on the day of the tournament but the drops held off until the last matches were done. I'm very proud that we raised \$1,500 which was donated to Uplift.

Sean Nguyen



Mahaffie Elementary School

The students at the direction of their teacher, Stephanie Pruitt, donated to Uplift 230 tube socks stuffed with a can of protein, a stocking hat, candy and a note from the student. They were divided between the four Uplift vans and went out that night. The students at Mahaffie Elementary have been helping the homeless for a number of years. Thank you students!

2018 Fourth Quarter Stats



792
number of volunteers



1,520
number of camps visited



16,330
number of volunteer hours



10,796
number of homeless served



Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage PAID
Mail Works

PO Box 270175
1516 Prospect
Kansas City, Missouri 64127-0175
www.uplift.org

Important Upcoming Dates

Saturday.....February 9th
9:00 a.m.....Warehouse Sort Day
Tuesday.....March 5th
7:00 p.m..... Board Meeting
Saturday..... March 9th
9:00 a.m.....Warehouse Sort Day
Saturday..... April 13th
9:00 a.m.....Warehouse Sort Day

Stay Connected...

Uplift Volunteers & Donors can now:

- Visit our website at www.uplift.org
- Sign up to receive our newsletter and blog updates via email – go to our website and click on Blog to subscribe
- If you have articles or comments for the newsletter, please send them to the editor: Pat Thomson, pthomson43@gmail.com
- Changes of address should be sent to Kellie McDermott at upliftorg@att.net

Volunteer Opportunities Outreach

Help deliver meals to the homeless. Uplift trucks “roll out” at 6 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. 5pm Saturdays. The average route takes 4-5 hours. Please call in advance to schedule your participation. Contact: Tammi Jehle at (317) 207-2070 or tammi@uplift.org

Prepare Meals

Cooks are needed to prepare hot meals for the homeless. Each cook needs to cook enough for 60 people. If you would like to help, call or email Margaret Longstreet at (816) 739-4050 or margaret-longstreet@me.com for more information or go to our website at www.uplift.org.

Warehouse Sort Day

9:00 – 12:00 p.m. The second Saturday of every month we sort donations, sock our shelves, fold clothes and have a good old time doing it! See Important Upcoming Dates. If you are planning on bringing a large group, please contact us first. Phone: 816-241-0060 or Email: upliftorg@att.net.