

Winter 2021

*"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."*

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# NEWS

"Taking care and compassion to the homeless."

## A Letter from Our President

Dear Donors and Volunteers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and safe. As of this writing in January, the cold weather and snow are upon us in Kansas City. Consistently your generosity, kindness and energy has continued to allow us to actively take care and compassion to the homeless. Thank you.

We have received generous donations of jackets, warm socks and other necessities and supplies. I extend my appreciation to each of you for your contributions as each makes a difference to those we serve. In October, longtime Uplift driver and volunteer Tom Carter, along with the Knights of Columbus at Holy Trinity, organized a coat drive providing over 250 coats as the weather began to turn colder and days shorter.

In December, Kathy Dean and the group, 100+ Women Who Care KC, generously donated funds to provide zero-degree sleeping bags to the people we serve. Working with Ross Dessert, volunteer Fred Stipkovits and his company, Night Raptor Tactical, sourced the 300 sleeping bags at an incredibly low cost. Ross Dessert led the logistics with our drivers & volunteers to ensure all who needed one received one.

As I write this letter, we are actively working to provide winter boots to all who need them. Through generous donations from the Judge Cleveland F. Moulton Christmas Poor Fund Trust and an anonymous donor, we expect to provide a couple hundred boots to the homeless in January.

In this newsletter, you will also hear more about Angel Hearts Rescue. Many of you know

Alice Delbosque as she has served as an Uplift volunteer for many years. Alice and the dedicated Angel Hearts Rescue volunteers help us provide needed food and focused care for the dogs and cats that are loved by the individuals we serve. We are thankful for Alice, Sandi, Marie, Marilyn, Rian and all involved with Angel Hearts Rescue. For those of you with a similar passion for animals, please reach out to Alice and Angel Hearts Rescue with your interests to help.



As we end 2020, the safety of our homeless friends and the safety of our volunteers continues to be on our minds. To date, we have seen little known infection of the Covid virus directly on the homeless individuals we serve... for this we are thankful. To our volunteers, donors, and your families and friends, our hearts go out to each of you who have suffered personally and have lost loved ones.

For our volunteers, we are thankful for each of you. For those drivers and volunteers able to serve this year, thank you for following safety protocols, using caution and taking care of each other.

**"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away".**

Gratefully, Dan

### Urgent Needs

This Winter our greatest needs are for warm socks, hoodies, warm, thick gloves, thermal underwear and blankets!

## The Homeless, Winter and Covid

Winter is always a tremendous challenge to our homeless friends. Of course, it is hard for them to stay warm and dry. But this winter, there are a number of additional challenges due to COVID-19.

Many of the places that the homeless could go to get out of the cold are either closed or have reduced their capacities and services. Day centers might be open, but they are at half capacity. Many libraries, where they would go to get warm and access the internet, are closed or allow visitors only by online reservation. Access to public restrooms is more limited because they've closed due to COVID. Or the restaurants and gas stations that may have allowed them to use the restroom have stopped allowing public access. The outside water spigots that they could previously access clean water have been shut off for winter. Most of the overnight shelters are at capacity. Also, many homeless persons are too concerned about the spread of COVID that could occur in a densely populated indoor setting of a shelter, so they choose to remain outdoors. This year has presented a number of additional challenges to the homeless population.

Uplift has continued to serve three nights a week. Anticipating some of these challenges, we have been able to provide a few things to the homeless that we have never been able to provide on such a great scale. We have provided almost 400 sleeping bags, 300 of which were ZERO degree bags, which can save a person's life in the cold. We are providing almost 300 pairs of waterproof insulated winter boots, which are rated below zero. We are providing at least 400 pairs of insulated winter ski gloves. The boots and gloves help prevent loss of limbs and digits to frostbite. In years past, we have certainly provided some of these items, but never this much! This is only possible due to the increased financial support from individuals, church partners, corporate partners, agency partners, and a few charitable foundations. Thank you for your support of Uplift and the homeless of Kansas City!

Ross Dessert



## Yappy Holidays and A Meowing New Year!

### Our Mission:

By assisting homeless pet owners with their pets' health-related needs, including spay and neuter procedures, veterinary treatments, pet food, and pet supplies, we improve the overall health of those animals and also help control the animal population.

### What we do:

We seek out the homeless in the places they stay and work to establish their trust. We approach each case on an individual basis and work with the pet owner to assess their animal's needs. To be eligible for assistance, pet owners must agree to have their animal altered (if the animal is not already altered).

Our program assists the homeless with the following animal care needs:

- Spay and neuter
- Vaccinations, heartworm testing & dewormer
- Flea and heartworm preventative
- Pet food
- Proper collars, leashes, and tie outs
- Education on caring for their animals

3.5 million\* Americans are homeless, and between 10% and 25% of homeless people own pets. There is a great bond between homeless people and their pets. Their dogs and cats provide love and hope, warmth and protection and help them endure the difficult life they face every day.

### Why:

By assisting the homeless with their pets, we can ensure that more of these pets have the basic medical care, food and supplies. To be eligible for assistance they must agree to have their dog or cat spayed or neutered. Spay and neutering their dogs and cats extends their health and life expectancy. It stops the overpopulation of thousands of unwanted dogs and cats that are born in Kansas City that either die on the streets or end up in area shelters. It also reduces the risk of them getting various forms of cancer.

In males, neutering decreases the chances of developing prostatic disease and hernias, and eliminates the chances of developing testicular cancer. It also reduces problems with territorial and sexual aggression, inappropriate urination (spraying) and other undesirable male behaviors.

In females, spaying decreases the incidence of breast cancer (the rate goes down to almost zero if the spaying is done before the first heat cycle!). It eliminates the chance of developing a serious and potentially fatal infection of the uterus experienced by many mature unspayed

animals (pyometra). Spay surgery also eliminates the heat cycle and associated mood swings and undesirable behaviors, messy spotting (in dogs) and the attraction of all available males.

### Where :

We are working in the downtown Kansas City, Mo. area and in Kansas City, Kansas where there are homeless men and women that are living with their dogs and cats under bridges, camps in the woods or in stairways at night. We work together in partnership with Uplift to make sure they have filled bins of dog and cat food. We operate weekly with Uplift and are very happy to be able to do this.

You can find us on Facebook at Angel Hearts Rescue.Inc to see all the daily updates of the animals and people we help.

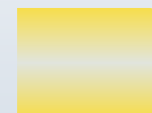
Alice Delbosque and Marie Kissick



## 2020 Fourth Quarter Stats



**383**  
number of volunteers



**900**  
number of camps visited



**1,915**  
number of volunteer hours



**8,417**  
number of homeless served

# Giving Hope & Help



Giving Hope & Help 8th Annual Feminine Hygiene Product Drive Collected over 63,000 Period Products and Toiletries

Giving Hope & Help hosted its 8th Annual Feminine Hygiene PERIOD PRODUCTS Drive Co-Sponsored by Councilwoman, 5th District, Ryana Parks-Shaw from noon to 3p.m., December 12, 2020, at Swope Park (Main Entrance), 6601 Swope Parkway, Kansas City, MO, 64132. The drive benefited domestic violence survivors and the shelters in which they live, places of refuge, nonprofit organizations, natural disaster survivors, the homeless community and those in need of feminine care locally and across the globe. The organization collects the following regular and organic period products, “items of dignity,” sanitary napkins, tampons, individually wrapped panty liners, individually wrapped feminine wipes, packaged children’s underwear, and packaged women’s underwear size 5 to 4XL. Benefiting domestic violence shelters and places of refuge drove thru and received a year or more supply of period products.

Period poverty is a silent struggle for homeless women in need. Therefore, Giving Hope & Help was honored for the connection to Kathy Dean. They donated Uplift 1,876 period products valued at \$596.24!

The community drove through the contactless drive thru event and donated the requested items of dignity. The mission to fill a twenty-foot moving truck with the items of dignity

was accomplished. Giving Hope & Help collects these items of dignity year-round as well as advocates to end domestic violence and period poverty.

The founder of Giving Hope & Help, Jessica McClellan said, “Purchasing period products can become expensive. This drive helps to relieve the financial burden for shelters and organizations like Uplift that can now use their funds for other important needs.”

Jessica is passionate about giving hope and help to others and is an inspiring motivational speaker and internet radio talk show host. She has received numerous awards, accolades and recognitions for her philanthropic work and leadership. Contact Jessica to partner to make a difference, for speaking engagements, keynote addresses, training, and workshop facilitation.

Visit [www.givinghopeandhelp.org](http://www.givinghopeandhelp.org) to support Giving Hope & Help with a tax-deductible donation.

Giving Hope & Help is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that supports domestic violence survivors, provides essential resources to end period poverty, empowers college bound and non-traditional students and inspires cancer patients, lifting all those we serve to live their best life.

Jessica L. McClellan  
Founder and President

## 100+ Women Who Care KC

100+ Women Who Care KC ([www.facebook.com/100WomenKC](http://www.facebook.com/100WomenKC)) is a group of like-minded women interested in supporting our local community in the Kansas City Metro Area by contributing to local charities together as a unit, to increase the impact. Women attend four quarterly meetings annually and pledge \$100 per meeting to the charity with the most member votes. At each meeting, three members of the group are chosen at random and given the opportunity to present a 5-minute explanation of a local organization. At the end of all three presentations, each member in attendance votes on the organization they believe is the most deserving of the groups’ donations. Our goal is 100 members, which equals \$10,000 of donations to a different, local charity each quarter. All donations go directly to the charity! Since our inception in 2013, we have given over

\$218,000 to local KC organizations. We are so excited to present our donation to Uplift this quarter! We raised \$9,000 from our members, then the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation matches 50%, giving \$4,500, for a grand total of \$13,500.

We (Rebecca and Rachel Stover) became aware of Uplift through Deb Bracken Wertin and Marty Gough. We (along with our father) have joined them on their route multiple times and volunteered sorting donations, etc. We were so taken with the charity and people, that we submitted Uplift as our charity submission for the last 4 quarters. Uplift was randomly chosen this quarter and Rebecca gave a 5-minute summary on why our donations should be given to Uplift. We are thrilled to have such a deserving charity receive our donations this quarter!

## Special Thanks

- 100+ Women Who Care, KC
- Adam LaBoda
- Bethann Baker
- Chad Dean & Midway Elementary School
- Chris & Kelly Filer
- Chris Hafner
- Church of the Nativity
- Community Foundation of NW Missouri, Inc.
- Dean Productions, LLC
- Dianne Smith
- Dill Enterprises, Inc.
- Farrell Hope
- Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City
- Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
- J R Albert Foundation
- Jane Vega Family Foundation/Raymond James Charitable
- John Jongenelen
- Judge Cleveland F Moulton Christmas Poor Fund Trust
- Karen Burton
- Meredith Webster, KUTAKROCK
- Leo & Kathy Dean
- Mark & Kristy Buyle
- Melissa & Brantt Lindsey in honor of Kathy Dean
- Michael Bartoski
- Michelle Trouve
- Our Lady of Presentation Parish
- Perkins-McGuinness and Benjamin Family Fund
- Rich Lundstrom
- Richard & Kathleen Buessing
- Richard M Schultz Family Donation
- Robert Frazier in memory of Frank Fiorini
- Paul & Sharon Campo
- Steve & Diane Rash
- Ulli Spankowski
- William G McGowan Charitable Fund, Inc.
- Rich Lundstrom, Freedom Peak Financial, Inc.
- St. Ann Catholic Church, Roys Thedinger
- Dialectic Engineering
- Advent Health Shawnee Mission, Dr. William Ritter
- Sports Radio 810 WHB Sharewaves, Bill Brandmeyer
- City of Mission, KS
- Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus
- Thrive Real Estate KC
- Loretto Foundation, Lamar Hunt, Jr.
- New Frontier Mobile Diagnostics, Jeff Blackwood
- Mahaffie Elementary School, Olathe, KS
- Church of the Resurrection, Hunger Stoppers
- St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
- Creative Candles, Keith Espelien
- Bijin Salon & Spa, Kelly Fornelli
- Encompass Hospice, Michelle Buzzard
- De’Vante Bausby & Denver Broncos Social justice Fund
- Uncover KC, Brent Lager
- Mr. Davis Clothing Company
- Community Services League
- Taner & Kerry Neighbors
- ADA Fundraising, Shannon Foley
- Ultra Chem, Stephanie Davidson
- Harvesters, The Community Network
- Richard Balman



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## Stay Connected...

Uplift Volunteers & Donors can now:

- Visit our website at [www.uplift.org](http://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](mailto:pthomson43@gmail.com)
- Changes of address should be sent to Kellie McDermott at [upliftorg@att.net](mailto:upliftorg@att.net)

## Donations

We are accepting donations. Feel free to bring them. Our drop off hours are **Monday: 4:30-6:00, Wednesday: 4:30-6:00, and Saturday: 9:00 -NOON or 3:30-5:00.** If you have any questions, please email [upliftorg@att.net](mailto:upliftorg@att.net).

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Outreach

Help deliver meals to the homeless. Uplift trucks “roll out” at 6 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesday’s and 5 p.m. on Saturdays. The average route takes 4-5 hours. Please call in advance to schedule your participation. Contact Tammi Jehle [816-287-1827](tel:816-287-1827) or [Tammi@uplift.org](mailto: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 Renee Jones at [\(816\) 377-6009](tel:816-377-6009) or email her at [hiampacity@yahoo.com](mailto:hiampacity@yahoo.com) for more information or go to our website at [www.uplift.org](http://www.uplift.org).

### Sort Days

We are having sort days a few times a week at our warehouse with groups of 10-12 volunteers. Warehouse volunteering is by reservation only at an online signup, which can be found at <https://www.uplift.org/volunteer/>