



# Rotary Club of Independence

*Providing more enhanced services in Eastern Jackson County to move individuals from the streets to permanent housing.*



# Eastern Jackson County Beehive Campaign

## BACKGROUND

*Community Services League (CSL) has been providing a wide array of programs and services to support Independence families since 1916. Some of our more notable programs in Independence include:*



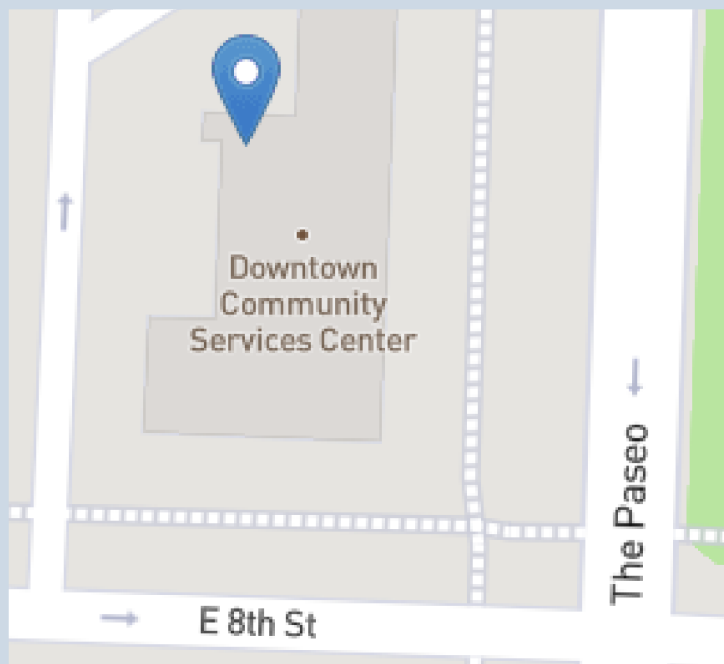
Food pantry and emergency assistance	Offered at three Independence locations
Neighborhood Dinner at Stone Church	Weekly hot meal program
Hawthorne Place Apartments	CSL staff provide stability services to families, and focus on work opportunities coupled with asset development to promote upward economic development
Independence T.O.G.E.T.H.E.R.	Partnership with the City to provide jobs to unhoused individuals as a pathway towards permanent housing
Cold-Weather Sheltering	CSL provides overnight shelter during frigid temperatures
BlendWell Community Cafe	An inviting cafe that welcomes all people from all places, and provides a venue in Northwest Independence for community gatherings and dialogue
WorkLife Center	Located in the basement of BlendWell, our team places people in tuition-paid training programs, like Certified Nursing Assistant
Small-Dollar Lending	In partnership with Holy Rosary Credit Union, we help borrowers get out of toxic debt traps like payday and title loans
Vocational Rehabilitation	CSL provides job coaching and placement services to individuals with disabilities
Back to School and Christmas Assistance	CSL helps thousands of families with these seasonal needs

# COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

In recent years, community conversations, locally and across America, are dominated by the number of homeless individuals on the streets. There are many root causes, but substance abuse, mental health challenges, and skyrocketing rental rates are three reasons that many people are unhoused in our community. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated all of those challenges and forced more people onto the streets.



Communities can often turn a blind eye to the problem and hope it goes away, but that rarely works. Most meaningful change processes involve a coach and/or mentor to help guide someone, and that's the same with a person exiting homelessness. Successful models show that persons leaving homelessness need wraparound supports and someone to walk alongside them in their journey.



## DROP-IN CENTER MODEL

The Beehive in Kansas City (corner of 8th and Paseo) is a “drop-in center” model that welcomes persons living without a permanent home. Among the many services offered by a drop-in center are laundry service, meals, and showering capabilities. All of these services are life functions that many of us take for granted, but are often impossible to access if you are on the streets.

For a change process to start, there must be trust. A safe and welcoming facility can help build trust, which leads to a meaningful relationship. CSL staff, along with other community partners form the front-line team to help build positive relationships among our unhoused neighbors.

# THE OPPORTUNITY IN FRONT OF ROTARY

Eastern Jackson County needs a drop-in center in order to make more progress in helping individuals obtain permanent housing. Good Shepherd Community of Christ has offered to be our partner in bringing the EJC Drop-In Center to life.

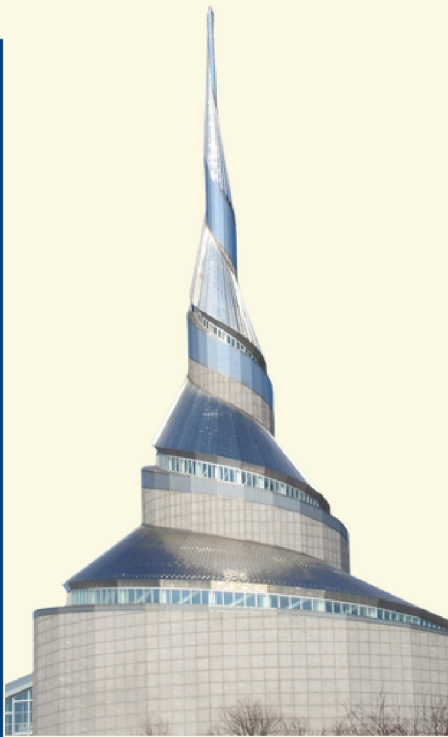


The current facility has showering and meal capacity that need minor upgrades, and laundry can be added for a nominal cost. The EJC Drop-In Center would be open during normal business hours, and guests would be able to find their case manager there for consultation, along with mental and physical health services, dental and vision programs, a place to receive mail, a fresh meal program, laundry facilities, showering services, and a variety of other opportunities.

CSL would be the lead agency for the EJC Drop-In Center and would provide permanent staff for the operation. To bring the program online, we estimate the following costs:

<b>\$10,000</b>	*Facility Renovations/Accessibility/Security
<b>\$10,000</b>	*Shower Upgrades
<b>\$10,000</b>	*Kitchen Upgrades
<b>\$15,000</b>	*Laundry
<b>\$25,000</b>	Utilities for two years
<b>\$50,000</b>	Meals for two years
<b>\$150,000</b>	Staff/Program Expenses for two years
<b>\$100,000</b>	Security for two years
<b><u>\$370,000</u></b>	<u>Total</u>

*\*Denotes one-time capital expenses/upgrades*

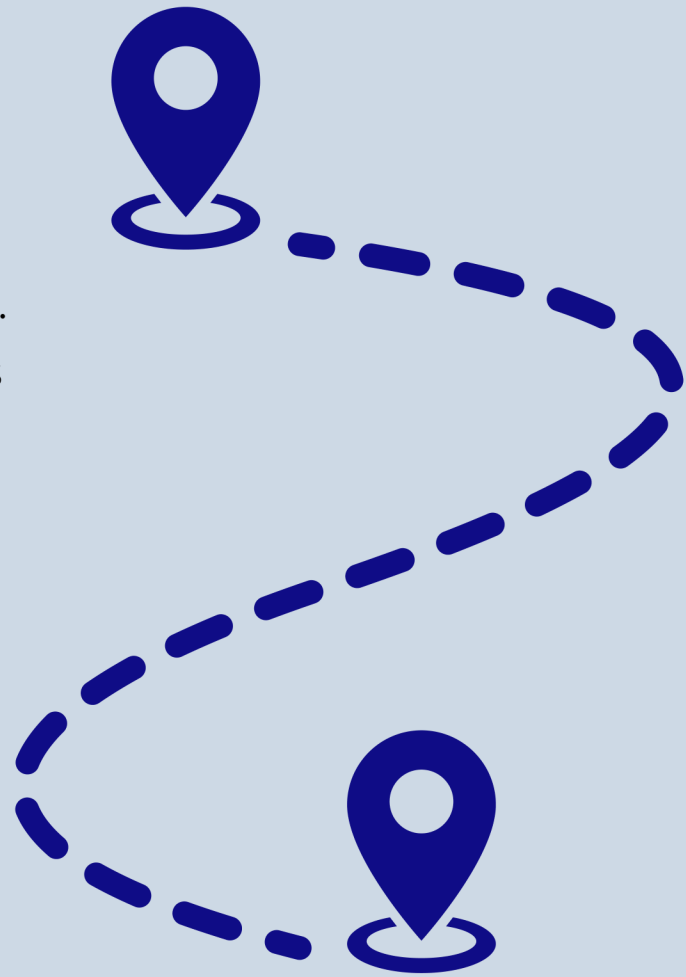


For programs to gain a foothold in a community, and to build trust and rapport, we must deliver on consistency. Consistency means we are open when we say we will be, and that we deliver on what we commit to. We aim to secure the funding, resources, and partnerships needed for the first two years of the Drop-In Center's operation in EJC.

# OUTCOMES

We believe that, in addition to better health outcomes for unhoused individuals, CSL and partners will make meaningful change in the lives of 300 unhoused persons over the first two years. This means they will be on a path towards permanent housing and will have made progress towards that goal.

This program is also beneficial to neighbors and commercial operations in the City, as it provides a viable place for people to visit, and can help alleviate the number of homeless individuals lingering in dangerous public rights-of-way.



***We are grateful for Rotary’s consideration, and CSL will be active in supporting the fundraising efforts of Mardi Gras!***





*Partnering with our neighbors by  
collaborating on strategies that foster  
community stability and individual wellbeing.*



*Rotary Club of Independence*

**MARDI GRAS** 2024

Presented by:



**02.10.24 | HARRAH'S NORTH KANSAS CITY**

[www.rotary-independence-mo.org](http://www.rotary-independence-mo.org)

