



Community Information

A GLIMPSE INTO KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI



WELCOME

You have made the exciting decision to spend a week serving with the people of Kansas City this summer. In response, we want to do all we can to prepare you for the beautiful community in which you will be immersed. That is why we have created this Community Information packet; to communicate information about Kansas City that will be significant as you serve within this community.

Understand that this packet reveals just a small glimpse of the complex culture that truly defines the people of this community. Allow this information to create awareness: an awareness that in the midst of these seemingly hopeless statistics, there are individuals and organizations that are relentless, as they continue to reveal the potential that lies within this country.

We are on this journey with you and commit to consistent investment in growing our knowledge and involvement in this community. We are grateful for your partnership with us, as well as the people of Kansas City this summer. God will work in huge ways through you as we come alongside this community. It is my goal to support you in any way I can as questions come up concerning Kansas City and the experience you will have this summer.

Blessings

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WHAT'S INSIDE

By the Numbers | Specific statistics regarding the community.

Background to the Numbers | An explanation as to why some of these statistics exist.

Beyond the Numbers | A page dedicated to the potential of the community. These are words from community members themselves as to what is already taking place in Kansas City internally, to defy these statistics.

Things You Should Know | Details to know before heading out to Kansas City this summer.

Community Partnerships | Individuals and organizations that we partner with in the community extending our impact far beyond one week.

Long-term Involvement | Ways for you to become and stay involved in this community before you arrive, and after you go home.

Resources | Additional information to dig deeper in your learning of this community.

BY THE NUMBERS

STATISTICS REGARDING THE COMMUNITY OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

median household income **\$60,042**

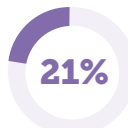
15% poverty rate in 2020



residents living in poverty in 2019



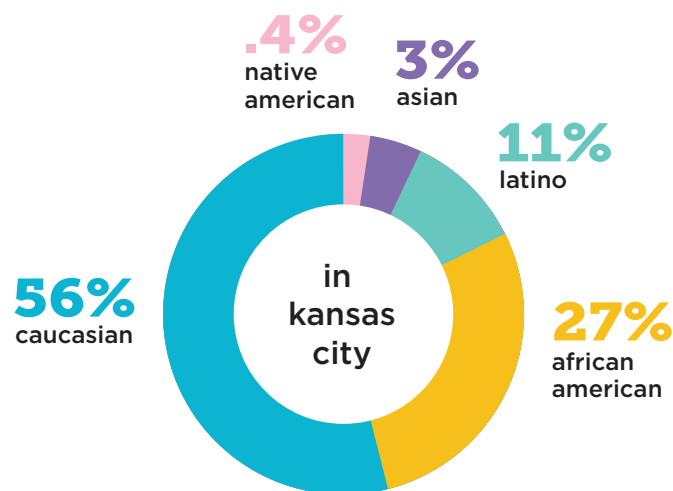
poverty rate among disabled males



poverty rate among disabled females



percent of children living below the poverty line



324,410 population in 1920

508,394 population in 2021

+14.9% population change since 2000



BACKGROUND TO THE NUMBERS

- 1 | Kansas City is the county seat and largest community in Jackson county, with 508,394 residents in 2020. The Greater Kansas City area straddles two states, Kansas and Missouri, and is made up of 14 counties with a total population of 2,070,147 residents. The Missouri side includes Jackson County, Clinton County, Ray County, Caldwell County, Ray County, Lafayette County, Cass County, and Bates county on the Missouri side. The Kanas side has Johnson County, Wyandotte county, Leavenworth County, Platt County, Miami County, and Linn County.
- 2 | From 1950 to 1960, the population of the Kansas City metro area boomed by 55.5% bringing the number of people from 814,357 to 1,266,447. This rapid growth is attributed to the booming aviation industry during and continuing after WWII.
- 3 | In 1954, Central High School was 100 percent white. Six years later, the school was 90 percent black. Paseo High School was 10- percent white in 1954, and by 1970, Paseo was 99 percent black. Schools west of Troost remained to have a high population of whites while schools east of it were overcrowded and underfunded.
- 4 | The 1970s found Kansas City as permanent home for the Kansas City International airport as well as the Kansas City Royals and The Kansas City Chiefs. This is a major uniting factor throughout greater Kansas City metropolitan area.
- 5 | In the 1980s, the Kansas City School District sued it's neighboring school districts for more funds to help desegregate it's schools, a case that lasted for decades and made it to the supreme court.
- 6 | As the 21st century arrived, the Kansas City area has undergone the rebirth of the downtown area. Historic areas and buildings have been transformed by focused renovation and have become cultural staples in the area.

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

This coming summer of 2023 will be the first year that we are getting to serve in Kansas City. We are so humbled and expectant to see God working in huge ways. Below are three powerful stories reflecting His work of transformation in the community:

KEN STRICKLAND

Becoming a volunteer at Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City is more than building houses. If customer service is where your strengths are, the ReStore is the place for you. At the ReStore you are helping rehome furniture, appliances and building materials, which keeps them out of landfills. A win for the community and a greener Kansas City.

The ReStore is a retail store that stocks new and gently used home decorating and home improvement products at a deep discount. Individual and group volunteers work alongside our staff, and other volunteers in a variety of ways: greeting and assisting customers, accepting donations, sorting, preparing, and moving items on the sales floor, maintaining a clean and safe work environment, and much more.

We have five ReStores that are open six days a week, giving the most flexible options for volunteers to donate their time. The profits from the sale of items at the ReStore will go directly back into the community by enabling HFHKC to build more homes and serve more families.

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

PAUL ZEHR

Cultivate Kansas City is a locally-grown nonprofit working to grow food, farms and community in support of an equitable, sustainable and healthy local food system for all. We do this work by supporting the development of urban agriculture. Cultivate KC manages two working farms in Kansas City, provides technical assistance to urban farmers, and works to increase access to healthy, nutrient-dense food. Our four programs are:

New Roots for Refugees: New Americans train for 4 years, building on the agricultural knowledge of their home countries, to become farm business owners in Kansas City. New Roots for Refugees is headquartered at Juniper Gardens Training Farm, a 9-acre farm in Kansas City, KS.

Westport Commons Farm: Our 1.25-acre farm in the heart of Kansas City, MO, is a farming education hub that hosts thousands of community members for tours and volunteer opportunities each year. We sell our produce at a weekly farm stand, donate vegetable shares to senior citizens, and are building community resources to provide tool sharing and storage space for nearby urban farmers.

Food Access: Our Double Up Food Bucks program matches SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) dollars spent on produce) at 18 Kansas City farmers market locations. We also provide a match for senior citizens through our Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

Metro Farms and Food Systems: Cultivate KC provides workshops and 1-on-1 assistance to local farmers, awards mini-grants for growing farm businesses, and engages in policy advocacy for urban agriculture. While volunteering with Cultivate KC, you will assist farmers and staff at Westport Commons Farm or New Roots for Refugees as we harvest, pack, and distribute produce to customers and donation recipients in our community. You will also support organic farming practices by weeding, preparing beds for new plants, and managing the native landscapes that support our farms. As a partner with the Cultivate KC team, you will get the chance to meet refugee farmers, urban farm trainees and community members. We look forward to working with you this summer and sharing our vision with you!

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- 1 | Troost Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri, was once a boundary between rich and poor, black and white, but thanks to the efforts of activists and city leaders, the line is blurring.
- 2 | Kansas City is referred to as the “heart of the Heartland” it is a central thoroughfare for the entirety of the United States!
- 3 | Texas, the Carolinas and Memphis may each claim that their barbecue is best, but Kansas City begs to differ. The distinctive KC barbecue style involves a molasses- spiked sweet tomato sauce, and there’s no finer place to experience it than at the original Arthur Bryant’s on Brooklyn Avenue. Food writer Calvin Trillin once declared it possibly the world’s best restaurant, and its famous customers have included former presidents Harry Truman, Jimmy Carter and that well-known chowhound, Bill Clinton.
- 4 | Kansas City ad man Bob Bernstein, whose agency worked with the McDonald’s Corporation, came up with the idea for a specially-packaged kid’s meal complete with surprise prize. Happy Meals were first introduced in the KC market in 1977, 2 years before they rolled out nationwide.
- 5 | Walt Disney began cartooning in Kansas City, producing animated shorts at his own Laugh-O-Gram Studios in the McConahay Building on East 31st Street. Legend has it that a mouse he kept in his desk drawer was the inspiration for his most famous creation, Mickey. Legend, however, does not answer the burning question of whether he dressed his pet in little tiny shorts.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We have close working relationships with various organizations that serve in Kansas City on a full time basis. We heavily rely on these organizations as a collaborative force to extend our impact beyond a weeklong project. Below describes each organization's involvement in the community on a year round basis.

THE IVANHOE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

The renaissance of the neighborhood came in 1997 when resident Alan A. Young and his wife, Yolanda, took the lead in organizing prayer vigils that resulted in the closing of six drug houses and the reinvigoration of the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council. A strategic plan to revive Ivanhoe to thrive once again was developed; funding has followed and today Ivanhoe is widely considered one of the strongest neighborhood associations in the city.

CITY UNION MISSION

We have a heart to serve Our city's homeless and hurting! We do that by offering programs and services that meet people's most pressing needs and move them toward personal and spiritual transformation through God's grace. From hurting to healed, cast out to welcomed in, despair to dignity. Men, women and children are experiencing miraculous changes in their lives every day at the Mission. It's possible thanks to the generous support of our community... people like you!

HABITAT KC

Habitat homeowners build their own homes in partnership with volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. With our help, homeowners achieve the independence they need to build a better life for themselves and their families.

Every homeowner deserves to live in a safe and stable well-maintained home. Habitat's Home Preservation program works alongside homeowners to make affordable home repairs that give new life to their home.

Our HOPE Program takes DIY know-how beyond home improvement with how-to tips, resources and support that helps people proactively rebuild their credit, practice better budgeting and be smarter with how they spend and save. ting true needs of the community.

CULTIVATE KC

Cultivate KC began in 2005 as the Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture with the goal of promoting urban agriculture — the growing of food in city neighborhoods to feed other people. In the years since, Cultivate KC has grown into a resource provider and advocate in support of the production of fresh, nutritious produce in urban areas throughout the KC metro.

Our focus was broadened in response to community needs and the rapidly changing food system. We've seen remarkable development in the ways people are interested in growing and accessing local food, and we've adapted our work to serve those changes.

LONG-TERM INVOLVMENT

Below are six practical ways that you and your group can be involved on a year round basis in the community, extending your service much beyond your one-week trip. Please contact your Area Director if you are interested in becoming involved in any way.

CREATE A PRAYER TEAM

No doubt you saw and experienced a multitude of things that can use the power of prayer during your time in Kansas City. Please consider creating a prayer team to pray at specific time each day for specific prayer items within this community. The power of prayer is more than we can ever imagine.

SUPPORT ELIOS COFFEE

“We intentionally place our coffee houses in economically depressed neighborhoods in order to work toward community transformation. Because of this and our financial investment in the people and homes of these communities, we depend greatly on gifts from financial partners.” —Dan Smith, Founder of Eleos Ministries

<https://www.eleoscoffee.com/support>

Your gift will help us serve our community with compassion and the good news of Jesus Christ!

BECOME A PEN PAL

We find that many of our residents enjoy letters. Stay connected with the resident you work alongside. Each week, have a different student from your group write a letter and send it to the family or individual you worked with. Maybe they will write back, but at the very least you will bring a smile to their face, as they know they are still remembered and loved.

ASSIST A SPONSOR FAMILY

It's a goal of ours to have a family from our host church sponsor each resident that we work with during the summer. After a project is completed, the sponsor family will consistently follow up with the resident and maintain an ongoing relationship. Putting together a care package, sending games or other donations, can be given to the sponsor family to share with the resident as they go to visit the individual or family.

MAKE A ONE-TIME GIFT TO THE NEXT STEP FOUNDATION

The Next Step Foundation (NSF) is a 501c3 organization that exists to support our communities on a year-round basis. You may make a donation to NSF specifically earmarked for Kansas City to go towards various community programs and projects.

COME BACK AND VISIT

We encourage you to build and grow the relationships that you establish during your time in Kansas City. Residents experience great joy in seeing groups come back to visit.

RESOURCES

The following resources provide online tools to better understand the community you will be serving.

Kansas City, Missouri
<https://www.kcmo.gov/>