

History of the Shepherd's Center of Kansas City, Kansas

Shepherd's Center of Kansas City, Kansas began in the spring of 1985 with four central-city pastors of different denominations. They were aware of the changing nature of their neighborhood, and that both their congregations and the surrounding community included a large population of older adults. A task force of area clergy, older adults and several agency representatives was formed early in 1986, and their efforts brought the Shepherd's Center into 'being'. A considerable number of meetings and careful planning by the task force resulted in the establishment of a Board of Directors in June 1986, and the first program event - Adventures in Learning - was held in October with over 300 persons attending.

The Shepherd's Center began and has continued to develop in ways which far exceeded original expectations. One of the most important reasons for the success of this interfaith organization of older adults is the enthusiasm and dedication of more than 225 volunteers whose efforts continuously make Shepherd's Center's 12 programs and services possible for over 1,200 older adults in Wyandotte County. The volunteers, participants and Board of Directors reflect the cultural diversity of the Kansas City, Kansas community - a racial, economic and denominational diversity that is highly valued by the organization.

How You Can Help

The annual Participant's Campaign is our major fundraising effort that supports our basic budget. Please consider supporting Shepherd's Center with your financial contribution, as a successful campaign is critical to our sustainability. Shepherd's Center of Kansas City, Kansas also offers many volunteer opportunities such as committee involvement, administrative, or direct service through handyman help or our Friends for Seniors program.

If you would like more information about how you can help support the Shepherd's Center, please call (913) 281-8908 or visit www.sckck.org.

Mission Statement

The Shepherd's Center of Kansas City, Kansas is an interfaith, multicultural, nonprofit organization that promotes and supports successful aging.

Vision

Building a community that connects, values, engages and celebrates older adults.

About the Shepherd's Center

The Shepherd's Center is an interfaith organization of older adults whose purpose is to help provide people with opportunities for finding greater meaning in life, and to provide a network of supportive services for older adults. The Shepherd's Center provides 12 services that reach more than 1,200 people, focusing on Health Enrichment, Education and Home Services.

Leadership

Executive Committee

Melissa Bynum, Wyandot Center; President
Joe Candelario, Kansas City Power & Light; Vice President
Steven R. Goceljak, Communities in Schools; Treasurer
Dr. Marjorie Blank, Community Volunteer; Fund Development
Woodyne Mann, Retired Teacher; Secretary

Board Members

Pam Blood, Retired Teacher
Lou Braswell, Leavenworth Road Association
Diane Clark, Landon Center on Aging
Jeff Fendorf, El Centro, Inc
Brenda C. Jones, Board of Education, USD 500
Andrea Generaux, Liveable Neighborhoods
Therryl Holland, Unified Government of WyCo/KCK
Carol Levers, Kansas City, Kansas, Public Library
Carroll Macke, Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas
Diane Maddox, Retired Banker
Linda J. Pendleton, Board of Education, USD 500
Vernon Pierce, Northeast Optimist Club
Frances Robinson, Retired Educator
Gregory Shondell, Heathwood Oil Co., Inc.
Teresa Sullivan, PH.D., Community Volunteer
Susan White, Kansas City Kansas Community College

Staff

Linda Siemens, MSW, Executive Director
Amy Dreweatt, Community Outreach & Program Director
Karen Hostetler, MSW, Next Chapter Kansas City Director
Jeff Walker, Financial Administrator



Living a life that matters.

757 Armstrong Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66101
(913) 281-8908
FAX (913) 281-8910
www.sckck.org

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Programs and Services Provided by the Shepherd's Center of Kansas City, Kansas

Adventures in Learning

Shepherd's Center offers a monthly learning series that includes a variety of workshops, health screenings, entertainment and lunch. Adventures in Learning is held the third Friday of each month at First Baptist Church, 29th and Minnesota from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Caring Calls

Caring Calls provides telephone support to former Shepherd's Center volunteers who are now homebound. Caring Calls volunteers help restore the spirits of older persons by providing friendly, supportive calls once a week.

Driver Safety Program

Offered in collaboration with AARP, this program offers participants eligibility for a discount on insurance premiums.

Fall & Spring Creative Classes

Weekly classes may include drama, drawing and water color, plastic canvas, crocheting, conversational Spanish, defensive driving, knitting, writing, hand quilting, computers, and the book discussions. Classes vary each season.

Friends for Seniors

The Friends for Seniors Program is a friendly visitor program for homebound older persons in Wyandotte County. Volunteers help restore the spirits of the homebound by sharing time and interests with those who are in need of some extra support.

Health Screenings

Monthly blood pressure and blood sugar checks,

along with a variety of annual screenings offered at Adventures in Learning in cooperation with area hospitals and health agencies.

Minor Home Repair & Referral

The Minor Home Repair & Referral program helps older adults with small repair jobs, including minor electrical and plumbing, general repairs, carpentry, and more. Volunteers will also evaluate and provide referrals for more complicated repair work.

Parkinson Support Group

Led by Diane Lee, the Parkinson Support Group offers educational presentations on topics of interest, as well as mutual support. This is an open group and meets each second Monday at Trinity United Methodist Church, 5010 Parallel, Kansas City, Kansas.

In addition, a Parkinson Exercise Group meets each Monday at 11:00 a.m. Trinity United Methodist Church, 5010 Parallel, Kansas City, Kansas.



Prayer Shawl Ministries

This group of crocheters and knitters get together to create shawls for people in need of a hug. Made mostly with donated materials, shawls are given to people who are seriously ill, their caregivers, people undergoing treatment sessions or those who may have just lost a loved one. This group is open to all levels of talent, and meets the second Wednesday of every month from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church at 51st and Parallel.

Next Chapter Kansas City

Next Chapter is a community collaboration to provide help for **NEXT CHAPTER** persons in the **KANSAS CITY** second half of life as they transition to the "next chapter." The initiative is designed to work with various organizations in the community to offer opportunities for meaningful civic engagement on a volunteer or paid basis.

Vials of Life

Vials of Life provides important medical and identification information that could be accessible by rescue personnel in case of an emergency. Kits are available in collaboration with DeGoler Pharmacy, the Kansas City Kansas Police Department, Liveable Neighborhoods and the Shepherd's Center of Kansas City, Kansas.

Visit us online at www.sckck.org!

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