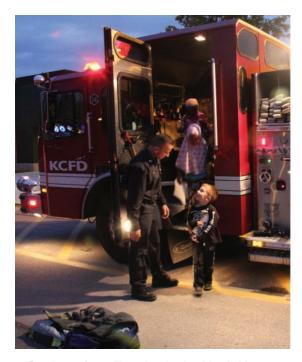
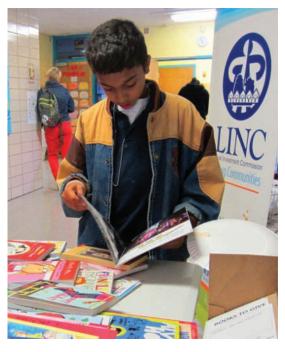
LINC Commission Meeting

October 21, 2013

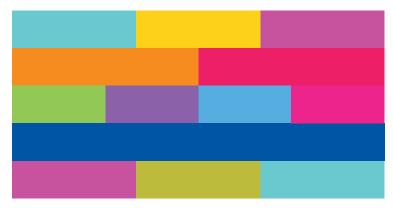


Students from Topping in the North Kansas City School District climb through a KCFD firetruck.



A students looks at free books available from the Kansas City Public Library at Phillips Elementary in the Kansas City Public Schools







World Culture night at Gladstone in the Kansas City Public Schools



Local Investment Commission (LINC) Vision

Our Shared Vision

A caring community that builds on its strengths to provide meaningful opportunities for children, families and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency, attain their highest potential, and contribute to the public good.

Our Mission

To provide leadership and influence to engage the Kansas City Community in creating the best service delivery system to support and strengthen children, families and individuals, holding that system accountable, and changing public attitudes towards the system.

Our Guiding Principles

- 1. COMPREHENSIVENESS: Provide ready access to a full array of effective services.
- 2. PREVENTION: Emphasize "front-end" services that enhance development and prevent problems, rather than "back-end" crisis intervention.
- 3. OUTCOMES: Measure system performance by improved outcomes for children and families, not simply by the number and kind of services delivered.
- 4. INTENSITY: Offering services to the needed degree and in the appropriate time.
- 5. PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT: Use the needs, concerns, and opinions of individuals who use the service delivery system to drive improvements in the operation of the system.
- 6. NEIGHBORHOODS: Decentralize services to the places where people live, wherever appropriate, and utilize services to strengthen neighborhood capacity.
- 7. FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS: Create a delivery system, including programs and reimbursement mechanisms, that are sufficiently flexible and adaptable to respond to the full spectrum of child, family and individual needs.
- 8. COLLABORATION: Connect public, private and community resources to create an integrated service delivery system.
- 9. STRONG FAMILIES: Work to strengthen families, especially the capacity of parents to support and nurture the development of their children.
- 10. RESPECT AND DIGNITY: Treat families, and the staff who work with them, in a respectful and dignified manner.
- 11. INTERDEPENDENCE/MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY: Balance the need for individuals to be accountable and responsible with the obligation of community to enhance the welfare of all citizens.
- 12. CULTURAL COMPETENCY: Demonstrate the belief that diversity in the historical, cultural, religious and spiritual values of different groups is a source of great strength.
- 13. CREATIVITY: Encourage and allow participants and staff to think and act innovatively, to take risks, and to learn from their experiences and mistakes.
- 14. COMPASSION: Display an unconditional regard and a caring, non-judgmental attitude toward, participants that recognizes their strengths and empowers them to meet their own needs.
- 15. HONESTY: Encourage and allow honesty among all people in the system.

Monday, Oct. 21, 2013 | 4 – 6 pm Kauffman Foundation 4801 Rockhill Rd. Kansas City, Mo. 64110

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements
- II. Approvals
 - a. September minutes (motion)
- III. Superintendents' Reports
- IV. Kansas City (MO) Public School update
 a. R. Stephen Green, KCPS Superintendent
- V. Missouri Work Assistance
 - a. Program Update
- VI. LINC Organizing Activities
 - a. Lights On After School
 - **b.** Crime Prevention Month
- VII. Other Reports
- VIII. Adjournment



Rob Givens

THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – SEPT. 16, 2013

The Local Investment Commission met at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, Mo. Chairman **Landon Rowland** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Bert Berkley
Sharon Cheers
Rosemary Lowe
Jack Craft
Sandy Mayer
Steve Dunn
Mary Kay McPhee
Randall Ferguson
Richard Morris
Herb Freeman
Margie Peltier
SuEllen Fried
Marge Williams

A motion to approve the July 17, 2013, LINC Commission meeting minutes was passed unanimously.

Superintendents' Report

- **Paul Fregeau** (Assistant Superintendent, North Kansas City School District) reported the enrollment this year is 19,200, the highest ever, while assessed valuation has declined. The district education foundation breakfast will be held next Thursday.
- **John Tramel** (Director of Family Services, Independence School District) reported enrolment this year is 14,000, the highest ever, while the attendance rate is 2.2% higher than this time last year.
- **Bob Bartman** (Superintendent, Center School District) reported attendance is up around 2% while assessed valuation is down.
- **Dennis Carpenter** (Superintendent, Hickman Mills School District) reported assessed valuation is down. The district has been working with stakeholders on developing a blueprint to accreditation with distinction.
- **Ralph Teran** (Superintendent, Grandview School District) reported enrollment is up by 160 students this year. The district reached 93.6% APR, and the Governor recognized the district for the high ratio of students who take the ACT.

Kansas City Public Schools Board of Directors President **Airick West** reported on the district's efforts over the last three years to reform its governance system, get its finances in order, and redesign curriculum and instruction to increase academic performance. The district now is focusing on efforts to serve pre-K children so that they can meet reading and development standards.

KCPS Director of Early Learning **Jerry Kitzi** reported on the opening of Woodland Early Learning Community School, which will serve young children, especially those from families in poverty, to prepare them for school success. The district has established partnerships will about 12 organizations to provide wraparound services, co-located at Woodland, to the children and their families. A video on the opening of Woodland was shown.

Missouri Family Support Division state deputy director **Debra Black** reported on FSD's initiative to place resource centers in community locations where client families are already receiving other services. Woodland Early Learning Community School is the first of three such resources centers planned for Kansas City.

Discussion followed.

LINC Communications Director **Brent Schondelmeyer** gave two reports:

- The third and final year the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children demonstration project recently ended. Over the three years, LINC provided summer food benefits to families of 6,145 children in the Kansas City, Center, and Hickman Mills school districts.
- LINC is supporting Kansas City Mayor **Sly James's** Turn the Page KC initiative to help children achieve their third-grade reading level. A LINC-produced video on reading with children was shown.

A motion to approve the nomination and election of Aaron Deacon to the LINC Commission was passed unanimously.

Rob Givens presented the Fiscal Year 2014 LINC budget recommended by the LINC Finance Committee.

A motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2014 LINC budget as presented was passed unanimously.

Givens presented LINC Investment Policy changes recommended by the LINC Finance Committee.

A motion to approve the LINC Investment Policy changes as presented was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

"With every page turned, our Kansas City youth grow closer to achieving their dreams."

- Mayor Sly James



"In the United States today, literacy is a vital individual and national need. If children aren't reading and writing by third grade, their future academic and economic success may be jeopardized and even diminished.

Our goal is strong literacy for all children by the end of third grade, a goal that demands an intensive instructional effort in kindergarten, first, and second grades.

Volunteers play a key role in guaranteeing successful literacy for all children."

-Help America Read





How can you contribute to a child's reading story?

In this volunteer manual, we offer recommendations for working with children as volunteer reading tutors. The benefits for additional reading support for children are clear (Allington, 2012). And there are rich rewards for you as well — the deep satisfaction and joy of helping children into the promising world of literacy. We hope that you enjoy and experience the pleasure of seeing children grow and change as they gain in reading ability and confidence.

Children come to reading in many different ways, but it's a lot harder if they don't like to read or feel that reading has a "magic" or inborn element to it that they haven't been gifted with.

Reading volunteers have the best chance of having success with children's reading development if they choose a strategy or a combination of strategies where they read **TO-**, **WITH-**, and **BY-** readers.







Remember:

- Reading volunteers have the best chance of having success with children's reading development if they choose a strategy or a combination of strategies where they read TO, WITH, and BY readers.
- Reading "skills" work may be included within the larger picture of reading to-, with- or by-.
- Reading volunteer tutors will spend little time working on skills in isolation or without a book (i.e. worksheets, flashcards, games).
- Children come to reading in many different ways. But it's a lot harder if they don't like to read, or feel that reading has a "magic" or inborn element to it that they haven't been gifted with.

In this reading volunteer tutoring program...

WE READ: REAL BOOKS (not passages, scripted reading materials, workbooks) because turning the page is the only way to become a better reader.

WE READ: A LOT!

Because if we are going to be good at something, we have to do it a lot.

WE READ:

To the Reader (reading aloud)
With the Reader (shared reading)
By the Reader (independent reading)



GETTING STARTED AS A READING VOLUNTEER:



- Build a relationship with the child.
- Work with the same child consistently.
- Remember the student's academic record is confidential.
- · SMILE
- · Get to know the child as a reader.
- · READ TO-, WITH-, and BY- your buddy!
- Make sure we're reading a "just right" book.
 Find a quiet place to read together.
- · Leave the meeting on a successful note.
- Dress appropriately and be on time.
- · Turn A LOT of pages.
- Use appropriate and engaging resources.
- HAVE FUN!



- · Complete homework with child (unless the homework is reading real books).
- Complete school assignments with child (unless this assignment includes reading books).
- Talk about child's academic progress with other parents or teachers.
- Ask child to read materials that are too hard.
- Give tests.
- Give grades.
- End session on a note of frustration.
- · Continue disciplinary action started by teacher or other school personnel (we're just here to read together).
- · Use cell phone while tutoring.



HOW TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR READING BUDDY

We build a relationship by doing the following in an authentic manner:

- Putting yourself in the child's shoes.
- · Smile.
- Explain your purpose.
- Be clear about what's going to happen.
- Learn about your buddy's reading interests.
- Find books the child loves.
- Know your own reading interests and find some books to start with in case your child doesn't have any favorites.
- Let it evolve over time.
- Be positive.

HOW WILL I KNOW I HAVE A SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH MY READING BUDDY?

You'll know when he/she...

- Smiles and looks forward to working with you.
- Tries hard and shows you that he/she is pleased with own accomplishments.
- Can't wait to share with own family or teacher what was read today.
- Brings books he's read in class to share with YOU!
- Can do a little more everyday.



Your buddy will continually surprise and delight you with her new reading habits and successes! These are the many rewards of supporting a child in their literacy development!



8



Remember:

- Too many companies sell "magic bullet" materials for the purpose of helping struggling readers. These materials are made up of worksheets, isolated skill activities and flashcards, and other materials and games that actually cause struggling readers to read LESS!
- When learning to read, children do not learn the "parts" of reading and then automatically put those together into the "whole" of reading. The only way to become a better reader is to READ real books with varying levels of support.
- This volunteer guide relies on the three most powerful ways to become a better reader – reading TO-, WITH, and BY- the child. (Routman, 2011, Allington, 2012)

LOGISTICS FOR WORKING WITH YOUR READING BUDDY

- Learn the school's sign-in policies for visitors.
- Find a quiet place to read with your buddy. Make sure it's a place where your reading buddy feels comfortable.
- Use the restroom before getting your reading buddy from class.
- Always dress professionally and follow school and classroom rules.
- Be punctual at the beginning and end of the buddy reading session.
- Always have a positive attitude about your time in the school and about your buddy.
- Make sure the teacher is aware that the child will be working with her reading buddy.
- Never leave your buddy unsupervised for ANY reason.
- Remember that your PRESENCE is a PRESENT.
- · Have a great time.

REMEMBER CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

- · Enter classroom quietly as not to disrupt activities.
- Be courteous & respectful to all.
- · Address questions/concerns directly to the teacher.
- Each classroom teacher may have more specific instructional guidelines: please follow them.
- Please respect the importance of the teachers and staff and support their efforts.
- Keep focus on students refrain from socializing with peers.
- Do not talk about the students with other parents.
- Should a fire alarm go off while you are with children, please escort them outside. They are your priority!





Wednesday, Oct 16, 2013

Public assistance for fast-food workers costs taxpayers, reports say

By DIANE STAFFORD The Kansas City Star

Low-paying jobs in the fast-food industry exact a multibillion-dollar cost on U.S. taxpayers, according to two national reports released Tuesday.

U.S. taxpayers pay about \$7 billion a year to support Medicaid, food stamps and other public assistance programs for fast-food workers who earn poverty-level wages, a team of university researchers said in one of the reports.

Median front-line pay of \$8.69 an hour, especially when coupled with part-time work hours and no health insurance benefits, pushes slightly more than half of the nation's 1.8 million "core" fast-food workers into taxpayer-funded assistance programs, said one report, titled "Fast Food, Poverty Wages."

The "Fast Food" report, produced by research teams at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and at the University of California, Berkeley's Center for Labor Research and Education, was issued at a time when labor organizers and social service advocates have been calling for a wage increase and collective bargaining for fast-food workers.

Major rallies were held twice this past summer in Kansas City and elsewhere around the nation, including one-day walkouts by some fast-food workers and demonstrations at some restaurants.

The "Fast Food" researchers calculated that Missouri taxpayers pay about \$146 million a year to low-wage workers enrolled in assistance programs. A similar cost breakout wasn't available for Kansas.

The second report released Tuesday, titled "Super-Sizing Public Costs," was a smaller study issued by the National Employment Law Project. It said low wages and a lack of benefits at the 10 largest U.S. fast-food companies alone cost taxpayers about \$3.8 billion a year.

The "Super-Size" report drew fire from the Employment Policies Institute, which said it overestimated taxpayer cost by assuming that all front-line fast-food workers obtain public assistance. The institute, which tends to represent employers' interests, said nearly one-third of such workers are teenagers or otherwise don't qualify for public assistance programs.

"If even 25 percent of the affected employees in NELP's report aren't costing taxpayers a dime, that would mean NELP's estimates are off by roughly \$1 billion per year," the institute said in a news release.

Nonetheless, researchers involved with the larger "Fast Food" study said their findings should dispel the idea that fast-food workers are mostly teenagers earning fun money.

"More than two-thirds of core front-line, fast-food workers across the country are over the age of 20, and 68 percent are the main wage earners in their families," said Marc Doussard, an assistant professor of urban and regional planning at the University of Illinois. He said more than one-fourth of fast-food workers are parents raising at least one child.

The larger academic study found that fast-food workers enroll in public safety net programs at more than twice the rate of the overall workforce.

But the report also noted that the public support of about \$7 billion for fast-food workers represented a small fraction of the \$243 billion a year spent to operate the four major public assistance programs for all recipients.

It analyzed the combined costs of Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, the earned income tax credit, food stamps and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

"People who work in fast-food jobs are paid so little that having to rely on public assistance is the rule, rather than the exception, even for those working 40 hours or more a week," said Ken Jacobs, chairman of the Berkeley labor research center.

A group of Kansas City activists who have been calling for a minimum wage increase, especially for fast-food workers, used the release of the reports to stage a midday rally Tuesday in front of a Wendy's restaurant near 31st and Main streets.

Linda Schroeder, a member of the Missouri Association for Social Welfare who attended the rally, said her association supports a higher minimum wage because "livable wages and affordable health care are crucial to the well-being of everyone."

The national minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour applies in Kansas. It is \$7.35 an hour in Missouri, which has an automatic increase built into the law to reflect inflation. Some states have higher state minimums than the federal wage floor.

Fast-food companies defend the wages paid to front-line workers as appropriate for jobs that are entry level or step-up opportunities. They say that the wages also are appropriate given the prices they charge for food and that significant wage increases would lead to job loss in order to hold the line on payroll costs.

Spokesmen for the fast-food industry also note that many such restaurants are owned by franchisees or are mom-and-pop operations that have thin profit margins and lack the deep pockets and profits of large corporate owners like McDonald's or Yum Brands, which owns Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and KFC.

The reliance on public aid isn't confined to low-paid workers in the fast-food industry, the "Fast Food" report noted. Nearly three out every four enrollments in major U.S. public benefits programs are by working families across the board, it said.

Based on 2007-11 data, the cost of public assistance to fast-food industry workers averaged:

- \$3.9 billion a year for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.
- \$1.04 billion a year for food stamp benefits.
- \$1.91 billion a year in earned income tax credits.

"This is the public cost of low-wage jobs in America," said Sylvia Allegretto, an economist at Berkeley. "The cost is public because taxpayers bear it. Yet it remains hidden in national policy debates about poverty, employment and public spending."

The related "Super-Size" report contrasted workers' wages with profits in the fast-food companies that employ them.

The nation's seven largest fast-food companies had combined profits of \$7.4 billion last year, and their top executives received \$53 million in total compensation, the report said. Shareholders received about \$7.7 billion in dividends and stock buybacks.

Some worker advocates want to raise entry-level fast-food pay to \$15 an hour and unionize the workers. The movement is supported by the Service Employees International Union and Change to Win.

The Star's Mary Sanchez contributed to this report. To reach Diane Stafford, call 816-234-4359 or send email to stafford@kcstar.com.

LINCWorks MWA Audit

On Oct. 15-17, LINC hosted a site visit by state staff as part of an audit of the LINCWorks welfare-to-work initiative. The audit, which includes both program and fiscal components, is being undertaken by the Mo. Family Support Division and the Mo. Division of Finance and Administrative Services.

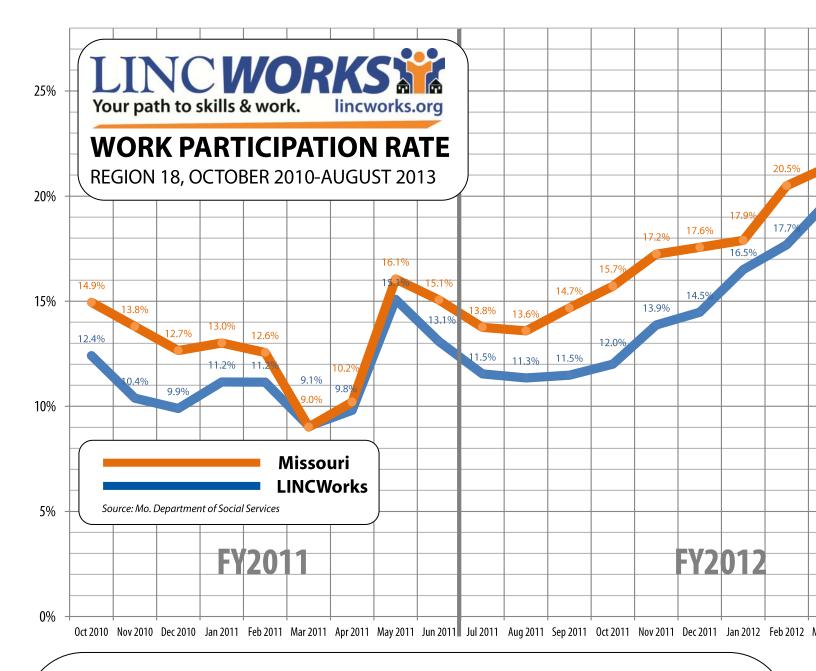
LINCWorks is a major LINC initiative, undertaken with our most important state partner, the Missouri Department of Social Services, to create an effective system to help individuals who are on Temporary Assistance move from welfare to work in Jackson, Clay and Platte counties.

During their three-day visit to LINC, state staff conducted interviews with LINC administrative and program staff, current and past program participants, and key partners, subcontractors and volunteers. LINC also gave an agency overview presentation to show how LINCWorks operates in the context of LINC's wide range of initiatives and particular approach to engaging the community.

The voices of LINC volunteers at the presentation, and in audit interviews, were engaged to create a full, accurate portrayal of LINC's successful, ongoing involvement in the community effort to move area individuals from welfare to work and greater self-sufficiency.

Participating volunteers and partners included:

- Landon Rowland, LINC Chairman
- Jack Craft, LINC Commissioner
- Bart Hakan, LINC Commissioner
- Bob Bartman, LINC Professional Cabinet
- Sister Berta Sailer, LINC Professional Cabinet
- Oscar Tshibanda, LINC Professional Cabinet
- Clyde McQueen, Full Employment Council
- Shelley Penn, Full Employment Council
- Howard Penrod, NorthWest Communities Development Corporation
- Barbara Friedmann, Metropolitan Community Colleges
- Brandi Jahnke, Connections to Success
- Arthur Diaz, Culinary Cornerstones
- Jeff Phillips, Tshibanda & Associates



REGION 18 AT A GLANCE (FY2013)

CASELOAD (AVG.)

Average FY2013 caseload and participation within Region 18

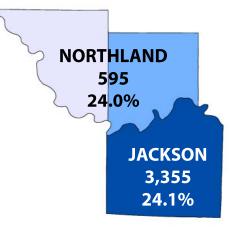
3,950

Adult single-parent household TANF cases subject to work requirement

PARTICIPATION (AVG.)

24.1%

Clients engaged in countable work activities

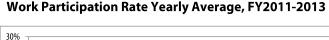


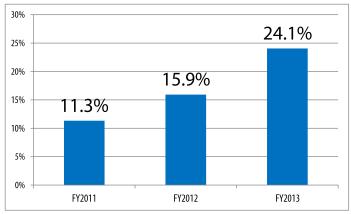
While the Region 18 MWA population resides predominantly in urban Jackson County, LINCWorks also serves participants in the Northland (Clay and Platte counties), where the population is more rural.



The line graph above shows the work participation rate from October 2010 (the beginning of the contract) to August 2013 (the latest month with available data). Since June 2012, LINCWorks has consistently enhanced the statewide participation rate.

LINCWorks' average yearly participation rate has steadily increased over time, as shown by the bar graph at right.





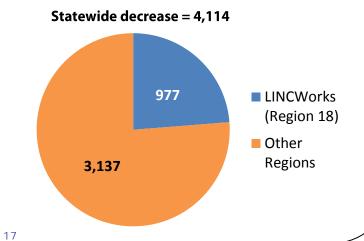


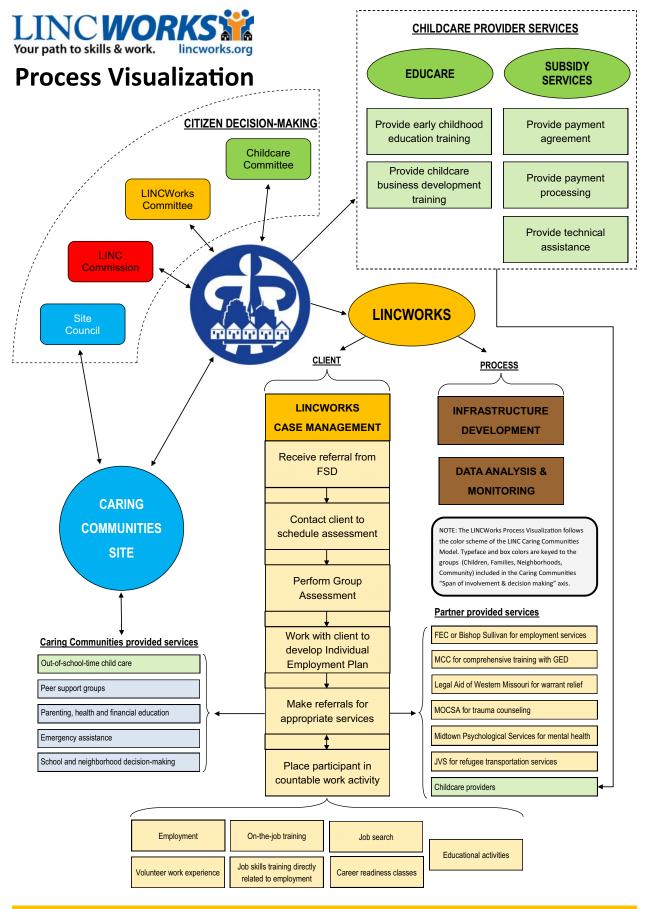
MWA CASELOAD REDUCTION, OCTOBER 2010-AUGUST 2013

Decrease in MWA caseload, Oct. 2010-Aug. 2013 30,000 25,599 25,000 4,642 21,485 20,000 3,665 LINCWorks (Region 18) 15,000 Other Regions 20,957 10,000 17,820 5,000 Oct 2010 Aug 2013

Decrease of Region 18 MWA caseload as a share of statewide total

Nearly 1 in 4 cases were in Region 18.





FAMILIES

PROVIDE PATH TO SKILLS AND WORK, INCREASE ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

CHILDREN

OFFER AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE AFTER-SCHOOL CARE, TRAIN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROVIDERS
BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH EMPLOYERS THROUGH 65 SITES IN LOW-INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY

ENGAGE COMMUNITY IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE REFORM



Mon, Sep. 30, 2013

KC schools 'undeniably healthier,' but critical issues loom, superintendent says

By JOE ROBERTSON
The Kansas City Star

Kansas City Superintendent Steve Green returned to the scene of his darkest-hour speech Monday to describe a school district he said is "stronger, undeniably healthier," and whose achievement levels "are rapidly, rapidly increasing."

This much is certain: The Kansas City Public Schools finds itself with a more hopeful prospect than when Green stood on the same stage at Paseo Academy on Sept. 21, 2011.

That was the day after the state school board had voted to strip Kansas City of its accreditation. Green was less than a month on the job after former Superintendent John Covington had abruptly left the district.

"We were reeling," Green said. "The light at the end of the tunnel was dim."

Two years later, he said in his state-of-the-district address, the district is upholding its promise to earn its community's "trust, confidence and support."

The question now pending before the state school board is not whether the still-unaccredited district is improving, but whether it is showing enough growth to win provisional accreditation.

As in 2011, Green's speech is coinciding with critical developments surrounding the district.

Thursday, Education Commissioner Chris Nicastro announced she is recommending that the district remain unaccredited until at least another year of data shows more sustained growth.

The state board will be taking up Kansas City's accreditation request Oct. 22 during its next regular meeting.

Meanwhile, lawmakers and the Missouri Supreme Court this week will consider concerns around a state student transfer law that threatens to disrupt districts in the Kansas City area in 2014, as long as Kansas City remains unaccredited and the law is not changed or overturned.

The legislature's Joint Committee on Education will hold a hearing at 1 p.m. Tuesday to gather ideas on how lawmakers might try once again to negotiate revisions to the law that is already throwing the unaccredited Normandy School District toward bankruptcy and disrupting other districts in the St. Louis area.

The law allows students in unaccredited districts to transfer to nearby accredited districts — with tuition and transportation paid by the failing district.

Wednesday morning, the Missouri Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a case brought by several districts neighboring Kansas City that have claimed the law creates an unconstitutional, unfunded mandate.

The high court, earlier this year, upheld the law in a case involving St. Louis area districts.

Despite the distractions, the district is carrying on with its efforts to improve student performance, along with several major initiatives, Green said.

The district is planning to restore middle schools for 2014-2015. It is working on a facilities master plan to repair and improve buildings. The district has started a technology upgrade to place computers in the hands of every student. A commission is working on bringing universal pre-kindergarten programming through district and community programs. And the district is implementing the new Common Core State Standards.

"We will not be deterred," Green said.

To reach Joe Robertson, call 816-234-4789 or send email to jrobertson@kcstar.com.

State of the Schools address 2013

Dr. R. Stephen Green

Board of Directors, faculty, staff, community members and friends: It is an honor and privilege to stand before you today to give you an update on the state of the Kansas City Public Schools. Before I begin, I would like to recognize the Kansas City Public Schools Board of Directors. Through the Policy Governance approach, our Board has set high standards and has provided the support needed to redirect, rebuild and revamp the Kansas City Public Schools. I would like them to stand and be recognized. Other guests joining me on the stage today will be recognized throughout my remarks.

You know, in 2011, I stood on the stage at this very school during one of the darkest times in the recent history of this school system. I had only been interim superintendent for a few weeks, and we were reeling. Employees and families had just endured a sudden and an unexpected change in leadership. The state Board of Education had voted to strip our school system of provisional accreditation...... Suffice it to say, the light that was at the end of the tunnel had become faint and dim.

So on that evening I faced an audience that looked very much like this one. My task wasn't to tell you everything was going to be OK, because it wasn't going to be. My responsibility was to let you know that the road before us was going to be difficult; it was going to be grueling, and it was going to be demanding. So I stood there that day, in the darkest of nights, and set a goal and made a promise: to restore your confidence and trust in the Kansas City Public Schools.

With that trust, we knew we could finally dig out from this avalanche of failed expectations and become the school system you demand and expect.

Today, I am proud to say that the state of your Kansas City Public Schools is much stronger, undeniably healthier, that our level of achievement is rapidly increasing and, for the first time in a decade, we are graduating students that are college, career and workforce ready. We are truly making it better!

That light, which was once dim, is beaming brightly and the goal now is to continue – not start, but continue – to take intentional, systemic and sustainable steps to finally emerge from that old tunnel altogether. Therefore, my message to today is "It's morning and it's a new day in KCPS!"

(Goals & Initiatives)

Any successful organization must know where it has been and where it is going. To that end, I have established six SMART Goals – Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time Sensitive that will be our roadmap for 2013-14.

- 1. Academic and Subgroup Achievement- each student
- 2. College and Career Readiness their choice
- 3. Graduation Rate persistence
- 4. Student Attendance 90%, 90% of the time

- 5. Business and Finance Stable and Precise Stewards
- 6. Parent and Community Engagement Inclusive, Collaborative

(Expand upon the goals and how they are tied to MSIP goals: MSIP 5 and Beyond)

Several Initiatives for 2013-14:

Middle Schools

Facilities Master Plan

1:1 - Digital Learning

Pre-K Early Learning Community Schools

Common Core

These are important in our efforts to move this district forward.

Financial Stability: We are able to undertake these initiatives because we are financially stable:

- 1. We have the fiscal discipline to operate within our limits.
- 2. We have clear and specific goals and priorities
- 3. Allocated our resources toward those priorities and eliminated those things that are not priorities.
- 4. Business Code of Ethics: no nepotism, cronyism, not quid pro quo.

(Student Achievement)

You've already seen signs of this re-awakening. Your students and schools did a great job this spring, resulting in our second consecutive year of improved achievement. Much has been said and discussed of KCPS qualifying for provisional accreditation.

Frankly, it's nice to be recognized for improvement; and I'll be the first to tell you that regaining provisional accreditation will remove barriers and distractions such as the possibility of student transfers, repetitive media inquiries, and the sheer uncertainty of wondering when or if the stability we have worked so hard to establish will be destroyed.

As many of you know, my team and I have travelled to Jefferson City on two occasions last month — once, to share with the Commissioner and her cabinet the aggressive measures we used to regain our accreditation through an intentional, systemic and sustainable approach. The second time we made our pitch to the State Board of Education, strongly urging them to re-classify the district based on two years of improvement.

You know, when Governor Nixon was in Kansas City to award KCPS \$480- thousand dollars to recognize and support our early childhood learning Start Smart Award, he stated the following... "The Kansas City Public schools could have gotten down on themselves and said, let's lower our standards. Instead they embraced at a very difficult time, a time when the State was moving into MSIP 5, a more difficult measurement tool than existed before, and they were still able to show verifiable and significant progress That path forward is an upward arc."

I stand here today to tell you that no District in this State and, perhaps in any state in the country, has exhibited a turnaround as dramatic as this! I will also say that in a different circumstance, this district would be held up as a model and as an exemplar of what turnaround could and should look like. I tell you, it's a morning and it's a new day in KCPS!

With no definitive answer from the State Board on a timeline for making its decision, we await a response. But in the meantime, we continue with the same laser-like focus that has brought us to this point!

But gaining provisional accreditation, should we be granted such, is a trap door. Provisional accreditation, especially for KCPS, is a sign of mediocrity. Today, we declare that provisional accreditation is not our goal, and it will not be THE outcome. This school system is only laser-focused on gaining full accreditation and beyond. Once the barriers of non-accreditation are removed, we will make definite steps to discard the crutch of provisional status. I declare today that our mission full and accreditation, or nothing at all.

You know, Dr. Chris Nicastro, our state education commissioner, once said "Whatever happens in Kansas City depends on performance. That's how we drive our decisions." While she was referencing DESE, we wholeheartedly agree. It's morning again in KCPS, and it's apparent through student outcomes.

In 2012-13, overall we increased our number of accreditation standards met by more than 40 percent! That's unheard of and I'm sure it's a state record of some sort. This school system went from achieving 27 percent of the standards needed for full accreditation to meeting more than 60 percent. (In doing so, we passed several districts that are currently provisionally accredited today under the older less rigorous standard.)

In addition,

- Of the 32 KCPS schools, 13 scored well enough individually to qualify for full accreditation.
- 6 Schools scored well enough to qualify for provisional accreditation.
- And some of the greatest progress was made in our schools unaccredited schools. (Story of Marcus)
- Sixteen (16) students graduated in May 2013 simultaneously with a KCPS high school diploma and associate of arts degree from Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley. A class of 36 students is on track to achieve that same feat in May 2014.

- Approximately 48 percent of students' APR performance during this period was due to testing and academic outcomes.
- KCPS demonstrated significant growth in the number of scholars taking and earning AP, IB, and college credit courses.

That's great news, but it is not enough because all students are not being successful. We continue to have pockets of underperformance festering in nearly every school and program.

For instance, this school system posted a zero overall in its annual progress report for English Language Arts.

Basically, the data shows that our young people are not gaining the skills needed to be effective readers and writers. This impacts how they take tests, how they study, how they will succeed today and tomorrow.

As a team, we are profoundly disappointed but not discouraged. We're going to change that because it's morning again and it's a new day in the Kansas City Public Schools!

In fact, before our English Language Arts scores were even announced, our Academic Team had already gone to work. We are utilizing a three-pronged strategy to increase performance in English Language Arts:

- We are instituting learning objectives in our schools that focus of literacy learning targets and instruction.
- We are looking to our number 1 resource, our teachers, to manage students and their data so
 we can identify those who need help sooner, and tailor instruction to meet those student's
 needs.
- We will continue to make students the CEOs of their learning, and place a greater responsibility
 for that learning in their hands through efforts such as the Digital Learning Initiative, which will
 give students a greater opportunity to continue their studies outside the classroom.

If not for our deficiencies in English Language Arts this year, KCPS might have well qualified for full accreditation. So now our focus is not only to sustain the progress made, but shore up our weaknesses through targeted, precise efforts. This school year we are committed to owning those challenges and returning a year from this moment with news that student achievement continues to grow.

I have directed our Academic Team to make improved results a reality and to do it by May 2014. I know they will.

Again, it's morning again in KCPS. It's a new day in KCPS!

(Teaching staff)

Most of us have an enduring vision from our childhood. Think about your days as a young scholar, walking into a classroom at the start of the school day. Who did you see; a smiling teacher that was excited to help you reach your goals and dreams. For many of us, we saw a friend, and someone who was in our corner.

I am proud to note that KCPS is taking major steps to support its teaching staff. We have increased salaries, placing our teachers among the more competitive in the metro area when you include our benefits package. (pause...) We are partnering with Webster University, Park University, UMKC, the University of Phoenix and others to provide avenues and paths for teachers to continue their education so we may have the highest-qualified and skilled classroom leaders. (Pause...) and we are honoring our best and brightest teachers every month through the Terrific Teammate program.

As a former classroom English teacher back in Indianapolis, I know first-hand the importance of building and district support. (14 Years teaching HS English – the 3 R's Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships)

As I look to the teacher's union president, Andrea Flinders, I can proudly say we are doing everything we can to grow, and recruit the most talented teachers anywhere. Join me in giving the KCPS faculty a round of applause.

(Early Childhood)

While we are here in this beautiful auditorium, I want you to picture this: across KCPS this morning, right this second, more than 1,700 Head Start and pre-kindergarten students are expanding their minds and skills here in KCPS. We aren't talking about day care; these students are being encouraged to develop their reasoning skills, to become interactive learners, and to ask questions.

That's great news, but we can do better. While we are educating those 1,700 three and four year olds, more than 3,600 other children within our school system boundaries may not be receiving a quality pre-kindergarten program.

When these children finally arrive in our schools as kindergarteners, we know that 40 percent of them will be 1 to 3 years behind their peers both academically and socially. That is a travesty and a scourge that will force those students and their families to play catch-up academically for the following 13 years. Again, we can and will do better.

We've set a goal that each year 90 percent or more of students enrolled in KCPS early learning programs will be at or above kindergarten readiness as measured by standardized tests.

This school year, we renovated and opened a new early childhood community learning center at Woodland to serve more than 260 students in 3- and 4 year-olds and their families. As I mentioned earlier, last month, the honorable Gov. Jay Nixon held a news conference at Woodland where he announced the district as the state's first recipient of a new early childhood grant which totaled \$480,000. Over the next two years, the district will open two more of these specialized campuses – one in Midtown and one in the South.

Still, this community has only scratched the surface of what we can do.

The Kansas City Early Childhood Education Commission has proposed year-round pre-kindergarten to all students that reside within the boundaries of KCPS. The price tag to do this is more than \$38 million a year, a load that no one group can carry alone. We are going to need you, our fellow Kansas Citians, to help prepare students to learn earlier and better than ever before. The Commission has some ideas for financing this project, and KCPS is supportive of the overall program.

If we can clear the financing hurdle, the improvement in student achievement that will occur over time will be staggering.

Say it with me: It's morning again in KCPS, and it's a new day in KCPS!

(Attendance/Truancy)

We must also begin to tackle the chronic challenge of fluctuating attendance within our schools. While more than 90 percent of students overall are at school every day, there are breakdowns in several areas. The attendance for high school students is 80 percent. In most schools, it's more than 90 percent.

That is simply unacceptable. Students cannot learn if they are not in school, on time, every day.

KCPS has been aggressive on this front, and we plan to step-up the pressure. We've hired truancy officers to help locate students that don't attend school. We identify potential dropouts and visit them at their homes to convince them to return. We worked with the city to pass a daytime curfew ordinance (compulsory attendance) to encourage wayward students and families to get in school and get an education. We even have a Success Court at Northeast High where a real judge encourages students through conversation and potential penalties to attend school.

Again, students cannot learn if they are not in school, on time, every day. The Kansas City Public Schools will do everything we can to encourage families, through great engagement, to ensure students are learning. If we can get our young people in the school, they will succeed.

(Parent Engagement)

But parents must do their part. I am proud to announce that I am committed to a providing a variety of opportunities for parents and families to engage themselves in the education of their child. Under my leadership, this district will place a strong emphasis on reaching out to parents and families in our district. We have not done enough in the past to engage and involve our parents, guardians and grandparents who are raising children for the second time. You will be hearing more in the days and weeks to come about a major initiative around Parent and Family Engagement. In fact, I will be meeting with parents tonight at 6 p.m. to begin the conversation and thereafter, will be meeting monthly with parents to discuss ways they want to get involved.

We know that parents/families have a positive effect on their child's learning. Parents are the first teachers. We must build the trust and bring awareness to the important role parents play and how it supports student achievement.

(Project Maintenance/Upgrades)

Once we get them in school, we have to make those places safe, healthy and engaging places to learn. KCPS has been proactive, completing more than \$32 million in renovation projects this year. We added air conditioning to East High and Northeast High for the first time; we renovated our dilapidated sports stadium; we updated the auditoriums at Lincoln Prep and this one right here at Paseo Academy.

That's progress, but it's not enough. This year, in conjunction with our Facilities Master Plan, I will bring our Board of Directors a proposal to address the more than \$400 million in deferred maintenance challenges facing our schools. We will begin to attempt to address the broken classrooms and learning environments that we ask our students to use.

I'm thankful that our Board of Directors has approved the renovation and reopening of Central Middle School and Northeast Middle School in August 2014. We will spend \$11 million to create special learning centers for more than 400 students in the seventh and eighth grades where they can flourish beside their peers instead of with elementary school students or high school students.

The Kansas City Public Schools is poised to embark on its largest building and renovation efforts since the Desegregation Era. Fortunately, this time, our efforts will be better planned, executed, and will be sustainable over the long term. And we are doing this with a property tax rate that is the lowest among our peers in the metro. It goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway, that we have not had a bond issue since 1969. Our students deserve better.

(Strategic Plan and Facilities Master Plan)

As we embark on this awakening, we need to plan for achievement. If not, we risk being that old school district, that one with 30 years of failure that some people refuse to erase from their memory. Beginning this month, we will launch a process to develop a fresh and vibrant Facilities Master Plan.

This blueprint puts student achievement first by allowing us to make informed and thoughtful decisions on what programs we will offer students. Once we know what programs and offerings we will have, we can decide which buildings will host those students.

And the community will be at the forefront every step of the way. To build the Facilities Master Plan, this school system will draw input from every corner and crevice of our community through meetings, interactive web communications, and good, old fashioned face-to-face dialogue. The ultimate plan will be intentional, systemic, and sustainable with every emphasis on student achievement. And it'll allow us to awaken from the nightmare of deferred maintenance and crumbling buildings. We have invited members of the Facilities Master Plan Committee to join us today. They are a diverse group of leaders in our community who will be meeting during the next several months. At this time, I would like those in attendance to stand and be recognized. They have committed their time and expertise to our district. On behalf of the entire district, we thank you for your service.

It's morning again in KCPS, and it's a new day in KCPS.

For KCPS, the sun is shining brightly like a beacon. For the first time this century, the Kansas City Public Schools is making intentional, systemic and sustainable progress toward increasing achievement for its more than 16,000 students. But I cannot do this work alone. It takes a team of committed, talented

individuals to move any organization forward. I would be remiss if I didn't give special thanks to my leadership team.

Would the members of my Cabinet please stand and be recognized. I am proud of what we have accomplished together. There are others with us on this journey. If you are an employee, a member of the KCPS team, please stand and let us thank you for your service and dedication to our students and families. It is an honor and a humbling experience to lead this school system and its more than 2,300 employees. Another group I would like to recognize and introduce to you are the members of the Superintendent's Citizen's Advisory Council. These are individuals from a across all sectors of our community who inform and advise me. Let's give them a round of applause.

The morning represents a rebirth, an opportunity to right the wrongs of yesteryear and to take a fresh direction. During my time here, I've been constantly reminded that this school system wears something of a scarlet letter. When people see that scarlet letter, they immediately recall the failures of 20 or 30 years ago.

(Call to Action – Pledge)

Governor Nixon's Statement: "There have been times when because of a number of challenges, there has [have] been some questions about which direction that arc was pointing. ... They [The District] have provided themselves with analytics and metrics that are much more positive than in some years before. This community, this board, this administration and these teachers rolled up their sleeves over the last few years" and were "able to show verifiable, significant progress."

I ask you not to continue to condemn this school system for what it was yesterday. I pledge to you today - in the same place that I pledged this to you more than two years ago – to support student achievement. The Kansas City Public Schools is determined to regain your trust, your confidence and your support. We will make and keep our promises. We will raise student achievement and make you proud.

But this turnaround will require more than just me, more than just my staff. We need you – students, parents, and community members – to join us in pledging to support student achievement. Education works only through our combined efforts. We are in this together.

We are in this together every time a student chooses to invest in his own education, every time a community member volunteers his/her time, every time a parent is actively involved in his child's learning, every time a staff member rises above expectations.

Together, we pledge to support student achievement. Thank you for your attention, support and dedication.

It's morning and it's a new day in KCPS.

Thank you.

What is a Facilities Master Plan?

Help us make our buildings better. Kansas City Public Schools (KCPS) is developing a long-range facilities plan that will guide capital improvement decisions for the next five years (SY2014/15 – SY2018/19) to ensure that facility investments promote academic achievement.

Who is developing the plan?



You! Students, parents, teachers, staff, community members. The entire KCPS community. There are multiple ways to get involved and share your feedback. Public meetings, student focus groups, KCPS Forum, an easy online tool to share your feedback. In addition, this fall each school will have an area dedicated to the Facilities Master Plan where you can share your feedback about the needs of your school.

KCPS has also formed an Advisory Committee that includes parents, educators, business and civic leaders and representatives of the design and construction fields. The Advisory Committee will represent local stakeholders and provide guidance during the planning process on key issues to KCPS staff, Superintendent Green and the school board.

Key issues to be considered:

- What will student enrollment be in the future?
- How many students can our existing school facilities accommodate?
- · What is the condition of our school buildings?
- What building improvements are needed to improve student achievement?
- How can we pay for school improvements?
- How should we prioritize the needs of our school buildings?
- What school boundaries will best serve the needs of our students and their families today and in the future?

The primary purpose of the Facilities Master Plan is to evaluate the adequacy of existing educational facilities and assess which facilities and facility improvements are needed to improve the learning environment of all KCPS students. It will also identify a financing strategy for completing the necessary facility improvements and assess opportunities for expanding/enhancing meaningful opportunities for joint use/community use of KCPS facilities.



Climate Control



Roof



Athletic Upgrades



Safety and Security



Technology

For status updates, visit: www.kcpublicschools.org/MasterPlan





Email: masterplan@kcpublicschools.org
MindMixer: www.kcpsforum.org





Public meeting schedule

Meetings #1a & #1b Background on academic initiatives, facility assessments, facility standards

Tue., Oct. 15, 2013 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Paseo Academy Cafeteria, 4747 Flora Ave.

Thu., Oct. 24, 2013 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Manual Career Technical Center, 1215 E. Truman Rd.

Meetings #2a & #2b Enrollment forecasts, school boundary criteria

Tue., Nov. 12, 2013 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Manual Career Technical Center, 1215 E. Truman Rd.

Thu., Nov. 14, 2013 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Paseo Academy Cafeteria, 4747 Flora Ave.

Board meeting Board update

Wed., Nov. 20, 2013 6:30 p.m. Board of Education Auditorium, 1211 McGee St.

Meetings #3a & #3b Draft school boundary options, financing options

Tue., Jan. 14, 2014 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Paseo Academy Cafeteria, 4747 Flora Ave.

Thu., Jan. 16, 2014 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Manual Career Technical Center, 1215 E. Truman Rd.

Board meeting Presentation of final recommendations

Wed., Feb. 12, 2014 6:30 p.m. Board of Education Auditorium, 1211 McGee St.

Board meeting Board adoption

Wed., Feb. 26, 2014 6:30 p.m. Board of Education Auditorium, 1211 McGee St.

KCPS contacts

Derald Davis, School Leadership Executive Coach 816-418-7573
Shannon Jaax, Director, Repurposing Initiative 816-418-7725
Darrel Meyer, Chief Operating Officer 816-418-7775

Email: masterplan@kcpublicschools.org

www.kcpublicschools.org/MasterPlan

Important Note: Please check the KCPS website for the latest meeting information.

Last Updated: 9/27/2013

Help make your schools better!

Kansas City Public Schools (KCPS) is developing a long-range facilities master plan that will guide some new attendance boundaries and capital improvement decisions for SY2015 to SY2019.

We need your input!

How should we prioritize the needs of our school buildings? What facility improvements does your school need?

Public Meeting #1A Tue., Oct. 15, 2013

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Paseo Academy Cafeteria 4747 Flora Ave.

Public Meeting #1B

Thu., Oct 24, 2013

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Manual Career and Tech. Center

1215 E. Truman Rd.

CAN'T MAKE IT TO A MEETING?

3 more ways to share your feedback!

AT YOUR SCHOOL: Look for Feedback Centers ONLINE FORUM: www.kcpsforum.org
EMAIL: masterplan@kcpublicschools.org

WEB: www.kcpublicschools.org/masterplan





Thursday, Oct 17, 2013

United Way encourages diversity

The United Way of Greater Kansas City has done a good job of harnessing the community's diversity to broaden its base of giving.

It has created the Young Leaders Society, which unites young adults. It also has the Women's Leadership Council, generating new contributions, volunteers and a focus on education.

This year's kickoff included something new — the United Way African-American Leadership Initiative, which is expected to bring in more volunteers, new ideas and donations. The United Way is importing best practices from other cities to expand community involvement.

Brent Stewart, United Way president and CEO, said the leadership group approach reframes and repackages larger message. It doesn't detract from the overall campaign but adds to it by incorporating more of this community's strength in diversity.

As an example, the Women's Leadership Council started in 2009 with 110 members, has more than 550 members today and is responsible for bringing the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to the Kansas City area. The early childhood literacy program provides books each month to kids from birth to age 5.

Oscar Tshibanda, who leads the United Way's African American initiative, has high hopes for what it can accomplish. People in the group already donate to the United Way. But the group creates an opportunity for increased contributions, new members, volunteers and new projects. "Sometimes the campaign misses people," said Tshibanda, managing partner of Tshibanda & Associates.

He can see Latino- and Asian-Americans also forming United Way leadership groups. It helps the community and gets more people involved. Hard to argue with that.

The KC Chamber honors SuEllen Fried with 2013 ATHENA Award

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce is committed to promoting the advancement of women within our region, and recognizing them for their personal and professional successes and is pleased to honor **SuEllen Fried** and **Susan Leonard** in accordance with that mission.

The ATHENA Leadership Awards are granted to women who have displayed exemplary leadership across professional sectors, given their time and talent to the community, and who actively assist women in their attainment of professional excellence.

Founded nearly 30 years ago, ATHENA International women's leadership organization has paid tribute to more than 6000 women. The Chamber has honored local leaders including Mamie Hughes, Susan Stanton, and Kathleen Sebelius since it began hosting the program in 2001.

"The KC Chamber recognizes how important women are in the leadership and foundation of Kansas City businesses, and strongly supports the ATHENA philosophy. Recognizing extraordinary women like SuEllen and Susan highlights the long-standing tradition of outstanding leadership women have had and will continue to have in Kansas City," says Jim Heeter, president and chief executive officer of the KC Chamber.

SuEllen Fried, 2013 Kansas City ATHENA Leadership Award recipient and founder of BullySafeUSA, is recognized for her numerous accomplishments include advocacy for women and children in abusive relationships. She's a creator of dance therapy and a Charter Member

of the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA), giving people a therapeutic outlet through the arts. She's been recognized by President George H.W. Bush for her 30 years of volunteerism with the Kansas Department of Corrections and contributions to Reaching Out From Within (ROFW), which has shown positive reductions in the rates of recidivism. In 1970 she became the first woman president of the Kansas Mental Health Association (KMHA). In 1976 she was asked to orchestrate a Model Chapter for the group, now known as Prevent Child Abuse



America (PCAA). The success of the Kansas model prompted her to become Chairman of PCAA in 1980 and she continues to serve as a Life Board member. She has authored or co-authored four books on child and peer abuse and bullying. She founded BullySafeUSA in 2002 and was invited to participate in 2011's White House Conference on Bullying Prevention.

ATHENA also recognizes emerging female leaders. The 2013 ATHENA Young Professional Leadership award goes to Susan Leonard, Ph.D. The Pembroke Hill School middle school principal has proven success at educating students, elevating teachers, and collaborating with parents. After four years at The Pembroke Hill School and previously more than a decade spent with North Kansas City Schools, Leonard has established herself as an advocate for education and children's causes. Leonard is a graduate of the KC Chamber's Centurions Leadership Program, a donor and educator for lung cancer and juvenile diabetes research, a steering committee member for the Kansas City Area education Research Consortium, and a coach of several youth sports teams.

ATHENA Award honorees are chosen by a selection committee made up of a diverse group of business and community leaders.



Kansas City United Against Crime Tue., Oct. 1, 2013



Crime Prevention Month KickOff

Swope Park Pavilion 4 pm - 7 pm

Pavilion Rd. Kansas City, MO 64130

Live entertainment Free food

- Crime prevention resources
- Presentation from Jackson County Prosecutor Jean Peters-Baker

Balloon send off Inflatables for kids

- KCPD vehicles and helicopter on display
- Good Neighbor Award presented by Mayor Sly James



kcuac.org

f/kansascityunitedagainstcrime