

LINC Commission Meeting

April 19, 2021



(Above) U.S. Senator Roy Blunt speaks with the media about the partnership between Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church and LINC. In the past two months, the vaccination clinic has given over 14,000 vaccines to the surrounding community.



Sen. Blunt speaks with Pastor John Modest Miles.



LINC Executive Vice President Janet Miles-Bartee guides Sen. Blunt on a tour of the Morning Star Youth and Family Life Center.



**MORNINGSTAR'S
DEVELOPMENT
COMPANY, INC.**



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, April 19, 2021 | 4 – 5:30 pm
Online Meeting

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements**
- II. Approvals**
 - a. March 2021 minutes (motion)**
- III. Superintendent Reports**
- IV. LINC Leadership**
 - a. New LINC Co Chairs**
 - b. New LINC Commissioner**
 - c. New LINC Executive Vice President**
- V. LINC Funding**
- VI. Caring Communities**
 - a. In person**
 - b. Summer School**
- VII. Adjournment**



THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – MARCH 15, 2021

The Local Investment Commission met via Zoom. Treasurer **David Ross** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Bert Berkley
Jack Craft
Tom Davis
Aaron Deacon
David Disney
Mark Flaherty

SuEllen Fried
Rob Givens
Tom Lewin
Ken Powell
Marge Randle

Ross welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2021, LINC Commission meeting was approved unanimously.

Superintendents Reports

- **Yolanda Cargile**, Superintendent (Center School District), thanked LINC for the news article on how the Impact Coalition is helping homeless Center families. Center plans to hold graduation at Starlight Theater on May 24. Dates have been set to provide vaccinations for all district staff who choose to have one. Students K-5 are back in classrooms as of Feb. 22; grades 6-12 will return on a hybrid schedule after spring break. The district, in partnership with Center Education Foundation, is holding a book study on unconscious bias in schools. Strategic planning is under way; district will host community conversations to get feedback on building a framework.
- **Mark Bedell**, Superintendent (Kansas City Public Schools), reported today was the first day of in-person classes; students are on a hybrid schedule for now. Educators are being vaccinated at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church and Manuel Tech clinics; an estimated 85-90% of staff are planning to get vaccinated. The district is fighting to get full state accreditation. Focus of summer school will be not just academics but also engaging students in solving community problems. The Newcomer Center, serving immigrant and refugee families, will open at Woodland School in August.
- **Steve Morgan**, Assistant Superintendent (Fort Osage School District), reported all students have returned to school full-time. The district's Covid dashboard shows zero positive cases and zero close contacts for the first time. Truman Medical Center will hold a vaccine clinic for staff this week in the high school gym. Graduation is scheduled for May 21 at Sporting KC stadium. Voters will weigh in on a bond issue in the April 6 election.
- **Kenny Rodriquez**, Superintendent (Grandview School District), reported 500 students were served at a district food distribution event over the weekend. The Visiting Nurses Association will be vaccinating district staff this Wednesday. The district is planning for more students to return to classrooms in April. Voters will decide on a levy and bond issue on the April ballot. The district is working on indoor and outdoor options for prom and graduation.
- **Yaw Obeng**, Superintendent (Hickman Mills School District), reported teachers were glad to see students grade preK-2 return to classrooms today; grades 3-8 will return March 22 and grades 9-12 on April 5 (hybrid schedule). The district is planning its summer learning and fall extended learning programs to address the Covid learning slide. Students have been participating in virtual club activities even while school has been virtual. Families are having difficulty paying their rent.

- **Terry Ward**, Board Member (North Kansas City School District), reported K-5 students have been full-time since the start of the school year; this week grades 6-12 are moving from hybrid to full time. Staff are getting vaccinated by Truman Medical Center and district nursing staff. District is planning for a more in-person graduation than last year. District buses have brought nursing home residents to vaccination sites.
- **Kevin Foster**, Executive Director (Genesis School), reported 84% of staff have chosen to be vaccinated. Staff are being vaccinated at a federal clinic at the YMCA. According to the school Covid dashboard, there have been no positive cases in seven weeks. The school has been adding programming cautiously to avoid Covid exposure. Attendance for in-person students in January-February has been up compared to previous years, perhaps due to mask usage.
- **Vivian Roper**, Superintendent (Tolbert Academy), reported today was the first day of in-classroom school; grades K-8 are on a hybrid learning model. So far 40% of staff have been vaccinated, and 30% are expected to be vaccinated tomorrow, with others expected to follow. Genesis received its five-year charter renewal from the state board.

LINC Deputy Director **Brent Schondelmeyer** reported the meeting booklet contains details on questions being put to voters on the April ballot, including the school district levy and bond issues discussed by the superintendents, the Kansas City earnings tax, and joining the Metropolitan Community Colleges system.

LINC Caring Communities Administrator **Janet Miles-Bartee** reported that during Covid LINC has supported families with food distributions, grocery store gift cards, utility assistance, and accessing the internet for online learning. LINC is also partnering with Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, the Missouri National Guard, and the Kansas City Fire Department to organize a community vaccination clinic at the church's Youth and Family Life Center. Videos on the effort by LINC and the Washington Post were shown.

Morning Star pastor **Rev. John Modest Miles** reported the events have been successful thanks to support from the governor's staff in addition to the other partners. Missouri National Guard **Capt. Tony Rich** reported there have been 4,700 vaccinations administered over 15 events in one month; this week 2,500 vaccinations will be given, and next week 3,500 are planned. Kansas City Fire Department **Chief Donna Lake** reported KCFD will be training EMTs and paramedics to give vaccinations, which will double capacity for the effort. The events are also a good opportunity for KCFD staff to have interactions with youth and seniors.

Miles-Bartee reported the LINC Before & After School program is supporting the return to in-person learning at Center, Kansas City, and Hickman Mills schools. A video on the return to Center was shown.

Schondelmeyer reported on sharing LINC's work in a "fireside chat" organized by Social Solutions. A video sharing highlights of Schondelmeyer, Social Solutions CEO **Erin Nelson**, and investor **Steve Ballmer** was shown.

Schondelmeyer reported on the effort to connect families to utility assistance by establishing LINC Caring Communities sites as Mid-America Assistance (MAAC) sites and using Free and Reduced Lunch status as an indicator of eligibility. MAAC Executive Director **John Rich** reported three utilities – Everygy, Kansas City Water Department, and Spire – are providing funding for assistance in addition to that provided by Kansas City, Mo., through the CARES Act.

The meeting was adjourned.

School bonds, levies win big; KC earnings tax triumphs; school board races tight

April 6, 2021

Joe Robertson/LINC Writer

Voters strongly approved a collection of bond issue and levy elections in the Grandview, Fort Osage and Independence school districts, and also overwhelmingly approved continuing Kansas City’s 1% earnings tax in election results Tuesday night.

The night’s tighter races came with the school board elections, including a vote for newcomers in the Kansas City Public Schools.

Here is how the final, unofficial totals added up:



File photo courtesy the Grandview School District

Grandview

Voters approved both a 60-cent increase to Grandview’s operating levy and a \$45 million bond issue that extends its current tax rate without an increase. The levy won with 57% saying yes, and the bond issue got 71% of the vote.

“Celebrate!” Grandview Superintendent Kenny Rodriquez tweeted Tuesday night. “#WeAreGrandview.”

The district sought the levy increase to strengthen its ability to hire and retain quality teachers.

The bond issue will finance several projects, including high school improvements in industrial technology, the football stadium and the cafeteria; renovations across the district in fine arts and athletics areas, plus complete playground improvements; and improvements for Martin City K-8, and windows for Grandview Middle and Meadowmere Elementary. More details are at grandviewc4.net.

In the school board race, incumbent Leonard Greene returns to office and will be joined by Kara Wardlow. They won the two seats up for election over Chuck Cornforth and Andrew Rexroat.

Fort Osage

Voters approved both a \$20 million bond issue and the district’s plan to shift 32 cents of its debt service levy to its operating levy — both of which will extend the current tax rate without an increase. The first measure won with 77% voting yes, and the second measure won with 69%.

“Thank you to everyone in the Fort community who took time to vote,” Superintendent Jason Snodgrass said on Twitter Tuesday night. “#Fortproud.”

Passing the bond issue will help Fort Osage complete many of the remaining improvement projects on its master plan, including renovating kitchen facilities, constructing a building for transportation, maintenance and district offices, and various parking lot and driveway improvements.

The shift of funding from the debt service levy will help the district maintain competitive salaries for its staff, support ongoing programming as well as build a new gym and expand and renovate the band room at the

high school. More details are at fortosage.net.

In the school board race, incumbent Floyd Hawkins coasted to another term, winning 44% of the vote. Chris Gross won the second seat with 32% of the vote, over Kyle Leeds, at 22%.

Independence

Voters resoundingly approved a \$43 million in bond revenue to make safety and security improvements across the district, plus other renovations and improvements. The measure passed with 85% of the voters saying yes.

“It’s time to get started on bond projects!” Superintendent Dale Herl tweeted Tuesday night. “Thank you for supporting the ISD and a special thanks to our Vote YES committee for all of their work.”

The district’s plans include renovations to fine arts facilities and the auditoriums at Truman, Van Horn and William Chrisman high schools, and upgrades of playground facilities at the elementary schools. More details are at sdschools.org.

Kansas City school board

Tanesha Ford defeated incumbent Pattie Mansur in the race for an at-large seat, earning 56% of the vote to Mansur’s 43%. Mansur has been serving as the board president.

In the race for sub-district five, Kandace Buckner won a tight race between two newcomers, edging Bruce Beatty by a margin of 48 votes in the unofficial totals — 50.4% to 49.1%.

In other sub-district races, Rita Cortez and Manny Abarca won unopposed.

Hickman Mills school board

Incumbent Carol Graves returns to office, leading the way with 30% of the vote in a six-candidate race for two seats. Ann Coleman, with 24% of the vote, won the other seat. Ebony Osby, Ron Pearson, Clifford Ragan III and John Carmichael came up short.

North Kansas City school board

The three incumbents won re-election in a six-candidate race for three seats, but not until after night of tight results.

Jan Kauk, 20.7%; Jane Rinehart, 20%; and Paul Harrell, 16.2% outlasted challenges from Jay Wilson, 15.9%; Tina Williams, 15.3% and Andrew Corrao, 12%.

Center school board

In a tight four-way race for two seats, newcomer Bryce Shields led the way with 30.4% of the vote. He is joined by Kathleen Ramel, who won 23.9% of the vote to edge incumbent Rebecca Lahann, 22.9% and Julie Kramschuster, 22.2%.

Kansas City Earnings Tax

For the second time in five years, the election to renew Kansas City’s 1% Earnings Tax was not close. It passed with 77% of the vote. The tax, which was set up as a major revenue source in the 1960s, now generates about \$292.2 million, the city estimates. Though the revenue will likely decrease because of the pandemic, as many people lost income and many non-Kansas City residents who had been taxed for working in the city worked from home.

Ken Powell – LINC cochair

Ken served as a dedicated civil servant with the Social Security Administration for 40 years including 29 years as an accomplished leader and manager. Ken retired from federal service in 2016.

In 2004, Ken was appointed to the United States Senior Executive Service. He served in several executive positions with increasing responsibilities. While serving in his executive appointments, Ken managed complexity across diverse functions of multi-level components to achieve desired results. In his last appointment, he served as the Regional Commissioner for the Social Security Administration's Kansas City Region. Ken successfully oversaw the service delivery of Social Security program services to approximately 3 million beneficiaries in the States of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska. He was responsible for the operations of 72 field offices, the Mid-America Program Processing Center, the Kansas City 800 number network, the National Records Center, and the Regional Office support service centers. Under Ken's leadership, the Kansas City region was nationally recognized for its consistent, high quality service delivery to the public.

During his time as Regional Commissioner, Ken served on the board of the Greater Kansas City Federal Executive Board (FEB). He was an active member on the Executive Committee and led several important initiatives sponsored by the FEB.

Ken has always been an advocate for enhancing our community through his active engagement in finding collaborative solutions with stakeholders. Ken was a volunteer for several years for the Ad Hoc Group Against Violent Crime and served on the board of directors for Big Brothers and Big Sisters. He is currently a board member of the Local Investment Commission and the Black Repertory Theatre of Kansas City.

Ken is a graduate of Ottawa University with a degree in criminal justice.

David Disney – LINC cochair

David retired from JE Dunn Construction in January of 2021 after 36 years of dedicated service. He joined JE Dunn in 1985 as a Project Engineer and became a full-time Project Manager in 1986 and became a Senior Project Manager in 1987. David began building the Educational Practice leading the Project Management Team (PMT) to implement the Court Ordered Desegregation Capital Improvements for the Kansas City Missouri School District. He was promoted to Vice President in 1981 and Senior Vice President in 1999, and in 2011 he became the Public Affairs and Community Development Officer for JE Dunn.

David joined the leaders of the Construction Operations, Human Resources, and Marketing to ensure that diversity outcomes were achieved and that they supported the business objectives. David worked with all employees to stress the importance of community involvement and to be active in community. He is active in the community with civic, educational, and charitable organizational, and is known to be a guest lecture on recreational mathematics to schools in the Kansas City area challenging youth to explore problem solving.

Current and Past Business and Civic affiliations:

- Barstow IDEA Space, current Advisory Board Member
- Construction Management Association of America, Past National Vice President
- Construction Management Association of America, Past President, Kansas City Chapter
- Heart of America Council, Boy Scouts of America, Past Board Member
- Boy Scouts of America, Past National Advisory Board Member
- 2010 BSA National Jamboree, Vice Chairman Admin. 100 Years of Scouting, FT AP Hill
- 2013 BSA National Jamboree, Vice Chairman Administration, Summit Bechtel Reserve
- Kansas State University, Past Construction Science Advisory Council Member
- Metropolitan Community Colleges Foundation, Past Board Member
- Metropolitan Community Colleges, Past President of the Board
- Missouri Colleges Fund, Past President of the Board, current Board Member
- Academy for the Integrated ARTS, Charter School, current Board Member
- Midtown/Plaza Area Plan, Past Implementation Committee Member
- KC Rising Human Capital Strategies, Past Building Trades – Talent to Industry Exchange Chair
- Kansas City Chamber, Past K-12 Superintendents Forum Member
- Local Investment Commission (LINC), current Board Member
- Urban Neighborhood Initiative (UNI), Past Finance Chair and Founding Board Member
- Urban League of Greater Kansas City, Past Board Member
- Penn Valley Park Conservancy, Past President of the Board, current Board Member
- Junior Achievement, Past Kansas City Board Member
- The Children’s Museum of Kansas City, Past President of the Board
- Thank you Walt Disney, Inc., Past President of the Board
- The Learning Exchange, Past Board Member
- Experiencia, Past Board Member

Dr. Robert Bartman - New LINC Commissioner

Degrees:

BA, English, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1966

MA, Secondary School Administration, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1971

Specialist Certification, Curriculum, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1972

Ed.D., School Administration, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1975

Previous Experience:

Officer, United States Marine Corp, 1966-1969 (Vietnam Veteran)

Teacher, University Lab School, 1970-1972

Supervisor of School Laws, Missouri Department of Education, 1973-1978
Administrative Assistant to the Commissioner of Education,

1978-1983 Assistant Commissioner of Education, 1983-1986

Deputy Commissioner of Education, 1986-1987

Commissioner of Education, 1987-2000

Superintendent of Schools, Center School District, 2004-2014



Miles-Bartee is named Executive Vice President of the Local Investment Commission

March 31, 2021

Joe Robertson/LINC Writer

Janet Miles-Bartee has been named Executive Vice President of the Local Investment Commission (LINC) – a major Kansas City, Missouri, non-profit serving children, families, and neighborhoods in Jackson, Clay, and Platte counties.

This is a newly created position.

“Janet has deep connections in the community and is extraordinarily capable and deeply committed to the work,” said Gayle Hobbs, LINC President and Chief Executive Officer.

Miles-Bartee has worked for LINC since 2000, initially as a LINC Caring Communities site coordinator — a school/community-based position that serves not only children attending the schools but also their families and neighborhood.

The new position includes broad internal and external responsibilities.

“LINC does many extraordinary things to help so many different communities in so many different ways,” said Miles-Bartee. “There is much to do.”



Janet Miles-Bartee

LINC is large-scale social services organization involved in workforce development, employment, and family engagement and provides important services to children and families through its Caring Communities initiative.

LINC’s services are provided in Jackson, Cass, Clay, Platte and Ray counties but also include a virtual online statewide school for court-involved young people.

Since 2016, Miles-Bartee has been the Caring Communities Administrator responsible for 52 Caring Communities sites in six school districts — Kansas City, Hickman Mills, Center, Grandview, Fort Osage and North Kansas City — and two charter schools.

The LINC partner school districts have a combined enrollment of 52,000. Over 71% of LINC students qualify for free and reduced lunch, a measure of family need.

The Caring Communities initiative includes social services and supports to children and families through food distributions, utility assistance, and household access to distance learning and technology assistance in addition to after-school programs.

Those needs have expanded significantly over the past year due to COVID-19 and its impact on employment, household income, and student learning.

Most recently, Miles-Bartee has been leading a COVID-19 vaccination site at the Morning Star Youth and Family Life Center at 27th St. and Prospect Ave. in partnership with the Missouri National Guard, Kansas City Fire Department, and Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church.

The community center is located in a vaccination desert. Approximately 12,000 vaccines have been administered as of the end of March. The vaccine site is operating six days a week.

'People changing their minds' on vaccinations; Blunt, Lucas say Morning Star/LINC leading the way

April 12, 2021

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer

U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt looked across the room in the community center at 27th and Prospect in Kansas City, watching Covid-19 vaccinations in progress, seeing confidence and hope where there might not have been so much before.

"People are changing their minds," the senator said to the media and community members who gathered at the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church's Youth and Family Life Center April 8.

And making a difference are the "dramatic ways" that the church is using its building and teaming up with LINC to bring state and local resources together to deliver vaccines to long-neglected and communities that need them the most.

"What LINC has done in the community, what they are doing here," Blunt said, is bringing forces together "to bring the community to a safer place."

Morning Star, led by the Rev. John Modest Miles, was able to get the nod from Missouri Gov. Mike Parson's office to dispatch a unit of the Missouri National Guard to deliver vaccines at the center. And then the Kansas City Fire Department joined the team, sending specially trained paramedics to deliver more vaccinations.

Blunt was joined at the April 8 gathering by Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas, Jackson County Executive Frank White, Rep. Ashley Bland Manlove and Jackson County Legislators Theresa Galvin and Ronald Finley.

By the end of the day, the number of vaccinations administered at the center since early February would exceed 14,000.

There is still a lot of work ahead in getting a city vaccinated, Mayor Lucas said, and the community operation at Morning Star is lighting the way out of pandemic darkness.

"Everybody here has shown a path, not just for this organization but for so many others throughout Kansas City and throughout Missouri," he said.

How do you convince people who might fear or doubt the vaccine to get their shot?

"You keep showing them," Lucas said. "You make it easier. You reduce barriers. You come to their neighbor-



Sen. Blunt is guided on a tour of the clinic by Janet Miles-Bartee, LINC Executive Vice President.



Sen. Blunt meets with soldiers of the Missouri National Guard.

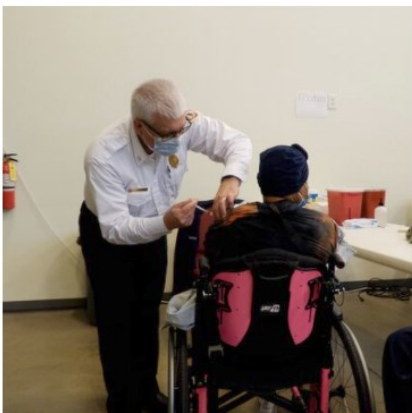
hood. You work with them. You talk to their community.”

And then, he added, “when you have enough folks who say, ‘Well, I got it and it worked for me and it was real easy and they made it painless . . . and I got food’ — that’s how we keep doing it. We replicate this. We make it a place where you know that every day Morning Star is going to be here. The Family Life Center will be here. LINC will be here.”

The prevailing feeling in the room, White said, was “unity.” It’s a collective spirit that the Jackson County Executive said is growing across the city and the county with so many community forces joining to inspire and deliver vaccinations.

“The only way to beat Covid is to get our shots,” White said, and the example set by Pastor Miles and LINC Executive Vice President Janet Miles-Bartee is “amazing.”

“It takes a lot of people to bring this together,” he said. “I’m glad to show the unity that we all see and feel to get this job done.”



Morning Star-LINC partnership delivers COVID-19 vaccinations, food to East Kansas City

The Local Investment Commission (LINC) and Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church joined forces to serve the community at the Morning Star Youth and Family Life Center at 27th and Prospect Avenue. First, families needed healthy food when schools were shut down during the pandemic. Then vulnerable residents in hard-hit and underserved Kansas City neighborhoods needed access to COVID-19 vaccinations. See more photos, videos and updates at kclinc.org/lincmorningstar

Total Vaccinations

14,698

February 2021
3000 vaccinations. With the Missouri National Guard and Truman Medical Centers.

March-April 2021
More than 11,000 vaccinations. With the Missouri National Guard and the Kansas City Fire Dept.



**MORNINGSTAR'S
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Total Food Distribution

104,059 lbs

December 2020

With Harvesters, Kanbe's Markets, Church of the Resurrection
39,335 pounds of food, serving 612 families, 2,671 individuals

March-April 2021

With Community Action, Harvesters
64,500 pounds of food, serving 1,000 families, 4,400 individuals.

More than 1,600 Families and 6,900 Individuals



The Morning Star Baptist, LINC partnership

Since Feb. 4, Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church and the Local Investment Commission (LINC) have teamed up to run a vaccination clinic that has delivered thousands and thousands of Covid-19 shots for neighborhoods and populations that have been historically neglected and have suffered disproportionate illness and death during the pandemic.

The clinic has been operating five to six days a week inside the church's Youth and Family Life Center at 27th Street and Prospect Avenue in Kansas City.

This is the same corner of the city where an HBO documentary in the mid 1990s focused its deep exploration of violence fueled by drugs and gangs that resulted in 154 homicides citywide. Morning Star pastor, Rev. John Modest Miles, after each death that year, embedded one white cross after another in the vacant lot where the community center now stands.

The center, since it opened in 2016, has keyed the revival of this resilient part of the city, turning this corner into an oasis of public service, health and empowerment.

Truman Medical Centers, when it set up temporary vaccination clinics in late January, partnered with Morning Star to deliver vaccines for east Kansas City. Then Pastor Miles, and LINC Executive Vice President Janet Miles-Bartee, Miles' daughter, saw an opportunity for Morning Star and LINC to team up to do more.

Pastor Miles opened conversations with Missouri Gov. Mike Parson's office and immediately the Missouri National Guard dispatched a vaccination team to Morning Star. LINC provided management and staff and soon the operation was drawing in hundreds of residents a day.

In mid-March, the clinic increased its vaccination capacity when the Kansas City Fire Department provided specially trained paramedics to add to the National Guard team.

Learn more at kclinc.org/lincmorningstar and at kclinc.org.

The Local Investment Commission is a 501(c)3 non-profit that leverages state funds to provide programs and resources to improve the lives of children and families in the Kansas City region. LINC's core services are its Caring Communities programs in partnership with six Kansas City-area school districts and two charter schools.

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, established in 1946, is a congregation committed to ministering to the whole person. The church provides spiritual services and also provides food to the community weekly and clothing and other needs every month. It also works with courts in amnesty programs to help residents to shed traffic warrants and other legal burdens. In a collaborative effort with its community, the church opened the Youth and Family Life Center on Sept. 4, 2016.

'I came to lead the way;' See the faces of people getting vaccines at Morning Star

April 2, 2021

Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



Thousands are getting vaccines at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, including (left to right) Tara Raghuveer, Qadhafi, Elie Hudson, Howard Hanna and Paul Washington.

They were restaurant workers, community organizers, neighbors . . .

They came to get their Covid-19 vaccination — certainly because they wanted to protect themselves and others — but also with a sense of obligation to put their faces out front against fear and doubt.

“I came to lead the way,” said the man who goes by the name Qadhafi. He is a spokesman for the Kansas City Homeless Union, and knows he could encourage many of the people he knows, many of them living in camps where they are especially vulnerable to Covid, yet many of them suspicious of vaccines.

He needed to find out for himself, so he joined the lines of people who have been coming to the Youth and Family Life Center at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, where more than 12,000 vaccinations have been injected into arms since early March.

“I came to deem it safe,” he said.

LINC and the church together have been reaching out into the communities surrounding the center at 27th and Prospect, targeting east and central Kansas City populations that have been most harmed by the coronavirus and which are also more difficult to connect to vaccination opportunities.

During the last week of March, one of the groups the church

Learn more:

kclinc.org/lincmorningstar



reached was KC Tenants, coordinating with the advocacy group for renters to bring in their members, who often live in crowded conditions and work in the service industry.

KC Tenants member Elie Hudson, 25, came for the opportunity to help lead others from groups of people she says have suffered too much already.

“I wanted to make sure I can protect myself and my community,” she said. “I don’t want any more senseless harm and deaths on my community.”

Howard Hanna, like many of the people in KC Tenants, works in a restaurant and has to interact with people. So the 45-year-old Kansas Citian came to Morning Star when he was offered an appointment.

“I have to be around the public,” he said. “So this is going to feel a lot safer and a lot better knowing I’m vaccinated.”

Tara Raghuvver, the director of KC Tenants, also made an appointment.

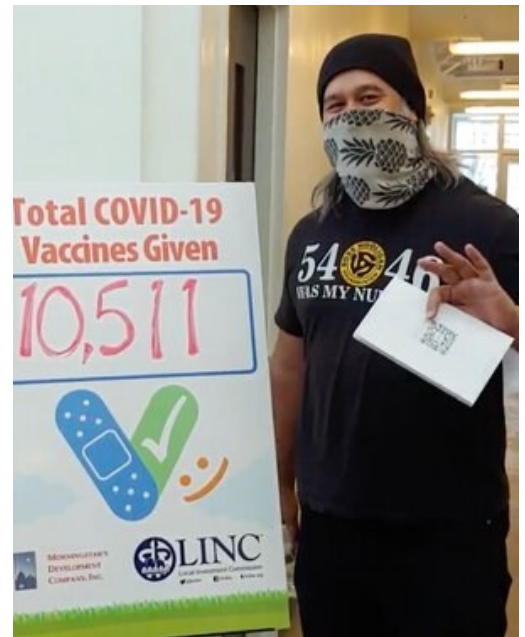
“I am so grateful for LINC and Morning Star Baptist and all the community partners who are putting on this event,” she said. “It is really important that all of us who are able to and comfortable with it get vaccinated to protect our neighbors.”

Paul Washington, 35, drove up from Grandview with his wife, and they took turns going through the vaccination process while the other parent sat with their child in their car.

It was worth the trip, he said, and he was comforted by what he saw in many faces of others getting their vaccinations and so many helpers gathered to make it happen.

“I appreciate events like this where folks can come out who might not necessarily get access to (a vaccination),” he said.

“I appreciate community.”



Cleaver: Witnessing community-building 'as great or greater than I have ever seen'

April 1, 2021

Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



LINC's Janet Miles-Bartee leads Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II through the vaccination room at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church's Youth and Family Life Center.

Just the vaccination operation alone under way here at 27th and Prospect in Kansas City outshined anything Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II said he has seen in his national view as a U.S. Congressman.

But what is happening at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church's Youth and Family Life Center is so much more, he said.

"This is absolutely amazing," Cleaver said after touring the center to see how the church's partnership with LINC has marshaled so many resources to get thousands vaccinated, fed and comforted against the pandemic.

"This is as great, if not greater, than anything I have ever seen as it relates to Covid," Cleaver said. "(And) this is not just a Covid project. This is a community-building project."

Cleaver was touring the facility along with former State Sen. Kiki Curls March 31, and they saw more Kansas Citians prepping to join the thousands who have already received more than 11,000 vaccinations here. They also saw the lineup of cars outside filing through to receive meat, vegetables, breads and desserts from a service that has distributed more than 100,000 pounds of food.

These were neighbors reached by the wide net of care that the church and its partners have cast into east Kansas City. These communities have been historically underserved, hurt most by the pandemic and hardest to reach with vaccines.

The operation only continues to grow, the Rev. John Modest Miles told Cleaver and Curls.

"There is no ending in sight as long as the people keep coming," Miles said. "And as you can see now, the people are coming."

LINC staff are helping the church draw in people who need the vaccine, said LINC Executive Vice President Janet Miles-Bartee.

“We’re bringing people in from the bus stop,” she said. “We’re bringing people in from the streets.”

A bank of phone operators and schedulers map out the week’s appointments, figuring that the team of vaccinators from the Missouri National Guard and the Kansas City Fire Department can take care of 106 people per hour, Miles-Bartee said.

“(The church and LINC team) have been very strategic in how we schedule,” she said. “People are not standing in long lines.”

Curls praised the efficiency of the work.

“Obviously, what’s happening here is phenomenal,” Curls said. “I certainly believe it is probably the largest operation here, certainly with the vaccine and food distribution.”

Capt. Tony Rich of the Missouri Air National Guard, in the March LINC Commission meeting, described the work that his unit has done in the vaccination mission as “the height of my experience” in a dozen years of military service.

Morning Star, LINC and their partners are “force multipliers,” Rich said. It’s a military term to describe a team that accomplishes exponentially more than what is otherwise possible.

After the visit, driving the Congressman in his vehicle out of the Morning Star parking lot, Cleaver’s aide had to navigate past the pedestrians and the traffic flowing in and out — as the people kept coming.



Cleaver and former State Sen. Kiki Curls visit a preparation room at Morning Star.



Teams distribute food outside the Youth and Family Life Center at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church.



LINC is strongly committed to the new Office of Childhood.

LINC will work diligently to make the reorganization a success benefiting the community and all we serve.

However . . .

Challenge

The FY22 budget proposes moving \$5.3 million to DESE from DSS, which currently funds LINC’s overall Caring Communities initiative.

LINC: LINC is a community-based nonprofit organization with a long history of providing workforce development, community outreach, education, and social services through well-established partnerships including several school districts — Kansas City (Mo.), Hickman Mills, Grandview, North Kansas City, Center, and Fort Osage — and Genesis and Tolbert charter schools. LINC’s primary catchment area is in Jackson, Clay, and Platte counties, with some initiatives reaching beyond that area.

- LINC has consistently connected its work in schools to its work in workforce development, removing key barriers for adults ready to enter the workforce and supporting working adults by connecting them to available social services, mental health, and legal services as well as afterschool care.
- LINC has used state funding to support its Caring Communities initiative, which uses a “community school” model — schools are an anchor institution to deliver family supports, including food distribution, utility assistance, and household access to distance learning and technology.
- Through Caring Communities, LINC site coordinators provide timely responses to community health needs relating to asthma, diabetes, and community-based access to health care as well as COVID-19 vaccinations (over 11,000 shots and counting).

Request

- Unbundle LINC’s Caring Communities funding from Office of Childhood School Age Afterschool Program funding and allow LINC to continue to be funded at the same level of TANF-related funding through DSS to support LINC’s “as is” community initiatives.
- Move \$5.3 million of General Revenue, currently proposed to be transferred from DSS to DESE, back to DSS to allow DSS to continue to fund LINC as part of its TANF initiative.



LINC Support of School Districts During COVID19

LINC is supporting our school district partners during COVID19 in a variety of ways which are outlined below.

Academic and School Support

LINC site coordinators are mentoring students who they have worked with at the LINC Caring Communities sites providing extra support for the children and families. The site coordinators are helping children with their virtual learning and school assignments they may not understand. This includes bilingual support for non-English speaking households. We have also been involved in book distributions to children at events, outdoor library boxes and front porch book deliveries. We also have assisted with distribution of printed work packets. LINC site coordinators also have worked with school principals to clean, pack and prepare dedicated LINC building space for custodial cleaning.

Lesson Plans

Several LINC Caring Communities sites are funded by 21st Century Community Learning Center federal funds. This funding source significantly reduces the school direct costs for the LINC Caring Communities programs, but it also involves significant compliance activities including providing documentation of weekly activities and lessons plan tied to state standards. LINC has used this time to develop a library of nearly 1,000 lesson plans as a requirement of the grant but which can support quality programming when out-of-school time programming resumes. The lesson plans are being developed for all LINC sites.

Technology

LINC site coordinators have supported children and families with technology needs and challenges. This includes delivery of computers, hot spots and connecting families to school district resources. We are providing support for virtual learning.

Connecting with Children and Families

LINC site coordinators are maintaining contact with children and families with social media posts, notes and letters to students. These include Facebook Live streaming events, videos and activity links for students and parents. LINC has shared opportunities to stay involved with LINC after-school programs previously available including virtual chess, Read-Alouds, arts and crafts, math, Scouting (boys and girls), Girls on the Run, Harmony Project KC, Bike Walk and other opportunities.

Food Distribution and Emergency Assistance

LINC site coordinators have gone to families' homes and delivered meals, diapers, milk and many other necessities. They also supported school district food distribution efforts. These efforts have included working with Harvesters and faith-based organizations. Household contact has included welfare checks and connecting families with supportive services and emergency assistance including utility assistance.

Part-Time Staff Furlough

In mid-March, LINC had a part-time staff working in the LINC Caring Communities program of approximately 475 employees. LINC paid its part-time staff for approximately eight weeks at an organizational cost of \$800,000 to provide the part-time staff some ongoing financial support given the abrupt closure of schools. LINC part-time staff were furloughed on May 1. LINC filed a "mass claim" unemployment filing to make it easier for furloughed staff to obtain unemployment insurance including the opportunity for the \$600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefit. Many of the part-time staff furloughed live, or have children, in the school district.

Service Integration Under One Office

4



Safety



Health



Education

- Home Visiting
- Child Care (Subsidy)
- Professional Development

- Home Visiting
- Child Care (Licensing)
- Safe Sleep and Safe Cribs
- Parent Advisory Council
- Professional Development

- Home Visiting
- Quality Rating System
- First Steps
- Pre-K
- Professional Development



- One team will continue to provide these services
- Approx. 145 employees
- Est. \$660 million budget for FY 2022

New Office Timeline & Milestones



Date	Action
January 28	Reorganization Executive Orders signed, press conference announcement
60 days from Executive Orders signed	Reorganization <u>not</u> rejected by General Assembly, then proceed forward
April 1 (Tentative)	Phase 2 integration effort launched
August 13 (Tentative)	Integration ready
August 28	Day 1: Office of Childhood established!

North Kansas City Schools goes big on early childhood education

March 26, 2021

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



It's a small crew, embarked on this first voyage across the wide open sea of North Kansas City Schools' new Early Education Center.

But the thrill of first adventures fills these warm learning spaces with the promise of so many more adventures in store for the hundreds of children who will follow them here in the years to come.

Many "first successes" happen here, said principal Sarah Monfore. She sees the child "who takes their first step . . . makes their first friend, says their first word . . ." and who will "walk into kindergarten" confident and ready.

So goes "the joy" of watching the more than 300 pre-schoolers, three and four years old, who in January were the first to see what DLR Group architects and the district's design team did with this former retail space at 6479 N. Prospect in Gladstone, said program director Katie Lawson.

More than 1,000 children will fill the center when it reaches its capacity, Lawson said, and more than ever North Kansas City Schools is primed to give "every child a quality start on their educational journey."

The school district, which needed to consolidate and expand its varied early childhood programs, was able to purchase the vacant Hobby Lobby and Price Chopper retail spaces for \$4 million. And in June 2020, district residents passed a \$155 million bond issue dedicating \$24 million to the early childhood project.

The community and the district leadership were unified in their belief in the power of early education, Lawson said.

And she was quoting Assistant Superintendent Chad Evans, she said, when she called the early childhood center “the heartbeat of the district.”

“We touch every family,” she said.

Said Monfore: “We want their first experience to be positive. We want them to remember us when they are in high school.”

The center is designed with the notion that education can be sparked and experienced anywhere. Classrooms are separated not by solid walls but by windows that spread the classes’ energy into expansive hallways, which hold surprising nooks and crannies.

These creative outlets evoke “mountaintops,” “caving spaces” and “campfires,” Lawson said.

The teachers were given a peek at the new center in December, special education teacher Megan Smith said.

“Everyone was oohing and ahing,” she said.

The center brings multiple early learning programs and professionals together to make collaboration easier than ever for teachers, physical and occupational therapists, and speech therapists, Smith said.

Previously, the programs were always struggling against being siloed, Monfore said. Pre-K classrooms were scattered among elementary schools, with a special education program in Pleasant Valley, a Title I program in another building, a tuition-based classed in Staley High School, and others.

District families can contact the early education department at 816-321-5250 to be screened for the opportunity to enroll children into the nearly 900 slots for free programming, and there are also tuition-paid slots available. Information is also available on the district’s [early education webpage](#).

“This building is an amazing gift,” Lawson said. “It honors the professionals in our building — the teachers, the nurses, the therapists — and the families we serve.”

And they are “breaking down barriers,” Manfore said. “We are re-imagining what we didn’t know was possible.”





2021 Summer Programs

District	Location	Before & After Summer School
Grandview	Conn-West Elem.	June 14–25
Hickman Mills	Ervin Early Learning Ctr.	June 6–July 2
	Warford Elem.	
	Smith-Hale Middle.	
Kansas City	Banneker Elem.	June 21–July 23
	Carver Elem.	
	Foreign Language Academy	
	Hale Cook Elem.	
	James Elem.	
	King Elem.	
	Melcher Elem.	
	Phillips Elem.	
	Wheatley Elem.	
North Kansas City	Topping Elem. @ Maplewood	June 6–24