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Friends,

I am very excited about the opportunities and challenges ahead as Executive Director of Community Assistance Council. I am a longtime south Kansas City resident and served as interim Executive Director of CAC’s sister agency Grandview Assistance Program, so the area and work ahead is quite familiar. Right now I’m planning my route and packing my bags for the journey ahead! I hope many of you will join me as we work to meet the needs of a challenged community. CAC has so many positive things to offer. There is the food pantry of course, and emergency assistance for rent or utilities to meet immediate needs, but there is also the strengths-based case management to help clients plan and work toward self-sufficiency. There is the clothes closet, the holiday store and weather-related assistance such as coats and fans. There are also our partnered programs of a pantry for those with food allergies through the Food Equality Initiative, diapers through Happy Bottoms, Giving the Basics for hygiene items, medical prescriptions and supplies with Kansas City’s Medicine Cabinet, BackSnacks and TEFAP with Harvester’s. There is a lot of do, and we need the time (volunteers), treasure (food and dollar donations) and talent of supporters along the way. I hope you’ll join me on this journey!

Rachel V. Casey
Executive Director

Thank you from the Board
2018 Board of Directors

John Sharp          President
Doug Smith          Vice-President
Bill Humenczuk      Treasurer

Rev. Darron Edwards Member-at-Large
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Martina Peterson    Member-at-Large
Nicole Williams     Member-at-Large
Rev. Steve Williams Member-at-Large

Staff Members

Rachel Casey        Executive Director
Trina Taylor        Chief Financial Officer

Ann McKelvy         Strengths Based Case Manager
Courtney Brooks     Economic Stability Caseworker
Carol Goodall       Receptionist
The Community Assistance Council (CAC) was founded on the basic principle of “neighbors helping neighbors.”

Since its inception, CAC has continued to enjoy strong community support from area businesses and organizations, as well as individuals with ties to the community. This includes board members, staff and volunteers who all have strong ties to the area and a commitment to improving the community.

**Vision Statement**
To be the premier provider in our community of services and programs for individuals facing economic challenges, guided by the belief that becoming self sufficient will lead to higher quality of life.

**Mission Statement**
To empower individuals and families to achieve self sufficiency through the delivery of direct emergency assistance, education and advocacy.
Our Roots
During the Christmas season of 1972, two churches joined in an effort to make the season happier for less fortunate neighbors. They began a food pantry supported by donations from their congregations. It soon became apparent that there was an ongoing need for more than just a food pantry, but also other forms of assistance.

Our Milestones
Since 1976

1976
- CAC incorporated as a private, not-for-profit entity.

1983
- Carol Bird Owsley hired as first employee.

1991
- Headquarters established at one location: 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd.

1998
- Services expanded. Case management assistance added.

2008
- CAC-Red Bridge Food Pantry opened at St. Peter’s United Church of Christ
To better serve these families, and have the ability to offer additional services, other churches were invited to join in a more comprehensive service system in the Hickman Mills area. In 1976, CAC was formed by this coalition of churches in the belief that by working together, they could better serve their community. Since then, CAC has had several milestones and accomplishments achieved with the help of volunteers and community partners.

- **2009**
  - Received Circle of Hope Award from Harvesters and the Capacity building grant through the Midwest Center for Non-profit Leadership.

- **2010**
  - First formal fundraiser event, Daybreak with CAC: Cultivating Hope

- **2011**
  - Seeds of Hope transitional housing program and Carol's Garden began

- **2013**
  - Award from Support Kansas City for Excellence in Nonprofit Leadership

- **2015**
  - CAC partners with Kansas City Medicine Cabinet

- **2016**
  - Opened the SAFE Pantry. Awarded “Agency of the Year” from Harvesters’ Circle of Hope
Strengths-based Case Management

Strengths-based case management is the foundation of CAC’s self-sufficiency program, which is designed to assist families and individuals facing major housing issues and provides guidance and assistance with setting goals for long-term stability.

Participants in the program commit to a minimum of 6 months. During this period, clients assess their strengths, develop goals to build on those strengths, and improve on any areas they feel they are weak in. CAC’s case manager works with clients to help them determine steps to achieve self-sufficiency.
CAC’s Self-sufficiency and advocacy programs also includes Educational programs on a variety of life skills, and job search assistance.

**Direct Assistance Programs**

CAC’s direct assistance program aims to prevent homelessness by assisting families with critical emergency services and strengths-based case management to help them stabilize their living situation. These include the following services:

**Food Pantry**

Named Harvester’s “Agency of the Year,” in 2016, CAC maintains the largest food pantry serving south Kansas City. Food from the pantry comes from a variety of sources, including individual donations, food drives, the Mid-Continent Library’s “Food for Fines” program, Harvester’s Community Food Network, area churches and businesses, and the personal gardens of community members.

Through a partnership with the Food Equality Initiative, CAC hosts the State of Missouri’s first and only allergy- and Celiac-friendly pantry. Known as the “SAFE pantry,” this pantry allows people with medically-required dietary restrictions to get the food they need.

Through our pantries, we serve over 4,500 unduplicated people in south Kansas City every year.

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**MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERED**

6,194

Total number of Meals on Wheels meals delivered, a value totaling $27,254.

**HAPPYBOTTOMS DISTRIBUTIONS**

24,390

Total number of diapers distributed. 155 Clients served; 118 Families served.
In addition to our primary pantry at our Blue Ridge location, we maintain a satellite pantry at First Baptist Church. Both pantries are run almost exclusively on volunteer labor. Among our volunteers are many long-term, committed superstars who have been with us for 10-20 years!

**The Julia C. Caudle Clothes Closet**
Through our clothing closet, we provide people with work- or school-appropriate clothes, seasonal attire, as well as every day clothes.

Set-up like a thrift store, except free, this allows people in need to get clothing appropriate to their needs. People can come in and "shop" during CAC hours, and can get up to 20 items per visit, two visits per month. In addition to clothing, we are able to provide various other necessities such as small household appliances, toiletries, and more.

**Kansas City’s Medicine Cabinet Services**
Through a partnership with the Kansas City Medicine Cabinet, we are able to provide emergency medical assistance to those in need. This includes filling prescriptions, emergency dental care, eye exams and glasses, and a variety of medical needs.

**Meals on Wheels**
Through a collaboration with Mid-America Regional Council and the Salvation Army, we offer Meals on Wheels to people aged 60 and up who would otherwise struggle to secure food on a consistent basis.

Meals on Wheels provides a hot lunch to seniors every day, Monday–Friday. These meals are delivered through a network of community-minded individuals who each volunteer to take on a route of 12-15 clients one day a week. While dropping off meals, volunteers regularly report building meaningful and lasting relationships with the people receiving meals.
Utility/Housing Assistance
The goal of the utility and rental assistance is to provide a short term solution to start the process of breaking the cycle of poverty. Clients are encouraged to set goals for long term self-sufficiency, independence and financial fitness. This includes enhancing computer skills, obtaining employment, and rebuilding credit, among other steps. Long-term case management is available to those seeking assistance on this journey.

Seasonal Programs
CAC offers seasonal programs to assist individuals and families in specific seasonal situations. The following programs are part of CAC’s Seasonal Programs:

BackSnack Program
Weekend meals are provided food insecure elementary school children of the Hickman Mills C-1 School District.

Thanksgiving Food
Food for a holiday meal is available to families.

Holiday Store
Families have the opportunity to shop for gifts and receive food for a holiday meal.

Fans
Electric fans distributed to eligible families during summer months.

School Supplies
School supplies and uniforms are distributed to area students to start the school year, and available throughout the year to supplement school needs.

Weather-Related Programs
CAC offers a variety of weather-related programs and services including distributing blankets, space heaters, coats, gloves, mittens, hats and scarves in the winter; and distributing fans in the summer. To be able to do this, we require the support of the numerous businesses, churches and individuals who host drives for in-kind gifts.
Total Income

- **Contributions**: $159,190 (26%)
- **In-kind Contributions**: $272,430 (45%)
- **Gain on Sale of Surplus Property**: $15,221 (3%)
- **Government Grants & Contracts**: $123,998 (21%)
- **Other income**: $19,886 (3%)
- **Special Events**: $12,507 (2%)

The following summary of financial information is derived from the audited statements of activities and financial position for CAC for the year.
INCOME BY SOURCE

TOTAL EXPENSES

*Fundraising*
$13,576

*Management & General*
$101,782
18%

*Program Services*
$465,474
80%
PROGRAM SERVICES EXPENSES

- Food Pantry: $183,057
- Utility Assistance: $74,795
- Other Client Services: $50,668
- Clothes Closet: $47,682
- Homeless Case Management: $31,563
- Housing Assistance: $30,366
- Seasonal Programs: $28,502
- Home Delivered Meals: $9,887
- Transitional Housing: $8,954
Get in touch

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