



This Thanksgiving We're Thankful for YOU

As we approach Thanksgiving, all of us at Synergy Services—our staff and those we serve—are pausing to think about all of YOU who make healing and hope possible through Synergy.

We want to say **thank you** for making sure that abused children have a place to go where they can feel safe and loved and have some hope of breaking the cycle of violence they were born into. **Thank you** for remembering the often forgotten teens who are facing the challenges of adolescence while trying to survive without the stability of family support. **Thank you** for showing the families at our Domestic Violence Center that they are not alone, and for giving them the help they need to be safe today while figuring out how to be strong tomorrow.



Providing safe shelter and the many services needed to effect healing and change can be a daunting task. And we certainly couldn't do it without each and every one of you. Through your gifts of dollars, time and basic necessities like food and clothing you have added to the ripples of change that create brighter futures for a whole lot of individuals, families and our community.



Thanks for Standing Up for Synergy

Of the many ways you support Synergy's work, one of the most fun is special events. And Stand Up for Synergy, held earlier this month, definitely falls into the fun category! Beyond the laughs, this evening of stand-up comedy also raises an incredible amount of money--this year over \$425,000--to enable our work. We are so grateful to the many sponsors and supporters who made this record-breaking evening possible! **Check out photos from the night here....**

We also want to thank and recognize Peggy Schmitt who we honored at this year's event. She is an amazing community leader who really never sits down in her commitment to standing up for others. Peggy and her team at North Kansas City Hospital stand up daily for survivors of family violence. They work tirelessly to provide the supports necessary to help survivors flee unsafe situations. Her career started as a nurse and has evolved into the CEO of North Kansas City Hospital. She has exemplified kindness in leadership every step of the way. Thank you, Peggy, for standing up for survivors of family violence!

Together We Can Do So Much

Money makes the world go round, as they say, and it is certainly needed to keep operations running smoothly at Synergy. We are so grateful to the **680 individuals, 129 companies, 108 community organizations and 24 foundations** who together provided more than **\$2.3 million** in financial support last year that kept the lights on and the services flowing for thousands in our community. Volunteer help is another critical cog in the wheel. With impossibly stretched staff resources, volunteers help bridge the gaps and ensure high-quality services for all in our care. And because people fleeing family violence often come to us with only the clothes they are wearing, we couldn't operate without your donations of basic necessities like clothing, hygiene products and household goods. No matter how you help, we truly could not do it without you.

Take a look at just a few of the inspiring people, groups and businesses supporting Synergy....and know that we are truly thankful for all the ways you help us in creating safety and support to end family violence.

Individuals



As any parent knows, keeping kids fed is a never ending task. We couldn't do it without volunteers like **Debbie Gupta**, who prepares a meal once a week at our youth shelter.



The children staying with us feel the love when they snuggle up in these cozy blankets handmade by **Riverside Mayor, Kathy Rose**, and her 96-years-young mother-in-law, **Leta**.



Beverly Boney provides hands-on help at our Children's Center rocking babies and giving older kids one-on-one attention. She also established a library for the kids and is a wonderful ambassador for Synergy.

Businesses



Children in shelter often worry that Santa won't be able to find them. Thanks to generous support from people like Drs. Doris & Eugene Fortuna and their annual toy drive at **Fortuna Chiropractic Clinic** these kids can forget their worries for a while and experience the joy of the season.



Aramark brings both fun and practical help to the teens at our Youth Resiliency Center grilling dinner and playing yard games with them, while also donating the dollars needed to purchase basic necessities like haircare products, towels, washcloths and undergarments.



Citi and its employees show they care through gardening, meals, and fun events like a yearly Fall festival and the very popular Polar Express party at both our Children's Center and Domestic Violence Center. Santa brings new pjs and blankets for all the women and children in shelter followed by a special meal, crafts and a festive viewing of the Polar Express movie.

Community Groups



No job is too big or small for the volunteers from **The Apartment Association of Kansas City**. They tackle the mundane--meal prep, yard work, routine maintenance; and also make sure our clients get to have some fun--pumpkin carving, making gingerbread houses and biking on a new path they created in the backyard of the Domestic Violence Center.



Our youth campus looks and functions better thanks to the volunteers from **Northside Christian Church!** The back patio is now a wonderful retreat thanks to their work repairing the tops of the picnic tables, installing a sun shade and creating a group circle, and their landscaping and painting efforts give everything a cared for feel. Their commitment to our teen clients extends to the holidays when they provide gifts for everyone!



The **Softball Team from MCC Maple Woods campus** are regular supporters of our work and always ready to answer the call for help. When we called them in a bind this fall, Coach canceled practice and the team came right over to help prepare an apartment for a homeless young client.

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