

Westside 20th Back to School Pep Rally for Westside's students Pre-K to 12!



"Students and parents expressed gratitude for this great event. For the last 20 years we have been able to provide backpacks/school supplies to all the students that live or attend any of our Westside Schools," said Jorge Coromac, Executive Director Westside Community Action Center.

**BY JORGE COROMAC
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WESTSIDE COMMUNITY
ACTION CENTER**

Thank you for the amazing support of volunteers and partner organizations on July 30, 2021. Students of the Westside came to celebrate the 20th Back to School Pep Rally in the Westside-Tony Aguirre Community Center. Students and parents expressed deepest gratitude for this great event. For the last 20 years we have been able to provide backpacks/school supplies to all the students that live or attend any of our Westside Schools!

Special thanks goes to donors that helped us to sponsor this event such as Tony Aguirre Community Center/Parks and Rec, Arvest Bank, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Rotary Club 13, The Friends of the Westside (S.Burnnet, R.Farris, C. Augustine, T. Platt, B.Dolci, T. Roberts. Town Topic, I. Munoz) Up Up Away, KCPD and KCPD/WCAN Officers Salzman and Villalobos, The City of Kansas City and Outside Agencies/ Jackson County.

Forty seven volunteer helped with the planning, set up, implementation and clean up after the event. They contributed 282 hours of volunteer service hours.

Many organizations came to celebrate



the new school year 2021-2022 and share information with all the students in regards to how each organization can support the academic success of each student. Deepest gratitude to all these organizations: 311, Pet Source KC, Happy Bottoms, Consulado de México-Ventanilla de Salud, Lakeside Nature Center, KC Ride Bus Services, Balloon Artists, Literacy KC, Piedra Lawyer Services, KC Library Bookmobile and Tech. Resources, Truman Medical Center, Fire Fighter Smoke Detector and Fire Fighter Station 7-Westside, Friends of the Library, KC Girls

Prep. Academy, Family Conservancy, Irene H Ruiz Biblioteca de las Américas.

Mary Johns, mother of four students, expressed "my gratitude to the organizers, to Westside CAN Center and to all the organizations that made this possible to provide valuable resources and backpacks to my students and all Westside students... Thank You!"

To continue preventing the spreading of the Coronavirus, this year we set up everything outside the Tony Aguirre Community Center (2050 West

Pennway KCMO 64108).

Parent or guardian were required to have an ID, utility bill or child must have a student ID to verify Westside residency or school attendance. Parents and students will start coming at 4 pm.

Westside CAN Center required the parents and children/students stay as a group during the event and when they pick up the backpacks. Besides the school supplies and backpacks, each student received a Covid-19 preventive kit that includes: 2 washable masks, a set of disposable masks, 1 bottle of hand

sanitizer and 1 bottle of disinfecting wipes. This year all students will also receive a dictionary.

They encourage all organization participants to include a brief description of services that organizations have online, or by any of the following media: zoom, facetime, team meet, what's app, in-person by appointment or other alternatives.

Participants not vaccinated were required to wear a mask and keep social distance at all times as much as possible. For volunteers and partner organizations we will have extra masks at the registration table.

Westside CAN Center really appreciate all volunteers and partner organizations for their support to the students in this new school year 21/22. It was different, but we showed our students that we are here for them and ready to help and support their academic success.

To learn more about the Westside CAN Center programs and projects or to become a volunteer or sponsor contact Jorgec@westsidecan.org or visit www.westsidecan.org

