



Westside

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CAN, pudimos incluir en todas las mochilas el 100% de los útiles escolares que el distrito escolar de KCMO requería para este año. No hay palabras para expresar nuestro más profundo agradecimiento a todos los voluntarios, padres de familia y estudiantes que asistieron al evento".

El Centro Comunitario Tony Aguirre, Irene Ruiz, los oficiales de Westside KCPD y Westside CAN Center trabajan todo el año para brindar servicios y programas importantes a los niños y familias de la comunidad de Westside, como el evento de Regreso a Clases. Durante los últimos 23 años, los voluntarios incansables y las organizaciones asociadas han hecho su mejor esfuerzo para apoyar el éxito de los estudiantes y estamos viendo un tremendo resultado en el éxito de los estudiantes, comentó Coromac.

Los estudiantes y los padres expresaron su más profunda gratitud por este gran evento. ¡Durante los últimos 23 años, hemos podido proporcionar mochilas/útiles escolares a todos los estudiantes que viven o asisten a cualquiera de las escuelas del Westside! Todas las siguientes organizaciones vinieron a ofrecer su apoyo a los estudiantes y padres de familia, no solo para este evento, sino durante el año escolar:

Arvest Bank, Rotary Club 13, Friends of the Westside CAN, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Woodland Charity, Hall Family Foundation, Hispanic Development Fund, KC Library Bookmobile, KCMO Health Department, Westside Fire Fighter, Friends of the Library, Family Conservancy, Primitivo Garcia Elementary School, Wage and Hours, OSHA, Hernandez Law, KC Gils Prep, Habitat KC, pet Source, Great Jobs KC, KC Chiefs Training Lab, Crossroads Charter School, Jackson County - Outside Agencies, the City of Kansas City, Parks and Rec.

"Westside CAN Center desea expresar su más profundo agradecimiento a todos los voluntarios y organizaciones por su apoyo a los estudiantes en este nuevo año escolar 24/25", dijo Coromac. "Nuestro compromiso es continuar equipando a todos los estudiantes con insumos que los prepararán para su éxito académico".



Para obtener más información sobre los programas y proyectos del Westside CAN Center, o para ser un voluntario o patrocinador, comuníquese con Jorge Coromac mandando un correo a Jorgec@westsidecan.org o visite www.westsidecan.org.



ing every year and doing a great academic performance," said Jorge Coromac, director of Westside CAN Center. "Thanks to partner organizations, sponsors and friends of the Westside CAN we were able to put in all backpacks 100% of schools supplies that KCMO school district required for this year. There are no words to express our deepest gratitude to all volunteers, parents and students that came to the event."

Tony Aguirre Community Center, Irene Ruiz, Westside KCPD Officers and Westside CAN Center work year round to provide important services and programming to the children and families of the Westside community such as the Back to School. For the last 23 years, tireless volunteers and partner organization put together their best effort to support the success of the students and we are seeing tremendous result in the success of the students, commented Coromac.

Students and parents expressed deepest gratitude for this great event. For the last 23 years, we have been able to provide backpacks/school supplies to all the students the live or attend any of the Westside Schools.

All these wonderful organizations came to offer their support to the students and parents not only for this event but during the school year:

Arvest Bank, Rotary Club 13, Friends of the Westside CAN, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Woodland Charity, Hall Family Foundation, Hispanic Development Fund, KC Library Bookmobile, KCMO Health Department, Westside Fire Fighter, Friends of the Library, Family Conservancy, Primitivo Garcia Elementary School, Wage and Hours, OSHA, Hernandez Law, KC Gils Prep, Habitat



KC, pet Source, Great Jobs KC, KC Chiefs Training Lab, Crossroads Charter School, Jackson County - Outside Agencies, the City of Kansas City, Parks and Rec.

"Westside CAN Center would like to express deepest appreciation to all volunteers and partner organizations for their support to the students in this new school year 24/25," Coromac said. "Our commitment continues to equip all students with supplies that will prepare them for their academic success."

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

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Editorial Opinión

Local efforts to end homelessness Esfuerzos locales para acabar con la falta de vivienda

Los comisionados del condado de Johnson proponen utilizar unos 10,5 millones de dólares de los fondos federales de ayuda para la pandemia para comprar, renovar y reutilizar un antiguo espacio vacante de La Quinta y el restaurante Denny's cerrado adyacente. La propiedad de Lenexa se convertiría en un refugio y centro de servicios para personas sin hogar en todo el condado, que ofrece camas de emergencia y viviendas de transición, apoyo de salud mental, asistencia para la vivienda, desarrollo de la fuerza laboral y más.

El condado espera cerrar la propiedad en octubre. Sujeto a la aprobación de Lenexa y a la obtención de 500.000 dólares adicionales para los gastos operativos anuales, el refugio podría abrir el próximo verano.

El condado de Johnson no está solo. Las comunidades de todo el país están luchando por abordar la falta de vivienda local. Es una crisis sanitaria y humanitaria nacional. Un número récord de personas (653.104) estuvieron sin hogar en una sola noche en enero de 2023, un 12,1% más que en 2022, según el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano.

En junio, Kansas City, Kansas, inauguró

Johnson County Commissioners propose using some \$10.5 million in federal pandemic relief funds to purchase, renovate and repurpose a vacant former La Quinta space and adjacent closed Denny's restaurant. The Lenexa property would become a county-wide homeless shelter and service center, offering emergency beds and transitional housing, mental health support, housing assistance, workforce development and more.

The county expects to close on the property in October. Contingent on approval from Lenexa and securing an additional \$500,000 for annual operating expenses, the shelter could open next summer.

Johnson County isn't alone. Communities nationwide are scrambling to address local homelessness. It's a national health and humanitarian crisis. A record number of people—653,104—experienced homelessness on a single night in January 2023, up 12.1% over 2022, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In June, Kansas City, Kan., opened Eden



Eden Village en la comunidad de Argentine. Esta pequeña aldea privada de viviendas ofrece alojamiento permanente y apoyo a 23 personas.

Al otro lado de la frontera estatal, el Proyecto Comunitario de Veteranos alberga a veteranos militares estadounidenses en riesgo y sin hogar en pequeñas casas completamente amuebladas. Fundada en 2016 por un grupo de veteranos de guerra, la organización está construyendo proyectos de vivienda para veteranos adicionales en todo el estado en St. Louis y en Colorado, Oklahoma, Dakota del Sur y Wisconsin. También brindan servicios estratégicos para ayudar a los veteranos a lograr una estabilidad permanente.

Es alentador ver que las comunidades individuales exploran enfoques holísticos e innovadores para ayudar y albergar a sus personas sin hogar. Se han dado cuenta de que no hay una solución única para todos; no hay una única solución porque las causas de la falta de vivienda son innumerables y las circunstancias personales de cada individuo son diferentes.

A bordar el problema de manera ambiciosa y embarcarse en un plan es problemático, pero los municipios avanzan y aprenden sobre la marcha. ¿Quién, por ejemplo, soporta la carga financiera de financiar los programas de refugio? El condado de Johnson anticipa que su refugio necesitará alrededor de \$1.5 millones durante los primeros años.

¿Cómo se selecciona un sitio y qué sucede si los residentes se oponen a que haya un refugio para personas sin hogar en su vecindario? ¿Quién establece la seguridad del refugio y otros protocolos de seguridad? ¿El refugio estará diseñado para acomodar a personas con discapacidades?

Los obstáculos para crear refugios que satisfagan las necesidades de la población sin hogar son muchos, pero no insuperables. Cada desafío, cada revés, estimula el ingenio y un enfoque nuevo. Tenemos un largo camino por recorrer para erradicar la falta de vivienda, pero hemos dado un paso adelante.

Village in the Argentine community. The private, tiny-home hamlet provides permanent housing and support for 23 people.

Across the state line, the Veterans Community Project houses at-risk and homeless U.S. military veterans in fully furnished tiny houses. Founded in 2016 by a group of combat veterans, the organization's building additional veteran housing projects across the state in St. Louis and in Colorado, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin. They also provide strategic services to help veterans achieve permanent stability.

It's encouraging to see individual communities exploring holistic, innovative approaches to help and house their homeless. They've realized that one size does not fit all; there's no single solution because the causes of homelessness are myriad, each individual's personal circumstances are different.

Ambitiously tackling the problem and embarking on a plan is problematic, but municipalities forge ahead, learning as they go. Who, for instance, bears the financial burden of funding shelter programs? Johnson County anticipates that its shelter will need about \$1.5 million the first few years.

How is a site selected, and what happens if there's pushback from residents who don't want a homeless shelter in their neighborhood? Who establishes shelter security and other safety protocols? Will the shelter be designed to accommodate people with disabilities?

The obstacles to creating shelters that meet the needs of the homeless population are many but not insurmountable. Each challenge, each setback excites resourcefulness and a fresh approach. We've got a long way to go to eradicating homelessness, but we've made a start.

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