



UNITED WAY
Greater Kansas City



KC STRONG FUND IMPACT

February 14, 2025

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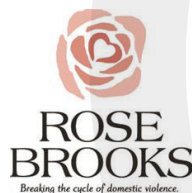
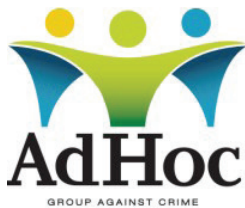
ONE YEAR LATER

In June 2024, United Way of Greater Kansas City distributed funds in excess of \$2M, raised from more than 4,000 generous individuals who pledged support to the KC Strong fund in the aftermath of the February 14th Super Bowl Parade tragedy.

\$1.2M in direct assistance was provided to 20 fully verified gunshot victims with payments ranging between \$22,000 and \$100,000 per individual. Additionally, United Way invested \$831,750.61 equally across 14 community organizations, which continues to have impacts to this day for tens of thousands across our region.

At the end of 2024, we asked each of those 14 nonprofits to share a brief impact summary and anecdotal success stories experienced since receiving KC Strong funds.

Those impact statements have been summarized and are provided in the following pages.



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IMPACT FOR NONPROFIT GRANTEES

AdHoc Group Against Crime

Impact Summary: Kansas City's violence epidemic remains robust and families deserve relief from the terror and trauma. AdHoc serves families of homicide victims, as well as victims of intentional injury and their families, so the urgency of AdHoc's services to grieving families in 2024 was as great as ever. Last year, the organization provided mental health, case management, cognitive behavioral interventions, and emergency relocation to more than 600 unique individuals, a significant and growing need for help from the community.

Successes: Increased, unrestricted funding allowed the organization to be nimble and impactful when families needed help to escape a dangerous situation or help from a traumatizing event.

A recent client "Donna's" son "Tyrone" had criminal involvement due to gang activity and had been incarcerated. Tyrone was released early and his previous associates believed that meant he worked with law enforcement and wanted retribution. They ambushed Tyrone and shot him repeatedly. Miraculously, after a month long hospitalization, he survived. But Donna was terrified for her family and son's safety. AdHoc was the first organization she reached out to that was willing to provide meaningful assistance. The organization's Community Intervention team worked to relocate the family to be near relatives, away from the violence threatening them. AdHoc paid for a moving truck and the security deposit for the family to move into a new home. Donna is still receiving free counseling and mental health support from AdHoc.

Another client, Jose, a father of two, was the victim of violence that left him with a permanent injury and chronic pain. AdHoc connected Jose with a therapist for PTSD treatment, as well as financial assistance. Jose shared, "AdHoc was there for me every step of the way."

The safety and support provided to these individuals as part of their healing journey is possible because of United Way support made available through the KC Strong fund.

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kansas City

Impact Summary: The Boys & Girls Club impacts the lives of thousands of Kansas City youth in the urban core and other economically disadvantaged areas of the metro. Its comprehensive approach helps ensure participants stay on track socially and academically, decreasing risk of gang involvement, drug use or violence and dropping out of school. The KC Strong funding helped fortify and grow the organization's daily work in the Clubs with tweens and teens. One key metric from the SMART Moves program shows 79% of members demonstrated increased ability to resolve conflict nonviolently. SMART Moves stands for Skills Mastery and Resilience Training. The program uses a team approach that involves Club staff, peer leaders, parents and community representatives. Young people ages 6 to 15 engage in discussion and role-playing, practicing resilience and refusal skills, developing assertiveness, strengthening decision-making skills and analyzing media and peer influence. The ultimate goal is to promote abstinence from substance abuse and adolescent sexual involvement through the practice of responsible behavior.

KC STRONG FUND

IMPACT FOR NONPROFIT GRANTEES

Successes: The Clubs' Youth & Police Initiative (YPI) program is designed to help build trust in the law, while reducing stereotypes that exist between teenagers and police officers. The YPI program has been enhanced thanks to the KC Strong funding, allowing for five additional cohorts of teenagers and police officers to participate. Engagement has been tremendous. One participant's father was killed by an officer a few years ago. Her personal growth in this program was simply incredible.

Center for Conflict Resolution

Impact Summary: At Center for Conflict Resolution, experts are working to help the community solve conflict by providing a safe, structured environment that encourages understanding over escalating conflict. Funding awarded via KC Strong allowed the organization to respond to landlord/tenant and neighbor conflict phone calls. Since receiving the funds, Center for Conflict Resolution received 120 case calls and an additional 99 cases referred from United Way 211. In twenty three cases, both parties involved in the disagreement came to a resolution.

Successes: The basis for this work is to provide interpersonal help that other agencies often turn away. Many conflicts that arise are due to a misunderstanding. In one case the organization supported, a tenant had significant mental health challenges in understanding their rental ledger. Center for Conflict Resolution was able to provide support services that led to better landlord/tenant communication, avoiding further escalation that could have resulted in violence.

Guadalupe Centers

Impact Summary: Guadalupe Centers is home to comprehensive family services for youth, families and seniors of the Latino community in the Kansas City metro. [KC Strong funding allowed Guadalupe Centers](#) capacity to be responsive/improve access and provide services for the varied mental health needs of the community following the parade day shooting. Services included community education/support and counseling to more than 100 individuals.

Successes: Guadalupe Centers has expanded the availability of mental health services by bringing on additional bilingual mental health counselors. Feedback received from the community has been that of exceptional gratitude for improving access to these counselors to help in their healing.

KC Common Good

Impact Summary: KC Common Good is dedicated to addressing the root causes of violence in our community. Funding supports a wide-range of services throughout the organization's partnerships and KC 360 Collaborative. KC 360 is a comprehensive, community-based approach to reducing violent crime, building stronger community relations and increasing access to education/jobs, while also implementing responsible justice reforms. Significant progress was made this year in public safety and violence prevention.

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IMPACT FOR NONPROFIT GRANTEES

Successes: Notably, KC 360 established and facilitated the following:

- Launched the Village Initiative in the Oak Park neighborhood, while continuing work in the Santa Fe neighborhood.
- The Santa Fe neighborhood once again had significantly lower homicides from the second year in a row, with five. Although higher than 2023's number (two), it is still a significant drop from 2022, when there were nine.
- There was not a single homicide in the Santa Fe area for a 100-day span near the end of 2024.
- The city's overall homicide rate declined by 20-percent in 2024.
- Seven neighborhood organizations launched the Community Resource Team, which works to remove blight and promote neighborhood development. The group was successfully awarded a \$750,000 grant from the ReBuild KC program.

KC Mothers in Charge

Impact Summary: KC Mothers in Charge works to reduce violent crime through prevention, education and intervention, and to guide and support the families of victims. In 2024, the organization responded to 54 homicide scenes, made 52 home visits, completed 119 free counseling sessions, hired its first bookkeeper/office manager, completed 23 support groups, and created a new memorandum of understanding with Children of Homicide Victims. In addition, three male participants were recruited for the Hope and Healing program.

Successes: Support group attendees noted they gained additional community resources which they were comfortable accessing on their own after completing two to three sessions.

Lyrik's Institution

Impact Summary: Lyrik's Institution seeks to reduce crime and violence by targeting destructive thinking errors and reworking them into productive behaviors. United Way funds helped Lyrik's Institution serve 38 high-risk youth through IBUILD, reducing violence (30-percent lower repeat offenses), improving mental health (80-percent reported growth), and delivering critical trauma-informed care. The IBUILD program is a comprehensive support and opportunities initiative for young adults ages 13-25 who are facing unique life challenges. The mission is to empower and uplift them in dealing with issues involving criminality, violence, and financial struggles. Participants attend twice weekly for two hours over a six month period.

Successes: Sarah M., referred by Family Court, faced immense struggles after losing her brother and living in unstable conditions. Through IBUILD, she completed probation, graduated early with college credits, and became valedictorian of her graduating class. During her speech she shared, "Lyrik's Institution inspired me to see I am worth more than the struggles I've been through. They showed me I have a future, and now I'm living it." She is currently pursuing a degree in nursing. Sarah's transformation for a young person on the verge of losing everything to a thriving college student is a testament to the power of targeted programming (cont'd)

KC STRONG FUND

IMPACT FOR NONPROFIT GRANTEES

and trauma-informed care. Her story exemplifies why Lyrik's Institution continues to develop interventions for youth who have often otherwise been discounted by society. It's stories like hers that fuel the mission and importance of programs like IBUILD. With support from the United Way KC Strong fund, the organization can continue to inspire hope, foster resilience and create pathways for young people to rewrite their stories.

Metropolitan Crime Commission

Impact Summary: Working closely with the Kansas City, Mo. Police Department, the Metropolitan Crime Commission carries out several critical community programs, including operation of the Crime Stoppers hotline, administering the family assistance fund for police killed in the line of duty, and comprehensive programming for the justice involved population through wraparound supports with housing, employment and addressing basic needs.

Critically, Metro Crime Commission also supports the Scholastic Crime Stoppers program as a free, anonymous reporting service to prevent and address issues of crime, self-harm and administrative concerns within Kansas City area school campuses.

KC Strong funding helped us continue to expand and grow the support of this program for students and families across our region, and is now having an impact even further.

The program was strengthened with the addition of St. Paul's Episcopal Day School and the Piper School District. Multiple other schools are inquiring about the program. The reach of the program has also led to Crime Stoppers programs in Georgia, Mississippi, and Montana, along with two Canadian provinces and municipalities reaching out regarding start-up and administration of a similar program in their communities.

Successes: The tip line affords students, school personnel, families, and others a safe, anonymous and confidential way to report safely concerns that could otherwise go unreported. This is a tool that aids in early intervention and prevention. From March through December 2024, 219 tips were received via the Scholastic Crime Stoppers tip line addressing a wide range of concerns from narcotics to vaping, threats of violence and multiple self-harm/suicide threats, and the prevention/interruption of a potential mass shooting event. The month of September alone saw 41 tips.

Newhouse

Impact Summary: Newhouse supports domestic violence survivors so they can become empowered to achieve their full potential. Embedded in a high-risk area of our community, Newhouse is also positioned as a critical responder to neighborhood violence. The collaboration with United Way via the KC Strong fund was pivotal for assisting survivors and their families in the second half of 2024.

It is vital for Newhouse to have community partners to continue the mission of shattering barriers that feed the cycle of abuse and providing supportive services to survivors and their families.

KC STRONG FUND

IMPACT FOR NONPROFIT GRANTEES

Domestic violence is not limited to physical abuse. It is an insidious, debilitating public health crisis that devastates lives of survivors and their families. It will take the entire community to address this public health crisis. Newhouse applauds the generous support from United Way's Board of Trustees by awarding KC Strong funds for supportive services such as emergency housing, education and childcare, legal advocacy and mental health, healing services and trauma informed care staff.

Successes: Since receiving the KC Strong grant on June 27th, Newhouse housed 57 adults and 82 children; provided 1,765 hours of individual therapy; provided 150 hours of family therapy.

Rose Brooks Center

Impact Summary: The Rose Brooks Center works to break the cycle of domestic violence so individuals and families can live a life free of abuse. KC Strong funds allowed Rose Brooks to reach over 9,000 adults and children impacted or at risk of domestic violence. Since the summer of 2024, Rose Brooks responded to 7,054 hotline callers. Of those, 1,463 came from the Kansas City, Mo. Police Department connecting victims determined through lethality assessment screening to be at high risk of being killed. Additionally, 1,285 adults and children enrolled in services and 8,695 safety planning sessions were held. More than 1,000 students grades K-12 at 31 schools participated weekly in violence prevention groups.

Successes: One of the survivors served since receiving KC Strong funding demonstrates the life-changing and lifesaving impact made possible by this grant. (*Names and other identifying information changed for safety/ protection and confidentiality of the survivor.)

*Siara began to experience physical abuse soon into her marriage, while she was pregnant with her first child. Over time, it escalated with her spouse aiming a gun at her and shooting it into the air. Recently, she fled the home. Thankfully, a relative was able to call police. Responding officers followed lethality assessment protocol and screening, connecting her to the hotline. At that time, she shared additional details about previous assaults. While she declined shelter, she did consent to follow-up from an advocate to assist with a temporary order of protection, including custody of her children. Siara has continued to stay in contact with the advocate, who is helping her find transitional housing. KC Strong funds will allow Rose Brooks staff to provide advocacy and support to this young woman and her children long-term as she breaks the cycle of domestic violence.

The Battle Within

Impact Summary: The Battle Within provides mental health support to address trauma experience by military and first responder professionals. The KC Strong grant allowed the organization to serve 20 more clients, increase program participation by 18% (from 83 to 98 participants in 2024). Therapy services through the Frontline Therapy Network saw an impressive 83% growth, expanding from 93 to 171 clients. This growth enabled the organization to better address trauma and mental health issues, fostering resilience and recovery.

The grant also funded a new monthly alumni support group, providing a space for peer connection and skill reinforcement, which has strengthened long-term outcomes for participants. Additionally, a new clinical (cont'd)

KC STRONG FUND

IMPACT FOR NONPROFIT GRANTEES

coordination position was created, improving response times and ensuring timely, trauma informed care for participants.

Successes: After the parade day shooting, an Assistant Division Chief with the Kansas City, Mo. Fire Department attended the organization's Revenant Journey program to address multiple traumas from his service. The program provided him with the tools to process and cope with the shooting, which he couldn't have managed otherwise. After completing the program, he continued therapy through the Frontline Therapy Network, reflecting he found "strength and perspective," which was also healing for him.

The KC Strong grant also supported specialized training for local first responders. Notable initiatives included a one-day wellness retreat for the Overland Park Honor Guard and equine therapy during the KC Metro Command Peer Support week. These efforts have enhanced emotional resilience, peer support capabilities and team well-being, while addressing impacts of secondary trauma. One participant expressed how the program's instructors created a safe space for him to open up and release past emotional burdens.

Their stories reflect the profound impact of the life-changing tools and support provided to those who serve their communities.

Transition Zone

Impact Summary: Transition Zone exists to provide a safe space for youth, ages 10 to 18 years old (primarily in the urban core of the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area), with the goal of equipping these young people with workforce/life skills and entrepreneurship training. KC Strong grant funding benefited Transition Zone by serving double the number of youth in the summer of 2024 (72). The majority of youth were proficient in all training modules: life skills, workforce skills, entrepreneurship development and peer mediation. Because of KC Strong funds, youth experienced an incredibly engaging summer of learning, allowing Transition Zone to inspire, encourage and instill hope in youth who are often overlooked and tend to fall through the cracks of poverty, often leading to a life of crime.

Successes: Since receiving KC Strong funding, T-Zone has been able to serve 50-percent more youth during the fall/winter session that started in October 2024. The program is averaging 20 students the first two Saturdays of the month with impactful programming to equip young people with life skills, entrepreneurial and workforce training in a safe space.

Uncornered

Impact Summary: Uncornered harnesses a proven, data-based model, to analyze violence street by street and corner by corner to transform a city's most violent, disruptive and neglected residents, who they have coined, 'Core Influencers,' into agents of change who lead their cities to peace. The organization is seeing significant progress, thanks to support of United Way's KC Strong funds. In neighborhoods where it's engaged with Core Influencers, shootings have decreased by 51% and homicides by 72%. By the end of 2024, this impact is (cont'd)

KC STRONG FUND

IMPACT FOR NONPROFIT GRANTEES

estimated to have resulted in a \$521 million cost savings for Kansas City, due to 38 fewer homicides, which includes savings from medical services, law enforcement and criminal justice costs.

In 2024, Uncornered impacted 167 families and provided various services including financial literacy training for 128 individuals, legal support for 75 (clearing 100 warrants), housing stability for 65, health education for 60, and entrepreneurship training for 42, with 17 participants registering new LLCs. Additionally, 100% of employed participants are now taxpayers. Overall, 72% of participants had no new arrests and 61% reduced street activity, with more than 556 individuals engaged in the network.

Successes: One Uncornered Core Influencer Lead recently shared the impact of the program on his life, “I always wanted to save my people—I just never knew how. When I heard about Uncornered, it sounded too good to be true—paying me to help others in my community. No other program I’ve heard of has done that before. And because I’m connected to the streets, I know people close to it. My work at Uncornered gives me the time and skills to go out there and intervene and stop things before they happen. It’s helped change my mindset and I can help change others’ too.”

Another Uncornered success story can be found [here](#).

University Health

Impact Summary: University Health is our region’s trusted safety net hospital. This means it provides a significant level of care to low-income, uninsured and vulnerable populations. KC Strong funding, combined with additional dollars from the Department of Mental Health and Community Mental Health Fund, allowed 64 University Health employees affected by trauma from the parade day shooting to receive therapy through 498 sessions.

Successes: Due to the enormous need for therapy and limited resources (259 requests for therapy), funding from KC Strong allowed University Health to meet demand and sustain services, while also preparing for the possibility of re-traumatization through artificial intelligence capability.

KC STRONG FUND

A SURVIVOR'S STORY

Samuel Arellano absolutely loves the Kansas City Chiefs. He was so excited to join a few family members in attending the Super Bowl victory celebration on February 14th.



But little did the 11-year-old know that day would change his life. He was among the two-dozen people shot when gunfire erupted as the rally concluded.

"It's been hard sleeping," Samuel shared. "And being in crowds still feels overwhelming."

Not long after the bullet pierced Samuel's rib, he developed an infection, but thankfully, has had no long-term physical health effects from the shooting. His mental wellbeing is another story.

"He goes to therapy still every week," said Samuel's dad, Antonio Arellano. "It's hard. But you know, as time goes by, the therapist has been really helpful in guiding us on what to do or what not to do to help him."

Antonio and his wife Abigail both work at a small car dealership and their income relies on commissions. So when they needed to take time off work to care for Samuel, that meant less money coming in. Bills started to pile up. And they were worried even more, because at the time he was shot, Samuel did not have medical insurance.

"It was hard. We got behind pretty bad," Antonio said. "I only took a couple days off, but his mom was the one who took more days off. While his wound healed up, he was still having trouble with panic attacks. He slept in our bed for weeks."

In June, the family learned Samuel was one of the verified gunshot victims who would receive substantial relief through the KC Strong Fund, made possible through generous donors like you. "That was really great that everybody from the community got together to help. We were able to catch up and it's helping to cover the cost of the therapy both and he and sister, who was there with him, still need," said Antonio.

Samuel just started sixth grade and he's already dreaming of next year, when he'll be eligible to join the football team.

"I like spending time with my friends. We all love football," Samuel said. "I think the Chiefs are going to get another Super Bowl win this year."

The family knows the journey to healing is long and sadly, in Kansas City, there are often reminders of the trauma Samuel has lived through.

"We sometimes hear gunshots in our neighborhood," Antonio said. "He gets very scared. We just are really wanting to get his life back to normal. And get those fears out of the way."

For now, that means continuing counseling and slowly warming up to attending events again. Because of KC Strong funds, the family is grateful financial burdens won't stand in the way of helping Samuel seek the care he needs, for as long as it takes to heal.

"It really is a huge relief," Arellano said. "We're very thankful to everyone who has supported us."

KC STRONG FUND

THANK YOU

To each and every person who donated, conducted fundraisers, used their voice to raise awareness, and advocated for KC Strong. We are forever grateful.

We extend a special thanks to the Chiefs and the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office for their partnership in establishing and executing the KC Strong Fund. United Way is honored to have served the community through this effort.

United is the Way. We remain forever KC Strong.

