

2025-2026 Project Descriptions

Amethyst Place – Amethyst Place provides alcohol-free and drug-free housing for women and children in mid-town KC. We host a Thanksgiving party for the residents on a Saturday morning in mid-November with craft and cookie-decorating stations.

Avenue of Life (AOL) The AOL Equipping Center uses a collective impact framework to assist families and individuals moving from recurring crisis to individual betterment. AOL partners with over 50 organizations to provide these services.

AOL Impact Wednesday - Volunteers help families navigate the resources available during Impact Wednesday at Avenue of Life on Wednesdays throughout the year.

AOL Christmas Decorating - Volunteers decorate Christmas Trees at the Equipping Center in December.

AOL Christmas Store Set-Up - Volunteers sort and display donated Christmas gifts in a store-like format so Wyandotte County families can shop for their families.

Avenue of Life Meal Prep - KCYM members prepare family-sized entrees at home to be frozen and distribute on Impact Wednesdays.

CASA-Court Appointed Special Advocates - This organization empowers abused and neglected children with a volunteer's voice in court and seeks a safe, permanent home for each child.

CASA Birthday Buddies - KCYM provides birthday bags that include a birthday card, book, cake mix and frosting in a birthday bag. Collections are in September and March.

CASA Back to Basics – KCYM Assists with staffing and managing CASA's Back to Basics event in August. (A new project for the 2025-2026 Club Year)

The Children's Place - The Children's Place helps care for children who are victims of abuse, neglect and other childhood traumas.

The Children's Place Holiday Project - At this activity in December, we help the children create crafts and ornaments they can take home to share with their families. Members donate books and snacks.

The Children's Place Flower Planting - In April, volunteers assist the children in planting flowers in decorative pots.

City Union Mission/Baking for Bikers - We bake cookies for this annual event benefiting City Union Mission. Project Coordinators deliver the cookies to the Mission's warehouse a day before this event in May.

Cornerstones of Care - Cornerstones of Care is an umbrella agency committed to providing safety and health through prevention, treatment and support services to children and families in the Kansas City area. These activities are organized into three clusters: 1) Foster care and adoption, 2) Youth and family support and 3) Education and community training.

Cornerstones of Care Gillis Fall Picnic - We organize a picnic in the Fall for the Gillis school students with fall crafts and traditional picnic games.

Cornerstones of Care Gillis Holiday Event - We produce a holiday party which includes crafts, games and treats for the Gillis Students. This December event requires both on-site volunteers and volunteers who bake cookies at home.

Cornerstones of Care Ozanam Plant Sale - The Ozanam students raise funds by selling plants they have grown at the on-site greenhouse. KCYM helps staff Ozanam's annual plant sale by working several shifts over a two-day period.

earlystART/St. Mark Center - This early childhood center emphasizes the arts and serves infants, toddlers and their families from two of the poorest zip codes in Jackson County. KCYM hosts an art supply collection and accepts monetary donations during the month of September. Specific item requests are listed in the KCYM Newsletter before the event.

Giving the Basics – Giving the Basics brings improved health, hope and dignity to struggling children and adults through the procurement, fulfillment, and distribution of hygiene products. KCYM volunteers in June, October and February to sort and package personal care items. 0

Good Cheer - This organization brings camps to kids in hospitals throughout the year by providing arts and crafts projects for them to complete. Volunteers meet in the fall and spring to assemble bedside project kits.

Happy Bottoms Diaper Bank - Happy Bottoms is a nonprofit diaper bank that serves the greater Kansas City area by providing diapers to 18 partner agencies for approximately 900 to 1,000 children each month. KCYM visits 3-4 times during the year to repackage the diaper donations.

Hope Lodge of the American Cancer Society Dinner/Game Night - This American Cancer Society home provides a place to stay for out-of-town patients and their families as the patient undergoes cancer treatment. A volunteer group purchases, prepares and serves dinner and desserts onsite to Hope Lodge residents. Dinner is followed by 10 games of BINGO.

Inclusion Connections PawsAbility Program - This organization serves teens and young adults with mild developmental disabilities. KCYM volunteers help the young people who work in the PawsAbility Program. They help with making, baking and selling dogs treats/toys.

Jazzoo Set-Up - This annual event supports the Kansas City Zoo. Volunteers meet at the KC Zoo to help set up for the event on June 6, 2025. Teenagers who need service hours are welcome to help.

Kansas City Community Gardens - KCCC is a non-profit organization whose members help people grow vegetables and fruit in garden plots and orchards located in backyards, schoolyards, vacant lots and community sites. KCYM volunteers will prepare seed packets in January or February for distribution by KCCC to community gardens, schools and individuals all over the city.

Living in Vitality – Volunteers will stuff gift bags for Living in Vitality Conference sponsored by Advent Health.

Needle & Craft Work - KCYM meets three times at a member's home to make a variety of craft items for our affiliates. No special skills are required. In addition to providing community service, this is also an informal social event. Volunteer hosts provide drinks and light snacks.

Newhouse Shower - The mission of Newhouse is to break the cycle of domestic violence by providing tools that allow individuals and families to make positive choices and lead self-sufficient lives. At Installation Day Tea in May, members donate personal care products and essential household items for the shelter's women and children or make monetary gifts to support the Newhouse programs.

Pawsperity - Pawsperity trains single mothers who live in poverty to groom dogs. Each January KCYM collects used or new bath towels. Members can also donate bleach, laundry soap and paper towels.

Red Bags KC - This organization provides Red Bags full of Christmas gifts for around 1400 area foster children and over 50 families each December.

Red Bags KC – Gift Wrapping - Volunteers select and wrap pre-purchased gifts and fill gift bags.

Red Bags KC - Toy Collection – In November, members donate toys, books, electronics and personal care products to help fill Red Bags for area foster kids. Monetary donations are welcome.

Ronald McDonald House Meal Preparation - Ronald McDonald Houses provide comfort for families of seriously ill children being treated at Children's Mercy Hospital and Overland Park Regional Medical Center. Twelve volunteers shop and/or prepare a meal at the RM Longfellow House three times a year. Lunch is provided four times a year at the Family Room at Overland Park Regional Medical Center. Teenagers are welcome to help.

Ronald McDonald House Quick Meal Kits - Breakfast and dinner kits will be assembled at home for families of children with life-threatening illnesses who are being treated at Children's Mercy Hospital and Overland Park Regional Medical Center.

Rose Brooks Center - Located in a secure facility in south Kansas City, this organization provides emergency shelter for women, children and their pets who are escaping life-threatening abuse.

Rose Brooks Center Sleepwear Shower - Volunteers collect and deliver sleepwear items, pajamas, robes and slippers for the women at Rose Brooks Center. This event takes place in October on Civics and Honoring Day.

Rose Brooks Center Valentine Party - KCYM volunteers bring cheer to resident women and children by organizing a party with crafts, games and snacks.

Scraps KC - This organization strives to creatively repurpose a range of items which would otherwise end up in landfills. Teachers can use items to spark and nurture students' imaginative and inventive abilities. KCYM visits twice a year to sort, organize and package donated items. Up to 12 volunteers are needed for each visit.

Sheffield Place - Sheffield Place assists the ever-increasing population of homeless women and children by improving their education, developing employment skills and obtaining/retaining permanent housing.

Sheffield Place Mailing - Volunteers serve three times at Sheffield Place to hand-address mailings.

Sheffield Place Shower - During the month of February, KCYM members collect slippers, socks, gloves, shower gel and deodorant for the women and children's supply closet at Sheffield Place.

Urban Ranger Corps - This organization helps prepare inner-city at-risk youth (ages 14 - 18) for responsible and productive futures through work experience and service in the community. Volunteers prepare sack lunches for 45 Rangers in June at the home of a member.