



Partners for Wichita, Inc.
 925 N. Waco Ave.
 Wichita, KS 67203
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partnersforwichita.org

Peace through Partnerships

Peaceful Times

December 2019

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Special points of interest:

- Filling the Gap Lunches for Kids helps feed hungry children in our community when no other meals are available. We need your help to continue feeding our children.
- Safe Streets shares prevention strategies with our youth. Your help is needed as we reduce substance abuse in our community.
- Please consider a recurring gift to Partners for Wichita. It's an easy option on our [donation page](#).

Making a difference together!

Inside this issue:

Filling the Gap Lunches for Kids	1
PFW 's second decade	2
Trivia Night February 22	2
Botvin Life Skills volunteer training	2
Prescription Drug Take Back Day	2
Safe Streets reaching out to youth and seniors	3
Bags of Blessings February 6	4

Meal costs for feeding children increases

Every year, Partners for Wichita, through Filling the Gap Lunches for Kids, feeds about 800 children a day during spring break and the last two weeks of summer vacation. These are critical times for children, there are no school lunch programs available, so children go hungry.



Hundreds of area volunteers, congregations, businesses, organizations,



and community groups come together to serve children who are at risk of hunger. All kids, age 18 and under, are welcome to join us for a free nutritious lunch, milk, healthy snacks, and fresh fruit at one of our meal sites.

As food costs continue to rise, so, too, does the cost for Filling the Gap Lunches for Kids. This year, the cost per meal increased by about 83 cents, adding over \$10,000 to our annual financial need. Filling the Gap depends entirely on donations from you! Please consider a gift to help feed hungry children in our community. Your generosity continues to make Filling the Gap successful every year! Thank you!



For more details, contact sheila@partnersforwichita.org.

Spring Break Filling the Gap Lunches for Kids, March 16-20, 2020

During school vacations, some of Wichita's most vulnerable children face the risk of hunger. The Kansas Food Bank and many other caring people partner with us to help 'fill the gap' during these times of need.

Snack Donation Day, March 6 at Kansas Food Bank, 1919 E. Douglas. To supplement the meals, we collect individually packaged healthy snacks such as fruit cups, applesauce, meat sticks, cheese and cracker dippers, snack bars, crackers, pretzels, nuts, dried fruit, and raisins.

Doing together what we cannot do alone!

Looking forward to the next ten years:

It is my dream that Partners for Wichita will strengthen and deepen its partnerships to create greater awareness of needs and service opportunities, and to support and encourage one another in these efforts.

~Rev. Sally Fahrenthold

Partners for Wichita begins its second decade!

Partners for Wichita was formed as a way to help meet the needs of our community by encouraging partnerships and support among congregations, faith-based organizations, public agencies, individuals, and others.

Partners for Wichita's two arms of service are **Samaritan Community** and **Safe Streets**. **Samaritan Community** focuses on hunger, food access, and health and well-being issues through activities such as Filling the Gap Lunches for Kids, Wichita Food Share, and Bags of Blessings. **Safe Streets** focuses on prevention of drug and alcohol abuse, particularly among youth, helping to ensure the safety and well-being of our neighborhoods through awareness campaigns, training, and education.

For more information please visit our website partnersforwichita.org, or our Facebook pages [partnersforwichita](https://www.facebook.com/partnersforwichita) and [safestreetswichita](https://www.facebook.com/safestreetswichita).

Join us for Trivia Night in February

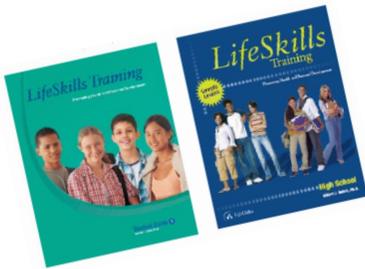


Our annual Trivia Night fundraiser will be held on Saturday, **February 22, 2020** at First Presbyterian Church, 525 N. Broadway. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and trivia begins at 7:00 p.m.

Come join us for an exciting night of games - and a great silent auction! What a fun way to support the mission of Partners for Wichita.

If you are interested in attending, registration forms and event information may be found on our website at partnersforwichita.org.

Botvin Life Skills volunteer training



On **January 8, 2020**, we will be training volunteers to teach Botvin Life Skills to youth in our community. Since this program was established in 2017, 123 6th graders and 19 high school students have graduated. This semester, 13 more students are participating at Hamilton Middle School.

If you are interested in volunteering in this way, please contact Danielle Ramirez danielle@partnersforwichita.org or Jan Chandler jan@partnersforwichita.org or call 316-263-1389.

The training will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 925 N. Waco.

Prescription Drug Take Back Day



Safe Streets participated in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on October 26, 2019. Safe Streets handed out 647 Deterra Bags between the two sites at Dillion's on East Harry and at the Zoo. National Take Back Day happens twice each year on the last Saturday of April and October.

For additional information contact Jan Chandler at jan@partnersforwichita.org.

Safe Streets is reaching out to youth

Safe Streets held its first "Communities Talks" event in September. This town hall meeting focused on underage drinking and its impact on the community. Youth, parents, and community members gathered to hear speakers give their personal testimonies and discuss prevention.

"Not Only You" a short film about addiction, locally produced by Healing Kansas (in cooperation with Safe Streets and Partners for Wichita), debuted its trailer at this event. The film will have its premier showing early in 2020.

We celebrated community by giving out prevention awards! Those awarded included Wichita Collegiate School for consistently high participation in the Kansas Communities that Care survey, Linda Boaldin for her dedication to the youth in the Botvin Life Skills program, and Claire Hardman for her leadership among youth. Danielle Ramirez was also awarded the first-ever "Pastor Dave Fulton Leadership Award."

Youth in attendance learned about myths and facts related to alcohol use and were presented with information that focused on harm reduction.

For more information contact Danielle Ramirez at danielle@partnersforwichita.org.



Several Youth Mobilizers have joined Safe Streets this year, allowing young people the opportunity to spearhead student-led initiatives addressing mental health and substance use issues in Wichita and nearby communities.

For more information about our youth mobilizers, and Healing Kansas, contact Ngoc Vuong at ngoc@partnersforwichita.org.

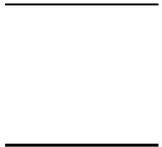
Safe Streets at Senior Expo 2019

Safe Streets had a table at Senior Expo 2019 to share prevention materials and other information regarding misuse of prescription drugs, marijuana, alcohol, and other illicit drugs. In addition, hundreds of Detera Bags were handed out to assure safe disposal of unused, outdated, or unwanted prescription drugs.

For information contact Jan Chandler at jan@partnersforwichita.org.



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Building partnerships
to strengthen community.

WWW.PARTNERSFORWICHITA.ORG

Find us on Facebook 

Bags of Blessings project February 6, 2020

Bags of Blessings collection day, February 6, 2020

Every February, this project is our community-wide valentine to our neighbors in need.

Essential hygiene items are gathered into gallon zip-lock bags and shared with homeless and in-crisis neighbors through over 30 partner agencies and organizations in the community.

Bags of Blessings will be collected at St. James Episcopal Church, 3750 E. Douglas between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Fill gallon-sized zippered plastic bags with (individual/travel size) one each of these items:

Soap (bar or liquid); lotion; razor; shampoo; conditioner; comb; deodorant; chapstick/lip balm; washcloth; kleenex; emery board or clippers; toothpaste; toothbrush; shaving cream; bandaids (3); white socks (1 pair).



Partners for Wichita is an inter-denominational not-for-profit organization in pursuit of peace and well-being in Wichita and beyond through partnerships, by connecting individuals, faith communities, and community organizations.

Partners for Wichita is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax-deductible.