



For Immediate Release

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Project Change Contributes \$25,000 to Kansas City Philanthropies - Team Awaken KC Wins Overall Community Service Challenge -

Overland Park, Kan. – The city-wide community-based philanthropic challenge came to an end and the final numbers have been tallied. Team 'Awaken KC' won the overall award and received a check for \$1,000 for their charity, Community LINC.

The numbers are impressive; from total volunteer hours to dollars raised for local charities. In the end, 15 teams comprised of 200 Kansas City companies worked for four months to compete in "Project Change." Project Change's goal was for each team to complete one challenge a month from February to May. Over the four months, the teams were charged with creating and completing community service. The teams worked to create a better Kansas City from environmental challenges to enhancing the community to creating a better place for those who live in it. In the end, the teams contributed to 70 community service projects benefiting over 40 local charities and raised over \$25,000 for the Kansas City community.

"Our teams amazed me," said Beverly McAuley, director of Project Change. "Many went above and beyond our expectations for our first year and truly set the bar for future challenges. The most rewarding part of the 2009 Challenge was witnessing the relationships that grew between the team members and the charities that they partnered with. To see the transformation move from one reaching down to help another, to reaching across and truly becoming a community, was the journey I hoped we would travel together. This is truly the way to peace."

About Project Change

Project Change was formed in June 2008, by Beverly McAuley who decided it was time to make a difference in the local Kansas City community. Through friends, coworkers, clients and several others, she has created a network of people and companies committed to the vision of Project Change. Using Mahatma Gandhi's message, "Be the change you wish to see in the world," proved to be a worthy mission for the community event. www.projectchange-kc.org

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Team “Awaken KC” Wins Project Change Challenge

Starting with seven companies as part of the four-month challenge, Awaken KC ended with 40 companies and over 300 volunteers as part of the Project Change KC four-month challenge. As the grand-prize winner of the challenge, \$1,000 was donated to the team’s philanthropy, Community LINC.

“Our team, Awaken KC, brought together 40 companies and organizations, friends, and family members to try and create the biggest and best projects possible,” said the team’s co-captain, Kate Wind of SFS Architecture. “Everyone contributed what they could and when things came together, I think we were all amazed at what we were able to accomplish. Projects like the extreme makeover of the Community LINC teen space started out small and grew exponentially as we reached out to people who offered materials and services,”

February Challenge: “Feed the Hungry” – Community LINC

Awaken KC provided the families of Community LINC healthy, economical and easy dinner options. Over 500 bags/boxes of pasta and \$500 dollars for additional recipe ingredients were donated by team member American Italian Pasta Company.



“You are making more of a difference than you can ever imagine.”

Angie Makkyla, Board Member, Community LINC

March Challenge: “Warm the Homeless” – Community LINC Teen Center

Awaken KC renovated the teen facility at Community LINC to create a fun, safe space for Community LINC teens to hang out and study. The team of designers, contractors and subcontractors renovated and completed an ‘extreme makeover’ at the Teen Center which was rendered unusable by a flood. There were over 400 man hours and over \$20,000 dollars in donated labor and materials required to complete this project. This project was designed in collaboration with the teens, who will enjoy the space for years to come.



“Awaken KC went so above and beyond on this challenge.” It really did go from a basement into an amazing Teen Center.”

Cecile Denny, Community LINC

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April Challenge: “Save the Planet” – Community LINC

The team worked in the cold, rain and snow to provide improvements to drainage, sidewalk areas and improve the building’s overall exterior. Sustainable features included a community vegetable garden and a rain garden. Elementary and middle school residents planted seeds to transplant and they made mosaic stepping stones for the gardens.



May Challenge: “Nurture the Children” – Fundraiser for the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders at the University of Missouri and the Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training (K-CART)

This event held at Boulevard Brewery raised awareness and \$10,000 for the two organizations. Tapping into the rivalry that exists between the two schools, the event was attended by 250 supporters and alumni.

About team Awaken KC

The ‘Awaken KC’ team selected Community LINC as their “Feed the Hungry,” “Warm the Homeless” and “Save the Planet” challenge philanthropy. Community LINC located at 4012-4014 Troost in Kansas City, MO., provides transitional housing and training to homeless families. Currently, 23 families including 78 children are in the program. In May, the “Nurture the Children” event was a benefit for the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders at the University of Missouri and The Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training. Awaken KC team members include SFS Architecture, A.L. Huber general contractor, American Italian Pasta Company, encompass, Lankford + Associates, Patti Banks Associates, Wallace Engineering, LaFarge and Western Fireproofing. See www.projectchangekc-awakenkc.blogspot.com for additional team participants.

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