



CAASTLC

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

# WELCOME TO CAASTLC

At CAASTLC, we offer more than 22 services designed to support and stabilize families, while helping them attain a brighter future. Helping people and changing lives is at the heart of everything we do. We invite you to explore the value of our work as highlighted in this 2024 Annual Report. We believe we are creating powerful change. We hope you will see the merit of our efforts and will partner with us in strengthening the St. Louis County community, so that we remain a vital source of hope and support for families facing poverty.

## MISSION

The mission of Community Action Agency of Saint Louis County is to stabilize and enrich vulnerable households by instilling hope and creating pathways to empowerment.

We are committed to helping the families and communities of St. Louis County transition from poverty to self-sufficiency for present and future generations.

## VISION

- Healthy families thriving in their community free from poverty and social exclusion;
- A wide range of opportunities and accessibility to education; healthcare; careers; and safe, affordable, energy-efficient housing
- Inclusive communities that sustain economic opportunities and business growth;
- Communities where everyone is treated with dignity and respect; and the barriers of structural and systematic inequities have been removed.

## HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.



2709 Woodson Rd. | Overland, MO 63114 | 314-863-0015 | [www.caastlc.org](http://www.caastlc.org)

## Dear Friends of CAASTLC,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the progress we have made and optimism for the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we have faced challenges and celebrated achievements, reaffirming the power of collaboration and our unwavering commitment to uplifting our community.

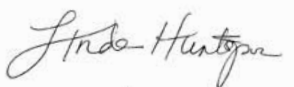
Guided by our mission to empower and support those we serve, we have made a profound impact thanks to the dedication of our team, the generosity of our supporters, and the resilience of our community. In 2024 we embraced innovation, forged meaningful partnerships, and strengthened our connections with stakeholders. These efforts have enabled us to reach more people and deliver transformative programs where they were needed most.

Every milestone we have achieved reflects the collective passion and determination of those who believe in a brighter future. As we look to the year ahead, our commitment remains steadfast. Together, we will continue to break down barriers, provide essential resources, and create opportunities for individuals and families to thrive.

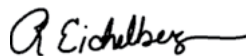
On behalf of the Board of Directors and our entire team, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors, volunteers, partners and supporters. Your trust and generosity fuels our mission and inspire us to aim even higher.

As we share our 2024 Annual Report, we celebrate not only what we have accomplished together but also the boundless potential for what lies ahead. Let us move forward with hope in our hearts and a shared vision for a stronger, more equitable community. Together we are unstoppable.

With gratitude and optimism.



Linda Huntspon  
Chief Executive Officer



Rose Eichelberger  
Board Chair



Linda Huntspon  
Chief Executive Officer



Rose Eichelberger  
Board Chair

*“It’s the most  
rewarding thing to be  
a civil servant.”*

— Sargent Shriver

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## **Rose Eichelberger**

Board Chair  
4/24 – present

## **Antonio Maldonado**

Vice Chair  
12/19 – present

## **Paul Springer**

Board Secretary  
6/24 – present

## **Clayton Evans**

Board Treasurer  
6/18 – present

## **Louis Aboussie**

12/15 – present

## **Renada Chandler**

Board Secretary Emeritus  
06/22 – present

## **Linda Eikerenkoetter**

12/14 – 10/24

## **Julie Harris**

4/19 – present

## **Terrie Hart**

12/18 – 10/24

## **Ella Jones**

2/24 – present

## **Kevin Marquitz**

2/22 – present

## **Sheila Pearson**

Board Chair Emeritus  
10/17 – present

## **Cynthia Pender McCarthy**

2/22 – present

## **Tyrrell Rodgers**

Board Treasurer Emeritus  
4/18 – 10/24

## **Paige Simmons**

2/24 – present

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Rose Cason

Bonita Cornute

Michael Crayton

Alvin L. Doss

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley

Debra Harper-LeBlanc

Sharon Pace

Monica Peterson

Jay Rhodes

Shenisia Watson

# SERVANT LEADERSHIP

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*Executive Assistant to the CEO*

Michael Clark  
*IT Director*

Susan E. Moss  
*Human Resources Director*

Sherri A. Robins  
*Public Relations Director*

Tricia Bell  
*Development Director*

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*Contract Compliance Director*

Cedric Jackson  
*Associate Director-Quality  
& Compliance*

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*Chief Financial Officer*

Danielle Tarrant  
*Accounting Manager*

Keith Robinson  
*Director of Weatherization  
& Support Services*

James Ingram  
*Director, Reentry*

Georgie Donahue  
*Program Administration Director*

Mario Malone  
*Associate Director-CSBG*

Karen Wilson  
*Energy Supervisor (LIHEAP)*

John Williams  
*Farm Manager  
(Seeds of Hope Farm)*

Maria Acosta-Garcia

Christopher Beasley

John Bentley

Christlyn Boyd

Nicole Briones

Robin Bryson

Tarshie Burgess

Tishona Dixon

NaTasha Dobbins

Patricia Elkins

Jason Ellison

Breanne Fowler

Ambrosia Harrison

Dale Hickman

Erykah Hicks

Clarence Holemon

Remona Johnson

Ethan Jones

Kimberly Kemp

Tiffany Lewis

Latavia Mangan

Janice McKinney Gage

Marissa Muhammad

Sean Muhammad

Gala Pearson

Arrvell Pendelton

Myka C. Perry

Candis Sawyer

Tony Simpson

Anthony Steed

Randy Tempel

Donna Townley

Krista Tweedy

*“We must open the doors of opportunity. But we must also  
equip our people to walk through those doors.”*

— Lyndon B. Johnson

# ABOUT CAASTLC



In his State of the Union address to Congress on January 8, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared “an unconditional ‘War on Poverty’ in America.” In August of that year, the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (EOA) passed, creating a Federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). The OEO created Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to empower individuals and families living in poverty.

Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. (CAASTLC) is one of over 1,000 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) in a national

network. CAAs embody our nation’s spirit of hope, change people’s lives, and improve communities. When national, state, and local leaders tap into the experience of CAAs, workable solutions are created that connect more families to opportunity and make America a better place to live.

CAASTLC was originally incorporated as the Human Development Corporation of Metropolitan St. Louis (HDC) in 1968. In 2003, CAASTLC became part of a national rebranding effort. CAASTLC provides services to more than 40,000 customers per year in St. Louis County.

At CAASTLC, we offer more than 22 services designed to support and stabilize families. We invite you to explore the value of our work through our 2024 Annual Report to the community and partner with us in strengthening the St. Louis County community as a vital source of hope and support for families facing poverty.



# HOW WE HELP PEOPLE AND CHANGE LIVES

CAASTLC continues to prove to families that **they can depend on us** not only for utility assistance, but also **for support and services** that help them to stabilize their lives. We provide soft skills and leadership training to families so that they can advocate for themselves and others, while connecting to the civic activities and duties that improve communities.

## **FAMILY & ECONOMIC SECURITY**

- Family Case Management
- Drug & Alcohol Education Classes
- Anger Management Education Classes
- Employment Development
- Life Skills Classes
- Reentry Support for Returning Citizens
- Entrepreneurship Classes
- SkillUp
- Counseling

## **YOUTH SERVICES**

- Youth Case Management HiSET (GED)
- Reality Enrichment and Life Lessons (REALL) Workshops
- CAASTLC Seeds of Hope Farm – STEM Curriculum

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- Poverty Simulations
- Job Fairs & Hiring Events
- Step Up to Leadership Workshops

## **HEALTH AND NUTRITION**

- CAASTLC's Seeds of Hope Farm Home Grown Produce
- Drive Through Contactless Food Pantry

## **HOUSING & ENERGY**

- Weatherization Assistance Program
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Housing Assistance (Down Payment/Rent/Mortgage Assistance, Disaster Relief)
- Water and Sewer Services – H<sub>2</sub>O Help



*Welcoming families with  
open arms and a huggy heart.*

FOR YEARS ENDING 9/30/2022 AND 9/30/2023

## FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

We believe the main ingredients to the success of an agency are **transparency and accountability**, executed through a clearly defined mission and vision. These ingredients are the foundation of our focus. We remain focused on our mission by ensuring that **our activities are executed with the highest level of stewardship, accountability and transparency**. We achieve this through frequent communication while fostering an atmosphere of trust with each other and the customers we serve; and delivering on our mission every day. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve families of St. Louis County and look forward to exponential growth so that we may continue to provide the essential services needed by our area's most vulnerable population.

This project is funded at **90% at \$1,250** with federal funds received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided by the Missouri Department of Social Services and **10% at \$1,350** by other non-federal sources. This project was prepared with the support of funds through the Missouri Department of Social Services and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. However, any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Missouri Department of Social Services or the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

	<b>9/30/22 Actual</b>	<b>9/30/23 Actual</b>
<b>PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>		
Grants	\$12,478,446	\$12,028,563
Donations	642,416	692,884
Investment Income	3,743	6,109
Other	<u>127,023</u>	<u>11,270</u>
Total Public Support and Revenue	<u>13,251,628</u>	<u>12,738,826</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Program Services:</b>		
Weatherization	2,723,112	3,033,434
Energy Assistance	4,926,576	6,588,178
Community Services	3,352,166	1,946,880
Housing/Rental Assistance	444,818	185,215
Other Programs	<u>423,562</u>	<u>352,983</u>
Total Program Services	<u>11,870,234</u>	<u>12,106,690</u>
<b>Supporting Services:</b>		
Management and General	779,117	790,691
Fund-raising	6,459	15,090
Total Supporting Services	<u>785,576</u>	<u>805,761</u>
Total Expenses	<u>12,655,810</u>	<u>12,912,451</u>
Change in Net Assets	<u>595,818</u>	<u>-173,625</u>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<u>\$3,196,751</u>	<u>\$3,023,126</u>



# COMMUNITY SERVICES IMPACT



**51,208**

Individuals received assistance to stabilize their households.



**38,549**

Households received emergency assistance payments to restore utilities, prevent disconnects and prevent evictions and foreclosures.



**\$7,146,176**

In vendor payments were expended to help stabilize households in St. Louis County.



**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

**10,613** individuals received employment and educational support services designed to reduce or eliminate barriers to employment and achieve educational attainment.

**2,617** individuals including infants, youth, parents, and other family members received case management and family development support to help them achieve their goals.

**2,564** individuals received emergency services such as food, counseling, and referrals.

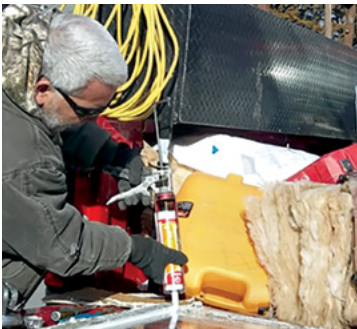
**\$214,146** was paid out to vendors to prevent homelessness for 125 individuals.

## INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR LOW INCOME, VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

**14,177** services were provided to **9,620** vulnerable individuals to help them secure or maintain independent living.



# WEATHERIZATION AND HOUSING & SUPPORT SERVICES



Photos courtesy of NECAC

**Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP):** WAP is designed to reduce air infiltration into homes to help households save money on their heating and cooling bills and improve comfort, while ensuring health and safety. Households save an average of \$437 per year after weatherization.

After experiencing staff shortages over the past year, CAASTLC hired and trained six employees and developed new training and onboarding initiatives to support weatherization Customer Service Representatives, Administrative Assistants, Energy Auditors, and Managers. With our new training framework, three auditors earned the nationally accredited certification of “Quality Control Inspector”. Under new management, the program has enhanced partnerships with Spire Energy and Ameren Missouri by assisting both with revising program designs. Also, we continued a very productive partnership with Energy Stars, LLC as our HVAC contractor. Hiring additional staff, providing training, and enhancing partnerships has helped our Weatherization department deliver robust outcomes to our community.

**310** Homes served through CAASTLC's Weatherization Program with combined support from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the United States Department of Energy, LIHEAP Weatherization and LIHEAP ARPA funding (or any other funding sources)

**165** Homes served through CAASTLC's Re-weatherization, Home Repair and Tune-up Programs with Spire and Ameren Missouri

**\$3,920,611** Total dollars spent in weatherization and home repair last year



# MENTAL HEALTH AND COUNSELING

Mental health counseling at CAASTLC has had a profound impact on families in St. Louis County, by helping them to reduce stress, foster better communication and develop coping skills on their road of achievement.

- Facilitated 2 Domestic Violence Impact Panels, engaging 10 participants
- Prevented eviction for 3 clients and assisted with SAFHR fund applications
- Established a new partnership with Ladue Student Support Services
- Completed 12 holiday season referrals through the 100 Neediest Cases initiative
- Provided 30 linkages, referrals, and case management services

**CAASTLC not only supported individuals in their reentry journeys but also strengthened families by improving overall well-being, reducing conflict, and enhancing their ability to navigate challenges.**



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

At CAASTLC, we are committed to enhancing the accessibility and awareness of our services to families who face barriers in the community. By implementing targeted outreach initiatives, we worked to ensure that more families were made aware of the vital resources available through CAASTLC and our local partners. These efforts, designed to reach underserved populations and address the challenges preventing families from accessing essential support, were a key component of our outreach efforts.

Throughout 2024, CAASTLC expanded outreach through strategic partnerships with local libraries and non-profit organizations, including The Salvation Army; Feed My People; and several municipal libraries, including St. Louis County Library-Weber Road Branch, Grant's View Branch, Florissant Valley Branch and Ferguson Valley Branch. These partnerships allowed us to offer regular weekly outreach hours at these accessible hubs, where families could learn about and apply for services like energy assistance, housing support and employment resources.

Our collaborations with local health, education and social service organizations included Oak St. Health; Dwann Dillon Cancer Foundation; Better Family Life; Jadasa; Special School District of St. Louis County; and HeadStart. These partnerships helped bridge the gap for families in need of food, special education support, housing assistance, and more.

Our engagement efforts included a variety of events and initiatives designed to enhance access to resources and address pressing social challenges such as:

The **Ameren Energy Outreach** and **Cool Down Missouri** program, which provided much-needed energy assistance to individuals facing utility bills and cooling costs.

The **Lemay Child and Family Center Resource Fair, HomeGrown STL Housing Workshop**, and collaborations with Missouri Sewer District staff helping families manage housing and sewer expenses.

The **2024 HUD Innovations in Ending Homelessness Roundtable Series**, which brought together key stakeholders to discuss and develop solutions for homelessness in the region.



CAASTLC also contributed to programs focused on education, employment, and health, including the **Dwann Dillon Colon Cancer Foundation's Bra Give-away, Employment Development Workshop Series, Step Up to Leadership workshops, and the Ameren/Cool Down Missouri A/C Giveaway.**

CAASTLC continued to build strong partnerships with **local institutions.** We participated in the **Festival of Nations**, collaborated with the **International Institute**, and contributed to the **Ritenour School District Strategic Planning Committee.**

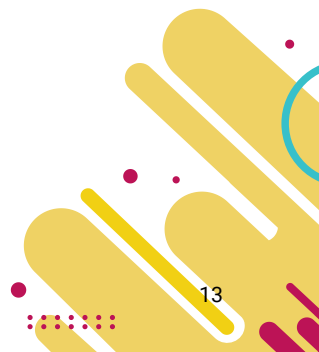
A cornerstone of CAASTLC's outreach efforts was the **Poverty and REALL Simulations**, which aimed to raise awareness and foster empathy about the realities of poverty. These simulations were hosted by groups including the **RUNG Board of Directors** and schools in the **Jennings and Riverview School Districts.**

Moreover, CAASTLC maintained a significant presence at school and community resource fairs, including those at **Hazelwood East High School and the Oak Street Health Senior Resource Fair**, where the needs of local families, seniors, and other community members were addressed.

Our continued outreach and engagement efforts underscore CAASTLC's commitment to serving diverse populations and helping families overcome barriers to accessing critical services.



**CAASTLC assisted over 1,100 households through Community Outreach and Engagement.**



# REENTRY, EMPLOYMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In FY 2023-2024, CAASTLC's Reentry Program successfully resumed in-person services in Drug & Alcohol and Anger Management Classes, Job Readiness & Coaching, Job Fairs & Hiring Events and Reentry Entrepreneurship. In addition, midyear, we expanded by adding the SkillUP Program to the menu of services. (The training provides SNAP recipients with scholarships for short-term training, job-related supplies, uniforms, and childcare subsidies.) Throughout the year, Reentry's outreach to employers, service providers, and community stakeholders resulted in new partnerships, yielding charitable contributions from Conley Financial Group (100 Turkeys for Thanksgiving) and from Worldwide Technology (10 laptop computers for the SkillUp program).



We are cognizant that volunteer hours are significant for reentry citizens for several reasons. First, it helps them reintegrate into their communities while honing new skills, building work ethic, and demonstrating renewed responsibility; secondly, it makes it possible for them to display their commitment by contributing positively to society and improving their self-esteem and confidence.

Providing reentry citizens with the opportunity to volunteer in CAASTLC's food pantry and other services made a tangible difference in their lives by allowing them to help others, fostering a sense of belonging and purpose. This resulted in the building of valuable social networks, which helps them reduce the likelihood of recidivism and becoming active members of the community. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the current national recidivism rate stands at 82%, while the MO Department of Corrections reports 43.9 % for the state of Missouri. With distinction, the recidivism rate for **CAASTLC's Reentry Program is only 4.3%, an exceptional success rate for justice-involved clients.**

 <b>47</b> New Community Partnerships were established within St. Louis County and Metro East communities.	 <b>92</b> Customers attended Anger Management classes.	 <b>32</b> Individuals completed 204 volunteer hours.	 <b>24</b> Customers attended Drug & Alcohol classes.	 <b>7</b> Customers completed Reentry Entrepreneurship Workshops and matriculated to Harris Stowe's Mecca program.	 <b>6</b> Partner hiring fairs hosted; 50 customers gained FT employment.	 <b>34</b> Customers completed Job Readiness Training/Coaching; 31 gained FT employment.
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## **CAASTLC's Reentry Program achieved an impressive 4.3% recidivism rate, highlighting the program's effectiveness in helping justice-involved individuals achieve stabilization and successfully reintegrate into society.**

CAASTLC's Reentry team participated in several conferences and training events. These included the Missouri Reentry Conference; the National Association of Black Social Workers Conference; and the Missouri Addiction Counselor's Conference; the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals event; the St. Louis Alliance for Reentry Summit; and the National Association of Social Workers Conference. To strengthen the program's community impact, the Director of Reentry serves on St. Louis Alliance for Reentry (STAR) Steering Team and St. Louis County Prosecutor's Diversion Advisory Committee.

- Drug & Alcohol and Anger Management Classes: 92 individuals enrolled in Anger Management, 46 graduated; 24 individuals enrolled in Drug & Alcohol classes and 9 graduated. Weekly lessons focused on identifying triggers, coping with anger, recognizing addictive behaviors, and preventing relapses.
- Job Readiness & Coaching: Through individual coaching and employment development workshops, 61 referrals were made, 35 participants completed the workshops, and 31 clients secured employment.
- Job Fairs & Hiring Events: CAASTLC hosted 6 hiring events in partnership with organizations like PROMAN, Costco, and FedEx, as well as 6 external Second Chance Hiring Events alongside the MET Center, SLATE, and Employment Connection, among others. A total of 370 individuals participated, with 50 obtaining employment. In addition, Reentry staff took part in 26 job and resource fairs, actively promoting CAASTLC's services.
- Reentry Entrepreneurship: Conducted two 8-week workshops with 15 participants and 7 graduates. The curriculum included business ideation, marketing, accounting, and personnel management. Graduates received stipends to attend the MECCA Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program at Harris-Stowe University for additional training.
- SkillUp was launched mid-year. The training provides SNAP recipients with scholarships for short-term training, job-related supplies, uniforms, and childcare subsidies. In our inaugural year, we served 20 participants, including 3 with justice-involved backgrounds, who received paid training for a CDL, welding, cosmetology, construction, and other trades.

# ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY SEEDS OF HOPE FARM



CAASTLC's Seeds of Hope Farm, rooted in Spanish Lake, is a unique community anchor, growing space, and outdoor classroom that increases food security and self-sufficiency skills like cooking and fruit & vegetable gardening. In 2024 the farm welcomed a greater diversity of visitors than ever before for volunteer service and hands-on learning experiences. Visitors included elementary, middle and high school groups from Hazelwood and Ritenour School Districts, Lutheran North High School, Boys & Girls Club of Greater St. Louis, St. Louis County's Center for Youth on the Rise, BJC's Teen Outreach Program, a high-school aged Girl Scout Troop from Wentzville, MO and a national touring student group, the Students of Agronomy, Soils, and Environmental Sciences (SASES).

Seeds of Hope produced a beautiful and bountiful 2024 crop on **1.8 acres** of fertile grounds. Farmers John and Randy cultivated nutritious crops from planting to harvest with the help of **12 dedicated community volunteers**. An abundant yield included bok choy, turnips, radishes, lettuce, chard, onions, sugar snap peas, blackberries, sweet potatoes, white and red and sweet potatoes, broccoli, collard greens, carrots, cabbage, garlic, tomatoes, okra, and peppers. One thousand two-hundred thirty (1,230) pounds of produce were harvested and distributed to CAASTLC's food pantry, with additional amounts supplying educational programming and the Helping Hands Food Pantry onsite.

In addition to food production, Seeds of Hope addressed the needs of the local community in three interrelated ways:

1. Provided material and educational support to individuals interested in growing some of their own food
2. Distributed fresh organically grown farm produce and conducted culinary education to empower families to add more fresh vegetables to their diets.
3. Our **STEM on the Farm** program provided early hands-on exposure to STEM concepts for visiting students, helping to boost the likelihood of their academic success and educational attainment.



This year, our long-time partnerships with St. Louis County's Youth on the Rise and Lincoln University developed a new and engaging "Iron Chef" style cooking competition for participating teens over the summer. Volunteer visits to the farm were followed by culinary lessons featuring fresh farm produce, bringing healthy cooking to life from farm to table. Adonica Adams, a youth case manager, shared her appreciation with farmers John and Randy:

*"This Iron Chef competition was amazing and to witness the growth and confidence of our youth over the past several weeks has been incredible. To watch the youth learn how to work together as a team, bond and develop new friendships, while incorporating healthy eating habits and building their self-confidence learning knife/kitchen safety has been inspiring."*

To develop professionally, farmer John completed the Illinois Master Gardener Training; and farmers Randy and John both received Life Lab Outdoor Educator Cer-

tification! These certifications have been instrumental in plans with Hazelwood School District's Larimore Elementary to extend **STEM on The Farm** programming to the regular school year.

By bolstering nutritional and educational resources in the community, Seeds of Hope Farm is helping people and changing lives. We are a place for community engagement and provide hope for healthier families as they "transition from poverty to self-sufficiency".

We are happy to report that **204 community volunteers** from organizations including BJC's Teen Outreach Program; Girl Scouts; Lutheran North High School; St. Louis County's Center for Youth on the Rise; and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; St. Louis Alumnae Chapter's Delta Academy; local company HDIS; and a dedicated corps of **12 community members donated 482 hours** harvesting crops, planting trees, and supporting various farm maintenance and beautification projects.



In 2024, Seeds of Hope cultivated and distributed  
**1,230 pounds** of produce.

# SEEDS OF HOPE FARM



**Seeds of Hope Farm increases food security and self-sufficiency skills like cooking, fruit and vegetable gardening and herbicide-free weed management.**



1,193  
Individuals  
Received  
Food

### FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

The farm donated and served **1,193 individuals**. Over **1,200 pounds** of farm fresh produce supported CAASTLC's drive-through food pantry.



Gardening  
Classes  
Provided

### GARDENING CLASSES

Provided demonstrations on herbicide-free weed management, strawbale gardening, container gardening, and fall gardening.



293  
Students  
Took STEM  
Lessons

### STEM ON THE FARM

Students from Larimore Elementary, Husky Academy, BJC's Teen Outreach Program, and Boys & Girls Club of Greater St. Louis received **293 hands-on STEM experiences**.



158  
Members  
Took Part in  
Classes

### COOKING CLASSES

**158** community members (from Bethany-Peace UCC and St. Louis County Center for Youth on the Rise) took part in **15** cooking classes and community dinners hosted at Seeds of Hope Farm, in partnership with University of Missouri Extension and Lincoln University Cooperative Education.



110  
Visitors  
Toured the  
Farm

### SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

**110** participants from **14** groups toured the farm to learn about sustainable agriculture. Additionally, we hosted neighbors at the farm for the first time for 3 events: Fall Harvest Fest; Spring! Into the Garden; and the Easter Egg Hunt.



204  
Volunteers  
Beautiful &  
Planted

### VOLUNTEERISM

**204** community volunteers from numerous organizations and a dedicated corps of **12** community members donated **482 hours** harvesting crops; planting; and supporting various farm maintenance and beautification projects.

# FUND DEVELOPMENT & SPECIAL EVENTS

In 2024, CAASTLC was awarded a **\$75,000 Emergency Solutions Grant FY2023** from St. Louis County to provide homeless prevention services for applicants whose household income is within the 30% of the Area Median Income.

CAASTLC's **Seeds of Hope Farm** was awarded a **\$5,000 Ameren Community Partnership Award** to support STEM class presentations and general farm operating expenses.

CAASTLC's spring fundraiser, a "Cinco de Mayo" themed Trivia Night sponsored by Energy Stars Heating and Cooling Co. and Affordable Comfort of Missouri, was a community engaging evening where brain-stirring fun filled the room at the Maryland Heights Community Center. Volunteers included students from CBC High School, who added a burst of energy while fulfilling their community service requirements.

We are grateful to our supporters and guests who helped us raise \$3,665.



# 9TH ANNUAL DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY GALA

On October 17, 2024, CAASTLC held its 9th Annual “Doors of Opportunity Gala” at Orlando’s Event Center in Maryland Heights, Missouri, which was co-hosted by Foxy 106.9 radio personalities Kiki the First Lady and Mz. SiNiTa. Throughout the evening, CAASTLC shared video client testimonials from its Immigrant Inclusion, Weatherization, Anger Management, Entrepreneurship, Seeds of Hope Farm, and Reentry programs.

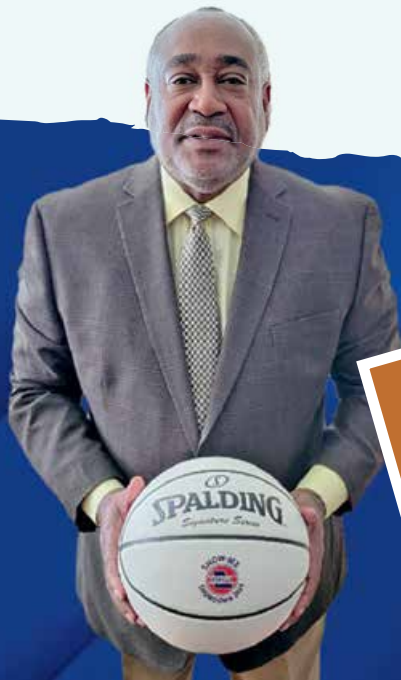
Awarded at the Gala were some of the community’s brightest leaders and friends of CAASTLC, including:

***Journey Award:*** Darryl “Pee Wee” Lenard, local basketball legend; ***Business Leader Award:*** James “Jimmy” E. Williams, Jr., President and CEO of Estel Foods, Inc.; ***Community Heroes Award:*** Chief Quinten Randolph of the Northeast Ambulance and Fire Protection District; ***Community Partner Award:*** Kristy Jackson, Center of Innovation and Leadership, Harris Stowe State University; ***CAASTLC Employees of the Year Awards:*** Marissa Muhammad, Data Coordinator & Case Manager, and Nicole Briones, Office Manager; and 2-time winner, ***Volunteer of the Year Award:*** Susan Warren.

Tony “DJ Old Skool” Steed delighted guests with a solo and mixed music that brought dancing to the floor. One of St. Louis’ popular songwriters and vocalists, Stephanie “Songbird” Ivy, joined us once again this year to complete the evening’s entertainment.

**The gala raised \$51,000 for unrestricted agency and program support.**

We extend a special “Thank You” to everyone who supported CAASTLC with their time, talents and resources.



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

Abna Engineering  
Adsystech Inc.  
Affordable Comfort  
of Missouri  
Ascension Charity  
Golf Classic  
Bank of America  
Big League Impact  
BJC Healthcare  
Breakthru Beverage Group  
Breanne Fowler  
Busey Bank  
Cardinals Cares  
Catholic Charities  
Chicken N Pickle  
Chimi's  
Christian Brothers College  
High School  
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Drexel & Susan Stith  
Drury Hotels  
Energy Stars Heating &  
Cooling Co.  
Explore St. Louis  
First Bank  
Forest Park Golf Club  
Hair Statement  
Helium Night Club

Holiday Inn – Downtown  
Convention Center  
Holiday World  
Home Depot – Overland  
Home Depo – Southtowne  
Inertia Martial Arts &  
Fitness LLC  
Iowa Buffet  
J Lloyd and Company  
Janice Gage  
Johnny Londoff Chevrolet  
Karyn Robinson-Taylor  
Keg1  
Kendra Scott  
Kingsway Development  
Kwame Building Group, Inc.  
LG Looking Good Nails  
Linda Eikerenkoetter  
Loaded Nachos  
Magic House  
Margo Adams  
Maria Acosta-Garcia  
Mark Kurtz  
Mark's Quick Printing  
Metropolitan St. Louis  
Sewer District  
Midwest Bank Centre  
Mike Clark  
Minnetta Watkins  
Mission Taco  
Mutual of America  
Narwhals  
Nicole Briones  
Northeast Ambulance and  
Fire Protection District  
Oceano Bistro  
Outfront Media

Park Central Development  
Parker's Table QuikTrip  
Regions Bank  
Remona Johnson  
Rock N Jump – St Louis  
Schlafly St. Louis Craft  
Brewery  
Simmons Bank  
Six Flags Tickets  
Spire Energy  
St Louis Blues  
St. Johns Bank  
St. Louis Cardinals  
St. Louis Community  
Credit Union  
St. Lukes's Hospital  
St. Peters Lutheran Church  
Stewart McClain  
STL Myseum  
Sue Moss  
The Marian Foundation  
TITOS  
Tony Simpson  
Total Wine & More  
Tricia Bell  
Urban Air – Sunset Hills  
Urban Chestnut Brewing Co.  
USI Insurance Services LLC  
Waffle House  
Worlds of Fun

# EXPRESSIONS OF HOPE & GRATITUDE

*"I really appreciate the help I received from Remona, who assisted me with my gas bill during outreach at the Grants View Library. She helped me to complete the application and most important, she took the time to listen to and understand me. She guided me to the resources available that will assist me in paying for my utilities. Remona has been so informative and supportive! She is definitely an asset to your agency and to the community! I will be forever grateful. I also made use of the weatherization program, and they replaced my a/c and furnace, insulation, and ductwork, which has lowered my expenses tremendously. I cannot express how thankful I am for your services. I am spreading the word to my family and friends and hope they will be as blessed as I have been."*

**Anonymous**

*"I visited your agency and was greeted by Robin in the lobby and want to give kudos! She was very courteous, and respectful, and was able to provide one of my clients with all the information she needed to get services."*

**Anonymous**

*"I cannot express enough how this program has improved the quality of my life. I will tell others about my appreciation for the program."*

*Thank you, Dale, for all your help."*

**J. Henderson**

*"I am incredibly pleased with the contractor who came to my home. They were very professional and pleasant."*

*Thank you so much for helping me."*

**P. Pernel**

*Save the Date*

16 OCT 2025 | 5:30 PM

  
CAASTLC  
*Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.*

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*Anniversary*

DOORS OF

OPPORTUNITY GALA