



We're Better Together

Westside Community Action Network

Neighbors + Businesses + Social Services + Faith Groups + Government Together

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Westside CAN Center mission is to facilitate the creation of a safe, healthy, viable, civically-engaged neighborhood in which to live, play and work. WCAN has been serving the Westside community in KCMO since 1994 and received its 501.c.3 tax-exempt status in 1997.

- Designed to be 'triage' for disengaged, disenfranchised neighborhoods in distress, CAN Centers, a community policing concept, were implemented to address escalating crime and disorder issues in the 1990's.
- WCAN provides satellite offices for a property maintenance code enforcement officer from Kansas City's Neighborhood Preservation Division and two KCPD officers. This service helps provide an invaluable extension of city services.
- As a community resource center, WCAN is an anchor in the City's Latino community. We provide information on city services and neighborhood events thru WCAN weekly e-newsletter plus thru social media with our Facebook page.
- The Westside CAN Center partners with more than 54 government and nonprofit organizations to maximize resources to the neighborhood. Examples are: TMC mental health department, KUMed, Concorde, Children's Mercy, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico Consulates, Nourish KC, KCMO Firefighters, Primitivo Garcia Elementary School, Irene H Ruiz Branch Library, Tony Aguirre Community Center, Arverst Bank, Media Star, Everyg, Rotary Club 13, Legal Aid, etc.
- In year 2019, 286 families were assisted in regards to access of the BOE filing process, court appointments, domestic violence prevention, ESL classes, filing income taxes, Turkey Tuesday, Immigration advice, bullying prevention, and food/home/job/medical assistance.
- More than 24 visits were completed in the elementary school and middle school with talks about bullying prevention, problem solving, and safety during the holidays-winter break. Our KCPD Officers also support the libraries reading program. A total of 45 students participated every week on 2018-2019 school year.
- During school readiness event, 323 students received their back packs with 100% of the items required for school. More than 22 agencies participated in the learning fair providing resources and tools for the students to succeed. More 645 people participated in the Toys for Tot's Christmas Party. 325 children received a toy.
- In 2019 more than 265 volunteer engaged in the Westside CAN Center programs providing an average of 7 hours for a total of 1,855 volunteer hours for an in-kind contribution of \$46,375 hours of volunteer work.
- Westside businesses, investors, home buyers, home flippers, Air BnB are flourishing in the area. The safe conditions of the area are attributed to the engagement of neighbors with the Westside CAN community policing program.
- Around 85 law enforcement students from Ft. Leavenworth School of Studies in KS, and 13 international law enforcement officials have visited the Westside CAN Center to learn about how the community policing program and its impact on the community.
- In partnership with Nourish KC, 2nd Presbyterian Church and Westside Orchard, more than 218,400 lbs. of vegetables, fruits and food (bread, canned goods, sweets and snacks) were distributed in 2019 with an approximated value of \$665,220.00.
- Yearly, Westside CAN Center handles more than 2,970 calls in regards to gun reports, business and home damage, immigration advice, tax reports, non-emergency calls, suspicious activity, domestic and family violence, graffiti damage, legal-aid inquiries, property taxes/BOE, homeless damage/illegal dumping, requesting 311 action, leaf and brush/tire, blue bags, adopt-a-street, and city dumpster programs/activities.
- The Westside building meeting center was used 168 times in 2019 (around 252 hours) for organizations to provide training, educational activities and awareness such as: ESL, vaccines, pet clinic, immigration orientation, disaster response, AA program, OSHA, Mexican Consulate, etc.