



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

THURSDAY,
19 OCTOBER 2023
ORLANDO'S EVENT CENTER

8TH ANNUAL

Doors of Opportunity

*Community Action Agency of
St. Louis County*

THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION

Community Action changes people's lives,
embodies the spirit of hope, improves
communities, and makes America a
better place to live. We care about the
entire community, and we are dedicated
to helping people help themselves
and each other.

Dear Esteemed Guests,

As the newly appointed CEO of CAASTLC, I am absolutely delighted to extend a warm welcome to each one of you. It is an immense honor to stand at the helm of this organization, and I am thrilled to share this momentous occasion with you. Because of the unselfish sacrifice of the amazing women who paved the way for me, tonight is possible, and I am so humbled.

The 8th Annual Doors of Opportunity Gala promises to be an evening of inspiration, camaraderie, and shared commitment to a cause that resonates deeply with all of us. Tonight symbolizes our renewed commitment to Helping People, Changing Lives, and your presence signifies your dedication to this noble endeavor. CAASTLC has served the community for 55 years; and last year we served 44,000 people with over 22 impactful programs and services. Generous donor friends like you continue to make this possible.

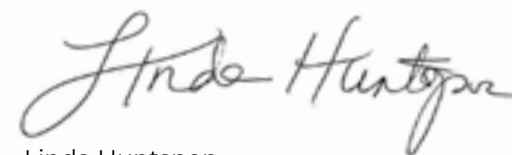
As we gather under the glittering lights and the spirit of philanthropy, let us reflect on the collective impact we can achieve. Your support, both here tonight and in the days to come, is the cornerstone upon which we will build a better, more compassionate world; a world where there is hope for everyone and poverty becomes a footnote in history books.

Throughout the evening, you will have the opportunity to engage with fellow like-minded individuals, hear stories of triumph and transformation, and witness the tangible results of your generous contributions. It is my hope that you leave tonight not only with cherished memories, but also with a replenished sense of purpose and a deeper connection to the cause of Community Action.

Please reach out to me or any member of our dedicated team if you have questions, ideas, or simply wish to share your thoughts. Your insight is invaluable to us; and we are eager to collaborate with you in shared mission and pursuit.

Once again, thank you for gracing us with your presence. Together, we are poised to make a lasting and meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

With warm regards,



Linda Huntspon
Chief Executive Officer

GREETINGS FROM

Linda Huntspon



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, INC.



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Director of Community Affairs
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Dear Friends,

A warm and gracious welcome to all of you on behalf of the CAASTLC Board of Directors. Your presence at this Gala is a source of immense inspiration and encouragement.

This evening, we come together not only to celebrate our accomplishments but also to reaffirm our commitment to the values and goals that bind us. It is through your support and dedication that we have been able to make a meaningful impact through the years.

As we stand at this juncture, let us look ahead with optimism and determination to carry out the mission and promise set before us by President Lyndon B. Johnson, Sargent Shriver, and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Along with over 1000 Community Action Agencies strong across the country, together, we have the power to shape a brighter future for those we serve and the communities we touch. Thank you for joining us in this celebration and for your unwavering support.

Warm regards,

Sheila Pearson
Board Chair, CAASTLC, Inc.



GREETINGS FROM
Sheila Pearson



BOARD CHAIR
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, INC.

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GOVERNMENT SUPERVISANCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL
AND LIMITED GOVERNMENT

Dear Chief Executive Officer Linda Huntspon and CAASTLC Board of Directors,

I am honored to congratulate the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County on their 8th Annual Doors of Opportunity Gala and for 55 years of extraordinary work serving the people of St. Louis. CAASTLC's dedication to providing resources to those with the greatest need saves lives. Your work is a testament to the agency's resolve and commitment to meeting the needs of families throughout St. Louis County. Because of you, tens of thousands of our community members in Missouri's First District have received the necessary assistance to ensure they thrive.

CAASTLC provides over 22 services that work to open "Doors of Opportunity" to families, helping them to transition from poverty, and working to ensure every person has the chance to thrive. This compassionate care is always given with a high level of dignity and respect, and it is what our community needs and deserves. Thank you for your commitment to excellent service delivery. I know you will continue providing incredible services for our St. Louis community, just as you have done the past 55 years!.

Your Congresswoman loves you,

CORI BUSH
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY
41 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63105

SAM PAGE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 19, 2023

(314) 615-7016

Linda Huntspon
Chief Executive Officer
Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.
2709 Woodson Road St. Louis, MO 63114

Dear Linda:

On behalf of the citizens of St. Louis County, I congratulate the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County (CAASTLC) on its 8th annual Doors of Opportunity Gala, an event dedicated to raising unrestricted funding that helps underwrite the 22 wrap-around services offered to assist low-income families in St. Louis County.

We celebrate your commitment to providing these essential services that empower and stabilize vulnerable households, creating pathways to a brighter future. Your dedication to offering rental and mortgage assistance, electric, gas, sewer, and water support, as well as valuable programs such as drug and alcohol counseling, anger management, employment development, financial literacy, and other life skills classes, has a profound impact on our community. We applaud your reentry support, which has enabled individuals to become entrepreneurs, launch new businesses, and pursue higher education.

Your Poverty Simulations shed light on the realities of poverty and enhance the understanding of the importance of philanthropic support. Additionally, your Step Up to Leadership workshops inspire civic engagement, encouraging community members to attend meetings, join boards, and take on greater civic responsibilities. The CAASTLC Seeds of Hope Farm, which provides fresh fruits and vegetables at affordable costs, contributes significantly to alleviating food insecurities among county residents.

As you celebrate 55 years of dedicated service to the families and communities of St. Louis County, we express our heartfelt gratitude. Your tireless community outreach, engagement, and case management efforts positively impact over 40,000 low-income residents annually. For your remarkable contributions, we extend our sincere thanks.

I eagerly anticipate many more years of collaboration in strengthening the communities we serve together.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment.

Sincerely,

Sam Page

HISTORY OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES

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) was passed, creating a Federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). The OEO created Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to empower individuals and families living in poverty.

CAASTLC, Inc. was originally incorporated as Human Development Corporation of Metropolitan St. Louis (HDC) in 1968. In 2003, Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. became part of a national rebranding effort to make CAAs more identifiable in their communities.

CAASTLC provides services to more than 40,000 customers per year in St. Louis County. There are currently over 1,000 CAAs nationwide, engaged in a broad range of activities including energy assistance, home weatherization, job training, and leadership classes.



Charting our Course. . . Reducing Poverty



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8th Annual
Doors of Opportunity Gala



Honorary Chairs

REUBEN A. & D'ANNE SHELTON III, ESQ.



Reuben A. Shelton retired as Lead Litigation Counsel for Monsanto Company where he led a team that handled anti-trust and intellectual property litigation. He recently concluded his term as the International President of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated after serving on the Board of Directors from 2007-2023.

Before Monsanto, he was Special Chief Counsel in the Office for the Missouri Attorney General where he co-led the State's lawsuit against the tobacco industry. That lawsuit resulted in a 6.7-billion-dollar settlement for Missouri, which is still the largest in the state's history.

Shelton has served in many civic and professional organizations. He is Past President of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, and the St. Louis Bar Foundation

and is the first African American ever elected to those positions. He is also Past President of the Missouri Bar Association.

Shelton has served on the governing boards of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, the NAACP, the Missouri Lottery Commission, St. Louis Children's Hospital Development Board, the St. Louis University Board of Regents, the University City, Missouri School Board and was President of the Lincoln University Board of Curators. He is Past-President of the Legal Services of Eastern Missouri Board of Directors and served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Fathers and Families Support Center in St. Louis.

He served as a member on the Missouri Bar Association Board of Trustees and is a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of United Way of Greater St. Louis.

Shelton earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Kansas where he was named Captain of the basketball team, a Juris Doctorate degree from St. Louis University, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Washington University in St. Louis.

He has received many Fraternity, civic and professional awards, far too many to mention here, but most significantly, he was inducted into the Order of the Fleur De Lis, the St. Louis University Law School Hall of Fame, the highest honor the school bestows. He was also recently awarded the Legal Icon award by Missouri Lawyers Weekly, the statewide legal news publication and designated a Legal Pioneer by the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis.

D'Anne Tombs-Shelton is a dedicated education professional who retired as an Elementary School Principal from the River-view Gardens School District. With a career marked by exceptional achievements, D'Anne's impact in the field of education is truly remarkable.

Before her retirement, D'Anne played a pivotal role at Chancellor Beacon, where she contributed to the establishment of a groundbreaking charter school in a St. Louis downtown high-rise, spanning ten floors. Her leadership was instrumental in achieving remarkable results, as she successfully increased the school's enrollment from 220 students to an impressive 650 students within just four years.

D'Anne's passion for education extended beyond the numbers. She took pride in mentoring and nurturing emerging leaders in both administration and classroom instruction, leaving a legacy in her wake. Her commitment to excellence in education was evident through her school's consistent achievement of state standards in communication arts and math.

D'Anne Tombs-Shelton's impressive educational journey is underscored by her commitment to personal and professional growth. She holds a B.A. in personnel administration from the University of Kansas, where her foundation in education began. Her academic pursuits continued with the attainment of a teaching certificate from Harris Stowe University. To further enhance her expertise, she pursued advanced degrees at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, earning both an M.Ed. and an Ed.S.

D'Anne was not only dedicated to her own education but also actively engaged in various professional affiliations. She served as vice president of the Missouri Public Charter School Association and was involved in several key educational initiatives, including the Missouri Reading Initiative, Character Education, Reading, Technology and Leadership Academies. Her dedication extended to the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and Exodus to Excellence.

As a passionate educator, D'Anne was a sought after presenter in the field of education, showcasing her expertise at state level events and even the American Physical Society National Convention in the area of Science Education Equity and Reform.

Her outstanding leadership in education was duly recognized through multiple awards, a tes-

tament to her unwavering commitment to the betterment of education.

Beyond her professional life, D'Anne is an active member of various organizations, including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Girl Friends, Incorporated, The Links, Incorporated, and the Silhouettes of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated. Her community involvement also extended to serving as the Chair of the National Health and Wellness Initiatives for the National Silhouettes.

In her personal life, she is married to Reuben. Together they have three daughters, three grandsons, and one great grandson, adding a warm and familiar dimension to her rich and accomplished life.

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EMCEE

Carol Daniel

SENIOR PRODUCER & HOST NINE PBS

Carol Daniel, who is gracing CAASTLC for the 3rd year as the Doors of Opportunity Emcee, is an Award-winning St. Louis journalist, reporter, host, columnist, and author. After more than 40 years of experience in the media industry, Daniel recently joined Nine PBS as Senior Producer and Host.

Prior to her role at Nine PBS, she spent most of her career at KMOX Radio, as well as several years as the host of *Great Day St. Louis* on KMOV/Channel 4, and nearly a decade as an award-winning columnist for the St. Louis American. She has been honored as a Living Legend by the National Association of Black Journalists–St. Louis, was recently inducted into the Lincoln University Alumni Hall of Fame, and was a 2022 inductee into the St. Louis Media Hall of Fame. The National Newspaper Association has honored Carol twice for her column in the St. Louis American Newspaper for humor. Her other honors have come from the Missouri Broadcaster’s Association, the YWCA Women’s Leader Class, STL TV, and Delux Magazine’s Power 100.

“With a long and lauded career, Carol Daniel is a true St. Louis media icon, trusted to bring this community stories that matter,” said Amy Shaw, President and CEO of Nine PBS. “Her reputation for informing and inspiring through her work is well known, and she is committed to Nine PBS’s role in helping our community thrive. She has big plans for her new chapter at Nine PBS, and we could not be more excited that she’s joining our team.”

After such diverse experiences, the native Missourian looks forward to telling the stories of her community in a new way. In her new role, Daniel will create and host a podcast, highlighting topics and people who



are making an impact in the St. Louis region. She will also produce interviews and stories that celebrate and showcase underrepresented voices for Nine PBS’s content flagship, *Living St. Louis*.

“I’ve been working in this industry for a long time, and while much has changed, a lot has stayed the same, including our need to know, to learn, to be informed by people we can trust,” said Daniel. “I want to uncover stories, answer difficult questions, introduce you to the people who are doing the hard work of helping this community grow. At Nine PBS, I can really contribute to lifting St. Louis up. I can’t wait to get started.”

CAASTLC is proud of Carol’s lifelong commitment to her craft and happy to have her as a supporter of CAASTLC, Inc.

Program

Reception	Friends of CAASTLC Light Music – DJ Tony Steed
Invocation of Blessings	Sherri A. Robins PR Director, CAASTLC, Inc.
Honoring A Legacy of Community Action	Carol Daniel, Emcee Senior Producer and Host – Nine PBS
Meet Our CEO	Introduction by Sheila Pearson Board Chair CAASTLC, Inc.
Welcome Greetings	Linda Huntspon, Chief Executive Officer, CAASTLC, Inc. “Honoring a Legacy of Community Action in America”
Dinner Is Served	Violinist Bell Darris
Awards Ceremony	Linda Huntspon, CEO CAASTLC, Inc. Clayton Evans and Linda Eikerenkoetter Event Co-Chairs
Employee of the Year Award Volunteer of the Year Award Emerging Role Model Award Community Advocacy Award Journey Award	Clarence Holemon LaTanya McDavis Neshanta “Chef Nese” Larry Myka Perry & Elliott Davis Nicole Jenkins
Speaker of the Hour A Message of Hope	Tim Ezell Feature Reporter, Fox 2 News in the Morning
Giving in Action	Mr. & Mrs. Reuben A. & D’Anne Tombs-Shelton, III Esq. Honorary Chairpersons
Entertainment	Stephanie “Songbird” Ivy
Closing Remarks	Linda Huntspon, CEO CAASTLC, Inc.
Final Auction Bidding and Appeals	
Let’s Dance	DJ Tony Steed

Journey Award – Nicole Jenkins

FOUNDER & DIRECTOR, VETERANS ADVANTAGE URGENT CARE



Born and raised in the inner city of North St. Louis, Nicole Jenkins proved undeterred and undaunted in her desire to overcome all obstacles. Passionate about education, community and justice, Nicole took advantage of the voluntary de-seg program to attend public schools in an affluent area. Her wit and will carried

her well through her studies but her geography kept her grounded in the stark reality that too many poor and impoverished neighborhoods know: it's a cold hard world for the ignored and forgotten. These experiences shaped her honest, straightforward passion to build a stronger healthcare, housing and employment system in impoverished neighborhoods.

Nicole is also a well-known local media celebrity in her own right, having hosted numerous local broadcast television and radio programs focusing on community development issues. In 2016, Nicole produced a hit show featured on ABC 30 "Back on the Block by Nikki J" that reached over 10,000 households, along with starting a scholarship foundation that awards three Seniors from Sumner High School. Jenkins, feels that It's important to give back to those who can't do anything for others and mentorship is critical.

Nicole, also sits on the Advisory Board for St. Louis College of Health Careers – Medical Assistant Program, Health Care Internship Partner for Lift for Life Lift Academy and STL Veterans Ball Board Member. Nicole, also sat on the Soar Committee for Elks Lodge #9 (responsible for awarding Lift for Life Academy with a 30,000 grant). Jenkins, is also a Sumner High School Community Liaison member.

Fast Forward. Nicole is the founder and Director of Veterans Advantage Urgent Care (VAUC). A sub-specialty Urgent Care solely for Veterans and the first of its kind in the nation with a special focus on PTSD, Pain Management, Podiatry, Diabetes, Wound Care, through Integrative functional medicine and the leading technology in medicine. Same day X-rays will also be done on site.

Veterans Advantage Urgent Care is the result of tireless research and relentless networking and a refusal to accept 'no' for an answer. That's the advice she gives students from the inner city - "Never give up!" Nicole Jenkins boasts over fifteen years of experience in private and public healthcare, including having served on the team of Directors at Mercy Hospital's Lean Design Team, reconstructing its current Charity Clinic (JFK) with the five Lean manufacturing principles: value, value streams, flow, pull, and perfection.

Nicole also served on the team of Directors of the Veterans Choice Program for the Mammography Department of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. During her tenure at the VA, Jenkins witnessed first-hand the difficulties facing Veterans needing to be seen at government operated facilities, including a backlog of patients and a lack of outside community providers to address this overflow of patients. This was the impetus that sparked Jenkins' vision to create Veterans Advantage Urgent Care.

With state certification as a Minority Business Enterprise and Woman-Owned Business Enterprise, Nicole Jenkins envisions building a new, state-of-the-art urgent care facility near the site of the current Veterans Advantage Urgent Care, to broaden specialty services and better serve patients under the Veterans Community Choice Program.

AWARDS/DISTINCTIONS/RECOGNITIONS

- Recipient of St. Louis City Board of Alderman – Proclamation for Outstanding Service to Veterans Women's History Month – Resolution No. 218 (Session 2021-22)
- St. Louis Business Journal* character feature: Nicole Jenkins turns work at the VA into Urgent Care for Veterans.
- Distinguished Citizenship Award – Elks Lodge #9
- Who's Who in America
- Recognized By *CIO Magazine*, as an affiliate of the Machine Learning Company of the Year 2021.
- STL -TV Jewel Awards Recipient
- Vice President – Phi Theta Kappa
- Website: <https://www.vauc.org>



Honorees

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AWARD



MYKA PERRY
Counselor
CAASTLC, Inc.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD



LA TANYA MC DAVIS
Retired

CAASTLC EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



CLARENCE HOLEMON
Data Entry Specialist
CAASTLC, Inc.

EMERGING ROLE MODEL AWARD



NESHANTA "CHEF NESEE" LARRY
Owner
That's So Good Pop-Up
Buffet & Podcast

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AWARD



ELLIOTT DAVIS
Reporter
"You Paid For It"
FOX 2 News

Speaker of the Hour



Tim Ezell

FEATURE REPORTER, FOX 2 NEWS

Mr. Tim Ezell was the comic relief at Fox 2 News in the Morning for 16 years and loved the opportunity to bring smiles to the people of St. Louis to start their day. In 2014, Tim left Fox 2 to be a full-time pastor. God called him to a show called The Thread in 2016, which celebrated the amazing people of St. Louis and the kingdom work being done in our city. God did amazing things in and through The Thread for five years. Tim is now back on the morning beat, bringing his unique brand of fun back to Fox 2 News in the Morning in the role that started it all, feature reporter. Keep your eyes and ears open each and every morning. Tim may be coming to your neighborhood soon! Tim is originally from Fort Worth, Texas and is a proud graduate of Louisiana State University. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from Covenant Seminary in May 2017. Tim is blessed with his bride of almost 24 years and best friend Kim. They are proud parents of three children Halle (20), Lexi (17) and Andrew (16).

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CONGRATULATIONS COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY

GOT STEM
Here We Grow

CAASTLC SEEDS OF HOPE FARM

Located in Spanish Lake, Seeds of Hope addresses issues of nutrition, access to healthy food and connection to nature through gardening and cooking.

We co-host cooking classes with dieticians and teach gardening workshops, FREE for the whole family.

We provide hands-on, experiential learning with a unique STEM curriculum that teaches the fundamentals of science and a healthy respect for the earth through the lens of urban agriculture.

Sow a seed to help address food insecurity and connect more families to math, science and healthier eating!



**COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY
HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES**

Programs & Services

REENTRY PROGRAM

Employment Readiness Training
Second Chance Job Fairs
Felon-friendly Employment Placement
Makin' it Work
(Curriculum for justice-involved job seekers)
Reentry Entrepreneurship Workshops
Anger Management/Drug & Alcohol Education Classes
Mental Health Counseling
Community Service Opportunities
Family Case Management

HOUSING SERVICES

Weatherization Assistance
Housing Assistance
Housing Counseling
Disaster Relief
Rent/Mortgage Assistance
Home Repair & Housing Assistance Case Management

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

LIHEAP/Low-Income Home Energy Assistance
Program Dollar Help, Dollar More & Heat Up
LIWAP/Low-income Water Assistance Program
Water and Sewer Services
H2O Assistance

HEALTH & NUTRITION

Drive-Through Food Pantry
Seeds of Hope Farm Fresh Produce for Food Pantries

YOUTH SERVICES

Youth Case Management
HiSET (GED)
Reality Enrichment and Life Lessons (REALL)
Farming Using STEM Curriculum

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Poverty Simulations
Job Fairs & Hiring Events
Step Up to Leadership
Weekly Outreach at Libraries and Partner Sites

CAASTLC COMMUNITY LOAN CENTER OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Employer-Based Small Dollar Loan Program
www.clcstlc.org

IMMIGRANT INCLUSION

Service & Support to all Immigrants
Case Management
Food Pantry Service/Housing & Energy Assistance
Mental Health Programs
Step Up to Leadership
Job Fairs and Hiring Events



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Debra Harper-LeBlanc
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Shenisia Watson
Brandon Wilkes

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Minnetta Watkins
Executive Assistant to the CEO
Michael Clark
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Susan E. Moss
Human Resources Director
Sherri A. Robins
Public Relations Director
Tricia Bell
Development Director
Richard Reinbott
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Karen Wilson
Energy Supervisor (LIHEAP)
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Farm Manager (Seeds of Hope Farm)

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Gala Pearson
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Myka C. Perry
Tony Simpson
Camille Smith
Anthony Steed
Randy Tempel
Donna Townley
Kenny Williamson

"What can change the world today is the same thing that has changed it in the past—an idea and the service of dedicated, committed individuals to that idea."

— Sargent Shriver

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Mission

The mission of CAASTLC 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.

Core Values

Commitment to Community

We believe in working together, sharing ideas, bringing change and open communications with our community residents, partners, and stakeholders.

Excellence in Customer Service

We believe in treating our customers, vendors, and employees with the highest degree of dignity, equality, and trust

Integrity

We believe in being honest, trustworthy, respectful, and ethical in our actions.

Stewardship of Resources

We believe in being dedicated to building a better, stronger and more durable agency for future generations, meeting our commitments to stakeholders, developing our people and helping improve our communities.

Dedication to Staff

We believe in building strong relationships by respecting one another and valuing each other's needs, time, and contributions.



Energy Conservation Products & Services Insulation Contractors

Dave Femmer, CEO and Owner

5327 Pinefield Drive,

St. Charles, MO 63304

314-280-4655

Entertainment

Bell Darris & Stephanie "Songbird" Ivy



Bell Darris
VIOLINIST

Well rounded, entrepreneur, violinist, promoter, artist, and host. Bell is not exaggerating when she proclaims herself to be a mogul. She is currently the Market Coordinator for Walgreens Expressions where through music she encourages teens to express themselves and make healthy choices. She is excited to be able to share her gift of music with the world.

Playing violin has been one of her favorite outlets. She recently opened for John Legend, Tamela Mann, Jagged Edge and many other artists. She has played at venues including The Pageant, The St. Louis Art Museum, and Powell Symphony Hall. Bell continues to inspire the next generation by teaching Summer Enrichment Programs. The Create Camp is her most esteemed accomplishment as it was well received and sponsored by Ameren and the City of St. Louis.

She enjoys teaching children art, music, creative writing, and Entrepreneurship to broaden their perspective of the arts. She is an awesome creative who loves to share her gift and encourage others to do the same.



Stephanie "Songbird" Ivy
SINGER/SONGWRITER

Stephanie Ivy, better known as "Songbird," is a native of St. Louis, MO. Having been told her father (who passed away before her birth) was also a great guitarist and amazing singer, is probable cause to believe that perhaps this is why she too has been blessed with the gift of music and singing.

From the young age of two, she began singing and around the age of twelve, she began performing in front of large crowds, which she has always been comfortable doing.

Her loving mother played a huge role in molding her, as well as managing her career and with her mother's assistance, she became a great songwriter and the loving person she is today. Stephanie has an extensive selection of songs she has written through the years. She knew the gift of singing would not only be her passion in life, but become one of two special purposes in life, not just because of the personal joy it brings, but because of the immense joy she is able to deliver to others through each performance.

Stephanie's ability to sing with such precision, range and uniqueness has garnered her much love and respect from many acclaimed artists in the entertainment and music industry. She has opened for artists including Outkast, The Dells, The Rude Boys, Levert, Nelly, Tupac, Cedric the Entertainer and more recently Stokley Williams, lead singer of Mint Condition. Her universal appeal keeps her in popular demand.

Songbird is known around the world from auditions on American Idol, The Voice, and X Factor. She claimed the title of the St. Louis 2012 Ex Factor competition and by the courtesy of Fox 2 News, she won a trip to Rhode Island where she competed for the finals.

Stephanie is equally passionate about helping children with special needs. She devotes much of her spare time honing her craft, staying involved with the community to make a positive difference. She takes no one for granted and counts each person as a gift.

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Acknowledgments

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With a heart of gratitude, we thank you. Your concern, commitment, and gifts contributed to new doors opened.

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 serving the community with a purpose.



Dr. Andrea Jackson-Jennings
 Managing Director Regional Response Team



CAASTLC

Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.

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Thank You!



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