



CAASTLC

Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.

9TH ANNUAL
DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY

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DEAR FRIENDS OF CAASTLC,

Welcome to the 9th Annual Doors of Opportunity Gala hosted by the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.! We are truly honored to have you join us this evening. Every day, I am deeply humbled and inspired as I witness the incredible stories of transformation—how ordinary people unite to achieve extraordinary results. Your support is what makes our work possible, and for that, we are sincerely grateful.

Community Action Agency of St. Louis County is dedicated to empowering individuals and families to achieve stability and success. Through our programs and services, we have impacted over 55,000 lives. This number doesn't even account for those indirectly touched by our efforts, whose lives bear the mark of our mission. As a community safety net agency, we often anticipate needs before they arise, standing shoulder to shoulder with our neighbors in times of crisis. Tonight, you will hear powerful stories of resilience, perseverance, and the countless ways our community has come together to create opportunities for those who need them most.

This year's gala is a celebration of the collective spirit that propels our mission forward. We are here tonight because of the generosity and commitment of partners, supporters, volunteers, and community leaders like you. Your contributions help us not only address immediate needs but also foster long-term change and hope for a brighter future.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and every individual who supports our mission behind the scenes. Like the wind, you may not always be seen, but the impact of your dedication is felt profoundly.

As we gather tonight, let us remember that every door we open, every opportunity we create, and every life we touch brings us one step closer to a more equitable future for St. Louis County. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive community, one opportunity at a time.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Let's continue to make history together!

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Huntspon".

Linda Huntspon
Chief Executive Officer
Community Action Agency of St. Louis County



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 17, 2024

I am proud to recognize May as Community Action Month and the 9th Annual Doors of Opportunity Gala!

Every year, over 1,000 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) across the country work tirelessly to reduce the causes and conditions of poverty. With support from the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), CAAs make a key difference in the lives of millions of Americans—providing housing, nutrition, utility, and transportation assistance; improving access to employment and education services; supporting people during crises; and more. These agencies are vital resources for so many, and I remain committed to providing them with the support they need to uplift their communities.

My Administration has made it a priority to invest in the CSBG, helping ensure that CAAs can deliver life-changing services to the people they support. We have more than doubled our investment in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which provides CAAs with funding to help families afford their energy bills. My Administration also launched the Low—Income Household Water Assistance Program—a critical initiative CAAs use to expand access to affordable water. And as we continue to build an economy from the bottom up and the middle out, we are going to keep working with partners at CAAs to ensure our efforts are benefiting all communities.

I have never been more optimistic about America's prospects than I am today, in part because of the selfless spirit of the women and men who serve the people and the communities they love through their work at CAAs. This month and every month, may we thank them for their dedication to forging a more just and equitable future for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Biden".



DEAR HONORED GUESTS,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to our 9th Annual Doors of Opportunity Gala. Tonight, we gather not only to celebrate the incredible work that our agency does but also to honor the resilience and determination of those we serve.

This evening is about more than just a celebration—it's a testament to the power of community, the importance of opportunity, and the impact of support when it is most

needed. Your presence here tonight is a powerful statement of your commitment to our mission: to empower individuals and families, to open doors, and to build pathways to self-sufficiency and success.

As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded that the work we do would not be possible without the generosity of supporters like you. Your contributions, both big and small, make a profound difference in the lives of so many.

Tonight, let us celebrate the progress we have made and let us look forward to a future filled with even greater possibilities. Thank you for being a part of this journey, for believing in our mission, and for helping us continue to open Doors of Opportunity.

Enjoy the evening!

Sheila Pearson
Board Chair
Community Action Agency of St. Louis County



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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION
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 9th Annual “Doors of Opportunity” Gala and for 56 years of exceptional work serving the people of St. Louis. CAASTLC’s dedication to providing resources to those with the greatest need saves lives. This past year, I had the opportunity to visit one of CAASTLC’s workforce reentry program classes. I was so inspired by the love and positive support given to those in the process of making change in their life. Your unwavering commitment to meeting the needs of families throughout St. Louis County is indispensable. 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 for the past 56 years!

Your Congresswoman loves you,

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Learn more and get involved at bjc.org/deserve

BJC HealthCare | You deserve extraordinary care.



October 17, 2024

The Board of Directors

Community Action Agency
of St. Louis County, Inc.
2709 Woodson Road
Overland, MO 63114

Dear Board of Directors:

The Community Action Agency of Saint Louis County, Inc. is an important part of our community. Your service to help end poverty and assist families in making changes that impact people of all generations now and in the future is a valuable role in our county.

On behalf of the City of Overland, allow me to express my thanks and congratulations to your organization and I look forward to an ongoing partnership between the city and your organization.

Thank you to your dedicated staff and volunteers for being a contributing factor that makes Overland A Great Place to Live.

Respectfully,

Marty A. Little
Mayor



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Congratulations...

Is extended to Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, a member of a national network of over 1000 Community Action Agencies across the country that are "Helping People and Changing Lives."

CAASTLC continues to be a conduit that helps families in St. Louis County transition from poverty to self-sufficiency.

Custom Engineering applauds the mission and effort of CAASTLC and looks forward to partnering for years to come.

Cheers from our team to yours!

We Salute You!

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60 YEARS: A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES



On January 8, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson called on Congress to do something never before done: set an aim not only to relieve the symptom of poverty, but to cure it and, above all, to prevent it. Johnson acknowledged in his State of the Union Address that no single piece of legislation would suffice. With Johnson's declaration of a War on Poverty and the various pieces of legislation that came after, the administration and Congress acknowledged the complexities of poverty, and the intertwined nature of poverty with racial discrimination, and made a commitment to do better across a wide range of issues for all Americans.

In May of 1964, in a speech to University of Michigan graduates, Johnson declared America had the wealth and the power to build the Great Society: "The Great Society rests on abundance and liberty for all. It demands an end to poverty and racial injustice to which we are totally committed in our time." To achieve the vision of the Great Society, an unprecedented number of bills were enacted—bills addressing civil



President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Poverty Bill (also known as the Economic Opportunity Act) in the Rose Garden of the White House, while press and supporters look on. August 20, 1964.

Photo by Cecil W. Stoughton - LBJ Library C661-4-WH64

Charting our Course... Reducing Poverty

rights, jobs and economic development, education, training, health, housing, enlarging youth opportunities, and assisting the aged and disabled. Additional pieces of legislation addressing the environment, transportation, consumer protection, and arts and culture were also passed.

On August 20, 1964, President Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act (EOA). While the EOA was not the only anti-poverty legislation, it is often seen as the cornerstone of the War on Poverty. The EOA included several titles that created new programs, including Title II, which created Rural and Urban Community Action Programs. Other components of the EOA included programs such as Job Corps, Adult Basic Education, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Senior Community Services Employment, Upward Bound, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), and Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker. The same year, in Hayter's Gap, located in rural southwest Virginia, a school principal, a general store owner, his school librarian wife, and other community leaders formed the Hayter's Gap Community Club to provide education, recreation, and daycare for local residents. By December 1964 the club expanded in scope when it was approved for funding by the federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), recently created under the EOA. The club was renamed the Progressive Community Club and was chartered as one of the nation's first Community Action Agencies (CAA) designated to serve economically disadvantaged community members throughout Washington County and the City of Bristol. That grassroots local coalition has grown to become People Incorporated, one of the most innovative CAAs in the nation.

Just as in Hayter's Gap, local coalitions of local people across the country used EOA funding to establish CAAs. OEO awarded the first Community Action grants in November 1964. CAAs were established at breakneck speed; by 1966 1,600 new CAAs, serving people in urban and rural areas, on Tribal lands, and in migrant seasonal farm communities across America had been established.

As CAAs were created at different times—with some perhaps as early as November 1964, and others many years later—individual CAAs and State Associations will celebrate their 60th anniversaries in 2025 and beyond.

As we acknowledge 60 years of Community Action in America, we urge you to stay tuned for 2028 as we celebrate 60 years that Community Action Agency of St. Louis County has been a part of this phenomenal 1000 agency network!

**COMMUNITY ACTION
60 YEARS STRONG**

Helping families and
communities thrive.



IMPACT

CAASTLC: A COMMUNITY IN ACTION



COMMUNITY SERVICES IMPACT

\$15,885,890 In vendor payments were expended to help stabilize households in St. Louis County.



INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR LOW INCOME, VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

15,433 vulnerable individuals with low income received services from CAASTLC, helping them to secure or maintain an independent living situation.



40,616 Individuals with low incomes received assistance to stabilize their households.



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

13,832 Employment and education support services designed to reduce or eliminate barriers to initial or continuous employment and educational attainment were delivered.

1,377 Individuals, including infants, youth, parents, and other family members benefited from participation and received case management and family development support to help them to achieve their goals.

32,208 individuals received emergency assistance payments to restore utilities, prevent disconnects and prevent evictions and foreclosures.

3,057 individuals received emergency services such as food, counseling, and referrals.

3,735 Individuals received the opportunity to engage in community and advocacy activities that helped to improve, support, and promote community and individual well-being.

\$254,442 was paid out to vendors to prevent homelessness for 156 households.



The moment planting seeds becomes more than just growing a garden.

At Simmons Bank, we believe healthy, vibrant communities don't just happen on their own. They happen when people make an investment in each other. Because we accomplish more together than we do alone.



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Simmons Bank is a proud supporter of the moments that matter and CAASTLC's "Doors of Opportunity" Gala.

PROGRAM

Reception	Friends of CAASTLC Light Music – DJ Tony Steed
Honoring A Legacy of Community Action	Hostesses Kiki the First Lady and Mz. SiNTa Wells of Foxy 106.9 Radio
Greetings from the Board Chair	Sheila Pearson, Board Chair, CAASTLC, Inc. Community Action Pledge
Welcome	Linda Huntspon, CEO, CAASTLC, Inc.
Blessing of Food	Johnny Greer Pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Dinner Is Served	Volunteer to direct by tables
Awards Ceremony	Linda Huntspon, CEO CAASTLC, Inc. Clayton Evans and Linda Eikerenkoetter Event Co-Chairs
Employees of the Year Award	Nicole “Nikki” Briones and Marissa Muhummad
Volunteer of the Year Award	Susan Warren
Community Heroes Award	Chief Quinten Randolph
Community Partner Award	Dr. Kristy Jackson
Business Leader in Action Award	James E. Williams, Jr.
Journey Award	Darryl “Peewee” Lenard
Giving in Action	
Entertainment	Stephanie "Songbird" Ivy
Final Auction Bidding and Appeals	
Let’s Dance	DJ Tony Steed

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.

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.

Our 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.



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Co-Host
Kiki The First Lady

Throughout her illustrious career, **Kiki The First Lady** has become a beloved figure in the St. Louis radio community. Her infectious personality, quick wit, and charming demeanor have made her a favorite among listeners of all ages. Kiki's capabilities extend far beyond the radio booth and the radio airways. As a combat medic in the United States Army, she displayed bravery and dedication to her country. With her recent foray into acting, Kiki has proven that her work is a true extension of her talents. Whether she's delivering a killer voiceover or sharing the screen with A-listers like Ja Rule, Kiki is sure to leave a lasting impression.

Kiki The First Lady gives back to the community through volunteer work. Her mentorship of young women at St. Louis Job Corps and her support of the St. Louis Crisis Nursery demonstrates her commitment to making a positive impact in the world. In short, Kiki The First Lady is a true multi-hyphenate talent. From radio personality to actress to volunteer, she is a shining example of what it

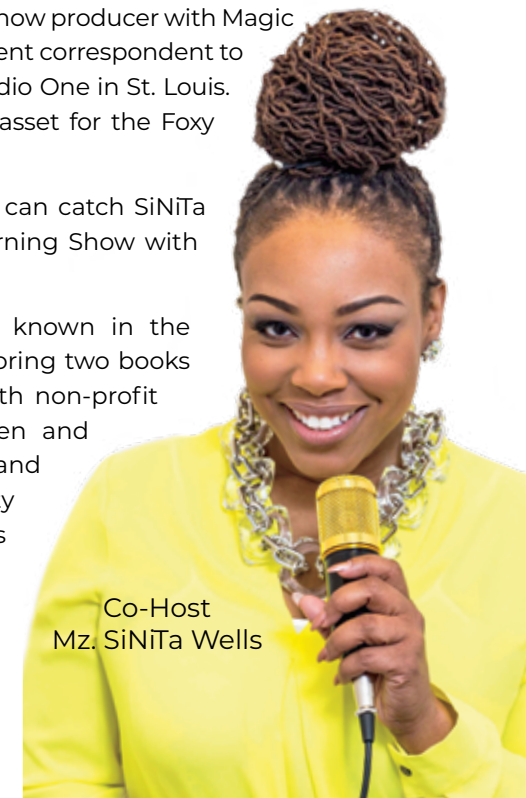
means to use your talents to make a positive impact in the world. Don't miss out on the thrill and pleasure that only Kiki The First Lady can provide. Kiki's contagious energy may be heard on Foxy 106.9 on weekends.

SiNiTa Wells, a dynamic on-air personality known as Mz. SiNiTa, brings with her over 25 years of entertainment experience. From morning show producer with Magic 108, interviewing A-List celebrities as an entertainment correspondent to a former afternoon drive on-air personality with Radio One in St. Louis. Her dedication to her craft makes her a valuable asset for the Foxy 106.9 radio family.

Monday through Friday from 6 AM to 10 AM you can catch SiNiTa hosting and producing The Wake and Shake Morning Show with her two female colleagues.

In addition to her radio talents, SiNiTa is well known in the community for her advocacy work. Through authoring two books and four journals, she has worked extensively with non-profit organizations that focus on empowering women and girls find their voices in order to live authentic and abundant lives. Her deep roots in the community give her a unique understanding of the issues facing the people of St. Louis.

When you wake up in the morning with Mz. SiNiTa, you can expect to be energized and inspired for the day ahead. Her infectious personality and passion for the community make her an essential part of the Foxy 106.9 team. Be sure to tune in every weekday morning to www.foxy1069.com.



Co-Host
Mz. SiNiTa Wells



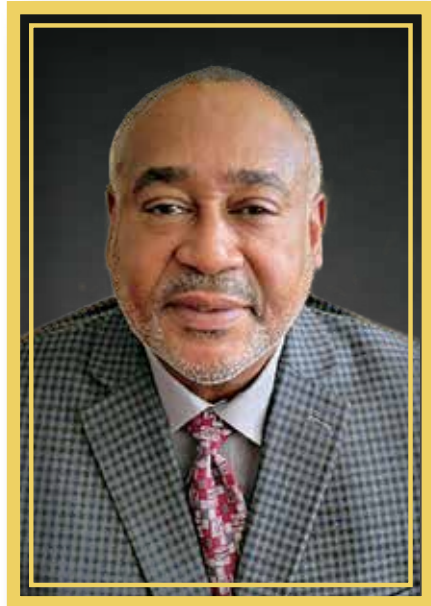
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JOURNEY AWARD

DARRYL "PEEWEE" LENARD

Coach Darryl "PeeWee" Lenard is a beloved figure on the basketball courts of St. Louis, having dedicated over 30 years to the game. From his early days as a toddler chasing older siblings, to his current role as a devoted coach, Coach Lenard has used the simple game of basketball to mentor and prepare kids for the challenges of life.

Coach Lenard rose to national prominence as a standout point guard with the Central High School Redwings, where he earned recognition as a Street & Smith's first-team high school All-American. His impressive high school career also included two selections to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* All-Metro First Team and All-Missouri Team. A dynamic player, Lenard averaged 25 points per game while leading his team in assists and steals during his junior and senior seasons. This dynamic team packed gyms throughout the region as they averaged over 105 points per game without a 3-point line, making high school basketball history. To date, no other team has achieved this tremendous feat in a 32-minute game, even with a 3-point line!

After high school, Lenard accepted a scholarship to the University of Georgia before transferring to St. Louis University under Coach Rich Majerus's guidance. As a Billiken, he left his mark as the all-time leading free-throw shooter with an 86% average and ranked fifth all-time for career steals.

Transitioning into coaching, Coach Lenard has spent the last 15 years with the Bradley Beal Elite basketball club, where his leadership has been instrumental in the program's success. Under his guidance, the BBE teams have secured multiple championships and produced numerous NCAA and NBA players and coaches. (See sidebar.)

Basketball is more than just a game to Coach Lenard; it is a vehicle for teaching valuable life lessons. His coaching philosophy centers on instilling qualities such as commitment, sportsmanship, character, pride, and selflessness in his players. Through his dedication and mentorship, Coach Lenard strives to cultivate a sense of pride, humility, and respect in the youth he works with, ensuring they are prepared for success both on and off the court. For Lenard, basketball has always been more than a game.

- CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES**

OG Anunoby – NY Knicks
Jefferson City HS

Yuri Collins – Santa Cruz Warriors
St. Mary's High School

Jordan Goodwin – Memphis Grizzlies
Althoff Catholic (IL)

Ben McLemore – Rio Breogan
Wellston High School

Jayson Tatum – Boston Celtics
Chaminade College Prep
5x NBA All-Star

Bradley Beal – Phoenix Suns
Chaminade College Prep
3x NBA All-Star
- FORMER PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES**

Anthony Bonner
Playing career 1990- 2006
Vashon High School

Jahidi White
Playing career 1998-2005
Cardinal Ritter College Prep

Loren Woods
Playing career 2001-2018
Cardinal Ritter College Prep

David Lee
Playing career 2005-2017
Chaminade College Prep

JAMES E. WILLIAMS, JR. BUSINESS LEADER IN ACTION AWARD



James E. Williams, Jr. is founder, president, and chief executive officer of Estel Foods Inc., which owns and operates 25 McDonald's restaurants in the St. Louis metropolitan area. As an operator of one of the world's most recognized brands, Williams has come full circle in his employment history; as a teenager, he worked at McDonald's.

Known for working seven days per week and maintaining an active role in all parts of the business, Williams relishes his engagement with the company's corporate entity, while ensuring that local operations are sound and efficient. Employee development and customer satisfaction are priorities in his operations.

Williams began his business career with McDonald's in 1998 with a single store in Granite City, Illinois, and grew his business one store at a time before acquiring multiple stores in 2014. Estel Foods Inc. has headquarters in East St. Louis, Illinois, Williams' hometown.

Before becoming a McDonald's owner-operator, Williams served nine years with the U.S. Navy, where he clocked more than 2,000 flight hours in various countries around the world. Williams was recognized for his military service and earned the U.S. Navy Achievement Award. He credits his Navy experience as key to business success, most notably the concept of teamwork.

Williams serves as an executive board member and president of the African American consumer market division for the St. Louis McDonald's Co-op, a collaborative of local franchise owners. He serves on several community boards, including the Ronald McDonald House, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, One Hundred Black Men of St. Louis, Granite City Rotary Club, Granite City Chamber of Commerce, St. Louis Downtown Partnership, U.S. Veterans. Williams is also a board member of the St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis Children's Hospital, The Nine Network, Regional Business Journal, Concordance Academy, Paramount Bank, and supports, and is involved with, the renowned Jackie Joyner Kersee Foundation.



SUSAN WARREN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD ("TWO-TIME WINNER")



Susan Warren, 55-year-old entrepreneur, homeowner, and educated woman with disabilities, is a proud two-time winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award. In 2023, she received a degree in Culinary Arts; in December 2025 she expects to earn another in Baking and Pastry from St. Louis Community College.

In 2024, Susan launched "SUE LOUs and Suzi Qs, LLC" where she creates shelf-stable baked goods and specializes in dog and cat treats. She believes that her disabilities are opportunities to defeat the odds and plans to obtain a food truck to produce and sell great products in service of the St. Louis community.

She has received certificates from CAASTLC's Entrepreneurship Class and Step Up to Leadership programs. A grant from Step Up to Leadership will enable her to deliver goods to families in St. Louis County this holiday season.

Susan enjoys volunteering at CAASTLC and notes that collaborating with the staff and clients helps sharpen her customer and human service skills.

DR. KRISTY JACKSON COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD



Kristy Jackson, Ed.S., is a dynamic leader whose combination of entrepreneurial and education experience makes her the perfect fit as the founding Executive Director of the Center of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) at Harris-Stowe State University's Anheuser-Busch School of Business. At the CIE, she leads innovation and the facilitation of partnerships to enhance Black and Brown scholars as well as St. Louis community members. In the start-up year of the CIE, she launched new entrepreneurial programs including two early-stage incubators, MECCA and a facilitator training program.

The CIE is an extension of the Anheuser-Busch School of Business and the vision of Dr. Stacy Gee Hollins, Interim Associate Provost of Academic Affairs and Dean. Guided

by its mission to create a safe space that advances entrepreneurial growth, drives economic impact, and empowers innovation, the CIE team has served 1200+ scholars, and community members and provided \$215,000 in capital and funding since its launch in 2021. The CIE will open a new entrepreneurship and innovation center in 2024.

QUINTEN RANDOLPH, FIRE CHIEF COMMUNITY HEROES AWARD



As leader of the Northeast Ambulance and Fire Protection District, Chief Randolph oversees budget, strategic planning, emergency preparedness planning, and Fire District operations.

A Veteran of the United States Army, he has served in the St. Louis County Fire Service for over 30 years. Chief Randolph graduated from Fontbonne University, with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

Over the years, Chief Randolph has held various positions in fire service, including Paramedic, Firefighter, Training Officer, Fire Marshal, Chief Medical Officer, State of Missouri EMS, and Fire Instructor. He has actively participated in incident command planning, disaster preparedness planning, and has been part of Unified

Command during times of disasters and civil unrest.

Chief Randolph has achieved multiple service certifications in many aspects of Fire Service. He is the recipient of several community recognition awards and the Fire Service Medal of Valor on two occasions. He is renowned as a Visionary and an Innovator in fire service. When he's not at the firehouse, he enjoys time with his family, traveling, and experiencing new adventures.

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NICOLE BRIONES EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD



Nicole "Nikki" Briones is a versatile and results-driven professional with robust experience in office management, sales, and job coaching. Nikki has chosen a career path that closely aligns with her love for humanity and an innate desire to help everyone live their best life. Currently serving as Office Manager at Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc., she manages operations for the environmental services team, serves as the payroll administrator and ensures seamless service to the community. With a background in sales and purchasing, she excels in building strong relationships with customers and vendors, streamlining processes, and overseeing key business functions.

Nikki also worked as a Job Coach supporting individuals in securing employment and volunteer opportunities, developing resumes, and networking. Earlier in her career, she served as an administrative assistant, supporting organizational operations.

Nikki is a dedicated mother of three. On weekends she can be found enjoying nature or juggling the athletic schedules of her children . . . or missing her CAASTLC coworkers!

MARISSA MUHUMMAD EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD



Marissa's experiences in low-income, marginalized communities helped her to develop a deep passion for helping individuals and families to improve their quality of life. Determined to create a meaningful impact on others, she graduated from Imagine College Preparatory High School and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work with a minor in Psychology, from the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL). She became a practicum student at CAASTLC, completed over 400 hours of service and was offered a Customer Service Representative position. During her tenure she has held roles including Case Manager in Reentry and now as Data Coordinator & Case Manager. She obtained the Missouri Associate Alcohol Drug Counselor II certification and has facilitated multiple

programs and classes including Drug & Alcohol Education, Anger Management, Step Up to Leadership, Reality Enrichment Life Lessons, and Poverty Simulations.

Marissa's commitment to CAASTLC is driven by the alignment of her vision with CAASTLC's mission. She is proud to state that she is highly grateful to be a part of a wonderful team, "helping families and communities transition from poverty to self-sufficiency".



THANK YOU FRIENDS

Our friends are the best ever! Your concern, commitment, and gifts make it possible for us to help people and change lives.



THE MARIAN FOUNDATION



FRIENDS OF CAASTLC

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DJ Tony Steed 🍷 Kevin Marquitz 🍷 Kikki the First Lady 🍷 Kip and Tracy Williams
Mark's Quick Printing 🍷 Mz. SiNiTa 🍷 Stephanie "Songbird" Ivy 🍷 St. Louis Community Credit Union
St. Luke's Hospital 🍷 Sue Moss 🍷 Tricia Bell

EVENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Linda Eikerenkoetter, Co-Chair 🍷 Clayton Evans, Co-Chair 🍷 Tricia Bell
Mike Clark 🍷 Georgie Donahue 🍷 Linda Huntspon 🍷 Mark Kurtz
Sherri A. Robins 🍷 Danielle Tarrant 🍷 Minnetta Watkins



CAASTLC IN ACTION

Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.

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



CAASTLC

Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.

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Minnetta Watkins
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Krista Tweedy

"Whatever your life's work is, do it well. A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn could do it no better."

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

ENTERTAIN

GUEST ARTISTS STEPHANIE “SONGBIRD” IVY & DJ TONY STEED



Stephanie "Songbird" Ivy

Stephanie Ivy, aka “Songbird Ivy,” a Behavioral Therapist for Special School District for 12 years and counting, is gracing Doors of Opportunity for the second year. Her universal appeal keeps her in popular demand locally and by Doors gala guests.

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

Songbird Ivy has graced many stages as the lead in St. Louis; and she has opened for artists including Outkast, The Dells, The Rude Boys, Levert, Nelly, Tupac, Cedric the Entertainer, and Stokley Williams, the lead singer of Mint Condition.

2023 – Wrote, recorded, and released her single “Best Life.” Over 1.3 million streams!

2023 – Released “Best Life” Video, featured on YouTube – 122 thousand views!

2024 – Released Best Life, the album - Available on all streaming platforms.

2024 – Released new single entitled “No Plan B.”

2025 – Will star in a stage play, “Unequally Yoked.”

Songbird Ivy is living her best life and growing her brand. CAASTLC is proud to share her artistry!

DJ Tony Steed

Accomplished DJ and founder of Wax Productions with over 30 years of experience designing, organizing, and promoting events. He is proficient in the use of virtual DJ software as an electronic platform, and he keeps apprised of industry trends to ensure clients get the best experience. His versatile style of mixing a wide genre of music is present in his ability to read the crowd for maximum participation. For more information, contact him at 314-337-3579.



**Thank you for helping people
choose the right direction.**

We admire and support Community Action Agency of St. Louis County’s work, because sometimes people need a little help making it from where they are to where they want to be.

**Mutual of America is proud to sponsor
the 9th Annual Doors of Opportunity Gala.**



mutualofamerica.com



Here to help

Spire is proud to support Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.’s (CAASTLC) Doors of Opportunity.

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**Proud supporter
of Community
Action Agency of
St. Louis County**



Welcome to the community.

314-534-7610

THE DANIEL AND HENRY CO. INSURANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The Daniel and Henry Co. wishes to congratulate the 2024 Community Action Honorees for all of their hard work and dedication.

Many Blessings,
Richard Boyette

CAASTLC #Project 11111
Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.

"We Warm Heads, Hands & Hearts"
Hats & Gloves for 11,111 Children

Give \$11, \$111, \$1,111 or whatever you wish to help keep the children warm this winter season. Proceeds will be used to purchase and distribute hats and gloves to elementary and middle school children. New hats and gloves donations welcome.




Contact: srobins@caastlc.org



WE ARE THERE. We are the Catholic faith at work.

Every year, hundreds of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Louis staff and volunteers in this community bring healing, help, and hope to more than 93,249 vulnerable people, regardless of their faith. Catholic Charities has been helping people in need since 1912. Organized today as a family of ministries, we serve the 11 counties of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

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- Once you have won the item, complete payment.
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AUCTION



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THANK YOU FRIENDS!



SAVE THE DATE

10TH ANNIVERSARY
DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY
16 OCT 2025



Visit us online at www.caastlc.org or in person at:

Main Office
2709 Woodson Road
Overland, MO 63114
314-863-0015

North County Office
26B North Oaks Plaza
Northwoods, MO 63121
314-863-0015

Service Hours
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



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