

TENTH
Anniversary



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

DOORS OF
OPPORTUNITY GALA

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.



Greetings from Linda Huntspon

Dear Friends of CAASTLC,

Welcome to the 10th Annual *Doors of Opportunity* Gala hosted by the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. (CAASTLC)! It is an honor to celebrate this milestone with you. Each year, I am inspired by the extraordinary impact that occurs when people of vision and compassion come together. Your support makes this work possible, and for that, we are profoundly grateful.

For more than six decades, CAASTLC has stood as a cornerstone of hope and opportunity in St. Louis County—helping individuals and families build stability, self-sufficiency, and brighter futures. While tonight marks our 10th gala, it also reflects over 60 years of dedication, innovation, and partnership with the community we proudly serve. Last year alone, our programs and services directly impacted more than 55,000 lives—and countless more indirectly—by providing the resources, advocacy, and hope needed to thrive.

As a trusted community safety net, we not only respond in moments of crisis but also anticipate emerging needs, standing shoulder to shoulder with our neighbors to build a stronger future. This evening's gala is a tribute to the collective spirit that propels our mission forward. It celebrates the resilience of those we serve, the dedication of our staff and volunteers, and the unwavering commitment of our partners, donors, and community leaders—people like you—whose generosity transforms lives and creates opportunities that might otherwise remain out of reach.

I extend my deepest thanks to our Board of Directors, Community Advisory Council, staff, volunteers, and every individual who champions our work behind the scenes. Like the wind, you may not always be seen, but the effects of your dedication are felt profoundly.

As we gather tonight, let us be reminded that every door we open, every opportunity we create, and every life we touch brings us closer to a more equitable and inclusive St. Louis County. Together, we are building on a legacy of hope, progress, and possibility—one opportunity at a time.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping us make history. Here's to opening even more doors in the years ahead.



With gratitude and excitement,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Huntspon". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored rectangular background.

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



SAINT LOUIS COUNTY
County Executive

October 16, 2025

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the citizens of Saint Louis County, I am pleased to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County (CAASTLC) on its 10th Annual Doors of Opportunity Gala.

This year's celebration carries special significance as it not only marks a decade of the gala's success but also honors 60 years of CAASTLC's service as a vital resource to our community. For six decades, CAASTLC has embodied the very best of public service—helping families build stability, achieve independence, and realize new opportunities.

Through its 22 wrap-around services, CAASTLC has addressed immediate needs while empowering countless residents to create brighter futures for themselves and their families.

The Doors of Opportunity Gala is more than an event; it is a living reflection of CAASTLC's mission—Helping People. Changing Lives. It stands as a testament to the dedication of the staff, volunteers, and partners whose commitment continues to strengthen the fabric of Saint Louis County.

Congratulations on this remarkable milestone. May this 10th anniversary year be a celebration of impact, resilience, and the new opportunities yet to come for the many lives touched by your work across Saint Louis County.

Regards,

Sam Page
Saint Louis County Executive

**OPPORTUNITY
CENTRAL**

Greetings from Rosezetta Eichelberger

Dear Honored Guests,

It is my privilege to welcome you to the 10th Annual *Doors of Opportunity* Gala. This evening is a celebration not only of the decade-long tradition of this event, but also of the enduring mission of the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. (CAASTLC), which for many years has worked to empower individuals, uplift families, and strengthen our community.

For more than half a century, CAASTLC has stood as a trusted resource for those seeking stability and opportunity. The *Doors of Opportunity* Gala was created to highlight that work, to honor the lives transformed, and to inspire continued partnership in the fight against poverty. Tonight, as we mark the 10th anniversary of this gathering, we celebrate the progress made possible through the dedication of our staff, the vision of our leadership, and the unwavering generosity of supporters like you.

As we look to the future, we are confident that with your continued support, CAASTLC will remain ready to open new doors of opportunity for generations to come.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend heartfelt gratitude to each of you for standing with us. Your commitment allows CAASTLC to remain a beacon of hope and possibility for those we serve.

With appreciation,



Rosezetta (Rose) Eichelberger
Board Chair
Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2501

October 16, 2025

Regarding: 60 Years, Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. (CAASTLC)

Dear Friends,

I am honored to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the **Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. (CAASTLC)** on the occasion of your **10th Annual Doors of Opportunity Gala**.

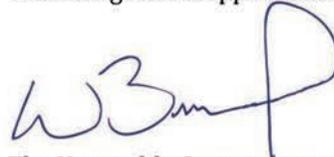
This year's celebration is especially meaningful, as it brings together two remarkable milestones: a decade of successful Doors of Opportunity Galas and 60 years of CAASTLC's dedicated service to the residents of St. Louis County. For six decades, CAASTLC has been a beacon of hope, helping families build stability, achieve independence, and seize opportunities for a brighter future.

Through its offerings of **22 wrap-around services**, CAASTLC has consistently addressed immediate needs, empowered individuals and families, and strengthened the social fabric of our community. Your work is not only about providing services; it is about opening doors, changing lives, and building pathways that enable people to thrive.

The **Doors of Opportunity Gala** is more than a celebration; it reflects CAASTLC's enduring mission—*Helping People & Changing Lives*. It is a fitting tribute to the staff, volunteers, and partners whose compassion and commitment continue to lift lives across St. Louis County.

On behalf of the residents of Missouri's 1st Congressional District, **congratulations** on this extraordinary achievement. May this 10th anniversary year shine as a true celebration of impact, resilience, and the countless lives transformed by CAASTLC's work.

With the greatest appreciation,



The Honorable Congressman Wesley Bell,
Missouri Congressional District 1



Bright tomorrows start with
doing good today.



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Ameren Missouri is investing
in our community to light the
path for future generations.



The Team that Makes It Happen

Linda Huntspon

Chief Executive Officer

Minnetta Watkins

Executive Assistant to the CEO

Mike Clark

IT Director

Sue Moss

Human Resources Director

Sherri Robins

Public Relations Director

Rick Reinbott

Contract Compliance Director

Cedric Jackson

Associate Director-Quality & Compliance

Mark Kurtz

Chief Financial Officer

Danielle Tarrant

Controller

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

Chris Beasley

Chris Boyd

Nikki Briones

Robin Bryson

Tarshie Burgess

Tishona Dixon

Na'Tasha Dobbins

Breanne Fowler

Reina Fuentes Ramirez

Ambrosia Harrison

Dale Hickman

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Clarence Holemon

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Ethan Jones

Kimberly Kemp

Latavia Mangan

Janice McKinney Gage

Marissa Muhammad

Sean Muhammad

Gala Pearson

Arrvell Pendelton

Myka C. Perry

Reina Fuentes Ramirez

Candis Sawyer

Tony Simpson

Tony Steed

Randy Tempel

Donna Townley

Krista Tweedy

In Memoriam

In loving memory of our dear colleague, Pattie Elkins, on our grounds, we have planted a butterfly bush known for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds. As it blooms, may it remind us of her witty spirit and the lasting impact she made on all of us.



Community Services Impact



\$7,146,176 In vendor payments were expended to help stabilize households in St. Louis County.



Weatherization Program

Through CAASTLC's Weatherization **\$3.9** million was invested to weatherize **475** homes, to improve energy efficiency and quality of life for low-income families.



24,552 Households received emergency assistance payments to restore utilities, prevent disconnects and prevent evictions and foreclosures.



Community Outreach & Engagement

Through targeted outreach and community-building efforts, we reached more than **1,100** households and connected them to vital supports



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



The Seeds of Hope Farm

cultivated and shared **1,230** pounds of fresh produce, taught 5 cooking classes, and engaged **204** volunteers to support the program.



59,443 Individuals received assistance to stabilize their households.



Seeds of Hope STEM On the Farm

hosted **14** educational tours and facilitated **293** hands-on STEM experiences for youth to enhance their knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, while also decreasing food insecurity.



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.



CAASTLC's Reentry Program, with distinction, achieved a

4.3%

recidivism rate, a remarkable success compared to the 43.9% state rate and the 82% national average—empowering justice-involved individuals to rebuild their lives.

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Energy for the future

CAASTLC's mission to end poverty today and for generations to come is one we're proud to support.

Together, we're creating a better tomorrow for the people of St. Louis.

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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 10th Annual "Doors of Opportunity" Gala.



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Guest Host Blair Ledet

Co-Ancor of FOX 2 News



Blair Ledet co-anchors FOX 2 News' 4 a.m. to 7 a.m. newscasts Monday through Friday. She is elated to wake up with St. Louis on the Metro area's number one morning show to connect with viewers. She has introduced segments to FOX 2 to encourage conversations and engagement, including "Blair's Social Second," February's "Black History Moments," and "Tell Me Something Good."

The Houston, Texas native joined FOX 2 News in August 2019 as a general assignment reporter. While reporting in the field, Blair covered historic moments, including Ferguson protests after the murder of George Floyd and the election of Ferguson's first Black female mayor. She is proud of her report,

shedding light on the differences in resources and coverage given to missing Black women on the heels of the Gabby Petito case. Blair also represented Nexstar during the 2020 Super Bowl in Miami as an enterprise reporter, appearing on 60 live shots daily for their 200-plus stations.

Blair came to St. Louis from Hattiesburg, Mississippi's WDAM News 7 Sunrise team. During her time there, she was a morning co-anchor and multimedia journalist with a franchise highlighting the notable people, places, and acts of kindness in the viewing area. Her career in Broadcast Journalism began at WDAM's sister station, KTRE in East Texas, as a multimedia journalist. She learned the ropes of reporting, anchoring, and producing while gaining an appreciation for the simplistic beauty of the South. She is proud of her work helping East Texans access healthcare after insurance changes left thousands without options.

She began her journey as a reporter at Sam Houston State University's news station, KSHU-TV 7. There, she spent much time learning about studio production, but she soon decided she would rather be at the scene reporting! Blair then interned at KRIV Fox 26 News, shadowing reporters throughout their hectic days. The excitement and opportunities for creativity drove her to pursue a reporter career.

Blair has been recognized by the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc. and is a recipient of the "Black Girls Who Rock" award spearheaded by The National Council of Negro Women, Inc. She enjoys emceeding events that raise money for positive causes like the American Heart Association's Heart Ball. She has had the honor to serve as the emcee of the St. Louis Mayor's Ball for the city's first Black female mayor in history. She is also a piano instructor for the non-profit, Pianos for People, which offers both free pianos and lessons to students in South St. Louis. Blair is passionate about having authentic experiences and connections with people in the places she settles down.

Program

Cocktail Reception	Friends of CAASTLC
Honoring the Legacy of Community Action	Host Emcee Blair Ledet, Co-Host Fox 2 News
Welcome Greeting from Board Chair	Rose Eichelberger
Invocation	Pastor Johnny Greer St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Dinner is Served – Orlando's Banquet Captain	
Congressional Salute from Congressman Wesley Bell	Dr. LaRhonda Wilson and John Wagner
Legacy Reflections: A Look Back at the Journey	Featuring Former CEOs of CAASTLC, Inc. Merline Anderson & Cenia Bosman
Awards Ceremony	Linda Huntspon, CEO, CAASTLC, Inc. Clayton Evans & Nicole Jenkins, Event Co-Chairs Bonita Cornute, Announcer
Employee of the Year Award	Maria Acosta-Garcia
Volunteer of the Year Award	Linda Robinson
Community Partners of the Year Award	Page Selby and Constance "Connie" Taylor
Journey Award	Orvin T. Kimbrough
Giving in Action	Blair Ledet Final Giving Appeals Auction & Raffle
Special Acknowledgements	Linda Huntspon, Chief Executive Officer CAASTLC, Inc
Let's Get the Party Started	DJ Tony Steed



Congratulations 10th Anniversary Honorees



Orvin T. Kimbrough

Author of *Twice Over A Man*
Chairman and CEO
Midwest BankCentre

Orvin T. Kimbrough, author of *Twice Over A Man: A Fierce Memoir of an Orphan Boy Who Doggedly Determined a Finer Life*, and Chairman and CEO of Midwest BankCentre, St. Louis' second-largest privately-owned local bank, has turned his personal journey from foster care to corporate leadership into a powerful mission. Leveraging the bank's financial services, Kimbrough empowers individuals, strengthens businesses, and revitalizes entire neighborhoods—demonstrating that financial growth and social impact go hand in hand.

A visionary leader in community and economic development, Kimbrough has spearheaded transformative initiatives like Impact Banking and the Rising Together Foundation, both of which reflect his unwavering commitment to creating lasting change. His leadership is not just about driving profits; it's about fostering opportunities for everyone to rise together.

An avid writer, speaker, and coach, Kimbrough dedicates his time to guiding motivated individuals and organizations to their next level of success. His influence extends beyond the corporate world as he serves on various public and private boards, including as a Commissioner with the National Academy of Medicine and a member of the St. Louis Federal Reserve's Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council. Through it all, Kimbrough remains focused on one goal: lifting others as he continues to rise.

The Journey Award

CAASTLC's most prestigious honor



Employee of the Year
Maria Acosta-Garcia
Case Manager, CAASTLC

Maria earned a bachelor’s degree in social work from the University of Missouri–St. Louis. Her journey with CAASTLC began in 2023 as a practicum student. What started as a placement evolved into a powerful alignment of purpose, community, and calling—a full-time Case Manager. Drawing from her own experiences as the daughter of

Mexican immigrants and a former foster youth, Maria found a deep connection to the agency’s mission, particularly through her work with the Immigrant Inclusion team. The teamwork at CAASTLC struck a deep personal chord within her—the struggles faced by underserved communities, navigating complex systems, coping with cultural and language barriers, and striving to find stability in the face of adversity. Shadowing a manager who herself was a refugee provided her firsthand insight into what true resilience and compassion could look like in action.

Maria brings a fierce commitment to meeting people where they are—with dignity, empathy, and care. Whether helping a family ac-

cess food, assisting a client through complex paperwork, or simply offering a kind word, Maria approaches every task with heart and humility. Maria’s lived experiences inform her work in powerful ways. She knows what it feels like to be overlooked or unsupported, and is determined to ensure others do not feel the same. As a bilingual, bicultural professional, Maria helps bridge cultural divides and ensures that every client feels seen, heard, and valued.

The work she does as a Case Manager and facilitator for CAASTLC’s Step Up to Leadership training program is more than a job. Maria brings recognition and value to her team through creativity, making people feel valued, and transforming her ideas into everyday acts of kindness.



Volunteer of the Year
Linda Robinson
Advisor at ALSAC St. Jude & Co-Founder of St. Louis Finest Volunteers

Linda Robinson is an Advisor at ALSAC St. Jude, the fundraising organization for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital where she oversees fundraising, marketing, promotion, and raising awareness for the St. Louis territory, such as St. Jude Walk, St. Jude Dream Home, Radiothon, Tri-Delta, and volunteerism.

Previously she served at the Urban

League of Metropolitan St. Louis as the Director of the Save Our Sisters program and the Director of Volunteer Recruitment for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri.

Before joining the nonprofit sector, Robinson was a Team Lead at Wells Fargo Advisors in the Trade Processing department where she oversaw her team’s adherence to policy guidelines established by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Ms. Robinson received a Bachelor of Science from Lindenwood University in Communication and earned two Master of Arts degrees from Webster University.

She co-founded the St. Louis Finest Volunteers—volunteers who offer professional services to various organizations to help ensure their events are successful. Her volunteer

portfolio includes St. Louis American Foundation, IHEART Media/Sista Strut, Tee Master’s Golf Association, The Empowerment Network, Better Family Life and, of course, CAASTLC.

She serves on the board with the Hats 4 Hearts Foundation, is the President of the Webster University Alumni Board of Directors. She serves on St. Louis County Human Relations Commission, Maplewood Civil Service Commission, Maplewood Board of Adjustment and Housing Boards of Appeal.

She advocates for mental health and suicide prevention by serving as a NAMI STL Family Support Group facilitator and volunteer for the American Foundation on Suicide Prevention (AFSP).

Linda Robinson is the international best-selling author of the *inHer Power inHer Wisdom Anthology*.



**Community Partner
of the Year**

Constance "Connie" Taylor

Director of Community
Engagement
Ameren Missouri

Constance "Connie" Taylor serves as Director of Community Engagement and Impact at Ameren Corporation and Chief of Staff to Gwen Mizell, Senior Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer. In this dual role, Connie leads the development and execution of Ameren's community engagement, collabo-

ration, and corporate contribution strategies—aimed at maximizing collective impact across the enterprise. She spearheads the Ameren Community Voices Engagement Framework, a strategic initiative that empowers communities to thrive as active participants in the clean energy transition. Connie is passionate about advancing accessibility, resilience, and opportunity through intentional engagement and inclusive investment.

Connie previously served as Strategic Initiatives Manager and was the founding manager of the Customer Advocacy Department within Ameren Missouri's Customer Experience team—demonstrating her leadership in building new functions that enhance customer impact.

Before joining Ameren, Connie held

several key leadership roles, including Vice President of Weatherization and Energy Assistance Programs at the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis and Director of Marketing Support at Ameritech Cellular.

Connie earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Missouri–St. Louis. She is a 2020 alumna of the Greater Missouri Leadership Challenge, a 2021 graduate of McKinsey's Black Leadership Academy, and a graduate of the 2024-2025 Greater St. Louis Fellows Cohort.

Connie serves on the boards of HomeWorks!, Heat-Up St. Louis / Cool Down St. Louis and the United Way 211 Advisory Board and is chair of the Electric Power Research Institute's Community Initiatives and Affordability Interest Group.



**Community Partner
of the Year**

Page Selby

Manager of Customer Advocacy
Ameren Missouri

Page Selby's passion is to "leave it better" and she hopes her legacy shows she lived that passion through service.

As the Manager of Customer Advocacy for Ameren Missouri, she leads teams responsible for community outreach and more than \$40 million dollars in annual energy assistance.

As a former Vice President of Marketing and Employee Development for Mercantile Bank, she learned the value of communicating effectively, that it's not just what you say, but how well it's understood. She serves as an Ameren Inclusion Ambassador and a member of Women Influencing Success in Engineering, Ameren Multi-Generational Employee Resource Group, Powering Connections for All Abilities and Sustainability Employee Resource Group.

Page has been involved in numerous organizations including Junior League Executive Board, Catholic Charities Advisory Board, United Way, LCCC Foundation, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Oasis Women's Shelter, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, St. Ambrose School Board,

and Marquette Catholic High School Explorer Board. She has been recognized as a United Way Leader in the Workplace, Friend of Alton High School FFA, and 2019 YWCA Woman of Distinction.

"I am very humbled to receive this honor, and have certainly not earned it alone. I've been supported by family, friends and co-workers with the same values and commitment to action. My mentors, leaders who have empowered others and embraced inclusion, have inspired me to live those values. I believe it's my responsibility to set the same example for future generations. To paraphrase Paul Shane Spear: 'As one person I can't change the world, but I can change the world of one person.'"

Continue to Help People and Change Lives

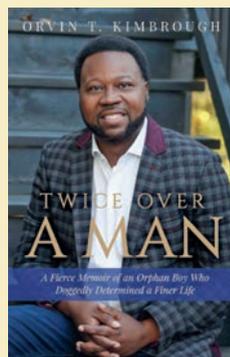


ORVIN T. KIMBROUGH, MSW, MBA, MA
CEO, MIDWEST BANKCENTRE
AUTHOR, *TWICE OVER A MAN*



"Leadership isn't a title—it's a daily choice to lift someone else higher. I grew up on the other side of advantage. St. Louis taught me that resilience is a team sport and that hope scales when we do hard things together. If my story says anything, it's this: your past can inform you, but it doesn't have to define you. Lead where you stand, and bring somebody with you."

— Orvin T. Kimbrough



Get the book: ***Twice Over A Man***

Stories of grit, grace, and growth—plus practical reflections to help you reframe your story, reclaim your agency, and rename your future.



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CAASTLC PILLARS



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TEAM BEHIND THE SCENES

Clayton Evans & Nicole Jenkins, Event Chairs

Mike Clark 🍷 Georgie Donahue 🍷 Linda Huntspon 🍷 Mark Kurtz
Sherri A. Robins 🍷 Danielle Tarrant 🍷 Minnetta Watkins



Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary
Doors of Opportunity Gala. We stand with you!

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We are honored to partner with and sponsor the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, an organization that makes a true difference in the lives of so many.

Their commitment to empowering individuals and strengthening our community inspires us, and we're proud to support their mission.

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R REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

Congratulates CAASTLC on your 10th Anniversary Doors of Opportunity Gala and 60 years of service uplifting St. Louis County residents.

Congratulations Honorees

Maria Acosta Garcia	Linda Robinson
Orvin T. Kimbrough	Page Selby
Constance "Connie" Taylor	



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CONGRATULATIONS

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY

And to the 2025
Doors of Opportunity
Gala Honorees
for all of their hard work
and dedication.

Many Blessings,
Richard Boyette

**Investing in Our Communities,
One Family at a Time.**

We Are Honored to Support the Community
Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. and Their
Commitment to Strengthening Our Neighborhoods.

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COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY

JOHN BOWMAN
State Senate District 14

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John Bowman congratulates the honorees and CAASTLC on their 10th Anniversary Doors of Opportunity Gala

Paid for by John Bowman for Missouri - Charlie Dooley, Treasurer

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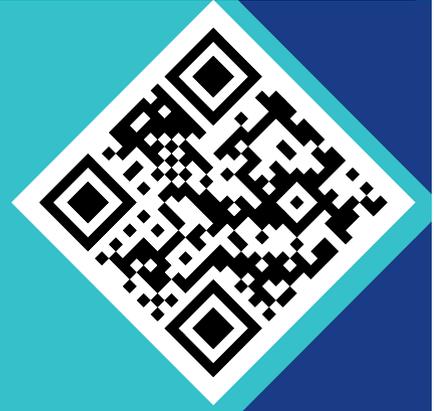
To request an application, call **1-866-281-5737** or send an email to billingquest@stlmsd.com.





DONATE NOW

CAASTLC is more than utility assistance, we are a partner in helping families thrive. Your support fuels leadership training, life skills, and community empowerment that break cycles of poverty. Join us in opening doors to opportunity and building stronger communities.



SHOW YOUR CARE

YOUTH SERVICES

Youth Case Management
HiSET (GED)
Reality Enrichment and Life Lessons (REALL) Workshops

CAASTLC Seeds of Hope Farm
STEM Curriculum

FAMILY & ECONOMIC SECURITY

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WE EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS

To CAASTLC on the 10th Anniversary Gala
and for 60 years of service to the
St. Louis County community!

Your continued work in helping families
move from poverty to self-sufficiency
is truly inspiring.

Custom Engineering salutes your impact
and dedication — and we're proud to stand
with you in building a stronger,
vibrant and sustainable community in
St. Louis County and nationally!

We also salute the fine honorees as we
celebrate their steadfast work
to support CAASTLC.

CHEERS FROM OUR TEAM TO YOURS!

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