

Case Statement

Move UP Greater Kansas City's Movement for Urban Progress

Progress can be measured in many ways. Move Up measures progress one saved or changed life at a time.

- One family of a murdered son or daughter not left to grieve alone.
- One mother whose missing son's body is found and buried with dignity.
- One runaway taken back from the streets.
- One angry young man who learns a better way to live.

Here's our story and here's why we need your support.

WHO WE ARE

Ad Hoc Group Against Crime was established in 1977 to address alarming increases in crime and violence in the African-American community. Project Neighborhood was founded in 1989 to reduce alcohol and drug abuse through community mobilization and development.

Mindful of the power of collaboration to achieve shared goals and maximize scarce resources, these two well known community-based organizations merged in February 2000 to address the pressing needs of the urban core.

Move UP was fortunate to retain committed staff, volunteers and board members from both former organizations. Together, they pursue a mission to build healthy, crime and drug-free neighborhoods within urban core neighborhoods through long-term community mobilization and crisis intervention.

Move UP's community mobilization strategy builds long-term capacity to prevent crime and substance abuse and foster community development through partnerships with organizations throughout Greater Kansas City. At the same time, Move Up recognizes that citizens in its targeted communities face immediate and compelling crises – crises that, absent intervention, often lead deeper into substance abuse, crime and tragic consequences.

THE SOCIAL SERVICE EMERGENCY ROOM

Kansas City Looks to Move UP

It was COMBAT Drug Unit Director Jim Nunnally's who first called Move UP Kansas City's "social service emergency room." Like a hospital emergency room, Move UP

responds to unforeseeable trauma. Unlike a hospital emergency room, most of the trauma that arrives on Move UP's doorstep cannot be cured by medicine or bandages.

For nearly 30 years, the African-American community of Greater Kansas City looked to the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, and now Move UP, for physical, social, spiritual and emotional support in the face of myriad crises:

- A child's naked, headless body was found April 28, 2001, in a wooded area near 59th Street and Kensington Ave. Move Up dubbed her "Precious Doe" and united both white and African-American residents in passing out more than 40,000 fliers to help identify the victim and her killer. In addition to the Kansas City Police Department's \$10,000 reward, Move UP offered another \$15,000. Four-year old Erica Michelle Marie Green's mother and stepfather were charged with murder in May 2005.
- Alonzo Hernandez, a 23-year-old African American, went to a party in La Cygne, Kansas, and never came home. After a month of no progress in the investigation, Alonzo's brother Billy contacted Move UP for help. Move UP distributed missing person flyers, obtained radio and television coverage, and organized prayer vigils in La Cygne and Gardner, Alonzo's hometown. "We didn't know any other organizations that could provide that kind of support," says Billy. "It helped tremendously."
- Melissa Thompson, 26, is Move UP's director of crisis intervention and support services. But a few years back, she was a scared runaway who felt misunderstood by her family. Fortunately, Melissa's father enrolled her in a Move UP's leadership youth group. "It helped build my self-esteem and gave me hope that I could accomplish my goals," she says. Melissa worked summers after that in Move UP camps and, once out of high school, asked Alvin Brooks for a full-time job to enhance the runaway program. "Write a grant and get it funded," he said. Today, the Runaway Achievement program is one of several under her supervision.
- Annette Morgan, 43, took Youth Prevention Specialist Calvin Neal's nine-week Anger Management class because it was a requirement of her parole. "I didn't mind," she says, "but it changed my life. Calvin was a really good teacher because he had been in some of the same situations we'd been in. The class taught me to think before I react. I'm so much more cautious about everything in my life. I would recommend it to anybody with any kind of anger issues."

Responding to Crises

Move UP's service area stretches from the Missouri River to 75th Street and from State Line Road to I-435. Its target neighborhoods include Washington, Wheatley and Ivanhoe. Recognizing that citizens in these communities are routinely faced with crime-related

crises that must be addressed if they are to become self-sustaining, Move UP assists individuals and families with problem solving, mediation and life skill development.

Through its crisis intervention activities, Move UP clients receive support for up to 90 days from their initial contact. Move UP focuses on assessing immediate needs and marshalling family resources to help resolve the crisis. Through its commitment to helping citizens address crises, Move UP is able to begin relationships with those affected and connect them with appropriate long-term neighborhood and community support services.

Building on Trust and Confidence

Move UP's ability to fulfill its mission is largely based not only on the trust and confidence of the African-American community but the media who depend on Move UP for honest, accurate information. All are served as a result, from individuals and families in desperate need to get the word out about a missing loved one to the larger community, which benefits from awareness and knowledge of issues, solutions and opportunities to make a difference.

Sharita Hutton was a new reporter at KCTV-5 in the summer of 2004 when she became acquainted with Move UP. "Bodies were turning up in the Prospect area," says Hutton. "They had prayer vigils and were such a support for families. Their name is everywhere on flyers. I check with Move UP three times a week. If there's something going on in the community, people are more than likely to contact Move UP first because they know they can help."

PROGRAMS AND OUTCOMES

Move UP looks forward to a tomorrow when the need for its services is rare. In the meantime, it is committed to providing help to those in need today.

Below are brief descriptions of Move UP's key programs and recent outcomes followed by a table reflecting usage for all crisis intervention programs in FY 2004 and 2005.

Prayer Vigils and Grief Counseling

During FY 2005, Kansas City recorded 104 deaths due to homicide. Move UP organized and facilitated 37 prayer vigils at the request of family members, as well as a city-wide vigil in March 2005 at which family and friends gathered simultaneously at each of the homicide sites in the past year.

Move UP uses these opportunities to bring attention to senseless violence in our community. It referred 17 families for grief counseling and provided grief support to 44. Move UP also facilitates Mother United, which provides grief support to mothers of murdered children. The group held its first event in June 2005 to raise awareness of the effects of homicide on families.

Runaway and Missing Children

Through its close relationship with 103.3 KPRS-FM, Move UP makes nightly appeals to encourage runaway youth to return home or to a safe location. Move UP also operates a youth help line, offers follow-up counseling and partners with Safe Place to provide safe and secure housing for youth.

Of the 105 runaway children and youth Move UP helped in FY 2005, 89 returned home and 76 remained home. Thirty-two participated in follow-up services. Move UP is especially encouraged that its efforts have played a role in the significant drop in requests for help from runaways from 118 in 2004 to 18 in the first six months of 2005.

Anger Management/Conflict Resolution

Participants in Move UP's nine-week anger management program are generally referred by Missouri Probation and Parole, the Family Court and schools. A few self-refer.

Of the 51 enrolled in FY 2005, pre-post testing showed that 52 percent increased knowledge of alternative resolutions to conflict by more than 50 percent. Seventy-four percent received a Certificate of Completion, 22 percent dropped out and four percent were returned to incarceration.

CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM STATISTICS

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005 (YTD)</u>
Prayer Vigils	36	19
Runaways	118	18
Anger Management	27	51
Missing Persons	36	3
Grief Counseling	85	30
Grief Support	42	36
Funerals	17	47
Funeral Assistance	21	5
Secret Witness Hotline	312	80

Youth Helpline	113	51
Emergency Calls	608	339
Radio Appeals	852	355
Conflict Dispute Resolution	10	31
Community Service & Court Support	21	33
Assistance to Police	41	50
Citizens Complaints Against Police	129	23
Referrals*		
Homeless	--	43
Utilities	--	60
* New program in 2005		

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

- Strengthen core services and continue to build partnerships with other community groups to ensure clients in crisis receive ongoing support to overcome their challenges.
- Develop infrastructure to improve internal management and evaluation systems.

WHY MOVE UP NEEDS YOUR HELP

In an ideal world, all violence and crime would be prevented – and Move UP is working hard through community mobilization to bring that day closer. In the meantime, Move UP remains the “emergency room” of choice for African-American residents of Kansas City’s urban core. Move UP is trusted. Move UP responds quickly and compassionately to solve problems. Move UP inspires strength and confidence, empowering citizens to *move* from tragedy into opportunity.

Today we are witness to a remarkable renaissance unfolding downtown. Still, beyond the bricks and mortar, trendy restaurants and bustling art galleries, there are people working one, two, even three jobs to take care of their families. When tragedy strikes, they turn to Move UP.

We need your help because:

- The community needs us to serve its most desperate citizens.
- Our clients can rarely afford to pay, so we rarely charge.
- The support we receive from state and federal government is declining
- We are taught as children to understand the importance of helping our fellow human beings in need. As the saying goes, “If not for the grace of God go I.”

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