



A new idea that offers not a handout but a helping hand to people in Concordia who want to build a better life for themselves and their children.



You can be a part of creating stronger families — and a stronger community.

## OUR SPONSORS

We thank these businesses for their support:  
Concordia Town & Country  
Citizens National Bank



323 E. Fifth St.  
Concordia KS 66901

## TO LEARN MORE

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A MINISTRY OF THE  
*Sisters of St. Joseph*  
of Concordia, Kansas  
*... loving God and neighbor without distinction...*



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## NEED WE SAY MORE?

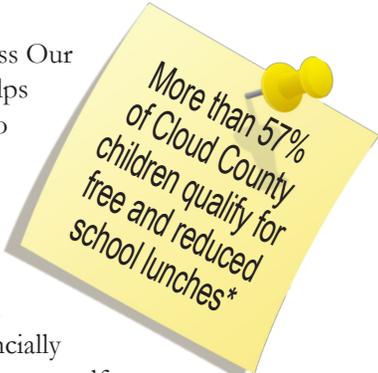
## OUR MISSION

Hands Across Our Community helps families learn to build a better foundation for their future.

We pair people who are struggling financially but want to become self-sufficient with “community coaches” who take part in the program with them and then stay by their side for encouragement and advice.

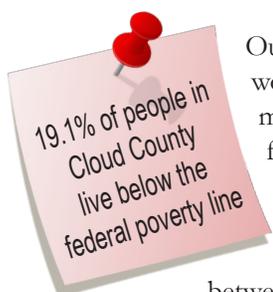
This is a long-term and broad-based volunteer program that addresses a wide range of issues families today may face, and requires commitment from all the participants.

\* All data is from the Kansas Statistical Abstract 2011, published by the KU Institute for Policy and Social Research, September 2012



More than 57% of Cloud County children qualify for free and reduced school lunches\*

## OUR PLAN FOR 2013



19.1% of people in Cloud County live below the federal poverty line

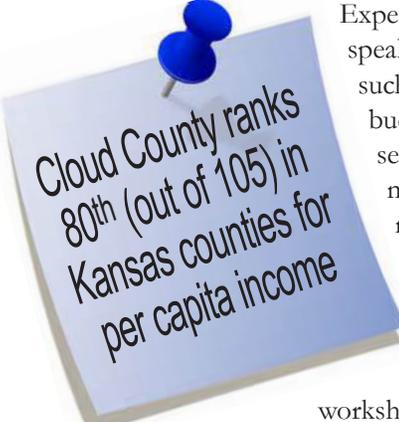
Our first Hands Across workshop series began in mid-February with four families. We plan two more in the series — beginning in June and October — with between eight and 12 families and coaches enrolled in each one.

## THE PROGRAM

Participating families are recruited from throughout the community, and they are interviewed before being accepted.

We’re looking for people sincerely determined to make positive changes for themselves and their children.

The core of Hands Across Our Community is a series of 13 weekly workshops for the participating families and their community coaches.



Cloud County ranks 80<sup>th</sup> (out of 105) in Kansas counties for per capita income

Expert guest speakers cover such topics as budgeting, goal setting, time management, nutrition and educational opportunities.

Each workshop includes a meal shared by all present (and donated by a local individual or organization), with child care and children’s activities provided as needed.

Participating families who complete the stringent attendance requirements receive a small stipend at the end of the workshop series.

At the end of the 13 weekly workshops, there are monthly continuing support meetings for at least one year (and longer if appropriate for individual participants) to strengthen the family’s new foundation.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### COMMUNITY COACHES

Are you a compassionate person looking for a tangible way to help others? You may be the perfect “community coach”!

You start with a training session for coaches, to learn more about the program and the “do’s” and “don’t’s” of your role.

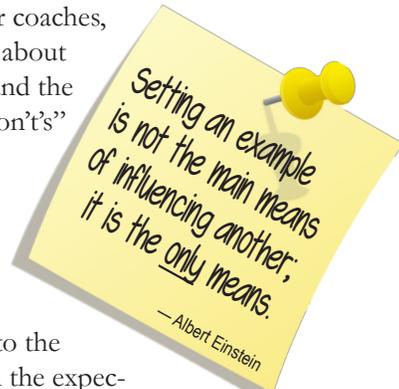
Coaches are asked to make a one-year commitment to the program, with the expectation that you will spend time with your participating family at least once a week.

You attend all 13 weekly workshops and subsequent monthly support meetings.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Hands Across Our Community is all-volunteer, with minimal staff support from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia. It is funded solely through donations from individuals, organizations and businesses throughout Concordia.

Your donations can make a huge difference in the lives of the families taking part.



Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another; it is the only means.

— Albert Einstein