

## Kansas City mayor shares broad vision of new partnership between the city and schools

Kansas City Mayor **Mark Funkhouser** shared a broad vision of a stronger, more intentional partnership between city government and school neighborhoods throughout the city.



Funkhouser, an ex-officio LINC Commissioner, outlined his ideas during the Jan. 11 LINC Commission meeting. He discussed more details of his initiative, which he is calling *Schools First*, in a Jan. 31 speech at **All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church**. Details of the mayor's proposal are available at [www.kcmo.org/schoolsfirst](http://www.kcmo.org/schoolsfirst)



### Mayor to discuss his ideas with the community

On Tuesday, Feb. 9, 7-8 p.m., Mayor Funkhouser will host a Tele-Town Hall to discuss his new *Schools First* initiative with educators, parents and students. After a brief overview of the proposal, Funkhouser will take questions from callers. To participate call toll-free:

**1-888-886-6603 ext. 13998#**

The mayor's proposal includes making infrastructure improvements around schools, increasing code enforcement, developing partnerships with school districts and enhancing the public safety presence around schools. The city includes all or portions of 14 school districts, over 270 schools, 318 square miles and a population of 475,000.

LINC has been a long-time advocate for making schools the center of communities, championing this approach for over 15 years through its Caring Communities initiative, which puts a LINC site coordinator in schools to work with children, families and the neighborhood.

LINC operates more than 80 Caring Communities sites, 59 of them located within the city of Kansas City. Numbered by school district, LINC Caring Communities sites are: Kansas City (36); Hickman Mills (8); charters and contract schools (6); North Kansas City (3); Center (2) and Grandview (1). LINC also has three neighborhood center Caring Communities sites in Kansas City, two of which are operated in direct partnership with the city: **Palestine Neighborhood Development Center** (3449 Indiana) and **Southeast Caring Communities Neighborhood Resource Center** (5931 Swope Parkway).

LINC has several other partnerships with the city including a new health clinic in south Kansas City which was recently announced.

Closer collaboration between city government and schools is also the theme of an Independence initiative. For the *12 Blocks West* initiative, the **City of Independence** and the **Independence School District** are partnering to bring greater focus on schools and neighborhoods in western Independence. Independence superintendent **Jim Hinson** described that effort at the same LINC Commission meeting Mayor Funkhouser attended. Learn more at [www.kclinc.org/12blockswest](http://www.kclinc.org/12blockswest)



## LINC sites help with Haiti relief effort

LINC Caring Communities sites in the **Kansas City, Mo. School District** are participating in the district's Haiti disaster relief collections this month.

“Our goal is to actively engage our youth and community as concerned world citizens,” said **Jerome Williams**, LINC site coordinator at **King Elementary School**.

Students are responding by collecting travel-size personal care items to send to Haiti. Locally-based **Heart to Heart International** is among the disaster relief agencies providing guidance for the collection process and transporting donations to Haiti.

Some LINC sites, including **Phillips Elementary School**, **Holliday Montessori** and others, are also serving as community collection locations where the public may drop off donated items.

## Community schools initiatives will meet in Philly

The **Coalition for Community Schools** will hold its biennial national forum in Philadelphia on April 7-9.

The forum will take place during a time of increasing interest — at the local, state and federal levels — in “community schools,” an approach that puts schools and partnerships at the center of neighborhoods. (See page 1 story).

Representatives of LINC will attend, sharing the work of LINC and its partners. With more than 80 Caring Communities sites, LINC has one of the largest community schools efforts in the country.

The first national community schools conference was held in Kansas City.

To learn more visit [www.communityschools.org](http://www.communityschools.org)

## Census jobs test to be offered at LINC sites

LINC is working with the **U.S. Census Bureau** to provide community locations where individuals can apply for census jobs and take the required test.

The jobs pay between \$11.50 and \$16.75 per hour with flexible hours available.

Census test locations are: Feb. 9, 4-8:30 p.m., **Ruskin High School**; Feb. 11, 4-8:30 p.m., **Hickman Mills High School**; Feb. 12, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., **Southeast Neighborhood Resource Center** (5931 Swope Parkway); Feb. 13, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., **King Middle School**; Feb. 20, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., **King Middle School**; Feb. 25, 3-5 p.m., **Boone Elementary School**.

More locations are being added. Go to [www.kclinc.org/census](http://www.kclinc.org/census) for more details and a link to the practice test.

## LINC partnership to provide free tax filing services

On the 

Find free tax filing help  
locations

[www.kclinc.org/taxes](http://www.kclinc.org/taxes)

LINC is partnering with **MyFreeTaxes.com** to provide free help to people filing taxes at selected LINC Caring Communities sites and neighborhood centers.

The MyFreeTaxes.com van will bring specially trained volunteers to help qualified individuals complete a simple income tax form on-line. The van is scheduled to visit nine LINC Caring Communities sites between Jan. 30 and Feb. 13. The public is invited at all locations.

Individuals earning less than \$58,000 will be able to visit the van and file their taxes on-line free of charge. Families with a combined income of less than \$49,000 may also receive help to file for the Earned Income Tax Credit.

MyFreeTaxes.com is a free site made possible by a grant from **Walmart. United Way of Greater Kansas City, KC C.A.S.H.,** and **LINC** are local partners providing volunteers and locations for the van.

## LINC to sponsor job fair for high school seniors



[www.kclinc.org/jobfair](http://www.kclinc.org/jobfair)

LINC will sponsor the third annual **High School Seniors Career & Job Fair** on April 9, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., at the **Business & Technology Center**, 1775 Universal Ave., Kansas City, Mo.

Partners include **Herndon Career Center, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce** and local school districts.

School districts participating include **Center, Grandview, Hickman Mills, Independence, Kansas City (Mo.), Lee's Summit** and **Raytown**.

Interested employers may contact **Brenda Mitchelson**, (816) 410-8402 or [jobfair@kclinc.org](mailto:jobfair@kclinc.org).

## Conditions for black Kansas Citians decline, report says

On the 

[www.kclinc.org/equalityindex](http://www.kclinc.org/equalityindex)

The overall quality of life for black Kansas Citians has declined relative to conditions for whites in the past two years, according to the *State of Black Kansas City 2010 Equality Index*.

Published by the **Urban League of Greater Kansas City**, the 2010 Equality Index recorded significant decreases in economics (7.6% decline) and health (5.7% decline).

According to the report, the impact of the economic recession has been particularly acute for people of color in the Greater Kansas City area, resulting in high unemployment rates, increases in poverty, and difficulties in obtaining health care.

The report also measures data in the areas of education, social justice and civic engagement. **Gwendolyn Grant** is president of the Urban League of Greater Kansas City.

# Black History Month

Learn more about these famous Kansas Citians at: [www.kclinc.org/blackhistory](http://www.kclinc.org/blackhistory)



## LINC Black History Month posters feature KC leaders

On the **WEB**

[www.kclinc.org/blackhistory](http://www.kclinc.org/blackhistory)

To celebrate Black History Month, LINC has produced a set of six posters featuring local individuals notable for their contributions to the Kansas City community.

The posters were produced in partnership with the **Kansas City Public Library** and the **Black Archives of Mid-America**, with contributions from the **State Historical Society of Missouri**; **Kansas Collection, Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas Libraries**; and the **Kansas City Star**.

Subjects of the posters include **Tom Bass, Minnie Lee Crosthwaite, Daniel Arthur Holmes, Leon Jordan, Lucile H. Bluford** and **Horace M. Peterson III**.

The free posters are available at Kansas City Public Library branch locations. Orders may also be placed by calling **Josef Walker** at (816) 410-8378.

Also available from LINC is a set of posters of national figures produced by LINC for Black History Month 2009.

*Go green, sign up for the on-line version at [www.kclinc.org/news](http://www.kclinc.org/news)*



*To update your address or be removed from the mailing list, please leave a message at (816) 410-8365 or email [info@kclinc.org](mailto:info@kclinc.org).*

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