



# Organizational Report

## OVERVIEW

The Kansas Civic Network launched in February 2020 following the completion of the Bethany College Food Insecurity Report. Since then, the Network has participated in community events across the State of Kansas, establishing its presence and furthering its mission to create an equal, robust, and respectful environment that will promote civic engagement and create dialogue about the issues facing communities in Kansas and beyond.

When the Kansas Civic Network was founded it was a staff of one and around summertime 2020, that number quadrupled. Today, the Kansas Civic Network has a staff of twelve and the number for our Board of Directors is at five. We are growing and expanding rapidly in extending our reach in communities across the State of Kansas

We currently have working relationships with several governmental entities and other nonprofits and organizations. We are always on the lookout for potential partners.

## Our Mission

1. The mission of the Kansas Civic Network is to create an equal, respectful, and robust environment that will promote civic engagement and create dialogue about the issues facing communities in Kansas and beyond.

## Our Vision

1. In order to improve the current state of involvement in civic engagement the Kansas Civic Network was created. We at the KCN are committed to creating an equal, respectful, and robust space for civic engagement. Providing the community many opportunities and experiences through which to become aware of, explore, and advocate a progressive and nonpartisan approach to issues. We believe it is critical to have representatives from every and all demographics to pursue their passion to encourage a civic dialogue.

## Civic Footprint

1. Sheir, McDougal, Handy 2014 (University of Pennsylvania, Nonprofits)
  - a. Promote civic engagement through programs that
    - i. Engage volunteers and donors
    - ii. Bring community members together
    - iii. Collaborate with organizations beyond the community
    - iv. Promote community education and awareness
      1. By adopting the Civic Footprint principles, it will serve as a guide in achieving the Network's mission and will provide communities the medium through which to become civically engaged through a network of opportunities for students and civic engagement activities.

## Events

1. 2020 Bethany College Food Insecurity Survey
  - a. Initiated conversations around food insecurity in Lindsborg and ultimately led to the creation of the Dala Pantry, the first food pantry in the City of Lindsborg
2. Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Bethany College
  - a. Co-sponsored the Culture Fair at Bethany College
  - b. Women's History Month at Bethany College
3. LiveWell Saline County
4. Salina Community Meeting on Housing Development
  - a. Held July 7th, 2021; was attended by three staff persons
5. Community Event
  - a. Tardeada/Community Late Fest, Hays, Kansas
    - i. Sponsored by the United Way of Ellis County
    - ii. July 31st
6. Volunteer Opportunities with USD 305
  - a. We have created a working relationship with USD 305 on procuring and publicizing volunteer opportunities within the City of Salina.

## Policy Areas

1. The Kansas Civic Network has identified eight policy areas in which the Network will promote civic engagement.
  - a. Food Insecurity
    - i. We have the potential to make a real and positive change in the community. This is one of our key areas of focus here at the KCN. Get in touch with us today and see how you can lend a helping hand with this program.
  - b. Voting
    - i. Most of our efforts pertaining to this program involve studying new approaches and developing innovative ways to implement them. We believe that it is imperative that citizens exercise their constitutional right to vote.
  - c. Criminal Justice
    - i. We see every challenge as an opportunity, and this initiative helps us ensure that our communities are better prepared to manage the relationships that are needed in regards to criminal justice.
  - d. Immigration
    - i. We are committed to being a part of the solution and being a community resource. This initiative helps us ensure that our partners are better prepared to manage the unique situations they find themselves in. We are invested in an innovative approach that empower our communities.
  - e. Healthcare
    - i. Being based in Kansas, we understand rural living. At the Kansas Civic Network, we put an emphasis on rural communities, more specifically on the rural healthcare system.
  - f. Education
    - i. What does it mean to be civically engaged? Our goal is to encourage Kansans to become aware of their civic potential and become active in their communities.
  - g. Housing
    - i. As the entire country is undergoing an economic transformation. There is a simple necessity: affordable housing. At the Kansas Civic Network, we are committed to researching and presenting viable solutions.
  - h. Economy
    - i. At the Kansas Civic Network, we are determined to understand how an ever-changing economy affects our communities.