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January 2024 Newsletter

## THANK YOU!

Thank you, NCJW members, for a successful Light Up a Life fundraiser! The money we received through Light Up a Life is the backbone for all our programs throughout the year, and we now have a great foundation for 2024. On behalf of the children, women, and families we serve, thank you for your gifts. We really can't say thank you enough for your generous donations. We are so grateful for such caring members!

Lynn and Sharon, fundraising co-chairs

## January 14: KC Hospice House volunteer opportunity

On **Sunday, January 14**, there is an opportunity to serve breakfast for individuals at KC Hospice House from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. We will cook breakfast when we arrive, serve the meal from about 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., and then clean up. Plan to serve about 30 people, including family and staff.

There are [10 volunteer slots](#), open to all individuals and families. Once we have our 10 volunteers, a meal will be chosen, and you will be given a list of food to purchase for the breakfast.

[Sign up here to help.](#) You may also view the [meal guidelines here.](#)

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## (or how I can bring about change)

Sometimes we feel powerless to act and create change in our laws. We want to do something but are not sure how to go about doing so. NCJW of Kansas City is pleased to welcome Leslie Butsch of the ACLU of Kansas to talk about how to advocate for change.

She will cover the Kansas legislature 101, including how an idea becomes a law and how to find information about legislation as it moves through the process. She will also discuss how you can provide powerful testimony at the legislature on issues you care about, and tips for how to talk to your legislature. Finally, she will review the ACLU of KS's legislative priorities for 2024 and how you can take action to defend civil liberties next session.

The Legislative Advocacy Training will take place on **January 16 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** The program will be a hybrid, so you are welcome to come in person or Zoom from home. The in-person location is the ACLU office in Overland Park. Once you click the RSVP link, the address will be provided. [Here's the RSVP link](#), and [the Zoom link](#). The Zoom link will be sent on the morning of and an hour before the training. If you have any questions, please contact Carla Oppenheimer at [coppenheimer@kc.rr.com](mailto:coppenheimer@kc.rr.com).

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## Stacey's Closet: A semester of impact and growth

The first semester at Stacey's Closet has been nothing short of remarkable, filled with heartwarming stories and significant accomplishments. We are thrilled to share the impact of our collective efforts in supporting the community and express our deep appreciation to everyone who has contributed to this cause.

Since August, we have provided assistance to 186 children, distributing 85 pairs of shoes, 90 coats, 75 uniform pants, and 181 shirts, among other essential items. This marks an astounding 300% increase compared to the same period last year. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated volunteers who have worked tirelessly to fulfill orders and deliver clothing to our eight partner

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Many of you may be wondering about the significant increase in our outreach this year. We attribute this growth to the inclusion of two new schools with high needs. Additionally, the transition to an online order form has streamlined the process, making it more accessible for school social workers to place orders. Despite these positive changes, we continue to witness an outstanding increase, indicating the pressing needs of families in our community.

Behind the numbers are impactful stories that highlight the real difference we are making in the lives of those we serve. One grateful parent shared, "Thank you for helping me with shoes for my daughter. We really appreciate it. I just started a new job and was going to buy her a pair of tennis shoes when I was paid. She can now participate in gym." These testimonials underscore the tangible impact of Stacey's Closet on individuals and families.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all the Stacey's Closet volunteers and NCJW members who have generously supported us by donating to NCJW. Your contributions play a crucial role in sustaining vital community programs like ours. Thank you for being a part of the Stacey's Closet team.

With gratitude,  
Kelly Somberg, Stacey's Closet program chair

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## Do you knit or crochet?

Baskets for Babies would love to have you knit or crochet baby hats or baby blankets to go into the baskets for new mothers. The project provides approximately 10 baskets a month (5 boy and 5 girl). We can share patterns, or you can use your own pattern. If you are interested in being a part of this new project, contact Ellen Dalen at [edalen1017@aol.com](mailto:edalen1017@aol.com) or 913-888-8852.

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## Advocating to remove the tax on tampons and diapers

Did you know that, under current Kansas tax law, diapers and feminine hygiene products are considered "non-essential" and

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on feminine hygiene products and diapers in this next Kansas legislative session. More than half of U.S. states do not impose sales tax on these purchases, and there is currently a nationwide effort to get remaining states to remove this financial barrier. We want Kansas to join that list.

We are pleased to announce that Deb Finkelstein (240-447-4423 or [debinkelstein@gmail.com](mailto:debinkelstein@gmail.com)) and Nancy Kalikow Maxwell (954-260-7696 or [nancykalikowmaxwell@gmail.com](mailto:nancykalikowmaxwell@gmail.com)), members of NCJW-KC, are heading up our effort to advocate for the removal of this sales tax in Kansas. Nancy and Deb have met with and gotten support and insights from their respective legislators and are now rolling up their sleeves to get to work and move this House Bill through the tax committee all the way to signing by the Governor.

**We are looking for women who will join us as we reach out to our Johnson County legislators to add their support for [House Bill 2009](#).** We have a plan—we just need to add your voices! Contact Deb or Nancy if you would like to learn more or can add your voice as the 2024 legislative session begins in January.

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**Welcome to our new members!**

Deanna Culver

Sarah Derks

Jeri Swinton

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## **Don't forget to update your info!**

Did you move? Change your phone number? Get a new email address? Remember to update our office with your new information by using [this form](#).

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