

News from Staff Council

April 2021

KC for Refugees Hygiene Kits: Help UMKC Staff Make a Difference

The Staff Council Outreach Committee is pleased to be partnering with the organization KC for Refugees by hosting a Hygiene Kit Drive! Help us provide basic necessities for refugee families in the Kansas City metro area by signing up to complete one or more Hygiene Kits.



A complete Hygiene Kit contains specific items, so double check against [this list](#) as you build yours, so families do not go without needed items. Completed kits can either be dropped off at Johnson Residence Hall at 5000 Oak Street, or you can contact Seth Tracy at Tracys@umkc.edu by **April 29th** to have your completed kits picked up. The Hygiene Kits will be donated the first weekend of May.

[Sign Up Here](#)



2021 UMKC Staff Awards

Many congratulations to the recipients of 2021's staff awards! UMKC staff continually go above and beyond for the university, for its students, and for each other. The caring and enthusiastic work the staff does makes UMKC unique, and much more than a university for many. Congratulations to the 2020 graduates, and to all who make a difference at UMKC.

[Watch the Awards Here](#)

Professional Development Conference Volunteer Opportunities!

Care to moderate a Zoom session? Maybe delivering packets is more your speed? Either way, you can

volunteer today to help out with the 2021 Professional Development Conference. There is also still time to [register for the May 21st conference itself here.](#)



[Deliver Packets](#)

[Be A Moderator](#)



Sign up for Staff Community Groups!

During this time more than ever, we find ourselves yearning for opportunities to connect with others through community. So we decided to create our own communities! Whether you're interested in participating in a group or leading one, there's a little something for everyone.

Topics include:

- Arts and culture
- Book clubs
- Crafts and DIY
- Gardening
- Parents and support systems
- Wellness
- Create your own!

In an effort to truly build community, facilitators and participants commit to holding their community groups for a minimum of two months. If you have any questions or would like to sign up to lead a group not already listed, contact the Outreach Committee co-chairs, Sandra Smith (smithsandraa@umkc.edu) or Seth Tracy (tracys@umkc.edu).



Staff Spotlight: Kim Kushner, Asst. Director of New Student & Family Programs, OSI

What do you wish more people knew about your job?

One of the most fun parts of my job is facilitating UMKC Parent and Family Programs outreach initiatives. This program is relatively new at UMKC, and I have been able to build opportunities for our parents, families, and supporters of UMKC students to get connected to our campus. I really love helping the Office of Admissions with their Discover UMKC Family and Supporter Panels, as well as designing New Student Orientation programming that helps welcome these supporters to our Roo family.

What is your favorite thing about UMKC?

The people are my favorite. My colleagues are some of my best friends, and have been instrumental in helping me find community and family in Kansas City. I also really love our students, and help them in any way I can. I take the Culture of Care mentality really seriously, treating students and my colleagues as my family whenever possible.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I spend time with my toddler, partner, and corgi-basset hound mix pretty exclusively these days. We watch a lot of Moana and Frozen, and dance, sing, and make forts. I also love to explore new restaurants and coffee shops, and I enjoy group exercise classes (anyone who knows me knows I am obsessed with Orangetheory). I am also a current doctoral student, so a lot of my outside of work time is spent doing homework!

What is one cause you are passionate about?

I am a member of the Red Shoe Society, the young professionals board of the Ronald McDonald House Charities-Kansas City (RMHC-KC). I served on the Red Shoe Board from 2017-2021, and have stepped off recently due to starting my doctoral program. However, I still love everything the Red Shoe Society stands for, as it serves to support the children, families, staff, volunteers, and donors of RMHC-KC, and also serves to support the mission of RMHC-KC, which is to reduce the burden of childhood illness on children and their families.

REMINDERS

Kasey Kudos is Live!

Know someone who could use a proverbial pat on the back, or just deserves recognition for their work and dedication? [Send a \(socially distanced\) high five](#) and let them know!

Last Green Dot Staff Training of the Term! The last faculty/staff bystander intervention training is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27th at 11:30am. If you are interested in attending and learning more about bystander intervention strategies, [please feel free to sign up through myLearn](#) at Green Dot Bystander Intervention Training.

EVENTS

May 21 – Staff Council Professional Development [Conference.](#)

[Contact us](#)



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