



Justice for
Wyandotte,
Inc.



Annual Report 2023

Prepared By :

Nikki Richardson

Accounting Firm:

**Exclusive Tax & Financial
Services**

(913)703-6191

info@justiceforwyandotte.org

www.justiceforwyandotte.org

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About Us

At Justice for Wyandotte, we believe that every voice matters, and no one should be left behind. By standing in solidarity with the marginalized and disenfranchised, we seek to create meaningful change and foster a community where justice, dignity, and equality prevail.



Justice for Wyandotte is a small but mighty organization deeply rooted and operating in Kansas City, KS. We pride ourselves on providing essential resources for mental health and legal aid, empowering and advocating for the overlooked and underserved. With a relentless commitment to transparency and accountability, we keep pressure on governing and enforcing institutions to ensure fairness and justice for all. Through our unwavering dedication, we create a space for impacted people to share their lived experiences and be empowered.

Learn more at www.justiceforwyandotte.org

Our Mission

We persistently foster sustainable communities in the KCK metro area by advocating for honest, accountable, and transparent governance and empowering people.

Our Principles

1

We strive to peel back the layers and shine a light on what truly matters. Transparency is our tool for dismantling systems of oppression and building a future rooted in equity and fairness for all.

2

We believe in holding systems, institutions, and individuals responsible for their actions. By demanding transparency, advocating for fairness, and challenging power dynamics.

3

We believe giving impacted people a voice helps empower them. Empowered communities are catalysts for reform, driving sustainable progress, and shaping a future where everyone has a voice and a seat at the table.

Our Value

In an era where institutional resistance to reform is prevalent, the role of local grassroots organizations like Justice for Wyandotte becomes increasingly crucial to the ongoing progress of our country. We serve as a vital check and balance system in Kansas City, KS, ensuring that governing institutions remain transparent and accountable to the communities they serve.

By applying pressure and advocating for change, we play a pivotal role in holding institutions accountable for their actions and decisions. We amplify the voices of marginalized communities, challenge systemic injustices, and promote transparency in governance.

Justice for Wyandotte stands as a beacon of accountability in Kansas City, KS, tirelessly advocating for

justice, equity, and transparency. Through its steady dedication to grassroots activism, Justice for Wyandotte continues to push for meaningful reform and progress, serving as a catalyst for positive change in the community.

(Picture below: An Empowerment Breakfast hosted by Justice for Wyandotte at Loews Hotel to educate victims of community violence and injustice.)



You can find news articles and read blogs from our lead organizers about impactful local cases at www.justiceforwyandotte.org



Our Team

Our organization's journey toward justice and equity is guided by the visionary leadership of remarkable individuals whose dedication and passion are the driving force behind our work. We cherish the experiences and perspectives that make our leadership team truly extraordinary. Through tireless efforts, our leaders shape our strategic direction, foster collaboration, and drive innovative solutions to address the most pressing challenges facing our community.



Khadijah Hardaway

Nikki Richardson

Dr. Sheryl Stewart



Nikki Richardson is a lifelong KCK resident. She attended Sumner Academy of Arts & Science and holds a Marketing B.S.A from Ottawa University. After leaving a previous career in operations and project management, she has spent the last four years utilizing her range of skillsets to help reform and improve her hometown, through intentional nonprofit work. She has been a successful campaign manager for the past three years, achieving historic wins that improve diversity in local government and the criminal justice system for Wyandotte County. She has demonstrated an incredible knack for strategically navigating complex relationships and working with critical and difficult stakeholders to effect significant changes in Kansas City, KS. Her talents are being utilized to help our

organization build a strong foundation and continue to chart the strategic path to grow Justice for Wyandotte from a grassroots group to a trusted organization for education, empowerment, and reform.

Nikki Richardson spearheaded the creation, production, and hosting of the 7th Street Podcast to provide a safe space for victims in her community to share their stories. The podcast garnered attention from RocNation investigators, inspiring additional coverage of the Golubski case such as KCUR 89.3's "Overlooked." She onboarded a therapist to address victim trauma and actively pursues strategic partnerships to enhance mental health resources for comprehensive client support. Instrumental in securing additional funding post-incorporation, she maximizes resources to expand our services across Kansas City, KS, and amplifies fundraising efforts to address broader community needs. In the past year, she successfully organized the Release the Footage rally, drawing attention to systemic issues surrounding officer-involved shootings and access to body camera footage, notably in the case of Amaree'ya Henderson's tragic shooting. She was key in John Anderton's family ability to access to body camera footage in 2023, sparking a fundraising campaign for belts, symbolizing the stark reality of KCK's use of force policy.

Khadijah Hardaway has been an activist since the age of five. She served as Alvin Sykes' executive assistant from 2003 to 2007, aiding in passing critical legislation such as the Till Bill. Currently, she serves as the social action chair for Grant Chapel AME and is Gamelial-certified in social justice organizing. In 2017, Khadijah became an advocate for marginalized and underserved women allegedly sexually assaulted and murdered by former KCK Detective Roger Golubski. She played an integral role in urging victims to share their stories, accompanying many to meetings with lawyers and FBI investigators. Khadijah is passionate about helping individuals understand their legal rights and referring them to life resources to sustain themselves through the legal process.

As a survivor of sexual assault and police brutality, Khadijah intimately understands the feelings of powerlessness and the challenges posed by limited resources within the system. Following her leadership training in social justice organizing, her purpose and mission became more defined. Her journey through adversity has illuminated a pathway to truth and justice, enabling her to express herself and offer healing to others through various artistic gifts.

Khadijah helped lead the charge for John



Keith Calvin to be exonerated for a murder he did not commit 18 years ago. She also led the efforts to reopen the case of Sameemah T. Musawwir, also known as Pearl Davis, who was a dear family friend. This case heightened her awareness of many other unsolved murders of women allegedly associated with corrupt KCK law enforcement officers. Khadijah played a key role in organizing rallies to demand a full investigation of Roger Golubski. She was also a vocal advocate for the resignation of Golubski's former partner, KCKPD Chief Terry Zeigler and pushed for community input in the appointment of his replacement. Her current contributions are focused on conflict resolution and trauma training, empowering other organizations with the tools to support and sustain communities in need.



Dr. Sheryl Stewart is a lifelong educator and learner with a career in public education, primarily as an English teacher at Chrisman High School in Independence, Missouri. Her career has been followed by a fulfilling role in language and curriculum development and implementation at Central Baptist Theological Seminary. She is a graduate of UMKC, the University of Louisville, and the University of Kansas, and has pursued additional training including Gamaliel leadership, Auburn justice ministries, and Buttry Center conflict transformation training of trainers.

Sheryl learned early that the narrative heard depends on who has been allowed to speak, and she has always sought ways to broaden perspectives with more diverse

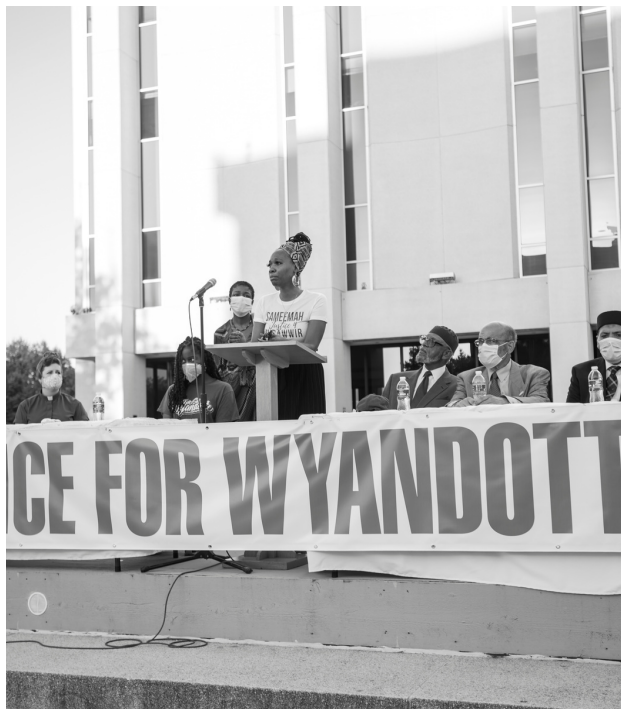
voices. She volunteered as a facilitator for Kansas City Harmony, REACH, and Anytown. She also organized students in her classroom who advocated for improved conditions in their school. Dr. Stewart's faith has informed her passion for justice, starting with openness and fairness to all and leading to efforts to disrupt systems that exclude and oppress. She is committed to being a strong ambassador for Justice for Wyandotte and is constantly seeking opportunities to connect Justice for Wyandotte with other organizations.

Dr. Stewart has actively shared and encouraged the vision for Justice for Wyandotte as it evolved—from assisting in organizing rallies and strategy meetings since 2020, to facilitating the filing for incorporation and tax-exempt status in 2021, to providing financial support over the past three-plus years. She finds particular fulfillment in being part of a multi-generational, multi-racial team of brilliant women, where she can both offer and receive support, discernment, and perspective. Her primary goal is to enhance name recognition and increase the number of monthly donors to Justice for Wyandotte. A robust budget will enable the organization to initiate more initiatives aimed at achieving the sustainable, equitable community that Justice for Wyandotte envisions.

Our Beginnings

2020 - Before the establishment of Justice for Wyandotte as an official nonprofit organization, we were a collective of impassioned individuals who participated in rallies during the summer of 2020. Our attention was drawn to the disturbing trend of sexual harassment and the tragic deaths of multiple Black women, all linked to a corrupt detective within the KCKPD, Roger Golubski. It was evident that these issues were being overlooked. This concern was what forged us together with a mission to find ways to raise awareness.

Our collaborative efforts resulted in impactful initiatives, including a Women's Empowerment event and the creation of *The 7th Street Podcast*, providing a platform for victims and their families to share their stories comfortably. Recognizing the risks of exploitation when Black stories are not authentically represented by Black voices, we committed to rectifying this unfortunate and common disparity. We made the decision to formalize our group as a nonprofit to help further our mission to restore and reform Wyandotte County over the next year. Thus, the journey of Justice for Wyandotte and our mission began.



2021 - In 2021, our primary focus was on achieving incorporation and shedding light on unsolved homicides, particularly the absence of a dedicated cold case unit in Kansas City, Kansas. Through a potent social media campaign, we highlighted cases we actively monitored, connecting with more affected family members. As we deepened our advocacy, we quickly recognized the crucial need for mental health resources.

Recognizing this, Justice for Wyandotte assisted a Golubski-survivor, Niko Quinn

Our Beginnings

in starting the Spiritual Sister Circle, providing trauma victims a platform for connection and essential mental health support. During this time, *The 7th Street Podcast* gained traction, reaching investigators, journalists, and producers from out of town.

Throughout the year, we celebrated two significant victories. Firstly, we secured a commitment for the establishment of a cold case unit by the KCKPD in 2022. Additionally, we received news of the FBI's arrest of Roger Golubski, marking a pivotal moment in our ongoing pursuit of justice.

2022 - In January 2022, we attained 501c3 status and commenced fundraising efforts crucial for expanding advocacy and compensating our organizers. At the onset of the year, the Kansas City Kansas Police Department fulfilled its promise and began investigating cases under its new cold case unit.



In March, we partnered with Strom Law Firm for an informative breakfast at Loews Hotel, addressing victims of police misconduct. After understanding the trauma of the victims we were meeting, we also began project planning for proposed mental health support initiatives for community violence victims, advancing two potential projects.



Our efforts this year also included observing gaps in legislation surrounding sexual assault committed by law enforcement officers and starting discussions with elected officials about potential solutions for reform.



A Year in Review

2023 - In partnership with the Wyandot Behavioral Health Center, we launched our inaugural healing circle session to provide psychoeducation on coping with trauma and grief. During this process, we identified internal and external barriers to continuous mental health treatment, including cultural stigma and logistical challenges like childcare and transportation.

To address these obstacles, we shifted our focus to offering scholarships for therapy expenses during our advocacy initiatives. We are actively seeking partnerships with mental health organizations to enhance access to affordable and accessible professionals and programs.

(Picture below: The Anderton family showing John's bullet-ridden jacket to Lauren Bond, National Police Accountability Project.)

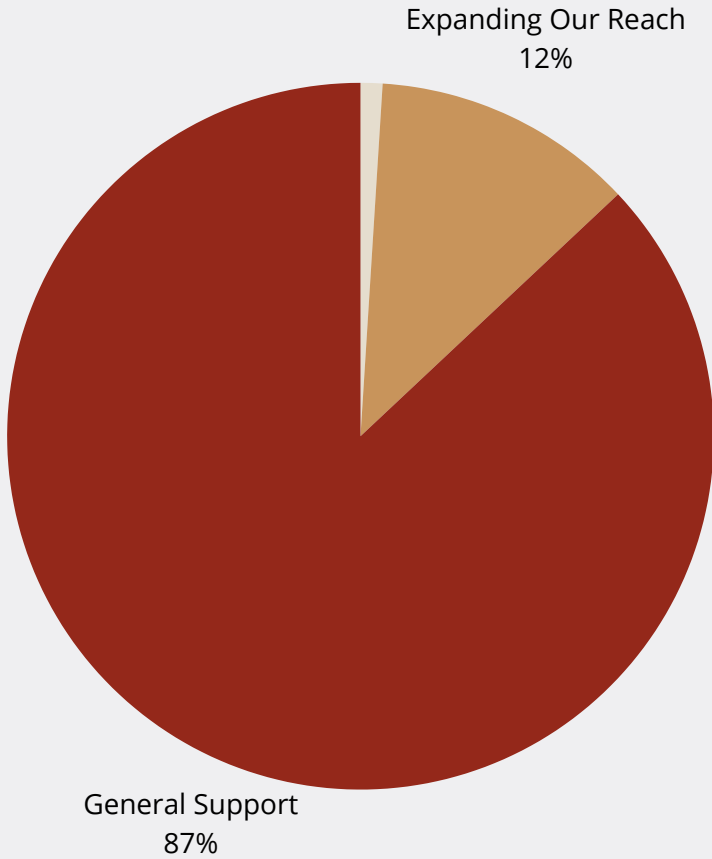




Two cold cases we actively advocated for, Christina King and Sameemah Mussawiir (Pearl Barnes), were successfully resolved under the newly established KCKPD cold case unit. Throughout the year, we assisted two new families in reviewing body cam footage related to fatal officer-involved shootings and organized a tri-county rally to raise awareness about accessing information in police violence cases across the metro.

Justice for Wyandotte also hosted an educational and memorial event at the Legends Field for the historic Kansas City Monarchs, highlighting gaps in the open records request process and advocating for compassion during officer-involved shootings. This event connected elected officials and legal professionals with the impacted families to talk about these critical issues. At the end of year, Justice for Wyandotte was happy to secure a co-working office space in downtown Kansas City, KS, providing a foundation and network for our future growth.

(Picture below: The Release the Footage rally in front of KCKPD Headquarters.)





	Advocacy/Reform
	Expanding Our Reach
	General Support
	Community Education

Financial Review



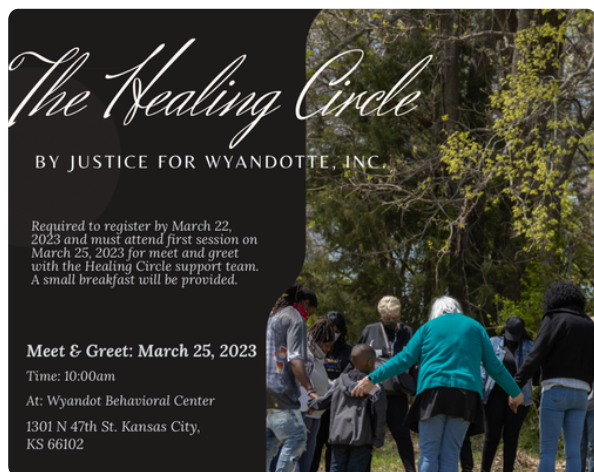
We conducted a thorough financial review of our expenses to determine how much of our overall budget was used for advocacy and reform efforts, extending our reach, education initiatives, and general operating costs. This process ensures transparency and accountability in how we allocate resources, enabling us to effectively advance our mission and maximize impact in our community.

Our total cost of expenses to help support our mission in 2023 was \$42,634.28. Our proposed budget for 2024 is \$44,315.00.

Advocacy & Reform Efforts - 1%

Our advocacy and reform efforts range from grassroots organizing and community mobilization to lobbying policymakers and engaging in public education campaigns. It encompasses protests, petitions, and social media activism, leveraging diverse platforms to shine a light on issues and mobilize support for change. Justice for Wyandotte is unique in the fact that we consider wellness and mental health care one of the key cornerstones of our advocacy work.

Although advocacy and reform made up a very small portion of our budget it was not a small portion of our work. Every step of the way we were able to find cost effective ways to meet our objectives. Justice for Wyandotte, Inc. was grateful to partner with certified therapist Dorathy Scott and Wyandot Behavioral Health in launching a pilot group psychoeducation program for those impacted by community violence.



Through this program, participants were provided the opportunity to engage in therapeutic discussions, learn coping strategies, and foster resilience in the face of adversity. This partnership aligned with our commitment to holistic advocacy and prioritizing mental health in our pursuit of justice and healing. This project has evolved to a scholarship-based program for clients we support that are in need.

We are consistently committed to fostering meaningful dialogue by organizing rallies and events that connect community members with elected officials. Among these initiatives, the Release the Footage rally stood out as a powerful call for transparency and justice in officer-involved shootings across the Kansas City metro. Through this event, we brought together concerned citizens and activists from organizations across city and county lines to demand the release of crucial evidence and uphold transparency in law enforcement practices.

Additionally, we hosted a special birthday event to commemorate the lives of John Anderton and Amaree'ya Henderson whose birthdays were just one day apart. We invited local officials and legal professionals to this event to listen to a comprehensive presentation on the concerning increase in officer-involved shootings and shedding light on the lack of victims' services for victims and their families after experience police violence and the inadequate description of family under Kansas's current open records act.

Advocacy & Reform Efforts (cont.) - 1%

These initiatives, rallies, and events serve as vital platforms for community engagement, empowering individuals to voice their concerns, share experiences, and demand accountability from elected representatives and law enforcement. We seek to continue to foster dialogue and collaboration between community members and officials and remain steadfast in our desire to promote justice, transparency, and positive change in our community.

Extending Our Reach - 12%

Justice for Wyandotte is proud to expand its network and forge partnerships with esteemed organizations beyond state borders. Through collaborative efforts with the Milwaukee Alliance Against Racial Policing and Repression, as well as their national chapter in Chicago, IL, we amplify our collective voice in advocating for racial justice and police accountability on a broader scale.



(Picture above: Nikki Richardson with the Milwaukee Alliance Against Racial Political Repression.)

Furthermore, our connection with the Emmett Till family and the organizers of the Let the World See exhibit has opened doors to impactful collaborations. As a result, we are proud to announce our official partnership with the University of Kansas to contribute to the Let the World See Exhibit in Lawrence, KS in 2024, This powerful exhibit will enlighten Kansas communities on the urgent need for systemic change.



(Picture above: Khadijah Hardaway with author and Emmett Till historian, David Tell; and Dr. Marvel Parker)

By extending our reach and fostering alliances with like-minded organizations and esteemed partners, Justice for Wyandotte is now able to advance our reform and community-building efforts that educate us and allow us to educate others.

General Support - 87%

We are thrilled to announce that Justice for Wyandotte, Inc. has secured office space at The Stables, nestled near downtown Kansas City, KS. This milestone marks a significant step forward in our mission to advocate for justice, equity, and accountability in our community. Justice for Wyandotte also took steps to formalize their financial processes and contracted with Exclusive Tax and Financial services for monthly accounting and bookkeeping of donor funds.

As we embark on this new chapter, we emphasize the critical importance of general support in sustaining our work and empowering the voices of Black women who lead the vision for Justice for Wyandotte, Inc. Contributions directly support the salaries of these dedicated individuals, allowing them to continue spearheading our initiatives, amplifying marginalized voices, and driving positive change.

Community Education & Training - 0%



Justice for Wyandotte is honored to maintain an ongoing relationship with the Department of Justice, a partnership that underscores our goals to promoting tangible solutions that promote healing and wellness in our community. Through this collaboration, our lead organizer, Khadijah Hardaway, has received specialized conflict resolution training at zero cost to our organization, equipping her with invaluable tools to address the complex needs of individuals affected by injustice and trauma.



Building upon this foundation, Justice for Wyandotte is proud to announce our partnership with Ahmad's Justice and support from the Department of Justice to offer conflict resolution training to communities across the Kansas City metro area. This initiative aims to empower individuals and communities with the knowledge and skills needed to recognize, address, and heal from conflict. By extending this training to diverse communities, we aspire to foster a culture of compassion, understanding, and support for those navigating the effects of violence and injustice.

Community Education & Training (cont.) - 0%

Justice for Wyandotte also collaborates with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team at Wyandotte High School. This partnership was fostered by Nikki Richardson and has begun generating awareness and understanding among Kansas City, KS educators about the impacts of weaponized whiteness in their local community. Through educational presentations, she helps facilitate crucial conversations about how classroom dynamics and the broader community may be influenced by these issues.



This work aims to equip educators with the knowledge and tools needed to create inclusive and supportive learning environments for all students, particularly those affected by systemic inequities. By addressing the nuances of weaponized whiteness, it empowers educators to recognize and challenge bias, promote cultural sensitivity, and advocate for equity in education. Through ongoing collaboration with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team, we have become locally rooted in meaningful change and promoting social justice within the educational landscape of Kansas City, KS.



To our donors,

Thank you for your generosity!

We extend a great gratitude and appreciation to all our generous donors who have wholeheartedly supported Justice for Wyandotte's mission. Your financial commitment and generosity fuel our efforts to advocate for justice, equity, and accountability in our community. Each contribution makes a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by injustice, empowering them to reclaim their voices and stand up for their human rights. As we continue our journey towards a brighter future, we remain deeply grateful for your partnership and ongoing support. Your generosity continues to be instrumental in uplifting the voices that matter and driving positive change in Kansas City, KS.



Summary

We have an unwavering commitment to driving positive change through our strategic and creative reform efforts, wellness programs, and education initiatives. Our efforts maintain pressure on our city's governing and law enforcement systems, compelling them to uphold honesty and transparency in their service to the community.

In addition to our programmatic efforts, we emphasize the importance of maintaining an operational office space to facilitate meetings, events, and community engagement. This space serves as a hub for collaboration, networking, and organizing, enabling us to amplify our impact and reach within the community.

Furthermore, we recognize the essential role of providing working salaries for our dedicated team members who lead and drive our mission forward. By striving for fair compensation, we honor their invaluable contributions and can sustain the momentum in our advocacy work in Kansas City, Kansas.

As we reflect on our achievements and look toward the future, we remain steadfast in upholding our principles to advancing transparency, accountability, and empowerment in Wyandotte County and across the Kansas City metro.

What Next?

Justice for Wyandotte is dedicated to expanding our John's Belts fundraising program, aiming to provide belts to those in need while simultaneously educating marginalized communities about KCKPD's current use of force policy.

Additionally, we are excited to announce our mission to continue to honor the legacy of Alvin Sykes and the monumental Till Bill Act as seen in our partnership with the Let the World See Exhibit.



Work with Us

We recognize the power of coming together with organizations that share our values and goals to create meaningful change in our community.

Through collaboration, we can leverage our collective strengths, resources, and expertise to address complex challenges and drive sustainable impact. By working together, we amplify our voices, expand our reach, and maximize our effectiveness in advocating for justice, equity, and empowerment.

We invite organizations with aligned missions and goals to join us in this important work. Together, we can build stronger, more resilient communities where every voice is heard, every individual is valued, and every opportunity is accessible to all.

If your organization shares our passion for justice, equity, and empowerment, we encourage you to reach out and explore opportunities for collaboration. Together, we can create a brighter future for our community.



Phone Number

(913) 703-6191



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