



# Working Families' Friend

A NON-PROFIT AGENCY LENDING A HAND TO WORKING FAMILIES IN NEED

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

You've given me a new understanding of charitable giving

I got help at a time when I felt so alone

...you're the good news for people who have nowhere else to turn

...when faced with something of this magnitude it's difficult to know where to turn

... thank you from the bottom of our hearts

I was left with trying to start my life over...

... thanks to the individuals, corporations and organizations that support your agency I wasn't sure what to do next...

...we tried to be prepared for an emergency situation

I prided myself on being the "provider" for my family

it's so hard to ask for help

## MISSION STATEMENT

To gather community resources in order to enable employed and recently unemployed individuals to sustain and maintain quality of life through assistance, training, advocacy and financial support.



# Working Families' Friend

## CHAIRMAN

Reggie Thomas

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## FOUNDER

Michael Montgomery

## PRESIDENT

Joan Putthoff

Dear Friends and Supporters,

At the end of 2015, a great year for Working Families' Friend, I made the decision to step down as President of the agency but to remain in a full-time capacity with Working Families' Friend.

This transition gave me cause to reflect back over the 12 years that I served as President. A lot has changed. The first year of operations the agency raised a total of \$7,000. Our bank account was opened with a \$100 deposit which was a personal check that I had written myself. That first year we served 130 people.

Fast forward to 2015 when we raised \$576,545, received \$265,600 in United Way funding and served over 7,000 people. I am humbled by what I saw looking back and am reminded that it is only thanks to you, our friends and supporters, that we can do what we do for hard-working men and women and their families.

A running total of all Emergency Assistance funds that have been placed into the hands of deserving individuals who had nowhere else to turn would bring us up to \$2.7 million. More important than any of these numbers are the lives changed, the problems solved, the disasters averted and the gratitude in the hearts of every person that you have helped us help. For that I say "Thank You."

Looking back was an interesting exercise but looking forward is exciting! I see a bright future for Working Families' Friend with strong leadership, generous donors, a great Board of Directors and, of course, many families who will find hope and help when they thought it was nowhere to be found.

Signing off for one last time as your President...

Fraternally,

Mike Montgomery  
President





## AGENCY OVERVIEW

Working Families' Friend was founded on April 1, 2003. Our goal is to provide emergency assistance to working people who do not qualify for assistance through other traditional social service programs. Emergency assistance comes in the form of advocacy in most cases. Whether it is by contacting our clients' lenders, utility companies, medical providers, funeral homes or other creditors, Working Families' Friend helps to alleviate or reduce the client's financial challenge or helps to insure that they receive the services or financial assistance they need.

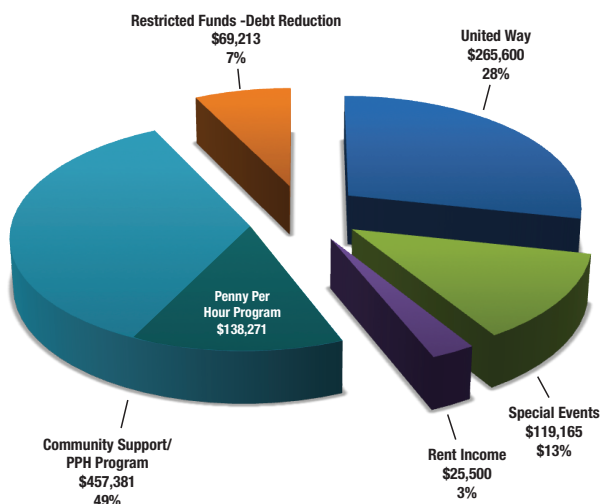
Families who are not destitute cannot qualify for this type of assistance through other traditional emergency assistance programs, but we believe that by providing assistance before a family is forced into economic hardship due to their inability to face an unexpected financial burden, we can maintain a healthy and productive workforce which has a direct bearing on maintaining a healthy and productive community.

Clients in need are referred to Working Families' Friend through other social service providers who cannot serve them due to their income level or other circumstances, or trained Community Councilors within the workplace where the client is employed. Great measures are taken to insure that the need presented by the client is legitimate and that, if financial assistance is given, it is used for the intended purpose.

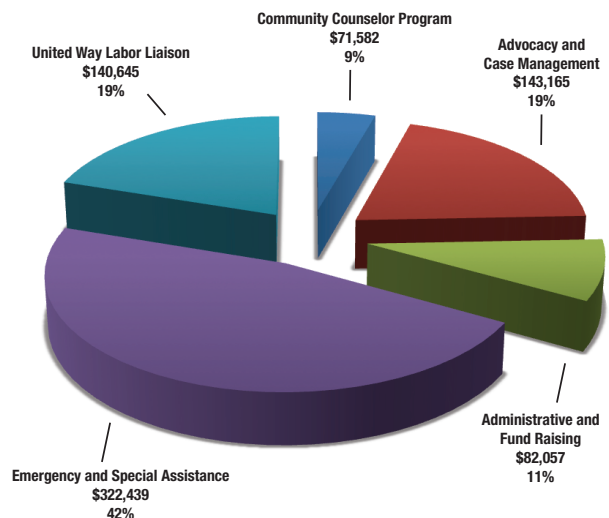
Working men, women and families who seek assistance from Working Families' Friend have a few things in common. Each of them has worked hard to support themselves, their families and the communities in which they live. Each has found themselves in a one-time, crisis situation that they have never found themselves in before. All find themselves unqualified for needed help from other, traditional emergency assistance agencies due to their employment status or income level. This is why Working Families' Friend devotes itself to this underserved population. In 2015 we served over 7,000 people through the generous support of our donors. Thank you for trusting us with your investment in our community.



### INCOME \$936,859



### EXPENSES \$759,888



# Mortgage Burning Campaign



In 2013 the staff and Board of Directors at Working Families' Friend had a decision to make. The building we had inhabited for 11 years was being sold by the United Way of Greater Kansas City. After much consideration and research, we elected to purchase the building for \$275,000.

In 2014 we launched a 3-year Debt Reduction Campaign to pay that note off. At the end of year 2, 2015, we are within \$40,000 of reaching our goal. Every dollar raised during this campaign is in addition to the money raised for our Emergency Assistance Program and our general operating funds. Not one dollar was diverted from the people we serve.

We are in the home stretch and are confident that by the end of 2016 we will be debt free! Thanks to every one of our generous supporters in this effort:

**Ad Ventures of Kansas**  
**Todd Adams**  
**Argosy Casino Hotel & Spa**  
**Black & McDonald, Inc.**  
**Cargill Meat Solutions**  
**Complete Campaigns**  
**Dunn Family Foundation**  
**Enerfab, Inc.**  
**Scott Grandon**  
**Scott Heidtbrink**  
**IAFF Local #42**

**IBEW Local #124**  
**IBEW Local #1464**  
**Matthew Johnson**  
**K.C. Steel**  
**Kansas City Building Trades**  
**KCP&L**  
**Garry & Sue Kemp**  
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**Raymond Kowalik**  
**Michael & Connie Mann**

**Alise Martiny**  
**Mike Montgomery**  
**OPEIU Local #320**  
**Par Electrical Contractors**  
**Pipefitters Local #533**  
**Joan Putthoff**  
**UFCW Local #1**  
**UFCW Local #2**  
**Ullico Management**

## The Cornerstone of Our Support

### Penny Per Hour Recognition



*We want to add your organization's name to this list*

Our Penny Per Hour Program is the cornerstone of support that we receive from the Community. The program consists of organizations that elect to donate one penny per hour worked by each of their members or employees. This equates to an average of \$20.80 per employee each year. Nearly all the employees that we have spoken to express that the safety net Working Families' Friend provides is worth much more than \$20.80 per year. The following organizations participate in this program and we extend great appreciation to each of them for their commitment to Working Families' Friend and their commitment to their community and its working families.



**Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local #15**  
**Carpenters Local #315**  
**Construction and General Laborers Local #264**  
**Construction and General Laborers Local #319**  
**Construction and General Laborers Local #1290**  
**Glaziers Local #1786**  
**Heavy Construction Laborers Local #663**

**IAFF Local #42**  
**IAFF Local #3112**  
**IAFF Local #3808**  
**KC Steel Supply Inc.**  
**KD Sheet Metal**  
**Painters Local #2015**  
**Pipefitters Local #533**

**Plasterers' & Cement Masons' Local #518**  
**Plumbers & Gasfitters Local #8**  
**Security Police Fire Professionals of America**  
**\*Sheet Metal Workers Local #2**  
**UFCW Local #2**

\*Special thanks to Sheet Metal Workers Local #2 for leading the way by being the first local union to reach the 2 cents per hour level!

## TO OUR DONORS

# Heartfelt Thanks from Those You Have Helped

*Dear Working Families' Friend,*

I want to thank you and all of your donors for the help and support you have offered me.

I have been dealing with Pancreatitis for the past nine years while continuing to work as much as possible, in-between hospitalizations and medical procedures. While recovering from one of my surgeries, and coping with pain, illness, and a pile of unpaid bills my husband divorced me after thirty years. **I was left with trying to find a place to live, to recover, and to start my life over.** With the help and generosity of Working Families' Friend I was able to



find an affordable apartment and eventually return to work. I have been hospitalized many times since then and recently underwent major surgery. It has become even more challenging to think about returning to work full-time. Again, Working Families' Friend was there to help guide me through a very tough time. With their help I have applied for Social Security Disability, which is not an easy task, and identified other available resources in our community. I could not have made it through these very hard times alone. It's great to know that when you're really down and out, you've got a friend, WORKING FAMILIES' FRIEND!

*Dear Working Families' Friend,*

I spent my whole adult life as a firefighter. **I prided myself on being the "provider" for my family.** I had a good job, good benefits and even a little money in savings. Then my 22-year-old daughter was diagnosed with a terminal disease. Of course, I pulled out all



the stops and spent every dime we had to try to help my daughter in her fight. Unfortunately, we ultimately lost the battle. The last thing that I could give my daughter was a dignified funeral and celebration of life. I had no way to pay for it after running through all of my savings. Working Families' Friend was the only place that I could get the help that I needed. Thank you and God bless.

*Dear Working Families' Friend,*

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. I can't say thank you enough! This year my husband was in a bad accident and unable to work for an extended amount of time. Eventually, due to the FMLA, I was able to be home to assist with his care, but unfortunately it left us with no income. Our little reserve of savings was quickly being depleted. We found ourselves faced with an unforeseen and gloomy situation. The rent was coming due and we didn't have enough to make the payment. I thought surely we could find assistance to help us through this difficult time. **My husband**



**and I have given regularly to other local charities to assist those in a time of need and help support our community.** The shocking fact that we, in what seemed like a disastrous situation, could not "qualify" for assistance became a glaring reality. Thanks to Working Families' Friend and the people that support your mission, our rent was paid. My husband slowly began to recover and I was able to return to work. **You have given me a new understanding of "charitable giving". Yours is the kind that allows people to get back up and stay on their feet. We are forever grateful.**



## HOW YOU CAN HELP ANSWER THE CALL

As a not-for-profit agency we are eligible to receive tax deductible donations under current IRS guidelines.

- ASK YOUR FRINEDS AND FAMILY TO SUPPORT US
- Support our Annual Fundraising Events
- Make a donation by writing a check
- Contribute Online at our website [www.wffriend.org](http://www.wffriend.org)
- Monthly Automatic Withdrawal from your account
- Participate in our Penny Per Hour Program
- Payroll deduction through: The United Way of Greater Kansas City  
The Combined Federal Campaign  
Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign  
City of Kansas City, Missouri Combined Charities Campaign

If you choose to shop on Amazon, please use AMAZON SMILE.

AMAZON SMILE will donate a portion of the purchase price to Working Families' Friend.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), you will be given the option to choose Working Families' Friend as your charity of choice to receive donations from eligible purchases.

Your selection will be saved, and then every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation to our agency.

## WORKING FAMILIES' FRIEND 2015 DONOR LIST

We are so grateful to all of those who support Working Families' Friend. The following is a list of individuals, corporations and organizations that have generously supported the work that we do. *We make every effort to make sure this list is complete and accurate. If you contributed to Working Families' Friend in 2015 and do not find your name or your organization's name, please accept our apologies and contact us so that we may correct our records. In some cases, companies refuse to provide us the names of individuals who have designated their United Way gifts to us through workplace campaigns making it impossible for us to include these donors on our list. Again, we thank you for your generous support!*

### \$20,000 AND ABOVE

Argosy Casino Hotel & Spa  
Carpenters#315  
IAFF #42  
IBEW #124  
Pipefitters#533  
Sheet Metal Workers #2  
Teamsters Joint Council #56  
United Way of Greater Kansas City  
UPS

Kissick Construction Co., Inc.  
Laborers #264  
Painters#2012  
Teamsters #541  
UAW#249

### \$1,000-\$4,999

Todd Adams  
Joseph Adams  
AFGE #3399  
AFSME #500  
Amalgamated Transit Union #1287  
APWU#238  
Asbestos Workers #27  
Anita Autrey  
Nancy Bickley  
Black & McDonald, Inc.  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of KC  
Boyd, Kenter, Thomas & Parrish, LLC  
Bricklayers & Allied  
Craftworkers #15  
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CWA/AT&T Charity Golf  
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Patrick A. Dujakovich  
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Floorlayers Local #1181  
French's Mustard  
Patrick Gerstner  
Governor Stumpy's

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Greater KC Labor Day Parade Fund  
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Heavy Constructors Association  
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IBEW #1464  
IBEW#412  
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John Jarden  
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Laborers #319  
Laborers #663  
Alise Martiny  
E. Thomas Mc Corkendal  
Alan Means  
Millrights Local #1529  
Michael Montgomery  
Howard Morgan  
NALC#30  
Novak Birks, P.C.  
NPMHU #297  
Patrick S. O'Connell  
OPEIU#320  
Joseph Ortiz  
Painters District Council #3  
Par Electrical Contractors, Inc.  
Plumbers & Pipefitters #178  
Donna Porter  
Principal Global Investors/  
Principal Financial Group  
Joan Putthoff

Darik Rademacher  
Ramey's Price Cutter-UFCW#2  
Robert Rezin  
Terry V. Riepe  
Aaron & Krystal Rosenthal  
Stephen O. Ruley  
Wesley Rupe  
Daniel Saunders  
SPFPA#249  
Ralph Stubbs Jr.  
Cindy Stunkel  
Teamsters #696  
Teamsters #838  
The Segal Company  
Reggie Thomas  
Triumph Foods, LLC  
Truman Tickets  
UAW#31  
United Labor Credit Union  
Western MO & KS Laborers'

### \$500-\$999

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Michael Alexander  
Jerry Angel  
Susan Barthol-Turner  
Lucas Biskup  
David Bonewits  
Cathy Bowen  
Bryan Brown  
Ken Brown  
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Humana Group Medicare  
IAFF #3808  
IBEW #1613  
IBEW#53  
Mark Jeffries  
Kansas City Power & Light Company  
Dusty Kerbs

### \$10,000 - \$19,999

Bank of Labor (Brotherhood  
Bank & Trust)  
Kansas City Building &  
Const. Trades Council  
Operating Engineers #101  
Plumber's & Gasfitters #8  
Teamsters #41  
UFCW #2  
UFCW#1  
Ullico Management Company

### \$5,000-\$9,000

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Carpenters District Council  
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IAM #778  
KC Steel Supply, Inc.

# WORKING FAMILIES' FRIEND 2015 DONOR LIST (continued)

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