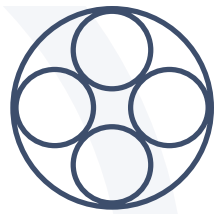


Kountze Commons In the City for Good Campaign



Mission:

Feeding the Hungry, Healing the Sick, Tending the Soul.

Who Are We:

Kountze Commons was created to serve our city's most vulnerable members with complex health and life issues. A unique integrated health care delivery model was formed with community and professional partners. We are leading the nation toward an integrated care model that services the **whole** person through a unique partnership of four entities co-located in one building: The *Del and Lou Ann Weber Free Healing Gift Clinic* and a fully licensed pharmacy, Methodist Community Health Clinic, Lutheran Family Services behavioral health, and the Kountze Food Pantry. A typical vulnerable person in our community does not have just one health issue, but rather faces multiple underlying issues – chronic health issues overlaid with food insecurity and behavioral health challenges.

Need:

Strategically located at 26th and Douglas at the crossroads between the north and south interstate systems, **Kountze Commons is accessible by two major bus lines** and able to serve those who have the least access to quality health care. If a person is unable to afford services, the partnership provides free services and a plan to assist in finding a sustainable path forward.

Kountze Commons Response to COVID-19:

- Kountze Food Pantry volunteers pre-fill food bags for volunteers to run out to guests who utilize the Kountze Food Pantry. Additionally, the Kountze Food Pantry has expanded its pantry services by adding additional hours that guests can come and receive food. The expanded hours occur every Friday from 6 to 8 P.M. on top of regularly scheduled Kountze Food Pantry hours every Monday. The Kountze Food Pantry has provided food to guests who have tested positive for COVID-19 in order to prevent these individuals from having to go to the store and purchase food, further preventing these individuals from potentially spreading the virus as well.
- The *Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic* and pharmacy continues to see patients and serve those who need medical care. Patients are currently being screened for symptoms of Coronavirus before their medical appointment. The pharmacy associated with the *Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic* continues to fill prescriptions and run prescriptions out to patients who come to pick them up in a drive-thru and walk-up approach outside of the building.
- Methodist Community Health Clinic also continues to see patients and serve those who need medical care. Patients are being screened for symptoms of Coronavirus before their medical appointment.
- Lutheran Family Services offices are telecommuting and providing all behavioral health therapy via telehealth services. Therapists are working remotely via telehealth, meaning any therapist providing telehealth services can be assigned a client in any part of the state, and similarly, any client accessing telehealth services can be assigned any therapist throughout the state.

Residents of the neighborhood surrounding Kountze Commons face their own challenges:

- 29% of residents live in poverty;
- 24% of residents have no earnings;
- 35% only work part-time with earnings;
- 11.5% bike, walk, or use other means to get to work;
- 46% only have their high school diploma while just 18% have a Bachelor's degree;
- 18% of families are single guardian households;
- Concentrated homelessness; and
- A lack of access to healthy foods and critical behavioral health and medical services, exacerbating behavioral-physical health problems such as diabetes and obesity, and potentially necessitating more costly emergency room visits.

Services

Feeding the Hungry:

448 individuals visited the Kountze Food Pantry each week for a total of 16,725 individuals in 2019, 26% of guests being children. Over the past two decades, the Kountze Food Pantry has grown into a guest-choice pantry operated by more than 70 volunteers. The Pantry's mission is simple: feed anyone who comes through the door. Staff and volunteers in the Kountze Food Pantry refer guests to primary care and behavioral health services within Kountze when appropriate.

Healing the Sick:

In 2019, 1,283 patient visits occurred and 9,019 free prescriptions were filled at the *Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic*. The *Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic* began its work in 2010 in a community effort to heal the sick. Today it remains a volunteer-driven, free health clinic with a fully licensed pharmacy through Nebraska serving those in need of medical care. An average of 25 professional volunteers from the health care industry serve each week in the *Clinic* and refer patients with food insecurity or behavioral health needs to partners within Kountze. The *Clinic* serves approximately 50 patients each week.

Tending the Soul:

906 unduplicated clients received 4,795 in-office behavioral healthcare and emergency crisis response mental health services from Lutheran Family Services in 2019. The total number of services is greater than the unduplicated count of clients because clients may have been served in more than one behavioral health program. Lutheran Family Services has placed seven licensed behavioral health therapists in the lower level of Kountze Commons. These specialists provide individual and family therapy, trauma care, and three therapists who specialize in 24/7 crisis response and post-crisis services. If a client in behavioral health services is exhibiting food insecurity or is in need of primary care, therapists will refer the client to the Kountze Food Pantry, the *Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic*, or the Methodist Community Health Clinic for services.

2,641 patients visited the Methodist Community Health Clinic in 2019 for an average of 220 patients per month and 50 patients per week. The partnership with the Methodist Community Health Clinic expands the healing capacity of Kountze Commons, providing specialized and low-cost primary care including:

- physical exams and treatment of minor illnesses
- management of diabetes, hypertension and other chronic illnesses
- health education
- reproductive health and pregnancy testing
- flu shots and adult immunizations
- specialized follow-up care for victims of sexual assault
- free and anonymous STD and HIV testing, treatment and risk counseling

Call to Action:

Responsible stewardship of resources has been and remains a critical component of this project. The overall project costs are \$10,500,000. To date, over \$7,000,000 has been raised in gifts and pledges. Individual and foundation support, along with \$2.2 million from the Kountze Endowment, were galvanized toward this community outreach mission. However, \$2.74 million remains to be secured and is currently financed through a loan.

We humbly request your support to meet this goal with an investment of gift or pledge commitment.

Finishing the final phase of the Kountze Commons campaign will provide critical stability for, and expansion of, Kountze Commons' capacity to meet the community's growing needs in the coming years. Once this \$2.74 million has been raised, Kountze Commons will continue to leverage the greatest use of resources and ensure that operational expenses are met, as additional programming will be expanded to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in our community. Your generous support will increase Kountze Commons' long-term financial sustainability, and ensure that Kountze Commons has the ability to direct future resources to other projects in order to advance its capacity to serve.

Thank you for your consideration of support for these critical services, and for your commitment to serving those in need. Your support will help ensure that Kountze Commons can continue to offer life-sustaining services to our brothers and sisters in need, and will make our community stronger and healthier.

