



NEWS

For Immediate Release
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THE ULTIMATE GIFT TO THE KANSAS CITY COMMUNITY THIS GIVING TUESDAY HALO Unveils New Homes and Learning Center for Kansas City's Homeless and At-Risk Youth with Ribbon Cutting Celebration Dec. 3

Kansas City, MO — The HALO Foundation, a nonprofit that helps thousands of homeless and at-risk children around the world, proudly celebrates an important milestone with its ribbon cutting ceremony of HALO's new Kansas City location on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 9 a.m. at 5928 E 52nd Terrace Kansas City, MO 64129, followed by guided tours of the new HALO Boys Home, Girls Home, Learning Center, and Headquarters. This multi-phased project is located at I-435 South and Blue Parkway, near the Chiefs and Royals Stadiums in southeast Kansas City, on 37 acres. The new HALO location officially opens in January 2025.

"We are excited to celebrate our third new facility in Missouri on Giving Tuesday, a day dedicated to generosity and making an impact," said HALO Founder and CEO Rebecca Welsh. "This expansion reflects the heart of our mission: ensuring that every child has the foundation of a family. The support of our community has made this possible, and we're proud to celebrate with our partners and supporters."

Lead Kansas City partners include Harmon Construction, general contractor; Clockwork, architect; BHC, design engineering firm; Superior Bowen, civil contractor; and Place Interiors, interior design. Key supporters include BlueScope Steel, Bicknell Family Foundation, DeBruce Foundation, Diamond Pet Foods, Haverty Family Foundation, Kemper Family Foundations, Mabee Foundation, Sarah Ross, and the Sunderland Foundation.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will bring together local officials, community leaders, and supporters. Following the ceremony, attendees will have the chance to tour the facility and learn more about the work HALO does for youth in need. Light refreshments will be provided.

*****Event Details for Media Only*****

Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is at 9 a.m. Guided tours are available.

Location: 5928 E 52nd Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64129

RSVP: Visit

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeuplkk_Fl10iAplsHuneHC4NHNHgnPK5t9fyrJasOd3ynPg/viewform

Questions: Please contact Nicole Gerken at 816-472-4256.

This Giving Tuesday, HALO invites the community to join its mission, whether by making a donation or volunteering. Donations are being matched this holiday season by Moroccanoil and other HALO supporters and can be made at <https://haloworldwide.org/haloholidays/>. All donations provide housing, healing, and education for the children HALO serves. In addition, HALO is collecting items on its [Housewarming Registry](#) for its new Kansas City location: <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/15QFW43W5JKUX>. Volunteer opportunities are listed at <https://haloworldwide.org/volunteer/>.

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“The number of homeless youth in Kansas City has nearly doubled in the past 10 years with over 5,000 homeless youth between the ages of 0-24 years on any given night, with only 120 beds available for unaccompanied youth needing longer-term housing,” said Welsh. “These youth are knocking on our doors every night, and we are proud to be a part of the solution to provide a safe place to help break the cycle of youth homelessness. We are so grateful for the support from the City and our generous donor community.”

The HALO KC Housing program is a Transitional Living Program. The HALO Girls Home provides the foundation of a family to pregnant, parenting, and non-parenting girls ages 16-21 and their children who are homeless or in high-risk situations. The HALO Boys Home serves boys ages 16-21. Ten bedrooms are available, and each home has a shared living room and kitchen. HALO youth graduate from the program within 18 months. In 2017, HALO opened its Jefferson City, Mo. Girls Home, housing up to 40 children annually, with over 84% of graduates leading steady lives where they have broken the cycle and are contributing members of the community.



Welsh shared, “As we’ve learned with our HALO Jefferson City Home, this rural model allows our children to heal and break the cycle of youth homelessness. By taking our children away from negative influences, they can focus on their goals.”

The KC Learning Center currently serves over 700 homeless and at-risk children and partners in the community, offering free services with organizations like reStart Inc., Fairfax Learning Center, Newhouse, Cornerstones of Care, and Hillcrest Transitional Living Program. Since 2010, the Learning Center has provided therapeutic art programs, tutoring, professional development, scholarships, and life skill workshops.



HALO is pursuing tax credits, charitable lead trusts, grants, corporate sponsorships, individual and family foundations, and income sources to support this project. To get involved, learn more at haloworldwide.org/halo-kansas-city-capital-campaign.

[HALO is hiring](#) 20 positions in Kansas City. This includes a mix of full-time, part-time, day and overnight Youth Advocates and PRN positions, projected to start Jan. 6, 2025. If interested in applying for a position, please visit haloworldwide.org/careers-and-internships to learn more.

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ABOUT HALO:

HALO believes every child should have the foundation of a family. Since 2005, HALO has provided love in the form of housing, healing, and education to heal homeless and at-risk children. Featured in the MoroccanOil INSPIRED film series, “American Spirit” of CBS Evening News, “Heroes Among Us” and “25 Women Changing the World” of PEOPLE magazine, “The Today Show,” Variety Magazine, and Oprah Daily, HALO serves over 3,000 children and supports 15 programs around the globe each year. It has Learning Centers and Housing programs in Kansas City and Jefferson City, Missouri, and art programming in New York and Portland. HALO also supports orphanages and programs in Uganda, Kenya, and Mexico. Learn how Love Heals at HALO and help one more child spend one less day alone at www.haloworldwide.org.

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Photo/Video Opportunity: If interested in attending the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and interviewing HALO Founder Rebecca Welsh and/or a HALO Youth Alum, please contact nicolegerken@haloworldwide.org or 913-548-8875 (cell).

HALO Social Media Handles:

- **Facebook:** @HALOFoundation
- **Instagram:** [@haloempowersyouth](https://www.instagram.com/haloempowersyouth)
- **Linkedin:** [The HALO Foundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-halo-foundation)
- **X:** @HALOFoundation
- **YouTube:** [@haloempowersyouth](https://www.youtube.com/haloempowersyouth)

Groundbreaking Group Photo taken August 31, 2022:

(Left to Right: Back Row)

Chelsea Tapken, HALO; Jacob Nordhus, Harmon Construction; Brian Johanning, Superior Bowen; Tim Harmon, Harmon Construction; Joyce Neuenswander, HALO; Carly Schultze, HALO; Matt Gibbs, BHC; Trey Bowen, Superior Bowen; Doug Blue, BlueScope Steel; Christian Arnold, Clockwork; Dan Evans, Superior Bowen; Jill Harmon, BlueScope Steel.



(Left to Right: Front Row)

Christina Cummins, HALO; Kevin Pinkowski, BHC; Cameron Giyard, Clockwork; Shannon Haverty-Thrun, Haverty Family Foundation; Nicole Gerken, HALO; Rebecca Welsh, HALO; Dan Kumm, BlueScope Steel; Eddie Welsh, Capital; Ryana Parks-Shaw, Fifth District Councilwoman; Vanessa Connell, HALO Board Member; Sally Sallee, HALO Advocate Board Member; Julie Arnold, Place Interiors; Laura Terrebonne, BHC; Alayna Howard, HALO.