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## News Release



United Way of Wyandotte County, Inc. P.O. Box 17-1042, Kansas City, KS 66117-0242

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 19, 2009

### **YouthBuild KCK hires new director**

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – The United Way of Wyandotte is pleased to announce that Gilbert Castro will be replacing Victor Hernandez as director of its YouthBuild KCK program. Castro, a retired Unified Government employee, has been with YouthBuild KCK for more than a year as the Job Developer and Leadership Coordinator supporting the program’s trainees in their search for jobs. His goals for YouthBuild are to make the program more sustainable and continue to improve its track record.

“I can barely wait to begin learning my new role,” Castro said. “I want this to be a seamless change in leadership. I’m working hard to support the staff and to continue mentoring our youth. Both are vital in these tough economic times.”

Hernandez has taken a position with the KCK Housing Authority where he will fill the role of administrative coordinator.

YouthBuild KCK is funded with grants from the US Department of Labor and AmeriCorps. High school dropouts ages 16-24 enroll in the 10-month program to learn construction skills while earning their GED equivalency certificates. Their time is divided between the classroom and work-site training that includes more than 700 hours of GED preparation, community service opportunities, leadership development and career development and 440 hours of construction industry training. Since 2002, YouthBuild trainees have built two homes and worked on four other homes with Heartland Habitat for Humanity. More than 30 KCK area youth enroll in YouthBuild KCK each year.

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#### *About United Way of Wyandotte County*

United Way of Wyandotte County, a non-profit human service organization founded in 1921, is dedicated to increasing the community’s understanding of human needs and mobilizing resources to meet those needs. Through its annual community campaign, United Way supports 53 social service programs provided by 29 Wyandotte County and area agencies.

LIVE UNITED is a call to action to give, advocate and volunteer in our community in order to improve the common good in three key areas: education, income and health. To learn more about United Way and how to LIVE UNITED, visit [United Way of Wyandotte County's website](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.