

formerly GSP

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On behalf of Thrive Health Connection, I wholeheartedly support the Zero Fare Initiative proposed by the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA).

Since 1984, Thrive Health Connection (formerly Good Samaritan Project) has provided exceptional care in the community to those affected by HIV/AIDS with the goal to educate, empower and enrich lives. A regional healthcare leader and influencer, Thrive Health offers holistic and integrated health and wellness services to individuals affected by HIV and other STIs, LGBTQ communities, and those seeking a welcoming and affirming health community. Thrive Health provides medical case management, mental health counseling, and prevention/outreach/testing.

Transportation is a significant challenge for individuals that Thrive Health serves. Many individuals that come to Thrive Health for either Case Management or Prevention & Testing do not have reliable transportation and they are depending on the bus systems. Most of the individuals have an income at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level, so many cannot afford bus fares.

Thrive Health was selected to participate in the Safety Net Nonprofit Pilot Pass Program sponsored by KCATA, as this organization is one of the frontline providers of safety net services to vulnerable populations in the greater Kansas City area. Although our participation in the Pilot Pass Program definitely helped some individuals we serve, the demand for passes is much greater than a nonprofit of our size and budget restrictions can presently support.

Having a Zero Fare Transit System in Kansas City would positively affect the lives of many vulnerable individuals in this city.

Sincerely,



Caroline Huffman  
Chief Executive Officer