

## **Christmas in October helpers are gifts to Kansas City**

With abundant news of an uncertain and sometimes frightening economic climate and its challenges, we are pleased to bring some positive news to your attention: The phenomenal success of a homegrown, neighbor-helping-neighbor program, Christmas in October (CIO).

Celebrating 25 years in 2009, CIO has enabled thousands of Kansas City's most deserving residents to remain in their homes with dignity.

In 2008, more than 2,500 members of our community enjoyed the fruits of the labors of more than 600 union volunteers and 5,000 others who made more than 500 homes safer, warmer and more livable. Work was completed on seven community centers as well. These efforts have been ongoing — and growing — in each of the 24 years of CIO.

Thank you, Kansas City, for making Christmas in October the largest and most successful of its kind in the nation.

We have our own hometown heroes among us, the CIO volunteers who work tirelessly each year to help others who cannot help themselves: the elderly, disabled and needy, who need assistance now more than ever.

We appreciate everything you do to make our hometown such an incredibly caring and giving community.

**John McMeel and Dick Miller Co-founders, Christmas in October Kansas City**

**Tom Redmond Executive director, Christmas in October Kansas Cit**