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KidsView

Successful Conference Empowers Parents

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The 14th Annual Parent Leadership Conference Filled with Empowerment, Engagement and Leadership

The SRS Head Start Collaboration Office under the leadership of Carolyn Weinhold gave "birth" to the Parent Leadership Conference in 2000. The focus was to provide information and tools to support parents. The conference highlights were the keynote address, parenting workshops, parent testimonies, and exhibitor booths. Beginning in 2012, Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL) became the "lead" agency for the Parent

Leadership Conference. With a vision of parent engagement, parent involvement and parent leadership, the conference has developed into a parent-driven, parent-led event, which empowers parents and encourages a strong partnership between parents and practitioners. The conference has seen tremendous growth from 90 parents and practitioners across Kansas to over 200.

The conference was a collaborative effort with several early childhood programs from around the state.

"KCSL received a lot of credit for this conference, but we couldn't have done it without the help of partner agencies throughout the state," B J Gore, KCSL Parent Leadership Supervisor said. "We were able to offer workshops in both English and Spanish. It was all made possible by our partners."

Partners that made the Conference possible included the Kansas Parent Leadership Advisory Council, Child Care Aware of Kansas, Families Together, Inc., Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, Kansas Department for Children and Families, Kansas Department for Children and Families-Head Start Collaboration Office, Kansas Head Start Association, Kansas Parent Information Resource Center, Kansas Fatherhood Coalition, Kansas Department of Education-Migrant Education, Kansas Department of Education-Parents As Teachers, Kansas State Department of Health and Environment/Kansas Infant, Toddler Services/tiny K, State Interagency Coordinating Council, University of Kansas, Kansas Children's Service League and parent leaders and families from across the state.

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From the President's Desk



In my spring letter to our Kids View Readers, I shared information about an exciting new mission

awareness initiative starting at KCSL called Building Healthy Families. In May, we began offering one hour "mission tours" in the Topeka KCSL office. Our guests heard amazing success stories from families who were helped by KCSL to achieve their personal goals for parenting. The tours are designed to help guests understand the impact of our service work in their community that prevents child abuse, strengthens families and empowers parents.

I am pleased to share with you the results of the 24 Topeka mission tours held between May and mid-October.

- 298 guests attended tours surpassing our goal of 250 guests.
- 81% of the guests invited by 29 Ambassadors attended a tour.
- 33% of the guests are now more involved with KCSL than before their tour.

Creating community awareness of our service impact leads to engagement in our cause, "to protect and promote the well-being of children." If we are to continue to successfully meet the service needs of families who reach out to us for support, our communities must recognize the value of our

work. It will be volunteers and private philanthropists who will sustain our work in the future. It is these resources that provide the stability, flexibility and commitment to life changing interventions that improve the lives of families forever.

In the Building Healthy Families mission tour stories, the resounding message from families is the "hope" that they found through their relationship with KCSL. That "hope" helped them begin to believe in the possibility of a brighter future for themselves and their children. The mission tours have a way of affirming the value and importance of our work. It gives us all "hope" that we are making a difference. It is our "hope" that as others hear about our impact, they too will become involved and our ability to serve will grow.

I want to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who have helped to ensure the success of this important awareness initiative. A special thanks to Margaret La Rue, KCSL Board Director and Foundation Trustee, whose advice, energy and expertise has helped ensure our success thus far on our journey. We look forward to the expansion of the Building Healthy Family mission tours to Wichita in 2014! Join us if you can at one of the Topeka Building Healthy Families Tour dates to the right.

Sincerely,

Dona Booe, President/CEO

LOCATIONS

Cimarron	314 S. Main	(620) 855-3889
Emporia	215 W. 6th, Suite 209	(620) 340-0408
Garden City	705 Ballinger 603 E. Cedar 4101 E. US Hwy 50 #531	(620) 276-3232 (620) 805-6454 (620) 276-4323
Hugoton	304 E. 6th	(620) 544-7016
Hutchinson	400 W. 2nd St., Suite A	(620) 664-5000
Independence	315 W. Sycamore	(620) 331-2123
Kansas City	650 Minnesota	(913) 371-2220
Lenexa	15717 College Blvd.	(913) 621-2016
Leoti	P.O. Box 14	(620) 375-4933
Liberal	50 Village Plaza 150 Plaza Drive	(620) 624-9220 (620) 626-5339
Pratt	401 S. Hamilton	(620) 672-3994
Satanta	800 Tecuensch	(620) 649-2754
Topeka	3545 SW. 5th St. Center for Restorative Ed. 400 SE 40th	(785) 274-3100 (785) 438-6800
Ulysses	921 N. College 120 W. Grant Ave.	(620) 356-4180 (620) 424-4320
Wichita	1365 N. Custer Wichita Child Guidance Center 415 N. Poplar	(316) 942-4264 (316) 686-6671

Western Kansas Raises over a Million Dollars' Worth of "In-Kind"

As part of the federal funding for Head Start and Early Head Start, agencies are required to match 25 percent of their grant. For the 2012-13 grant year, KCSL was tasked with raising \$957,549 in non-federal share or "In-Kind;" this would include such things as goods, time and services.

"We rely heavily on parent volunteers who spend time with their children completing individualized homework and community members/vendors who donate items like office space, costumes, books for the classrooms and speakers for parent meetings," KCSL Head Start Director Eric Pommier stated.

Pommier also said the program relies on the generosity of the United Way and community grants from the Baughman and Finnup Foundations. "Reaching our goal of 25 percent is never

easy, and agencies across the nation struggle to reach their number every year," Pommier continued. "As we all know, today's economic environment has made everyone tighten their belts and be much more intentional about their charity."

So what was the final dollar amount KCSL managed to raise this year? "Nearly \$1.3 million was raised this grant year," Jeff Pfingsten, West Region Development Manager said. "It is all-the-more amazing when you think about our current environment."

Pfingsten was an ever present motivator for staff to push harder to get parents involved. Many staff met their personal goals, while others exceeded them. In Liberal, the Chance, Francis, Harding Group LLC contributed \$212,000 worth of space, labor and materials to renovate the

building where KCSL classrooms are now located. A very proud Pommier said, "All-in-all, KCSL and Southwest Kansas pulled together and pulled through to exceed our requirement by nearly 36 percent. Truly, this was an amazing feat and we are proud of our staff, communities and agency for a job very well done."



120 Years of Adoption

Attendees at our Annual Meeting received a copy of our newest publication *Celebrating 120 Years of Adoption*, featuring 12 decades of stories as told by moms, dads and children. To view the booklet, go to www.kcsl.org and click on the banner ad.



KCSL Trivia

Both the Children's Home Society and Christian Service League used foster homes to care for children.

True or False: These homes were paid to care for the children.

Answer on page 7

Building Healthy Families Tour Schedule

Tuesday, November 19, 2013 - 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 19, 2013 - 10 a.m.
Tuesday, January 14 - 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, January 23 - 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, February 11 - 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 20 - 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, March 4 - 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 12 - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, April 16 - 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 29 - 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, May 13 - 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 22 - 10:00 a.m.

Kansas' First Crisis Nursery Opens in Wichita

In October, KCSL opened the first Crisis Nursery in Kansas to support families in crisis and connect them to resources needed to improve parent/child functioning. The Wichita Crisis Nursery, a program developed by the Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention (C-CAP) committee that includes KCSL, provides free family respite services to Wichita parents experiencing an emergency.

Short-term temporary day services are available Monday through Friday for children birth through five years of age

and overnight respite to children ages birth to 18. Services include:

- Nutritious food.
- Nurturance, consistency and a stimulating daily routine.
- Developmentally appropriate children's programming.
- Advocacy, resources, and referrals to help resolve emergencies or crisis.

The main purpose of the Wichita Crisis Nursery is to provide a safe environment for children when families are in

need, thereby preventing child abuse and neglect. As a new service in the community, the Crisis Nursery will accept referrals from partner agencies of C-CAP and area shelters to start due to the limited service area and days of care available.



Parent Leadership Conference

Continued from cover

The conference seeks to empower parents by providing the opportunities through the following goals:

- Develop skills to become effective advocates for themselves and their children.
- Develop the necessary skills to be actively engaged in local, state and national issues impacting children and families.
- Understand their rights and responsibilities as parents in their child's schools and the community.
- Understand the importance of parent engagement and involvement, and its links to education, the community and family services and support for the success of their children and to strengthening their family.

Topics covered in this year's workshops were: Building Healthy Relationships, How to Deal with Challenging Behavior, Fatherhood, Information on Children with

Special Needs, Building Resilience and Sibling Bullying.

Parent advocate and KCSL Parents Helping Parents Coordinator Bruce Bynum hopes that parents learn from each other and feel empowered while attending the parent-driven conference. "I really want parents to know what resources they have available to them," Bynum shared. "I want parents to know there are other parents out there that are facing some of the same challenges raising children. Parents can be such a great support to other parents; we just need them to connect."

Tamika Sellars, KCSL Parent Coordinator and parent of a four year old shared a similar sentiment and thinks advocacy is an important tool for parents to gain from the conference. "Parents learned they are the best advocate for their children and were reminded they are their child's first teacher and most important role model," Sellars said. "They were provided with different tools to put in their advocacy toolbox."

The Parent Leadership Conference also convened the Parent Advocacy Panel. The purpose gave parents the opportunity to share their stories of how they made it through tough times. It also allows families to become more involved with agencies and gives parents the voice to be heard.

It wasn't just all work and no play. The evening session included great family time with parents and children. The participants enjoyed fun family activities including entertainment from a clown.

Special thanks to the generosity of our funders who made this conference possible: *Amerigroup, Christie Development Associates, LLC., Families Together, Inc., Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, Kansas Children's Service League, Kansas Department of Children and Families - Kansas State Workforce Development Program, Kansas State Department of Education, United Healthcare-Community Plan Kansas and University of Kansas.*

Adopt Kansas Kids Preparing for Adoption Month

Every November, a Presidential Proclamation launches activities and celebrations to help build awareness of adoption throughout the nation. Thousands of community organizations arrange and host programs, events, and activities to share positive adoption stories, challenge the myths and draw attention to the thousands of children in foster care who are waiting for permanent families. This year's National Adoption Month initiative emphasizes the partnerships necessary to create permanent connections for the 100,000 children and youth in foster care waiting for adoptive families. On November 6, KCSL will commemorate the agency's 120 years of adoption with a National Adoption Month celebration at Topeka's Capitol Plaza Hotel at 6:00 p.m. KCSL's history is rich and full of many success stories as countless lives have been touched by the gift of adoption. Our work in adoption through Adopt Kansas Kids program recruits and supports adoptive families to connect them to children in state foster care awaiting adoption. Currently there are over 900 children in Kansas awaiting adoption. Through the Adopt Kansas Kids program outreach advocacy is done for those children through an adoption website, toll free hotline, community involvement, child profiles in the media and community events and activities such as our Klicks for Kids photo gallery and media initiatives which include television, newspaper and social media initiatives. We believe there is a loving family out there for each and every child; it's only a matter of finding them.



Tune In For Kids

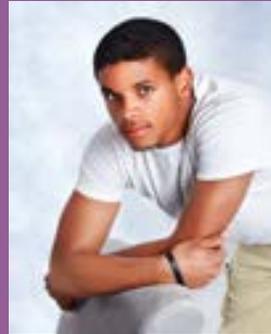
Meet great kids who need forever families on these stations:

In Northeast Kansas, "Wednesday's Child"
with Lori Hutchinson on WIBW TV-13

In Southeast Kansas, "Monday's Child"
with Lisa Oligis on KOAM TV-7

In South Central and Western Kansas,
"Susan's Kids"
with Susan Peters on KAKE TV-10

You & A Child



Jayzion, age 16
ID# 101479

Jayzion is an active teen; he likes working out and playing sports. PE is his favorite class in school. Jayzion loves exercising so much that he hopes to own his own gym someday. Jayzion also has a creative side; he enjoys arts and crafts, creating comic strips and writing in his journal. Jayzion would do well in a home that is active and can encourage him to stay involved in activities and sports. He needs a family that will be patient and consistent.



Rebecca, age 16
ID# CH-5388

Rebecca is good at sports and really enjoys playing volleyball. She is proud of whom she is and stands up for what she believes in. She is very intelligent and takes pride in accomplishing tasks on her own. She would like to become a massage therapist when she grows up. Rebecca makes friends easily and has a lot of them! She also has a great sense of humor! Rebecca needs a family that can offer patience, consistency and structure.

To learn more about adoption visit
www.adoptkaskids.org or call 877-457-5430.
Connect with us! [facebook.com/AdoptKansasKids](https://www.facebook.com/AdoptKansasKids) and [twitter.com/AdoptKSKids](https://www.twitter.com/AdoptKSKids)



Memorial Gifts

PHILIP SAIA
Janet Schalansky

Drug Endangered Child Program to Expand

KCSL and United Way of Greater Topeka have been awarded a \$139,090 grant to continue their collaboration on Shawnee County's Drug Endangered Child (DEC) Program. The organizations will continue the work they have been doing since 2005. Estimates indicate that more than 62,000 Kansas children live in homes where alcohol or other drugs are abused and that more than 4,500 Kansas infants are born prenatally exposed to substances every year. When parents have substance abuse issues, their children are at higher risk of experiencing abuse and/or neglect. DEC operates as a point of early identification and referral for case management services. The services are designed for pregnant women and families with children age 0-5 who currently or have recently used substances from alcohol to drugs. The program is essential as it is the only program in Shawnee County that serves the 0-5 age group.

Once a parent or family is referred to DEC, KCSL provides ongoing support to ensure that parents receive the support

needed while learning about the adverse impact their substance abuse can have on their child for years to come.

"The goal of DEC Case Management is to help keep children with their parents in a safe and nurturing drug-free environment," Jennifer Gassmann, DEC Case Manager, said. "Many families have had negative experiences with the system and are distrustful of services at first, but they truly want what is best for their children. We help them advocate for themselves and build on their strengths so their children can be successful in their lives."

While it is often difficult for parents to bring stability to their lives while trying not to relapse, KCSL provides services in substance abuse, parenting education, mental health, housing, and education. KCSL serves 60 families annually through DEC and the award enabled KCSL to hire an additional DEC Case Manager to expand our intensive and individualized services to even more families in Shawnee County.

KCSL Trivia

False, families provided care and respite for children as a volunteer and did not receive any reimbursement for their care.

Stay it Forward



Book your next hotel stay at www.charitablehotels.org and donate the commission to KCSL. Receive the same prices as Expedia, Travelocity or Priceline, but the commission goes to a good cause!

Did You Know?

Regional Staff Council Meetings

KCSL staff had a great time at the regional meetings sponsored by KCSL's Staff Council in August. We were joined by Adam Gragg with EMPAC, who provided training on "Happiness at Work" to inspire staff to set goals and find joy in their work. KCSL also celebrated our 120th anniversary with Peace, Love, and KCSL t-shirts for all the staff and a trivia game looking back at KCSL's history. Staff were recognized for milestone achievements including five, 10, 15 and 20 year anniversaries.

Attorney General Awards New Grant for Abuse Prevention in SE Kansas

KCSL received a new grant to address child sexual abuse prevention in Southeast Kansas from the Attorney General's Office. The \$10,000 grant will be used to train our community partners from Montgomery County in the Stewards of Children curriculum, an evidence informed model developed by Darkness to Light. Over the next year, KCSL will train 200 adults in Montgomery County in this curriculum, which increases knowledge, improves attitudes and changes child protective behaviors. The training offers practical prevention training with a conversational, real-world approach. KCSL has also been awarded a grant from the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas to provide training in additional Southeast Kansas counties. Anne Auld will be coordinating the project.

KCSL Family Recognized during National Baseball Congress World Series

On August 10, KCSL celebrated 120 years of service to children and families by honoring one of our Healthy Families clients at the 79th annual National Baseball Congress (NBC) World Series at Lawrence Dumont Stadium in Wichita. The Grimaldo family threw out the first pitch for the Wellington (KS) Heat vs. Seattle (WA) Studs championship game. In addition to the final game of the tournament, All Things BBQ held a championship cook-off and a fireworks display concluded the evening.

Westar \$10,000 RSB Sponsorship

Westar Energy Foundation presented a \$10,000 check to KCSL for the sponsorship of the annual Red Stocking Breakfast held in Topeka on December 14. Westar Energy has been a long time supporter of KCSL and believes in their mission to protect and promote the well being of children. John Bridson, VP Generation, Westar Energy and Cynthia

McCarvel, Manager of Corporate Community Affairs, presented the check to KCSL on August 12.

KCSL Receives \$5,000 from Collective Brands, \$2,000 from Enterprise Foundation for the Oasis Program

KCSL's Oasis program was awarded \$5,000 from Payless ShoeSource and \$2,000 from Enterprise Foundation. Oasis provides free and voluntary services to families with youth ages 10-17, who are at risk for running away from home or who have already run away from home. Youth who are at risk include youth experiencing family conflict, anti-social behavior, truancy, and drug or alcohol use of the youth or the parents. The goal of this program is to prevent youth homelessness, out of home placement, and to safely reunite youth with their families providing crisis intervention services aimed at preventing the youth from running in the future.

The awards will be used to help fund temporary shelter through the use of KCSL's licensed foster homes and also for needed services for the youth on anger management, parent/adolescent Mediation, and flex funds to provide mental health services.

Payless ShoeSource encourages their employees to get involved in their communities and they set an example by supporting local programs. They are also a major sponsor of the Topeka Red Stocking Breakfast this year.

\$1,000 Donation by Washburn University Social Work Students for SSA

The Washburn Student Social Work Association (WSSWA) and the Washburn University Graduate Social Work Association (WUGSWA) chose KCSL as their charity of choice to receive the proceeds from their end of the year annual banquet held on April 26. KCSL was nominated by Shannon Solander, a former KCSL Intern and now KCSL Social Worker, and was chosen by the officers as a way for students to give back to an organization that helps families as well as supports their department through various practicum placements and internship opportunities. The event raised \$1,000 which was designated to KCSL's Supporting School Attendance (SSA) program where many Washburn University social work students were welcomed during their practicum. "Ultimately we wanted a stronger bond between KCSL and Washburn University and wanted to say thank you in the best way possible," Jessica Espinoza, WSSWA Treasurer and KCSL Intern, said.

Upcoming Events

Klicks for Kids

Nov. 14 Exploration Place
thru Wichita, KS
Dec. 2

Dec. 4 Shawnee Library
thru Shawnee, KS
Jan. 8

Dec. 4 Antioch Library
thru Merriam, KS
Jan. 8

Governor's Conference

Nov. 6 Capitol Plaza Hotel
thru Topeka, KS
Nov. 8

Red Stocking Breakfast

Dec. 7 Clarion Inn
Garden City, KS

Carlos O' Kelly's
Hutchinson, KS

Jack Stack Barbecue
Overland Park, KS

Pizza Ranch
Emporia, KS

Dec. 12 Carlos O'Kelly's
Wichita, KS

Dec. 14 Liberal Country Club
Liberal, KS

Carlos O'Kelly's
Topeka, KS

For more information on these events, please visit our website,
www.kcsl.org



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Planning For The Future



Children are our future, and that's why at KCSL they are our top priority. When planning for the future distribution of assets, many people are surprised to learn there are a number of ways to provide charitable gifts to KCSL. In addition to remembering family, friends and other loved ones, consider including KCSL in your plans so we can ensure that the next generation of children and families thrive! Contact KCSL President/CEO, Dona Booe at dbooe@kcsl.org or (785) 274-3100 for more information.

Kids View is published by the Kansas Children's Service League, a private not-for-profit agency whose mission is to protect and promote the well-being of children.

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Prevent Child Abuse
Kansas



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