



# KidsView

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## Finding a Fresh Start

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### Healthy Families Program Helps Family Find A Place of Their Own

**N**ew parents Garrett and Danielle had everything they wanted when they welcomed their happy, healthy baby girl Eillyanna into their lives. Everything except for a place of their own to raise her.

They were living with Garrett's parents, his younger brother and his niece and nephew in a small home in Baxter Springs, about 20 miles from where Garrett was working part time in Columbus. Without reliable transportation, Garrett risked

losing his job if they didn't find a place to live in Columbus.

A few months before Eillyanna was born, they started meeting with Tina Hartley of KCSL's Healthy Families program in Southeast Kansas and told her about their need to find a place of their own.

"Tina looked into a lot of programs for us and then told us about a place that was close to  
Healthy Families Program continues on page 3



Above from right to left: Garrett, Danielle, Eillyanna and their nephew, Ty.

## KCSL Announces New President and CEO



**I**n June, the KCSL Board of Directors announced Dona Booe as CEO of the Kansas Children's Service League. She has also been named President of the KCSL Foundation.

Dona has served as KCSL's vice president of programs services for the past five years, in which she was responsible for management of daily operations and financial oversight of the KCSL's programs serving some 40,000 children and their

families across the state. She also provided leadership and strategic direction in the achievement of overall agency goals.

"Dona's qualifications and leadership skills will complement the mission of the organization going forward," said Brad Heyen, Chair of KCSL's Board of Directors. "Not only is she a skilled leader and collaborator, but her expertise, knowledge

New President and CEO continues on page 3

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\*Denotes Executive Committee Member

## LOCATIONS

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<b>Cimarron</b>	315 N. 2nd	(620) 855-3889
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<b>Great Bend</b>	1305 Patton Rd.	(620) 770-9462
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<b>Hugoton</b>	304 E. 6th	(620) 544-7016
<b>Hutchinson</b>	400 W. 2nd St., Suite D	(620) 664-5000
<b>Independence</b>	315 W. Sycamore	
<b>Kansas City</b>	7831 Parallel Pkwy.	(913) 371-2220
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<b>Kingman</b>	208 W.B.	(620) 532-1871
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<b>Liberal</b>	1200 W. 11th	(620) 624-9220
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<b>Wichita</b>	1365 N. Custer	(316) 942-4261
	Wichita Child Guidance Center 415 N. Poplar	(316) 686-6671

# From the President's Desk



As the new President/CEO, I am excited to be writing my first letter for KidsView. There has never been a greater need for the child abuse prevention services

provided by Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL). Our work builds good homes for children. One hundred years ago, KCSL's General Superintendent, George Lewis Hosford, wrote the following about a greater service:

"Good homes will solve more difficult problems of society than anything else in the world. Let home be first in the heart of the father and mother, and then they will be better prepared to take their part in society; and more competent to deal with the things outside which have to do with making the community a fit place in which to build their homes and rear their children."

Although the descriptive words may change over time, today at KCSL we still agree with the principles that our founder envisioned. Using only the best proven approaches, KCSL works each day to help parents to make healthier and better choices so that their children are happy, healthy and living at home with those they love the most, their Mom and Dad. Many of these parents become the first in their families to graduate high school or find economic independence. Many are likely to be the first generation to not abuse their children. They have become a good home.

Their success is a result of what they wanted for their family and not what someone gave to them. Their sheer determination to overcome poverty, manage mental health

issues, succeed academically and learn what is reasonable to expect from children as they develop reflects courage, love and hope.

At KCSL, we will always be there to help families build good homes so no child is abused or neglected. That will always be our greater service, whether we are helping first time parents learn to succeed through Healthy Families; helping a Dad connect to his children through our Fatherhood programs; matching a birth mom to a family who will adopt and love a child she cannot care for; providing quality Head Start early childhood learning to working families with low incomes; or helping a youth who has no home or no school.

We are also dedicated to improving and streamlining our services. The KCSL Family Resource Center has moved its services into the Bette and Mark Morris Center for Children and Families located at 3545 SW 5th St. in Topeka. KCSL and the Wichita Child Guidance Center are also now fully joined to successfully meet the needs of Wichita area children and families through mental health, prevention and early childhood services (see article on page 7).

I close this letter with fond memories and respect for a very special KCSL foster mom, Julia Bevans, who passed away in late July. Our prayers for courage, love and hope are extended to Julia's husband, Tommy, and their wonderful children. Because of her passion and dedication for the important work of fostering, the Topeka community realized a greater service through all the young girls she helped along the way.

Dona Booe, President/CEO

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[twitter.com/KCSL](https://twitter.com/KCSL) and [youtube.com/KCSL100](https://www.youtube.com/KCSL100)

New President and CEO continued from cover

and enthusiasm are contagious. She truly believes in keeping children safe, families strong and communities involved."

Dona began her career in human services at the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) in 1984 and joined KCSL in 2006. Her focus of service work at KCSL is on the prevention of child abuse through programs such as Healthy Families, which has expanded in her tenure from five to 18 Kansas counties, fatherhood initiatives, strong and stable marriage work and truancy prevention efforts.

"I am most proud of the investment KCSL has made in supports and services that strengthen families and prevent the need for foster care," Dona said. "KCSL has a long and rich history of exceptional service to children and families. Their passion, like mine, is for kids. I'm excited

about the opportunity this role affords me in the arenas of advocacy, child abuse prevention and finding new and creative ways to help children."

Dona brings with her more than two decades of experience in social services. Before joining KCSL, she served as the Northeast Regional Director of SRS, where she managed a 24-county region with 560 full-time employees serving 175,000 customers annually.

Booe assumes the President/CEO position from Janet Schalansky, who had served in this capacity since 2007. She praised Schalansky's contributions. "Janet skillfully led KCSL, continuing to move the agency forward during a time of change and financial difficulty," she said. "I feel privileged to lead KCSL and continue the agency's mission to serve children and their families."

Healthy Families continued from cover

the store I was working at," said Garrett. "She was able to get us an appointment with the landlord, who hooked us up with an apartment right away."

Garrett and Danielle got the place and moved in a couple of months ago. "Healthy Families helped us to get a fresh start," said Garrett. "They helped us find a place of our own, and my job hired me on full time. We also enjoy the ideas we get for Eillyanna. The games and information helps her to learn more – and helps us to learn more too."

Through Healthy Families, Tina was also able to secure the couple's deposit, a couch and other household items and their first month of

rent. The Family Resource Center in Pittsburg supplied them with an outdoor activity set, including a swing and slide, for Eillyanna to play on in the yard.

"Garrett and Danielle are so excited to have a place of their own and I am so proud of them," said Hartley. "They are dedicated to Eillyanna and dedicated to going back to school to get their high school diplomas."

This family and many others are working toward completing their educations. Many would like to take online courses but don't have a computer. Smart Start recently donated a computer and monitor for Garrett and Danielle.

## Make a Donation

Computers and computer equipment can be donated to KCSL for families like Garrett and Danielle's. If you can help, contact KCSL at 877-530-5275.

## SRS Awards Nine Grants to KCSL

KCSL has been awarded nine grants, totaling more than \$450,000, from the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS).

- Healthy Marriage grants totaling \$77,410 will support KCSL adoptive families in Geary, Riley, Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee and Wyandotte counties.
- KCSL's Fatherhood efforts received grants totaling \$116,682 to serve families in Crawford, Douglas and Montgomery counties.
- Montgomery County also received funding totaling \$63,726 to begin a Healthy Families program. The program anticipates serving 18 families.
- Healthy Families Sedgwick County received \$48,500 to serve an anticipated 15 additional families.
- Kinship Navigator, a Sedgwick County program that assists grandparents and other relatives raising children, received \$60,230.
- An \$84,856 grant will allow KCSL to partner with the Emporia School District in truancy prevention efforts in Lyon County.

"We are pleased to receive funding for prevention initiatives and look forward to partnering with SRS in the future to prevent child abuse and neglect by supporting families," said Dona Booe, President/CEO for KCSL.

# Parent Helpline Helps New Mother

When Connie welcomed Vincent into her life, she felt just like any new mother – excited but a little overwhelmed. “I was 44 when I had my first child,” Connie said. “I wasn’t sure which way to turn and I knew I needed some parenting help.”

She signed up for Kansas Children’s Service League’s parent education classes and learned about infant care and child development. “I really enjoyed the classes.

It helped me a lot those first few years,” she said. As Vincent got older, Connie faced several parenting challenges with him from issues at school to the death of his father. His behaviors were difficult to manage, and she didn’t have parenting support from friends and family to help her.

She remembered back to when she attended parent education classes at KCSL and how helpful they had been.

“I contacted KCSL and told them what was going on with Vincent and they suggested the Parent Helpline – and I’m glad they did. It’s nice to know I have someone to call from time to time when I need help. They’ve helped me so much,” Connie said. “I know that when I call the Parent Helpline, I will be getting advice, professional advice, like I received in the parenting classes. And that makes a huge difference.”

## Did You Know?

### Kickstands for Kids a Success

The first-ever Kickstands for Kids fundraiser and motorcycle ride was held on April 30 in Topeka, coinciding with Child Abuse Prevention Month. More than 170 riders participated, raising nearly \$4,000 for KCSL programs and services in Northeast Kansas.

### CORE Project Proceeding in Five School Districts

Enhancing early learning opportunities for all children they serve is the goal of the Head Start program’s CORE (Collaboration, Opportunity, Resources, Enhancement) Project. Through this effort KCSL is working with school districts within its 13-county Head Start service area to develop new or enhance existing partnerships to ensure the most effective use of state and federal funds in the delivery of quality preschool programs. Active negotiations have occurred between USD 349 in Stafford, USD 480 in Liberal, USD 210 in Hugoton, USD 382 in Pratt and USD 457 in Garden City. The project is focusing on integrating 4-year-old at-risk Head Start and Special Education services for children ages 3 to 5.

### Grant Provides Additional Teen Pregnancy Services

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department has received a grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to provide comprehensive teen pregnancy case management services through KCSL’s Healthy Families program. Healthy Families and the health department’s Maternal Child program work as one to serve at-risk Douglas County families.

### Quilt Guild Donates to Southeast Kansas Families

The Little Balkans Quilt Guild donated 15 baby quilts, which will be given to families enrolled in the Healthy Families program in Southeast Kansas after the birth of their baby. The Guild plans to make more quilts as needed.

### KCSL Receives Soroptimist International of Kansas City Grant

A \$1,500 grant from Soroptimist International of Kansas City, MO, will be used to purchase “Partners for a Healthy Baby” curriculum for Healthy Families Johnson and Wyandotte Counties.

### CRE in the Community

In 2011, the Center for Restorative Education (CRE) has served 31 students (29 high school and two middle school) from Auburn Washburn and Shawnee Heights schools. Most students participated for approximately one semester, earning a combined total of 236 academic course credits. Each week, CRE students also participate in life skills groups and complete community service projects. They have helped with the flowers at Lake Shawnee and delivered meals through the Meals on Wheels program.

### KCSL Receives Additional Child in Need of Care Funding

KCSL has received approximately \$80,000 in additional funding from Johnson County Community Corrections to support KCSL’s Child in Need of Care (CINC) intake program in Johnson County. The grant will focus on building partnerships with local community partners to support youth between the ages of 12 and 18, reduce the number of children coming into the custody of the state in Johnson County and decrease the number of youth detained at the juvenile correctional facility.

### KCSL Responds to Joplin Tornado

In response to the tornado that hit Joplin, MO, on May 22, Pittsburg staff members donated left-over supplies from their April Baby Item Drive, as well as other baby items stored in the Pittsburg office to the Red Cross response team and local search and rescue workers. At this time, cash donations are needed. If you are interested in donating, please contact Shelli Walrod at 620-875-9057 or via email at [swalrod@kcsl.org](mailto:swalrod@kcsl.org).

# KCSL, Western Kansas Schools Join to Provide Preschool Services

**K**CSL is partnering with Stafford Schools (USD 349) and Hugoton Schools (USD 210) to provide comprehensive preschool services in those communities.

Prior to combining services in Stafford, preschool services were provided to Stafford residents in two forms – Head Start, provided by KCSL, and Bridges to Learning, provided by Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative.

The combined preschool is made possible by a Demonstrated Learning Center (DLC) grant. The grant provided a facilitator for the extensive planning that went into the process. “Stafford is one of 10 communities in the state to be included in the DLC process,” said MaryJo Taylor, USD 349 Superintendent.

The district and KCSL began working together after cuts in state funding last year put the Head Start program at risk of closing.

“This new preschool opportunity is possible because of the cooperation of the school district, the special education cooperative and the Kansas Children’s Service League Head Start program,” Taylor said. “Each agency is contributing toward this cooperative venture. By combining our funds and other resources,

we are able to provide a comprehensive early childhood experience for our students and families, despite funding cuts.”

All students will be in one classroom and those with special learning needs will receive professional services at the school. Each family will also receive parent education and other services during home visits.

Also this fall, KCSL and Hugoton Schools are offering integrated preschool services at the newly constructed Early Childhood Learning Center. The center houses various preschool and kindergarten services, including all-day kindergarten and Parents as Teachers.

“We are excited about this partnership,” said Mark Crawford, superintendent for Hugoton Schools. “Our goal is to be able to serve every four-year-old child in Stevens County. Adding a Head Start classroom gets us closer to that goal.”

Through the new partnership, Head Start curriculum is provided to a classroom of 17 children. Diana Hurtado from KCSL and a certified teacher employed by the school district are teaching the class. Prior to the partnership, KCSL offered home-based Head Start services in Hugoton.



## Tune In for Kids

Meet more great kids needing adoption 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 Kid



**Lindi**  
Age 12  
ID# CH-5189

Lindi is friendly and active. She enjoys reading and playing sports, especially basketball. Lindi will need to learn to trust and obey the adults in her life. She would benefit from a family who can provide love and stability. Lindi would do well with a single, female parent or with two parents. Only families living in Kansas are being considered at this time.



**Dezi**  
Age 11  
ID# CH-5356

Dezi is intelligent and delightful to be around. He does very well in school and makes good grades. He enjoys reading, playing with his LEGOS and watching TV. He will need a family who can appreciate his unique qualities and sense of humor. He would do well in a two-parent home, where he is the youngest child. Because Dezi relates better to adults and older children than he does to children his own age, siblings should be older and preferably male.

To learn more about adoption, visit [AdoptKSKids.org](http://AdoptKSKids.org) or call 877-457-5430. Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter by searching Adopt Kansas Kids.



## Memorial Gifts

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 Richard Reese

### VIVIAN BELL

Janet Schalansky

### CLARENCE KNOLL

Janet Schalansky

### K.C. MCFARLANE

Lauren Watkins  
 Billie Groening

# Calling all Kansas Knitters: Support Click for Babies to Prevent Infant Abuse

**A** statewide knitting campaign is under way in Kansas to help prevent infant abuse and raise awareness of The Period of PURPLE Crying, a normal period in an infant's development when they cry more than any other time. The campaign, titled Click for Babies to encourage participation through the "clicking" of knitting needles, is an initiative sponsored by the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome.

### What You Can Do: Get Clicking!

Knitters and crocheters across Kansas can knit purple caps, which will be given to newborns across the state. The goal is to have a hat for every baby born in November at participating hospitals. Anyone interested in knitting or crocheting caps can visit [clickforbabies.org](http://clickforbabies.org) to learn more or contact Samantha Cotten at 877-530-5275 or via e-mail at [scotten@kcsl.org](mailto:scotten@kcsl.org). If you're a newbie knitter, the Click for Babies site has a how-to video and patterns. Time to get clicking!



### Where to Send Hats in Kansas

Hats can be sent to KCSL's Wichita office at 1365 N. Custer, Wichita, KS 67212, or taken to a local KCSL office (see page 2 for complete list of locations).

### Learn More, Do More

The Period of PURPLE Crying is an evidence-based educational program distributed to parents in participating birthing hospitals. The program provides information about normal infant crying and the dangers of reacting to crying in frustration by shaking or abusing an infant.

"Many parents and caregivers have no idea what to expect from their new infant. The Period of PURPLE Crying provides parents reasonable expectations about the amount of crying their baby may have in the first weeks and months following birth and provides important actions steps for dealing with the crying when it becomes frustrating," said Samantha Cotten, Coordinator of the Period of PURPLE Crying and Click for Babies campaign at KCSL.

**Help spread the word about Click for Babies to knitters across the state. Like the Kansas Children's Service League on Facebook (MyKCSL) and Twitter (@KCSL). Prevent Child Abuse Kansas (PCAKansas) and The Period of PURPLE Crying are also on Facebook and Twitter (PURPLECrying).**

# Make a Donation Online

It's easy... just go to our website at [www.kcsl.org](http://www.kcsl.org) and click on Donate Now.

# Red Stocking Breakfast Honorary Chairs Selected

It may have been one of the hottest summers Kansas has seen, but that didn't stop KCSL from planning for a fabulous year of Red Stocking Breakfasts. Six breakfasts will be held in December to raise money for KCSL's child abuse prevention programs and services. Four locations have selected honorary chairs who will partner with KCSL to promote the

breakfasts in their communities. Honorary chairs in Topeka are Ralph Hipp (not pictured) and Melissa Bruner from WIBW-TV. In Kansas City, the honorary chair is John Holt of WDAF Fox 4. Wichita's Honorary Chair is Tracy Cassidy of B-98 FM. Bob Bush of City Beverage will be the honorary chair for the 2nd annual breakfast in Hutchinson.



John Holt



Tracy Cassidy



Bob Bush



Melissa Bruner

## Outstanding Advocates, Volunteers Recognized at KCSL Annual Meeting

On April 29, KCSL held its 118th Annual Meeting awards luncheon to recognize outstanding volunteers and advocates. New members joining KCSL's Board of Directors were also announced. They include Marilyn Woods, Hays (left); Rhonda Meyerhoff, Hays (center); and David Schmoeller, Overland Park. Not pictured are Sundance Carr-Hoyt, Garden City, and Melanie Worsley, Topeka.



Bill and Janice Hanna were recognized with the Distinguished Service to Children Award. Pictured right, center (from left to right) are Walt Thiessen, Director of the Wichita Child Guidance Center, Bill Hanna, and Brad Heyen, KCSL Board Chair.



Also in April, Wichita was named the 2011 Pinwheel City USA by Prevent Child Abuse America. Pictured at right are members of the Wichita Child Abuse Fatalities Community Response Team, whose work contributed to this award.



## New Locations Provide Additional Services

While most were relaxing, taking a vacation, or maybe just melting in the hot Kansas sun this summer, KCSL was busy moving and combining services to provide an even better experience for kids and families across the state.

### Family Resource Center

In Topeka, the KCSL Family Resource Center (FRC) moved into the Bette and Mark Morris Center for Children and Families at 3545 SW 5th St. FRC's community intake line will remain the same at 785-354-8902. To reach any KCSL staff member in Topeka, call 785-274-3100.

### Montgomery County

The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) awarded KCSL grants in Montgomery County, making it possible to open a new office at 315 W. Sycamore and provide Fatherhood and Healthy Families services in the area. Healthy Families is also offered in surrounding counties – Bourbon, Cherokee and Crawford.

### Wichita Child Guidance Center

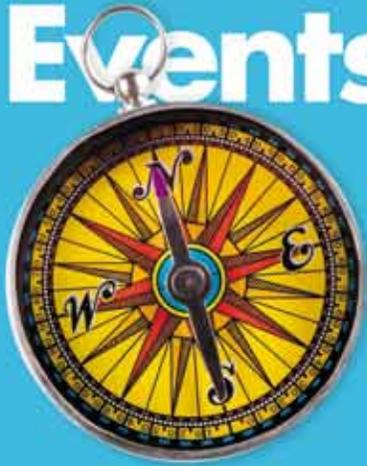
Also this summer, the Wichita Child Guidance Center (WCGC) joined with KCSL to integrate the delivery of their mental health services. WCGC will continue to operate under the Wichita Child Guidance Center name. The central office will remain at 415 N. Poplar in Wichita and the phone number will remain the same at 316-686-6671.



## Expecting a Baby? Or have a new baby?

Sign up for Text4Baby at [www.text4baby.org](http://www.text4baby.org)

# Upcoming Events



## Klicks for Kids

Sept 2 Salina Public Library  
thru Salina, KS  
Sept 21

Sept 19 Marysville Public Library  
thru Marysville, KS  
Oct 3

## Kansas Parent Leadership Conference

Sept 30 Holiday Inn  
thru Topeka, KS  
Oct 1

## Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

Nov 2 Ramada Inn  
thru Topeka, KS  
Nov 4

## Red Stocking Breakfast

Dec 3 Garden City  
Lone Star Steakhouse

Dec 3 Hutchinson  
Carlos O'Kelly's

Dec 3 KC Metro/Overland Park  
Jack Stack BBQ

Dec 7 Wichita  
Carlos O'Kelly's

Dec 10 Liberal  
Liberal Country Club

Dec 10 Topeka  
Carlos O'Kelly's

For more information on these events, please visit our website,  
[www.kcsl.org](http://www.kcsl.org)



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## 2nd Annual DAD Days Held to Honor Fathers



DAD Days, held in Douglas County June 13-19, featured a week full of activities to recognize the important role dads play in the lives of their children. Pictured above are Gayle Anderson, Parents as Teachers and Dads of Douglas County (DODC) member; Karen Schrader, Circle of Parents; Jenn Preston, KCSL; Chris Petr, KU School of Social Welfare; Bob Byers, Chairperson of DODC; Rich Minder, Success by Six and Co-Chair of DODC; and B.J. Gore, KCSL. Seated in the center is columnist and Pulitzer Prize winner Leonard Pitts Jr.

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.

Writer:

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