



Dear Friends,

Too many children in Kansas are being left behind. We know that growing up can be especially difficult for children who regularly witness marital conflict or domestic violence; whose parents have chronic mental health issues; or who are physically abused and neglected. In the past few years, the Centers for Disease Control has now confirmed, through the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study, that creating safe, stable and nurturing environments for children are essential to prevent child abuse and assure all children reach their full potential. ACEs include things like child abuse (including physical, sexual and emotional), neglect, parental stress, divorce, parental unemployment, parental mental illness or addiction. Children need loving and supportive environments so they can grow up and help create secure, healthy communities. Raised in stable families, they do better academically, are shown to be more financially successful and contribute more to society.

That's why all children deserve great childhoods!

At Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL), we believe ACEs are a major issue across the nation and the long term effects for children, families and communities is costly financially as well as detrimental to our society as a whole. In an effort to make a difference, every day we work to prevent child abuse, strengthen families and empower parents and youth by giving them the resources they need to handle situations in a positive and effective way. When families are overwhelmed and challenged by life stressors, we are there to support them through home visitation, mental health, adoption, foster family, parent leadership and youth education services.

**Our goal is to raise \$20,000 by December 31!**

With your generous donation to the Great Childhoods Fund, **you can help** parents before children are hurt; strengthen families to care for infants and children who cannot remain safely in the care of their biological parents; and end risky behaviors and generational poor parenting practices.

*"Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future." -Maria Montessori*

Make a difference for the future of our children and help us put an end to Adverse Childhood Experiences in our communities. With your help, we can protect today's children as well as generations to come. I know that the work we do with families at KCSL matters and is more important now than ever. We rely on donors like you to ensure great childhoods, and you can continue to be a part of the movement not only to keep a child safe but also provide the means to keep a family healthy and together.

*All children deserve great childhoods!*  
Thank you for considering a gift to KCSL.

With warm wishes and appreciation,

*Dona Booe*

Dona Booe  
KCSL President & CEO

