

## Save the Dates...

**ANNUAL FUNDRAISING  
CAMPAIGN —  
CONNECTING THE DOTS!**  
Kicking Off November 2017

**2017 KANSAS READS TO  
PRESCHOOLERS WEEK**  
November 12 - 18, 2017



**2017 ANNUAL  
BUSINESS MEETING**  
Wed., Dec. 13, 2017  
See the back of this newsletter  
for more information.

**OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED...**  
Tue., Nov. 14, 2017 (Staff Development)  
Thu., Nov. 23, 2017 (Holiday)  
Fri., Nov. 24, 2017 (Holiday)  
Mon., Dec. 25, 2017 (Holiday)  
Tue., Dec. 26, 2017 (Holiday)  
Mon., Jan. 1, 2017 (Holiday)

Dear Friends,

Fall has arrived and school is now in full swing! I am always amazed and humbled as I see the incredible work accomplished every day and throughout every season by our wonderful staff and volunteers. Those efforts, in turn, make a significant and meaningful difference to the clients we serve. The collective impact of the programs and services offered through this agency are strengthening families and helping kids be prepared for success in school.

As we enter into the final quarter of the year, we ask that you continue your support of Child Care Aware<sup>®</sup> of Eastern Kansas through our annual campaign. You will soon be receiving a letter and information that shares how the services provided through our agency help families “connect the dots” as they manage their sometimes complex lives. Having access to reliable, high-quality child care allows parents with young children to go to work each day knowing that their child is being nurtured and well cared for. Child care providers and teachers work diligently to ensure that children arrive at kindergarten with the academic and social skills needed for success.

Child Care Aware<sup>®</sup> of Eastern Kansas plays a key role in connecting families with child care programs. We continue to support the child care workforce as they improve their skills by providing professional development and consultation services. We cannot make all of this happen without you! The support we receive from individual donors is a key piece of our budget and overall funding strategy, supporting the critically important work we do every day.

This edition of the Child Care Aware<sup>®</sup> of Eastern Kansas NEWS NOW! will provide an update on our work throughout our service delivery area, as well as some “late, breaking news” about new projects and efforts. This newsletter will offer you a glimpse into our organization and the mission work that we do, but it can never convey the passion and energy you might experience if you could see the work in action.

Please remember that there are always opportunities for you to learn more and see our team making it happen first-hand. Feel free to reach out to me at anytime (785-440-4507 or [reva@east.ks.childcareaware.org](mailto:reva@east.ks.childcareaware.org)) to schedule a unique “field trip” based on your interest(s). We will let you see how together, we are connecting the dots for children, families and communities!

Until next time...



# BOARD & STAFF...

## 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beth Nelson, President  
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Lori Downing, Secretary  
Kathleen Heaney, Treasurer  
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## STAFF MEMBERS

Reva Wywadis, Executive Director  
Becky Meyer, Accountant  
Eryn Allen, Marketing & Communications Coordinator  
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Laurie Pigg, Parent Resource Center Manager  
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Bianca Garcia, Bilingual Resource Specialist  
Marie Treichel, Renee Wohletz, Provider Services Managers  
Grace Cott, Audrey Danielson, Deb Danielson, Michelle Gilbert, Talia Juiliano, Rebecca Quigley, Hope Williams, Early Care & Education Specialists  
Nancy Rohr, Inclusion & Transition Specialist  
Stephanie Prue, Library Resource Specialist

# NEW GRANT ASSISTS AGENCY IN VARIETY OF EFFORTS

We are pleased to announce that Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas was awarded a Capacity Building Grant from the Kansas Health Foundation. Funding will support the agency in accomplishing three goals:

1. Revamp the agency's website to improve the effectiveness of messaging about the agency's mission and activities.
2. Develop and implement a strategic approach to volunteer recruitment, engagement and retention.
3. Improve data systems to track engagement efforts.

We plan to engage the energy and technology "savvy" of college interns to implement these activities, moving the agency forward in our efforts to engage others in support of our important mission.

# COLLECTING BOOKS & TOYS ON GIVING TUESDAY

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas wants to partner with you this year on Giving Tuesday. We will be accepting donations of gently used books and toys for children ages birth through 5 years old on Giving Tuesday, November 28. Donations can be dropped off any time between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at our Topeka office (1100 SW Wanamaker Rd., Ste. 201) and Lawrence office (2518 Ridge Ct.). Our goal is to collect at least 250 items to be distributed to child care programs in our area that need materials. Help us reach out and help others! Join in on the fun and stay up-to-date by making sure that you are signed up to receive our emails. You can also follow us on social media for updates. See the bottom of the front page for our contact information and the links to our social media pages.

# LEARN & SHARE HONOREES

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas hosted our annual Capital City Learn & Share in September, a day-long professional development event for child care providers. New this year, the agency sought out nominations to recognize child care providers who are making contributions to the field in the areas of leadership, professional development and supporting social/emotional development in young children. The awards were named in memory of past child care providers who made a similar contribution. They were given to the recipients by the namesake's family. From the top photo down, the award winners selected by a panel were as follows:

Congratulations to **Tammy Bauerle**, a preschool teacher at Christ the King Early Education Center, for receiving the Cherié Hopkins Social/Emotional Development Award!

Congratulations to **Corinne Carr**, the owner and operator of Special Blessings, for receiving the Julie Kisler Leadership Award!

Congratulations to **Dawn Brown**, the director of Christ the King Early Education Center, for receiving the Marina Alvarez Professional Development Award!



# AGENCY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

## CHANGES IN FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILD CARE PROGRAMS/PROVIDERS

Changes at the federal level meant changes to professional development requirements for child care programs across the nation. Many of the federal requirements were already in place in Kansas; however, a few new classes are now required, including training on administration of medication in child care.

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas and other collaborative training partners worked together to ensure that child care providers across the state had access to the required classes. Online and face-to-face options were made available in order to meet the demand. Some child care programs opted to host trainings at their site to make certain that all staff met the new requirements. In addition to the required health and safety classes, agency staff continue to offer a variety of classes on other topics that include family partnerships, emergency preparedness, emotional wellness, early literacy development, child assessment, curriculum and activity ideas, time management and many others!

Funding from the donors at Topeka Gives, the fun day of giving in June sponsored by the Topeka Community Foundation, allowed the agency to offer many health and safety related classes at a reduced cost of \$5 each. This smaller class fee has already benefited many area child care programs.

## FUNDING SUPPORT FROM THE TOPEKA CREDIT UNION FOUNDATION

The Topeka Credit Union Foundation (TCUF) announced that Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas was selected to receive funding to support a series of child care business classes in 2018. Two of the sessions will be "Director's Toolbox" sessions that focus on providing information specifically for child care center directors and administrators. The remaining six sessions will be designed for family child care providers (small business owners). Classes will include *Business Ownership & Money Management*; *Recordkeeping, Contracts & Policies*; *Marketing Your Child Care Business*; *Legal Issues in Child Care*; *Insurance & Risk Management*; and *Child Care Financial Administration in Child Care Centers*.

We expect this effort to impact 45 child care providers/programs in the Topeka and Shawnee County area, benefiting an estimated 1,000 children ages birth through 12 years old. Thank you, Topeka Credit Union Foundation!

## CONTINUING TO PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICES

It is survey time! We ask child care programs throughout our 33-county region each year to provide us with feedback on our programs and services. Surveys were recently mailed to all licensed child care programs in the region (over 1,600!). Child care providers also have the option of completing the survey online. Feedback is used for program planning and design. It also provides valuable insight into the emerging needs of the early childhood field.

*Did you know...*

If you participate in either the United Way of Greater Topeka campaign or the Douglas County United Way campaign, you can designate all or part of your giving directly to our agency? Simply check "Give to a UWGT Partner" on your pledge form and write in "Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas, CODE 06" where indicated.



# CELEBRATING READING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

November 12 through 18, 2017, is Kansas Reads to Preschoolers week, an annual initiative of the Kansas State Library. Kansas Reads to Preschoolers encourages reading aloud to babies, toddlers and preschool-age children. Although this may be advertised as a week-long initiative, many celebrate it as a month-long event.

This year's featured book is "The Napping House" written by Audrey Wood and illustrated by Don Wood.



This adorably imaginative book begins with a granny comfortably sleeping in her cozy bed, where she is eventually joined by many other occupants of the "napping" house. The repetition, colorful storyline and dreamy illustrations add to the experience of sharing this book aloud with little ones.

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas will be celebrating Kansas Reads to Preschoolers in a variety of ways, including hosting special professional development events for child care providers entitled *Learning Fun with "The Napping House."* Class participants will take a fun look at skill-building activities and experiences based on the chosen book. They will learn how to use the book to build a curriculum that includes learning experiences around the room and in all domains.

Visit the North Central Kansas Library System's Kansas Reads to Preschoolers website page at <https://kslib.info/1017/Kansas-Reads-to-Preschoolers> for more about this fantastic event.

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

You can now view the 2016 Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas Annual Report “At-a-Glance” on our website, <http://east.ks.childcareaware.org>. This report contains a letter from the executive director recapping 2016, program information, public policy information and more. Be sure to check it out!



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CHILD CARE AWARE® OF EASTERN KANSAS

## 2017 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

### NOTICE OF MEETING

11:00 a.m., Wed., Dec. 13, 2017

Topeka Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas Office  
1100 SW Wanamaker Rd., Ste. 201, Topeka, Kansas 66604

#### Agenda

- Approval of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Changes to Bylaws
- Election of Officers, Board Members & Nominating Committee
- President's Remarks
- Transfer of Gavel

Persons who supported the agency financially in 2017 are invited to attend and vote. Individual invitations will not be mailed for this business meeting.

## Is your house the 2018 Designers' Showhouse?

Contact Reva at 785-440-4507 or [reva@east.ks.childcareaware.org](mailto:reva@east.ks.childcareaware.org).



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