

Growing better, together.



Our Vision

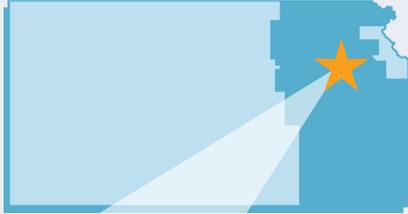
All children in Kansas have the best start in life during critical stages of development so they have a solid foundation for growing into healthy, productive citizens.



Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas supports the healthy development of young children by improving access to high-quality child care options and educational resources for families and early childhood professionals.



BY THE NUMBERS



SERVING 33 COUNTIES

21,103 square miles in our 33-county service area.

1,542 child care programs through the 33-county region were served.



FAMILIES & CHILDREN

15,589



CHILD CARE REFERRALS were completed through the Child Care Aware® of Kansas Parent Resource Center operated by Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas.

8,919



FAMILIES used the Parent Resource Center, either by calling or using the online service. *Which resulted in...*

11,147



CHILDREN WERE SERVED by the Parent Resource Center.



CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

73



EARLY EDUCATORS attended the spring conference created in partnership with Allen Community College, titled, "Powerful Interactions."

64



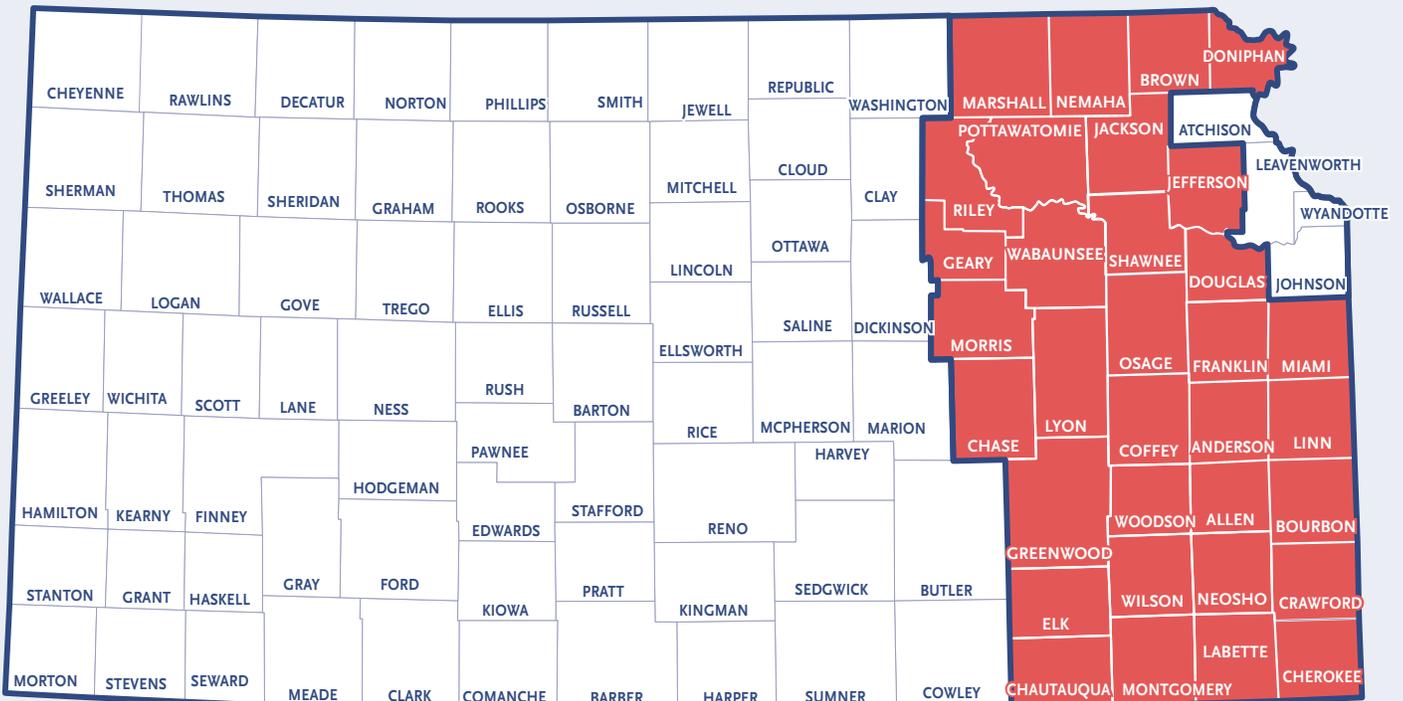
CHILD CARE CENTER DIRECTORS and administrators participated in trainings and peer learning through Director's Toolbox sessions offered by the agency.

215+



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS with a total of 3,012 attendees helped child care providers improve their quality of care and meet licensing requirements.

WHO WE SERVE



Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas operates the statewide Parent Resource Center, as well as serves child care providers, families, businesses and communities in the 33 counties highlighted in red.

A Letter From Our EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



REVA WYWADIS
Executive Director
Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas



Dear friends,

With each passing year, I am reminded of all that has been accomplished on behalf of the children, families, and child care programs we serve. The amazing team of dedicated staff lead by example, working tirelessly to accomplish all they do. We continually hear feedback from families and child care providers who voice appreciation for our commitment to good customer service. Our agency is known for providing support and guidance to anyone we serve at just the right point in time. Families served through the Parent Resource Center can always depend on a compassionate, caring staff person to assist them in their child care search. The Successful Connections program significantly increased the number of families they referred to home visitation programs in Shawnee County, connecting them with information and resources to support their important role as their child's first teacher. Child care programs throughout the region benefitted from both online and in-person professional learning opportunities, as well as on-site coaching opportunities to provide feedback and support in their quest to serve the children enrolled and their families. Our agency staff model is committed towards continuous quality improvement in our service delivery methods and techniques. We are always open to new ways of developing more efficient and effective strategies to meet people "where they are," and people are grateful to the respectful support they receive through our programs and services.

The 2019 Designers' Showhouse was a great success, and certainly, one to remember. This grass-roots fundraiser continues to bring much-needed unrestricted revenue to support agency programs and services, and we so grateful for the significant involvement of individuals, volunteers, and area businesses that rally around this beloved community event each year.

The final months of 2019 brought an extensive strategic planning opportunity to the agency, as the board and staff worked together to chart the strategic path for the next three years. At that time, none of us could have possibly predicted the challenges we would face in 2020. We were fortunate to be well-positioned to be responsive and bold in our approach to adapting service delivery methods to meet the changing needs of the families and child care programs who needed our assistance. We are grateful that proceeds from the 2019 Showhouse provided much-needed financial stability for our agency as we navigated the unpredictable landscape in early 2020. That stability made it possible for us to implement the program and system changes required to continue seamless operations.

Thank you for standing by us during these volatile times. We know that our success is only possible because of the support of others. It is through the context of our partnerships with volunteers, donors, local businesses, community agencies, and area foundations that great things happen! You fully understand that early investments provide an exponential impact. You share our belief that we must care about the needs of today while not losing sight of the value of preventative services and long-term strategies. Thank you for your continued support.

There is still much to do to meet the needs of the families and child care programs we serve. As always, I invite you to contact me if you would like to hear more about our programming, projects, and needs. We look forward to working with you as we move ahead together, meeting the needs of the children and families we serve!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reva Wywadis". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Reva Wywadis
Executive Director

Growing Better, Together with **CHILD CARE PROVIDERS**

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas worked to improve child care quality by offering access to resources and information, professional development opportunities and coaching opportunities for child care providers.



In 2019...

- ▶ **64** child care center directors and administrators from **29** facilities participated in trainings and peer learning through Director's Toolbox sessions offered by the agency. Three of the sessions were part of a series that gave directors an opportunity to dive deep into their own leadership style using the book, "The Visionary Director" as a basis. Participants were able to explore a variety of innovative strategies for building a team of dynamic, connected and committed teachers.
- ▶ Over **215** professional development sessions with a total of **3,012** attendees helped child care providers and teachers improve their quality of care and meet licensing requirements through face-to face and online learning options.

- ▶ Child care providers throughout the region benefited from 12-month coaching programs focused on early literacy development, infant/toddler care giving, school readiness and teacher/child interactions. Over **293** children benefited from their child care provider's or teacher's participation in one or more coaching programs, with a large percentage of those child care programs making measurable quality improvement during the year.

- ▶ **1,542** child care programs through the 33-county region and their staff were served by the agency.

- ▶ In March of 2019, the agency partnered with Allen County Community College for a free spring conference titled, "Powerful Interactions." **73** early educators attended the event which covered the topics of creating life-long learners, capturing the "ah-has," reflecting on teaching practices, growing confident learners, creative experiences to play and build relationships and persistence, and school readiness.



CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Continued...



▶ Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas developed and piloted a new program focused on assisting new or recently established family child care programs. We distributed business resource kits to those enrolled. The participating programs received four resource kits over topics that helped them successfully get their new businesses off to a successful start pilot.

- Kit 1: Getting Organized for Success
- Kit 2: Successfully Engaging Families
- Kit 3: Successful Interactions
- Kit 4: Continuing to Successfully Grow in the Profession.

▶ A new program in Douglas County called, “Get Set for Success” began in 2019. Through this program, licensed child care facilities in Douglas County serving preschool children that meet risk factors received program support geared at impacting school readiness. Funding from the United Way of Douglas County helped to provide professional development, and personalized coaching and support for teaching staff of participating classrooms as teachers assess children’s individual growth and development. Families also received valuable resources to help them support school readiness for their child by extending the learning at home. Get Set For Success served **10** classrooms in six programs which included **14** teachers and **6** directors located in Lawrence, Eudora and Baldwin City were served.

▶ The Capital Area Successful Start program (CASS) is part of the Shawnee County Early Childhood Block Grant. This collaborative work is funded through the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund, joining Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas with other community agencies to serve children ages 0-5 and their families. Partners included: TARC’s Infant-Toddler and PACT programs, Shawnee County Nurse-Family Partnership, USD 501 Parents as Teachers, Kansas Children’s Service League’s Healthy Families and Fatherhood Involvement initiatives, Family Service & Guidance Center, Community Action Head Start and Early Head Start, and the United Way of Greater Topeka (serving as the fiscal agent). In 2019, agency staff provided services to **62** early childhood classrooms in Shawnee County in the form of on-site coaching, professional development, and access to resources. All services focused on supporting at-risk children and their families to prepare them for success in school and beyond.

▶ The Child Care Quality Initiative (CCQI), funded through Child Care Aware® of Kansas is focused on working with family child care providers to provide high-quality learning environments to children ages 0-5 through professional development and coaching on teaching strategies targeting emotional and behavioral support, classroom organization, and instructional support. Participants were evaluated with the CLASS® (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) observation tool. During the grant year (July 2018 through June 2019) **10** participants in three counties (Crawford, Cherokee and Bourbon) received services.)

▶ Learning Together was special project work funded by Child Care Aware® of Kansas. It’s focus was to work with family child care providers in order to provide high-quality learning environments to children ages 3-5 through on site coaching, learning materials and curriculum focused on using instructional teaching strategies specified through the CLASS® tool. In addition, this project was designed to introduce new participants to the practice of working with a coach, and encourage them to pursue enrollment in or other available long-term quality improvement projects. Throughout 2019, **20** providers in Bourbon, Crawford, Douglas, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, and Neosho counties received support through this project.

▶ On September 21, 2019, Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas hosted the annual Capital City Learn and Share conference for child care providers/early childhood educators. This conference offers a day of learning featuring a well-known speaker presenting over a timely topic. There were over **200** child care providers/educators in attendance. Shana Schmidt, LPC, IMHE-E® (III) was 2019’s keynote speaker. Shana captivated the audience with her interactive presentation, “Managing Emotional Mayhem.”

Growing Better, Together with FAMILIES

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas assisted families by connecting them with resources and information to benefit their family. The Parent Resource Center provided families with information about child care in their area, as well as tips and resources to assist with their child care search. Referrals were accessed by calling a toll-free number or through an online child care search.

In 2019...

- ▶ A total of **15,589** child care referrals were completed through the Child Care Aware® of Kansas Parent Resource Center Operated by Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas.
- ▶ **8,919** families and **11,147** were served through the Parent Resource Center, either by calling or utilizing the online service.
- ▶ Families who contacted the agency for child care referrals were given information about community resources, which includes other programs and support services in addition to the list of child care providers. These support services include information about home visitation programs, child screenings, and health agencies.

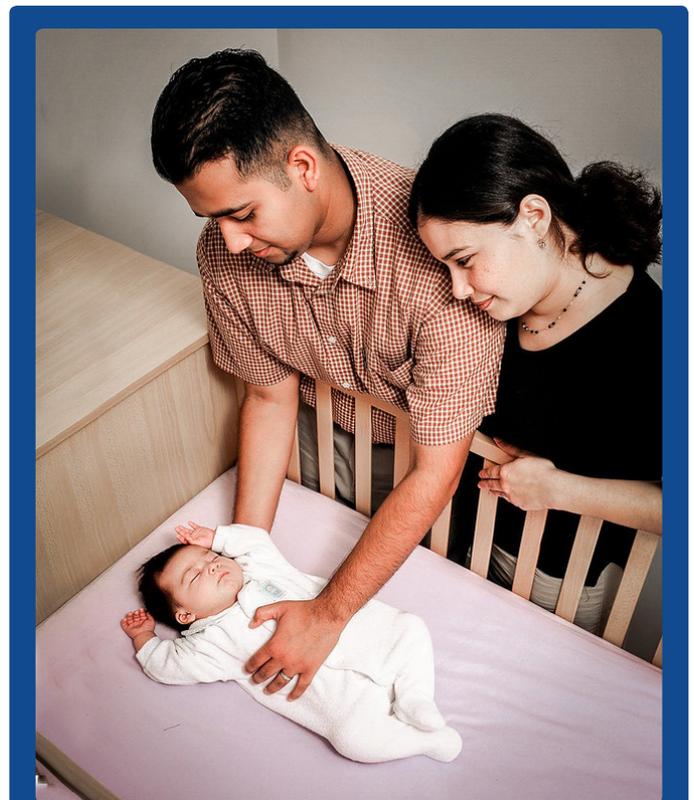


It is comforting to know that the services provided by Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas are available to help all families, regardless of their income or life situation. As a grandmother of three grandsons under the age of 6, this service is a one-stop resource for any information you need to know in order to locate and choose high-quality child care.

- East Kansas Grandmother



- ▶ In Shawnee County, the Successful Connections program consists of three staff members who support pregnant women and families of new babies by offering community resources to assist them in becoming more successful parents. In 2019, Successful Connections offered support services to **870** families from Stormont Vail, local OBGYN offices, and other community partners, offering them free resources including parenting programs. Families received a hand-made cuddle blanket, a child development calendar and information about area home visitation programs, child development, choosing child care and other valuable community resources.



My wife and I reached out for guidance in finding a new child care provider for our 3 month-old. We were under stress. Not only were our needs met, but we also received many helpful educational materials. We can't thank the staff of the Parent Resource Center enough and all that they did for our family.

- Northeast Kansas Parent



Growing Better, Together by **ENGAGING OTHERS IN OUR WORK**

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas strives to share information about the importance of early childhood with businesses, civic leaders, community partners, and caring individuals. Working together, more great things can be accomplished to ensure that Kansas children get off to the best possible start in life.

In 2019...

- ▶ Business leaders were engaged as agency staff provided data and information about child care in their community. By adapting family-friendly workplace policies, business leaders can provide support to their workforce with young children. Child care capacity in a community also impacts a business' ability to attract and retain a younger workforce.
- ▶ Civic leaders were engaged through efforts to help them understand the role that child care plays in economic development strategies. The quality and availability of child care impacts the workforce both now and in future generations. Additionally, access to high-quality child care and early learning options play a key role in measuring the quality of life in any community.
- ▶ Community partners were engaged through collaborative partnership and information sharing, enabling a holistic approach to supporting families and young children in local communities. Agency staff participated in a variety of health fairs, back-to-school fairs, job fairs, and other events throughout the region in partnership with other entities, sharing information about agency services.
- ▶ Individuals were engaged through opportunities to support agency programs financially as well as through meaningful volunteer opportunities. In 2019, more than 250 volunteers supported the agency by making cuddle blankets, assembling teacher resources and curriculum kits, serving on the board of directors, engaging in advocacy efforts in support of child care and early learning, and implementing various fundraising efforts including the annual Designers' Showhouse. These volunteer-led activities generated more than \$100,000 in cash and in-kind support for agency services.



Growing Better, Together with YOU...GET INVOLVED!

Because much of the funding for child care resource and referral services is federal and state funded, it is important that parents, child care providers, community stakeholders and business leaders understand their role in shaping public policy through advocacy efforts. Additionally, local government's decisions can also impact the availability and accessibility of child care for families.

Research-Based Uniform Messages

► K-12 Education

The overwhelming evidence shows that children who enter kindergarten behind are likely to remain behind throughout their educational careers and beyond. These gaps in achievement are difficult and expensive to close with K-12 education alone, and they can last a lifetime, particularly for children from low-income families. Preparing a child for kindergarten requires a focus on five areas of development that begin at birth and are influenced by quality early experiences: physical well-being and motor development; social and emotional development, cognitive skills, language and developing literacy, and the ability to concentrate and follow directions. Investments in early childhood development lay the foundation for school readiness by building these cognitive and character skills that children need to do well in school and in life, including attentiveness, persistence, impulse control and sociability. (2020, November 6). Retrieved from <https://www.ffyf.org/why-it-matters/school-readiness/>



► Brain Development

Research strongly indicates that the foundation for children's later success in school and life is based on early experiences that stimulate brain development. There are only 2,000 days between the time a baby is born and when he or she will start kindergarten. It is vitally important that working families have access to high-quality early education programs. Quality early education is the most cost effective and efficient way to prepare children to succeed in school and life. It is so defining that end of third grade outcomes can predict academic achievement and career success. Community partnerships, and focusing on improving outcomes for children, will ultimately lead to positive outcomes for early childhood education services, families, school and the community as children experience better support through their early years. (2020, November 6). Retrieved from <https://buildthefoundation.org/first-2000-days-toolkit-materials/>

► Return on Investment

Economic development starts with early childhood development—and the best investments ensure all children, particularly those from low-income families, have access to high-quality early childhood education. Evidence shows that increased access to high-quality early learning and care programs results in short- and long-term benefits to individuals and society. In fact, some programs have demonstrated that every dollar invested in high-quality early childhood education for disadvantaged children from birth through age five generates significant returns to society based on improved social and economic outcomes. Research shows that for every dollar invested in high-quality early childhood education, society gains up to \$7.30 in economic returns over the long-term. In addition to providing long-term benefits to children and society at large, access to high-quality child care and early childhood education has positive effects for parents as well. Support for child care increases parents' participation in the workforce and contributes to overall economic productivity. (2020, November 6). Retrieved from <https://www.ffyf.org/why-it-matters/economic-impact/>

► Public Policy & Advocacy

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas continues to work in collaboration with other early childhood partners to highlight the importance of high-quality child care options for all families. Child Care Aware® of America is the nation's leading voice for child care. They promote national policies and partnerships to advance the development and learning of all children and provide vision, leadership and support to community child care resource and referral (CCR&R) agencies. Additionally, Kansas Action for Children is a non-profit, non-partisan organization committed to improving the lives of Kansas children and families by providing comprehensive data, advocating for sound public policy and collaborating with lawmakers.

Our People Help Us **GROW BETTER, TOGETHER**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathleen Heaney, *President*
Joshua Decker, *President-Elect*
Lori Downing, *Secretary*
Jane Tilghman, *Treasurer*
Cora Spencer, *Immediate Past President*
Ashley All
Lucinda Anstaett
Jared Bixby
Deb Crowl
Donna Doel
Joleen Klausman
Beth Nelson
Debra Ricks
Cherie Sage
Catherine Shafer
Sarah Snyder
Jamie Stafford
Beth Toland



Front Row, from left: Jane Tilghman, Lori Downing, Catherine Shafer, Beth Nelson, Kathleen Heaney & Joleen Klausman
Center Row, from left: Liz Steffen, Debra Ricks & Joshua Decker
Back Row, from left: Cora Spencer, Sarah Snyder, Cherie Sage, Jamie Stafford & Lucinda Anstaett
Not pictured: Ashley All, Jared Bixby, Deb Crowl & Beth Toland

STAFF MEMBERS

(as of December 2019)

Reva Wywadis, *Executive Director*
Becky Meyer, *Accountant*
Eryn Allen, *Marketing & Communications Coordinator*
Jamie Harrison, *Data Specialist*
Sarai Reyes, *Administrative Assistant/Bilingual Resource Specialist*
Laurie Pigg, *Parent Resource Center Manager*
Lori Boos, Billie Segrist, *Resource Specialists*
Marie Treichel, Renee Wohletz, *Provider Services Managers*
Grace Cott, Audrey Danielson, Deb Danielson, Susan Drewelow, Michelle Gilbert, Talia Juliano, Rebecca Quigley, Karen Rogenmoser, *Early Care & Education Specialists*
Jane Redger, Nancy Rohr, Tori Utz, *Successful Connections Parent Resource Specialists*
Stephanie Prue, *Library Resource Specialist*



Front Row, from left: Tori Utz, Deb Danielson, Stephanie Prue, Nancy Rohr, Rebecca Quigley, Karen Rogenmoser & Jamie Harrison
Middle Row, from left: Renee Wohletz, Sarai Reyes & Michelle Gilbert
Third Row: Reva Wywadis
Back Row, from left: Susan Drewelow, Lori Boos, Talia Juliano, Audrey Danielson, Jane Redger, Marie Treichel, Laurie Pigg & Grace Cott
Not pictured: Eryn Allen, Becky Meyer & Billie Segrist

2019 FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position

Year Ending December 31, 2019

Assets	2019
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 692,372
Receivables	192,650
Investments	123,489
Property Held for Sale	0
Other	93,151
Total Assets	1,101,662
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Accounts & Notes Payable	10,379
Accrued Expenses	76,801
Unearned Revenue	0
Total Liabilities	87,180
Without Donor Restrictions	798,497
With Donor Restrictions	215,985
Total Net Assets	1,014,482
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 1,101,662

Statement of Activities

Year Ending December 31, 2019

Without Donor Restrictions

Revenues

Grant & Contract Income

Child Care Aware® of Kansas	\$ 479,540
Capital Area Successful Start	735,824
United Way	106,228
Other Grants or Programs	57,723

Other Revenue

Showhouse- net of expenses	100,440
Provider Training	41,000
Donations & Contributions	172,751
Other Revenue	30,705
Total Revenues	1,724,211

Expenses

Program Services	1,263,864
Supporting Services	334,333
Total Expenses	1,598,197

Change in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions \$ 126,014

With Donor Restrictions

Contributions & Program Revenue	1,510
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	0

Change in Net Assets With Donor Restrictions 1,510

Change in Total Net Assets 127,524

Net Assets at Beginning of Year 886,958

Net Assets at End of Year \$1,014,482

2019 AGENCY FUNDING

The agency is supported through a variety of **grants, contracts** and **fund-raising efforts**, including:

- Kansas Department for Children & Families through Child Care Aware® of Kansas
- Kansas Children's Cabinet
- Topeka Community Foundation
- Douglas County Community Foundation
- Kansas Health Foundation
- Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children
- United Way of Greater Topeka
- United Way of Douglas County
- Individual Donor Support
- Support from Area Businesses & Corporations
- Designers' Showhouse Fundraiser

