

# Our Passion Their Future



Child Care Aware<sup>®</sup> 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.



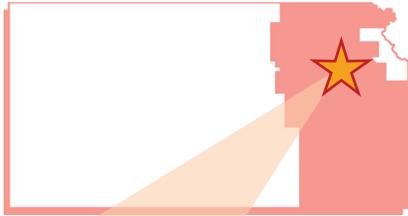
# BY THE NUMBERS



## FAMILIES & CHILDREN



## CHILD CARE PROVIDERS



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



**ZOOM EDUCATION CLASSES** were added to our Professional Development Clender to provide continued education for providers during in-person gathering restrictions.



**COUNTIES**

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



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



**EARLY EDUCATORS** attended the spring conference created in partnership with Allen Community College, titled "Supporting Safe and Healthy Child Care Practices."

**1,540** child care programs through the 33-county region were served.

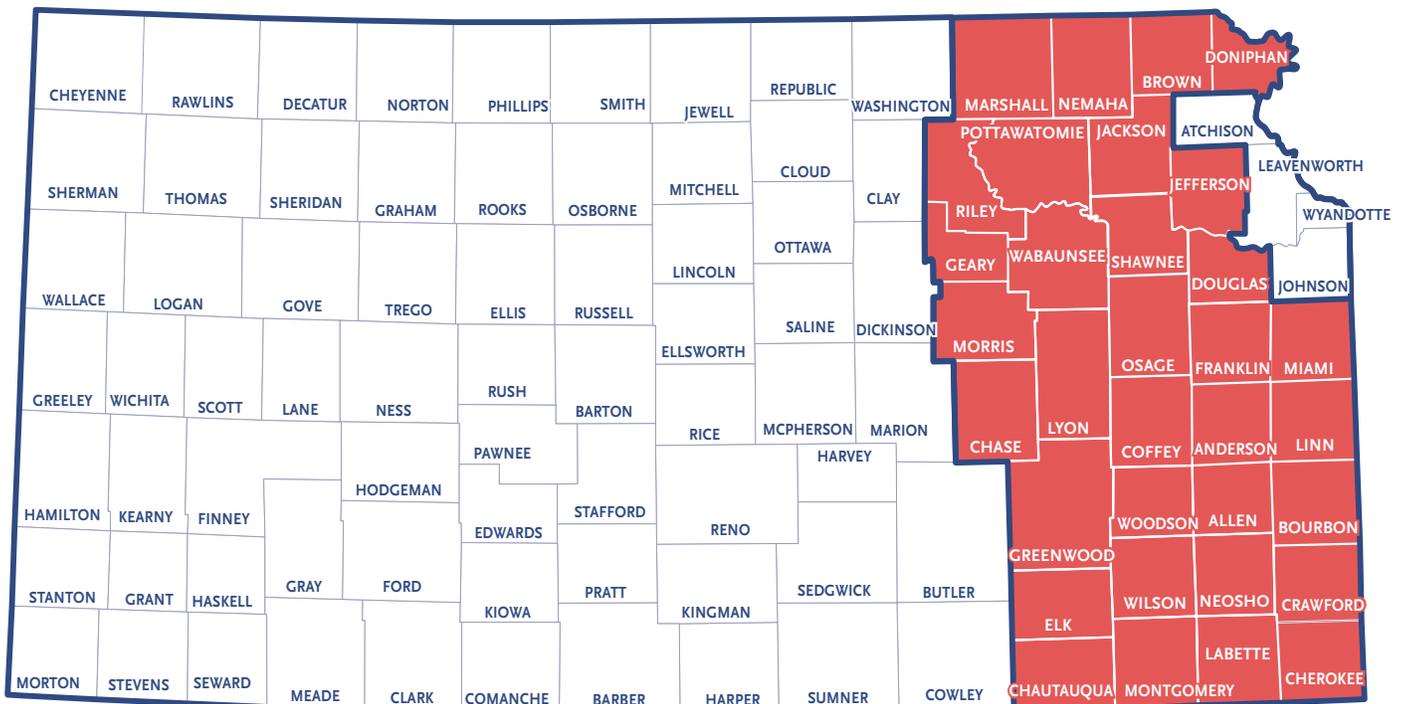


**CHILDREN WERE SERVED** by the Parent Resource Center.



**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS** with a total of 2,041 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,*

The 2020 year was memorable in so many ways. It was full of challenges, yet many reminders of the importance of our work and the many ways we were blessed---- both as an agency and as individuals. This annual report is a time to look back on what was accomplished (in the midst of a pandemic!), and the important work we accomplished to support children, families and area child care programs. Our amazing team of dedicated staff lead by example, working tirelessly to accomplish all they do. In the midst of the trials the year brought our way, we continued to hear feedback from families and child care providers who voiced appreciation for our commitment to good customer service during very trying times. Our agency has always been known for providing support and guidance to anyone we serve at just the right point in time. We continued that commitment to excellence throughout this year, meeting people “where they are,” and doing our best to provide guidance and support.

The strategic planning process we completed as an organization in late 2019 served us well. While how services were delivered changed, the goals remained the same. We are proud that we could be flexible in how we met the changing needs of the families and child care programs who needed our assistance. A variety of funding opportunities allowed us to retain our entire team during a period when many businesses and organizations were forced to downsize. Our solid financial strategies brought much-needed financial stability for our agency as we navigated the unpredictable landscape in early 2020.

We are so grateful to our supporters, who stood by us during this volatile year. Without a doubt, the pandemic brought an increased awareness of the importance of accessible, stable, high-quality child care that allowed parents to retain employment and continue to meet the needs of their family. Business leaders turned to us for our expertise as they sought solutions for their workforce with young children. All that was accomplished in 2020 was through the context of our partnerships with volunteers, donors, local businesses, community agencies and area foundations. Because of those strong partnerships, our organization thrived and survived challenges that could never have been predicted or anticipated.

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".

Reva Wywadis  
Executive Director

# Our Passion, Their Future with CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

## In 2020...

• In March of 2020, the agency partnered with Allen County Community College for a free spring conference titled, “Supporting Safe and Healthy Child Care Practices.” **48** early educators attended the event which included the course, Stewards of Children which is an evidence-informed prevention training program that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse, as well as the course, “Preparing for the Worst,” where we partnered with the Allen County Sheriff’s Dept. who presented on focusing on safety awareness including personal safety, promoting risk management, and guidelines to develop procedures and emergency preparedness plans.

• **178** professional development sessions with a total of **2041** attendees helped child care providers and teachers improve their quality of care and meet licensing requirements through face-to-face and online learning options.

• **230** Coronavirus Relief Funding Grants were awarded for a total of **\$864,040** to Shawnee County child care programs.

• **1,540** child care programs through the 33-county region and their staff were served by the agency.

• 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. **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.



“Thank You” for all of you, as well as your staffs, dedication to assisting providers with these grants. Seeing the gratitude from providers on our provider facebook group has been wonderful. It has really saved some from having to close, others have revamped their materials & equipment. Some have remodeled to make their daycare more effective. What a wonderful blessing Child Care Aware has been. From the bottom of our hearts, “THANK YOU”.

- East Kansas Provider



I want to thank all those that made grants possible. I had the opportunity to utilize the CCQI grant this past year. I had a little guy in my child care that had some major issues and has now been diagnosed with Autism. The opportunity this grant provided me was to allow for assessment tools to help with the child's diagnosis and parents understanding of where the child should have been. It also allowed for much support from Child Care Aware as I tried to navigate the needs of all my children, but this child was of great concern. The added resources and programs that ended up being rewarded to me also has helped alleviate my stress and my going home crying every night. The grant and subsequent classes helped provide me with the tools to better understand my kiddos and better help them through their struggles. While the Covid lock downs did cause some problems with the effectiveness of the program, I believe it was very beneficial to me. I am so happy to see that there are more opportunities for grant becoming available in our area, as well as, state wide. We lack so many resources in our small community, it is nice to know someone is still out helping those of us in the less populated areas of the state.

Sincerely, Clarinda O'Brien



• In March of 2020, the agency had to pull together to rethink how we could help providers with continuing their education with the new gathering restrictions. On April 9th of 2020 the agency successfully hosted the first Zoom session for professional development education. Over **70** classes were hosted throughout the year through Zoom.

• **13** early childhood classrooms participated in the Get Set for Success program in Shawnee County with funding provided by United Way of Greater Topeka. These classrooms received components of the Learning Without Tears curriculum, on-site coaching and professional development. The overall focus was on supporting classrooms serving at-risk preschool-aged children and ensuring they have the skills needed to be successful in kindergarten.

# CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

## Continued...



*I have to tell you how I feel about your agency. Your agency truly got my daycare through quarantine. All your attitudes and the classes that were offered and the knowledge of the teachers and just the empathy that they have for daycare providers during that time and continue to have. I feel like without you all my daycare wouldn't have made it through quarantine without your support.*

- East Kansas Provider



• **Child Care Quality Initiative (CCQI)** is funded through Child Care Aware of Kansas. The focus is to work 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 are evaluated with the CLASS® (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) observation tool. In 2019-2020 we coached 10 programs in Montgomery and Labette counties and retained two past participants to work as mentors with the new group. A total of 93 children were served through this project.

• **Douglas County Get Set for Success** is funded through the United Way of Douglas County. The focus was to work with center and family child care providers to provide high-quality learning environments that prepare at-risk children ages 3-5 for school success. Participants received professional development, onsite coaching, the Get Set for School curriculum materials and the myIGDI (Individual Growth and Development Indicator) assessment tool for four year olds. Improvements were measured with the CLASS® (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) observation tool. Staff worked with 10 classrooms in 6 programs located in Lawrence, Eudora and Baldwin City.



*I just wanted to take a second and say thank you for all you and the rest of child care aware has done for providers this year. I know your emails are probably going crazy about grants (and have been for quite some time). But I really do appreciate all you all do for me as a provider.*

- East Kansas Provider



• **Learning Together** is a special project work funded through Child Care Aware of Kansas. The focus was to work with family child care providers to provide high-quality learning environments to children ages 3-5. Strategies included providing learning materials and curriculum focused on using instructional teaching methods. 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 other available long-term quality improvement projects. Staff worked with 10 participants in Neosho, Jefferson, Franklin and Douglas counties.

• **Successful Start** is a project that worked with family child care providers that had been open for less than a year. Staff connected new providers with resources and a coach to help them off to a good start in their first year of business. This effort was focused on helping decrease new provider turnover and grow capacity. Participants received four kits with business and family engagement resources, and worked to get strong business practices in place and receive additional resources and information on topics that match with their business goals.

• **Capital Area Successful Start (CASS)** is a collaborative that brings together eight community partners that make up the Shawnee County Early Childhood Block Grant. This collaborative is funded through the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas joins with community agencies to serve children prenatally to age five years 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 2020, agency staff provided services to 54 early childhood classrooms in Shawnee County through on-site coaching, professional development, and access to resources. All services were focused on supporting at-risk children and their families to prepare them for success in school.

# Our Passion, Their Future

## FAMILIES

### In 2020...

• A total of **11,387** child care referrals were completed through the Child Care Aware® of Kansas Parent Resource Center Operated by Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas.

• **6,540** families used the Parent Resource Center, either by calling or utilizing the online service.

• **7,923** children were served through the Parent Resource Center, either by calling or utilizing the online service.

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*I absolutely love this service and the staff. I am a Social Worker and I use this service to assist my clients as well. Thank you so much, this is truly a blessing to have.*

- East Kansas Social Worker

”

• **Successful Connections program** in Shawnee County support pregnant women and families with new babies by offering community resources to assist them in becoming more successful parents. In 2020, Successful Connections offered support services to **675** 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.

• **Vroom App** We partnered with Child Care Aware of America to promote this exciting, free app that turns everyday shared experiences into brain building moments. It has easy, actionable tips that encourage back and forth experiences between adults and children to help nurture their growing minds. A director that shared Vroom information with their advisory council members reported back to us that one member, who is also a parent, said, *“Oh my gosh! This is terrific. I love having the activities, but having the brain science behind them is so cool!”*

In addition to promoting the app, we also partnered with CCA to write and produce a coaching resource titled, Brain Building Booklet, that took the Vroom information one step further by sharing a small collection of tips that can be used in common classroom activities: outdoor play, group time, transitions and dramatic play. This tool was shared throughout the national network of CCR&Rs.

“

*There was a lot of information available on the website. It was easy to use. I was surprised that I received a call asking if I had found childcare yet, and if I needed any help. This was very nice and comforting.*

- East Kansas Mother

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• 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.



# Our Passion, Their Future

## PUBLIC POLICY

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Public policy is defined as a purposeful and consistent course of action produced as a response to a perceived problem of a constituency, formulated by a specific political process, and adopted, implemented, and enforced by a public agency. Everyone has a role in shaping public policy through advocacy efforts.

### Public Policy Statement:

► **ERC Resource & Referral, Inc., dba Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas, is committed to:**

- Advocating for federal, state and local policies that support working families with young children, including child care resource and referral services for every family.
- Working collaboratively with other entities to define the issues and challenges facing families with young children in today's society.
- Sharing information about national, state and local policy issues that have an impact on families with young children with families, child care providers, businesses, and community leaders.
- Showing support for accessible, affordable, high-quality programs and services that meet the needs of families with young children.

### Public Policy Principles:

► **Our organization...**

- Recognizes parents as their child's first and most important teacher.
- Connects families with resources in their community that support their child's development, supporting family choice.
- Promotes high-quality early education in every setting including family child care, center-based care, preschools, Head Start, and license-exempt programs including schools.
- Promotes high-quality early education in every setting including family child care, center-based care, preschools, Head Start, and license-exempt programs including schools.
- Embraces the belief that learning starts at birth and what happens in a child's earliest years lays the foundation for all later learning, strongly impacting their success in school and beyond.



# Our Passion, Their Future

## STAFF IMPACT STORIES

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♥ I did a class called “The Shabby Chic Classroom – Taking It Outside” which talks about repurposing items and specifically using them outside. We talked about making a music wall or fence in class using ordinary kitchen items – pots, pans, bowls, spoons, spatulas, etc. The next day I received an email from one of the providers who had been in class telling me she had found some stuff to begin making a musical fence on her playground. She had attached the items to the fence and the kids went crazy “making music” and having fun. She told me that she was going to go looking for more goodies to add to her fence.  
-Susan Drewelow, Early Care & Education Specialist

♥ I received a phone call from a newer family child care provider who had just signed up for her first Zoom class. She was anxious about the technology, but she was also just very nervous about taking a class in general. She shared that she had not done well in school and she was concerned about whether she would have to take a test after the class. I visited with her by phone and then offered to do a “test” Zoom with her before the class so that she would know more what to expect. We ended up meeting twice before her scheduled class. By the time she took the class, I could tell that she was feeling more confident. After her class, she called me...that night...and was so excited and proud of herself for doing the class. She has become a regular participant in a lot of our Zoom classes!  
-Michelle Gilbert, Early Care & Education Specialist

♥ Approximately 2 weeks after we starting working from home, I was scheduled to teach an online class. There was a provider and her husband that had never taken an online class with us before so needless to say, they were very nervous and apprehensive. Renee got them in contact with me and I promised that I would do whatever I possibly could to get them through the experience. In order to start the class, they had to get into Moodle which is our online class system. It isn't difficult, but for someone that isn't “computer savvy” it could feel intimidating. I spent a half hour walking them through the procedure and they were very grateful. Over the course of the week-long class, we chatted almost every day. Sometimes 2 – 3 times per day because they needed assistance getting through the class. They powered through and finished the class. They both thanked me every time they called and assured me they would not have made it through the class without my help.  
-Grace Cott, Early Care & Education Specialist

♥ In 2020, during the short time that we were able to make hospital visits, I met with a young mother that just delivered her first baby. I do not remember all the details, but I know she had very limited resources and did not have many things for her baby, including a car seat. I was able to pick up a free car seat for her from one of our community partners, Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office, and deliver it to the hospital so that she could take her baby home.  
-Tori Beam, Successful Connections Parent Resource Specialist



# Our People Have Passon

## 2020 Board of Directors



Lori Downing  
*President*



Jane Tilghman  
*President-Elect*



Jamie Stafford  
*Secretary*



Liz Steffen  
*Treasurer*



Lucinda Anstaett  
*Treasurer-Elect*



Kathleen Heaney  
*Immediate Past President*



Dawn  
Bicknell-Reiser



Deb Crowl



Donna Doel



Matthew Godinez



Paige Jones



Joleen Klausman



Lindsey Munson



Debra Ricks



Cherie Sage



Catherine Shafer



Sarah Snyder



Beth Toland



Kelly Trussell

# Our People Have Passon

## 2020 Staff Members



Front Row, from left: Michelle Gilbert, Talia Juiliano, Stephanie Prue, Karla Valdez, Nancy Rohr, Renee Wohletz, Deb Danielson Second Row, from left: Tori Utz, Laurie Pigg, Jane Redger, Reva Wywadis Third Row, from left: Grace Cott, Karen Rogenmoser, Breanna Gellings, Becky Meyer, Marie Treichel, Susan Drewelow, Mia Gardner, Audrey Danielson Back Row, from left: Holly Wehner Lori Boos Not pictured: Mark Kotich.

Reva Wywadis, *Executive Director*

Becky Meyer, *Accountant*

Mark Kotich, *Marketing & Communications Coordinator*

Holly Wehner, *Data Specialist*

Karla Valdez, *Administrative Assistant/Bilingual Resource Specialist*

Laurie Pigg, *Parent Resource Center Manager*

Lori Boos, Breanna Gellings, *Resource Specialists*

Marie Treichel, Renee Wohletz, *Provider Services Managers*

Grace Cott, Audrey Danielson, Deb Danielson, Susan Drewelow, Michelle Gilbert, Talia Juiliano, Sherry Voth, *Early Care & Education Specialists*

Jane Redger, Nancy Rohr, Tori Utz, *Successful Connections Parent Resource Specialists*

Mia Gardner, *Program Support Specialist*

Stephanie Prue, *Library Resource Specialist*



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# 2020 FINANCIALS

## Statement of Financial Position

Year Ending December 31, 2020

Assets	2020
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 835,846
Receivables	190,904
Investments	130,498
Property Held for Sale	64,130
Other	45,149
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>1,266,527</u>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	
Accounts & Notes Payable	134,586
Accrued Expenses	91,716
Unearned Revenue	0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>226,302</u>
Without Donor Restrictions	823,880
With Donor Restrictions	216,345
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>1,040,225</u>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<u>\$ 1,266,527</u>

## Statement of Activities

Year Ending December 31, 2020

Without Donor Restrictions	
<b>Revenues</b>	
<b>Grant &amp; Contract Income</b>	\$ 435,704
Child Care Aware® of Kansas	\$ 1,266,527
Capital Area Successful Start	669,139
United Way	100,401
Other Grants or Programs	44,618
<b>Other Revenue</b>	
Showhouse- net of expenses	24,063
Provider Training	26,623
Donations & Contributions	53,690
Other Revenue	81,657
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>2,597,354</u>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Program Services	1,044,709
Supporting Services	267,262
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>2,571,971</u>
<b>Change in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions</b>	\$ 25,383
<b>With Donor Restrictions</b>	
Contributions & Program Revenue	360
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	0
<b>Change in Net Assets With Donor Restrictions</b>	<u>360</u>
<b>Change in Total Net Assets</b>	25,743
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	<u>1,014,482</u>
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<u>\$1,040,225</u>

## 2020 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
- Child Care Aware® of America
- Kansas Health Foundation
- United Way of Greater Topeka
- United Way of Douglas County
- Individual Donor Support
- Support from Area Businesses & Corporations
- Designers' Showhouse Fundraiser

