

## Thank You!

Thank you so very much to all who took the virtual tour, volunteered, sponsored, donated to and played a role in making the 2020 Designers' Showhouse a success. We truly appreciate you and your support!

### ELECTION DAY...GO VOTE!

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

### OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED...

Thursday, November 26, 2020

Friday, November 27, 2020

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Friday, December 25, 2020

Thursday, January 1, 2021

Dear friends,

Last fall as we began making plans for our 40th annual Designers' Showhouse we had no indication how different life would become over a few short months. We had purchased an incredible house in a picturesque setting and had lots of ideas about the transformation that would take place. The energy and excitement during our Bare Bones preview was amazing, and the creativity of the participating designers and the enthusiasm of our volunteers made me believe that we were on the path to one of the most successful Showhouses ever! Then, seemingly overnight, we were forced to delay and then completely change our plans for how the Showhouse would be unveiled to the public as we reacted to the pandemic and public health guidance.

We learned much from this experience. I am so proud and humbled at how the community rallied around our cause. Sponsors and advertisers stood by our side, understanding the incredible need for this fundraiser and wanting to continue their support for our mission. Contractors and craftsmen continued the renovation in spite of seemingly constantly changing timelines and challenges.

Designers adjusted as plans shifted to the need for virtual tours rather than our traditional in-person tours and large special events, and managed challenges of product production and shipping. And the countless volunteers who had committed their time to our cause expressed caring support and pledged to return to help us next year! Special thanks are due to Gina Nellis (Showhouse Chair), Leslie Hunsicker (Showhouse Coordinator), and Ivan Weichert and Katy Nelson (Topeka Area Building Association, Remodelers Council). Their ongoing support throughout this process was phenomenal.

We have all heard the saying "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." Without a doubt, collectively we made GALLONS of lemonade this year! We made the very best of a very difficult and ever-changing situation. We are still analyzing our numbers, but we know that although many people viewed the virtual tour, the donations raised are not on-par with the revenue we would typically generate from our spring tours and special events. Please know how grateful we are for every dollar that was raised through this massive project—from sponsorships, advertising, tours, and the sale of the home.

During these uncertain times, your support means more than ever before. We all know that child care is a critical piece of the infrastructure needed for businesses to resume and parents with young children to return to the workplace. Our mission is more critically important than ever...and we are so grateful for your support of our cause so that we can be there for the families and children that are counting on us!

Until next time...

*Rene Uyenda*



THE 2020  
DESIGNERS' SHOWHOUSE  
HAS BEEN SOLD!

ERC Resource & Referral, Inc., d/b/a Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas supports the development and early education of children by improving access to resources for families, including high-quality child care options.

# BOARD & STAFF...

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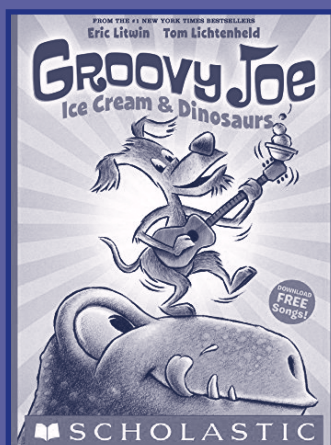
# CHILD CARE AWARE® OF EASTERN KANSAS ADAPTS SERVICES IN 2020

This spring, as stay-at-home predictions became more and more likely, the team at Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas began making plans for how services would continue in a changing environment. Classroom coaching with teachers and directors transitioned to virtual services that included video conferencing combined with phone and email correspondence to provide support. Online coursework, something already offered through the agency, was expanded to meet the demand as in-person classes had to be canceled. Some new professional development opportunities were offered utilizing Zoom, allowing child care providers and teachers to continue attaining required ongoing continuing education through a new method using technology. The staff's dedication to high-quality service delivery meant adapting new ways of engaging the online audience to ensure the application of information was built into technology-based learning.

Services to families also continued seamlessly during this time. As staff transitioned to working from home, families seeking help finding child care throughout the state still could connect by phone or through the online database and receive same-day customized referral lists. New parents in Shawnee County could not receive in-person visits from the Successful Connections team as area hospitals limited visitors. However, staff continued outreach efforts to families through phone calls, text messaging, and video conferencing in order to connect them with community resources.

Although most of our team has now transitioned back to the office, things are still very unsettled in many of the communities we serve. Families are faced with challenging decisions as local schools look at hybrid learning options that will place many young children in the situation of needing part-time child care or a parent at home. Parents with young children are deciding when, if ever, they can return to the workforce as they juggle the demands of balancing work and family life. Many child care programs are struggling to stay afloat as they deal with reduced enrollment and increased staffing needs to meet social distancing guidance in order to keep children and staff healthy and safe.

As an agency, we continue to look for opportunities that support the families and child care programs we serve in new ways during these unprecedented times. We are proud of what we have accomplished during this challenge, yet know that there is much more work to do. We encourage our community and business leaders to put children first in their decision-making processes. Child care capacity is a critical part of stabilizing our economy. We should all strive to think about both the immediate and the long-term needs of young children and their families in our region, state, and nation, and do what we can to help and support each other during these challenging times.



## 2020 KANSAS READS TO PRESCHOOLERS MONTH

— November 2020 —

This year's chosen book for Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Month is "Groovy Joe: Ice Cream & Dinosaurs" written by Eric Litwin and illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld. This picture book story will appeal to young readers, with a focus on the 2-5 years old age group.

This book is available digitally on Bookflix, which all Kansas residents can access for free by visiting: <https://kslib.info/1017/Kansas-Reads-to-Preschoolers>

# 40TH ANNUAL DESIGNERS' SHOWHOUSE AT THE FAIRWAY

# Thank You!

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas wishes to thank the individuals, organizations and companies whose contributions helped ensure a successful Designers' Showhouse.

## CORPORATE BENEFACTORS

- Advisors Excel
- The Builder Bee's
- Capital Federal® Savings Bank
- Factory Direct Appliance
- Kansas Gas Service, a division of ONE Gas
- PDQ Construction, Inc.
- Graystone Painting & Refinishing
- Topeka Area Building Association Professional Remodelers Council
- WIBW Channel 13 News

## DESIGN OF VIRTUAL PROGRAM SPONSOR

- Peterson Publications, Inc.

## PRINT SPONSOR

- Hall Commercial Printing

## CORPORATE SPONSORS OF THE WEEK

- Community Bank
- DeBackers, Inc.
- Key Staffing/Premier Employment Solutions

## ELITE EVENT SPONSORS

- Central National Bank
- CoreFirst Bank & Trust
- Envista Credit Union
- FHL Bank, Topeka
- Security Benefit
- Summers, Spencer & Company, P.A.

## CORPORATE PLATINUM SPONSORS

- BOK Financial Private Wealth
- Boyer Cabinetry, Jeff Boyer
- Brookwood Shopping Center
- Budget Blinds
- Carpet One® Floor & Home
- Cox Communications
- CWC Electric, LLC
- Dargal Clark Builders, Inc.
- Data-Tel Communications

## CORPORATE PLATINUM SPONSORS, continued

- Hunter Douglas
- Long Lighting Studio
- ServiceMaster Cleaning & Restoration by NEK
- Sowards Glass
- Wende Woodworking, Thad Wende

## CORPORATE GOLD SPONSORS

- Berberich Trahan & Co., P.A.
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## CORPORATE SILVER SPONSORS

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- Clear View, Inc.
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- Lower Plumbing, Heating & Air, Inc.

## CORPORATE VIP FRIENDS

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- Happy Basset Brewing Company
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- Iron Rail Brewing
- Lindyspring Water
- Lowes® Home Improvement Center
- Norsemen Brewing Company
- Red Door Home Store
- Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits
- Wheatland Pest Control

## MANY THANKS

- Mike Bush
- City of Topeka
- ERC/Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas Board & Staff
- Fairway Drive neighbors
- Front Door Catering
- Grace UMC
- Ron Gwaltney
- Robin Hannegan
- Jeanne Hoferer
- Lawyer's Title
- Leah Gabler-Marshall & friends
- Professional Engineer Inspections, Julie Lyle
- Rod Brown Furniture
- Shawnee County Parks & Recreation
- Top City Creative, Jon DeMeo
- Topeka Capital-Journal
- Tyler Johnson, Berkshire Hathaway First Realtors

## THANK YOU SHOWHOUSE DESIGNERS!

**Living Room:** Monica Parsel,  
*Winston Brown Remodeling*

**Main Floor Family Room:** Tyler Taphorn,  
*Furniture Mall of Kansas, Taphorn Design Co.*

**Southwest Bedroom:** Jan Hutt,  
*Jan Hutt Interiors*

**Jack & Jill Bathroom:** Gina Nellis,  
*Nvision Home Concierge*

**Southeast Bedroom:** Caryolyn Ward,  
*Simply Staging*

**Master Bedroom:** Kelly Schuster, *The Linen Tree*

**Master Bath:** Jennifer Metzger,  
*J. Designs Inc./Fine Design Studio & Dargal Clark, Dargal Clark Builders, Inc.*

**Lower Level:** Doug McCollum, Ivan Weichert, Makenzie Hutley & Katy Nelson,  
*Topeka Area Building Association Professional Remodelers Council*

**Powder Bath & Entry:** Leslie Hunsicker,  
*Leslie Hunsicker Interiors*

**Dining Room:** Bethany Hansen,  
*Hansen Home Interior*

**Kitchen:** Sarah Kellogg, *Kellogg Interiors*

**Laundry Room:** John Gleason & Teri Gleason-Cain, *Gleason Design*

**Upstairs Apartment:** Lorrie Dickey & Florence Bryant, *Rescued Treasures at Two Days Market*

**Outdoor Living:** Aaron Jones,  
*Schendel Lawn & Landscape*

# WEEKLY PRIZE DRAWINGS WINNERS

THANK YOU  
TO ALL OF OUR DONORS!

## WEEK 1

- Melinda Clemmens
- Kim Jackson
- Elaine Martin
- Rose Mary Williams

## WEEK 2

- Phyllis Cory
- Donna Doel
- Jan King
- Martha Spacek

## WEEK 3

- Julie Clanton
- Kerry Mattox
- Veronica Padilla
- Patti Millard



WEEKLY PRIZE  
PACKAGE SPONSOR

Golden Rule  
Remodeling, Inc.

GoldenRuleRemodel.com



## Reva Wywadis Appointed to Kansas Early Childhood Recommendations Panel!

Reva Wywadis, Executive Director of Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas, was appointed to the Kansas Early Childhood Recommendations Panel, an advisory group to the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. The panel plays a key role in enabling the state to implement the All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan, respond to challenges, elevate recommendations from communities and stakeholders, and make decisions to help the Kansas Children's Cabinet and other stakeholders collectively achieve the vision of every child thriving.

The panel held its first meeting on Friday, July 17, and will meet monthly throughout the coming year. More information about the panel and their work, including meeting minutes, can be found under the "About" tab on the Kansas Children's Cabinet website, <https://kschildrenscabinet.org>.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO STATE FARM® INSURANCE!

We'd like to thank David Hines of State Farm® Insurance in Topeka, for his donation and support of Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas and our mission, which helps provide the means by which we can offer valuable programs and services in support of Kansas children and families.

