

OUR MODERN MANOR SHOWHOUSE TOURS

**SEPTEMBER
24-26, 2021**

Friday, Saturday & Sunday
Hours: 10 AM - 5 PM daily

Located at
1501 SW Westover Rd.,
Topeka, Kansas 66604

Check out the rest of this newsletter or visit
<https://east.ks.childcareaware.org> to purchase
tickets or access additional information.

VIP PATRON EVENT

Thursday, September 23rd
5:00 pm-10:00 pm



Hello friends!

Canceling the 2021 Designers' Showhouse was a difficult decision that had to be made last fall. The ERC Board of Directors knew that not having the Showhouse would result in a significant shortfall in the agency's operating budget and tasked the staff to consider a new avenue for fundraising this year. We were thrilled as planning began for a fall home tour that homeowners Matt and Sara Vincent graciously agreed to open their incredible home for a one-weekend public tour to benefit Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas.

The home, known as Our Modern Manor, was purchased by the Vincents and their renovation journey has been promoted on Instagram and Facebook. You can read more about Our Modern Manor tours in a separate story in this newsletter. Special thanks to Gina Nellis and Cora Spencer, who are leading this fundraising effort, and for the many volunteers that will come together to make it happen! All proceeds from tours, sponsorships, and advertising support the agency's mission.

The staff has been incredibly busy addressing the needs of families and child care partners. The pandemic resulted in significant numbers of child care facility closures, making it extremely difficult for families to locate the child care they need in many communities. We are working with partners at the local and state level on recruitment and retention efforts to build the child care capacity in communities that are lacking child care slots for working parents. Employers are engaged in this work more than ever before, recognizing that child care capacity in the area significantly impacts their workforce. Part of our recruitment strategy includes the launch of the Early Childhood Workforce Training Center in September. See a separate story for more details on this exciting initiative.

The Board of Directors will be hosting a retreat in September to examine the status of the agency's strategic plan and make any needed mid-course adjustments. A capacity-building grant from the Kansas Health Foundation will support this work as we ensure that the agency is positioned to address the challenges ahead including navigating the transition of several members of the agency's leadership team. The recruitment process for new board members is beginning soon and interested individuals are encouraged to contact me for more information.

As always, all we do focuses on fulfilling our mission to support the healthy development of young children by improving access to high-quality child care and resources for families and early childhood professionals. We want children and families to get off to a great start, knowing the importance of the earliest years. Your support makes a difference each and every day, and we are grateful.

Until next time...

Reva Wywadis

Reva Wywadis
Executive Director

BOARD & STAFF...

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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STAFF MEMBERS

Reva Wywadis, Executive Director
Diana Ingram-Cantrell, Accountant
Mark Kotich, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
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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, Debbie Hildebrandt, Talia Juiliano, Lexi Merz, Early Care & Education Specialists
Jane Redger, Nancy Rohr, Tori Beam, Successful Connections Parent Resource Specialists
Crystal Smith, Grants Navigator
Stephanie Prue, Library Resource Specialist



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

MAPPING CHILD CARE DEMAND AND THE SUPPLY OF CARE

Working parents want to secure high-quality child care for their young children. Yet parents often struggle to find high-quality care that fits their work schedules and is convenient and affordable, among other factors. Parents do not always know what their options are and where child care is available. In addition, limited child care slots in some communities can result in long waitlists and cause families to turn to lower-quality or unlicensed arrangements. This struggle to find care can lead families to make do with a "good enough" arrangement in the short term and can create instability in children's care arrangements over time.

Since launching the Point in Time Data feature on May 18, 2021, Child Care Aware® of Kansas's website has received over 1,000 unique visitors specifically looking for information about the supply and demand of child care in Kansas communities. This Point in Time Data was created to assist communities – including families, employers, and other community leaders – across Kansas as they work to address critical child care shortages.

Every hour, roughly two Kansas are downloading data, and our hope is that they're using this information to evaluate local needs for high-quality child care. This new tool offers communities up-to-date, relevant information so collectively we can move towards action. With one click, you can review changes in the supply and demand of different types of child care over the last three years. You can explore information on the average cost of child care, the availability of evening, weekend, and overnight care, and the number of programs that accept child care subsidy or participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

You can view the Point In Time Data feature by visiting Child Care Aware® of Kansas's website at <https://ks.childcareaware.org/point-in-time>.

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE CENTER TO LAUNCH IN SEPTEMBER!

One of the major hurdles to child care access in Shawnee County is the lack of qualified teaching staff. A number of child care center directors in the community report struggling to hire staff and some have reported having to limit their current enrollment as classrooms are closed due to the limited amount of staff available. In response to this broad-based need, Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas is launching the Early Childhood Workforce Training Center on September 13, 2021.

The 'Center' will prepare and equip participants for a teaching career in an early childhood classroom by combining professional development with observations and classroom experiences. This 'Center' will be housed at the SENT Prep Academy site. Enrolled participants will complete a 60-hour preparatory career training track which provides all the initial training and background checks required by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Once this two-week training session is completed, participants may choose to continue with an experiential classroom teaching track. This track offers the opportunity to gain classroom experience in a high-quality early childhood classroom, similar to an internship or student-teaching experience.

Betsey Litscher, Early Childhood Workforce Training Center Coordinator, will oversee the project, helping each student create a professional learning plan that sets them on the path towards their professional goals in the early childhood field. Following the program's completion, the Early Childhood Workforce Training Center will contact participants to track their employment and career goals.

This exciting project, funded through a Preschool Development Grant* through the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, will help us evaluate effective recruitment strategies to grow the pool of qualified early childhood teachers in the community and will serve as a model for other similar efforts throughout the state!

* This project was made possible by grant #90TP0078-01-00. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.



SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS OFFER MUCH NEEDED SUPPORT TO PROVIDERS

Child Care Aware® of Kansas, in partnership with Kansas Department for Children and Families, received over 3,150 applications for Child Care Sustainability Grants. With 84% of eligible child care programs applying, this demonstrates the significant need for continued support for Kansas child care programs.

To help ensure that child care programs in our region know about available grant opportunities and are successful with their application, Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas now has a Grants Navigator. Crystal Smith joined our team in May, and her sole focus is supporting child care programs through the grant process. Child care providers have expressed their gratitude for having a regional point of contact and someone they know will be there to assist them with their questions related to grants that help them sustain their child care businesses. Several have said that the grant support they have received has allowed them to stay in business, and that without it they would have had to close their doors to children and families.

Kansas child care providers have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic, even when other businesses closed. Prioritizing the health and safety of young children comes with increased costs for child care programs, at a time when revenue for child care businesses has been unpredictable.

Child Care Aware® of Kansas partnered with Kansas Department for Children and Families to bring \$49 million in financial support for child care program operations. The Sustainability Grants program will provide \$5,000 for family child care providers and up to \$60,000 for large child care centers. Any licensed child care program in the state that meets compliance standards is eligible to apply.

Young children are still in need of high-quality child care. When we ensure all families have access to quality child care options – regardless of income level or where they live – we build the critical infrastructure necessary for our businesses to succeed, our communities to flourish, and our children to grow into happy, healthy, productive Kansans.

THANKS TO THESE OUR MODERN MANOR SHOWHOUSE SPONSORS WHO HAVE ALREADY PLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT

- BT & Co., P.A.
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas
- Brookwood Shopping Center
- Capital City Oil, Inc.
- Capitol Federal Foundation
- Central National Bank
- Community Bank
- CoreFirst Bank & Trust
- DeBacker's, Inc.
- Ed Bozarth Chevrolet #1 Buick GMC
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- Envista Credit Union
- Ernest Spencer Metals, Inc.
- Furniture Mall of Kansas
- Hill's Pet Nutrition
- Jeffus-Botts-Botts Wealth Management
- Kansas Gas Service
- Landmark National Bank
- Nvision Home Concierge
- Polo Custom Products
- ServiceMaster Cleaning & Restoration by NEK
- Sharp Honda
- Topeka Periodontics



TOUR THE OUR MODERN MANOR SHOWHOUSE

Located at 1501 SW Westover Rd. in Topeka's beautiful Westboro neighborhood, this architectural icon known as "Our Modern Manor" will be open for public tours benefitting Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas. Proceeds from this fundraiser support the healthy development of young children by improving access to high-quality child care options and educational resources for families and early childhood professionals. The homeowners of Our Modern Manor, Matt and Sara Vincent, are honoring the iconic Depression-era estate's original charm while bringing the house, built in 1939, into the 21st century. Highlights of this 9,200 square foot home include an expanded and remodeled kitchen, a grand entranceway, a spiral staircase, and a library with natural wood carved by hand. Tours will be offered September 24-26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, with a VIP event held on September 23. To purchase tickets or access additional information visit the Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas website, <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org>, or call 785-357-5171, option 1.

Showhouse tour tickets are also available for purchase at these wonderful Topeka businesses:

Red Door Home Store
2131 SW Fairlawn Plaza Dr.
Topeka, KS 66614

Linen Tree & Co.
2841 SW 29th St.
Topeka, KS 66614

Porterfield's Flowers
3101 SW Huntoon St.
Topeka, KS 66604

Wishing Laurie Pigg a Wonderful Retirement!



The Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas staff will be saying goodbye to a long-time, valued employee as we celebrate the retirement of Laurie Pigg. Laurie's story and career are part of the continuing legacy of Everywoman's Resource Center (ERC) Resource & Referral, Inc. doing business as Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas. Laurie joined the agency on November 16, 1981.

Laurie's greatest passion for her job has always originated from working with people. "The stories you hear from parents needing care are real and just so vivid for me...I feel it's really important that all children get the same high level of child care across the state, no matter where they live," says Laurie.

Reflecting on her time with the agency, Laurie says that she has enjoyed working with the people, and that having someone open up to you and tell you their story is an unforgettable experience. In offering some words of wisdom, Laurie believes, "You should treat everybody

the way you would want to be treated. Try to put yourself in someone else's shoes, and take people for where they are at that time."

Following retirement, Laurie plans to spend her time doing volunteer work with the Topeka Civic Theatre and Homestead of Topeka. Laurie also plans to enjoy more time with her animals.

Laurie would like to thank Cindy Barry, Marilyn Ward, Ann McDowell, Reva Wywadis, Robin Martin, Ruth Laing, and Cora Catt, as well as the staff, donors, and supporters of the agency.

A retirement celebration will be held on September 17, 2021, from 3:00–5:00 p.m. at Glacier's Edge Winery, 1636 SE 85th St, Wakarusa, KS 66546. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Laurie@east.ks.childcareaware.org.



TICKETS

ON SALE
NOW!



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