



# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

## BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES...



ERC RESOURCE & REFERRAL, INC., d/B/A CHILD CARE AWARE® OF EASTERN KANSAS

Corporate Office: 1100 SW Wanamaker Rd., Ste. 201, Topeka, Kansas 66604

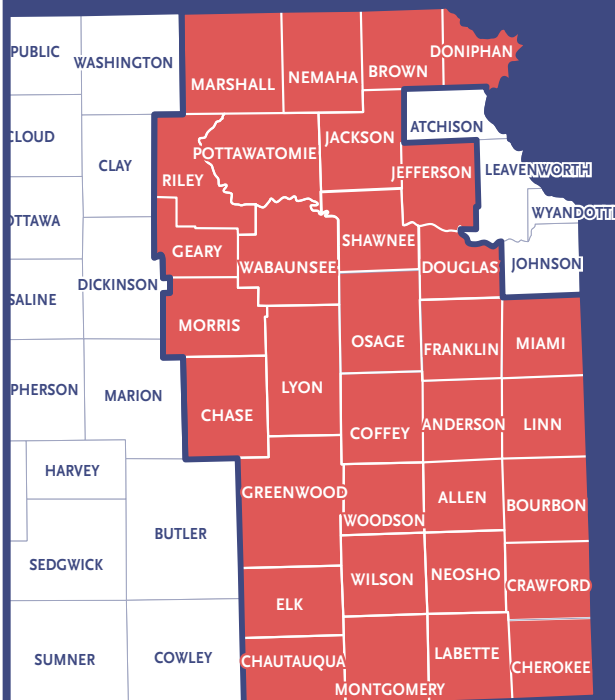
785-357-5171 phone • 1-877-678-2548 toll free • 785-357-1813 fax

<http://east.ks.childcareaware.org> • [info@east.ks.childcareaware.org](mailto:info@east.ks.childcareaware.org)

# BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Table of Contents   |   |
| Service Delivery Area Map.....                                | 1 |
| Letter from the Executive Director.....                       | 2 |
| Building Bright Futures with Child Care Providers....         | 3 |
| Building Bright Futures with Families.....                    | 4 |
| Building Bright Futures with<br>Communities & Businesses..... | 5 |
| YOU Can Help Build Brighter Futures.....                      | 6 |
| ERC Board of Directors & Staff Directory.....                 | 7 |
| 2016 Financials<br>Agency Funding.....                        | 8 |



CHILD CARE AWARE<sup>®</sup> OF  
EASTERN KANSAS OPERATES  
THE STATE-WIDE PARENT  
RESOURCE CENTER, AS WELL  
AS SERVES CHILD CARE PROVIDERS,  
FAMILIES, BUSINESSES AND  
COMMUNITIES IN THE 33  
HIGHLIGHTED COUNTIES ABOVE.



ERC RESOURCE & REFERRAL, D/B/A CHILD CARE AWARE<sup>®</sup> OF EASTERN  
KANSAS, SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING OF YOUNG CHILDREN  
BY OFFERING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT IMPROVE THE QUALITY  
AND ACCESSIBILITY OF CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES.

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR FRIENDS,

This Annual Report highlights some of the activities and accomplishments achieved in 2016, which was a year of change for the child care resource and referral (CCR&R) network across the state. The state budget crisis resulted in significant funding reductions mid-year, causing a marked reduction in services to child care providers throughout the state. These budget cuts and funding shifts resulted in the agency's annual operating budget being reduced by one-third in our region. These drastic reductions forced us to reduce staffing and slash operating costs. Input solicited from our clients, both child care providers and families, helped to guide important discussions with staff and board members as decisions were made about which agency services would continue and which programs would be scaled back or eliminated simply because of a lack of the needed resources. We looked for ways to accomplish our goals in more effective and efficient ways. This included utilizing technology in new ways as we restructured and recrafted our approach.



While none of this was easy, it was necessary. The good news is that **because of your support**, we still accomplished some great things in 2016! We were forced to step back from the "day-to-day" and really decide which programs and services were mission critical and to be protected at all costs. Programs that were determined "nice to have" but didn't meet the "mission critical test" were eliminated. Every effort and every initiative was examined and evaluated for effectiveness. New partnerships were forged and fundraising efforts intensified to meet our needs. As a result, we honed our efforts to focus on the things that really mattered to ensure that young children arrive at school ready for success! Families have been strengthened and empowered to choose child care that meets the unique needs of their child and family. They have also been better informed about how to select a high-quality early learning program. Reliable, high-quality child care enables local businesses to have access to a workforce they can depend on. Child care providers and teachers have grown their skills and learned new ways to support children's growth and development through workforce training, on-site coaching opportunities and continued access to curriculum and resources.

Although this report contains some meaningful information, no written report can ever convey the passion we hear on a daily basis from families and child care providers whose lives have been changed and strengthened because of these activities. **Because of you**, local investments in early childhood made a measurable impact this year and lives have been positively changed.

**We know there is still much to do!** As an agency, we continue to explore new partnership possibilities and new funding opportunities to enable us to better support even more children and families. Programs continue to be developed to address unmet needs. Advocacy efforts to protect funding that supports early learning efforts must continue in order for valuable, much-needed programs to continue.

**We invite you to learn more.** Contact me to take a tour, take part in a program, hear about a project under development or talk about how you can become involved as a volunteer or advocate. Exciting things are happening **thanks to you and your support!** We are truly grateful.

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reva Wywadis".

Reva Wywadis, Executive Director

# BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES WITH CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

CHILD CARE AWARE® OF EASTERN KANSAS HELPED BUILD BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS... by offering access to resources and information, professional development opportunities and coaching opportunities.

## In 2016...

- **1,701** child care programs throughout the 33-county region and their staff were served by the agency.
- Over **210** professional development sessions with a total of **2,778** attendees helped child care providers and teachers improve their quality of care and meet licensing requirements through face-to-face and online learning options. **2,012** of these attendees said that they gained new knowledge. **85** child care center directors and administrators from **40** facilities participated in trainings and peer learning through Director's Toolbox sessions offered by the agency.
- Classroom materials were enhanced through resources made available to the entire service delivery area through the Lending Library and mobile library delivery services. In 2016, **1,904** checkouts from the Topeka and Lawrence offices supported early childhood classrooms.
- **71** child care providers throughout the region benefited from special 12-month coaching programs focused on early literacy development, infant/toddler care giving, school readiness, early childhood wellness and/or strengthening families. Over **800** children benefited from their child care provider's or teacher's participation in one or more of these programs, with a large percentage of those programs making measurable quality improvement during the year.
- Measurable improvements were made in the quality of year-long coaching programs in 2016. Each program uses a nationally recognized measurement tool to assess the quality of the environment and teacher interactions before and at the conclusion of receiving services, documenting growth and improvement. Providers/teachers set goals and create action plans with the support of their coach, who assists in guiding the change process. In addition to the formal assessments, anecdotal notes also documented changed behaviors resulting in improved caregiving practices. Lasting quality improvement takes place over time, and these extended programs provide the benefit of support during incremental change in early childhood environments.



"I HONESTLY FEEL I AM BETTER ABLE TO SERVE MY FAMILIES BECAUSE OF THE GREAT SUPPORT WE GET FROM THE CHILD CARE AWARE® STAFF. FROM GOOD, SOUND ADVICE, TO VERY INFORMATIVE CLASSES ON MANY ASPECTS OF CHILD CARE THAT MAKE OUR JOBS MORE VALUABLE. CAN'T SAY ENOUGH ABOUT CHILD CARE AWARE® OF EASTERN KANSAS!"

*\*SHEILA, CHILD CARE PROGRAM & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPANT*



# BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES WITH FAMILIES

## CHILD CARE AWARE® OF EASTERN KANSAS HELPED BUILD BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR FAMILIES...

by providing families in Kansas information about child care in their area, as well as tips and resources to aid them with their child care search. Referrals were accessed by calling a toll-free number or through an online child care search. By having access to child care options, families were able to retain their employment and remain in the workforce.

### In 2016...

- **10,988** families from throughout Kansas received child care referrals through the Child Care Aware® of Kansas Parent Resource Center operated by Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas.
- **19,004** children were served through the Parent Resource Center.
- **100%** of families who contacted the agency for child care referrals were also given access to community information about other programs and support services. These support services include home visitation, child screening and health agencies.

"THE [REFERRAL] SERVICE IS GREAT! VERY HELPFUL EMPLOYEES, AND GREAT RESEARCH TOOL ONLINE."

*\*FRANK, PARENT WHO UTILIZED REFERRAL CENTER SERVICES*



# BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES WITH COMMUNITIES & BUSINESSES

CHILD CARE AWARE® OF EASTERN KANSAS HELPED BUILD BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR COMMUNITIES & BUSINESSES... by providing supply-and-demand data to help guide economic development efforts in their area. Communities can't attract and retain businesses and a qualified workforce without the capacity to provide child care for those families that need it.

## In 2016...

- Business and community leaders from throughout Shawnee County joined early childhood partners at a summit exploring how early experiences impacted a child's success in school and ultimately the future workforce. The group also discussed financial investments in early childhood as an economic development strategy.
- Agency staff participated in community planning meetings throughout the 33-county region to support early childhood initiatives.
- Agency staff participated in over **50** health fairs, back-to-school fairs, job fairs and other various events throughout the region to share information regarding high-quality early childhood education topics, as well as to support communities, local businesses and families.



# YOU CAN HELP BUILD BRIGHTER FUTURES

## GET INVOLVED...

Because much of the funding for child care resource and referral services is federal and state funding, 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 working families.

## RESEARCH-BASED UNIFORM MESSAGES

### K-12 Education

Studies show that early childhood programs are the BEST way to support improved academic outcomes in K-12. Children who participate in high-quality early childhood education programs are far more likely to enter kindergarten ready to learn, read at grade level by third grade and graduate from high school or even college. (*Gormley et al, 2005; Belfield et al, 2006; Barnett & Masse, 2007*)

### Brain Development

Ninety percent of a child's brain development occurs before age 5. High-quality early childhood services reach children during a crucial period when foundational brain architecture is formed and experience shapes social competency, cognitive ability and mental health. (*Mustard, 2008*)

### Return on Investment

Decades of research have shown that for every \$1 invested in high-quality early childhood programs, society will save \$7 down the road in the form of reduced demand on the social welfare system, decreased juvenile crime and improved participation in the economy. (*Calman & Tarr-Whelan, 2005*)

## PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY AGENDA

**At the national level,** continue to dialogue with legislators regarding the importance of high-quality child care options for all families.

**At the state level,** work collaboratively with other early childhood partners and stakeholders to protect the Children's Initiative Fund (CIF). Participate in opportunities to shape the state's plan for implementing new guidelines and requirements established through the federal reauthorization of the Child Care & Development Block Grant.

**At the local level,** protect county investments in child care licensing, advocating for improved ratios of licensing surveyors to child care programs as recommended by Child Care Aware® of America.

Other policy issues affecting Kansas children, families and child care may arise beyond those included on this list. Please visit our website, <http://east.ks.childcareaware.org>, for updated information on public policy and advocacy issues.





# OUR PEOPLE HELP TO BUILD BRIGHTER FUTURES

## 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

**Melissa Wangemann**, President  
**Beth Nelson**, President-Elect  
**Cora Spencer**, Secretary  
**Lori Downing**, Treasurer  
**Kathleen Heaney**, Treasurer-Elect  
**Morgan Padgett**, Immediate Past President

### Directors

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Ashley All</b>      | <b>Jené Haas</b>         |
| <b>Michelle Bettis</b> | <b>Rhonda Hernandez</b>  |
| <b>Jared Bixby</b>     | <b>Crystal Jones</b>     |
| <b>Linda Broyles</b>   | <b>Valerie Patterson</b> |
| <b>Alison Connell</b>  | <b>Sabrina Seidl</b>     |
| <b>Joshua Decker</b>   | <b>Jane Tilghman</b>     |
| <b>Kellie Dougan</b>   |                          |



## 2016 STAFF

*As of December 2016.*

**Reva Wywadis**, Executive Director  
**Becky Meyer**, Accountant  
**Eryn Allen**, Marketing & Communications Coordinator  
**Debra McClelland**, Research & Data Specialist  
**Laurie Pigg**, Director of Referral Services  
**Lori Boos & Billie Segrist**, Resource Specialists  
**Bianca Garcia**, Bilingual Resource Specialist

**Marie Treichel & Renee Wohletz**, Provider Services Managers  
**Grace Cott, Audrey Danielson, Michelle Gilbert**  
    **& Sheri Rippel**, Early Care & Education Specialists  
**Margaret Hurst & Talia Juiliano**, Infant & Toddler Specialists  
**Nancy Rohr**, Inclusion & Transition Specialist  
**Eleanor Strecker**, Early Literacy Specialist  
**Stephanie Prue**, Library Resource Specialist

VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED  
APPROXIMATELY 2,230 HOURS  
OF TIME TO CHILD CARE  
AWARE<sup>®</sup> OF EASTERN  
KANSAS IN 2016, FURTHERING  
THE MISSION OF SERVING  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
THROUGHOUT THE REGION.





# 2016 FINANCIALS

## Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2016

| <b>Assets</b>                             | <b>2016</b>       |
|---|-------------------|
| Cash & Equivalents                        | \$ 372,481        |
| Receivables                               | 139,661           |
| Investments                               | 194,833           |
| Other                                     | 67,484            |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                       | <b>774,459</b>    |
| <b>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>       |                   |
| Accounts & Notes Payable                  | 3,427             |
| Accrued Expenses                          | 67,982            |
| Unearned Revenue                          | 81,970            |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                  | <b>153,379</b>    |
| Unrestricted                              | 554,885           |
| Temporarily Restricted                    | 2,914             |
| Permanently Restricted                    | 63,281            |
| <b>Total Net Assets</b>                   | <b>621,080</b>    |
| <b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b> | <b>\$ 774,459</b> |

## AGENCY FUNDING

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

- The Kansas Department for Children & Families through Child Care Aware® of Kansas
- The Kansas Children's Cabinet
- Topeka 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 and Corporations
- Designers' Showhouse Fundraiser
- Endowment Fund at the Topeka Community Foundation

## Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2016

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted Revenues</b>                       |                          |
| <b>Grant &amp; Contract Income</b>                 |                          |
| Child Care Aware® of Kansas                        | \$ 619,413               |
| Capital Area Successful Start                      | 483,027                  |
| United Way   | 137,319                  |
| Other Grants or Programs                           | 29,368                   |
| <b>Other Revenue</b>                               |                          |
| Showhouse & Other Special Events-net of expenses   | 72,649                   |
| Provider Training                                  | 33,529                   |
| Individual Donations                               | 33,671                   |
| Other Revenue                                      | 17,021                   |
| Unrestricted Revenue, Gains & Other Support        | <u>1,425,997</u>         |
| Net Assets Released from Restrictions              | 2,500                    |
| Total Unrestricted Revenue, Gains & Other Support  | <u>1,428,497</u>         |
| <b>Unrestricted Expenses</b>                       |                          |
| Program Services                                   | 1,224,148                |
| Supporting Services                                | 183,960                  |
| Total Expenses                                     | <u>1,408,108</u>         |
| <b>Change in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>           | <b>\$ 20,389</b>         |
| <b>Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</b>           |                          |
| Contributions, Program Revenue & Memberships       |                          |
| Net Assets Released From Restrictions              | <u>(2,500)</u>           |
| <b>Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</b> | <b>(2,500)</b>           |
| <b>Permanently Restricted Net Assets</b>           |                          |
| Contributions                                      | <u>370</u>               |
| <b>Change in Permanently Restricted Net Assets</b> | <b>370</b>               |
| <b>Change in Total Net Assets</b>                  | <b>18,259</b>            |
| <b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>             | <b><u>602,821</u></b>    |
| <b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>                   | <b><u>\$ 621,080</u></b> |

ERC RESOURCE & REFERRAL, INC.,  
D/B/A



Corporate Office: 1100 SW Wanamaker Rd., Ste. 201, Topeka, Kansas 66604  
785-357-5171 phone • 1-877-678-2548 toll free • 785-357-1813 fax  
<http://east.ks.childcareaware.org> • [info@east.ks.childcareaware.org](mailto:info@east.ks.childcareaware.org)