



# 2017 Annual Report



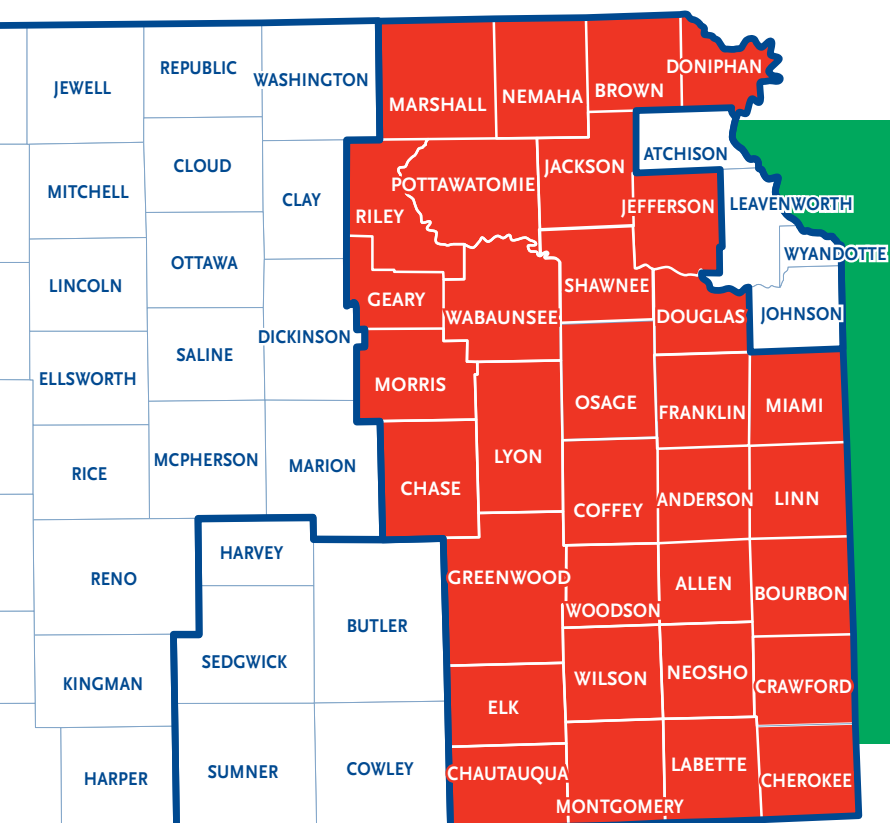
*Growing* ▪ *Learning* ▪ *Sharing* ▪ *Partnering*

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.

**ERC Resource & Referral, Inc., d/b/a Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas**  
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# Table of Contents

- 1 Table of Contents  
Service Area Delivery Map
- 2 Letter from Executive Director
- 3 Growing with Child Care Providers
- 5 Learning with Families
- 6 Sharing with Communities & Businesses
- 7 Partnering with You
- 8 2017 Board of Directors & Staff Directory
- 9 2017 Financials  
Agency Funding



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

# Letter from Executive Director

Dear friends,

This annual report highlights some of the agency's significant activities and accomplishments in 2017. After a very tumultuous funding year in 2016, 2017 focused on finding our new equilibrium. The staff and board worked diligently to maximize the impact of our programs and services while exploring new ways of meeting the needs of the child care programs and families we serve.

Some great things happened in 2017. New funding supported the expansion of our online course offerings, allowing us to serve child care programs from throughout our region and beyond. Courses focused on age-appropriate early learning curriculum aligned with the Kansas Early Learning Standards. Child care programs in Shawnee County also had access to classroom resources and coaching support as they implemented new teaching strategies in their classrooms. Additionally, a project focused on worksite wellness in child care brought professional development covering a variety of topics around caregiver well-being, with courses offered online and in face-to-face settings. Those participating in these classes had the opportunity to benefit from coaching support and access to additional resources and assistance. This aided in providing improved child care environments as child care providers explored techniques to improve their job satisfaction and reduce stress in their workdays. A capacity building grant kicked off in 2017 that focused on updating the website and supporting infrastructure in order to better support our volunteer recruitment, engagement and retention strategies. This work extended into 2018, and we look forward to continuing to improve our efforts in this area.

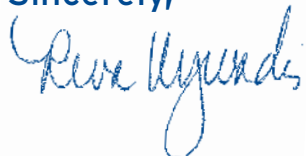
As the year concluded, we also took a bold step of faith and purchased a residential property to use as the 2018 Designers' Showhouse. The house was renovated and sold in 2018. This first ever "flip" of a home brought a new approach to the agency's long-standing, grassroots fundraiser. We are so grateful for the significant community support for this project each year and the resources it generates to support programs and services benefiting children and families.

**All this is possible because of you.** It is the support of our volunteers, donors, area businesses, community partners and foundations that all come together to make great things happen! Families have been strengthened and empowered to choose child care that meets their unique needs. Reliable, high-quality child care enables local businesses to have access to a workforce they can depend on. Child care providers and teachers have expanded 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. Because of you, local investments in early childhood made a measurable impact in 2017 and lives have been positively changed. Most important of all, we have collectively been able to build brighter futures for many young children who have benefited from agency programs and services.

**We know there is still much to do.** We continue to closely monitor the changing landscape in the early childhood field and explore new ways to meet emerging needs. We continue to look for new funding opportunities to sustain and expand this imperative work, knowing the crucial importance of every dollar to fulfilling our mission.

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

Sincerely,



Reva Wywadis, Executive Director



# Growing with Child Care Providers

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas helped **child care providers** grow by offering access to resources and information, professional development and coaching opportunities.

In 2017...

- **1,765** child care programs throughout the 33-county region and their staff were served by the agency.
- Early childhood classroom materials were enhanced through resources made available to the service delivery area through our Lending Library services. In 2017, **916** materials were checked out to child care programs through the Topeka, Lawrence and Pittsburg libraries.
- Over **233** professional development sessions with a total of **2,278** attendees helped child care providers and teachers improve their quality of care and meet licensing requirements through face-to-face and online learning options.
- **85** child care center directors and administrators from **40** child care facilities participated in trainings and peer learning through Director's Toolbox sessions offered by the agency. One of these sessions held in July of 2017, "**Director's Toolbox: Understanding and Implementing the New Licensing Regulations,**" was presented by KDHE's North Central Regional Administrator, Star Robinson. New child care licensing regulations went into effect on May 12, 2017, and the agency wanted to offer child care center directors the opportunity to gather additional information surrounding the changes, as well as share implementation strategies and ideas amongst themselves.

"Our teachers have benefited so much from the personal coaching time. It's been a huge blessing to me as a director without an assistant. I have not been able to spend this one-on-one time with the teachers. It has improved our program tremendously, which improves the outcomes for many children."  
-Child Care Program Director



## Growing with Child Care Providers, cont.

- From July through December of 2017, **33** health and safety classes were offered at a reduced rate to child care providers thanks to funds raised at Topeka Gives 2017, a fun day of giving sponsored by the Topeka Community Foundation. These classes helped the **394** participants meet the new health and safety education requirements. The four new health and safety classes listed below were also introduced in 2017.
  - Medication Administration in Child Care
  - Happy Meals: Safe Food Practices and Allergy Awareness
  - Emergency Preparedness for Child Care Providers
  - Keeping Children Safe: Environment and Transportation Safety
  
- Multiple 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 **1,000** 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 child care programs making measurable quality improvement during the year.
  
- With the assistance of Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas and the collaborative partners, the **Capital Area Successful Start website** was launched in September of 2017. The new website offers information about the collaborative, what they do, the partners involved, who is served, etc. The new site can be viewed at [www.casstopeka.org](http://www.casstopeka.org).

“My concept of [a] block area has definitely changed through this class. I don't see it as just a free time anymore, but a really useful tool to help introduce children to larger concepts and how we can do that. The biggest takeaway I got from this class is how to make block play lead the children to make their own discoveries and guide them to engineering concepts. I also came away with a better understanding of questions that I can ask the children in order to get them thinking about math and engineering concepts while they are playing. I look forward to watching them construct their own knowledge and aiding them in that process. Thanks for sharing!”

*-Child Care Provider & Professional Development Event Participant*



# Learning with Families

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas helped Kansas **families** learn by providing them with information about child care in their area, as well as tips and resources to assist 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 in the workforce.

## In 2017...

- A total of **13,156** child care referrals were completed through the Child Care Aware® of Kansas Parent Resource Center operated by Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas.
- **8,520** families used the Parent Resource Center, either by calling or utilizing the online service.
- **12,003** children 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 access to **community information** about other programs and support services in addition to their referral lists. These support services include information about home visitations, child screenings and health agencies.



“The service was excellent! [The Resource Specialist] did an excellent job going over everything with me and was so friendly. Choosing child care is a terrifying experience and [they] really made me feel so much better about moving forward and looking for child care.”

**-Parent Resource  
Center Client**

# Sharing with Communities & Businesses

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas shared supply-and-demand data with **communities** and **businesses** to help guide economic development efforts in their area. Communities could not attract and retain businesses and a qualified workforce without the capacity to provide child care for those families that need it.

## In 2017...

- On June 6, 2017, Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas participated in **Topeka Gives**, a fun day of giving sponsored by the Topeka Community Foundation. This event not only allowed our agency the opportunity to raise additional funds, but it also gave us the opportunity to connect with other area non-profits and hundreds of community members. It was a terrific networking event that allowed the agency to share our mission with many. The 2017 Topeka Gives event had 168 participating organizations.
- Agency staff participated in various health fairs, back-to-school fairs, job fairs and other **events** throughout the region to share information regarding high-quality early childhood education topics, as well as to support communities, local businesses and families.
- **Giving Tuesday** is an annual global day of giving that is held the first Tuesday following Thanksgiving. Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas partnered with the community on 2017's Giving Tuesday (November 28) to accept donations of gently used or new books and toys for young children. All donations were then distributed to child care programs in the service delivery area that could utilize the materials.
- Agency staff are actively involved with **Momentum 2022**, a Topeka/Shawnee County strategy focused on economic development and making our area more competitive locally and nationally. Under the strategic initiative of developing homegrown talent, ensuring that all children are ready for kindergarten was identified as critical to the community's progress and success. By partnering with others in the community with expertise in early childhood development and age-appropriate learning, recommendations for continued investments in programs and services impacting school readiness have been brought to the forefront.



# Partnering with You... 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 families. Below are research-based uniform messages and ways we can all get involved on national, state and community levels.

## 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

Research shows 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. Support efforts to increase the child care reimbursement rate for child care subsidies up to 75% of the current market rate, as the current rates (that in some areas are as low as 19% of the current market rate) make it difficult for providers to serve subsidy eligible children making it nearly impossible for many low-income families to access quality child care programs for their children.

At the **community 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, <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org>, for updated information on public policy and advocacy issues.





# Our People Grow, Learn, Share & Partner Together

## 2017 Board of Directors

Beth Nelson, *President*  
 Cora Spencer, *President-Elect*  
 Lori Downing, *Secretary*  
 Kathleen Heaney, *Treasurer*  
 Melissa Wangemann, *Immediate Past President*  
 Ashley All  
 Jared Bixby  
 Linda Broyles  
 Joshua Decker  
 Jené Haas  
 Rhonda Hernandez  
 Crystal Jones  
 Jane Tilghman

## Staff Members

*(as of Dec. 2017)*

Reva Wywadis, *Executive Director*  
 Becky Meyer, *Accountant*  
 Eryn Allen, *Marketing & Communications Coordinator*  
 Debra McClelland, *Research & Data Specialist*  
 Laurie Pigg, *Parent Resource Center Manager*  
 Lori Boos, Billie Segrist, *Resource Specialists*  
 Bianca Garcia, *Bilingual Resource Specialist*  
 Marie Treichel, Renee Wohletz, *Provider Services Managers*  
 Grace Cott, Audrey Danielson, Deb Danielson, Michelle Gilbert,  
 Talia Juiliano, Rebecca Quigley, Hope Williams,  
*Early Care & Education Specialists*  
 Nancy Rohr, *Inclusion & Transition Specialist*  
 Stephanie Prue, *Library Resource Specialist*

Volunteers contributed over 2,000 hours of time to Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas in 2017, furthering the mission of serving children and families throughout the region.



# 2017 Financials

## Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2017

Assets	2017
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 336,742
Receivables	294,499
Investments	155,056
Property Held for Sale	262,372
Other	59,129
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>1,107,798</u>
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Accounts & Notes Payable	198,853
Accrued Expenses	69,186
Unearned Revenue	31,712
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>299,751</u>
Unrestricted	591,872
Temporarily Restricted	152,761
Permanently Restricted	63,414
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>808,047</u>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<u>\$ 1,107,798</u>

## Agency Funding

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

- Kansas Department for Children & Families through Child Care Aware® of Kansas
- 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
- Capitol Federal Foundation®
- Topeka Credit Union Foundation
- Topeka Active 20/30 Club
- Individual Donor Support
- Support from Area Businesses & Corporations
- Designers' Showhouse Fundraiser

## Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2017

Unrestricted Revenues	
<b>Grant &amp; Contract Income</b>	
Child Care Aware® of Kansas	\$ 433,139
Capital Area Successful Start	466,353
United Way	129,097
Other Grants or Programs	61,462
<b>Other Revenue</b>	
Showhouse & Other Special Events-net of expenses	77,528
Provider Training	20,658
Donations & Contributions	17,065
Other Revenue	14,733
<b>Unrestricted Revenue, Gains &amp; Other Support</b>	<u>1,220,035</u>
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	2,050
<b>Total Unrestricted Revenue, Gains &amp; Other Support</b>	<u>1,222,085</u>
<b>Unrestricted Expenses</b>	
Program Services	991,433
Supporting Services	193,665
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>1,185,098</u>
<b>Change in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	\$ 36,987
<b>Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</b>	
Contributions, Program Revenue & Memberships	151,897
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	(2,050)
<b>Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</b>	149,847
<b>Permanently Restricted Net Assets</b>	
Contributions	133
<b>Change in Permanently Restricted Net Assets</b>	133
<b>Change in Total Net Assets</b>	186,967
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	<u>621,080</u>
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 808,047</u>