

Save the Dates

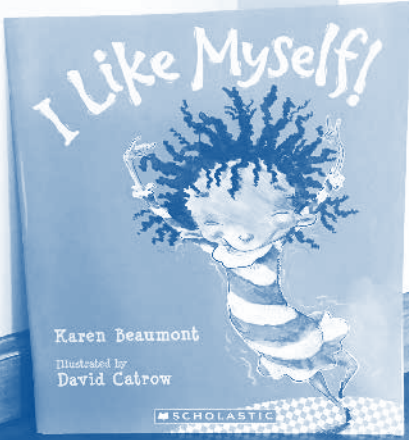
ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Kicking Off November 2019

2019 KANSAS READS TO PRESCHOOLERS MONTH

November 2019

This year's chosen book for Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Month is "I Like Myself," written by Karen Beaumont and illustrated by David Catrow.



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

Thu., Nov. 21, 2019
 Fri., Nov. 22, 2019
 Tue., Dec. 24, 2019
 Wed., Dec. 25, 2019
 Wed., Jan. 1, 2020

Dear friends,

The final months of the year bring lots of activity and many celebrations. We recognized our wonderful volunteers who give of their precious gift of time to support the agency's mission at a volunteer thank you party in September. Jessica Lehnherr, United Way of Greater Topeka's president and CEO, spoke at the event about the power of volunteering and cultivating new volunteers. Many of those in attendance helped with the 2019 Designers' Showhouse, which has now been sold and turned over to a new family who will love and care for this beautiful home.



Jessica Lehnherr at Volunteer Event

The Designers' Showhouse, our grassroots fundraiser, generates much-needed revenue to support programs and services for children and families. The success of this "labor of love" is only possible because of the generous support of so many—volunteers, contractors, craftsmen, donors, sponsors and all those that turn out to attend events and support our cause. I am so humbled when I consider all that people are willing to do when they know that their efforts will do great things for kids. Thank you to all who played a role, big or small, to make the 2019 Designers' Showhouse a success!

Our board of directors is working hard on the development of a three-year strategic plan that will guide the agency as we move ahead. While we have many strong programs and systems in place, we have identified some areas where growth and innovation are needed as we adapt to the changing landscape in our industry. It is an exciting time in the early childhood field, as partners across the state work together to create a comprehensive system that better serves children and families.

The challenges many families face are complex and not easy to solve; however, as an agency, we are well-positioned to accept new opportunities for expanding our role in meeting the needs of those we serve. We have an amazing team of caring professionals that work hard each and every day to improve the opportunities

CONTINUED INSIDE



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

CORPORATE OFFICE: 1100 SW Wanamaker Rd., Ste. 201, Topeka, KS 66604

785-357-5171 • 1-877-678-2548 Toll Free • 785-357-1813 Fax

<https://east.ks.childcareaware.org> • info@east.ks.childcareaware.org

facebook.com/ChildCareAwareKS • twitter.com/ccaeks • pinterest.com/ccaks

BOARD & STAFF..

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Jane Redger, Nancy Rohr, Tori Utz,
Successful Connections Parent
Resource Specialists
Mia Gardner, Program Support Specialist
Stephanie Prue, Library Resource Specialist

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

families have for finding high-quality early learning settings for their children that will put them on the path to success in school and in life. We help families connect with resources and services in their community to help them better meet their parenting needs. It is such important work, and it is only possible because of the strong support we have from our donors and friends like you. We are so grateful!

As we plan for the 2020 year (which seems hard to believe!), we know that we will have to work hard to ensure that we have the resources and capacity to accomplish the needs that are ahead. We will depend on financial support from people who share our commitment to making things better for the families with young children who reach out for assistance. The 2020 Designers' Showhouse will be a key strategy for generating needed revenue, and we are discussing some fun and exciting ways to celebrate our 40th annual Designers' Showhouse.

With printing and postage costs rising, we are moving this publication to an electronic newsletter in 2020 as a cost-saving measure. If we have an email address on file for you, look for our January edition in your inbox! If you have an email, but you have not shared it with us, please do so by emailing info@east.ks.childcareaware.org. This is one small way we can direct more of the resources that we have to supporting programs and services. If you do not use email or simply prefer to receive a printed version in the mail, let us know and we will provide that to you. We want to stay in touch!

If you would like to learn more about the work we do or want to consider opportunities to get involved in a new way, please connect with me. I would love to visit with you and answer any questions you might have. Together, we can make a difference!

Until next time...



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Thanks to a capacity-building grant from the Kansas Health Foundation, MB Piland Advertising + Marketing was hired to lead the agency through a strategic planning process. The staff and board of directors were surveyed regarding the agency's current strategic plan. A retreat was held with the agency's board of directors on Sept. 18, 2019, resulting in much creative brainstorming about positioning the agency for future success in a changing landscape.

After the helpful retreat, the staff at MB Piland were able to review all of the feedback and input to begin creating a new and updated strategic plan for the agency. The final three-year plan will be adopted by the full board in December 2019.

DAY OF CARING EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

United Ways across the country host a day of volunteering each year. The United Way of Greater Topeka has given this day a special name in honor of their retired, longtime executive director, Nancy Perry. On Sept. 20, the Nancy Perry Day of Caring, more than 1,000 volunteers took time out of their day to help multiple non-profit agencies in the Topeka area. One group of volunteers from Security Benefit spent part of their day helping to make 350 cuddle blankets for new babies. These blankets are distributed by Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas' Successful Connections staff.

“For a lot of the moms that we meet with, this will be the only new baby item they will receive,” said Jane Redger, Successful Connections parent resource specialist. “Sometimes when we walk into a hospital room, the mom will be all alone because the father of the baby and her family are not involved in her life. The blanket is a wonderful way to put a smile on a new mother’s face.”

The blanket is only one item among many in a bag filled with helpful information and resources that these new families receive. Thank you to these amazing volunteers who are helping to enable us to reach more families.



HELPING NEW PROVIDERS HAVE A SUCCESSFUL START

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas developed a new program focused on assisting new or recently established family child care programs. Although we continue to recruit more child care programs for this new Successful Start program, we have begun distributing business resource kits to those enrolled. The participating programs will receive four resource kits over topics that will help them to successfully get their new business off to a successful start.

- Kit 1: Getting Organized for Success (*contents pictured below*)
- Kit 2: Successfully Engaging Families
- Kit 3: Successful Interactions
- Kit 4: Continuing to Successfully Grow in the Profession

Each kit contains books and activity ideas to engage the kids. They also contain tips and ideas shared by experienced child providers and licensing surveyors that include strategies for supporting the child care provider, the children and the families. Participants will benefit from follow-up coaching with a Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas early care and education specialist after the delivery of each kit. A free business course covering writing contracts and policies, as well as other helpful information, is also included in this program.

Funding for the Successful Start program is provided through Child Care Aware® of Kansas.



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2018 Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas Annual Report “At-a-Glance” is now available on our website, <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org>. This report contains a letter from the executive director recapping 2018, program information, public policy information and more. Be sure to check it out!



2019 Capital City Learn & Share Was a Hit

On Sept. 21, 2019, Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas hosted the annual Capital City Learn and Share event for child care providers/early childhood educators. This event offers a day of learning featuring a well-known speaker presenting over a timely topic. There were over 200 child care providers/educators in attendance. This year’s keynote speaker was Shana Schmidt, LPC, IMH-E® (III). Shana captivated the audience with her interactive presentation, “Managing Emotional Mayhem.”



1100 SW Wanamaker Road, Suite 201, Topeka, KS 66604 • <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org> • 877-678-2548 or 785-357-5171

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