

Save the Dates

2018 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION EVENT & 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Fri., Oct. 12, 2018
See the inside of this newsletter
for more information.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Kicking Off November 2018



2018 KANSAS READS TO PRESCHOOLERS MONTH

November 2018

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

Thu., Nov. 22, 2018
Fri., Nov. 23, 2018
Mon., Dec. 24, 2018
Tue., Dec. 25, 2018
Tue., Jan. 1, 2019

Dear friends,

It has been a whirlwind of a year, and I am continually reminded of how blessed I am. I come to a job each and every day that I love, and I get to support a cause that I care deeply about. As a parent, and now as a grandparent, I know how quickly children grow up and what a short window of time we actually have to shape their hearts and minds. Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas is making a difference in the lives of others because of the work accomplished each day by our staff and many wonderful volunteers.

For the very first time, the agency purchased the home that was used as our 2018 Designers' Showhouse. We then sold the house following our spring tours. It was an ambitious endeavor, and we certainly learned a LOT. ("Flipping" a house looks so easy on TV!) Proceeds from the sale will go towards programs and services for children and families. We owe special thanks to our key benefactor, the Capitol Federal Foundation®, for providing Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas the opportunity to be innovative in our approach with the Designers' Showhouse project to an extent never before possible. Thanks to their support, the support of our other corporate sponsors, and the tremendous support of the community and our many wonderful volunteers, the 2018 Designers' Showhouse was truly memorable!

We have a lot to celebrate as we look to fall. We will honor our volunteers, past and present, at our Volunteer Recognition & Appreciation Event on Friday, Oct. 12, 2018. We will also be celebrating the agency's 40th anniversary (which is actually Dec. 4) at the luncheon. Register on our website, <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org>, or by calling the office at 785-357-5171, option 1. We hope you will plan to join us as we celebrate our past and look to the future.

As always, we are grateful to each of you for the role you play supporting the agency.

We could not do all we do without you!

Until next time...

Rene Uyendts



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

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BOARD & STAFF...

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STAFF MEMBERS

Reva Wywadis, Executive Director
 Becky Meyer, Accountant
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 Jamie Harrison, Data Specialist
 Sarai Reyes, Administrative Assistant/
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 Laurie Pigg, Parent Resource Center Manager
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 Grace Cott, Audrey Danielson, Deb Danielson, Michelle Gilbert, Talia Juiliano, Jennifer Pishny, Rebecca Quigley, Karen Rogenmoser, Early Care & Education Specialists
 Jane Redger, Nancy Rohr, Successful Connections Family Resource Specialists
 Megan Smith, Debbie Thomas, Links to Quality Community Consultants
 Stephanie Prue, Library Resource Specialist



Join us for a celebration!

2018 Volunteer Recognition & Appreciation Event 40th Anniversary Celebration

Friday
 October
12
 2018

• Topeka Collegiate School
 • Middle School Lunchroom
 • 2200 SW Eveningside Drive
 • Topeka, Kan. 66614

11:30 a.m. to
 1:00 p.m.

• *Lunch will be served.*

• Pasta bar, salad, breadsticks, dessert and beverages.

A reservation for each attendee is required.

Please RSVP online at <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org>
 or call 785-357-5171, option 1.

BT & Co. DONATES AUCTION PROCEEDS TO AGENCY



BT & Co. staff present a check to Executive Director Reva Wywadis.
 Front row from left: Reva Wywadis, Sarah Robert, Hannah Smith, Abigail Thomas.
 Back row from left: Kyle George, Gary Knoll.

Berberich Trahan & Co., P.A. (BT & Co.), a certified public accounting firm located in Topeka, recently held its 10th annual benefit auction with their employees. Their staff of around 30 gathered in July for an afternoon of live and silent bidding, games, food and fun. All of the proceeds from the afternoon's activities were then donated to a previously chosen area non-profit. Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas was the privileged recipient of this year's auction proceeds, \$5,200.

The auction included a vast variety of items, including gift cards, purses, a reserved parking spot at their office, a wagon stocked full of gardening supplies, and so much more. The highest winning bid went towards a set of luggage. This was the second year that their agency brought in a live auctioneer, which added to the excitement and the thrill of competition amongst the bidders.

Thank you to BT & Co., P.A., and your amazing staff for your generosity and your continued support of Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas and our mission!

BT & Co. staff and auctioneer, Andy Conser, during their live auction.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

Successful Connections, a program previously spearheaded by the United Way of Greater Topeka, has continued to grow and provide services since it came under the new direction of Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas in January of 2018. Successful Connections provides support for pregnant women and families of new babies by connecting them to community resources that can make them better able to provide safe, stable and nurturing relationships with their child. It offers families one-on-one visits to determine their specific needs, and then connects the families with agencies offering support services. Expectant parents and families with children ages birth to 5 years old who reside in Shawnee County are able to access this program free of charge. Between Jan. 1 and June 30, Successful Connections reached out to assist 363 at-risk families. For more information about Successful Connections, visit <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org/families/family-resources> or call us at 785-357-5171.



Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas is offering the opportunity for child care programs to take their business practices to the next level. Starting this October, the agency will be offering four **child care business-related classes**, as well as a **round table opportunity**, for those that would like to grow their child care business. The child care business class topics include legal issues, contracts and policies, marketing and business ownership. The round table will focus on marketing-related topics, including promotion, social media, websites and more. All of these will not only be instructed by our knowledgeable staff, but they will also include guest speakers that are reputable professionals in their fields. These professional development opportunities were made possible through a grant from the Topeka Credit Union Foundation.

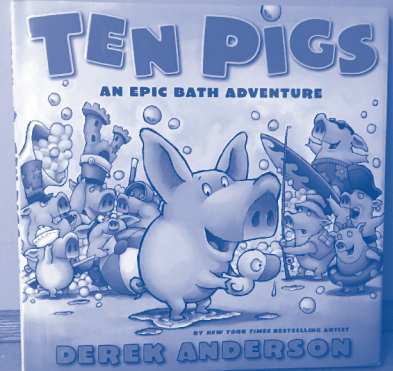
The agency is addressing the need for child care staff and capacity in our community by offering a new preparation program to those interested in becoming an early childhood teacher. This program, **Classroom Ready Child Care Teachers**, is a short-term training program that will enable participants to be eligible for hire as assistant teachers in local child care programs upon completion. The program includes the required KDHE health and safety trainings for all new child care providers, a peer learning community session, interviewing tips and more. Participants will also receive a fingerprint background check, a new requirement in order to be eligible for hire at a child care program. The program costs \$150 for each participant, but \$100 scholarships are available to Shawnee County residents. If you know someone interested in a career in child care, let us help! Contact Rebecca at rebecca@east.ks.childcareaware.org or 785-440-4525.



CELEBRATING READING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

November is Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Month, an annual initiative of the Kansas State Library. Kansas Reads to Preschoolers encourages reading aloud to babies, toddlers and preschool-age children.

This year's featured book is "Ten Pigs – An Epic Bath Adventure" by Derek Anderson. What started out as an enjoyable bath for one pig and his rubber duck quickly escalates to 10 pigs in the tub. This fun counting adventure has a surprise ending that adds to the entertaining story line.



Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas will be celebrating Kansas Reads to Preschoolers in a variety of ways, including hosting special professional development classes for child care providers titled *Learning Fun with "Ten Pigs – An Epic Bath Adventure."* Class participants will take a fun look at skill-building activities and experiences based on the book. They will learn how to use the book to build a curriculum that includes learning experiences around the room and in all domains.

Visit the North Central Kansas Library System's Kansas Reads to Preschoolers website page at <https://kslib.info/1017/Kansas-Reads-to-Preschoolers> for more about this fantastic event.

Parent Resource Center Client Quotes...

"I greatly appreciate this service and would highly recommend it to anyone!"

"The service was excellent! [The staff person] 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."

"Child Care Aware® is phenomenal! I am so glad I called them."

"The service was incredible, and the [referral] list was detailed and full of information. The program is fantastic and I think it's a great resource for Kansas to have."

"[The] staff was extremely polite, helpful and informative!"

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2017 Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas Annual Report "At-a-Glance" will be available this September on our website, <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org>. This report contains a letter from the executive director recapping 2017, program information, public policy information and more. Be sure to check it out!

Is your house the 2019 Designers' Showhouse?

Contact Reva at 785-440-4507 or reva@east.ks.childcareaware.org.



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

OF EASTERN KANSAS



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