

Thank you!

Thank you to all who toured, volunteered, sponsored, donated to and played a role in making the 2018 Designers' Showhouse a success. We truly appreciate you and your support!

Thank you to the Showhouse designers who offered their time and talents to make this year's house one to remember!

Living Room & Entry: Jan Davis & Brandi Whisler, *Carpet One® Floor & Home*

Transition Spaces: Leslie Hunsicker, *Leslie Hunsicker Interiors*

Guest Suite: Michelle Butler, *Ms. B Designs*

Master Suite: Meg Rahmeier & Team, *McPherson Contractors, Inc.*

Study: Carolyn Cox, *The Open Window*

2nd Floor Powder Room & Oasis Room: Megan Moss, *Megan Moss Designs*

2nd Floor Northwest Bedroom: Caroline Bivens, *CB Designs*

Jack & Jill Bath: Lorrie Dickey, *Lowes® Home Improvement Center*

2nd Floor South Bedroom: Carolyn Ward, *Simply Staging*

Main Floor Powder Room: Sarah Kellogg, *Kellogg Interiors*

Kitchen, Dining Room & Sunroom: Monica Parsel, *Winston Brown Remodeling*

Landscaping: Aaron Jones & Erin Clarke, *Schendel Lawn & Landscape*

Dear friends,

The 2018 Designers' Showhouse concluded in mid-May, and I continue to hear so many positive comments as people share their feedback about this amazing endeavor. For the first time ever, the agency purchased the property and performed a Designers' Showhouse "flip!" We learned a lot through the process, and look forward to using those lessons in the future.

A project of this magnitude takes literally hundreds of hours of volunteer time to execute. We are so grateful to all who worked on the project in any capacity. Board President Cora Spencer made design decisions in the role of the homeowner. Her keen eye and wise choices were noted by many who commented on how the house "flowed." Gina Nellis did a terrific job as this year's Showhouse chair. She worked tirelessly to recruit and coordinate our many volunteers. In addition to their volunteer roles during the three weeks the Showhouse was open for public tours, volunteers took on multiple new tasks this year. These tasks included pulling up old carpeting, scraping wallpaper and landscaping projects.



Showhouse Chair
Gina Nellis



Showhouse Coordinator
Leslie Hunsicker

The talented designers and craftsmen who showcased their amazing skills as they transformed this home into a Showhouse, orchestrated by Showhouse Coordinator Leslie Hunsicker, never cease to amaze with their creativity and vision. The end result of their hard work was superior.

Finally, a special thanks to the many corporate sponsors and businesses who supported this year's Showhouse. We hope you will patronize the businesses that support our agency, as their support is a key factor in the success of this annual event. To all of you, we extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all that you have done to make the 2018 Designers' Showhouse a success!

The Designers' Showhouse makes it possible for Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas to offer positive support and critically needed services to young children and their families. We work with child care programs throughout our service delivery area, helping them improve the quality of care they provide. We assist parents by helping them locate and choose child care that supports their child's growth and development, as well as connect parents with community resources to support their important role. What happens in a child's early years significantly impacts their success later in life. We are reminded daily of the need for the services we provide. Because of the support of our donors, partners and friends, our efforts continue to make a lasting difference for others, and we are extremely grateful. Thank you!

Until next time...

Paula Uyenda

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

The agency is hosting the **Capital City Learn & Share** on Sept. 22 in Topeka, one of the area's largest conferences for child care providers and early education teachers. This year's conference features an amazing keynote speaker, Dr. Dena Register, and is cosponsored by Capital Area Successful Start. Dr. Register is an Associate Professor of Music Therapy and Director of the Music Therapy program at West Virginia University. She will help participants explore the connection between music and literacy, and share why music is such a powerful teaching tool.

For the first time, the agency will also be hosting a **Conference in Southeast Kansas** for child care providers and early education teachers. Allen Community College in Iola is partnering with us and hosting the conference. This day of learning will take place Oct. 6 and features keynote speaker Holly Elissa Bruno. The conference will focus on ways to be successful early childhood education leaders by reinforcing the need for participants to be kind to themselves and offering them the opportunity to "(re)learn how to play and make work fun again."

The agency is rolling out the new **Second Step Project** this August for 20 child care programs (10 child care centers and 10 family child care) in Shawnee County. Second Step curriculum is designed to help children develop school readiness through building social-emotional skills. We anticipate reaching approximately 140 children ages 3 to 6 years old. This short-term project will offer curriculum kits, training on how to implement the curriculum, and a great opportunity for peer learning. This project was made possible thanks to a grant from The Women's Fund through the Topeka Community Foundation.

NEW PARENTS & PROVIDERS BENEFIT FROM TOPEKA GIVES



On June 5, 2018, Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas participated in Topeka Gives – a fun day of giving sponsored by the Topeka Community Foundation. Many area nonprofit organizations gathered inside of Topeka's Fairlawn Plaza Mall for one day, allowing individuals to come and learn about these organizations.

Attendees also had the opportunity to make donations to these organizations with the bonus of an additional "match" from the Topeka Community Foundation.

Proceeds from Topeka Gives to Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas will support children and families in our community in two different ways. Some of the funds will go towards making "cuddle blankets" that will be delivered by our Successful Connections staff to new moms in the hospital after the birth of their baby. The families will also receive information and resources connecting them to community services to support their needs.

Remaining funds raised will go towards scholarships to perspective child care providers and early education teachers, helping them access the training required in order to start work in the child care field.

Thank you to all who stopped by Topeka Gives and supported Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas!



Liz Steffen (left) & Donna Doel, current board members, representing the agency at Topeka Gives.

2018 Designers' Showhouse... Thank You!

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas wishes to thank those individuals, organizations and companies whose contributions helped ensure a successful Designers' Showhouse.

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Professional Remodelers Council
Topeka (Kansas) Chapter of The Links, Inc.
Westboro Neighborhood

Many thanks to all the area businesses that supported the Designers' Showhouse by promoting it on their marquees and attending with their staff!

Check Out Our New Website

Thanks to support from a Capacity Building Grant from the Kansas Health Foundation, Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas has a new website! Visit <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org> and check it out.



Wishing Debra a Wonderful Retirement!

Debra McClelland joined the agency on Mar. 10, 1999 as a resource specialist. She transitioned into a position that allowed her to utilize her exceptional computer skills and knowledge in 2012, while still working part of each day in the Resource Center. In 2015, Debra's data responsibilities were increased and her passion for data and data management became her full-time focus.

"Debra is a stellar example of a dedicated employee," said Reva Wywadis, executive director. "She comes in every day and does her job to the very best of her ability. She uses her knowledge to make suggestions for ways to improve our processes and the agency. She will truly be missed!"

DETAILS COMING SOON...

40th Anniversary Celebration & Volunteer Recognition Event

Be sure to watch for more information about this exciting celebration that will take place this fall in Topeka.

Welcome, Colin!

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas is excited to welcome an intern to the Topeka office. Thanks to funding from the Kansas Health Foundation, Colin Truhe will be completing leadership and mass media internships with the agency this summer. Colin is a senior at Washburn University, majoring in communication studies and mass media with an emphasis in public relations. He is also earning a minor in leadership studies. On campus, Colin is involved with the Leadership Institute, the Honors Program and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. Although he is originally from Salina, he enjoys giving back to the Topeka community. Colin volunteers annually with the Race Against Breast Cancer, Festival of Trees and supports Big Brothers Big Sisters of Topeka. As part of his internship experience, Colin will also be participating in the Top City Intern program through the Greater Topeka Partnership.

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