

With your support, Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas is BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES!

FOR FAMILIES... By helping them locate child care and connecting them with community resources.

FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS & EARLY EDUCATION TEACHERS... By providing workforce training, coaching, support and curriculum resources to improve the quality of their services.

FOR CHILDREN... By helping to ensure that every child has access to a high-quality early learning experience that prepares them for success in school and in life!

Since our inception 40 years ago, our agency has received many stories of how our programs and services have helped build brighter futures for children and families in our area. We continue to hear of great successes achieved within child care programs and amongst the child care providers and early education teachers. All of these amazing accomplishments would not have been possible if it were not for those who have helped to support this agency over the years. We celebrate these past achievements as we look ahead to the future needs facing so many in our community. We cannot do this important work alone. All that we accomplish every day is done in partnership with others, and your support is vital to our ability to offer these programs and services. Please consider making a gift so that our work can continue by visiting <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org> and clicking on the red "DONATE NOW" button.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathleen Heaney, President
 Joshua Decker, President-Elect
 Lori Downing, Secretary
 Jane Tilghman, Treasurer
 Liz Steffen, Treasurer-Elect
 Cora Spencer, Immediate Past President
 Ashley All
 Lucinda Anstaett
 Jared Bixby
 Deb Crowl
 Donna Doel
 Joleen Klausman
 Beth Nelson
 Debra Ricks
 Cherie Sage
 Catherine Shafer
 Sarah Snyder
 Jamie Stafford
 Beth Toland
 Krystal Yegon

STAFF MEMBERS

Reva Wywadis, Executive Director
 Becky Meyer, Accountant
 Eryn Allen, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
 Jamie Harrison, Data Specialist
 Sarai Reyes, Administrative Assistant/Bilingual Resource Specialist
 Laurie Pigg, Parent Resource Center Manager
 Lori Boos, Billie Segrist, Resource Specialists
 Marie Treichel, Renee Wohletz, Provider Services Managers

Grace Cott, Audrey Danielson, Deb Danielson, Susan Drewelow, Michelle Gilbert, Talia Juiliano, Jennifer Pishny, Rebecca Quigley, Karen Rogenmoser, Early Care & Education Specialists
 Jane Redger, Nancy Rohr, Tori Utz, Successful Connections Parent Resource Specialists
 Megan Smith, Debbie Thomas, Links to Quality Community Consultants
 Stephanie Prue, Library Resource Specialist



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Award Photos from the 2018 Volunteer Recognition & Appreciation Event & 40th Anniversary Celebration



Each of the photographs above include Reva Wywadis (left), executive director of Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas, and Cora Spencer, the 2018 board president.
 (Top row, from left) Valerie Thieme, United Way of Greater Topeka; Leadell Ediger, Child Care Aware® of Kansas; Marsha Pope, Topeka Community Foundation
 (Bottom row, from left) Peggy Johnson, United Way of Douglas County; Janice Smith, Kansas Children's Cabinet; Tammy Dishman, Capitol Federal® Foundation; Erin Aldridge, Junior League of Topeka

Learn more about what we do & why we do it by checking out our new video!

Watch it on the Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas website at <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org/about-us>.

Save the Dates

2019 DESIGNERS' SHOWHOUSE

BARE BONES CHILI SUPPER KICK-OFF
 Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019
 See the inside of this newsletter for more information.

BARE BONES PREVIEW
 Friday & Saturday, Feb. 1 & 2, 2019
 See the inside of this newsletter for more information.

PATRON PARTY
 Friday, Apr. 26, 2019
 More information coming soon.

COMPLETED SHOWHOUSE OPEN FOR PUBLIC TOURS
 Apr. 27 - May 19, 2019
 More information coming soon.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD™

Apr. 8 - 12, 2019
 Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children that celebrates early learning, young children, their families and teachers.

Hello, friends!

On December 4, 1978, Everywoman's Resource Center opened its doors for business from an office on the lower level of the YWCA building. Formed as an information and resource center specifically to address the current and emerging needs of women, services focused on the areas of child care, employment, housing, and emergency and support services. Assistance locating child care was the number one request for services from the beginning, and services in the child care arena remain the primary focus of the agency's work today.



We celebrated this milestone anniversary in October at a luncheon event. We also recognized the tireless efforts of our many volunteers who help the agency with fundraising and other efforts that support our programs and services at this event. We will continue celebrating throughout 2019 by sharing quotes and stories of how the agency is making a difference in the lives of others.

We are also excited to announce the selection of the 2019 Designers' Showhouse! The agency has again purchased a home that will be renovated, used as our Showhouse, and then sold. The house is located at 1111 SW Ottawa Trail in the Indian Woods subdivision located off of SW 10th Street between Indian Hills and Auburn Road. This incredible house features four bedrooms, four and a half baths, and is coupled with a stunning setting on just under three acres.

Gina Nellis has returned as the 2019 Showhouse chair. She is already at work recruiting her leadership team and lining up volunteers. Leslie Hunsicker will serve as the Showhouse design coordinator for her third year in a row.

A Bare Bones Preview will offer the public the opportunity to come tour the home before the renovation work begins. The spring will offer a host of familiar and new opportunities to gather with friends and colleagues for a fun outing or event, all while supporting an important cause. Proceeds from this annual fundraising event and the sale of the home provide critical support for agency programs and services. We encourage you to get involved and support this worthwhile endeavor that benefits so many.

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



UPDATES FROM THE BOARD

ERC Resource & Referral, Inc., doing business as Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas held its annual meeting on Dec. 12, 2018. The following officers were elected for 2019:

- Kathleen Heaney, President
- Joshua Decker, President-Elect
- Lori Downing, Secretary
- Jane Tilghman, Treasurer
- Liz Steffen, Treasurer-Elect

The 2018 Board President Cora Spencer was thanked for her leadership and service.



(From left) Reva Wywadis, Kathleen Heaney & Cora Spencer

Jane Tilghman, operations director at Topeka Collegiate School, was elected to a second three-year board term.

Five new directors were elected to three-year terms on the board:

- Deb Crowl, Executive Director, Emporia Child Care
- Cherie Sage, State Director, Safe Kids Kansas
- Catherine Shafer, Special Services Supervisor, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas
- Sarah Snyder, Attorney at Law, Snyder Law, LLC
- Elizabeth (Beth) Toland, Early Childhood Education Specialist, Allen Community College

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

Research clearly shows the importance of early investments in the lives of young children. Simple actions like talking to children, reading to them, and playing with them make a significant and lasting difference in how they learn and will impact their later success as they enter school. Everyone of us has a role to play in supporting the little ones in our community who will later become our doctors, lawyers, teachers and business leaders. Being informed and engaged has never been as important as it is now.

As always, please contact me at reva@east.ks.childcareaware.org or 785-440-4507 if you have questions or thoughts to share. I welcome the opportunity to hear your ideas on strengthening our services to impact more children and families who need us. By working together, we can make sure that every child gets off to a great start in life and has the needed foundation for success in school and throughout life. As our donors, supporters, volunteers and community champions, we are extremely grateful to each of you!

Until next time...

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas is excited to be partnering again with Allen Community College for a free **Southeast Kansas Spring Conference**. Child care providers and early childhood educators have been invited to join us in Iola for "Powerful Interactions with Children" on Mar. 2, 2019. This amazing day of learning will feature multiple presenters and breakout sessions that will keep participants energized and entertained. Those that attend and participate will receive five in-service hours.

Enrollment for a new program in Douglas County called "**Get Set for Success**" is underway. Through this program, licensed child care facilities in Douglas County serving preschool children that meet risk factors will receive program supports geared at impacting school readiness. Funding from the United Way of Douglas County will provide professional development, and personalized coaching and support for teaching staff of participating classrooms as teachers assess children's individual growth and development. Families will also receive valuable resources to help them support school readiness for their child by extending the learning at home. Each participating classroom will also receive the Get Set for School® curriculum, purchased with funding provided through a grant from the Douglas County Community Foundation.

The **Successful Connections** program, part of the Capital Area Successful Start initiative funded by the Kansas Children's Cabinet, will benefit from a wonderful financial gift from FHLBank Topeka. Funding will purchase fleece for making cuddle blankets, distributed to moms who have recently given birth to a baby in Shawnee County. Along with these adorable blankets, families receive information about area home visitation programs, child development, choosing child care and other valuable community resources. Thank you, FHLBank!



PRIVATE EVENTS & GROUP TOURS AT THE DESIGNERS' SHOWHOUSE

Did you know that you could reserve the Showhouse for a special event? Treat your employees, have a meeting or hold your spring gathering at this year's Designers' Showhouse. The house will be available Tuesdays for these events, as well as in the evenings outside of normal hours and other scheduled events. This new option includes tours for all attending and use of the Showhouse event room. Bring in your own catering, or allow us to arrange a meal or treats for you. Pricing varies based on the size of the group and add-ons. More information will be coming soon, so keep an eye on our website if hosting a private event at the Designers' Showhouse sounds appealing to you! You can also contact Reva Wywadis, executive director of Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas, at reva@east.ks.childcareaware.org or 785-440-4507.

Group tours are another great option for special interest clubs and organizations, or even just a group of your fabulous friends! Groups of eight or more attending the Showhouse together may enjoy a self-guided tour during normal Showhouse hours. Special guided group tours are also available on Mondays by appointment. A lunch option is available by reservation for scheduled group tours. Advance reservations and payment are required. For more information about group tours, visit our website at <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org> or call 785-357-5171, option 1.

VOLUNTEER AT THE DESIGNERS' SHOWHOUSE

The 2019 Designers' Showhouse has a variety of opportunities for volunteers. Would you like to help out during the Bare Bones Preview by taking tickets or greeting guests? What about assisting with the actual renovation process? Would you like to help during the spring tours by taking tickets, assisting in the lunch room or boutique, or greeting guests and sharing information about the work done by the design team? Are you part of a worksite team or civic group that wants to volunteer a few hours or a few days to support this worthy cause in our community? If so, please visit our website at <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org> and tell us how you would like to help. You can also call 785-357-5171, option 1, for additional information.

Would you or your business like to become a Designers' Showhouse sponsor or advertiser?

Contact Reva at reva@east.ks.childcareaware.org or 785-440-4507 to find out how you can become a sponsor. Contact Eryn at eryn@east.ks.childcareaware.org or 785-440-4513 to place an ad in the Showhouse program book.

39TH ANNUAL DESIGNERS' SHOWHOUSE AT INDIAN WOODS

BARE BONES PREVIEW

Come and see the house before it is transformed by area designers and craftsmen! Be sure to give us your feedback and suggestions for each of the design spaces while you are touring.

The Designers' Showhouse is a fundraiser benefiting children by supporting Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas' mission. It is a creative partnership between the agency, designers and craftsmen that will transform the home that was purchased by the agency for public tours, activities and resale.

Join us as we commence the Showhouse season with the Chili Supper Kick-Off and the Bare Bones Preview! All of the activities below will be held at the 2019 Designers' Showhouse located at 1111 SW Ottawa Trail in the Indian Woods subdivision in west Topeka.

CHILI SUPPER KICK-OFF

Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Stop by for chili, beverages and a tour. This event is \$10 per person. Reservations are required. Register at <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org>, or complete the registration form to the right and send it to the address listed.

BARE BONES PREVIEW

Friday & Saturday, February 1 & 2, 2019
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This event is \$5 per person at the door. Reservations are not required.

Visit our website at <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org> for more details about the 2019 Designers' Showhouse!



REGISTRATION FORM

CHILI SUPPER KICK-OFF
Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Casual Dress, \$10 per person

Register and pay for this event online by visiting our website, <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org>, and completing the Bare Bones Chili Supper Kick-Off registration form. You can also return this completed form with payment to Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas, 1100 SW Wanamaker Road, Suite 201, Topeka, Kan. 66604, or call 785-357-5171, option 1.

Bring your friends for a fun night out!

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Please complete the following:

_____ Regular Chili

_____ Vegetarian Chili

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Number Attending _____

Total Dollar Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Check for Payment Enclosed

Please charge my card: (select type)

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Name on Card _____

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

CVC (3 digits on back of card) _____

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Signature _____