



CORNERSTONES
OF CARE



COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

2019



Partnering for *safe* and *healthy* communities.

In the pages that follow, you won't simply learn about what we do – you'll see what exactly makes our work, our children and families and supportive individuals like you so special. You'll discover that together we can make an even greater impact on the safety and health of our communities.

We know that you are reading this report because the safety and health of our communities matter to you. We know that these outcomes and stories matter to you! Just as they matter to the more than 15,000 children and families we help throughout the community. And just as they matter to our partners, and the compassionate nurses, therapists, educators and other professionals who work together at Cornerstones of Care to help children and families achieve safety and health.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 5 Letter from the CEO
- 7 Our Communities
- 9 Our Impact
- 23 Our Finances



LETTER FROM THE CEO



A lot can happen in a year. Looking back on 2019, it's astounding to see how much change occurred in our organization and in our neighborhoods. The year was marked by lots of "new". New families, new communities, new programs and new staff. However, much stayed the same.

We are still committed to providing trauma-informed care to the children and families that we serve, and we are, like every year, blown away by how much you went above and beyond to support our work and care for those in your backyard and across state lines.

Because of your generous donations of time and financial support in 2019, we:

- Partnered with more than 1,600 foster homes, expanding services to include three new Kansas counties.
- Brought Family Preservation services to 25 Kansas counties, serving 117 families.
- Worked with 2,081 volunteers who gave 7,778 hours of their time to our youth.
- Expanded intensive in-home services (IIS) and intensive family reunification services (IFRS) to work with 373 families in 48 counties across Missouri.
- Treated 443 youth at Homeroom Health, our medical, dental and behavioral health solution for infants, children, teens and young adults.
- Raised more than \$550,000 for our children and families through our partnership with the Super-Bowl-winning Chiefs at the Chiefs Charity Game.
- Provided 450 students with school supplies and graduated 15 resilient students from our day treatment schools.
- Received re-certification as a Trauma-Informed organization through the Sanctuary Institute.

This year, we commit to helping even more children and families overcome the effects of trauma in their lives. The need is still great, but together we can realize our mission of safer and healthier communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Cross".

Denise Cross, President and Chief Executive Officer



OUR COMMUNITIES

We know that children and youth have the best opportunity to thrive when they launch into adulthood from a caring and compassionate home. We've always been focused on keeping children in their community with a family. This belief led to the expansion of our services to new communities, including more Kansas Counties and St. Louis, Mo.

Expanding Prevention and Intervention Services in Two States

We believe that families can, through intervention, gain the skills and support needed to help them to remain safely together. In 2019, we were awarded a contract to provide intensive in-home services (IIS) and intensive family reunification services (IFRS) in 48 counties across Missouri.

We were also awarded the Family Preservation grant for the Kansas Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Eastern region, where we provide preventative services to families in 25 Kansas counties.

Opening Homeroom Health in Kansas City

Homeroom Health started as a simple idea: what if there was a place where youth and young adults could receive all of their physical, dental and behavioral healthcare needs under one roof, regardless of their insurance or Medicaid status?

Fast forward several years, hundreds of planning hours, dozens of generous donors and a partnership with KC CARE Health Center, and that dream is now a reality!

Bringing Foster Care Services to Kansas

Last year, the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) selected us as one of its providers of foster care services. With safety, wellbeing and stability for children and families as our top priorities, we began serving Wyandotte, Leavenworth and Atchison counties.

We are committed to building upon our decades of serving Kansas children and families through behavioral health, juvenile justice and family services to help improve the state's current child welfare system and, most importantly, to improve the experiences of the children it serves.





OUR IMPACT IN 2019



222 students received education on our Ozanam, Gillis & Blue Springs campuses and we partnered with **300 community schools**.



2,720 children and families received mental & behavioral healthcare. **249 youth** received intensive residential treatment and **2,471 individuals** received outpatient counseling.



2,716 children in foster care received services while we partnered with **1,618 foster, respite and kinship homes**.



633 youth received specialized support, including **211 young adults** in our transitional living program.



719 families received prevention and intervention services, including **403 families** who received intensive in-home services to keep children from being removed from their home.



2,563 community members received trainings, plus, **520 individuals** received foster care training.



community volunteers donated **7,775+** hours of their time

You raised \$392,000 at our Annual Gala!



You sponsored **1,304** youth's wish lists this holiday season

EDUCATION

*Giving students and educators the tools to create **safe and healthy** learning environments.*

Our academic programming began over 40 years ago with the development of our educational day treatment programs and has evolved to serve hundreds of students each year who require an intensive combination of special education and therapy services. Students in grades K-12 are referred to us from 25 different school districts in Missouri and Kansas.

Our educational day treatment programs provide individualized curriculum, small class sizes, and specialized therapeutic options. Students acquire coping skills and new learning strategies to progress academically, socially, emotionally and behaviorally with a goal of successfully transitioning back to their school district or graduating from high school with plans for their futures. Our school services are located on Cornerstones of Care - Gillis and Ozanam Campuses, as well as at our Blue Springs location.

Beyond our day treatment schools, we partner with other schools in the community. Our Behavioral Intervention Support Team (BIST) equips schools across the nation with the tools to understand trauma and keep children safe in the classroom. We also help youth aging out of the foster care system achieve their higher education goals through our Youth Educational Success (YES) program.



Caleb's Story

Caleb came to our therapeutic day treatment school as a fifth grader. When he arrived, he had difficulty regulating his emotions and succeeding academically, particularly with reading. Caleb is on the autism spectrum, and had a challenging time in his regular school environment. In addition, his home life was unpredictable, and violence was a common occurrence.

After Caleb was placed in our therapeutic day school, we worked with both him and his father, helping them to develop skills that led to a peaceful, healthy home environment. Caleb was able to work at his own pace, growing both academically and behaviorally. Caleb's home school district worked closely with us, supporting him in each transition. Both Caleb and his father expressed gratitude for the personal attention he received from our staff and from his district's special education coordinator.

Caleb graduated high school after returning to his home school full-time, even attending prom and other school-wide functions. He raises chickens, selling the eggs, and sometimes works as a farm laborer for his neighbors using skills he learned in our horticultural therapy program. Caleb is also employed full-time at a Kansas City business that manufactures pallets. We are so proud of him and his father, and grateful to have been a part of their story!



2019 Statistics

222

students received education in therapeutic school programs on the Gillis Campus, Ozanam Campus and Blue Springs location.

15

seniors graduated from our high schools.

MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Helping *individuals* and *families* heal from trauma and overcome behavioral health challenges.

Our mental and behavioral health services include outpatient counseling, substance abuse treatment, 24/7 intensive residential treatment, integrated healthcare and nurse case management. As a trauma-informed organization, we recognize the effects of trauma and seek to provide the right intervention at the right time to help them heal.

Why We Care about Trauma

In 2017, our partner, Resilient KC, released the results from an ACES Study of 3,757 participants in the Kansas City metro area. The ACES Study is a series of questions that can predict the likelihood of a series of health difficulties later in life. These are individuals are us, our neighbors and our family members. They belong to every ethnic and socioeconomic group. No one is immune to the effects of trauma.

As a child...

- 57% experienced emotional abuse
- 29% were bullied
- 27% witnessed violence
- 27% grew up in a neighborhood where they didn't feel safe



Matthew's Story

After two years in foster care, Matthew* began to show overly aggressive behavior toward his foster family, siblings and peers at school. Due to his age and behaviors, he began play therapy once a week with one of our therapists, Kirk. There, Matthew was encouraged to explore events and daily activities through play.

In the beginning, Matthew's themes of play centered around power and control. He sometimes would pretend to put others in unsafe situations and then act out harmful scenarios. This led to a discovery that his step father had been abusing him during his visits. A restraining order was filed, and Matthew began to feel a sense of safety and autonomy.

Soon, his play shifted to more celebratory and protective themes. He frequently led games of "treasure hunting" and ball toss, as well as collaborating with his counselor to construct things with blocks and Play-Doh. Matthew's aggressive behavior and intense emotional reactivity have faded away, while his caregivers continue to notice his social skills, safe expression of emotions and behavior improve.

**Name has been changed to protect client's privacy.*

2019 Statistics

2,720

children and families received mental and behavioral healthcare.

443

youth served through Homeroom Health.

2,471

individuals received outpatient counseling.



FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

Uniting and reunifying families, and providing support to youth in foster care and the homes that welcome them.

Children, teens and sibling groups enter state custody because they can no longer safely remain in their home. Our highest priority is to match all children and youth with nurturing temporary homes. Those foster families come in all varieties, including single parent, same sex, blended families and mixed race.

Each year more than 26,000 youth in the United States turn 18 without ever having families to call their own. At Cornerstones of Care, our job is to find, prepare and support the right family — the right fit — for each child in the state's care within the communities we serve.

When a child enters state custody, we work tirelessly to find a foster placement, and eventually a permanent placement with a nurturing family. It's in the best interest of the child to either safely reunify with their family, or find a relative/kinship placement with extended family or a familiar face — such as a coach or a teacher — within their community. Our priority is to keep siblings together whenever possible.



The McKims' Story

New foster parents Josh and Angie McKim received a call that a set of three-year-old twin boys had been removed from their home due to neglect and needed a family to stay with. Both of the children were nonverbal, developmentally delayed and needed a high level of assistance.

Their mother June* struggled with alcoholism, but was seeking help and was motivated to do what was necessary to achieve sobriety.

“Oftentimes, biological families have just gotten overwhelmed,” Angie says. “While there is always a reason for children to be removed, these families are in the greatest crisis of their lives.”

After two years with the McKims, the boys are back on track developmentally. Though the original goal was reunification, June decided that asking the McKims to adopt the boys was the best choice for her.

“They will live with us and take our last name, but, in truth, we are inviting June into our extended family as well,” Angie says.

**Name has been changed to protect client's privacy.*



2019 Statistics

1,517

children in foster care received case management.

2,716

youth received one or more of our foster care services.

YOUTH SUPPORT

*Helping youth gain **independence** through educational, living and social support.*

Happiness, intellectual growth, self-care, emotional and physical support systems are the things that make a strong and healthy individual. At Cornerstones of Care, we are dedicated to uplifting the children and adolescents in our communities to achieve health, happiness, competence and self-sufficiency.

Through our youth support programs, we provide stable living situations and help youth form lasting relationships. In addition to case management and staff support, we pair youth with coaches, tutors and mentors to emotionally and academically support them to pursue and achieve their educational goals. Additionally, mentors help our youth build life and social skills that will benefit them for years to come.

Our Pathways Transitional Living program offers affordable housing and a variety of options for young adults, ages 16-23, to learn the life skills they need in order to become more self-sufficient. And our Build Trype program provides a mentorship community that builds health, independence and empowers youth with employable skills such as construction, horticulture and culinary arts.



Zak's Story

Zak* joined our Build Trybe program while he was in residential care. He worked hard with our instructors growing produce and landscaping the space around our outdoor learning center. As part of the work crew, he also learned how to use tools and gained skills to be a reliable worker.

When Zak left residential care, he went into our Pathways transitional living program. Build Trybe partners with Pathways to teach vocational skills to youth and young adults to prepare them for living-wage jobs with real futures.

Continuing his Build Trybe tutelage, Zak joined a builders' space in downtown Kansas City. Along with a group of four other students, he learned how to build a number of projects, from raised beds to coffee tables, all under the guidance of our talented wood and metal instructors.

Because of the skills he built through Build Trybe, a local construction company offered Zak a job at a good starting wage and will even give him a company car to help him get to the job sites. Within a few months of hire, they plan to help him become a union member and give him a sizable hourly raise. All of this was possible through our youth support programs working together to set Zak up with the tools he needed to be successful!

**Name has been changed to protect client's privacy.*



2019 Statistics

633

youth received specialized support.

211

young adults received housing and learned life skills in our Pathways transitional living program.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Empowering families with the skills and resources they need to be successful.

We know that healthy families create stronger, safer communities. That's why we offer a diverse collection of programs and services focused on supporting families in our community. Many of these programs are free and voluntary, such as home visitation services and our ShowMe Healthy Relationships program.

Recognizing the importance of the family unit, our intensive-inhome and family services programs help families who are struggling to safely alleviate challenging situations and may be in danger of being separated. Often feeling overwhelmed and not knowing where to turn, our team connects the family to a network of community supports ranging from parenting education, life skills, stress management and improving coping skills. By relieving some of a family's worries and burdens, they can focus on just being together and connecting with one another.

Sometimes, children have to be removed from their family home to ensure their safety, but many have the goal of reunifying back with their families as soon as it is safe to do so. By building on established family strengths, addressing areas of concern and empowering positive family interactions, our intensive family reunification services (IFRS) and family preservation programs help families achieve the goal of getting their children back home.



Gabriela's Story

Gabriela was trapped in an opioid addiction, but got a wake-up call when she discovered she was pregnant with her son, Liam. Her mother helped her get into a rehab facility, where she was able to find freedom from her addiction and learn coping strategies to deal with some of the underlying stressors that led to it in the first place.

After Liam was born, Gabriela and Liam were matched with one of our intensive in-home services (IIS) specialists, Kristina. IIS provides immediate, short-term, in-home crisis intervention and education for families who need extra assistance and are at risk of losing their children due to any number of circumstances. .

“It was a godsend,” Gabriela says. “I felt really alone. Everyone I knew was from when I was an addict, and I lost all my good friends. It was so nice to have someone that I could talk to.”

Together, Kristina and Gabriela worked on parenting skills such as safe sleep and breastfeeding, and put together a relapse prevention plan. Kristina also connected Gabriela with community recourses that she could lean on after completing the IIS program. Today, Gabriela and Liam are healthy, safe and thriving!



2019 Statistics

719

families received prevention and intervention services.

403

families received services to safely keep children from being removed from their homes.

COMMUNITY TRAININGS

Offering *innovative learning* opportunities to build and improve community skills.

We value ongoing individual learning and community growth. Our team provides innovative learning opportunities for anyone who interacts with children and families in our community, including our own staff, individuals, groups, organizations and corporations. We utilize evidence-based practices and knowledge to help provide the necessary education for community members to assist with growth and change.

Our training team is committed to helping new employees and the community understand trauma-informed care. Through tools and resources, our staff works with children and families to develop skills and knowledge that will empower them to live safe, productive and non-violent lives inside and outside our organization. We often train other organizations in ways to adopt and implement their own forms of trauma-informed practices as well.

In 2018, we continued to provide our continuing education classes for behavioral healthcare professionals. Classes help compassionate individuals in our sector further develop their career, increase job opportunities and expand their knowledge. We're dedicated to providing affordable development courses, some of which are free to professionals and the community.



Human Trafficking Prevention Training

One of our most widely-attended community training courses focuses on identifying the signs of human trafficking in order to prevent its occurrence. Children, especially those who are abused or neglected in their own homes, are especially at risk of becoming one of the 20 to 27 million people trafficked worldwide for labor or sex.

Our training team provides an introduction to this modern form of slavery in a concentrated three-hour course. Participants explore the prevalence of the issue, recognize how traffickers prey on the vulnerabilities of others and identify indicators of trafficking. The course then gives an overview of resources and a brief discussion on best practices for reporting, prevention and safety.

A full list of available courses can be found at cornerstonesofcare.org/trainings.



2019 Statistics

2,563

community members received trainings.

520

individuals were trained to provide foster, adoption, respite or kinship care.

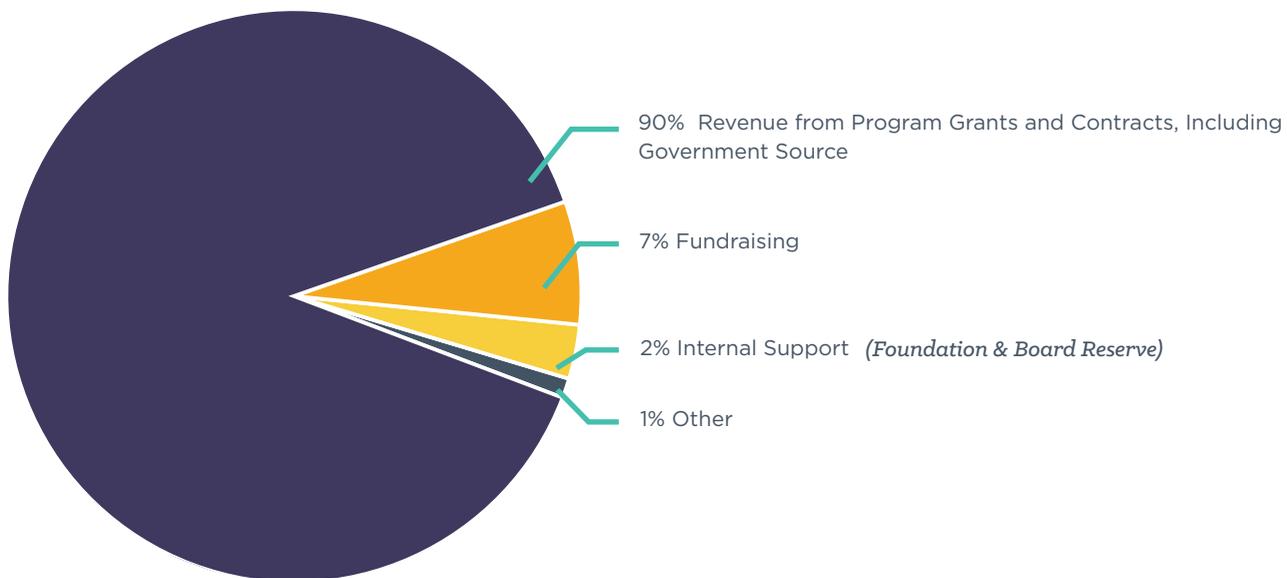


OUR FINANCIALS

Our highest priority is to ensure that children and families impacted by trauma have timely access to services and support whenever they request it – even during the most difficult economic times. The surest way to do that is to be conscientious stewards of our financial resources.

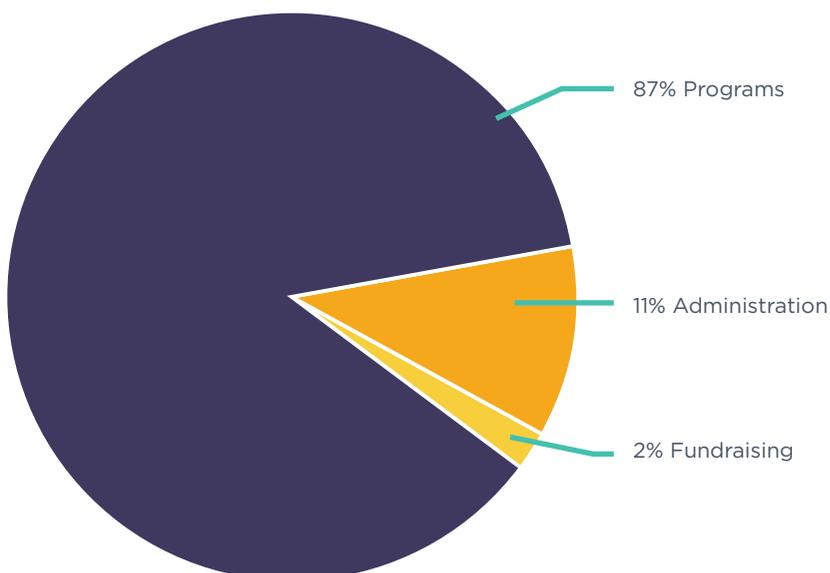
WHO PAYS OUR BILLS?

Source: 2020 Approved Budget



WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Source: 2018 Audit



Official 2019 audited numbers will be available Summer 2020. Please contact us at 844-824-8200 for a copy.



CORNERSTONES OF CARE

*Partnering for **safe** and **healthy** communities*

Learn more at
cornerstonesofcare.org

1-844-824-8200

