



COMMUNITY VOICE

Fall/Winter 2020

Aerial view of the Ozanam Campus taken in its early days after being founded in 1948.

Forward, Together

This year, we are celebrating 150 years of partnering for safe and healthy communities! As we look forward to the future, we're also looking back at our rich history.

Our legacy dates back to 1870 with the establishment of The Children's Home in Kansas City, an orphanage for youth whose fathers died in the Civil War. It would change names and functions over the years, eventually becoming our Gillis Campus, named after William Gillis, one of the Home's earliest supporters.

Unable to have children of her own, Bebe Spofford wanted to honor her late husband by helping the city's homeless youth. In 1916, she donated her 30-room mansion to the women of the Methodist Episcopal Church to be an orphanage and today it lives on as our Spofford Campus.

Ozanam, named for the Blessed Frederic Ozanam, was founded in 1948 by a social worker who began caring for boys identified by local churches, agencies and the courts as needing additional care. We honor his name at our Ozanam Campus.

Through the decades, we've adapted and changed in response to evolving best practices for addressing trauma.

We evolved from traditional orphanages to providing supportive homes through foster care programs and residential care. Strides in the field of mental health led us to add full-time therapists to our team. We began to offer day treatment education for children with special behavioral needs that were not being met in their schools' traditional classrooms. We opened and closed locations, expanded across state lines and piloted new, innovative programs.

With every change, every milestone and every new challenge, one thing has remained constant: the support of community members just like you.

You make it possible to offer a wide breadth of programming, including community-based prevention services, residential care, community trainings, policy awareness and advocacy, and mental and behavioral healthcare services. Your generosity reaches 15,000 children and families annually in Kansas, Missouri and beyond.

With your help, we pledge to meet the needs of children and families for years to come. Here's to the next 150!



Letter from the CEO

Denise Cross

Each day, our team members work on our campuses and in schools, communities and homes across Missouri and Kansas for safe and healthy families. This is one story.

Our intensive in-home services (IIS) team partners with families whose children are at immediate risk of being removed due to an unsafe home. These families are experiencing crises, often caused by trauma, mental illness, emotional disturbances, substance abuse, behavior disorders, neglect, abuse or family violence. Our IIS team provides fast, intensive, in-home crisis intervention and parent education when families need it the most.

When the Moore* family was referred to us, Amanda, our IIS manager, had concerns about drug use, lack of parenting skills, poor communication between the parents and a highly neglected home. The house needed significant repair and had clutter and trash everywhere. Insects and mice were invading the home.

The family worked hard to make household repairs, including clearing out all of the trash, cleaning and rearranging, which helped open up their space and make it safer for their children. Amanda also helped them get new furniture, including a couch and bunk beds.

Carrie, the mother, took all of the parenting education to heart and tried new things with her children to help set boundaries and be present. The work was hard and, at times, disheartening. Although Carrie sometimes vented her frustration, she always said, "But, I know this is for the best."*

Both parents remained sober despite drug treatment being very limited due to COVID-19. They also learned new healthy communication skills.

As the family came close to completing the program, only a couple items remained, including getting a dumpster and clearing out their basement. Once finished, the landlord agreed to send an exterminator. After completing this final requirement, Missouri Children's Division, who originally referred the family to our program, reported that they no longer have concerns.

"The whole time I was working with this family, it was always clear that Carrie loved those kids to her core and wanted nothing but the best for them. She just needed someone to tell her she had the power to do it," shares Amanda.

This story is just one of the thousands of successes our team has made possible despite COVID-19. Thank you for supporting our team, mission, children and families.

Denise Cross,
President/CEO

*Names have been changed to protect identities.

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Lending a Hand



Over the past few months, volunteering has looked much different due to COVID-19. Volunteers stepped up and provided 8,728 face masks to keep our children and team members safe. Many groups sent activities to keep the kids engaged while sheltering in place — they really enjoyed tie dying, movie nights with treats and the occasional pizza party. Thank you!

This fall, we have a need for small groups to freshen up our outdoor spaces and gardens for the youth. To schedule a group, contact Leah at leah.kent@cornerstonesofcare.org.

Wish List

The holidays will be here before you know it. As you immerse yourself in the magic of the seasons changing, we hope you will remember the children and families in our community.

Last year, wonderful donors like you provided gifts last year to 1,342 youth through our Sponsor-a-Youth program and 115 families through our Gift Gallery program! Please help make this possible again.



- **Candy** — Due to COVID-19, we won't be able to host our annual Trunk-or-Treating activities for the youth. Instead, we will be putting together Halloween goodie bags for the children. We welcome candy donations to fill those bags.
- **Sponsor-a-Youth** — Sponsor a youth in our care by purchasing items off their holiday wish list (available in early November). Due to the nature of our work, new wish lists will be added weekly as new children are brought into care.
- **Gift Gallery** — Donate new, unwrapped items for children, teens and adults. Families in our community-based programs get to shop at the Gift Gallery at no cost to ensure everyone in the household has a gift to open during the holidays.

We hope you will consider participating in these programs to help those we serve have fun holidays! To learn more, contact Leah at leah.kent@cornerstonesofcare.org.

Coming Together



Although our fundraising efforts changed a bit in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, you continued to rally around us with the full weight of your support! In July, our Cornerstones of Care Champions held the Go for the Gold Midsummer Games, a socially distanced weekend of fun pitting friends against one another in classic games. In August, the Chiefs Charity Game Trivia Night went virtual and was the event's best year yet! More than 370 participants competed across the country, raising \$50,343! We also had a great time chatting with Chiefs President Mark Donovan and Analyst Danan Hughes on August 21 during our About the Chiefs virtual Q&A. In September, 128 people safely gathered for our annual Disc Golf Tournament. Together, they raised \$18,000 while enjoying a perfect summer day! In October, 175 golfers followed safety protocols to participate in our first Chiefs Charity Game Tee It Up Fore the Kids golf event at Topgolf, raising \$30,552!

Where does your donation go? Chat with us to learn about your dollars in action — you won't be disappointed! Just contact Sally at sally.cook@cornerstonesofcare.org.

Rising to the Challenge

The phrase “back-to-school” looks very different this year. While it’s not easy to navigate, our day treatment program team is committed to a trauma-informed approach and quickly adapted to virtual learning.

Wasting no time, they became students themselves, learning how to use multiple new technology platforms and an increased level of documentation. They maintained a positive attitude and kept their students’ needs at the forefront of their minds.

The day treatment team engaged parents to make remote learning successful. Parents and students were contacted by phone, email or text, and arrangements were made to deliver school supplies and materials for weekly assignments. Through community support, we supplied computers to students who needed them. If a parent reaches out for extra support, a therapist, teacher or our safety team member stops by their home to help.

“We are still educators,” says Pam Sanders, director of education, Gillis Campus. “We didn’t forget how to teach; we can still impact the lives of our students and know that we made a difference.”

We applaud the dedication, determination and hard work from the day treatment team in their efforts to keep students safe and educated and families engaged!

Learn more about our education programs at cornerstonesofcare.org/education.



Wired for Survival

Our brains are wired for survival. This basic internal protective mechanism is called the fight/flight/freeze response. It is not a planned reaction, but a rapid-fire, total-body response to a perceived danger that we share with animals. When we experience strong emotions, our brain sends the signals to get through the situation by staying and fighting, flying (running away) and/or freezing in place.

Now imagine being a child in foster care. Many of the youth we serve have faced adversity their entire lives and, as a result, have overdeveloped fight/flight/freeze responses. To them, all news has the potential to be threatening. Even the smallest bump in the road can become a huge obstacle they don’t have the coping skills to overcome.

It’s important to remember that as a child progresses through this emotional roller coaster, a parent’s or caregiver’s response will either de-escalate or escalate the situation. Helping children and teens manage their fight/flight/freeze response takes patience, timing and skill. Be sure to give them time to process the information or allow them to step away from the situation for a moment if needed.

These steps will help the child get back to their “regulating” state. Then you can talk about what occurred and ways you can support them when encountering those bumps in the future. Creating a safe space for youth to learn to manage their emotions is key to teaching new coping skills.

Learn more about self-care and the Sanctuary Model® of trauma-informed care at cornerstonesofcare.org/traumainformed.



One of our teachers, Kristen Paddock, gearing up for the new school year.



Lighting the Way for Children and Families

Spotlighting Our Staff



*Felix Jacobson,
youth vocational
instructor*

Felix Jacobson is a youth vocational instructor for our Build Trybe program, where he works with teenagers in our Pathways program and local community partners. Together, they train youth in landscaping, horticulture, culinary arts and building trades. When he's not at work, Felix enjoys meditating, bike riding, playing bass guitar, painting, drawing, cooking and taking online courses for personal growth.

Why do you love working with youth? It is such a great challenge! It is so fun to be able to watch them grow through the experience. I feel so good when I encourage them to challenge themselves, try something new and watch them succeed and learn from the process.

What inspires you at work? It is inspiring to see someone build their self-confidence through work experiences. It's also inspiring when a Trybe teen takes on a mentorship role with newer Trybe apprentices. It's fantastic to be able to encourage and guide youth in the development and practice of positive leadership skills.

What do you hope for the youth you work with? We support and encourage developing critical thinking skills, creative problem-solving and a strong work ethic. I am excited to see how today's teenagers will change the future. I hope they learn that self-discipline is a gift they can give themselves. I hope they learn the power of delayed gratification. Self-discipline and delayed gratification are critical life components that can allow individuals to achieve their goals and live their dreams!

Learn more about Build Trybe at cornerstonesofcare.org/buildtrybe.

Caring for Kids and Creating Families Central Missouri



Expanding Services

Our Central Missouri team is growing! Through our partnership with the Missouri Alliance for Children and Families (MCAF), we are pleased to announce the expansion of our Foster Care Case Management (FCCM) program to now include Columbia and Jefferson City.

FCCM is a vital program to the safety and health of children in foster care, and our case management specialist care deeply for the youth with whom they are matched. They advocate for each child's needs and work with Missouri Children's Division to develop and implement treatment plans, ensure the best experience possible within their foster homes, and, when possible, help facilitate reunification with the children's birth families.

This addition of services means that we added eight new positions at our Columbia Missouri office under the management of Christy Collins, our director of the Missouri central region.

"We are excited about the opportunity to provide these new services to the area's most vulnerable children and families," explains Christy. "We look forward to partnering with the community to keep children safe and families together!"

MCAF is a collective of organizations, including Cornerstones of Care, dedicated to healing the trauma experienced by children and families through creative collaboration, high standards, best practices and an innovative system of care. Through this network, partner agencies and MCAF staff serve more than 1,600 children, youth and their families in the state of Missouri.

Learn more about our services in the Columbia area at cornerstonesofcare.org/communities/missouri/columbia.

The Power of Community Partnerships

With three campuses in Olathe, Kan., Grace United Methodist Church (UMC) has been in ministry for more than 160 years. Their passion for mission and outreach work is evident at their Center of Grace campus. This active ministry provides weekly community dinners, a clothing closet, English language classes, a Boys & Girls Club chapter and more. Partnering with local social service organizations is an extension of the mission work they do.

Over the years, Grace UMC has donated much-needed hygiene products for youth in residential care. This past spring, they amplified these efforts by creating individual tubs filled with hygiene supplies for boys or girls. The end result was 72 hygiene kits ready for our new arrivals.



Annually, Cornerstones of Care hosts a table at Grace UMC's annual holiday "alternative gift fair". Providing a space to raise awareness and an opportunity for congregants to make a donation is a much anticipated annual event. In 2019, Grace UMC's mission committee went above and beyond when they matched the congregation's donations!

"The congregation of Olathe Grace United Methodist Church is privileged to support Cornerstones of Care in helping improve the lives of so many," said Lois Waters, Grace UMC member. "We share the mission of taking care of those in need."

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we found ourselves unexpectedly in need of masks for our team, children and families. With one call, Grace UMC stepped up to the plate and sewed more than 200 masks, proving once again we can count on their support as a valued community partner. We are so appreciative of Grace UMC and all our community partners who work alongside our team keeping children safe and families together.

*You, too, can partner with us to support the children and families we serve!
Contact Sally at sally.cook@cornerstonesofcare.org to learn more.*

Honors & Memorials

Memorial and honor giving have a lasting impact on the children and families we serve by sustaining the long-term needs of our programs. You may remember a departed friend or loved one, or honor a living individual, by sending a gift in their name via the enclosed envelope or at cornerstonesofcare.org/donate. Please include contact information for those to be notified of your gift.

In Memory Of

Joan Cummings

Ms. Linchen Cordray
Ms. Beth Haines
Ms. Robert Koch
Ms. Josephine Kraeutler
Ms. Lisa Kraeutler
Ms. Lucie Medbery
Ms. Wanda Miller
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Mr. Mark Huck
Ms. Jessica Hutton
Dr. Howard Lubliner
Mr. Thomas McCay
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Thompson
Dr. Yuan Zhao

In Honor Of

Sally Cook

Dr. & Mrs. Charles M. Cobb

Did You Know?

In addition to making one-time gifts, you can support our mission by making recurring contributions on a monthly or quarterly basis. By signing up, you can divide your total contribution into manageable amounts throughout the year — for as little as \$15 per month!

Best of all, your regular support becomes a stable source of year-long funds we can count on. To show our appreciation, monthly donors will be recognized as part of our new Giving Circle.

Contact sally.cook@cornerstonesofcare.org to learn more or, to donate, visit cornerstonesofcare.org/donate and select "Recurring Giving Option."



CORNERSTONES OF CARE

300 E 36th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111

Partnering for *safe and healthy* communities.

- Education
- Mental & Behavioral Health
- Foster Care & Adoption
- Youth Support
- Family Support
- Community Training

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A VIRTUAL EVENT



NOVEMBER 6, 2020

The easiest way to positively impact thousands of lives is to join us at an upcoming event. With your help, we can ensure children and families are safe and healthy.

Join Us

BE THERE IN SPIRIT GALA
Nov. 6 — Now a Virtual Event!

Enjoy this year's gala from the comfort of your own home! With technology at our fingertips, we will deliver an unforgettable evening featuring inspirational stories from Spirit Award winners, silent and live auctions, prizes and more! There is no cost to attend but sponsorships include food delivered to your home!

Register to stream the event at cornerstonesofcare.org/gala.

Don't Forget

PIES FOR A PURPOSE
Oct. — Dec.

Send your friends or family a tasty treat or simply treat yourself! Pies for a Purpose gift certificates are redeemable for any Tippins pie at KC-area Price Choppers. With them, you don't have to stress over holiday baking or stocking stuffers. And you can enjoy your pie guilt-free knowing \$6 of every purchase benefit the children we serve.

Visit cornerstonesofcare.org/pies.

Upcoming Events

PIES FOR A PURPOSE
Oct. — Dec.
Certificates for use in grocery stores.
cornerstonesofcare.org/pies

BE THERE IN SPIRIT GALA
Nov. 6
virtual
cornerstonesofcare.org/gala

CHIEFS CHARITY GAME
Jan. 3
TBD
chiefscharitygame.com

QUESTIONS?
Contact Katie at 913.515.7951 or
katie.culbertson@cornerstonesofcare.org.

