



CORNERSTONES
OF CARE

Community Voice

FALL 2022



Inside

Your Gift Will
Keep on Giving 2

Elaina’s Wish is to
Transform Lives in Need . . . 3

Leave a Legacy with
Cornerstones of
Care Foundation 5

Build Trybe to Participate in
Programs to Train Youth in
Building and Conservation . . 5

Sluggerrr, Royals Charities
Open New Ozanam Campus
Playground 7

Join Us for the 40th Annual
Spirit Gala 8

cornerstonesofcare.org

Merideth Rose Named New President/CEO

Merideth Rose has been named the President and CEO of Cornerstones of Care and began her work at the agency in July. Merideth comes to Cornerstones of Care from the Community Services League in Independence, Mo., where she served as the Chief People Officer. Prior to that, she was Director of Neighborhood, Family Services, and Caring Communities for the Independence School District. Cornerstones of Care Board Chair Julie Barnett led the search team for the new CEO.

“We were looking for someone with experience and compassion to execute our strategic plan and carry out our vision,” Julie said. “Merideth has all of the qualities we wanted.”

In 2021, Merideth joined the Community Services League staff as Chief People Officer. Her work there included oversight of the organization’s diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. At the Independence School District, she oversaw 35 licensed social workers and case managers to support students from pre-school

| continued on page 2 |

Merideth Rose Named New President/CEO

| continued from page 1 |

to 12th grade. She led efforts to reduce barriers to student success, including domestic violence, homelessness, abuse, and neglect.

Merideth also served communities as the Public Affairs Officer for the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), serving as principal advisor and Deputy to the External Affairs Director. Merideth's work included the agency's largest Community Relations deployment in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

Merideth is beginning her tenure by learning about Cornerstones of Care's people and programs to ensure everyone is valued. That learning process will be followed by an intentional celebration of the organization's "why" and incorporating that sense of purpose into goals and strategies.

"Cornerstones of Care is a leader in foster care and adoption, supporting youth and families, and educating our community," Merideth said. "It is an indescribable honor to be selected as the next caretaker for such a phenomenal organization, and it is an assignment I do not take lightly."

Merideth looks to carry out the organization's mission of helping to build safe, healthy communities by building and enhancing community connections. Team members

will be encouraged to share that purpose throughout the community to enhance connections in their areas.

"I will encourage our community partners and Community of Care team members to adopt a culture of community-based leadership and engagement," Merideth says. "Our presence in and around professional civic networks, decision-making tables, and in the organic development of neighboring communities will further our reputation as agents of healing and programmatic change. Our greatest compliment is the sense of possibility, hope and transformation when Cornerstones of Care is in the room." ✨



Merideth Rose speaks to attendees at the August ribbon cutting of Build Trybe's The Shop.

Your Gift Will Keep on Giving



We are tremendously grateful to our donors, like you, whose contributions help fund our programs caring for children and families in communities in Missouri, Kansas and beyond.

In appreciation of your generosity, we are always improving the ways to make donating to our mission convenient and accessible to community members. With that in mind, we encourage you to consider becoming a sustaining donor through an automated monthly donation. Monthly giving provides the ease of scheduling a recurring gift and gives you the peace of mind knowing your support is helping our mission of hope and healing year-round!

A sustained donation on a monthly schedule provides trauma-informed care to families in need throughout the year. Monthly giving also gives you the ability to contribute in installments to spread your giving over the year at a level comfortable to you.

To become a sustaining donor with a monthly gift, visit cornerstonesofcare.org/donate and click the monthly giving link. In recognition of helping children and families for over 150 years, we encourage you to consider a monthly gift of \$18.70, to celebrate the year of our founding, but we welcome your monthly donation in any amount you choose. Your sustaining gift, when combined with the support of our collective community, makes a difference in changing the direction of a child's life each and every day, throughout the year.

Your support is important to our mission of building safe, healthy communities. We ask you to sustain that support by becoming a monthly donor today! ✨

—Chad E. Harris, Chief Development Officer



Make-A-Wish Missouri and Kansas staff alongside, Sally Cook, Director of Development and Chad Harris, Chief Development Officer, Elaina and her sister.

Elaina’s Wish is to Transform Lives in Need

Elaina, an eight-year-old cancer survivor, could have wished for a trip to Disney World or to see her favorite entertainer as a Make-a-Wish recipient. Instead, she wished to help others who are in need to make their day more special.

Her wish was to help as many people as she could. Elaina believes that more people need help than herself when they don’t have shelter, clothing, or a safe place to stay at night. She chose to help 15 Kansas City nonprofits, including Cornerstones of Care.

“I just love helping people and, when I do it, it makes me happy,” Elaina said.

On April 20, Cornerstones of Care was her first charity stop to deliver her donation of games, puzzles, and sensory toys for the youth we serve. Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas attended the event and proclaimed it “Elaina’s Wish Day” during a news conference. Elaina smiled when he put the Make-a-Wish sash around her neck and handed her the framed proclamation.

“Typically wishes fall into one of four categories: I wish to have, I wish to meet, I wish to be, and I wish to go. Every now and then, our chapter at Make-A-Wish Missouri and Kansas receives a wish to give back in which a child

uses his or her wish to benefit others. This was the case with Elaina,” Jeff Eden, Vice Chair of the Make-A-Wish Missouri & Kansas Governing Board said.

.....

“I just love helping people and, when I do it, it makes me happy,”
Elaina said.

.....

Elaina’s inspiration for her wish day prompted others to act. One was a nine-year-old girl living in Virginia, who saw Elaina’s wish video and was inspired to help her achieve her goal. Samantha* went to work and created homemade friendship bracelets to sell. She was able to raise \$1,000 and in turn bought the remaining items on our Amazon Wish List. Samantha and Elaina were able to FaceTime the night before her wish day and have become friends. Elaina is so excited she has a new pen pal.

Elaina’s simple act of kindness has been an inspiration for others to follow. Thanks, Elaina, for sharing your wish! ✨

*Name has been changed to protect the identity of the child.

Gifts In-Kind Opportunities

We partner with the community to provide as many resources as possible to help the children and families in our programs reduce barriers and challenges negatively affecting their lives. You can help by donating in-kind items.

Holiday Gift Gallery Wish List

Children and Family:

- Legos
- Hot Wheels/remote control cars
- Action figures
- Sports balls
- Creative arts & crafts
- Card games
- Board games

Teens and Adults:

- Headphones/earbuds
- Bluetooth speakers
- Journals/sketch pads
- Hoodies/sweatshirts
- Small appliances
- Kitchen accessories
- Pots/pans
- Reusable water bottles

Ongoing Needs:

- Backpacks
- Underwear
- Towels
- Box Fans
- Twin Size sheet sets
- Gift certificates/passes for outings (ex: movies, bowling, museums, sporting events)
- QT gas gift cards
- Football gloves
- Alarm Clocks



Volunteers from Turner Construction painting curbs red in front of the Administration building on the Gillis campus.



Volunteers from MarksNelson working at our farm site on the Ozanam Campus building a path.



Upcoming Events

We hope you will join us at an upcoming event to have fun and support our children and families. Learn more at cornerstonesofcare.org/events.



Oct 1 — Stock up on Tippin's pies for the holidays with Pies for a Purpose.

Nov 11 — Revel in ruby at our 40th Annual Spirit Gala at the Overland Park Convention Center.

Nov 29 — Matching funds and Power Hours make Giving Tuesday a great way to support our youth. Details coming soon on our Facebook page.



Dec 2022 — Join us at the NASB North Pole to spread some holiday cheer. To volunteer, email sally.cook@cornerstonesofcare.org.

Leave a Legacy with Cornerstones of Care Foundation

The Cornerstones of Care Foundation is made possible through generations of donors like you! It exists to strengthen our programs and services for years to come. Some funds are designated for a specific purpose, and others benefit our whole organization.

Last year the Foundation supported residential services, education, program staffing and administration, and an initiative to train our residential care team in the Behavior Intervention Support Team (BIST) model. Endowments also aided youth activities like horticulture, expressive arts, and recreation.

The Foundation is integral to our ability to meet evolving needs and fund new projects. Read more in our first-ever Foundation Impact Report at cornerstonesofcare.org/plannedgiving.

Here are several ways you can support the Foundation:

- Make an honor/memorial gift to recognize a special person or event in your life.
- Pledge a single or multi-year gift to grow our general fund or program endowments.
- Direct dollars from your IRA to leverage tax benefits and support our mission.
- Leave a bequest to create your legacy and help thousands of children and families.

We are here to answer your questions and provide free estate and gift planning resources to help you make informed decisions. To speak to a team member about your gift or for assistance setting one up, contact Laurie at laurie.minx@cornerstonesofcare.org or 816-508-3608. ✨

Build Trybe to Participate in Programs to Train Youth in Building and Conservation

Build Trybe, a Cornerstones of Care program, is participating in two programs through a pair of grants that will help train youth in the building and horticulture trades.

Build Trybe is opening a maker space to teach marketable skills to youth in foster care, made possible through an “Empower Makers” grant from Stanley Black & Decker as part of its Global Impact Challenge. Through a second grant, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Build Trybe is partnering with Heartland Conservation Alliance to train youth in conservation.

The Shop, located at 606 E. 31st St. in Kansas City, Mo., will provide workshops and classes for foster, underserved, and homeless youth to provide hands-on experience in construction. The Global Impact Challenge grant will award up to \$25 million over the next five years to nonprofits that support workforce development in the construction and manufacturing sectors.

“Build Trybe creates an opportunity for our youth as they transition from teenagers to productive adults,” said Chad Harris, Cornerstones of Care Chief Development Officer. “The Stanley Black & Decker Empower Makers Grant will help us expand our work to help our young people explore their future.”

Build Trybe served 267 youth in 2021 by providing instruction and hands-on experience in the construction, culinary, and horticulture trades. As the youth apprentices learn their trade, they build confidence in successfully building or growing products. Build Trybe has worked with youth in building trades to create items ranging from cutting boards to reception desks and conference tables.

“This grant means the world to us,” said Theo Bunch, Director of the Build Trybe program. “It allows us to create more opportunities for the youth we serve.”

As part of the EPA grant, Build Trybe will work with Heartland Conservation Alliance to train our youth in natural resources science and environmental management. The project’s goal is to recruit, train and certify 54 students, and to place 70 percent of them in environmental careers in Kansas City areas impacted by brownfields. The graduates will be eligible for employment with Kansas City area government entities, public land managers, companies, non-profit organizations and neighborhoods that are working to restore natural areas and create healthier green spaces.

The project will focus on selected vacant lots and the Municipal Farm, a 441-acre site in eastern Jackson County. It will revitalize the City-owned property at Municipal Farm and the surrounding Eastwood Hills Neighborhood. ✨



Board of Directors

Julie Barnett (Board Chair)
Community Volunteer

Amy Bradshaw
Torch AI

John Burgess
Walsworth Publishing Company

Hayley Cacioppo
emfluence

Derek Feagans
UMB

Ken Gerling
Burns & McDonnell

Elven Hickmon
Kansas City Southern

Jim Hogan
Community Volunteer

Thomas Kientz
Academy Bank/Dickinson Financial

Yvette Richards
St. James United Methodist Church

Andrea Russell
Bank of America, U.S. Trust

Lindsay Santee
Essense Designs

Jennifer Seyller
Mayo Clinic

Jody Vanarsdale
H&R Block

Alexandria Zacny
Turner Construction

Foundation Board of Directors

Kathleen Jackson, Chair
MarksNelson CPA

Kate Allen
Johnson County Community College

Jon Appelby
Citizens Bank and Trust

Dan Cranshaw
Polsinelli

Ryan Miller
The Miller Group

Johnny Orindgreff
Capital Portfolio Management

Brian Stewart
Kansas City Orthopedic Alliance

Corporate Challenge Supports Teamwork

Cornerstones of Care and Build Trybe received a \$17,375 donation from the Kansas City Corporate Challenge.

The Kansas City Corporate Challenge promotes health, wellness, and camaraderie by presenting participants with physical challenges that engage their bodies and minds through the spirit of corporate competition. Cornerstones of Care team members participated in several events, including our all-star kickball team.

Build Trybe showed its handiwork at the closing ceremonies by creating the centerpieces. *



Lacey Fisher, Executive Director of Kansas City Corporate Challenge; Jason Robertson, Board President of Kansas City Corporate Challenge; Sally Cook, Director of Development; Kristy Ladd, PNC representative; Theo Bunch, Director of Build Trybe and Tae a past Build Trybe apprentice.



Craig, Sada, two Justins, Melissa, Zach, Ashley, and Nicole of the Cornerstones of Care kickball team at the Kansas City Corporate Challenge.



Centerpieces for the event were created by Build Trybe youth.



Your Donation May Be Less Taxing

Donors with Missouri income may receive a reduction in their state taxes equal to 50 percent of their donation through the Missouri Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) or Youth Opportunities Program (YOP).

NAP credits are available for our Build Trybe program and YOP credits are now available for contributions of \$1,000 or more to Cornerstone of Care's programming for Pathways Transitional Living. To learn more or make a gift, visit cornerstonesofcare.org/nap. Donors may also contact Sally Cook at sally.cook@cornerstonesofcare.org for more information on eligibility requirements or to learn how their charitable dollars can benefit them while helping make a difference in children's lives.

Donors' gifts may also qualify for the standard federal deduction. Donors should consult their tax advisors. *

Sluggerrr, Royals Charities Open New Ozanam Campus Playground

The event officially opened the 30-foot by 31-foot playground, called "Monkey Business." Sluggerrr was in attendance with members of the Kansas City Royals Charities, who along with an anonymous donor, helped build the playground, which was designed by Playground Boss in McKinney, Texas, for children 5-12 years old.

"The playground is a great addition to our campus, says Chad E. Harris, Cornerstones of Care Chief Development Officer. "We are grateful to our donor and Royals Charities for making this possible so our children can get some sunshine, fresh air, and just be children and play."

Cornerstones of Care supporters can continue to help our youth through Royals Charities. Each ticket purchased for a Royals' game through royals.com/communitypartners using the code Cornerstones2022! will donate \$3 to Cornerstones of Care. *



Sluggerrr meets some of the Ozanam Campus youth.

Giving Made Simple

Manage your budget and support our youth through our Monthly Giving program.

Learn more at cornerstonesofcare.org/donate.



CORNERSTONES
OF CARE





CORNERSTONES
OF CARE

300 E 36th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111

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

- Youth & family support
- Foster care & adoption
- Education and training

1-844-824-8200
cornerstonesofcare.org



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit #288

**Return Service
Requested**

Spirit Gala to Celebrate Those Who Help Build Safe, Healthy Communities

Join us for our 40th Annual Spirit Gala to celebrate our 2022 Spirit Award honorees.

The Spirit Gala will be held on Friday, November 11 at the Overland Park Convention Center. Guests will celebrate 40 years of helping to build safe, healthy communities and honor those who make Kansas City great through their kindness and generosity. We are delighted to share long-time Cornerstones of Care supporters, Natalie & Kyle Hartman, will serve as Honorary Chairs for this ruby occasion.

It is our pleasure to announce the 2022 Spirit Gala Honorees are Karen & Sean Miller, The Robert E. Miller Group and Cathay & Kevin Perz, Dynamic Fastener. Their support has made a positive impact on the lives of children healing from the effects of trauma through the treatment we provide in youth and family support services, foster care and adoption, and education in communities across Kansas, Missouri and beyond.

Sponsorships, tickets, and event information are available at cornerstonesofcare.org/gala. *

Join us for the Spirit Gala Online Auction

Support the work of Cornerstones of Care as you bid on items that would make a great gift for you or someone else.

Join us on October 1 for the online auction by going to <https://one.bidpal.net/spiritgalaauction/welcome>

Bidding begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 1 and lasts until 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 7.

CORNERSTONES
OF CARE

40TH ANNIVERSARY

Spirit Gala
RUBY CELEBRATION

Celebrate 40 Years of Supporting Families!

Join us on November 11 for our 40th Annual Spirit Gala to hear the stories of the youth and families we serve.