



COMMUNITY VOICE

Summer 2019

Andrea & Timothy Breeze
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A CPR Party for Rafael

As a registered nurse, Andrea Breeze was already familiar with the needs and demands of caring for infants in the NICU. But she and her husband Timothy still went through the required foster parent training to support children with heightened medical needs and have been providing this type of care for youth ever since.

“The most challenging aspect is having nurses visit our home and having room for all of his equipment,” Andrea said. “But the training and impact on our day-to-day is easier than we thought.”

Rafael was born prematurely with weak, underdeveloped lungs, and one day he stopped breathing. Panicking, his biological parents attempted to resuscitate him and unintentionally caused head trauma. They took him to the hospital where, upon discharge, Rafael was placed in the Breeze’s care to recover. After several months, he is making good progress.

Rafael comes from a large, multi-generational family living in the same home. Eager for his return, they are committed to taking all the necessary steps for a successful and safe reunification. One of those requirements is that the entire family must pass CPR and first aid training, but finding a course to accommodate their large group was a challenge. Fortunately, the Breezes are creative problem-solvers.

“I asked if I could teach the family and joked that we would make it a party,” Andrea explained. “The [case management] team felt very comfortable with that.”

The Breezes gathered CPR dummies along with Rafael’s equipment and hosted his entire family for a CPR party. Everyone learned how to assemble Rafael’s nebulizer machine, draw correct dosages of his medication and when to call the doctor rather than 911. They discussed signs of choking and how to do the Heimlich maneuver. They also talked about when and how to start CPR while everyone practiced on the dummies.

“Practicing was difficult because it brought back memories of the horrible night he stopped breathing,” Andrea confided. “However, it made everyone feel better that they were prepared to handle it if something ever happened again.”

Though medical foster care is a specialized form of care, it doesn’t require individuals to have previous medical experience. And right now, there is a significant shortage of homes available for children with elevated medical needs.

If you are interested in becoming a medical foster care home, visit cornerstonesofcare.org/fostercarecontact.





Letter from the CEO

Denise Cross

Everyone has the right to feel safe. Whether it is at home, in the classroom, in the community or by themselves, every child and family needs to feel safe in order to be healthy and thrive.

Unfortunately, many children and families in our communities do not feel safe. They are experiencing abuse, neglect, extreme stress, community violence and/or untreated mental health concerns. In an effort to create safer environments for children and families, Cornerstones of Care launched a public awareness campaign called **Safety Starts Here**.

This community-wide initiative is a call to facilitate physical safety, psychological safety, social safety and moral safety. It's a call to parents to nurture a safe home environment. A call to educators to create safe classrooms and a culture of compassion. A call to public servants to support policies that bolster the safety of children and families. It is a call to every individual to embrace their own responsibility in creating a community safe for each of us.

We're grateful to be surrounded by volunteers, advocates, donors and other partners who have organically become community champions for safety. As we celebrate your generosity and passion, we encourage you to display the icon below in your home, office or car as a sign of your commitment to safety in all aspects of society.

Go a step further in your commitment to safety by:

- Joining the Cornerstones of Care Champions.
- Becoming an advocate by signing up for our advocacy e-newsletter.
- Becoming a mentor.
- Volunteering at an upcoming event.
- Making a donation.
- Becoming a foster parent.

We are honored to partner with a diverse group of individuals making meaningful change in our community. Corporations who invest for impact. Parents who teach their children the importance of volunteering and caring for others. Young adults and youth who experienced our service first-hand and want to make a difference in the lives of children just like them.

No matter your age, profession, or stage of life, there is always room for one more community champion for safety!

Denise Cross
President/CEO



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Lending a Hand



KeyBank helped remove overgrown trees and leaves after a long winter.



International Interior Design Association prettied up the greenhouse for the Thyme for Kids Plant Sale.



Cerner worked hard on the garden and farm sites during Cerner Serve Week.



Summit Park Church cleaned up outside the Pathways transitional living house before their open house.

Springtime brought amazing volunteers out to clean up winter debris and landscape our campuses. We are grateful for all the groups who pulled weeds, planted flowers, mulched beds and created beautiful spaces for our residents and students. Our youth excel when they feel pride in where they live and play. Your hard work makes a huge difference! Thank you for your support this spring, and we hope to see many more volunteers as we tend our gardens and farm over the summer!

You can make a difference, too! Simply visit [cornerstonesofcare.org/volunteer](https://www.cornerstonesofcare.org/volunteer) to submit your volunteer interests and we'll pair you up with the right activity.

Wish List

Whether heading to kindergarten or starting community college, our students are gearing up for the upcoming school year. A backpack filled with new school supplies can help set these students up for success.

Thanks to wonderful donors like you, we were able to provide supplies to more than 450 students plus each of our day treatment classrooms last year!

We hope you will consider donating some of the items below to help make this school year the best yet:

- Backpacks
- Spiral Notebooks
- Composition Notebooks
- Two-Pocket Folders
- Highlighters
- Colored Pencils
- Markers (*thin & wide*)
- Dry Erase Markers
- Protractors
- Scientific Calculators
- 3" x 5" Index Cards
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Walmart or Target Gift Cards (*for school uniforms*)



We respectfully request that all of the items be new. If you would like to donate used items for our benefit, please schedule a free pick up with our thrift store partner, MAJ-R Thrift, at [kcdonationpickup.org](https://www.kcdonationpickup.org) or deliver your used items to our Ozanam Campus.

To learn more, contact Kristen Zucht at 816.508.3614 or kristen.zucht@cornerstonesofcare.org.

Springing Into Action for Our Youth



Ready ... set ... go! Runners take off at the Easter Egg 5K.



Spring fever was in the air for Plant Sale shoppers.



Thank you, Paige's LLC, for donating 20% of your sales to us!



As usual, the Kansas City Young Matrons rocked the Plant Sale checkout tables!



Some participants hopped on over for a selfie with the Easter Bunny.



Not only do they plant and grow flowers, our youth help you to your car, too!

The Kansas City Running Company's annual Easter Egg 5K was held on April 20 in Overland Park. More than 650 runners came out to participate in the walk/run, which raised \$1,200 for our children and families. Then, during our annual Thyme for Kids Plant Sale on April 26 and 27, you helped raise close to \$20,000 for our horticultural therapy program to continue engaging youth in gardening activities! Students from our therapeutic day treatment school who helped grow and nurture the plants were on hand to assist shoppers. They were so full of pride and a sense of accomplishment as they watched others walk away with their plants, flowers and herbs. The two-day event went off without a hitch thanks to the Kansas City Young Matrons, who ran the checkout tables again this year. Thank you to everyone who came out to shop and volunteered to make these events a success!

Where does your money go? Schedule a campus tour to see your dollars in action — you won't be disappointed! Just contact Laurie at laurie.minx@cornerstonesofcare.org.



CHIEFS

CHARITY GAME

— BENEFITING —



August 10, 2019



**BUY
TICKETS**

*Be there when
Mahomes and the
team kick off another
thrilling season
against the Bengals.*



**BECOME A
SPONSOR**

*Partner with us in
an effort to raise
the most money in
Chiefs Charity
Game history!*



**BUY A
SHIRT**

*Purchase a custom
Chiefs Charity Game
shirt designed by
our friends at
Charlie Hustle!*

Do it all at
CHIEFSCHARITYGAME.COM

Cornerstones of Care is the 2019 Chiefs Charity Game beneficiary. All proceeds support our mission to improve the safety and health of children and families in our community. A 100% tax-deductible donation can be made at chiefscharitygame.com.

Lighting the Way for Children & Families

Spotlighting Our Staff



*James Baird,
nutritional
health services
specialist*

Our food service team recently received the 2019 Food Safety Excellence Award for “substantially exceeding the standards of the food code.” Only about 9% of Kansas City’s 3,977 permitted food establishments meet this standard. James Baird, a member of the team for 10 years, is an instrumental part of ensuring the safety and health of our youth when they sit down to eat.

What have you learned from working with the youth we serve? That a nice, home-cooked meal is a special part of their day. They can forget their problems and just enjoy a good meal.

What is your philosophy when it comes to providing good nutrition? To provide them with a well-balanced meal with fruits and vegetables that also looks good.

What do you enjoy most about working with your team? I enjoy the good teamwork and providing good meals.

How does our trauma-informed philosophy apply to food service? By being aware of the fact that our youth have severe trauma and offering services and consistency with that in mind. They know that they will be offered a daily meal that is hearty, healthy and at a specific time.

Are there any times that stand out in your tenure? I have many, but a few years ago, I went to a Royals game with the kids. I had a great time being with them. A Royals player hit a foul ball, and one kid jumped up thinking it was a home run. It was a foul ball, but it was great sharing that experience with them.

If you are interested in hosting a pizza party or holiday meal for our youth, visit cornerstonesofcare.org/volunteer.

Two Young Community Champions



No matter your age, you can make a difference in your community. It’s truly inspiring when youth set an example for those older than themselves of what generosity can look like.

One such individual is Jack, who turned nine this year. In honor of his birthday, he and his family took part in a “nine acts of kindness” challenge. As one of his acts, Jack donated some of his birthday money to buy birthday gifts for our youth in foster care. It was a selfless action that touched a lot of our hearts.

A local Kansas City radio station, KC 102.1, caught wind and chose to honor Jack as their Kind Kid of the Month in partnership with Commerce Bank. They coordinated with his school to surprise him during class with donuts, a future pizza party and a cash prize. But the story doesn’t stop there. Jack took a sizable chunk of the money he received and donated it back to support even more of our children and families.

“I thought that some kids need a better life,” Jack explained. “And I felt so happy that other kids could have a special birthday.”

Another young man, Lucas, recently turned five. For his birthday, he asked friends to donate books for our students in lieu of gifts for himself. Lucas toured one of our campuses with his family where he presented several boxes of books to our Reading Buddies volunteers. At the year-end celebration for the Reading Buddies program, each student was able to take home several of Lucas’ books to keep as their own.

Thank you again, Jack and Lucas! You’ve made a huge impact in the lives of your peers.



Leave a Legacy of Love

“I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.”

— Maya Angelou

Beyond serving as a legal document, a will is a reflection of your life. It reveals who and what mattered most to you, and it’s the final gesture by which you’ll be remembered. A well-planned will relieves family members from having to guess your wishes during a time of grief, and it ensures they are taken care of in the ways you specify. When you provide for the Cornerstones of Care Foundation in your will, you extend your caring to the children and families at Cornerstones of Care as well.

If you are ready to strengthen our mission for years to come by including a gift to the Cornerstones of Care Foundation in your will, simply ask your attorney to add the following suggested wording:

“I give and bequeath to Cornerstones of Care, a nonprofit organization for children and families, located in Kansas City, Missouri, the sum of \$___ (or ___% of my residuary estate), to be used for general purposes (or a specific program or project) within the Cornerstones of Care Foundation.”

Plus, you don’t need to create a new will if you already have one!

Your attorney can prepare a codicil (a document that amends your original will). This is a common way to make minor changes. We can also work with you to prepare a pledge document for our files that outlines your estate gift intentions and how your gift should be designated when it comes to fruition.

Would you consider leaving a legacy with us through the Cornerstones of Care Foundation? We would love to talk with you about how your future gift can make a meaningful difference to children and families we serve.

If you would like to learn more about planned giving and receive free resources, contact Laurie Minx at 816.508.3608 or laurie.minx@cornerstonesofcare.org.



Staff wore blue in April to honor Child Abuse Prevention month and the launch of Safety Starts Here.

Celebrating Successes

We are excited to announce that beginning in October, we are expanding our foster care services into Atchison, Leavenworth and Wyandotte counties in Kansas. Because of this, we are hiring case managers, therapists, youth behavioral health specialists and other support staff. Browse a list of open positions at cornerstonesofcare.org/jobs.

Honors & Memorials

Memorial and honor giving supports the Cornerstones of Care Foundation and has 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 or significant event, by sending a gift in their name via the enclosed envelope or via cornerstonesofcare.org/donate. Please include any contact information for those to be notified of your donation. These gifts will be recognized in the next newsletter.

In Honor Of

Griffin Lenhart

Mrs. & Mrs. Melanie R. Cline Jr.
Ms. Angie Hunsucker
Mrs. & Mr. Tammy Lenhart
Ms. Jessica Stout

Mike & Sharon O’Connor

Mr. & Mrs. Torre S. Nigro Jr.

In Memory Of

Bryan Higdon

Ms. Marcia Hatfield

Charles “C3” McDonald III

Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. McDonald

David A. Scheible

Mrs. Barbara Scheible

Roy W. Scheible

Mrs. Barbara Scheible



Gifts to the Cornerstones of Care Foundation ensure children who need us years from now will have access to therapeutic care and traditional childhood experiences like this recent fishing field trip.



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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You can impact thousands of lives, ensuring children and families are safe and healthy, by attending an upcoming event.

Join Us

**CHIEFS CHARITY GAME
TRIVIA NIGHT**
July 12
Arrowhead Stadium Tower Club

Calling all trivia buffs — it's time to put your skills to the test! Invite your closest and most trivia-savvy friends for an evening of friendly competition, food, drinks, prizes, local celebrities and more!

Join the fun at
chiefscharitygame.com.

Save the Date

CHIEFS CHARITY GAME
August 10
Arrowhead Stadium

Last year's Chiefs Charity Game was a huge win for our children and families and we can't wait to see what 2019's game will bring! Check out the new exclusive Charlie Hustle tee, buy tickets and game-day experiences and more!

Check it out at
chiefscharitygame.com.

2019 Fundraisers

CHIEFS CHARITY GAME TRIVIA NIGHT
July 12
Arrowhead Stadium Tower Club
chiefscharitygame.com

CHIEFS CHARITY GAME
August 10
Arrowhead Stadium
chiefscharitygame.com

DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT
September 21
Thornfield Disc Golf Course
cornerstonesofcare.org/disc

PIES FOR A PURPOSE
October — December
cornerstonesofcare.org/pies

SPIRIT GALA
November 1
Overland Park Convention Center
cornerstonesofcare.org/gala

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

