



2024

Impact Report

A Year of Growth and Change





TABLE OF Contents

Letter From The CEO	3
About Cornerstones of Care	4
A Year in Community Support	6
2024 in Review	8
Redesigned LGBTQ+ Training Fosters Greater Inclusivity	10
PATH House Renovation Provides Transitional Living	11
Expanding Trauma-Informed Support for Early Childhood Centers	12
What To Expect In 2025	13
Financial Overview	14

Dear friends of Cornerstones of Care,

Twenty-twenty-four saw our organization move into new directions as we serve children and families.

Growth and change, one of our seven commitments as an organization certified by the Sanctuary Institute™, helps guide our work. We began a new strategic plan that saw us lean into prevention as we maintain our mission of partnering to create safe, healthy communities.

In some cases, those changes were significant – including news late last year that we received a grant from the Anchors of Tomorrow Fund. The grant will provide mental and behavioral health support to children, families, and care providers at five Kansas City area early childcare education centers. You can read more about this exciting opportunity within this report.

In other cases, the adage “The more things change, the more they stay the same” applies. In 2024, we renewed our Kansas contract to provide foster care case management and renewed our Missouri contract for In-Home Intensive Services and Intensive Family Services.

Change also came in the way of new people joining our team. Last year, we welcomed Angela Danley as our Senior Director of Education Programs & Services. In other instances, we saw current team members grow and excel as they found new roles for themselves within the organization.

Our nearly half-million-dollar renovation of our Path House provides supervised, independent living to our youth in foster care who are approaching adulthood. Our Build Trybe program continues to teach marketable skills to our teenage youth in residential care, and the program received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency last spring to educate



Merideth Rose
President and Chief Executive Officer

youth interested in conservation careers.

Last year also saw growth in our Welcoming, Inclusive, Diverse, and Equitable (WIDE) commitment, as we work toward being welcoming and inclusive to the diverse families we serve. In 2024, our work included extensive WIDE conversations with our board of directors, raising our WIDE profile both inside and outside of the organization, and we grew our purchases from historically disadvantaged business enterprises by more than 400 percent.

Being able to find new opportunities to serve our families, reduce disruption, and heal from trauma while remaining focused on our goals was our biggest success in 2024.



Merideth Rose

About Cornerstones of Care

Our leaders and team members work together across state and county lines to champion our mission: to partner for safe and healthy communities.

We must make children and families feel safe before we provide trauma-informed care to make them healthy. Annually, we serve children and families in Missouri, Kansas, and beyond through youth and family support, foster care and adoption, and education and training.



Youth & Family Support services help youth with resources, education, and skill development, while empowering families to be safe and successful now and in the future. These efforts are supported by our certification from the Sanctuary Institute, which guides our team in providing trauma-informed and trauma-responsive care.

Foster Care & Adoption services aid youth and their foster parents, relative/kinship providers, and treatment team members through coordination, support, and comprehensive case management. These efforts strive to safely reunify and unite families who have been separated, or find permanency for children through another timely, safe option like adoption.

Education & Training provides training to individuals, groups, and organizations. Clients include students in our day treatment program, families who are fostering, individuals through relationship education, apprentices through vocational training, people working in the social sector through a variety of continuing education topics, educators and administrators in schools, and companies through subjects that impact their work and the community.

Cornerstones of Care is certified in trauma-informed care by the Sanctuary Institute. As an organization, we are dedicated to principles of being welcoming and inclusive to diverse families and individuals through our WIDE commitment.

Cornerstones of Care is a 501c3 nonprofit registered in Missouri. In 2024, Cornerstones of Care was led by President and CEO Merideth Rose and our Executive Leadership Team:



Jill Beck
Chief Financial Officer



Chad Harris
Chief Advancement Officer



Justin Horton
Chief Programs and Innovation Officer



Sarah Scharinger
Chief Administrative Officer



Jamie Stevens
Chief People Officer

We Are Led By Our Board of Directors:

Jody Vanarsdale, Board Chair
H&R Block

Bill Gassen
Bank of America

Dr. Jason Moss
MyoCore

Mo Awad
Evergy

Elven Hickmon
CPKC

Dr. Yvette Richards
St. James United Methodist Church

Hayley Cacioppo
emfluence

Thomas Kientz
Academy Bank/Dickinson Financial

Jennifer Seyller
Mayo Clinic

Elizabeth Edwards
Community Volunteer

Kyle Tritsarolis
H&R Block

Nathan Turner
Burns & McDonnell

Kim Ford
Community Volunteer

Patrick McCullough
Hallmark Business Solutions

Alexandria Zacny
Turner Construction



A Year in Community Support



On Thanksgiving Day, youth at our Ozanam Campus welcomed special visitors as Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Xavier Worthy. His family served Thanksgiving dinner and answered questions from the youngsters.

Support for Cornerstones of Care in 2024 wasn't limited to the famous - or the fastest - in the NFL. Throughout 2024, individuals and groups offered their time, treasure, and talents to support the children and families we serve.

Last year, 985 volunteers donated their time in projects that included Hallmark team members painting a mural on an Ozanam Campus cafeteria wall. The Building Owners and Managers Association contributed materials and volunteers to the Ozanam Campus, natural trail, and horticulture program. And, of course, the Red Bags team supported us again in 2024 by donating 650 holiday gifts to our foster youth in foster care.

2024 DONATIONS AND GRANTS:

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FUND OF CLAY COUNTY**
\$85,000

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES
FUND OF JACKSON COUNTY**
\$725,610

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY**
\$458,358

**COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S
RESOURCE BOARD OF
ST. CHARLES COUNTY**
\$203,771

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF SOUTHEAST KANSAS**
\$4,000

HALL FAMILY FOUNDATION
\$5,391,376

HEALTH FORWARD FOUNDATION
\$50,000

HUNT FAMILY FOUNDATION
\$25,000

**JACKSON COUNTY COMMUNITY
MENTAL HEALTH FUND**
\$1,681,200

**JOHNSON COUNTY SUBSTANCE USE
CONTINUUM OF CARE FUND**
\$84,000

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT
OF CONSERVATION**
\$200,000

UNITED WAY
\$75,000

TOPEKA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
\$4,000

SHERMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION
\$100,000

At the 2024 Spirit Gala, we honored Robert and Christine Leyva and the Kansas City Young Matrons for their support. The Leyvas creatively developed their own fundraising event, the Festival de Leyva, a block party of fun, food, and music that raised more than \$4,000 for Cornerstones of Care in 2024. In addition, the Leyvas collect winter coats for our youth in the fall.

The second Spirit Award recipient, the Kansas City Young Matrons, began their work with Cornerstones of Care's organizations in 1987. The 108-year-old nonprofit provides volunteer support for the Thyme for Kids Plant Sale each spring at the Ozanam Campus and developed "Chick Time" for girls at our Ozanam Campus to support them during the holidays.

It's important to remember your holiday generosity in providing holiday gifts for more than 1,300 of the children and families we serve through Sponsor-a-Youth and Gift Gallery at NASB North Pole.

We are grateful to everyone who supported the organization through the following events and appeals:

- Savor the Sound
- Thyme for Kids Plant Sale
- Tee it Up Fore the Kids
- Bright Lights, Waldo Nights
- Annual Spirit Gala



2024 in Review

At the beginning of 2024, we launched a new, three-year strategic plan, designed to expand opportunities to serve children and families.

In February, Build Trybe received a \$458,358 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to train youth in marketable skills for conservation careers.



Our Foster Care Case Management and Family Preservation contracts were renewed. Our Missouri Intensive In-home Services and Intensive Family Reunification Services contract was renewed last year to begin in 2025.

Cultivating Behavioral Change in K-12 Students, written by BIST Director Marty Huitt, was published outlining the principles of being a Behavioral Intervention Support Team.

Cornerstones of Care completed WIDE 2.0 initiatives with social impact firm Lexicon Strategies, including organizational assessments and board coaching.

Merideth Rose named one of the “Women Who Mean Business” by The Kansas City Business Journal.

Jill Beck named “Nonprofit CFO of the Year” by The Kansas City Business Journal.

Cornerstones of Care was named the funded partner in a grant from the Anchors of Tomorrow Fund, created by the Hall Family Foundation, to provide therapy and support services at five early childhood centers in the Kansas City metropolitan area.



Programs: By the Numbers

YOUTH & FAMILY SUPPORT

Individuals Served Total

Outpatient - School-based (Grandview and Center) Students Screened	1179
Outpatient - School-based (Grandview) Student Therapy	166
Outpatient - School-based (Grandview) Psychoeducation Groups	37
Outpatient - School-based (Grandview) Navigation	184
Outpatient - Functional Family Therapy	399
Outpatient - Community-based Therapy	452
Residential Treatment	77
Pathways Transitional Living	86
IIS, IFRS & Family Preservation	1034

FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION

Foster Care Case Management children adopted (Missouri and Kansas combined)	181
Foster Care Case Management families reunified (Missouri and Kansas combined)	147
Children in foster care case management services (Missouri and Kansas combined)	1386
Treatment Foster Care/BIST supports to families	116

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Day Treatment School	166
Professional Development/Trauma-Informed Training - BIST	2578

Redesigned LGBTQ+ Training Fosters Greater Inclusivity



Like many Cornerstones of Care employees, Case Management Specialist Adam Branson is required to complete annual training to stay current on trauma-informed practices for working with youth and families. In his role, Adam serves as a liaison between the Ozanam Campus Residential Treatment program youth, their families, and legal representation. Training for front-line team members like Adam ranges from administering medications to working with youth on the autism spectrum.

In April, Adam signed up for the LGBTQ+ All-Inclusive course, a newly redesigned cohort-style training that educates participants on the LGBTQ+ experience and identifies steps in providing a safe space for LGBTQ+ youth. His oldest stepson identifies as trans, and Adam has seen firsthand how challenging the coming out process can be.

"I saw this course as an opportunity to learn something new and better educate myself with what people may be going through," he said.

The LGBTQ+ All-Inclusive course was relaunched in early 2024 by Training Specialist Jonathan Graham, who spearheaded the process of developing a new curriculum to address the implicit biases and myths that impact team members' ability to be fully open and accepting of LGBTQ+ youth.

The six-hour course dives deeper into topics such as gender roles, gender pronouns, the coming out process, and experiences of LGBTQ+ youth in foster care and in schools. The final session is centered on transgender individuals – ways team members can support them, the grief and loss process and who it impacts, and types of transitions.

Melissa Taylor, Director of Human Resources Operations, wasn't required to take the LGBTQ+ All-Inclusive course but believes that everybody should attend and participate.

"I believe it's important for our support staff and administration," said Melissa. "As HR, our clients are our team members, and we need to be advocates for them and ensure that we have a WIDE community."

At Cornerstones of Care, this sense of personal responsibility and commitment to fostering a WIDE (welcoming, inclusive, diverse, and equitable) community is embedded into the culture. High-quality trainings, such as the LGBTQ+ All-Inclusive course, equips team members with the language and tools needed to deliver state-of-the-art trauma-informed care, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to our WIDE principles. 🌱

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PATH House Renovation Provides Transitional Living

After 16 weeks of renovations inside the PATH House, the kids in the Pathways Transitional Living Program can go back home.

Built in 1910, the three-story historic home located in Midtown Kansas City provides supervised transitional living arrangements for up to ten 16- to 21-year-olds transitioning out of foster care. The house was donated to Cornerstones of Care in 2014, yet despite over a century of use, it has never undergone a complete renovation – until now.

A grant from the Children's Trust Fund of Missouri got the renovation project off the ground, and significant contributions from the Ann and Gary Dickinson Family Charitable Foundation and the Missouri United Methodist Foundation helped with completion. Several other funders, including the Hunt Family Foundation/Chiefs Charity and the BlueScope Foundation, also contributed to this project.

The investment into the transformation of the property included major structural updates, such as a repaired foundation, new electrical wiring, and an updated HVAC system. The kitchen was completely gutted and now features a brand-new sink, countertops, custom cabinetry, and appliances including a new refrigerator, stove, and dishwasher.

The house also received all-new furnishings, including mattresses, chairs, and wall hangings, to upgrade the look and feel of the home. Almost all the existing furniture was replaced, except a few other items that were still in good condition. One piece of furniture that remained in the house was a large wooden dining table and a matching buffet. Several Build Trybe apprentices in the Building Trades program refurbished the pieces by sanding, deep cleaning, and re-staining the damaged redwood surface.

Many of the students served by both Build Trybe and the Pathways Transitional Living Program are aging out of foster care, have experienced trauma, and are at high risk of becoming homeless. The PATH House provides a 24/7 supervised, at-home living experience where the youth can develop peer relationships and receive support in case of any issues with transportation, challenges at school, or other needs arise.

Cornerstones of Care also helps the residents connect to community-based resources like a doctor, dentist, or mental health therapist.

Each resident has a case worker and is expected to carry a job and go to school. They also are expected to contribute to cooking and cleaning for the house and maintenance of the community space. 🌱



Expanding Trauma-Informed Support for Early Childhood Centers

In November, Cornerstones of Care was selected to participate in a project funded by an \$8 million grant to provide mental and behavioral health services to children and families at five early education centers on both sides of the state line in metropolitan Kansas City.

The initiative, named the Early Childhood Mental Health Collective, was launched to address the growing community need for mental health services in early childhood settings. The project recognizes the critical connection between strong mental health and kindergarten readiness, offering supports for both children and their caregivers.



The three-year grant is from the Anchors of Tomorrow Fund established by the Hall Family Foundation. Cornerstones of Care will be the funded partner for the project and will provide assessment, case management, counseling, and training. The University of Missouri-Kansas City will be a funded partner for interns as well as research and evaluation of the project's success.

"The work funded through this grant leans into our focus on prevention and providing trauma-informed care before things become overwhelming," said Cornerstones of Care President and CEO Merideth Rose. "It's a natural extension of work we are doing with children and families."

Through the grant, Cornerstones of Care will provide mental, emotional, and behavioral health services at each early childhood center for children at the site, their parents, and caregivers. Early childhood program staff will be trained to identify conditions that optimize or weaken early infant and young child brain development and to recognize conditions that require the assistance of parents and service providers.

"This is a unique collaboration among early education centers, who are partnering with private, public, and nonprofit organizations to respond to the mental health needs of a vulnerable population of children, families, and their caretakers," Merideth said. "This is exactly the work Cornerstones of Care wants to do in support of children and families, and to build a safer, healthier community in metropolitan Kansas City." 🌱

What To Expect in 2025

In 2025, Cornerstones of Care will continue its mission of partnering to build safe, healthy communities and providing trauma-informed care to children and families. As the new year begins, we are guided by three significant projects.

As mentioned in this report, work has begun in leading the Early Childhood Mental Health Collective funded by a grant through the Hall Family Foundation. We have begun staffing for that project and coordinating with the five early childhood education centers and our community partners on the project.

We are committed to finding additional ways to serve children and families outside of our work with state agencies in Kansas and Missouri. As evidenced through our Hall Family Foundation grant, our advancement efforts will look for additional opportunities to provide family support and education. In addition, we will look to expand our earned income opportunities. These diverse revenue streams will help maintain and enhance Cornerstones of Care's financial foundation.

Every three years, Cornerstones of Care re-applies for certification to the Sanctuary Institute, which guides our work as a trauma-informed and trauma-responsive organization. In 2025, we will gather, prepare, and present evidence of our commitment to Sanctuary principles as we support children and families.

As with any organization, Cornerstones of Care continues to evolve as we stay true to our mission. We are excited about what 2025 brings. 🌱



Financial Overview



Contract Renewals, Additional Staffing Highlight Financial 2024

Contract renewals and increased foster parent case management helped support an increased budget in 2024.

Last year, Cornerstones of Care hired additional foster care case management specialists to increase its case management work. Additionally, the agency renewed Kansas DCF contracts in Family Preservation, CMP, and Child Placement.

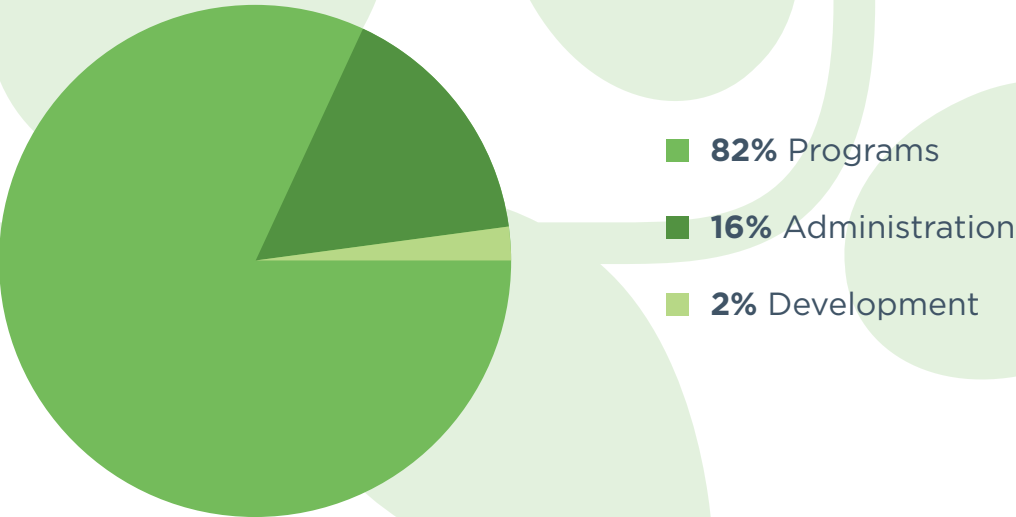
The renewals helped support a \$10 million budget increase to \$60 million in 2024. The expanded budget covered additional facilities, human resources, and other administrative infrastructure support including the hiring of team members.

The agency also absorbed costs from a change in IT managed services providers, a process that began in 2023.

In 2025, our budgeting will include revenue from the Anchors of Tomorrow grant referenced in this report. We also plan to identify future funding opportunities through grants and other revenue streams to provide a broader financial foundation for the organization.

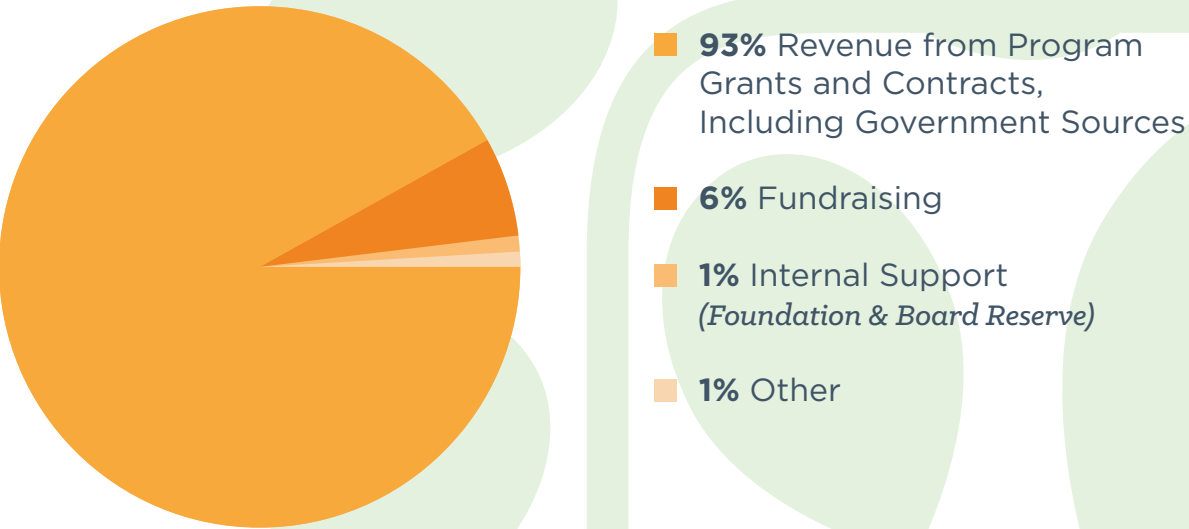
WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Source: 2024 Approved Audit*



WHO PAYS OUR BILLS?

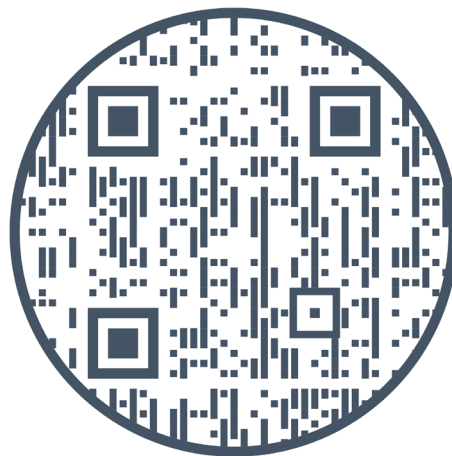
Source: 2024 Financial Statements*



* Financials in this report are those we provided to auditors. Final numbers will be provided upon request when the audit is complete in second quarter, 2025.



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



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