



CORNERSTONES
OF CARE

Community Voice

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Uplifting Our Community: Stories of Transformation and Continued Support

Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter! As we welcome spring and new beginnings, we're excited to share some wonderful updates and stories from Cornerstones of Care. With each new season, we're reminded of the power of growth, renewal, and the incredible impact our community can make when we come together.

Inside, you'll discover how we're transforming the former Archbishop O'Hara High School into the Cornerstones of Care Education Center. This new K-12 Learning Academy will provide day treatment learning for over 100 students with behavioral challenges, offering them a supportive environment to learn, grow, and thrive. The building will also be a vibrant hub for our Behavioral Intervention Support Team (BIST), Build Trybe, and our Collaborative Learning and Training programs, creating new opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

These exciting projects, including major upgrades to our Ozanam Campus, are only

possible with the generous support of donors and our community. Your involvement helps us turn big dreams into reality, ensuring that every child and family we serve has access to the resources they need. We'll show you how to get actively involved and make a difference.

You'll also meet our new partners in the FORGE project, which offers education and tools to fathers and father figures to help them strengthen and support their families. We're proud to highlight the positive changes this partnership is already bringing to our community, paving the way for healthier, happier families.

We're excited to share highlights from our sold-out Savor the Sound event in February. This annual benefit for Build Trybe helps us provide vital job skills and opportunities for the youth in our care and many other young people who need support.

Thank you, as always, for your incredible support and for being a valued part of our Cornerstones of Care family. And don't miss out on our upcoming Thyme For Kids Plant Sale, where you can support our work and bring a little more nature and joy into your spring.

Merideth Rose, President and CEO

Education Center, Ozanam Campus at the Center of Plans for the Future



To create the maximum learning experience for our students, Cornerstones of Care will combine both of its day treatment schools to form the Learning Academy at the new Cornerstones of Care Education Center in the former Archbishop O'Hara High School building in South Kansas City.

In addition to the K-12 Learning Academy, the Education Center will be home to Build Trybe, the Behavioral Intervention Support Team (BIST), and Collaborative Learning and Training. The new center, along with significant upgrades to the Ozanam Campus, is part of our Bridging to the Future campaign to align those spaces with the future of supporting children and families as they work through trauma. Visit cornerstonesofcare.org/careforthefuture to discover powerful ways you can support our campaign.

The move will also generate stronger collaboration among some of its most successful programs. Renovation of the O'Hara High School Building, which has been vacant since 2017 and will require renovations to serve as many as 150 students at the K-12 Learning Academy. The day treatment academy requires small student-to-teacher ratios and therapy rooms to manage behavioral challenges. In addition to providing education, the Learning Academy provides students strategies for managing their behaviors when things become overwhelming.

In addition, the design includes offices for program teams, a kitchen space for Build Trybe's culinary program, and outdoor upgrades for Build Trybe's Seed-to-Plate program. Build Trybe teaches marketable job skills, including those in the culinary field.

The Haren Companies have been hired as the contractor

and Focal Design Studio is the architect on the project.

In addition to the former O'Hara building, significant upgrades will be made on the Ozanam Campus. Launched in 1948, the Ozanam Home for Boys served as a residential facility for youth in crisis. As other forms of less disruptive care evolved, fewer residential youth lived at the campus. With the departure of the 9-12 grade day treatment school, the time is right to redefine the Ozanam Campus to provide the best care for children and families, both in a residential setting and through other services.

You can become part of Cornerstones of Care's commitment to ensure the youth in our care are well prepared to become healthy, productive adults by supporting the renovation of the Cornerstones of Care Education Center. ■

 **SHARE THE LOVE**

Join our Share the Love monthly giving program for an easy, automatic way to support youth. Giving is simple, flexible, and always under your control.

Give just **\$14 a month**, and after a year, we'll thank you with our exclusive cotton tote! Your generosity helps create safe, healthy communities for children and families.

 **SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT [CORNERSTONESOFCARE.ORG/MONTHLYGIVING](https://cornerstonesofcare.org/monthlygiving) TO LEARN MORE!**



Stock Our Birthday Closet

Do you recall that favorite birthday present you received as a child? Maybe it was toy, an action figure, a board game you really wanted, or perhaps a purse. We believe that every child deserves to receive a gift on their birthday, and we need your help replenishing our Birthday Closet. You can make a child's big day extra special by shopping our Amazon wish list or donating one of the items below and dropping it off for Lea Loudon at our Gillis Campus.

- Barbies / Marvel 12" action figures
- Board games
- Legos
- Purses / men's wallets
- Sports balls (basketball, football, soccer ball, volleyball)
- Teen journals / activity books
- Wireless bluetooth speakers / headphones

Scan the QR code to view our Amazon wishlist.



Volunteers in Action



Volunteers from the **United Methodist Church of the Resurrection West** recently worked in the greenhouse on our Ozanam Campus and helped organize the library and clothing closet at our Kansas City, Kansas office.



»»» **UPCOMING EVENTS** 2026

24-25 APRIL | **THYME FOR KIDS PLANT SALE**
Cornerstones of Care Ozanam Greenhouse

19 SEPTEMBER | **DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT**
Thornfield Disc Golf Course

2026 NOVEMBER | **SPIRIT GALA**
Overland Park Convention Center

For more information visit cornerstonesofcare.org/events

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Donor Spotlight: How Patrick McCullough Leverages YOP Tax Credits to Support Cornerstones of Care

Patrick McCullough, who is also our future Board Chair, is a supporter of Cornerstones of Care who has taken advantage of the Missouri Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) tax credit to expand the impact of his giving on our Pathways program.



The YOP credit allows eligible Missouri donors who give \$1,000 or more to receive a 50% state tax credit. The credit can be carried forward into the future, making it a powerful way for donors to maximize their charitable support.

Patrick's initial decision to give was driven by his belief in our organization's purpose. "What first drew me to Cornerstones of Care was the mission. They are not just stepping in during a crisis; they are helping strengthen families through prevention, providing care

when it is most needed, and investing long term in children who are among the most vulnerable in our community."

Patrick's giving supports Cornerstones of Care broadly, with a special focus on the Pathways program. Pathways provides transitional living and individualized support for young people ages 16-21 who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability, helping them build life skills, and a path toward independence. Patrick is a champion of Pathways because the program "offers care, stability, and a real

chance to rebuild confidence and skills so young people can move toward a future defined by opportunity, not by what happened to them."

While the tax credit did not motivate his initial support, Patrick shared that "the YOP tax credit has created a practical opportunity to expand my impact." He added, "It gives me an added incentive to increase my giving, and I love that I can reinvest those savings right back into Cornerstones of Care to help fuel even more of the work."

For donors unfamiliar with tax credits, Patrick encourages them to explore the opportunity. "The YOP tax credit is a simple, meaningful way to multiply the impact of your gift. Cornerstones of Care is very helpful in guiding you through the process."

Interested in tax credit opportunities? Visit cornerstonesofcare.org/tax-credits for more information. ■



Path House ribbon-cutting ceremony in 2023.

New Collaboration with KU Is Designed to Support Fathers



Cornerstones of Care is partnering with the University of Kansas on a new initiative designed to support fathers and father figures as they build stronger relationships, financial stability, and long-term success for their families.

With a five-year, \$3.75 million FORGE (Family Opportunity, Resilience, Grit, Engagement) grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the partnership will bring evidence-based education, financial coaching, mentorship, and individualized hands-on support to families in Atchison, Douglas, Johnson, Wyandotte, and Leavenworth counties.

The eight-week program will serve fathers and father figures age 18 and older with children under the age of 24. It is open to any father or father figure including stepfathers, adoptive fathers, and relatives serving in a fatherly role. Foster care

involvement is not required to participate. To reduce barriers to participation, those enrolled in the program can earn gift card incentives to help cover expenses such as childcare, transportation, food, and internet access, making it easier to stay engaged.

Cornerstones of Care will play a central role in bringing the program to life. While KU oversees overall operations, finances, and grant requirements, we will implement and manage day-to-day program operations. The program is led by Laura Walters, our Director of Client Support Services, who will oversee hiring key staff, including program facilitators and case managers who will work with participants.

The goal of the program is to equip fathers with tools they can apply at home, at work, and in their communities to support their well-being and that of their children. The instruction focuses on two main initiatives. First, Supporting Father Involvement, a research-backed curriculum designed to support healthy marriages, father involvement in children's lives, good relationships, breaking cycles of generational trauma, and more.

The program's second initiative is Money Habitudes, which boosts economic stability by going beyond basic financial literacy to build profiles for individuals, including their

attitudes and behavior toward money that influences how they spend and save.

"This program responds to a clear gap in services. We don't have enough resources for fathers," Walters said.

"By strengthening family relationships, enhancing parenting skills, building employment readiness, and financial stability, participants will be better equipped to support their children and families."

KU hopes to extend support for participating beyond the eight-week course. The final step is to build a community network for dads.

"We have funds dedicated to partnering with community organizations that will build relationships with dads to create those networks to help them stay engaged and supported," said Dr. Pegah Naemi Jimenez, senior associate researcher and principal investigator in KU's School of Social Welfare.

Through this partnership, Cornerstones of Care and KU are investing in families and the powerful role fathers play in helping children thrive. As Dr. Jimenez put it, "The research suggests that when you can build a shared relationship between dads and families, even if they don't have full custody, they are more likely to stay engaged and involved." ■

Entangled Roots: An Evening in Support of Build Trybe



Savor the Sound's "Entangled Roots" event brought together food, music, and community for an unforgettable evening inspired by the 2020 book *Entangled Life*. The theme for the event, which took place February 28 at 29 Event Space, highlighted the connections that sustain our world and the relationships that strengthen our community, creating a shared experience for attendants that was rooted in creativity and purpose.

Guests enjoyed a four-course dining experience prepared by James Beard Award-winning Chef Celina Tio, with each course paired alongside an original musical composition performed live by acclaimed musician Calvin Arsenia, who was named 2025's Best Kansas City Musician by *The Pitch*. Together, the cuisine and music created a one-of-a-kind sensorial journey, inviting guests to engage deeply with both art forms in a curated setting that celebrated intentional connection.

The entire evening directly supported Build Trybe, a proud program of Cornerstones of Care. Build Trybe is

a mentorship program that empowers youth with employable skills. By connecting young people to trade experts and community partners, the program provides hands-on classes, workshops, and pathways into three skill-based career tracks, helping youth build confidence and entrance into long-term career opportunities.

Guests also supported Build Trybe through the purchase and auction of handcrafted goods created by youth apprentices in the program's woodworking and metalworking shops. These artisan products included custom laser-engraved cutting boards, coasters, plant stands, and bespoke furniture for businesses and homeowners, showcasing the craftsmanship, creativity, and dedication of Build Trybe participants.

In total, Entangled Roots welcomed 172 guests and raised \$262,607 in support of Build Trybe's mission, helping ensure more young people have access to mentorship, skill-building, and meaningful pathways toward stable, fulfilling futures. ■

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- Youth & family support
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We'd like to thank the following funders without whom our work could not be done:

- Children Services Fund of Jackson Co.
- St. Louis County Children's Service Fund
- Jackson Co. Community-Backed Anti-Drug Tax (COMBAT)
- Jackson Co. Community Mental Health Fund
- Mo. Dept. of Economic Development: Neighborhood Assistance Program
- Mo. Dept. of Economic Development: Youth Opportunities Program
- Children's Services Fund of Clay County
- United Way of Greater Kansas City



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thyme for kids PLANT SALE

benefiting  CORNERSTONES
OF CARE



**APRIL
24-25**

Our annual Thyme for Kids Plant Sale returns April 24 and adds meaning to the word “growth” beyond the plants for your home and garden. Every flower, herb, and vegetable for sale was grown and cared for by students at our Ozanam Campus day treatment school and youth in our Build Trybe program.

Through hands-on work in the Ozanam Campus greenhouse, students practice responsibility, patience, and care. Participants in Build Trybe’s Seed-to-Plate and Conservation Landscape programs gain experience in horticulture, environmental stewardship, and landscaping. The youth in these programs are also introduced to healthy habits and skills connected to culinary and environmental careers. Proceeds from the sale funnel directly back into these valuable programs.

Join us on April 24 and 25 at the Ozanam Campus greenhouse, 421 E 137th St, Kansas City, Mo., to stock up on all your favorite plants while supporting programs that help young people build skills, confidence, and brighter futures.