



# COMMUNITY VOICE

Fall/Winter 2019

ScriptPro sponsored a back-to-school event for our students.

## A Strong Start to the School Year

The summer months have come and gone, and our day treatment schools are once again filled with the sounds of students learning, playing and forming new friendships. This year, we currently have 136 students enrolled — youth from kindergarten through 12th grade who, for a variety of reasons, have found it difficult to thrive in a traditional school environment.

Though many school districts have their own alternative education programs, our schools have extra amenities besides their small class sizes and more flexible schedules.

*“The biggest difference is having licensed therapists on staff,” says Paul McCorkle, our associate director of education programs. “All of our students are working through trauma or other situations, and learning to regulate their behavior with the hope that they can later be successful in their neighborhood school. We work with many school districts to support kids who need a different structure to be successful.”*

Your generosity has helped start the year off well. ScriptPro, one of our community partners, sponsored a back-to-school

event for our students, complete with frozen treats and inflatables. Community donors also gave school supplies which have filled our classrooms and 450 backpacks, which have been given to youth in our other programs attending school elsewhere.

*Many families we work with are unable to afford the supplies required by most schools, so taking the financial burden off of them — and the worry of not having the proper materials off of our students — is a huge deal. Thank you so much for equipping our students as they kick off the new school year!*

*Of course, our students' and schools' needs don't stop after classes begin. The simplest way to support our education efforts is to give financially, but there are other in-kind needs that pop up throughout the year. Please contact Kristen Zucht at [kristen.zucht@cornerstonesofcare.org](mailto:kristen.zucht@cornerstonesofcare.org) to make an in-kind donation.*





## Letter from the CEO

Denise Cross

*If you want to have a big impact, you have to dream big. In January, we committed to accomplishing “Four Big Things”. As the end of the year quickly approaches, we are proud to acknowledge the significant progress our team has made toward these goals.*

### Big Thing 1: Improve the experience of children and families through a greater focus on safety and quality.

- Thanks to community support and collaboration with many stakeholders, we have made significant investments to improve the safety of our campuses.
- After months of preparation and a multi-day on-site visit, we were recertified as a trauma-informed organization by the Sanctuary Institute®.
- Thanks to the commitment of all programs and departments, we are moving toward reaccreditation by the Council on Accreditation (COA).

### Big Thing 2: Greater focus on a workforce that is sufficient in number, stable in employment, happy in their jobs and engaged in the organization. Our mission would not be possible without our dedicated and inspiring team. Their health and wellbeing is just as important to us as that of the children and families we serve. This year, we have:

- Celebrated the years of service of hundreds of staff with 19 recognition ceremonies.
- Greatly expanded our senior leadership team and established a quarterly Leadership Summit that brings together more than 100 key leaders across our organization.
- Prepared to launch a Leadership Academy to empower new managers with the skills to help them and their team be successful.
- Hired more than 200 new team members across Kansas and Missouri.

### Big Thing 3: Successfully implement three new signature programs. We strongly believe our team provides the best care in the region. This year, we have cultivated partnerships that will serve an additional 5,000 children and families.

- We began serving more than 900 children in foster care through a partnership with Kansas DCF. Our partnership with the state will grow again on January 1, 2020, when we will begin providing family preservation services to 420 families in 25 additional Kansas counties.
- In Missouri, we are serving 750 more children and families across 48 counties through intensive in-home services, which is an intervention to help keep children safely in their homes.
- We are excited to share that Homeroom Health, a fully integrated pediatric health home for ages 0-24, is open! Located at 30th and Troost, the vision was made possible through a collaboration with KC CARE Health Center.

### Big Thing 4: Strengthen community engagement at all levels of the organization and throughout all communities served.

- Our Wichita, St. Joseph and Maryville communities are engaged more than ever after launching community councils. These groups of dedicated volunteers are raising funds and awareness specifically for the programs in their communities.

Thank you for your partnership in helping us Dream Big and achieve Big Things.



Denise Cross  
President/CEO

## 2019 Governing Board

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## 2019 Foundation Board

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## Lending a Hand



Lord of Life helped the girls tie-dye shirts then played basketball with the boys.



ScriptPro hosted a cookout and summer fun day just before youth returned to school.



The Kansas City Fire Department taught children about fire safety.



KU Med kept children cool with an ice cream social.

Youth in our care had a blast this summer, making the most of their school vacation by enjoying the outdoors with cookouts, pizza parties, water games and field days. These experiences are made possible by our amazing volunteers and donors who ensure our kiddos have fun all summer long. Thank you!

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

## Wish List

The holidays will be here before you know it. As you immerse yourself in the magic of festive social gatherings, the smell of pine, colorful decorations and music playing in shops, we hope you will remember the children and families in our community.

*Thanks to wonderful donors like you, we were able to provide gifts to 900 children, teens and adults last year through our Sponsor-a-Youth and Gift Gallery programs! Please help make this possible again.*



**Sponsor-a-Youth** — Sponsor a youth in our care by purchasing items off their holiday wish list (available in early November). Because we are serving 900 more children in Kansas this year, we're in need of even more support to help each child's holiday wishes come true! 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 a joyous holiday! To learn about sponsoring a youth, email [sponsorayouth@cornerstonesofcare.org](mailto:sponsorayouth@cornerstonesofcare.org). To learn about donating to the Gift Gallery, contact Stefanie Lindsay at 816.405.4002 or [stefanie.lindsay@cornerstonesofcare.org](mailto:stefanie.lindsay@cornerstonesofcare.org).*

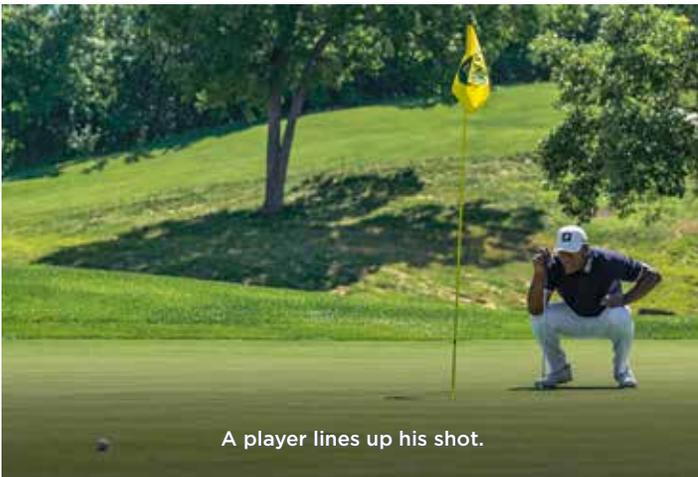
## Hitting the Links



Platinum Sponsor Netsmart pauses for a picture.



Cornerstones of Care's Chief Development Officer Chad Harris (center) thanks event sponsors Suburban Lawn & Garden's Bill Stueck (left) and TMS's Dan Cashen (right).



A player lines up his shot.



Going for par!



Board members Helen Jorski and David Leavitt got in on the fun, joining Gold Sponsor Bank of America.



Team Camo takes home first place!

In June, our annual Chip in for the Kids Golf Classic proved it wasn't your typical golf outing. Held at Loch Lloyd Country Club, the event offered golfers unique activities like testing their aim with potato launchers. Championed by Platinum Sponsor Netsmart and Gold Sponsors Asurion, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Centimark, Crestwood and the McDonnell Foundation, 94 players and additional sponsors came together to raise close to \$55,000, all to serve the children and families in our care! The summer wrapped up with our Disc Golf Tournament in September. Led by Title Sponsors Suburban Lawn & Garden and TMS, along with Ace Sponsor Ramp Up Labor, 94 players joined us on the course and raised more than \$17,000. Thank you!

*Where does your money go? Schedule a campus tour to see your dollars in action — you won't be disappointed! Just contact Sally at [sally.cook@cornerstonesofcare.org](mailto:sally.cook@cornerstonesofcare.org).*

## A Huge Win for Our Children and Families



Guests stop to pose with KC Wolf and Chiefs cheerleaders at our Chiefs Charity Game Trivia Night, which raised \$44,000!



Selected to sit in the Lamar Hunt Legacy Seat for selflessly using birthday money to buy gifts for children in foster care, Jack chats with Clark Hunt.



Super Bowl Sponsor NASB and the Hunt family present the check for \$550,000 at halftime!



Robert E. Miller Group employees enjoy cheering on the Chiefs in their suite.



Event sponsors pause for a quick picture at our Chiefs training camp VIP experience in St. Joseph, Mo.



Our very own Shontel McGee leads fans in the drum ceremony.

The 2019 Chiefs Charity Game was a huge success, raising more than \$550,000! Thanks to the Kansas City Chiefs and the Hunt Family, more than 1,000 of the children and families we serve were in attendance to cheer on the Chiefs. We all had a blast celebrating, and the money was instrumental in the opening of Homeroom Health and improving the safety and security of our campuses. Thank you to Presenting Sponsor NASB and everyone else who contributed to this year's Chiefs Charity Game!

*Interested in joining the fun? Become a member of the 2020 Chiefs Charity Game Committee!  
Contact Katie at [katie.culbertson@cornerstonesofcare.org](mailto:katie.culbertson@cornerstonesofcare.org) to learn more.*

## Lighting the Way for Children and Families

### Spotlighting Our Staff



*Justin Springer,  
foster care case  
manager*

Justin Springer is one of our dedicated foster care case managers. When he's not at work, Justin is a year-round griller (according to him "there is no grilling season"). Along with his wife, Anna, he is also busy wrangling his own three children at home.

**What do you do in your role at Cornerstones of Care?** Case managers do a ton! If I were to pare it down, the most essential thing would be working to help make sure whatever brought a child into care is changed so that they can be safe.

**What would you like the public to know about the work you do?** I hear a lot from parents I work with, "Oh, you just want to take kids from their parents." That is not at all what we do. In fact, I want to get those parents who are in tough places to be the best parents they can be. I think if there is any way possible to keep the family intact safely, the better off everyone is in the long run. Being a parent is tough, and giving families the right tools to work with can make lasting changes not only in their family but within their community as well.

**Any recent examples?** Recently I had a case where the mom was doing as much as she could. It wasn't everything that the courts wanted to see, but it was a lot. She was doing a great job parenting her kids, and everyone was safe. Her kids were on what is called a trial home visit, and when we went to court, we asked for reunification. They agreed, and she was able to reunify with her kids safely. It took a lot of work, but I have never seen that mom so happy!

*You, too, can change a child's life and work with people like Justin. Learn more about joining our team at [cornerstonesofcare.org/jobs](https://cornerstonesofcare.org/jobs).*

## Foster Care to the National Guard



While running a daycare, Vivia Weaver looked after a girl who had experienced severe trauma and was living in kinship care. Seeing the need up close and struggling to have children of their own, she and her husband Brian became licensed foster parents.

In the 20+ years since, the Weavers have cared for 87 youth, adopted six children and had three biological children. James\*, a young man who has lived with them for six years, openly shares his story.

*"My mother was heavily into drugs. At 13, I was raising my brothers and sisters. A caseworker knocked on our door because none of us were going to school. The next day, my mom overdosed."*

Though his mother survived, the state placed James and his sibling with the Weavers for their own safety. At first, it was difficult to trust a new family, but their patience chipped away at his protective walls.

*"Before care, I didn't know when my next meal or shower would be," James explains. "It was a whole different ballgame when I moved here. They helped me learn I don't have to fear all those things."*

With the Weavers' support, James excelled in high school sports, lettering in football, track and wrestling. He got involved at church and went on youth ministry trips. With a broad smile, he shares how he finally applied himself academically, finishing his last semester with a 3.22 GPA — something he previously thought was impossible.

*"I've slowly learned that family doesn't have to be blood," James says. "It's the people who care about you, and at the end of the day have your back."*

After graduation, James enlisted in the Army National Guard. He and the Weavers were invited on the field at the 2019 Kansas City Chiefs Charity Game to thank him for his service and to honor the Weavers' longtime commitment to Missouri's youth. Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes personally handed James a signed football, something James says he'll remember for the rest of his life.

*The Weavers aren't superheroes. They are just two individuals who saw a need and were willing to meet it. That need is still great. Learn about becoming a foster parent at [cornerstonesofcare.org/foster](https://cornerstonesofcare.org/foster).*

\*Name has been changed to protect the identity of the youth.

## Now Serving the Whole Child

Homerroom Health started as a simple idea: what if there was a place where youth, teens and young adults could receive all of their physical, dental and behavioral healthcare under one roof, regardless of their insurance or Medicaid status? A place that was welcoming, trauma-informed and put patients at ease while they received care? Fast forward several years, hundreds of planning hours and dozens of generous donors, and that dream is now a reality!

*When you walk into Homerroom Health, it's immediately clear that this is not just another health clinic. Original murals by the Kansas City-based artist JT Daniels decorate the walls. There are art supplies and games for kids in the waiting area. And equally unique is the list of services, which range from physicals and well-child exams to teeth cleanings, vaccines and counseling.*



Key to this entire project is our partnership with KC CARE Health Center, a premier healthcare organization with years of history serving people in Kansas City. "Relying on the strengths of each organization, our vision is to better address the needs of children who have experienced trauma and improve the overall health of our community," says Denise Cross, our CEO.

*Another unique feature of Homerroom Health is The Hangout, a space specifically designed for teens and young adults to use free Wi-Fi, get a snack or coffee and to receive a variety of skills-based services.*

Overseeing The Hangout is Abby Kay, who also leads our Youth Educational Success (YES) program. "The Hangout is a space for youth and young adults to access basic services and reach their individual goals, be it job applications and interviews, high school or college success or anything else," she says. "I want it to be a place that you can be authentically yourself, identify barriers standing in the way of where you want to be and find support from staff and peers to work through those barriers."

On opening day, we served six patients, including two walk-ins. A young woman experiencing homelessness was able to take a hot shower and talk with our social worker. A girl who was hungry while waiting for her appointment enjoyed chocolate milk and a snack in The Hangout. Your support made this all possible! We believe we will look back on this moment years from now as the start of a whole new way of thinking about whole-child care.

*If you would like to learn more about Homerroom Health, please visit [homerroomhealth.org](http://homerroomhealth.org).*

## 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](http://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 Memory Of

**Marilyn (Mooneyham) Crawford**

Mr. Larry Hightower & Mrs. Denise Cross

**Lamar Hunt, Sr.**

Mr. & Mrs. George Bollman

**Stan Price**

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Price

**Madeline Rounds**

Ms. Hilah Rozier

## Celebrating Successes

Exciting things are happening with our Pathways transitional living program! In Kansas City, Mo., we are partnering with First Call and Planned Parenthood to provide youth with educational groups alongside new psychoeducation groups hosted by our outpatient therapists. Our Wichita location received a grant to provide tutoring services. And our Kansas City, Kan., team is working on new ways to serve youth experiencing homelessness in Wyandotte County.



# CORNERSTONES OF CARE

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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 WATCH PARTY

October 17  
Brick + Mortar

Join other diehard Chiefs fans at Waldo's hip new Brick + Mortar to watch your Kansas City Chiefs take on their rival, the Denver Broncos. Admission includes drink tickets and we will be raffling off tickets to future games at Arrowhead.

Check it out at  
[chiefscharitygame.com](http://chiefscharitygame.com).

## Save the Date

### SPIRIT GALA

November 1  
Overland Park Convention Center

Chaired by Molly Biwer, our Spirit Gala celebrates the incredible resiliency of those we serve while honoring those who embody the philanthropic spirit of Kansas City. This year's Spirit Award recipients are David & Andrea Leavitt and Swiss Re. Join us for socializing, auctions, dinner, dancing and more!

Get your tickets at  
[cornerstonesofcare.org/gala](http://cornerstonesofcare.org/gala).

## 2019 Fundraisers

### PIES FOR A PURPOSE

October 1 – December 31  
[cornerstonesofcare.org/pies](http://cornerstonesofcare.org/pies)

### CHIEFS WATCH PARTY

October 17  
Brick + Mortar  
[chiefscharitygame.com](http://chiefscharitygame.com)

### SPIRIT GALA

November 1  
Overland Park Convention Center  
[cornerstonesofcare.org/gala](http://cornerstonesofcare.org/gala)

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Katie at 913.515.7951 or  
[katie.culbertson@cornerstonesofcare.org](mailto:katie.culbertson@cornerstonesofcare.org).

