



2015 Annual Report

Making a difference...



ERC Resource & Referral, Inc., d/b/a Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas

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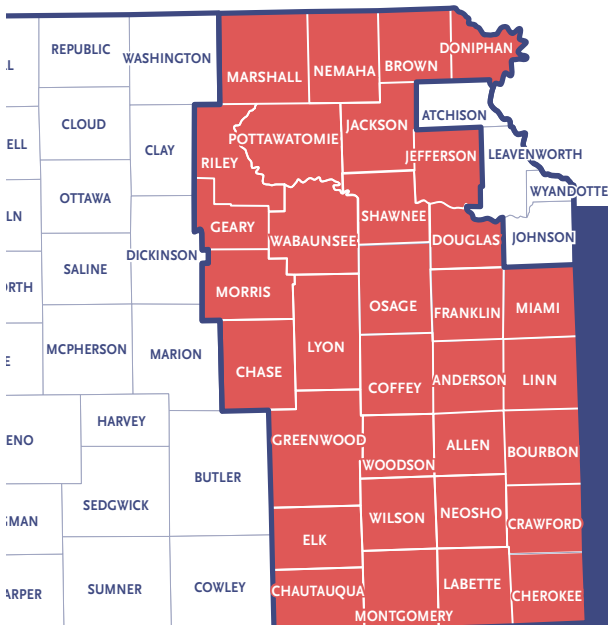
<http://east.ks.childcareaware.org> • info@east.ks.childcareaware.org

Making a difference...



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Child Care Aware[®] of Eastern Kansas operates the state-wide Referral Center, as well as serves child care providers, families, businesses and communities in the 33 highlighted counties.

Letter from the Executive Director...

Dear Friends,

This Annual Report highlights some of the activities and accomplishments achieved in 2015, thanks to the broad support of donors and partners. **Because of you** we were able to accomplish so much that made our communities a better place. Programs offered through the agency continue to help ensure that young children arrive at school ready for success!

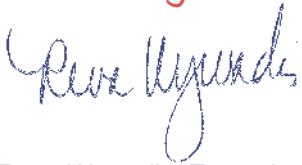
Families have been strengthened and empowered to choose child care that meets the unique needs of their child and family, and they are better informed about how to select a high-quality early learning program. Reliable, high-quality child care enables local businesses to have access to a workforce they can depend on. Child care providers and teachers have grown their skills and learned new ways to support children's growth and development through workforce training, on-site coaching opportunities, and continued access to curriculum and resources.

Although this report contains some meaningful statistics, facts and figures, no written report can ever convey the passion we hear on a daily basis from families and child care providers whose lives have been changed and strengthened because of these activities. **Because of you**, local investments in early childhood have made a measurable impact this year, and lives have been positively changed.

As we enter a new year, we know **there is still much to do!** As an agency, we continue to explore new partnership possibilities and new funding opportunities to enable us to better support even more children and families. New programs continue to be developed to address unmet needs. Advocacy efforts to protect funding that supports early learning efforts must continue in order for valuable, much-needed programs to continue.

We invite you to learn more. Contact me to take a tour, take part in a program, hear about a project under development, or talk about how you can become involved as a volunteer or advocate. Exciting things are happening, and thanks to you and your support, **we are making a difference** in the lives of children and families every day. Thank you so much for your support!

Sincerely,



Reva Wywadis, Executive Director



ERC Resource & Referral, d/b/a Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas, supports the development and learning of young children by offering programs and services that improve the quality and accessibility of child care for working families.

Making a difference for child care providers...



Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas made a difference for child care providers... by offering professional development, coaching opportunities, and access to resources and information.

In 2015...

- **1,787** child care programs throughout the 33-county region and their staff were served by the agency.
- Over **245** professional development sessions with a total of **3,043** attendees helped child care providers and teachers improve their quality of care and meet licensing requirements, through both face-to-face and online learning options. **45** child care center directors and administrators from **32** facilities participated in training and peer learning through Director's Toolbox sessions offered by the agency.
- Classroom materials were enhanced through resources made available to the entire service delivery area through the Lending Library and mobile library delivery services. In 2015, **3,049** checkouts supported early childhood classrooms.
- **69** child care facilities, **120** child care staff at these facilities, and **283** family child care providers benefited from technical assistance offered by the staff of Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas.
- **123** child care providers throughout the region benefited from special 12 month coaching programs focused on early literacy development, infant/toddler care giving, school readiness, early childhood wellness and/or strengthening families. Over **1,000** children benefited from their child care provider's or teacher's participation in one or multiple of these programs.
- Measurable improvements were made in the quality of year-long coaching programs in 2015. Each program uses a nationally recognized measurement tool to assess the quality of the environment and teacher interactions before and at the conclusion of receiving services, documenting growth and improvement. Providers/teachers set goals and create action plans with the support of their coach, who assists in guiding the change process. In addition to the formal assessments, anecdotal notes also documented changed behaviors resulting in improved caregiving practices. Lasting quality improvement takes place over time, and these extended programs provide the benefit of support during incremental change in early childhood environments.

"My experience with Child Care Aware® has been great!!! I recently participated in the Step It Up Program. The instructor was very knowledgeable. The information that I learned, I passed on to my child care children, as well as their families. [I] would work with Child Care Aware® again!"

-Child Care Program in Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas Region

Making a difference for families...



Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas made a difference for families... by providing families in Kansas information about child care in their area, as well as tips and resources to aid them with their child care search. Referrals were accessed by calling a toll-free number, or families could also choose to do their own child care search online. By having access to child care options, families were able to retain their employment and remain in the workforce.

In 2015...

- **9,587** families from throughout Kansas received child care referrals through the Child Care Aware® of Kansas Referral Center operated by Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas.
- Over **15,000** children were served, with **56 percent** of those being infants or toddlers.
- **100 percent** of families who contacted the agency for child care referrals were also given access to community information about other programs and support services. These support services include home visitation, child screening and health agencies.

“Thank you for helping me find child care! Your service was very helpful in providing a list of care providers that could meet my needs and saved me lots of time!”

-Parent who Utilized Referral Center Services

Making a difference for communities & businesses...



Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas made a difference for communities & businesses... by providing supply-and-demand data to help guide economic development efforts in their area. Communities can't attract and retain businesses and a qualified workforce without the capacity to provide child care for those families that need it.

In 2015...

- Agency staff participated in community planning meetings throughout the 33-county region to support early childhood initiatives.
- Agency staff participated in **29** health fairs, back-to-school fairs, job fairs and other various events throughout the region to share information regarding high-quality early childhood education topics, as well as to support communities, local businesses and families.

“Data shows a direct correlation between early childhood learning initiatives and the impact it has on an educated workforce. The ongoing efforts of Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas benefit our community’s economic development for years to come and help make Topeka a better place to live, work and raise families.”

–Matt Pivarnik, President and CEO for Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce and GO Topeka

YOU can make a difference...



Get Involved...

Because much of the funding for child care resource and referral services is federal and state funding, it is important that parents, child care providers, community stakeholders and business leaders understand their role in shaping public policy through advocacy efforts. Additionally, local government's decisions can also impact the availability and accessibility of child care for working families.

Research-Based Uniform Messages

K-12 Education

Studies show that early childhood programs are the BEST way to support improved academic outcomes in K-12. Children who participate in high-quality early childhood education programs are far more likely to enter kindergarten ready to learn, read at grade level by third grade, and graduate from high school or even college. (*Gormley et al, 2005; Belfield et al, 2006; Barnett & Masse, 2007*)

Brain Development

Ninety percent of a child's brain development occurs before age 5. High-quality early childhood services reach children during a crucial period when foundational brain architecture is formed and experience shapes social competency, cognitive ability and mental health. (*Mustard, 2008*)

Return on Investment

Decades of research have shown that for every \$1 invested in high-quality early childhood programs, society will save \$7 down the road in the form of reduced demand on the social welfare system, decreased juvenile crime and improved participation in the economy. (*Calman & Tarr-Whelan, 2005*)

Public Policy & Advocacy Agenda

At the national level, continue to dialogue with legislators regarding the importance of high-quality child care options for all families.

At the state level, work collaboratively with other early childhood partners and stakeholders to protect the Children's Initiative Fund (CIF). Participate in opportunities to shape the state's plan for implementing new guidelines and requirements established through the federal reauthorization of the Child Care & Development Block Grant.

At the local level, protect county investments in child care licensing, advocating for improved ratios of licensing surveyors to child care programs as recommended by Child Care Aware® of America.

Other policy issues affecting Kansas children, families and child care may arise beyond those included on this list. Please visit the website, <http://east.ks.childcareaware.org>, for updated information on public policy and advocacy issues.

Our people make the difference...



Board photo



Staff photo

2015 Board of Directors

Officers

Morgan Padgett, President

Cora Spencer, Secretary

Jeanie Schuler, Immediate Past President

Melissa Wangemann, President-Elect

Beth Nelson, Treasurer

Directors

Ashley All

Michelle Bettis

Jared Bixby

Alison Connell

Joshua Decker

Kellie Dougan

Lori Downing

Jené Haas

Kathleen Heaney

Rhonda Hernandez

Crystal Jones

Sabrina Seidl

2015 Staff

Reva Wywadis, Executive Director

Becky Meyer, Accountant

Eryn Allen, Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Debra McClelland, Research & Data Specialist

Laurie Pigg, Director of Referral Services

Anne Beery, Lori Boos, Billie Segrist,
Referral Counselors

Bianca Garcia, Bilingual Referral Counselor

Marie Treichel & Renee Wohletz,
Provider Services Managers

Vanessa Apodaca, Grace Cott, Audrey Danielson,
Deb Danielson, Michelle Gilbert, Margaret Hurst,
Talia Juiliano, Margo Martinez, Elisa Nehrbass,
Jennifer Pishny, Sheri Rippel, & Tanisha Troutt,
Early Care & Education Specialists

Nancy Rohr, Inclusion & Transition Specialist

Star Robinson, Kansas QRIS Coach

Eleanor Strecker, Early Literacy Specialist

Kris Grinter, Stephanie Prue & Dorothy Smith,
Library Resource Specialists

We couldn't accomplish all we do for children and their families without our PEOPLE. In addition to the paid staff, the agency engages the support of **over 400 volunteers** every year who help with agency governance (our board of directors), fundraising (including the Designers' Showhouse) and service delivery.

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2015

Assets	2015
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 140,500
Receivables	267,912
Investments	189,436
Other	107,864
Total Assets	705,712

Liabilities & Net Assets

Accounts and Notes Payable	21,311
Accrued Expenses	81,580
Total Liabilities	102,891
Unrestricted	534,496
Temporarily Restricted	5,414
Permanently Restricted	62,911
Total Net Assets	602,821
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 705,712

Agency Funding...

The agency is supported through a variety of **grants, contracts and fundraising efforts**, including:

- The Kansas Department for Children & Families through Child Care Aware® of Kansas
- The Kansas Children's Cabinet
- Topeka Community Foundation
- Kansas Health Foundation
- United Way of Greater Topeka
- United Way of Douglas County
- Individual Donor Support
- Support from Area Businesses and Corporations
- Annual Campaign
- Designers' Showhouse Fundraiser
- Endowment Fund at the Topeka Community Foundation

Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2015

Unrestricted Revenues

Grant & Contract Income

Child Care Aware® of Kansas	\$ 889,318
Capital Area Successful Start	534,282
Success by 6 Coalition of Douglas County	19,327
United Way	87,841
Other Grants or Programs	34,313

Other Revenue

Showhouse & Other Special Events-net of expenses	88,371
Provider Training	37,446
Individual Donations	24,952
Other Revenue	5,416
Unrestricted Revenue, Gains & Other Support	1,721,266

Net Assets Released from Restrictions	3,195
Total Unrestricted Revenue, Gains & Other Support	1,724,461

Unrestricted Expenses

Program Services	1,449,548
Supporting Services	159,036
Total Expenses	1,608,584

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets \$ 115,877

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Contributions, Program Revenue & Memberships	1,800
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	(3,195)

Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets (1,395)

Permanently Restricted Net Assets

Contributions	745
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Change in Permanently Restricted Net Assets 745

Change in Total Net Assets 115,227

Net Assets at Beginning of Year 487,594

Net Assets at End of Year \$ 602,821

ERC RESOURCE & REFERRAL, INC.,
D/B/A



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