

Building resilient children & families.



Community Children's Center Annual Report 2023

Table of Contents

*"It is a great experience with wonderful, helpful, and welcoming staff. It's wonderful to have activities to go out and do during the week while informing us of other opportunities in the community to connect and explore, helping to shape and teach my child in these most critical formative years." - **Grow & Go program participant.***

01

Executive Director's Welcome

02

Mission and Vision

03

Values

04

Financials

05

Faces of Community Children's Center

06

Services

07

Early Childhood Community Center

08

Meet the Team

09

Board of Directors

Support. Educate. Collaborate.



This year has been exciting for Community Children's Center and early childhood in Douglas County! In the summer of 2022, Douglas County invested in the concept of an early childhood community center by awarding CCC American Rescue Plan Act funds to acquire the building at 346 Maine Street. Many of you have your history with this building which housed so many medical practices over the years, including PANDA Pediatrics, now Heartland at PANDA.

My six children grew up in this building, from well checks to acute care, kindergarten vaccines to high school physicals. I am sure many of you have had similar relationships, including sitting in the lobby as your children watched the fish swim or finding shapes in the wood grain on the floor as you waited for the pediatrician.

This building has always cared for children and families. We are simply continuing the legacy of high-quality care, support and service. We look forward to establishing new relationships with families in our community through our child care facility, Family Resource Center, and community spaces. Interior demolition is complete. Construction will begin soon, with plans to open in 2024

All families with young children face challenges they have never encountered before. Never have they had more expenses, more stress and less sleep. First-time parents need to know what they don't know and often find themselves isolated as they navigate these new waters. CCC will walk alongside you for those first five years to provide direct support and be the warm handoff to our community's other exciting early childhood resources.

I invite you all to dream with us about what this space can be and do for Douglas County families with young children. Feel free to let me know if you'd like to share the vision and see what the building looks like as a blank slate. I'd be happy to give you a tour. We will grow over the next year, just like your kiddos.

I'm excited to show you just how much in 2024.

Stay tuned!

Keri Polson



Mission & Vision

Mission:

Bridging the gap in available, affordable, and accessible care in Douglas County.

Vision:

Support. Educate. Collaborate.

Building a foundation of lifelong learning and limitless potential, where every child thrives.

CCC serves as a community hub emphasizing equity and inclusion, ensuring all children, families, and early care professionals have the opportunities, resources, trauma-informed training, and support.



Values



Collaboration

We are more impactful & innovative when we work together.



Compassion

Everyone deserves to be met with encouragement, empathy & grace.



Growth

Learning begins at birth & continues through life.



Family

A family is made up of those we choose to include in our trusted circle.



Life Balance

We must care for ourselves before we can care for others.



Inclusion

We strive to create an environment where all feel welcome, respected, and valued



Resilience

Adversity is an opportunity to build strength & understanding.



Lived Experience

We all have stories to tell & wisdom to share.



Honesty

Open, honest communication builds trust & healthy relationships.



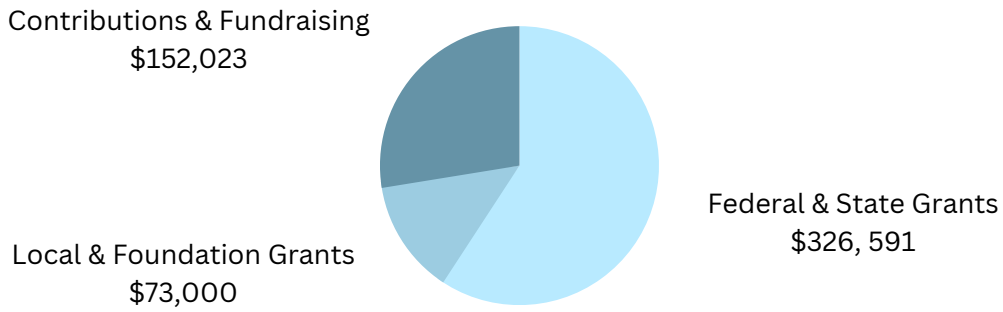
Joy

We are more productive, creative, & fulfilled when we find, feel, & share joy.



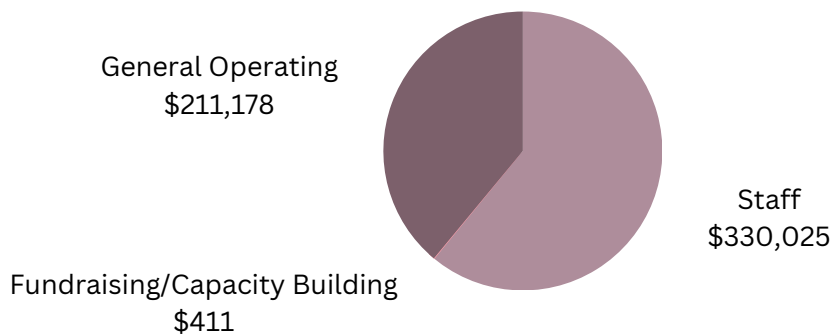
Financials

Income



Federal and State Grants: \$326,591
Local and Foundation Grants: \$73,000
Contributions and Fundraising: \$152,023
Total Income: \$551,614

Expenses



Staff: \$330,025
Fundraising/Capacity Building: \$411
General Operating: \$221,178
Total Expenses: \$551,614

Faces of CCC



Services

So far this year we've served...

401 children **104** new families

744 clients **76** home visits

provided **3,595** items of clothing

(Jan 1 - Jun 30, 2023)

Building a stronger early childhood environment in Douglas County.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CLOTHING CLOSET

CCC provides a donated closet for free gently used clothing for maternity and 0-5T sizes, as well as diapers and other necessities.

FAMILY SUPPORT

The Family Resource Center meets families where they are to provide support, education, and resource management.

TYKES ONLINE RESOURCE HUB

The TYKES online hub includes local activities, providers, community information, and available resources for caregiving.

MATERIAL ASSISTANCE

Our innovative partnerships with other social service organizations allows us to support families in our community.

PROVIDER SUPPORT

CCC supports Early Childcare Professionals in a way that makes a profound difference in their morale and ability to provide high-quality care.

RESPONSIVE CAREGIVING

We focus on high-quality, trauma-informed caregiving techniques to better serve caregivers and professionals.

GROW & GO PLAYGROUPS

Grow and Go focuses on whole-child development through social-emotional learning using the power of play.

EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE FAIR

CCC brings together over 40 local early childhood resources each year to strengthen our early childhood ecosystem.

Early Childhood Community Center

A NEW KIND OF CARE

01.

In 2024, Community Children's Center will launch the Early Childhood Community Center at 346 Maine St. This facility will serve as a space for our current services, as well as partnership programs, an indoor play area for children five and under, and 138 early child care slots including overnight and weekends.

We will be an incubator space for child care professionals in training, an education space for families, and a play space for our littlest learners.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

02.

Parenting can feel overwhelming and isolating to new families, especially those facing barriers like language, food insecurity, health and wellness challenges, and cycles of poverty and violence.

We hope to provide these families with the freedom to heal and the opportunities to do so through our services, education programs, partnerships, and a welcoming and comfortable community space.

From Responsive Caregiving courses to providing an Early Childhood Clothing Closet, we aim to remove barriers and connect parents to nurture our local parenting community.

FAMILY RESOURCES

03.

Our Family Resource program will use the Early Childhood Community Center as a hub of care for families and an opportunity to reach out to members of the community who may not realize the scope of services we have to offer.

All of our family resource services are free of charge and available to all families in Douglas County. We strive to make our programming accessible to all families, where and how they choose to participate. We work to decrease barriers and offer services that allow caregivers to learn and grow in comfort.

Whether it's providing material support, education, or short-term care resources, our Family Resource Center is happy to help!

Meet the Team



Kim Polson

Executive Director



Suzy Green

Family Resource Center Director



Chelsea Harrington

Family Resource Center Specialist



Erin Lawrence

Community Engagement Coordinator



Will Averill

Director of Communications &
Development



Annie Ross

Americorps Staff Member

Board of Directors

Kirsten Flory, President

Principal, Assoc. Broker
Foundations Commercial

Doni Mooberry Slough, Treasurer

Attorney/Advisor
Mooberry Financial Management, LLC

Kate Campbell

Retired

Hugh Carter

Vice-President of External Affairs
The Chamber - Lawrence, Kansas

Yolanda Franklin

President
Nothing Unique Foundation

Sally Lundblad

Retired

Kelsey McClasky

Mortgage Loan Officer
Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation

Jenn Preston

Quality Improvement Director, Bert Nash

Suzanne Wikle

Senior Policy Analyst
Center for Law and Social Policy

Kimberly Williams

Speech-Language Pathologist
Sound/Speech Therapy



*Bartlett & West renderings of our new
Early Childhood Community Center*



346 Maine Street
Lawrence, Kansas
66044

www.communitychildrenks.org
info@communitychildrenks.org
Facebook: facebook.com/communitychildrencenter
X: @cccks

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