

Message to the Community

United Community Services (UCS) strives to continue to be relevant in today's changing times. A strategic planning process completed in 2012 found strong support for UCS' core programs, which you will read about on pages 2 and 3. But as with any organization getting close to the mid-century mark (UCS was founded in 1967), the board has identified challenges and opportunities that have the potential to influence the future of UCS.

One of the challenges faced by UCS is the ability to clearly describe the unique role the organization plays in improving community life. To address that challenge, the board adopted a new mission statement to better reflect the scope, strategies, and purpose of UCS.

MISSION - United Community Services of Johnson County provides data analysis, leads collaborative planning, and mobilizes resources to enhance the availability and delivery of health and human services.

Growing poverty and a strained safety net present a challenge of a new and different type for UCS – and the entire community. Investments in the safety net result in a healthier, better educated, and highly-skilled workforce. The community's workforce provides the foundation for the continued success of Johnson County. Yet, disinvestments in the safety net could lead to a less competitive economy and a less attractive quality of life.

How will UCS respond to this challenge? UCS will promote data-driven decision making for the health and human service system. This means having sound information that can be used at all levels – from program decisions by an individual agency to legislative actions. UCS will also work to increase community support for health and human services. This support leads to essential funding for safety net programs, in addition to policy decisions that promote positive outcomes for individuals and families.

Responding to the challenge of growing poverty and disinvestment in the safety net requires the collective efforts of every sector. Thank you for working with us to ensure a bright future for our community.



Carol Gonzales

Carol Gonzales, UCS Board President

Karen Wulfkuhle

Karen Wulfkuhle, Executive Director

Major Accomplishments

On a contractual basis, UCS staff provided **United Way of Greater Kansas City** with regional data collection and analysis, and assistance with updating United Way's Community Impact Agenda. UCS provided the research and data analysis for the publication *The Data Book*.

One of UCS' unique roles is to **analyze data** and **raise awareness of human service issues** in Johnson County and across the Kansas City metropolitan area. While every human service organization works to raise awareness about the need that it addresses, UCS examines human service trends and system-wide issues to focus on the "big-picture." In 2012 UCS:

- Hosted the 11th Annual **Human Service Summit** on June 12. The 160 people in attendance heard about the strain on the safety net. Attendees took part in small group discussions that resulted in seven messages about the value of the safety net. By design these messages give safety net advocates an easy way to incorporate the importance of the safety net into regular communications with stakeholders. The statements are available at www.ucsjoco.org.
- Provided **informational presentations** on Johnson County and regional human service trends to various groups. Many of the presentations are available on the UCS website.
- **Communicated information** about human service needs and issues by way of e-newsletters and traditional newsletter mailings. UCS-produced Fact Sheets were included with e-newsletters and posted to the UCS website.

To raise awareness and **recognize contributions** that improve the quality of life for Johnson County residents, UCS presented three human service awards at its annual meeting in December.

- Distinguished Public Service Award - Representative Pat Colloton
- Citizen of the Year - Jeffrey O. Ellis
- Excellence in Community Service - Johnson County Christmas Bureau



2012 UCS award recipients (L-R): Rep. Pat Colloton, Jeffrey O. Ellis, and Barb McNeile, Executive Director for Johnson County Christmas Bureau.

UCS leads collaborative planning and mobilizes resources to enhance the availability and delivery of health and human services. Specific areas of focus are families and children, poverty and homelessness, and substance abuse.

The Children’s Coordinating Council. To better address the needs of vulnerable children and families, UCS convenes a collaboration of 35 service providers in order to increase their knowledge of community issues and resources; enable them to make better referrals; strengthen relationships among local organizations; and promote positive changes that improve the community’s human service response.

The Johnson County Continuum of Care on Homelessness. UCS acts as the convener for the Continuum, which is made up of 40+ service providers. The Continuum, with UCS’ support, is responsible for submission of Johnson County’s application for federal homelessness funding and the biennial homelessness count. In 2012, local agencies requested \$487,449 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Special Project Focus on Mental Health. UCS received financial support from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City for two projects in 2012:

The Consumer Project, which had part of the work initiated in 2009 to improve the response to adults with mental health needs who are in contact with the criminal justice system, was completed with the adoption by law enforcement dispatch of the Premise Alert.

The Trauma-Informed Care Task Force was launched in April 2012. The collaborative project’s 12 partners are adopting trauma-informed practices and policies within their organizations as a strategy to improve outcome for both their clients and staff.

In addition, the Task Force is raising awareness of the relationship between childhood trauma and poor adult health outcomes.

UCS’ 2012 Public Policy Platform focused on influencing policy choices that promote positive outcomes for people. UCS co-hosted a public policy forum with United Way of Greater Kansas City to inform human service providers and advocates about the impact the Kansas Budget shortfall will have on health and human services. Key advocacy areas were the importance of 1) investment in early learning and 2) retaining the state refundable Earned Income Tax Credit. A 2013 platform along with policy principles were adopted in November.

To leverage resources for programs that target economic security and personal safety, UCS manages the **Human Service Fund**. With funding from 15 cities and the Board of County Commissioners, \$256,500 was awarded to 13 programs in 2012. More than 40,000 people benefited from these programs. During 2013, \$257,800 will be awarded to programs through commitments secured by UCS.

The Drug and Alcoholism Council of Johnson County. On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners and nine cities, the Council oversees the allocation of local **Alcohol Tax Funds** to substance abuse prevention and treatment programs. More than 45,000 people benefited from programs funded in part by Alcohol Tax Funds in 2012. For 2013, jurisdictions committed to allocate \$1.4 million to 24 programs. The City of Merriam joined the partnership in 2013.



UCS Staff

- Donna Zimmerman, Administrative Assistant*
- Marya Schott, Director of Community Initiatives*
- Valorie Carson, Director of Community Planning*
- Karen Wulfkuhle, Executive Director*

2012 Financial Review

Revenue	
United Way of Greater KC	\$165,000
Human Service Fund	\$228,500
Government Grants & Contracts	\$182,500
Private Grants & Contributions	\$ 61,900
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 9,840</u>
Un-audited Total	\$647,740
Expenses	
Community Planning	\$280,000
Drug & Alcoholism Council	\$ 73,200
Human Service Fund Grants	\$228,500
Admin/Fundraising	<u>\$ 61,000</u>
Un-audited Total	\$642,700

Audited Financials for 2012 will be available in June 2013. For additional financial information, contact UCS.

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Major Funding Support



United Way of Greater Kansas City

Corporate, Foundation, Government and Other Funders

Ash Grove Cement Company	Johnson County Government
Bank Midwest	Johnson County Mental Health Center
Compass Financial	KCP&L
Community Development Block Grant	REACH Healthcare Foundation
Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City	Spencer Fane Britt & Browne

Individuals

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Alcohol Tax Fund and Human Service Fund Partners

Alcohol Tax Fund participating jurisdictions: Gardner, Leawood, Lenexa, Mission, Olathe, Overland Park, Prairie Village, Shawnee, and Johnson County Government.

Human Service Fund contributing jurisdictions: De Soto, Edgerton, Gardner, Leawood, Lenexa, Merriam, Mission, Olathe, Overland Park, Prairie Village, Roeland Park, Shawnee, Spring Hill, Westwood, Westwood Hills, and Johnson County Government.

United Community Services of Johnson County is a §501(c) (3) organization. Contributions to UCS are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Every attempt was made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please report any errors to us so that we may correct our records.