

### Message to the Community

UCS' purpose is to enhance the availability and delivery of health and human services. We do this by providing data analysis, leading collaborative planning, and mobilizing resources. But this work is only possible through the cooperation and collaboration of many individuals, organizations, and local government entities that recognize the value of working together for the common good. On behalf of UCS, we thank all of you who connect with and support UCS.

UCS has a long history of bringing issues to the forefront that require the community's attention. In 2013, that issue was Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Kansas, like every state in the nation, participates in the federally funded TANF program. The program is intended to help the poorest families with children meet basic needs and secure employment. As part of our ongoing work to monitor trends, we observed that the number of people served was steadily declining, while child poverty was not going down. At the same time, we were hearing from community organizations that the families they worked with were experiencing more barriers as they tried to access state-delivered services.

These observations led UCS to launch a research project to understand why TANF participation rates in Johnson County and Kansas were going down. (Johnson County and statewide TANF participation has dropped by more than half since January 2011.) The report, published in December 2013, found that tougher eligibility rules, increased sanctions, shorter time limits, and organization changes keep people from qualifying for help, and force others off the program before they have achieved self-sufficiency. Additionally, we found that only about one-third of the money Kansas receives from the federal government for TANF is spent on core services that help connect poor families to work – cash assistance, employment services and child care.

Right now, our state falls short of help poor children. Improving life for poor children means connecting their parents to work by providing education and job skills; child care while they work or are getting the education and training critical to long-term self-sufficiency; and financial support that is adequate to meet basic needs.

Advocating for improvements to TANF will be a part of our work in 2014. We will also continue many of the other program activities described on pages 2 and 3. We hope that you will join us in this work to bolster the human service safety net and improve the quality of life for all.



Jill Quigley, UCS Board President



Karen Wulfkuhle, Executive Director

## Major Accomplishments

*UCS analyzes data and raises awareness of human service issues.*

“**Kansas Can Do More for Poor Families with Children**” was published in December. The results of a months’ long study, the 26-page report examines the statewide decline in participation rates in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program administered by Kansas Department for Children and Families. The report concludes that Kansas falls short of helping our state’s poorest families and offers recommendations that include increasing cash aid for families, making strategic investments in evidenced-based programs that will move harder to serve populations to successful employment and more effective child care policies and reimbursement structure.

Working in conjunction with SAFEHOME and the Office of the District Attorney, UCS completed an “**Analysis of the Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment in Johnson County**” to determine if improvements were needed.

Activities to raise awareness included:

- Hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual **Human Service Summit** on June 18. The 160 people in attendance heard about strategies to cut poverty and expand economic growth from Erik Stegman, manager of Americans for Progress, for Half in Ten campaign.
- Hosted **Bridging the Gaps in Social Services - A Community Conference for Faith Leaders** on November 14. The 120 people in attendance, representing 31 different faith congregations and two dozen human service organizations and school districts, learned about poverty in Johnson County, became familiar with information resources, and connected to local organizations.
- 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 - Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger
- Citizen of the Year - Alice Kitchen
- Excellence in Community Service - Trauma Informed Care Task Force



Sandy Praeger (left) and Alice Kitchen (right),  
with UCS Executive Director Karen Wulfkuhle (center)



Trauma-Informed Care Task Force

*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. For 2013, local agencies have requested \$566,330 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The number of persons identified in the 2013 homelessness count was less than the number in 2011, in part due to the adoption of rapid re-housing practices, an evidence-based strategy to reduce homelessness.

**The Johnson County Trauma-Informed Care Task Force** was launched in April 2012. In 2013 staff from the Task Force’s members were trained as TIC trainers and continued their organizations’ transformation by training organizational staff in trauma-informed theory, practices and policies in order to improve outcomes for their clients and staff. In addition, an implementation coach assisted each member create a multi-year plan to fully implement trauma-informed care across multiple domains within their organization. The Task Force continues to raise awareness of the relationship between childhood trauma and poor adult health outcomes and recruit new members. The project is funded by the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City.

**UCS’ 2013 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 prepare for the 2014 session. Key advocacy areas

were retaining the state refundable Earned Income Tax Credit and Medicaid expansion. A 2014 platform was adopted in November.

The **Human Service Fund** is managed by UCS to leverage resources for programs that target economic security and personal safety. With funding from 14 cities and the Board of County Commissioners, \$257,800 was awarded to 13 nonprofit agencies. More than 45,000 people benefited from these programs.

**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 70,000 people benefited from programs funded in part by Alcohol Tax Funds. For 2013, jurisdictions allocated \$1.4 million to 24 programs. The City of Merriam joined the partnership in 2013.

On a contractual basis, UCS staff provided **United Way of Greater Kansas City** with regional data collection and analysis. In consultation with United Way staff, UCS developed and published a set of key indicators for Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas, and Cass, Clay, Jackson and Platte counties in Missouri.

**2013 Financial Review**

<b>Revenue</b>	
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
<b>Expenses</b>	
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 2013 will be available in June 2014. For additional financial information, contact UCS.

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**Major Funding Support****United Way of Greater Kansas City****Corporate, Foundation, Government and Other Contributors**

10 <sup>th</sup> District Court Domestic Violence Fund	Health Care Foundation of Greater	Sprint Foundation
American Academy of Family Physicians	Kansas City	Spencer Fane Britt & Browne
Amerigroup Foundation	Johnson County Government	REACH Healthcare Foundation
Ash Grove Cement Company	KCP&L	Rolling Hills Presbyterian
AT&T	Kentfield Pharmacy/UVANTA	Church
COBLE MCCUNE Wealth	Pharmacy	Westar Energy
Management	Lead Bank	
Community Development Block Grant	Salem Lutheran Church	

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**Alcohol Tax Fund and Human Service Fund Partners**

*Alcohol Tax Fund participating jurisdictions:* Gardner, Leawood, Lenexa, Merriam, 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.