



Human Service Fund  
A Collaborative City/County Partnership  
Managed by United Community Services of Johnson County

2015 Year-End Report

Since 1990, United Community Services of Johnson County (UCS) has worked in partnership with cities and Johnson County Government to support programs that improve the quality of life through human service strategies. For 2015, 13 nonprofit organizations were awarded \$268,100.

This report provides an overview of the programs supported by the Human Service Fund during 2015. While some programs also serve individuals who live outside of Johnson County, the number of people benefiting from services, as indicated below the name of each agency within the report, reflects the number of Johnson County residents served. Approximately 68,500 residents benefited from programs designed offer support or create opportunities to help people avoid or escape poverty.

2015 Human Service Fund Priorities:

- Meet the basic needs of low-income individuals and/or families through services such as emergency aid, shelter, and food;
- Provide work supports such as job training and childcare assistance to individuals so that they may achieve economic self-reliance;
- Provide access to health care for those who otherwise lack access;
- Prevent and respond to personal safety through prevention services targeted to those at-risk of child abuse and/or family violence, and aid for victims of child abuse and/or family violence.

The UCS board of directors, the funded agencies and program recipients thank elected officials who make these funds available. For additional information, contact Marya Schott, UCS Community Initiatives Director, 913.438.4764.

<b>2015 Funding</b>	
Johnson County Government	\$110,250
15 Cities	\$179,850
Total Dollars	\$290,100
UCS Administration	-\$22,000
<b>Grant Awards</b>	<b>\$268,100</b>

Participating jurisdictions include: Johnson County, De Soto, Edgerton, Gardner, Leawood, Lenexa, Merriam, Mission, Olathe, Overland Park, Prairie Village, Roeland Park, Shawnee, Spring Hill, Westwood and Westwood Hills.



## 2015 Human Service Fund Year-End Report

### **CASA of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties**

Protected safety of 266 children

\$20,000 Grant

CASA's (Court-Appointed Special Advocate) Children in Need of Care (CINC) program is a court-ordered program that serves children involved in cases where conflicting case information has been presented to the judge, there is extreme neglect or abuse, or there are concerns about implementation of services. A trained CASA volunteer advocate focuses on the child's needs. The volunteer gathers information from significant adults in the child's life, and with a CASA supervisor submits a report to the judge who is then able to make a more informed decision regarding the child's future.

**Outcomes achieved during 2015:** Judges and attorneys utilized reports prepared by CASA in 383 of 400 CINC court hearings (98% utilized). During the year, CASA supervisors guided and managed 162 volunteers who advocated for children. 90% of children served by CASA had a stable adult presence in their CASA volunteer (several changes in volunteer assignments). CASA reports its outcome of keeping children safe was achieved.

### **Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas**

Met basic needs of 33,278 people

\$67,500 Grant

Through two centers in Johnson County, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas provides an emergency assistance and transitional housing program for families living at or below 150% of federal poverty guidelines (\$30,135 in 2015 for a family of 3 – the average family size served). Emergency assistance protects and promotes the well-being of families and children by meeting basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing, as well as prescription medication, utility payments, and gasoline for emergencies or job transportation. The program includes temporary child care assistance for low-income parents who are working, attending school full time or searching for employment. Strength-based case management, coupled with financial education and asset development, helps families identify the strengths they possess and move toward stability and economic self-sufficiency.

**Outcomes achieved during 2015:** Direct financial assistance enabled 1,339 individuals to maintain housing. 1,860 individuals benefited from utility service assistance which enabled them to be safely housed. Visits to Catholic Charities for food assistance totaled 56,183. This included assistance with applications for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, previously known as Food Stamps), and food from the agency's pantry.

**El Centro, Inc.**  
Met basic needs of  
1,083 people  
(approximately 240  
households)  
\$17,400 Grant

El Centro's Johnson County Family Services Program provides a set of safety-net services to low-income, under-/uninsured Johnson County residents. Services include emergency assistance (help with basic needs such utility and housing), domestic violence assistance (referral to crisis counseling and case management), health navigation (help with accessing health services, obtaining prescriptions, etc.), and economic improvement (building economic self-reliance through asset building, tax assistance, financial literacy education).

**Outcomes achieved during 2015:** Clients' basic needs were met: 109 households received utility assistance, and 42 households received rent assistance which enabled them to be stably housed. Healthcare access for uninsured clients was improved: 140 clients were assisted with healthcare needs such as finding specialty and surgical care, and access to medications and eye-care services. 54 people were assisted with the process to receive an Individual Tax Identification Number, enabling them to file income taxes.

**The Family  
Conservancy**  
  
Built economic self-  
reliance of 81  
people  
  
\$5,000 Grant

The Family Conservancy's Asset Building program is a nationally recognized incentive-based financial education and savings program. It provides Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to assist low-income residents with acquiring long-term appreciable assets such as first homes and small businesses, and post-secondary education. IDAs are matched savings accounts. Individuals identify one goal to save for and their savings are matched (within guidelines) by the program. In order to access IDAs, participants must attend economic education classes that teach financial skills including how to improve credit. IDAs and the assets they help to produce increase family stability, have a positive effect on educational outcomes for children, and decrease the use of fringe financial institutions.

**Outcomes achieved during 2015:** Most IDA account holders are family units; in total 326 individuals from various geographic areas were served, and Johnson County residents accounted for about 25% of individuals served. During the year, 67% of IDA account holders saved an average of \$30 per month, 13 account holders made an asset purchase (purchased a home, paid for college tuition, opened a business), 65% of participants completed financial education. Other account holders continued their education into 2016; due to timing of enrollment and length of the program, some account holders are unable to complete the financial education program within the calendar year.

**Harvesters – The Community Food Network**

Met basic food needs of 2,235 children

\$7,500 Grant

Human Service Funds support Harvesters BackSnack program within Johnson County schools. Low-income children are given a backpack of food to take home over the weekends. Harvesters purchases food for the backpacks, transports the food to community partners and links schools to community partners. School staff identify children who are in greatest need of food assistance. In Johnson County Harvesters collaborates with 52 schools and 28 community partners, many of which are faith-based.

**Outcomes achieved during 2015:** Harvesters’ provided 69,450 backpacks of food to Johnson County children. The most recent program evaluation, which was conducted metro-wide by UMKC Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership, found that during the 2012-13 school year, discipline incidents among participants were reduced by 54%, participants had 9% fewer tardies, grades improved in all four subject areas, and visits to the school counselor or social worker were reduced by 19%.

**Growing Futures Early Education Center**

(previously known as Head Start of Shawnee Mission)

Built economic self-reliance of parents of 82 children

\$8,500 Grant

The Human Service Fund helps support families enrolled in Growing Futures Early Education Center’s Wrap Around Care (WAC) Program by providing fee subsidies for low-income families who are either working or in school, and having financial difficulties which threaten their children’s enrollment in Growing Futures; and, crisis intervention for families in need of short-term help with housing and food. WAC provides extended day-care (before and after regular-hour care) for families in Growing Futures’ preschool for three- to five year-olds. Fee subsidies allow children whose parents are having financial difficulties to maintain their Growing Futures enrollment, and enables parents to remain in school or working which is vital to the family’s financial stability.

**Outcomes achieved during 2015:** 50 families received fee subsidies which allowed parents to remain working or in school while facing financial challenges. There were not enough funds to provide every family in need with a fee subsidy. Two children were withdrawn from WAC due to temporary financial issues, primarily due to change in DCF eligibility requirements for subsidized child care. Children showed the following gains in seven developmental domains: 92% made gains in language/literacy, 92% in science, 94% in social/emotional skills, 100% in English language development (for ELL students), 83% in math, 90% in creative arts, and 98% in approaches to learning.

**Health Partnership  
Clinic of Johnson  
County**

Access to primary  
health care for  
15,976 people

\$45,300 Grant

The Health Partnership Clinic (HPC) provides comprehensive safety-net health care services, regardless of insurance or ability to pay. HPC's target population is low-income and uninsured patients who have minimal financial resources to pay for health care. HPC health care services include primary and preventative medical, dental and behavioral health services.

**Outcomes achieved during 2015:** During 2015 there were 39,608 face-to-face patient visits by Johnson County residents, a 34% increase from 2014. In 2013 HPC became a Federally Qualified Health Center. This has contributed to the organization's significant increase in service delivery over the past several years. Patients achieved positive health outcomes as indicated by 85% of diabetic patients who achieved HgA1c (blood glucose) level of 9.0 or below, and 50% of hypertensive patients who achieved blood pressure readings below 140/90.

**Johnson County  
Interfaith  
Hospitality  
Network**

Met basic needs of  
60 people

\$9,000 Grant

Through partnerships with 35 faith congregations, Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) provided shelter, meals, transportation, and employment assistance to homeless families and single women.

**Outcomes achieved during 2015:** IHN served 20 families. Of those completing the program, 90% reported increasing their income by 25% or more while in the program, and 45% moved into homes of their own within three months of entering the network. In total, individuals received 3,438 days of shelter and strength-based case management.

**Kansas Children's  
Service League**

Protected safety of  
18 children

\$7,000 Grant

Kansas Children's Service League Healthy Families Johnson County, a child abuse prevention program, provides intensive home-based parent education, and support and case management to first and second time parents who have been identified as being high risk for child abuse and neglect. Over the past several years, the number of families served has decreased due to loss of funding which led to staff reduction.

**Outcomes achieved during 2015:** 40 individuals were served through 146 home visits. All of the families remained free from substantiated abuse and neglect while in the program. At the end of the year, all of the children in the program had health insurance, and 89% had a developmental screening.

**KidsTLC**

Protected safety of  
72 children

\$15,400 Grant

KidsTLC Street Outreach Services Program (SOS) serves runaway and homeless youth between the ages of 12-21. The overarching goal of the program is to get homeless and runaway youth into safe and stable housing. In addition, the young peoples' immediate needs for food and hygiene items are met; youth are educated about sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and domestic violence; and, case management services are available. During 2015, SOS teamed up with KidsTLC new program, Phoenix Sanctuary, which provides short-term crisis stabilization for children. The Phoenix Sanctuary residential unit offers a new option for shelter for runaway and homeless youth.

**Outcomes achieved during 2015:** 4,795 units of service were provided to Johnson County youth, an increase of over 500% from 2014. KidsTLC defines a unit of service as "a service provided to runaway and homeless youth: food, health/hygiene case management, crisis intervention, and safe housing." The organization attributes the increase in Johnson County children served (166%) and units of service to Phoenix Sanctuary increasing SOS' access to youth, as well as the efforts of new staff. During 2015, 147 youth from various geographic areas were served. SOS safely housed 13% of all youth served. These youth were housed in transitional living or shelters, and permanent housing. While getting homeless and runaway youth into safe and stable housing, remained the goal in 2015, with staffing changes and temporary lack of ability to transport youth to housing, the focus was on providing basic supportive services (food, drink) to youth, and on preventing homelessness, running-away, and sexual abuse or exploitation through teaching life-skills classes to at-risk youth (49 classes and other presentations, over 2,800 written materials distributed) in KC metro-area.

**SAFEHOME**

Built economic self-  
reliance of 222  
victims of domestic  
violence

\$18,000 Grant

SAFEHOME provides shelter and other assistance to victims of domestic violence. Human Service Funds support the Economic Empowerment program. Through education, support, housing advocacy, and referrals to community agencies, the program helps women find safe and affordable housing, and to take control of their finances and move towards financial independence. The program includes financial literacy classes and/or an economic assessment, followed by participation in a track(s) - Job Search, Training/Education, and/or Economic/Budgeting.

**Outcomes achieved during 2015:** During 2015, 317 women from various geographic areas were served, 222 of the women were from Johnson County. After 10 weeks of participation in the Job Search track, 50% of participants secured employment. After five weeks in the Budgeting track, 87% of participants set budgeting goals and 79% made plans to address credit problems. After 10 weeks in the Training/Education track, 40% of participants were enrolled in a job training, or a college or degree completion program.

**The Salvation Army  
– Olathe**

Met basic needs of  
166 people

\$15,000 Grant

The Salvation Army Johnson County Family Lodge assists homeless and near homeless families with temporary housing and food at the only homeless shelter in Johnson County. Intensive Case Management, which utilizes a strengths-based model, is provided to each family. Weekly crisis counseling is provided if needed. In 2014 The Salvation Army opened a new lodge which can provide shelter for 14 families at a time.

**Outcomes achieved during 2015:** During 2015 the Family Lodge served 32 families, an increase of 60% from 2014, and provided 34,090 units of service which it defines as “one bed night and/or one meal provided.” 96% of families completed a debt reduction plan prior to leaving the program. 96% of families also developed a plan for a support system to access upon leaving. All participants who successfully completed the program also completed a course or class leading to new life skills. Those included implementing job readiness strategies that lead to new or better employment, parenting skills classes and implementation of parenting strategies, financial management classes which including development of a household budget, and character building classes for children.

**Sunflower House**

Protected safety of  
14,926 children

\$32,500 Grant

The Human Service Fund supported Sunflower House’s child abuse protection program – the Personal Safety Educational program. The program includes: 1) *Happy Bear*, an interactive play for children ages four through seven in public and private early childhood centers and elementary schools; 2) *Let’s Talk about Personal Safety* for upper elementary students; 3) *Let’s Cyber Chat*, an internet safety program delivered to middle school students and parents; 4) *Keeping Kids Safe Online*, education for parents and professionals; and, 5) Mandated Reporter training for early childhood professionals, home visitors, court-appointed advocates and others.

**Outcomes achieved during 2015:** The program served 21,435 adults and children. In post-program surveys, 96% of middle school youth indicated they would report unwanted/inappropriate electronic communications or material, 95% of surveyed children correctly recognized welcome and unwelcome touches, and 98% of children indicated they know how to report abuse to an adult even when told to keep it a secret. 96% of participants in the Mandated Reporter training correctly identified three indicators of abuse.