



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

The landscape of Johnson County has changed over the last decade. Among the trends affecting human services are growing poverty, weakened safety net, increase in low-wage jobs, and greater emphasis on collective impact and data-driven decision-making.

In response to these trends, our program activities have changed. The most notable change is an increased emphasis on factors that contribute to poverty. This is reflected in the creation of a temporary, full-time staff position through 2016, as well as integration of poverty strategies in all of our activities. UCS' core functions of data analysis, collaborative planning and resource mobilization, however, have not changed.

Guiding the poverty work is the *Framework for Reducing Poverty and Creating Opportunity*. Designed to provide a roadmap for our collective efforts, the framework emerged from research studied and conducted by UCS, and places emphasis on good jobs, opportunities for learning at all ages, and a strong safety net.

UCS' vision of a community where everyone can fulfill their potential and contribute fully to our economy can only be achieved when every sector shares responsibility. On behalf of the UCS board and staff, thank you for working with us to make this a thriving, vibrant community for all.

Jill Quigley, UCS Board President

Karen Wulfkuhle, Executive Director



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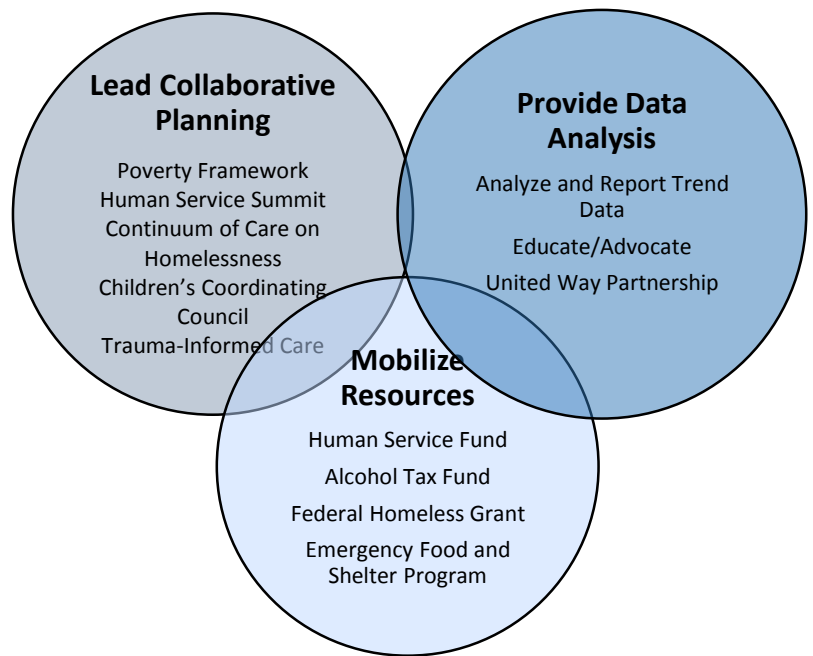
UCS STAFF

- Marya Schott, Community Initiatives Director
- Valorie Carson, Community Planning Director
- Karen Wulfkuhle, Executive Director
- Christie Corbin, Administrative Coordinator
- Kathryn Evans Madden, Poverty Project Manager



ABOUT OUR WORK

UCS helps build a community where everyone can fulfill their potential and contribute fully to our economy. We do this primarily by working with human service organizations, whose purpose is to build well-being. These organizations not only make repairs when well-being starts to break down, but also build a strong foundation, and maintain its strength over time. UCS' specific role is planning for that foundation and needed repairs, focused on three interrelated strategies.



2015 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UCS developed and released the **Framework for Reducing Poverty and Creating Opportunity** in June 2015 at the 14th annual **Human Service Summit**. The framework has three areas of focus: work, education and safety net. For each area of focus, UCS chose one call to action to the health and human service sector. The work initiated in 2015 will continue in 2016.

- **Make every job a good job:** UCS launched a "Good Jobs" workshop series in mid-November. A cohort of 10 human service nonprofits will participate in two additional workshops in 2016 where they will be equipped to plan and implement good jobs for their organizations.
- **Promote "Talk, Read, Play":** UCS invited The Family Conservancy to share the "Talk, Read, Play" campaign with human service organizations. UCS hosted five screenings of the documentary *The Raising of America* and promoted the campaign to attendees.
- **Increase access to safety net supports for adults with dependent children and transitional age youth:** UCS is working with community organizations to assess the assets and gaps of the safety net for the transitional age youth population.

The Johnson County Manager's Office and UCS co-hosted a **City Summit on Poverty** in August, which was attended by 50 city and county staff members. Information was provided by UCS on poverty in every city.

UCS **raised awareness about poverty** and the actions individuals and organizations can take. At the invitation of the Johnson County Manager, UCS met with eight boards and commissions of county government to share trends and strategies to inform their planning. Ten fact sheets and presentations were developed and distributed.

To **recognize contributions** that improve the quality of life, UCS presented its annual human service award to Lee Rowe, Community Volunteer; Hannes Zacharias, Johnson County Manager; and the Family Conservancy.

The **Trauma-Informed Care Project**, after three years of support from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, developed and implemented a sustainability plan in order for the collaborative work

to continue. The Task Force transitioned from a project of UCS to a committee of COMVAC (Johnson County Community Violence Action Council). UCS produced a report documenting the project.

The **Homeless Continuum of Care** was convened monthly by UCS. The Continuum, which is made up of 40+ service providers, is responsible for submission of Johnson County’s application for federal homelessness funding and the annual homelessness count. In 2015, local agencies were granted \$587,000 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing projects.

UCS provided regional data support to **United Way of Greater Kansas City**, including trend data on more than 70 indicators for six counties and assisting with a community engagement process. UCS managed the Federal Emergency Food and Shelter Program for Johnson County.

The **Children’s Coordinating Council**, a network of 30 service providers was convened five times in 2015 to promote stronger relationships among child-serving organizations. An emphasis was placed on cross-over youth (youth who come in contact with the juvenile justice and child-in-need-of-care systems). A UCS-prepared report documents progress by the Cross-Over Youth Work Group.

UCS’ 2015 **Public Policy Platform** focused on influencing policy choices that promote positive outcomes for people. Key advocacy areas were improving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), retaining the Earned Income Tax Credit and Medicaid expansion. A 2016 platform was adopted in November. UCS co-hosted a public policy forum with United Way of Greater Kansas City in December to prepare for the 2016 legislative session.

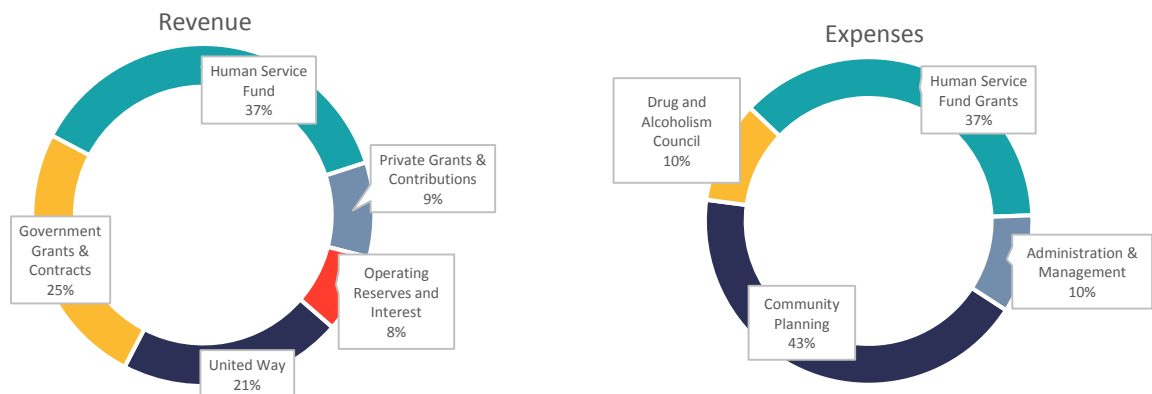
The **Human Service Fund** is managed by UCS to leverage resources for programs that target economic security and personal safety. With funding from 15 cities and the Board of County Commissioners, \$290,100 was awarded to 13 nonprofit agencies. More than 60,000 people benefited from these programs.

The **Drug and Alcoholism Council of Johnson County**, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners and nine cities, 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 2015, jurisdictions allocated \$1.6 million to 22 programs for direct services.

The UCS board, under the leadership of President Jill Quigley, initiated **transition planning** to select the next Executive Director. After more than 30 years working for UCS, Karen Wulfkuhle will retire in May 2016.

2015 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Revenue & Expenses = \$777,475



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MAJOR FUNDING SUPPORT



United Way of Greater Kansas City

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, GOVERNMENT AND OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

Ash Grove Cement Company
AT&T
COBLE MCCUNE
Colonial Church
CrossFirst Bank
Health Care Foundation of Greater KC

Johnson County Community College Foundation
Johnson County Government
Johnson County CDBG
Johnson County Mental Health Center
Kansas Gas Service
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Tom Wertz
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Marc Wilson
Brittney Wray
Karen Wulfkuhle

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.

UCS 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.