



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

2018 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 2018, 15 nonprofit organizations were awarded \$335,930.

This report provides an overview of the programs supported by the Human Service Fund during 2018. Please. Approximately 63,200 Johnson County residents benefited from programs designed to offer support and create opportunities to build self-sufficiency and well-being. This report highlights the number of Johnson County residents served, although some programs also serve individuals living outside of Johnson County.

2018 Human Service Fund Priorities:

1. Programs funded by the HSF must deliver measurable outcomes which benefit Johnson County residents and, in the long-term, benefit local governments by avoiding, deferring, or preventing costs that otherwise might be incurred by local government.
2. Programs funded by the HSF must fit the definition of "Safety Net or Work Supports." Priority is given to programs that address child care and early childhood development, job training, emergency aid and shelter, child/adult abuse, child welfare, and health care.
3. Priority will be given to programs that serve individuals and/or families with income below or near the federal poverty level.
4. Priority will be given to programs that demonstrate innovation and/or collaboration in program delivery.

The UCS board of directors, funded programs and program participants thank the Board of County Commissioners, and Mayors and Council Members who make these funds available. For additional information, contact Marya Schott, UCS Director of Resource Allocation, 913.438.4764, [maryas@ucsjoco.org](mailto:maryas@ucsjoco.org).

2018 Funding	
Johnson County Government	\$131,775
14 Cities	\$227,940
Interest	\$1,215
Total Dollars	\$360,930
UCS Administration	-\$25,000
<b>Grant Awards</b>	<b>\$335,930</b>

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



## 2018 Human Service Fund Year-End Report

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

Number of Johnson County residents served: 384 children

\$40,000 Grant

CASA's (Court-Appointed Special Advocate) Child Advocacy 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. The Child Advocacy Program served 465 children from within and outside of Johnson County,

**Outcomes achieved during 2018:** The presence of a stable adult is a key factor in building resilience from a history of trauma. Ninety-seven percent of children served by CASA had a stable adult presence in their CASA volunteer during their court involvement. While assigned to a CASA advocate, all of the children served did not have an additional affirmed or substantiated report of abuse to Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF). Of the CASA-served youth eligible for graduation, 87% graduated.

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

Number of Johnson County residents served: 27,568

\$70,000 Grant

Through two centers in Johnson County, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas provides an emergency assistance and supportive housing program for families living at or below 150% of federal poverty guidelines. 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 financial assistance with prescription medication, utility payments, and transportation. The case management delivery model emphasizes modes of self-sustainment, including asset development/financial literacy, education on life skills and connection to other resources.

**Outcomes achieved during 2018:** Visits to Catholic Charities for food assistance totaled 46,355. This included assistance with applications for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and food from the agency's pantry. Direct financial assistance enabled 1,068 individuals to maintain safe housing for at least 30 days. 2,439 individuals benefited from utility service assistance which enabled them to sustain utility services for 30 days. All individuals who received direct financial assistance completed a financial assessment with their case manager. Eighty percent of individuals who received financial assistance also attended financial literacy education which included Money Smart, Your Money-Your Goals, and one-on-one budget coaching.

### **El Centro, Inc.**

Number of Johnson County residents served: 1,630

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, income tax assistance, financial literacy classes, individual counseling regarding money management, and trainings on workers' rights and basic workplace safety.

\$20,000 Grant

**Outcomes achieved during 2018:** Clients' basic needs were met: 233 households received utility assistance and were able to maintain utilities for minimum of 30 days, and 52 households received rent assistance which enabled them to sustain housing for minimum of 30 days. Seventy people were assisted with the process that enabled them to receive an Individual Tax Identification Number and thus file income taxes. Nearly 120 individuals were assisted with applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and received benefits.

**Growing Futures  
Early Education  
Center**

(previously known as  
Head Start of  
Shawnee Mission)

Number of Johnson  
County residents  
served: 15

The Human Service Fund helps support families enrolled in Growing Futures Early Education Center's Wrap Around Care (WAC)/ Full Day Program which provides extended day care (before and after regular-hour care) for families in the preschool program. Human Service Fund scholarships pay WAC fees for low-income families who are either working or in school, and having financial difficulties which threaten their children's enrollment in Growing Futures. This enables parents to remain in school or working which is vital to the family's financial stability. The Human Service Fund also supports crisis intervention for families in need of short-term help with housing and food.

**Outcomes achieved during 2018:** Six families received short term help or fee subsidies which allowed parents to remain working or in school while facing financial challenges. Most of the families received short term help. One family experienced a catastrophic health event (father was diagnosed with brain cancer and was unable to continuing working) and scholarship support enabled their three children to continue in preschool while the mother remained in college to complete her degree. During 2018 one child withdrew due to financial issues.

\$9,265 Grant

**Harvesters – The  
Community Food  
Network**

Number of Johnson  
County residents  
served:  
BackSnack -3,055  
children  
Kids Cafe - 3,432  
children

The Human Service Fund supports Harvesters BackSnack and Kids Cafe programs within Johnson County. BackSnack provides low-income children with a backpack of food to take home from school 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. Kids Café is provided in after-school locations and summer sites in Johnson County. Harvesters delivers meals directly to Kids Café sites and provides meals there at no cost to children and youth. Free and reduced lunch school statistics help determine location of Kids Café sites.

**Outcomes achieved during 2018:** Harvesters provided 64,431 backpack carriers of food and 33,884 Kids Café meals to Johnson County children. During spring of 2018, Harvesters implemented an expansion of its BackSnack program to offer a blended BackSnack and School Pantry model where food is delivered to schools for distribution to families that need help feeding everyone in their household (not just the student). During 2018 Harvesters provided the blended model at 11 Johnson County schools, and there were 20 Kids Café sites in Johnson County. Harvester's is not able to provide the exact unduplicated count of children served between the two programs,

\$12,000 Grant

but provided an unduplicated count of recipients specific to each program. Together, a minimum of 4,337 unduplicated children were served between the two programs.

**Health Partnership  
Clinic of Johnson  
County**

Number of Johnson  
County residents  
served: 10,262

\$42,000 Grant

The Health Partnership Clinic (HPC) provides primary and preventative medical care, and dental and behavioral health services for low-income and uninsured patients who would otherwise not have access to care. HPC health care services include pediatric and adult care. Specialty care is provided through a network of providers. A walk-in clinic and case management services are provided for patients who are homeless. In August HPC implemented a high-risk diabetic clinic which was beneficial for patients and has been continued in 2019. HPC served 12,971 patients from within and outside of Johnson County.

**Outcomes achieved during 2018:** During 2018 there were 35,275 patient office visits and/or clinical encounters by Johnson County residents. Nearly 93% of patients surveyed indicated they were either satisfied or very satisfied with overall care they received as a patient (3.5% were neutral). Patients achieved positive health outcomes as indicated by 59% of hypertensive patients who had their blood pressure under control with readings below 140/90, and 66% of diabetic patients who achieved HgA1c (blood glucose) level of 9.0 or below during the last half of the year (compared to 59% before the diabetic clinic opened).

**Hillcrest Ministries  
of MidAmerica**

Number of Johnson  
County residents  
served: 35

\$6,000 grant

Hillcrest's Transitional Housing – Homeless Youth and Families program provided transitional housing for four homeless youth and 31 children and adults (in families) in eight apartments located in Overland Park. The youth program provides up to 24 months of housing and services, including individual case management and budget counseling, and connection to community services to address immediate and ongoing needs as applicable, such as medical, dental, vision, mental health, substance abuse treatment, employment training, tutoring, and mentoring. Adults and families receive similar services, however, for a shorter period (three months).

**Outcomes achieved during 2018:** All youth and families received an individual assessment of needs including health, employment, education and housing. The four homeless youth worked toward achieving education goals (their work toward those goals continues), and 10 adults improved and maintained employment. Over 1,000 hours of volunteer time and \$25,000 in in-kind donations were contributed to the program.

**Jewish Family  
Services**

Number of Johnson  
County residents  
served: 679

\$5,000 grant

Through the Food, Shelter and Employment (FS&E) program, Jewish Family Services provided emergency assistance, food pantry services, and/or employment services to low-income families (at or below 150 percent of poverty). Services included employment coaching, financial education, income supports, and community referral. Services were provided without regard to religious affiliation and service delivery emphasized an integrated approach to financial improvement. Jewish Family Services is in the process of transforming the FS&E program to a multi-service, site-based

service model to better engage and serve families who most often come-in seeking food pantry and/or emergency services.

**Outcomes achieved during 2018:** Of the 149 Johnson County participants in employment coaching, 70 (47%) secured employment and 94% of those retained their job for at least 90 days. All eligible families received assistance consistent with their assessed needs and increased their awareness of community resources. Historically over 90% of families participating in on-going case management demonstrated improved economic security by achieving at least one financial goal in their plan.

**Johnson County  
Interfaith Hospitality  
Network**

Through partnerships with 35 faith congregations, Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) provided homeless families and single unaccompanied women with shelter, meals, and case management which included assistance with budgeting and money management, job and housing searches, transportation, and referrals to community resources.

Number of Johnson  
County residents  
served: 60

\$9,000 Grant

**Outcomes achieved during 2018:** Of those completing the program, 70% reported increasing their income by 25% or more while in the program, and 38% moved into homes of their own within three months of entering the network. Johnson County residents received 3,264 days of shelter and strength-based case management.

**Kansas Children's  
Service League**

Kansas Children's Service League Healthy Families Johnson County, a child abuse prevention program, provides intensive home-based parent education, support, and case management to first and second time parents who have been identified as being high risk for child abuse and neglect.

Number of Johnson  
County residents  
served: 164

\$19,800 Grant

**Outcomes achieved during 2018:** All of the families served by the program remained free from substantiated abuse and neglect while in the program. By the end of the year, 87% of children in the program had health insurance and 97% had a developmental screening.

**KidsTLC**

In late 2018, KidsTLC changed the name of the Human Service Fund supported Street Outreach Services Program (SOS) to Thriving Families. The program continued providing housing and resource support to families and youth who were homeless or at-risk of homelessness, primarily within Olathe and Shawnee Mission school districts, and added a parent support/education program (Que Onda Familias) for Hispanic parents/guardians. Classes taught health literacy surrounding mental health and trauma and offer peer support. Through Thriving Families Hispanic families and families experiencing homelessness were provided health navigation support and connection to community resources, housing, and KidsTLC's mental health and autism programs.

Number of Johnson  
County residents  
served: 206

\$17,500 Grant

**Outcomes achieved during 2018:** Through crisis intervention, housing support, and health navigation, the Thriving Families program served 206 individuals, including 12

unaccompanied youth and 53 families. KidsTLC helped permanently house 10 youth and 30 families which included providing rent/utility assistance, as well as referral to shelter and transitional living. KidsTLC referred 53 clients to rental/utility assistance, shelter, food/clothing, postnatal, legal services, employment services, and mental health services. In addition, at least 15 adults were referred to KidsTLC's mental health programming to receive services for their child. Program staff made 63 face-to-face contacts and handled 140 crisis intervention services/crisis calls.

### **Safehome**

Number of Johnson County residents served: 190

\$19,865 Grant

Safehome provides shelter and other assistance to victims of domestic violence. Human Service Funds support the Economic Empowerment program. The goal of the program is to help victims leave and stay out of abusive situations by becoming economically self-reliant. Through education, support, housing advocacy, and referrals to community agencies, the program helped victims 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. Safehome served 243 clients from within and outside of Johnson County.

**Outcomes achieved during 2018:** After five weeks of participation in the Job Search track, all participants completed a career assessment inventory, and after 10 weeks, 86% had a least two job interviews, and 100% secured a new or better job. After five weeks in the Budgeting track, all participants set budgeting goals, and 15% made plans to address credit problems; after 10 weeks, 80% of participants set up a realistic household budget.

### **The Salvation Army, Olathe**

Number of Johnson County residents served: 135

\$18,000 Grant

The Salvation Army Johnson County Family Lodge assists homeless and near homeless families with temporary housing and food at the homeless shelter in Olathe. Each family received strengths-based case management where they developed an individualized housing and financial stabilization plan and were assisted in locating affordable housing and establishing savings. Family therapy, crisis counseling, parenting classes and financial literacy programming were also available. The Salvation Army participates in the Coordinated Entry System which began in late 2017 under the auspices of KS-505 (Johnson County) Continuum of Care on Homelessness. Each family entering a homeless program that participates in the Coordinated Entry System is given a Vulnerability Assessment Screening and their name is placed on a "by-name" list for prioritized housing resources. This has resulted in families being able to secure affordable safe housing in an expedited manner and many families served by Salvation Army have been able to move into affordable housing leased in the name of the family.

**Outcomes achieved during 2018:** The Family Lodge provided 32,926 units of service which it defines as "one bed night and/or one meal provided." Ninety-three percent of families who moved out of the lodge moved into transitional or permanent housing. All eligible families applied for mainstream services (medical assistance and SNAP) or completed renewal applications. Ninety-seven percent of participants who

successfully completed the program increased their skills or income (37 of 38). Of those, 23 families increased parenting skills, 37 families developed a working budget, four families began secondary educational programming and one parent completed her LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) training.

**Sunflower House**

Number of Johnson County residents served: 17,470

\$37,500 Grant

The Human Service Fund supported the Sunflower House 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) *Think First and Stay Safe* for PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade students; 3) *E-Safety*, an internet safety program delivered to 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students; 4) *Keeping Kids Safe Online*, education for parents; 5) *Stewards of Children*, a child abuse prevention training for adults; 6) *Child Protection*, an adult-focused child sexual abuse prevention program; and, 7) *Mandated Reporter Training* which teaches attendees to recognize signs of sexual abuse, the correct procedures/laws for reporting, and how to handle a child’s disclosure. The program served 25,148 individuals from within and outside of Johnson County.

**Outcomes achieved during 2018:** In post-program surveys, 97% of children indicated they would report unwanted contact, including physical touches and electronic communications. All adults, including those within the special needs community, who were educated on child abuse indicators and reporting abuse indicated they gained new information.

**The Family Conservancy**

Number of Johnson County residents served: 85

\$10,000 Grant

The Family Conservancy’s “Talk, Read, Play” (TRP) project is a parent-child initiative with emphasis on reaching low-income parents where research suggests it has potential to have a greater impact on children’s healthy development. The TRP project was implemented at Tender Hearts of Lenexa which serves families who receive state subsidy for child care costs. TRP trains child care providers and addresses parents’ basic abilities to support their child’s early learning and literacy development. It helps parents interact intentionally with their children, furthering at home the lessons child development educators begin building with children in the classroom. TRP materials were distributed to families, on-site parent activities were held, teachers were trained on implementing TRP strategies (including classroom site visits), and the center received 300 books to build their library and allow them to offer opportunities for children to take home books to read and return.

**Outcomes achieved during 2018:** Surveys indicated parents increased the frequency of talking, playing and reading with their child. Eighty-seven percent reported they were talking, or trying to talk, more with their child. Seventy-five percent (up from 50%), reported they were reading at least every other day to their child and 20% (up from 10%) reported they read at least one book per day to their child. All parents surveyed said they had tried at least two of the suggested play activities with their child.