

### MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

*Healthy Communities = Economic Vitality* was a central theme for UCS in 2018. Board, staff, and community partners emphasized the interconnectedness of physical and mental health, housing, employment, transportation, education and training, and emergency services. Each of these are vital to the well-being and economic sustainability of our community.



UCS used the health equity lens to help frame its work in 2018. The organization focused attention on the role social and economic factors as well as physical environment play in overall health. These factors make up what are referred to as the social determinants of health. Health begins where we live, learn, work and create community.

The mission of UCS is to provide data analysis, lead collaborative planning and mobilize resources to enhance the availability and delivery of health and human services. UCS' vision is that all people have the opportunity to fulfill their potential and contribute to the health and well-being of the community. We thank all our state and local elected officials, city and county staff, public and private human service providers, faith and educational organizations, funders, and stakeholders who support UCS' mission and vision. UCS' work is a reflection of the concerns and priorities of our community.



The 2018 Annual Meeting highlighted UCS' role in facilitating community collaborations and targeted resource allocation. The event featured audience members representing cities, faith communities, schools, and mental health, human service and healthcare agencies sharing their stories of collaborating with UCS to improve community well-being. These partnerships represent the community at its best, coming to a common table, utilizing data and research to create a collective response and deploy necessary resources.

UCS believes improving the health and well-being of our residents is the most important economic investment we can make. The county's economic vitality and sustainability are only as healthy as those who live and work in our communities.

Justin Nichols, UCS Board President

Julie K. Brewer, Executive Director

# 2018 Major Accomplishments



The core work of UCS is illuminating needs and solutions through **Education & Advocacy**, fostering a framework for collaboration through **Mobilizing & Planning**, and prioritizing community investments through **Targeted Resource Allocation**. Putting together the **puzzle pieces** of what makes a healthy, economically sustainable community was a focus of UCS' efforts this year.



## Education & Advocacy:

**Public Policy Forum:** The 2018 forum, in partnership with United Way of Greater Kansas City and with support from the REACH Healthcare Foundation, brought together more than 120 community members including state legislators, local policy makers, funders, human service agencies, city and county staff, and community advocates. Healthy Communities was the focus of this year's forum. UCS, Community Health Council of Wyandotte County and Tenants to Homeowners of Lawrence presented data and information on the impact housing, transportation and employment access have on residents' health and overall economic growth and sustainability. The forum included a panel of experienced legislators including Senator Pat Pettey, Senator Dinah Sykes, Representative Linda Gallagher and Representative Eileen Horn. The legislative panel provided an overview of the recent work of the Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Task Force and priority recommendations that will be presented in the 2019 legislative session by the Child Welfare System Task Force.

UCS' 2018 **Public Policy Platform** advocated for fiscal and taxation policies that

- ⇒ support citizens' ability to reach and maintain economic stability
- ⇒ strategically use tax credits, refunds and rebates to help low wage earners stay employed
- ⇒ increase access to health care
- ⇒ create a path of re-entry for youth transitioning out of foster care
- ⇒ advance employment policies that help low-income workers and increase access to employment, and
- ⇒ provide sufficient funds to conduct the 2020 Census



*Sen. Pettey, Sen. Sykes, Rep. Gallagher, Rep. Horn*

Throughout the year, UCS gave approximately **30 community presentations**, including presentations at the Kansas State Conference on Poverty, the state-wide Public Health Association Conference, and a Johnson County state legislative delegation luncheon. Additionally, UCS published community **factsheets** on topics ranging from changes in the cost of living and housing affordability, to poverty, health insurance coverage, and homelessness. UCS is a planning partner with **United Way of Greater Kansas City**. In this role, UCS provides data analysis on poverty and health and human service issues impacting our community, and other research and planning support as needed.





*Full house at the Human Service Summit*

The 2018 **Human Service Summit: Investing in Healthy Communities** brought together more than 200 community members from across sectors including business, public safety, education, human services, government, faith community and funders to discuss what impacts our health and well-being. UCS shared its community



*UCS Executive Committee Members Elected at 2018 Annual Meeting: Rick Worrel, Jennifer Bruning, Roxann Kerr Lindsey, Kate Allen, Tara Eberline, Justin Nichols, Brian Brown*

**Human Service Awards:** At UCS' 2018 Annual Meeting, Barb McEver and Dean Askeland, founders of Project 10♥20, a volunteer cold weather shelter response for adults experiencing homelessness, were recognized with the **Citizens of the Year** award. Judge Timothy McCarthy received the **Distinguished Public Service** award for his collaborative work to create the first Veterans Treatment Court in the state of Kansas. The **Excellence in Community Service** award recognized two local programs, Shawnee Mission School District's Project Home and Olathe Public Schools' Impact Olathe and their collaborative partners.



*Summit attendees engaged in table breakout session*

collaboration efforts to create a **Johnson County Health Equity Network**. Dr. Marci Nielsen, President and CEO of PolicyPRN Consulting, served as the keynote speaker. Steve Kraske of KCUR and the *Kansas City Star* moderated a community panel which included 7th District State Senator Barbara Bollier, Johnson County Mental Health Center Director Tim DeWeese, Shawnee Mission School District Interim Superintendent Dr. Ken Southwick, UPS Human Resource Specialist Celeste Gruhin, and Tenants to Homeowners Inc. Executive Director Rebecca Buford. The Summit included a table-level breakout session and concluded with a Call to Action as next steps for participants and the community.



*Excellence in Community Service award winners—Shawnee Mission School District's Project Home and Olathe Public Schools' Impact Olathe and their collaborative partners*

# Mobilizing & Planning

In 2018, UCS continued its work with the **Johnson County Health Equity Network**. This initiative is in partnership with Johnson County Department of Health and Environment and a Leadership Team comprising more than 20 organizations across all sectors. This work is supported by a Kansas Health Foundation Healthy Communities Initiatives Grant. Additionally, REACH Healthcare Foundation is supporting ongoing evaluation of the initiative's efforts. The Johnson County Health Equity Network is a multisector collaborative of community partners dedicated to

**Health Equity Network Leadership Team**

*Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City*, *Johnson County Mental Health Center*, *City of Merriam*, *Johnson County NMCCP*, *City of Overland Park*, *Johnson County Resident*, *Deaf Community Health Program*, *Kansas Senate, District 7*, *Health Partnership Clinic*, *Overland Park Chamber of Commerce*, *IPC Healthcare, Inc.*, *REACH Healthcare Foundation*, *Johnson County ADHS*, *Shawnee Mission School District*, *Johnson County Dept. of Health and Environment*, *St. Luke's Health System*, *Johnson County Food Policy Council*, *United Community Services of Johnson County*, *Johnson County Latino Leadership Network*, *United Methodist Church of the Resurrection*, *United Way of Greater Kansas City*

The Johnson County Health Equity Network is a multisector collaborative of community partners dedicated to ensuring that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible regardless of who you are, where you live, or what your circumstances may be. The Health Equity Network exists to align, support, and reinforce the Johnson County community's health equity activities and to promote a culture in which those who experience health inequities can take the lead in addressing the root causes. Creating a strong and vibrant Health Equity Network in Johnson County will ensure equitable health outcomes for current and future residents, which will help our entire community reach its full potential.

The Health Equity Network is facilitated by United Community Services of Johnson County and the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment with funding support from the Kansas Health Foundation and the REACH Healthcare Foundation. The Health Equity Network Leadership Team guides the collaborative planning and research, engaging new partners, and implementing strategic shared goals.

**Priority Issue:** Safe, Stable and Affordable Housing for all Johnson County Residents

**Health Equity Network Strategies:**

- Support the Population: Use data and technology improvements to increase access to services and supports.
- Build the Narrative: Use data and storytelling to educate the public and inform decision-makers about health equity issues.
- Increase Support and Capacity: Engage the priority population and the broader community to address health equity issues.
- Policy Change: Advance an equitable policy agenda by engaging policy makers and influencing potential policy solutions to inquiry.
- Civic Engagement: Partner to engage constituencies on health equity policy issues.

**Creating home options that reflect the different wage levels represented in Johnson County is one of the Leadership Team's priorities.**

**What Johnson County residents are saying...**

**Economic Stability:** Employment, Income, Expenses, Debt, Medical Bill. *This issue impacts my health and well-being because... bills for basic necessities are greater than my income... I can't live.*

**Neighborhood and Physical Environment:** Housing, Transportation, Safety, Parks, Playgrounds, Higher education. *This issue impacts my health and well-being because... I am a single mom on Section 8, so I am limited on my options as to where I am able to live. I feel stuck between a hard rock and a hard place.*

**Education:** Literacy, Language, Early childhood education, Vocational training, Higher education. *This issue impacts my health and well-being because... I have not had a good education you can't get a job that pays well.*

**Food:** Hunger, Access to healthy food options. *This issue impacts my health and well-being because... Processed food is cheaper than fresh food, so I buy what I can afford.*

**Community and Social Context:** Discrimination, Social integration, Support systems, Community engagement, Quality of care. *This issue impacts my health and well-being because... Broken shoulder and no insurance. Trying to make it better.*

**Health Care System:** Health Coverage, Provider availability, Provider cultural competency, Quality of care. *This issue impacts my health and well-being because... I don't have anyone to help me. I have to figure it out on my own.*

**Focused listening sessions and presentations identified safe, stable, affordable housing as a priority health issue.**

ensuring that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible regardless of who you are, where you live, or what your circumstances may be. The Health Equity Network Leadership Team guides the collaborative planning and research, engaging new partners, and implementing strategic shared goals. After a year of research and planning, the Leadership Team has begun

implementation efforts focusing on safe, stable, affordable housing in Johnson County as its priority health issue.

With grant support from the REACH Healthcare Foundation, UCS led the **Transitional-Age Youth (TAY) Planning Project**, a collaborative of 15 organizations representing health and mental health services, housing, education, and workforce development, and agencies serving at-risk youth. They worked together to develop and implement a plan to coordinate best practices, protocols, and evaluation measures to ensure responsive and adequate delivery of services and supports for at-risk transitional-age youth (TAY). The goal is that at-risk transitional-age youth in Johnson County will enter adulthood successfully. Implementation activities in 2018 included a Speaker Series featuring topics impacting TAY. An Aged-Out Intensive Home-Based Services Pilot between the Kansas Department for Children and Families and KVC was launched in 2018. Additionally, planning began on a Bridge to College Pilot between Olathe Schools and Johnson County Community College with a planned launch in 2019. UCS, through Johnson County's Continuum of Care on Homelessness, coordinated support for reStart, Inc's opening of a new transitional living program in Johnson County for transitional-age youth and connected reStart, Inc. to the TAY Planning Project.

**Transitional-Age Youth Planning Project**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Test strategies that enable youth to access supportive services after they leave foster care custody.
- Connect at-risk TAY to community resources and supports before they leave high school.
- Engage the community in the needs of the TAY population.
- Develop emergency housing and transitional living programs for TAY.
- Join advocacy efforts to expand Medicaid in Kansas.
- Enhance network of TAY-serving mental health providers.

**The poverty rate for transitional age youth, ages 18 – 24, is more than twice the county's poverty rate.**

UCS convened the **Children's Coordinating Council**, a network of 30 service providers to promote stronger relationships among organizations serving at-risk children and families. The Council meets quarterly.

UCS continued its involvement in the **Trauma-Informed Care Project**, which is now a committee of Johnson County Community Violence Action Council (COMVAC). COMVAC meets regularly and provides quarterly training.

In 2018, UCS completed an 18-month collaboration with the Johnson County Department of Corrections, serving as its onsite facilitator to address **Disproportionate Minority Contact in the juvenile justice system**. The focus of this work was to reduce racial and ethnic disparity, utilizing the W. Haywood Burns Institute's Intensive Site Engagement Model. This initiative was done with the support of a Title II grant.

UCS also provided facilitation services as requested by Johnson County for additional trainings and initiatives around poverty and housing vulnerability.

**UCS United Community Services of Johnson County**

**Homelessness in Johnson County, 2018**

One hundred and sixty-eight persons were identified in Johnson County's 2018 point-in-time (PIT) count of homelessness—a sharp increase after years of decreasing overall numbers. The increased number of unsheltered individuals powered much of the almost 50% year-over-year increase—despite all categories of housing increased somewhat. Understanding who is experiencing homelessness and their barriers to regaining permanent housing is critical in Johnson County's work to end homelessness in 2018 and beyond.

The term "homelessness" involves a variety of ages and experiences. The experience of homelessness results in significant barriers and challenges for adults and children, both now and in the future. Johnson County's Continuum of Care on Homelessness is a collaboration of public and private service providers committed to quality and effectively responding to housing issues in order to better prevent or end homelessness among local residents.

**2018 Point-in-Time Count**

Category	Emergency Shelter	Sheltered Housing	Unsheltered	Total
Total Number of Households	42	14	86	92
Total Number of Persons	92	90	300	368
Number of Children (18 or under)	46	21	1	68
Number of Adults (19 or over)	2	5	9	10
Number of Adults (21+ years)	44	12	94	90

**2018 PIT count by age group**

18-24 years: 28%  
25-34 years: 45%  
35-44 years: 15%  
45+ years: 12%

The median age of a person experiencing homelessness in Johnson County in 2018 was 28 years, up sharply from a median age of 19 in 2017. 62% of those in the point-in-time count were in households with children under 18 years of age. 140 unaccompanied youth were identified and one child under 18 was counted as unsheltered.

**Status Among Homeless Adults**

6.3 OF 10 **\*\*\*\*\*** (Employed)  
3 OF 10 **\*\*\*** (In school)  
5 OF 10 **\*\*\*\*\*** (Unemployed)

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**One hundred and sixty-eight persons were identified in Johnson County's 2018 point-in-time (PIT) count of homelessness – a sharp increase after years of decreasing overall numbers.**

UCS is the lead agency for the **Johnson County's Continuum of Care on Homelessness (KS-505 CoC)**. In this role, UCS convenes more than 50 organizations from the human service sector, local government, schools, and the faith community to respond to homelessness and poverty. A component of this work includes facilitating the annual Point-in-Time Count of homelessness for the county and coordinating the annual federal funding request application to HUD for Johnson County. In 2018, local agencies were awarded more than \$700,000 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing projects. Additionally, KS-505 CoC fully implemented its coordinated entry system in 2018, with local partners assessing the level of vulnerability for each household experiencing homelessness, maintaining each household on a list by name, and prioritizing referrals based on their level of vulnerability and ranked household characteristics.

UCS continues to manage the **Human Service Fund**, an important city/County partnership that invests funding resources in nonprofit programs which provide our residents essential health and human services that promote self-sufficiency and build well-being. With funding from 14 cities and Johnson County, \$335,930 was awarded to 15 nonprofit agencies. Approximately 63,200 Johnson County residents benefited from these programs.

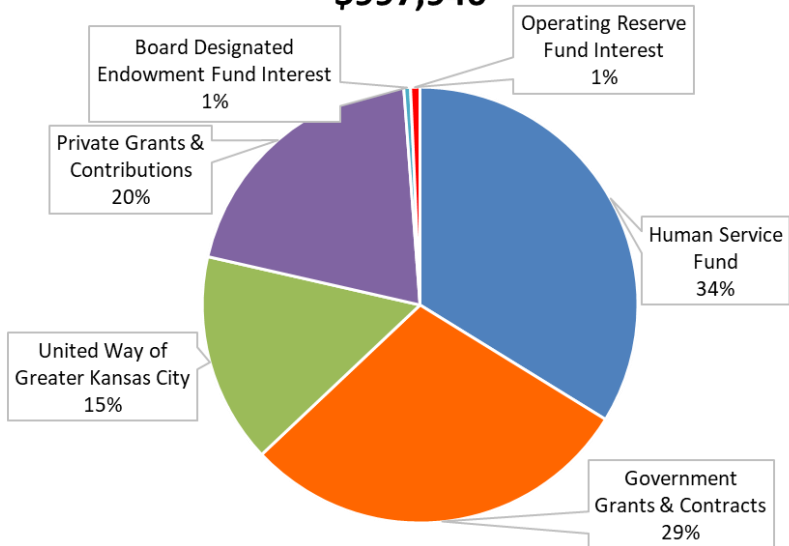
UCS facilitates the **Drug and Alcoholism Council of Johnson County (DAC)** which, on behalf of the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners and nine cities, oversees the allocation of local Alcohol Tax Funds for substance abuse prevention and treatment programs. Approximately 57,700 Johnson County residents benefited from programs funded in part by **Alcohol Tax Funds** in 2018. Jurisdictions allocated more than \$1.96 million to 25 programs for direct services. In 2018, UCS and DAC conducted a planning process which included research and input from stakeholders. This resulted in a report on Alcohol Tax Fund funding priorities for 2019-2021.

# Targeted Resource Allocation

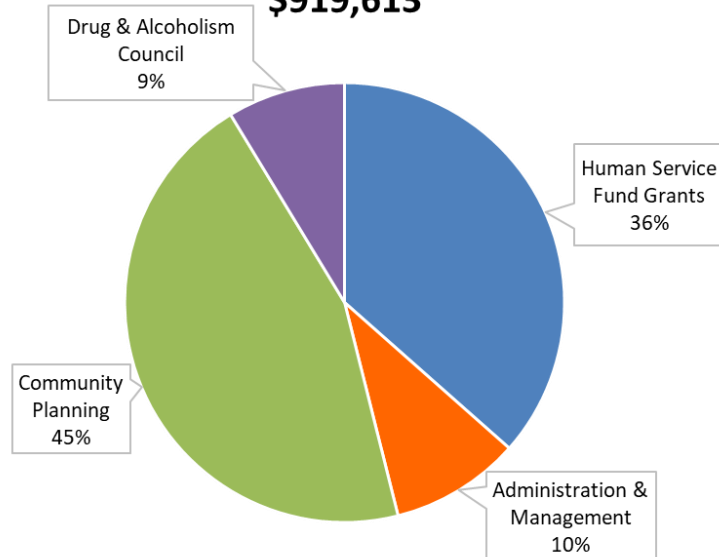


## 2018 FINANCIAL REVIEW\*

### Revenue ♦ \$997,946



### Expenses \$919,613



♦ Revenue includes grant income received in 2018 intended for use in 2019.

\*Audited Financials for 2018 will be available July 2019.

### UCS 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## MAJOR FUNDING SUPPORT



United Way of Greater Kansas City

## CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, GOVERNMENT AND OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

AT&T	Johnson County Community College Foundation	KCP&L
Central Bank of the Midwest	Johnson County Court Administration	Kutak Rock LLP
COBLE MCCUNE Financial, Inc.	Johnson County Government	Midwest Realty Solutions LLC
CrossFirst Bank	Johnson County Mental Health Center	Pickett, Chaney & McMullen, LLP
ETC Institute	Kansas Gas Service	REACH Healthcare Foundation
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## INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

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## Alcohol Tax Fund & 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, and Johnson County Government.

## UCS STAFF

Julie K. Brewer, Executive Director

Marya Schott, Director of Resource Allocation

Kathryn Evans Madden, Director of Education & Planning  
(thru June 2018)

Valorie Carson, Director of Community Planning

Kristy Baughman, Director of Education & Planning  
(started September 2018)

Cathy Goodwin, Administrative Coordinator



As a native Johnson Countian and mother of three children coming up through the public school system in Johnson County, I feel that being integrated into what is happening in our county is crucial. Personally and professionally, I am tied to our community through Johnson County Community College and the different things we do in the workforce and to strengthen the lives of the people around us. I personally enjoy the work of UCS ... They provide reliable data and help us understand outcomes so that we can effectively use private and public resources to address major issues in our community. UCS is up for the challenge so it is great to be part of it.

**Kate Allen**

Associate VP for Advancement and Government Affairs,  
Johnson County Community College  
UCS Board Member



As a pastor, one of the things I strive to do is understand where the gaps are in our community, who our vulnerable community members are, what needs they have, and then identify how my congregation and I are gifted to serve in those gaps. UCS is a true partner in this effort. Not only does UCS provide me with relevant data that is unique to my neighborhood, but they are an invaluable resource and a connector. They help me understand how things work in any given community. Whether it has to do with housing, drug and alcoholism counseling, early education or family support networks ... UCS has their finger on the pulse of the social service agencies across Johnson County. As a faith leader and community member, they provide me with a direct line to the agencies that can help.

**Lee Jost**

Founding Pastor, Christ the Servant  
UCS Board Member

*UCS 2018 Annual Report* can be viewed and downloaded at [ucsjoco.org](http://ucsjoco.org)