



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

2019 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 2019, 14 nonprofit organizations were awarded \$339,801.

This report provides an overview of the programs supported by the Human Service Fund (HSF) during 2019. Based upon grantees’ final reports, approximately 60,000 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.

Human Service Fund Priorities

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.

1. Programs funded by the HSF must fit the definition of “Safety Net or Work Supports.” Priority is given to programs that address emergency aid and shelter, child/adult abuse, child welfare, health, work support services such as childcare and early childhood development, and job training.
2. Priority will be given to programs that serve individuals and/or families with income below or near the federal poverty level.
3. Priority will be given to programs that demonstrate innovation and/or collaboration in program delivery.
4. Priority will be given to programs that are consistent with an evidence-based program, best practices or promising practices, or replicate a successful model.

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 Julie Brewer, Executive Director, 913.438.4764 ([julieb@ucsjoco.org](mailto:julieb@ucsjoco.org)).

<b>2019 Funding</b>	
Johnson County Government	\$131,775
14 Cities	\$228,026
Interest	\$5,000
Total Dollars	\$364,801
UCS Administration	-\$25,000
<b>Grant Awards</b>	<b>\$339,801</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.



## 2019 Human Service Fund Year-End Report

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

Number of Johnson County residents served:  
412 children

\$43,500 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 504 children from within and outside of Johnson County,

**Outcomes achieved during 2019:** The presence of a stable adult is a key factor in building resilience from a history of trauma. Ninety-six 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, 99% 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 or working towards obtaining a GED, 83% were successful (graduated or awarded a GED). This percentage for academic milestones far exceeds the state average for children in foster care.

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

Number of Johnson County residents served: 24,859 (see narrative)\*

\$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 2019:** Visits to Catholic Charities for food assistance totaled 41,049. Direct financial assistance enabled 736 individuals to maintain safe housing for at least 30 days. 1,164 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. Ninety-one percent of individuals who received financial assistance also completed at least one component of financial literacy education (Money Smart, Your Money-Your Goals), and received one-on-one budget coaching.

\*Due to a change in Catholic Charities' approach to stabilization of clients, fewer individuals were served than anticipated when the HSF application was submitted. The organization is focusing on longer-term holistic services that help households toward housing stability. This also resulted in more units of service (one instance of service) being provided than the organization anticipated when the application was submitted.

**El Centro, Inc.**

Number of Johnson County residents served: 1,540 in Olathe office and 1,350 by VITA. The unduplicated number of people served by both is not available.

El Centro’s Johnson County Family Services Program provides a set of safety-net services to low-income, under-insured and uninsured Johnson County residents. Services include, but are not limited to, emergency assistance, assistance filing taxes, financial literacy classes and individual counseling regarding money management, and access to healthcare (health navigation and promotion). Assistance filing taxes is through El Centro’s VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) site, located in Overland Park. The other services are provided in El Centro’s office located in Olathe.

**Outcomes achieved during 2019:** Clients’ immediate basic needs were met: 47 households received utility assistance and were able to maintain utilities for minimum of 30 days, and 17 households received rent assistance which enabled them to sustain housing for minimum of 30 days. Eighty-six individuals completed the financial empowerment class. Eighty-four people were assisted with the process that enabled them to receive an Individual Tax Identification Number and thus file income taxes; 1,350 people were assisted in filing their taxes. One hundred twenty- three individuals were assisted with applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and received benefits; 484 enrolled in KanCare with assistance. Three hundred seventy-seven individuals were referred to a community healthcare resource and of those, 91.5% had at least one successful outcome. Two hundred forty-five individuals completed a class about eating healthy on a budget. In 2019 El Centro was no longer able to offer OSHA training and certification; therefore, basic workplace safety information was included in Know Your Rights, a training included within El Centro’s set of safety net services. In 2019, 195 individuals attended that training.

**Growing Futures Early Education Center**  
(previously known as Head Start of Shawnee Mission)

Number of Johnson County residents served: 37

\$9,265 Grant

Most of the families served by Growing Futures are living at or below federal poverty guidelines. Through the Human Service Fund grant, scholarships (child care assistance) help low-income families experiencing financial hardships who are unable to pay their share of child care fees (federal Head Start grants fund 3.5 hours of the day and parents are responsible for costs wrapped around the Head Start funded hours). Scholarships allow for continuity of early childhood care and education while parents are working or attending school. Emergency assistance is provided to families in need of short-term help, particularly with housing (those in jeopardy of losing Section 8 eligibility because of inability to pay rent on time), and food.

**Outcomes achieved during 2019:** Thirteen children and their families received short term help or fee subsidies which allowed parents to remain working or in school while facing financial challenges. The needs of families went beyond monetary. Growing Futures’ Family Support Advocates also helped families obtain childcare subsidy funding and resources specific to being single fathers, incarceration, and mental health concerns. During 2019 no children left the program due to inability to pay fees. All the assisted families achieved steps toward the completion of a large family goal, and six attained their family goal. Overall daily attendance was maintained at rate ranging from 88% to 93%. For the 2018-19 school year, 89% of kindergarten eligible children achieved kindergarten readiness.

**Harvesters – The Community Food Network**

Number of Johnson County children served:\*

BackSnack -1,850 children

Kids Cafe - 2,804 children

\*These numbers represent the most children served in each of the programs during a six-month period (not over the year).

3,582 is minimum unduplicated number served by combined programs (see narrative)

\$15,000 Grant

The Human Service Fund supports Harvesters BackSnack and Kids Café 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 across school districts in Johnson County.

**Outcomes achieved during 2019:** Harvesters provided 46,045 backpack carriers of food to Johnson County school children, and 27,195 Kids Café meals were provided to Johnson County children at 21 sites in Johnson County. Harvesters recently piloted its School Pantry program which is blended with the BackSnack program to mitigate food insecurity within a child’s whole family (food is delivered to schools for distribution to families that need help feeding everyone in their household, not just the student). Three Johnson County schools participated in the School Pantry program during 2019.

Harvester’s is not able to provide an unduplicated count of children served between Kids Café and BackSnack, or by each individual program over the calendar year or a school year. In order to determine the minimum number of unduplicated children served by both programs, the largest number of children served in each Johnson County jurisdiction during a six-month period for either program was added together for total of 3,582.

**Health Partnership Clinic of Johnson County**

Number of Johnson County residents served: 9,235

\$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. During 2019 HPC improved access to health care through after-hour availability and walk-in availability. HPC served 12,285 patients from within and outside of Johnson County.

**Outcomes achieved during 2019:** During 2019 there were 24,881 patient office visits and/or clinical encounters by Johnson County residents. Approximately 91% of patients surveyed indicated they were either satisfied or very satisfied with overall care they received as a patient. Patients achieved positive health outcomes as indicated by 66% of hypertensive patients who had their blood pressure under control with readings below 140/90, and 69% 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**

Hillcrest’s Transitional Housing – Homeless Youth and Families program provided transitional housing for 30 homeless youth, children and families in apartments located in Overland Park. The youth program provides up to 24 months of housing and

Number of Johnson County residents served: 30  
\$9,500 grant

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 2019:** All youth and families received an individual assessment of needs including health, employment, education and housing. The six homeless youth worked toward achieving education goals (their work toward those goals continues), and seven adults are employed full-time. Over 600 hours of volunteer time and \$25,000 in in-kind donations were contributed to the program.

**Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network**

Number of Johnson County residents served: 25

\$9,000 Grant

Through partnerships with 36 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.

**Outcomes achieved during 2019:** Of those completing the program, 93.5% reported increasing their income by 25% or more while in the program, and 43% moved into homes of their own or transitional housing within four months of entering the network. Johnson County residents received 1,941 days of shelter and strength-based case management.

**Kansas Children's Service League**

Number of Johnson County residents served: 316

\$19,800 Grant

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. Participants receive routine at-home visits, case management, referrals to community resources and services, child development and parent education, and linkage to health care services. Parent engagement includes Parent Cafés, parent support groups, and a Parent Leadership Council.

**Outcomes achieved during 2019:** Ninety-eight percent of families served by the program remained free from substantiated abuse and neglect while in the program. By the end of the year, 99% of children enrolled in the program for at least six months had health insurance and 94% had a developmental screening.

**KidsTLC**

Number of Johnson County residents served: 294

\$17,500 Grant

In late 2018, KidsTLC expanded the scope of its Human Service Fund supported Street Outreach Services Program (SOS) and renamed it as Thriving Families. The program now encompasses all KidsTLC's family resource support and education services. Thriving Families employs a Family Support and Navigation Specialist who is available to help families navigate the complexities of finding mental health/health care, housing, and community resources/support. The program also provides education groups for parents or guardians of KidsTLC clients through the CARES and Que Onda Familias (Spanish Speaking) education and support groups. The program is a

compliment to the residential and outpatient mental health services KidsTLC provides to children. Services are targeted to the following populations: homeless/McKinney Vento families in the Olathe and Shawnee Mission school districts; Spanish speaking families in Johnson County; parents/guardians of current KidsTLC clients; and families who are lingering on long waitlists for mental health services. The goal of the program is to educate families on health issues, trauma, and raising healthy children and to provide health navigation and connection to community resources so that ultimately, they can raise happy and healthy children.

**Outcomes achieved during 2019:** KidsTLC helped meet people’s live sustaining basic needs; clients were referred to services and reported increased knowledge of resources. (Outcome data in this section refers to household and individuals.) Twenty-seven households received crisis intervention services, 11 households received assistance with rent, deposits or mortgage payments, and 17 received food/hygiene assistance. Four clients received referrals to employment opportunities, nine received referrals to shelter/transitional living program, one family received help with benefits assistance, 46 clients received referrals to KidsTLC services, 11 received mental health services from KidsTLC. Of clients who completed an exit survey, 88% reported an increased knowledge of resources.

**Safehome**

Number of Johnson County residents served: 93

\$21,000 Grant

Safehome provides shelter and other assistance to victims of domestic violence. Human Service Funds support the Economic Empowerment program. Through education, support, and referrals to community agencies, this program assists clients in taking control of their finances and moving towards financial independence. Clients participating in SAFEHOME’S outreach programs also have access to financial literacy classes. Through both the shelter and outreach program, Safehome served 193 clients from inside and outside of Johnson County.

**Outcomes achieved during 2019:** After five weeks of participation in shelter, 41% (39 clients) of the 95 clients on the Job Search track (those who did not have job or were underemployed) were referred to Workforce Partnership for a career assessment inventory, and of those 97% had at least two job interviews. After 90 days in shelter, 36 clients secured employment. Forty-two percent (30/72) of clients receiving shelter or outreach advocacy services, who identified barriers to employment, contacted a job training program or college or degree-completion program. Of clients who enrolled in a job training program, 55% (6 of 11 clients) completed the program. Sixty-seven percent of clients (58/87) who were on the Budget track completed a household budget.

**The Salvation Army, Olathe**

Number of Johnson County residents served: 126

\$18,000 Grant

The Salvation Army Johnson County Family Lodge assists homeless and near homeless families with shelter and food at the homeless shelter in Olathe. Each family receives strengths-based case management where they develop an individualized housing and financial stabilization plan and are assisted in locating affordable housing and establishing savings. Family therapy, crisis counseling, parenting classes and financial literacy programming are 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.

**Outcomes achieved during 2019:** Eighty-eight percent of families who exited the program moved into transitional or permanent housing. Ninety-seven percent of eligible families applied for and received mainstream services (medical assistance, childcare subsidy, WIC, work program supports, SNAP). Ninety-seven percent of households who successfully completed the program increased their skills or income (34 of 35). Seven children utilized financial assistance for daycare which enabled their parents to go to work.

**Shawnee  
Community Services**

Number of Johnson  
County residents  
served: 1,217

\$5,000 Grant

The Human Service Fund supported the Food Pantry Transportation component of the Community Center of Shawnee (DBA Shawnee Community Services). The organization transports food from Harvesters and a variety of food outlets to its center in Shawnee where families may receive one free food package per month which consists of nonperishable foods, frozen meat, fresh produce, bread and dairy products. Shawnee Community Services also provides free clothing, household goods at a nominal cost, and referrals to other community resources.

**Outcomes achieved during 2019:** The overall outcome for this program is that people's basic life-sustaining need for food is met. During 2019 free food packages were provided to 1,217 Johnson County residents and 292 households received a holiday dinner box. From January through June, 321,000 pounds of food was received and distributed. Including households from outside of Johnson County, the organization served approximately 5,370 individuals during the first six months of 2019 and 6,340 during the last six months (except for Johnson County, an unduplicated count is not available between each six-month period).

**Sunflower House**

Number of Johnson  
County residents  
served: 17,665

\$37,500 Grant

The Human Service Fund supported the Sunflower House child abuse prevention 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 for middle school students; 4) *Keeping Kids Safe Online*, education for parents; 5) *Stewards of Children*, a child abuse prevention training for parents and caregivers; 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 29,019 individuals from within and outside of Johnson County.

**Outcomes achieved during 2019:** In post-program surveys, 98% of children indicated they would report unwanted contact, including physical touches and electronic communications. Ninety-eight percent of adults trained on child abuse indicators and reporting abuse indicated they gained new information. Of those who participated in training about online safety, 94% indicated an increase in knowledge and 97% indicated they would more closely monitor the electronic communications of children in their care.