



Human Service Fund: A Collaborative City/County Partnership **2024 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. This report provides an overview of programs supported by the Human Service Fund (HSF) during 2024. The HSF grant process saw funding requests exceed funding availability by over \$120,000. For 2024, twenty-two nonprofits, including three applicants in the Small Grants Program, were awarded \$434,690.

This report provides an overview of the programs supported by the Human Service Fund (HSF) during 2024. Based upon grantees' final reports, over 200,000 units of service were provided and approximately 65,000 Johnson County residents benefited from programs. These "units of service" included a full spectrum of programmatic interventions designed to offer support and build self-sufficiency and well-being such as: medical, dental and mental health appointments, nights of safe housing, counseling programs, emergency rental and utility assistance, food pantries, hours of case management, employment training and counseling, and more.

Human Service Fund (HSF) 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. 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, adequate housing, child/adult abuse, child welfare, health and mental health, work support services such as transportation, childcare and early childhood development, and job training.
- serve individuals and/or families with income below or near the federal poverty level.
- demonstrate innovation and/or collaboration in program delivery.
- are consistent with an evidence-based program, best practices, or promising practices, or replicate a successful model.
- build the capacity of neighborhoods and local jurisdictions to support equity in the social determinants of health.

The UCS board of directors, funded programs and program participants thank the Board of County Commissioners, Mayors and Council Members who make these funds available. For additional information, contact Erika Garcia Reyes, Director of Resource Allocation, erikag@ucsjoco.org.

2024 Funding	
Johnson County Government	\$162,500
14 Cities	\$300,690
Total Dollars	\$463,190
UCS Administration	-\$28,500
Grant Awards	\$434,690

**Participating cities include De Soto, Edgerton, Gardner, Leawood, Lenexa, Merriam, Mission, Olathe, Overland Park, Prairie Village, Roeland Park, Shawnee, Spring Hill, and Westwood.*

^This figure represents unduplicated client counts for each grantee, combined.

2024 Human Service Fund Year-End Report

HSF Small Grants Recipients: \$12,900 in grants

HSF Small Grants were developed and launched in 2022, after consultation with and agreement of contributing jurisdictions. HSF Small Grants are for amounts less than \$5,000 for agencies that are new, growing, or grassroots and working to build their footprint and grant capacity in Johnson County. Like regular HSF applicants, these nonprofits must meet Human Service Fund guidelines, including funding priorities, eligibility criteria, and reporting requirements.

Community Center of Shawnee

Johnson County
Residents Served:
**1,312 with 3,811
emergency
services**

Award: **\$4,950**

Community Center of Shawnee provides year-round transportation assistance and food pantry services to decrease food insecurity and increase self-sufficiency of Johnson County residents. Their emergency assistance program includes food, clothing, holiday meals, school supplies, transportation assistance, and shelter supports. Community Center of Shawnee serves low-income clients. Transportation is a recognized barrier to employment and healthcare access in Johnson County.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: Community Center of Shawnee served a total of 3,617 individuals, including 1,312 Johnson County residents. To address transportation needs, the Center provided 459 QuikTrip fuel cards. Other transportation services provided included: 1 car battery, 4 flat tire repairs, and 1 driver's license fee. Transportation assistance supported households in maintaining employment, accessing healthcare, and securing shelter. Pantry services maintained 70 households weekly with 20-pound weight of non-perishable food, respectively, through Thanksgiving and Christmas box distributions.

Gateway of Hope

Johnson County
Residents Served:
**402 with 669
hours of free or
sliding scale
mental health
and behavioral
health services**

Award: **\$4,950**

Gateway of Hope provides sliding scale and free quality mental health and behavioral healthcare to low income, under- and uninsured women in Johnson County. HSF funding subsidizes the Sisters of Hope/Hermanas en la Esperanza program, which focuses on access to care for Latina's and other women of color. Services are provided in English and Spanish and include individual counseling, small group counseling, and support groups. Access to mental and behavioral healthcare services is an acute need for low-income women in Johnson County.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: Gateway of Hope's services support clients in reducing levels of trauma-related depression, increasing or improving work productivity, and experiencing life improvement. This organization closed in the fall of 2024 but had already met all their outcomes. 90.5% of clients reported increased self-confidence and ability to handle challenges more easily. 90% of clients reported the help received supported their productivity, and they felt mentally stronger. 90.1% of clients reported they gained insights and learned tools to help them change their responses to triggers that help to transform their lives.

Starfish	Starfish provides basic needs through <i>A Life with Dignity</i> program, which supports retention of employment and housing by providing individuals with communal lunches, clothing, hygiene products, rent and utility assistance, health screenings and other basic necessities to low-income residents, individuals experiencing homelessness, foster families, and grandparents caring for children in Johnson County.
Johnson County Residents Served: 1,051 with 3,450 service encounters	Outcomes achieved during 2024: Starfish served a total of 1,525 individuals including 1,051 Johnson County residents. To avoid housing instability, weekly supplemental food reaches an average of 1,400 people per week, while potluck lunches have increased to an average of 80 individuals per month. Overall, about 153 meals were served monthly. To support employment retention, 28 haircuts were provided monthly. In 2024, 38 people received health screenings, and 20 sets of eyeglasses were provided to those in need.
Award: \$3,000	

HSF Regular Grants: \$421,790

CASA of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties	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 and submits a report to the judge who is then able to make a more informed decision regarding the child's future. Trained CASA advocates provide an average of 12,000 hours of advocacy time per month on behalf of children in need of care. Their court reports support judges' critical decisions about where children should live and what services should be court-ordered.
Johnson County Residents Served: 316 children through 14,606 hours of support and advocacy	
Award: \$50,000	Outcomes achieved during 2024: The presence of a stable adult is a key factor in building resilience from a history of trauma. 99% of children served by CASA had the same CASA volunteer advocate throughout their court involvement. While assigned to a CASA advocate, 100% of children were safe from additional victimization as defined by a subsequent affirmed/substantiated report of additional abuse or neglect. Of the CASA-youth served eligible for graduation or working towards obtaining a GED, 100% were successful (graduated or earned a GED). This percentage for academic milestones far exceeds the state average for children in foster care.
Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas	Through two centers in Johnson County, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas' emergency assistance and supportive housing program provides direct assistance and strengths-based case management, without regard to religious affiliation, to families living at or below 150% of federal poverty guidelines. Emergency Assistance services include those that meet residents' basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, financial assistance with prescription medication, medical supplies, utilities, childcare, and transportation. The case management delivery model emphasizes practices to achieve self-sufficiency, including asset development/financial literacy, workforce development and job-seeking assistance, life skills, and referrals to other available community resources.
Johnson County Residents Served: 16,308 through 61,820 service encounters	Outcomes achieved during 2024: Catholic Charities' programs far exceeded the anticipated number of clients served and units of service, increasing by 41% over their projected levels.
Award: \$67,000	

Direct financial assistance enabled 517 individuals to maintain safe housing for at least 30 days. 68% of households received direct financial assistance and receive referrals to other services, internal or external, through the case management process. 58% of households that received direct financial assistance were also helped with access to other public benefits.

Center of Grace

Johnson County
Residents Served:
68 through 8,704
service
encounters

Award: **\$7,500**

Center of Grace's English Language Learner Preschool provides free preschool classes to children while their caregiver(s) are attending Johnson County Community College (JCCC) English and workforce classes at the Center of Grace campus. All participants, caregivers and children, are English language learners. 85% of families are at or below 130% of the federal poverty level. This is the only JCCC location that offers an English language learner preschool. Center of Grace also serves as a community hub supporting low-income Johnson County families through emergency assistance, food, clothing, hygiene items, dental care, childcare and connection to employment.

Outcomes achieved during 2024 Center of Grace served 68 residents of Johnson County through its educational program. Program results include increased parental engagement in children's education and development, notable improvements in students' academic performance, and significant progress in language acquisition. In 2024, 90% of parents demonstrated enhanced engagement with their children's academic performance and language development. Additionally, adult learners participating in the English language program through Johnson County Community College achieved educational gains of 61% in reading, writing, and math skills. All 37 children enrolled in the English Language Learner preschool showed measurable improvement in English language acquisition and development.

El Centro, Inc.

Johnson County
Residents Served:
2,734 through
4,240
service
encounters

Award: **\$25,000**

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 emergency assistance, assistance filing taxes, financial literacy classes, individual financial counseling, and access to healthcare (health navigation and promotion). Tax filing assistance is delivered through El Centro's Overland Park Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: El Centro's program grew in the number of individuals and services provided across Johnson County. Clients' immediate basic needs were met: 53 households received utility assistance, and 51 households received rent assistance. 537 individuals completed financial coaching to support long-term financial stability. 11 individuals were assisted with Individual Tax Identification Number requests; 1,517 people were assisted in filing their taxes. 368 individuals were assisted with applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and received benefits; 750 enrolled in KanCare with assistance. 760 individuals were referred to a community healthcare resource. 469 individuals completed a class about eating healthy on a budget.

FosterAdopt Connect

Johnson County
Residents Served:
**80 through 176
service hours**

Award: **\$7,500**

FosterAdopt Connect's new Fostering Prevention program is an intensive in-home support that utilizes Motivational Interviewing and the Nurturing Parenting Program model to increase the capacity of at-risk families to meet the needs of their children with the intent to stabilize housing placement and reduce the need for foster care. Specialists start where the families are in an effort to help them achieve mutually established goals through monthly action plans, resulting in multiple accomplishments within the domains of basic resources, child behaviors, child care, education, housing, employment, financial, legal, mental health, physical health, transportation, addiction, marital/partner relationship, parenting education, and safety.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: 91% of children living with their parent or caregiver maintained placement stability as a result of participating in the Fostering Prevention program. 100% of parents who completed an initial and post (Adult Adolescent Parenting Inventory) assessment improved their parenting skills in one domain by an increase of at least 1 point. 89% of families served who had a monthly action plan achieved at least one accomplishment per month.

Growing Futures Early Education Center

Johnson County
Residents Served:
**43 through 4,359
hours of care**

Award: **\$20,000**

Growing Futures Wrap Around Care program complements the Head Start program, providing full-day care and education from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Families served by Growing Futures are living at or below federal poverty guidelines. The majority of Growing Futures families speak English as a second language and half of families are single parent households. Through the HSF grant, childcare scholarships help low-income families experiencing financial hardships, such as being unable to pay their share of childcare fees and who are working or going to school for at least 30 hours per week. Scholarships allow for continuity of early childhood care and education while parents are working or attending school. Growing Futures also provides resources and support for the family to support self-sufficiency including connection to health, nutrition, social services, mental health services, parental education and parenting events.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: Average 2024 attendance in Wrap Around Care was 86.5%. 2% or one child, left the program because they were unable to pay. 45% of the assisted families achieved steps toward the completion of a large family goal, such as maintaining employment, learning English, purchasing a first home, or working toward a GED. Some of the goals set by families take longer to accomplish or family situations change, and goals have to be reestablished.

Habitat for Humanity

Johnson County
Residents Served:
**43 with 65 units
of Home
Preservation
services**

Habitat for Humanity Kansas City's Neighborhood Revitalization received HSF funding for its Home Preservation Program, which supports home retention, and safe and adequate housing through home maintenance assistance. The Home Preservation Program provides minor home repair, critical home repair, and home weatherization. All clients are low-income and engage in "sweat equity" as well as financial literacy counseling as part of the program. This program also provides energy audits and education. Retention of existing housing stock through home repair and modification is highlighted as a need in Johnson County in the Johnson County Housing Study. Habitat is a member of the Johnson County

Award: **\$5,000**

Home Modification Coalition and has a 5-year strategic plan to address home repair needs in the region.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: 100% of Home Preservation participants reported that their home is a healthier place than before repairs were performed and reported improved quality of life, health, and well-being. 85% of homeowners served reported satisfaction with the repairs conducted on their home. Habitat for Humanity had an average 9/10 rating for home repair services completed in Johnson County.

**Health
Partnership Clinic
(HPC)**

Johnson County
Residents Served:
**9,669 with 26,110
healthcare visits,
screenings and
vaccine
appointments**

Award: **\$49,500**

Health Partnership Clinic (HPC) provides primary and preventative medical care at their primary care office in Olathe, a pediatric clinic in Shawnee Mission, and a school-based clinic in Merriam. HSF funding supported a Nurse Practitioner providing care to uninsured patients at the Olathe Clinic. HPC's patients are primarily low-income and the majority are uninsured or publicly-insured. HPC is Johnson County's largest safety-net clinic and only Federally Qualified Health Center; it utilizes a medical home model which emphasizes prevention and health maintenance while providing a broad scope of services including care for patients with chronic diseases. HPC also provides dental and behavioral health services, and delivers onsite health care services and case management in partnership with homeless shelters. Specialty care is provided through a network of providers.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: HPC served 11,949 patients in and outside of Johnson County in 2024. HPC quality indicators include 61.5% of diabetic patients have an HgA1c level of 9.0 or below and 53.3% of patients diagnosed with hypertension have blood pressure readings less than 140/90. HPC participates with the American Heart Association on a National Hypertension Collaborative and is planning to utilize self-monitoring blood pressure devices to assist patients in improving results. HPC's dental outreach program also provides a significant service to the community, providing screening services to 5,225 students during the 2024 school year. Over 94.6% of patients surveyed indicated they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the overall care they received as a patient.

**Hillcrest
Ministries of
MidAmerica**

Johnson County
Residents Served:
**24 with 1,678
nights of
transitional
housing**

Award: **\$10,000**

Hillcrest's Transitional Housing – Homeless Youth and Families Program provides transitional housing for homeless youth, up to age 24, families with children, and single adults in seven apartments located in Overland Park. Hillcrest uses either the U.S. Housing and Urban Development or McKinney-Vento definition of homeless and clients are at or below federal poverty guidelines. The program provides housing, food, case management, budget counseling and connection to community services to address immediate and ongoing needs, such as medical, dental, vision, mental health, substance abuse treatment, employment training, tutoring, and mentoring.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: 24 Johnson County residents were served through 1,678 nights of transitional housing. Four youth and seven adults have received an individual assessment and have achieved at least one goal from their assessment plan. Five adult households completed the program and moved on to permanent housing. Four youth have worked toward their educational goals. Over the course of the year, seven adults maintained employment. Over 1,000 volunteer hours were recorded and \$2,500 in-kind donations were received in 2024.

<p>HopeBuilders</p> <p>Johnson County Residents Served: 6 with 18 service encounters</p>	<p>HopeBuilders' home repair/home accessibility program provides free home repair, modification, and home accessibility projects for low-income older adults and individuals with disabilities. Projects include critical home repairs as well as home modifications that make it possible for individuals to remain in their homes safely. A recommendation of the Johnson County Community Housing Study, reflected that home modification and repair are important components of maintaining existing housing stock in our region.</p>
<p>Award: \$5,000</p>	<p>Outcomes achieved during 2024: HopeBuilders utilized HSF funding to provide accessibility modifications and home repairs for older adults and individuals with disabilities. A total of six individuals received services in 2024. Homeowners served have an annual household income under 80% of the area median income (AMI). The program focused on enhancing safety and accessibility within the home, allowing homeowners to live more independently. All clients were older adults and/or families living with disabilities. The projects included two wheelchair ramp installations, one wheelchair ramp repair, and one step repair. These modifications allowed for increased mobility and easier access to and from the home, benefiting both the residents and their caregivers.</p>
<p>Johnson County Interfaith Housing Network (JoCo IHN)</p> <p>Johnson County Residents Served: 40 with 1,710 days of shelter/case management</p>	<p>JoCo Interfaith Housing Network (IHN) provides shelter, meals, transportation and case management for families and single unaccompanied females experiencing homelessness. Area congregations provide shelter and meals at congregational sites on a rotating schedule while IHN staff helps families regain self-sufficiency and independence. Human Service Funds are used to support case management which includes assistance with transportation, referrals to other community resources, assistance with budgeting, money management, and job and housing searches. IHN has over 3,000 volunteers and partnerships with 36 faith congregations.</p>
<p>Award: \$8,000</p>	<p>Outcomes achieved during 2024: IHN utilized HSF funding to provide professional strengths-based case management to families and single unaccompanied females experiencing homelessness. A total of 40 Johnson County residents were supported through this program in 2024. 44% of families moved to homes of their own or transitional housing within four months of entering the network. 65% of families increased economic resources by 25% during their time in the network. IHN held in-person volunteer trainings in 2024 with 82% of volunteers demonstrated increased awareness of human service needs in our community. IHN closed its facilities in fall of 2024 and reduced its capacity with plans to close in 2025.</p>

Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL)

Johnson County Residents Served: **131 individuals with 883 client visits**

Award: **\$20,000**

Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL) Healthy Families program is a child abuse prevention program which 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. Eligibility is based upon risk factors not income, however, most of the families are low-income. 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. HSF funding also covered the annual cost of webhosting the Johnson County Early Learning Collaborative, a collaborative of organizations (including KCSL) which serve young children. The website is used to connect caregivers and providers with programs that serve children, and as a link to My Resource Connection when other services are needed.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: 100% of families served by the program remained free from substantiated abuse and neglect while in the program. By the end of the year, 97% of children enrolled in the program for at least six months had health insurance. 78% of currently enrolled children had a developmental screening within the past six months, supporting immediate and long-term health and educational attainment of the children and families.

Kansas Parents as Teachers Association (KPATA)

Johnson County Residents Served: **40 with 818 hours of client visits**

Award: **\$5,000**

Kansas Parents as Teachers Association (KPATA) received HSF funding for its Bright Futures program, an intensive in-home program providing developmental, social-emotional, health screenings for children and connection to resources for at-risk families referred by the Department of Children and Families. Regular home visits provide over 105 hours of in-home support per year per family. This program supports family health, helps alleviate poverty, and reduces child abuse and family displacement. It reduces the burden on the foster care system by reducing costs to the legal system of increased Child in Need of Care cases, and resulting in better outcomes for families and children.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: 100% of children enrolled in Bright Futures were screened on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ3) within 90 days of enrollment. 62% of families connected with one resource given by their Bright Futures parent educator within 60 days of enrollment. 84.6% of families set and achieved a goal within 120 days of program enrollment.

KidsTLC

Johnson County Residents Served: **284 through 1,257 service encounters**

Award: **\$17,500**

The KidsTLC Thriving Communities program provides resource referral, parent support groups, and health care navigation to families facing behavioral and mental health issues with their children. This program serves both families in the community and those with children in one of KidsTLC's programs. The majority of the families served are low-income, with 75% of KidsTLC's clients enrolled in Medicaid. As the agency's navigation arm, the program helps families find mental health and health care, housing, and community resources and support. Thriving Communities acts as a health navigation resource for schools and collaborates with Olathe and Shawnee Mission School Districts' IMPACT Olathe and Project Home programs, which support youth and families at risk of homelessness. The overall goal of Thriving Communities is to educate families about health issues, trauma, and

raising healthy children, as well as to provide health navigation resources that help parents raise healthy children.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: KidsTLC served a total of 361 individuals with 1,481 service encounters in and outside of Johnson County in 2024. 100% of new KidsTLC clients completed an intake/evaluation upon program admission. 93% of clients referred to outpatient medication or behavioral management treatment kept their initial appointment. 83% of clients referred to a health provider remained in services for 30 days. 48% of clients were receiving public assistance benefits by year end.

NCircle

Johnson County
Residents Served:
**27 through 526
hours of case
management and
training**

NCircle's Reentry programs provide soft skills training, certification instruction, financial education, job placement, and mentorship for individuals in Johnson County Department of Corrections Adult Residential Center (ARC) and Therapeutic Community, as well as adults on probation upon release from ARC. In an expansion of this program, NCircle collaborates with partners and Johnson County Community College to connect clients to a JCCC Transition Coach dedicated to working with NCircle clients. New life skills, employment training, and case management resources are provided to clients through the program. Program participants demonstrate an increased rate of employment/income and decreased recidivism/new charges.

Award: **\$23,790**

Outcomes achieved during 2024: NCircle clients who have participated in the College of Trades show improvement in Employment Readiness as indicated by pre/post Employment Readiness Scale assessment. In 2024, 69% of the clients eligible for employment were employed upon release from Reentry or remained at the residential center and are employed. Assessments indicate a 40% improvement in client career decision-making, and a 51% increase in their ability to do a job search. Pre/Post Employment Readiness Scale indicates 35% improvement over the clients' pretest in Self Efficacy, 54% improvement in understanding social networks and supports, and 26% improvement in understanding what it takes to keep and maintain employment.

Pathway to Hope

Johnson County
Residents Served:
**99 with 9,469
hours of
supportive
services**

Pathway to Hope is the local chapter of Reclamation Clubhouse (RC), an international program, which provides a day program, free education and employment training, as well as work tools, clothing, and transportation for adults with a diagnosis of serious mental illness to support stable employment and self-sufficiency. Pathway to Hope supports club members in obtaining employment skills, and obtaining and maintaining employment through job identification assistance, work tools and attire, transportation assistance, and more.

Award: **\$5,000**

Outcomes achieved during 2024: In 2024, Pathway to Hope served a total of 128 individuals with 11,971 hours of services in and outside of Johnson County. Three clients were able to use HSF funding to cover expenses such as utilities and remain housed six months after. A total of 28 clients are participating in support or independent employment.

Safehome

Safehome provides shelter, case management, and other assistance to survivors of domestic violence living in its emergency shelter. Safehome clients are provided case

<p>Johnson County Residents Served: 154 with 7,940 service encounters</p> <p>Award: \$24,000</p>	<p>management as well as therapy, legal services, hospital advocacy, and a hotline. Employment assistance and financial literacy will continue to be supported through case management services for shelter clients.</p> <p>Outcomes achieved during 2024: During 2024, 99 households stayed at least four weeks and of those 63.6% made a plan to pay off past due bills. 67 adults had a 4th therapy visit and 73% had a change of at least 5% on the Patient Health Questionnaire screener (PHQ-SADS). 100% of clients who resided at Safehome for at least 90 days transitioned from the shelter and into permanent housing, with 70% of those clients remaining housed three-to-six months later.</p>
<p>The Salvation Army, Olathe</p> <p>Johnson County Residents Served: 96 with 17,094 nights of shelter, meals, and hygiene kits</p> <p>Award: \$25,000</p>	<p>The Salvation Army Johnson County Family Lodge assists individuals experiencing homelessness and families at risk of becoming homeless with shelter and food at their Olathe campus. In most cases, the Lodge provides up to 90 days of shelter (with a maximum stay of 180 days in some circumstances). Residents meet weekly with a case manager who utilizes the strengths-based case management model. Classes and/or skill building opportunities include parenting, financial literacy, maintaining employment, housing searches, daily living/life skills, developing a support system, and navigating mainstream resources. In 2023, the Family Lodge became a licensed childcare provider of before and after-school, and summer in response to the shortage of affordable, qualified facilities in the region. Services are provided at no charge for families participating in Salvation Army programs.</p> <p>Outcomes achieved during 2024: In 2024, 25 families who exited the program, exited into permanent housing. 96% of families increased their income and decreased their housing debt to support living in permanent housing. 9 children were served through childcare tuition supports. 11 families received financial assistance towards housing debts that allowed them to move into permanent housing.</p>
<p>Sunflower House</p> <p>Johnson County Residents Served: 32,002 through 32,002 various education programs</p> <p>Award: \$47,000</p>	<p>HSF supported Sunflower House' child abuse prevention program – the Personal Safety Educational program. Sunflower House provides child-based education and mandated reporter training free of charge; without grant support, these programs are not sustainable. The program includes: 1) <i>Happy Bear</i>, an interactive drama in Spanish and English for children ages four to seven who are enrolled in public and private early childhood centers and elementary schools; 2) <i>Think First and Stay Safe</i>, a curriculum for grades PreK-5 that reinforces personal and digital boundaries and emphasizes that bullying and sexual abuse are against the law; 3) <i>E-Safety</i>, provides middle school students with information about how to protect themselves from online predators, and includes safety topics such as sexting, bullying, child exploitation, and social networking; 4) <i>Keeping Kids Safe Online</i>, a workshop for parents and caregivers provided in partnership with the FBI Cyber Crimes Unit; 5) <i>Stewards of Children</i>, a child sexual abuse prevention and education training for adults; 6) <i>Mandated Reporter Training</i>, which teaches attendees to recognize signs of sexual abuse, correct procedures/laws for reporting, and how to handle a child's disclosure; and 7) <i>Child Protection Project</i>, a presentation designed to raise the awareness of child</p>

sexual abuse among parents and caregivers, and give them tools needed to be proactive in protecting children. In 2024, Sunflower House served 48,391 individuals in and outside of Johnson County.

Outcomes achieved during 2024: With MOUs with several school districts and a new partnership with the Girls Scouts of Northeast Kansas/Northwest Missouri, Sunflower was able to expand its reach in 2024. Throughout the year, 40,349 children received personal safety information. A total of 8,007 adults, including 2,602 within the special needs community, received child abuse prevention education. 100% of adults who attended *Keeping Kids Safe Online* indicated they will more closely monitor the electronic communications of children in their care.