Providing leadership in behavioral healthcare, social services and professional education through the provision of service delivery models with proven quality and fiscal accountability.

The 40 Heroes you will read about in this book have been key to growing KVC.
Dear Friends:

This annual report represents a milestone in KVC’s proud and dynamic history. In 2010, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of our founders’ vision. We are still caring for one child, one family at a time.

From Wyandotte House to KVC Health Systems, Inc., from a small start to current accomplishments and from caring for one to caring for many, KVC has experienced 40 years of challenges, progress and success.

We have worked with children and parents, schools and hospitals, courts and judges, states and lawmakers, and along the way, we have built relationships, established partnerships and made lifelong friends. You will read about some of these friends, the 40 Heroes who helped grow this organization, on the following pages. I also wish to thank the many KVC committed professionals who have served children and families throughout the decades.

On the occasion of our 40th anniversary, I invite you to reminisce and enjoy the early years, relish how far we have come and envision what is ahead. Thank you for supporting KVC’s thousands of children and families. We are 40 Years and Growing.

Sincerely,

B. Wayne Sims
President and CEO
KVC Health Systems, Inc.
KVC began its rich history of providing children and family services in 1970 when it opened as a home for boys. The original house was an old multi-story, red brick residence in downtown Kansas City, Kansas. A married couple was hired to parent the boys sent to them by the courts. “Dad” went off to work each day. “Mom” stayed home and provided the stability these children so desperately needed. Besides providing a home for the adolescents, the “parents” were teaching the children what a traditional home life looked like.

This model of a group home was designed by benevolent women from the Junior League of Wyandotte and Johnson Counties. They led the charge to care for neglected, abused and unwanted children. It is unlikely that they envisioned that these humble beginnings and caring gestures would someday blossom into one of the nation’s largest and fastest growing children’s organizations, KVC Health Systems, Inc.
Ellen McCarthy

What started out as three hours of volunteering each week turned into a life-long mission. Ellen McCarthy, the mother of five and the wife of a prominent doctor, was giving back to her hometown. She helped kids with crafts at the Kaw View Detention Home for her Junior League placement.

“I could see that there were kids being detained who didn’t belong,” said Ellen. “They weren’t bad kids. They were good kids who were in detention because there was nowhere else for them to go.”

These misplaced, lost children troubled Ellen. The thought of them weighed upon her. So when she became Junior League President, she had the opportunity to make a difference. “We had accumulated some money, and we wanted to do something to leave a mark.” With that funding, and after a lot of research, this group of women began Wyandotte House, a home for boys.

“Oh, the meetings!” Ellen exclaimed, recalling the early days. “We met with local officials and judges. We went to Topeka, and we laid out the need and showed them our plans to care for these children. It took a lot of time, a lot of back and forth.” She is quick to mention that the Wyandotte County Court, the Jaycees and many individual friends helped early on.

Ellen had the original vision and passion, but running a home for boys took a lot of volunteers, a lot of hands. As the years progressed, other women equally as committed as Ellen joined the mission and continued the development of KVC. Today, many of these women can be seen at KVC events such as the annual meeting, the Resource Family Conference and the KVC Holiday Tree Gala. But it is Ellen who KVC proudly claims as our true Founding Mother.
Ball Family

KVC is extremely fortunate to have as its “first family” the Ball family, who adopted KVC as their mission more than 30 years ago.

The Balls first became involved with Wyandotte House when JoAnn was in the Junior League. At that time, she and her husband, Fred, were also growing the family grocery business. To repay the salesmen who called on their stores, the Balls began a tradition of a “thank you” picnic in their backyard. That original picnic grew into the Ball’s Charity Golf Classic. KVC has been the beneficiary of this wonderful event, which has proven to be its largest annual fundraiser.

The Balls have continually contributed their leadership and support from the early years — an expansive commitment across three generations. They have provided Board guidance, campaign leadership, personal gift giving and support of every event and initiative of KVC. Fred and JoAnn have each served many years on the Board of Directors, have chaired multiple capital fundraising campaigns and have been instrumental in introducing new friends and funding to KVC, including personal magnanimous contributions to each of KVC’s capital campaigns.

Fred and JoAnn taught their children the importance of giving back to their community, and KVC is extremely honored that David, Debbie and Diane are continuing their parents’ tradition. To cite only a few examples, David Ball is an active member of the Board, and David’s wife, Lois, has also chaired and participated in events. Fred and JoAnn’s daughter, Diane Wilkerson, has served as President of the KVC General Board and helped initiate the KVC Tree Gala annual fundraiser. Another daughter, Debbie Simpson, has also been an active supporter of KVC events throughout the years. Fred and JoAnn’s grandchildren are now continuing their family’s service. This third generation, representing children helping children, is a true testament to this great family legacy.

“There are 40 heroes being honored this year, but none is so deserving as Fred and JoAnn Ball and their extended family,” said Wayne Sims, President and CEO. “The Ball family has impacted the lives of so many children, and KVC is only where it is today because of their generosity.”
My most profound feelings about KVC come from the fact that I literally have seen it emerge from something small here locally to the national force it is today. Watching my mother and the other heroes working so hard and being so dedicated to growing something that they truly believed could help change lives has been incredibly moving to me. It’s been meaningful to me personally because I feel my family has a generational commitment to KVC. My parents, my children, and I have all been involved on some level, and I see that continuing through future generations.

Debbie Simpson

Nearly 30 years ago, before our company’s annual vendor appreciation picnic at the Ball’s family home, a group of our business partners, suppliers and teammates played a round of golf. A few bets were made, and the winners decided to donate all the money to children’s causes, including Wyandotte House, which was the predecessor of KVC Behavioral HealthCare. Initially we had only six foursomes playing in our vendor event. In 2010, more than 300 people participated in the Ball’s Charity Golf Classic, which took place at The National Golf Club of Kansas City. Over the years, we are proud to say that our annual ‘day of fun with a purpose’ has contributed more than $3 million to KVC and other children’s organizations within the metropolitan Kansas City area.

David Ball

I have stayed involved with KVC because I love children, and I believe that one person can make a difference in a child’s life. I have been blessed with successful and loving parents, and many of the children who come through the doors of KVC haven’t. I would like to carry on my parents’ traditions and, like them, believe we need to help and give back to the ones who have not been as fortunate.

Diane Wilkerson

KVC’s First Family

Logan and David Ball at the Ball Conference Center during the KVC 1,000 Adoptions Celebration.

Debbie Simpson, Fred and JoAnn Ball and Diane Wilkerson at the 2007 KVC Annual Meeting.
Junior League of Wyandotte and Johnson Counties

Each year, the Junior League of Wyandotte and Johnson Counties raises funds with the sole purpose of giving back to the community everything they have collected. In 1969, when Ellen McCarthy was President, the Junior League, along with the Wyandotte County Juvenile Courts, identified the need for a home for boys. The Junior League put their hearts and resources behind that effort. Together, with the support and muscle of the Kansas City, Kansas Jaycees, these groups founded what is now KVC Health Systems, Inc.

It was a different time. People could recognize a need and fill it without having to meet tremendous restrictions. Even so, the groups held endless meetings, traveled to Topeka, filled out necessary paperwork and navigated a system unknown to them. On top of all of this, the Junior League faced strong opposition from neighborhood groups. Most did not want neglected adolescent boys living on their blocks. A letter to the editor of the Kansas City Kansan in 1969 produced a compassionate plea on behalf of the Junior League: “You are outraged because this home threatens your tidy way of living.”

With the help of Terry Showalter from the Wyandotte County Juvenile Court, the Junior League secured a home. It took a lot of people going the extra mile. “So many people who gave so much,” said Gail Anderson. Gail was project chairman when Wyandotte House first opened. The next year, she served as Chairman of the Board. “I just trusted in God. It was His job, not ours.”

“We were so poor. I can remember just sitting at the kitchen table trying to keep things together,” said Ellen.

The Jaycees were the partners who helped with many of the repairs needed to make the first house, Wyandotte House, livable. “I can remember standing with some of the men and looking up at a hole in the ceiling. The women didn’t say anything, and then finally one of the men nodded and said in a resigned tone, ‘Yes, we can fix that.’ And we were so grateful!”

Word spread fast once the doors were open. “Truck drivers used to come and drop off kids at our houses. One time, a father had dropped his three kids off along I-70, and the police brought them to us,” remembered Ellen.

Children were taken out of their homes, and sometimes the conditions were unbelievable.

This group of inspired, motivated and loving people soon realized that it took more than good intentions to run a group home for boys. But they figured out what needed to be done and they did it, which included hiring a full-time staff.

Gina McCord, the 2010 Junior League President, today has the perspective of history. She sees many Junior League projects coming full circle. For instance, her 25-year-old son recently bought one of KVC’s original homes on 9th Street. Jake McCord has renovated it for use as a group home for young volunteers working in Kansas City, Kansas, nonprofit agencies.

The ideal Junior League project was one the members could start and turn over to the community. But with KVC, the commitment to children kept them involved. “It is 40 years later, and I am still here!” said Ellen.
Hall Family Foundation

The Hall Family Foundation is a private philanthropic organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of human life. Programs that enrich the community, help people and promote excellence are considered to be of prime importance.

The Foundation funded the initial feasibility study for construction of what is now the KVC Psychiatric Hospital for children and adolescents. The Foundation provided leadership gifts for each subsequent capital campaign.

With other contributors, this support served as the catalyst for KVC to receive backing from numerous local and national foundations and corporations.

“We honor and value the work KVC does for people and our community,” said Bill Hall, President of the Hall Family Foundation.

KVC appreciates the willingness on the part of the Hall Family Foundation to invest in a young, fledgling organization. This investment gave the original Wyandotte House the vote of confidence it needed to grow.

Terry Showalter

Wyandotte House would never have come into being without the help and guidance of Terry Showalter, who spent 37 years as a leader in the Wyandotte County Juvenile Court system. He wrote the original grant application, helped define needs and provided consultation to the Junior League of Wyandotte and Johnson Counties.

“We had never bought a house before, had not licensed a home. We bought the wrong furniture. Bunk beds fell apart within months. There were no catalogs to order equipment. There were no minivans. Everything was hard, not at all like it is now,” remembered Terry. “It was like Braille. We had to touch and feel what we were doing. We had a vision, but no road map.”

Terry said even though everything was being invented as they went along, they knew they would succeed and continue to be innovative. “We had to succeed. We were desperate. Failure was not an option.”

“The Junior League was an incredible child advocacy group. They were cutting edge,” said Terry. He also credited the Jaycees as being a catalyst by helping remodel the house and providing supplemental funding. Terry also praised many, including mental health providers, social workers and educators.

Before the state of Kansas enacted the Child Abuse Reporting Law in 1969, few people reported child abuse or neglect. Instead, parents abandoned children by dropping them off at churches, agencies or Wyandotte House. The group dealt with police, neighbors, runaways and problem kids. “Some problems were much more severe than you realized. At the beginning we thought we could cure anything, that all we needed were good intentions.”

Terry said the real heroes are the people who take care of the kids. “My wife and I substituted as weekend house parents on several occasions and quickly realized that we were not gifted in this area. What an awakening!”

“KVC continues to break through the barriers and create a living, dynamic organization. Wayne Sims, more than anyone, can be thanked for that,” said Terry. “KVC is like a good marriage. Divorce is never an option. It has been a great blessing in my life to watch KVC grow, develop and serve.”

“It was like Braille. We had to touch and feel what we were doing. We had a vision, but no road map.”

Terry Showalter
Wyandotte House, the original home for boys, opened in 1970 and became the Children’s Assessment Unit in 1989.

Logan House opened in 1974 as a result of a special gift from the Junior League of Wyandotte and Johnson Counties and became Neutral Ground in 1982.

The Administrative Offices were in this house beginning in 1983 and in 1992 became Community Services.

Kiely House, named for a former Wyandotte County judge, opened in 1976.
Betty Crooker

Betty first became acquainted with KVC through her mission work at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas. That first glimpse of the need to help children and families turned her into a lifelong supporter. Through the decades she saw the needs continue to grow.

“We need to take babies!” That is what Wayne Sims told KVC Board member Betty Crooker in 1990.

“Wayne, we can’t. We just can’t. We are not set up for babies,” pleaded Betty.

But the need was there. Distraught parents, unable to care for their children, dropped off infants at the Kansas City, Kansas, office of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). Sometimes the babies were left on a doorstep, sometimes left in the restroom. SRS had babies, but no homes.

So, before Betty could say “We can’t!” again, she was helping find a house, paint walls, purchase cribs and hire staff. “The day the house opened, all eight cribs were filled,” said Betty with a smile.

“We have always been about ‘Is it good for the children?’ That has been our guiding light, and whether we had resources or not, we forged ahead. The money always came later.”

She served on the KVC Board of Directors for many years, was a big advocate for starting the first volunteer General Board, and Betty remains a passionate, committed partner.
Mayor Jack Reardon

The KVC Psychiatric Hospital is nestled on 75 acres of wooded land in Kansas City, Kansas. Without the efforts of the late Kansas City, Kansas, Mayor Jack Reardon, the facility may never have been built.

In the early 1980s, KVC President and CEO Wayne Sims began his search for a location to construct the hospital. Each day he saw children who needed treatment, and no program provided the continuity of care in Kansas City, Kansas, or the state. Wayne’s plan, however, faced opposition from various neighborhood groups who did not understand the need or the children to be served. The KCK City Council, in response to this opposition, voted down several potential sites for this facility.

Mayor Reardon admired Wayne’s persistence and signed on to his cause. A get-things-done kind of guy, Mayor Reardon worked with city hall and, with the enthusiastic support of the Board of Public Utilities, ultimately secured the land near the Kansas River.

Today the campus staff serves more than 1,000 children each year in a safe and secure setting where the Kansas City, Kansas, community embraces and cares for kids.

The change of decades also led to a change in KVC leadership. President and CEO B. Wayne Sims took the helm of the organization in 1980 and, with philosophies such as “What would you want for your child?” and “There is no magic answer down the street,” began to work with community leaders to identify needs and fill gaps in services.
Sue and Dick Bond

Kansas Senator Dick Bond was first introduced to KVC at our offices on 7th Street in downtown Kansas City, Kansas, in the early 1980s. From that moment on, he was hooked on raising funds, awareness and stature for KVC. Dick thought he had signed on for one meeting a month, but now he remembers it as an everyday commitment for 20 years. “I felt a great deal of satisfaction in making a difference in the lives of children,” said Dick.

In the early years, Dick used his clout on the floor of the Kansas Senate. He witnessed the critical periods during the initial years of privatization when issues from receiving payments to setting up new systems created challenges. As the years progressed and the organization grew, Dick headed up three successful capital campaigns, played a pivotal role in obtaining land for the KVC corporate offices in Olathe and led the effort for federal funding to increase space for younger children at the psychiatric hospital.

Dick believes much of the successful revolution in the Kansas child welfare system was inspired by his friend, KVC President and CEO Wayne Sims. “Wayne is truly a visionary.”

As his work on behalf of KVC evolved, Dick’s wife, Sue, also became an integral force. Both served as KVC Board Chairs and longtime Board members. They also co-chaired the KVC 25th Anniversary Celebration. Sue has spearheaded several fundraising efforts for KVC at their church over the past 20 years. They have spent years dedicated to bettering the lives of children and families.
Senators Robert Dole and Nancy Kassebaum

Former U.S. Senator Nancy Kassebaum has a long and rich Kansas legacy. She served for two decades in the Senate, and is the daughter of Governor Alf Landon. She now lives in the Appalachian area near Cumberland, Tennessee, with her husband, Senator Howard Baker, but returns often to her Kansas farm.

“I was floored when Wayne Sims called to tell me I was one of the 40 Heroes. This is such an honor,” said Senator Kassebaum. “When I read the names of the 40 people being honored, I was amazed by the number of people who are keeping KVC going. It is unique.” When Kassebaum was in office, she assisted in the creation of the KVC Psychiatric Hospital and campus by obtaining federal funding support.

“I am amazed how KVC has evolved at such a consistent and constant pace. The organization does such extraordinary work,” said Kassebaum. “We need more organizations like KVC that provide care with thoughtfulness.”

“Programs that started in the 1970s, like KVC, are even more important today. We need to continue to monitor and adjust the welfare system, because the need will always be there.”

U.S. Senator Nancy Kassebaum and Wayne Sims

U.S. Senator Robert Dole

“The first thing you learn on the prairie is the relative size of a man compared to the lay of the land. And under the immense sky where I was born and raised, a man is very small, and if he thinks otherwise, he is wrong,” said U.S. Senator Robert Dole in a speech when he accepted the 1996 Republican Presidential nomination.

Senator Dole grew up in Russell, Kansas, was a hero in World War II, and he went on to serve in the United States House and Senate before running for President. Through it all, he never forgot his roots.

As a senator, Bob Dole supported KVC kids. “He would call me right before Christmas and say he had some gifts to bring by,” said Wayne Sims, KVC President and CEO. “Senator Dole always did this from his heart. He always asked me not to call the media. When he arrived, he would sit and watch as the children opened each present.”

Those gentle and compassionate gestures were just the beginnings of the gifts Senator Dole gave to KVC. He obtained federal funding to help build what is now the KVC Psychiatric Hospital for children and adolescents.

In his 1996 acceptance speech, Senator Dole said, “The state is now more involved than it ever has been in the raising of children. And children are now more neglected, more abused and more mistreated than they have been in our time. This is not a coincidence. And with all due respect, I am here to tell you it does not take a village to raise a child. It takes a family to raise a child.”

KVC believes that children grow best in families, and thanks to the work of Senator Dole, more children in Kansas and other states served by KVC are living with loving families.
From 1980 to 1995 KVC grew to represent one of the strongest child welfare/behavioral healthcare continuums of care in the nation, allowing KVC to meet the needs of any child and family requiring behavioral health treatment, no matter how significant. KVC adopted a philosophy of “no reject-no eject” admissions, representing the intent not to turn a child or family away. Far too often, because their needs appear too severe, children are referred for treatment far away from their homes, often out of state. Instead, KVC has emphasized continual research and education, often drawing upon national experts and evidence-based practices, in its effort to serve all children and families.

KVC’s 75-acre campus in Kansas City, Kansas, provides a professional and effective, family-friendly treatment environment at its Psychiatric Hospital and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility. KVC services across Kansas have been accredited by The Joint Commission since 1981.
Pete Pomerenke

Pete Pomerenke is a person who was involved in many of the early decisions that eventually shaped today's KVC. In the 1970s, he was named Board President. At that time, the organization had three group homes in Kansas City, Kansas.

Pete was vigilant at many of the public meetings held to discuss the placement of homes and services. At community outreach events, he sold the KVC mission to community leaders. Pete has fond memories of working with JoAnn and Fred Ball in many capacities. “What a wonderful family they are, and what great good they have done for KVC,” recalled Pete.

Pete was involved in many areas of the community, including serving as President of the Kansas City, Kansas School Board, and he cited the hiring of Wayne Sims as a milestone in his civic contributions. “I could tell Wayne was dedicated to the children in our care from our first phone call. He loved kids, and that was his life,” recalled Pete. “We, of course, hired him during our first interview.”

Pete said Wayne wanted to grow the agency to provide a continuum of care, so that a child’s medical and behavioral health needs could be met by KVC. Today, with decades behind him, Pete said we can be proud of that accomplished vision.

Gary Grable

Gary Grable has been involved with KVC for more than half his life. He has witnessed it all — from KVC’s early, lean times when the budget was a constant battle, to now when KVC serves 25,000 children and families in five states. “I have seen the changes over the past 35 years and its impact across this nation. I believe KVC’s quality of care is the best in our country.” He attributes most of KVC’s success to quality staff and management.

To get to this point, it wasn’t always easy, according to Gary. In the early years as a Jaycee, he cleaned and fixed up houses, and he continually raised funds. Whether it was on the local, state or national level, Gary offered his banking expertise, and he often accompanied KVC staff on trips to Topeka to meet with legislators.

He led fundraisers and had fun while building awareness at the Wyandotte County Fair, state political conventions, and barbeque events. “We raised money at Shorty’s Bar on 6th Street in KCK cooking shrimp dinners!” said Gary.

One holiday, he convinced his friends on his amateur barbeque team to cook pork for the children. “We brought two whole pigs to the psychiatric hospital for the children to see — and eat! That was quite an interesting experience for them!”

Gary spent many years on the KVC Board of Directors, and during the construction of the KVC Psychiatric Hospital for children, he served as liaison between the Board and the architects, contractors and subcontractors. Today he remains active in KVC Real Estate Holdings, Inc.

Through it all, his favorite memory was sitting on a docked river boat at Kaw Point where Lewis and Clark camped. It was at that event that Senator Bob Dole announced a $750,000 grant for the hospital construction.

From raising major campaign dollars to serving kids one-on-one, Gary has been with KVC the whole way. “I just remember a lot of smiles and a lot of hope when children were given clean clothes, food to eat, a place to stay and the treatment they so desperately needed. It has been the children who have kept me involved.”
Asner Family

Volunteering is a part of the Asner family heritage. Each year, Susan and Scott Asner sponsor the KVC Kids Classic fundraiser and are involved in various KVC activities. “For us, volunteering just comes naturally,” said Susan Asner. “My parents and my grandparents did it.”

Scott Asner has been a volunteer with KVC for more than 30 years. To give you some perspective, he was on the KVC Board of Directors when Wayne Sims was hired as President in 1980. As an attorney, businessman and real estate investor, Scott offers a financial perspective to the Board.

At the heart of the family’s volunteer spirit is an understanding of the importance of being a part of something larger than themselves. That is a legacy they want to instill in their two daughters.

“We like to keep a low profile,” said Susan. “I give my time to programs that make a difference.” Even though she shies away from attention, she still gives her maximum efforts to several causes, which involve children and young people. She served eight years on the Blue Valley School Board and was heavily involved in school activities and issues when her children were young.

Both girls are now grown. Lindsay lives in the Kansas City area, and Darby lives in California. Susan and Scott are as busy as ever with their children, grandchildren, businesses and supporting KVC in a multitude of ways.
John H. Conway, Jr. – Mabee Foundation

John H. Conway, Jr., with the Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma, has had a profound effect on the growth of KVC. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Mabee Foundation, Mr. Conway recommended that the Foundation provide lead gifts to KVC’s capital campaigns. These cornerstone donations enabled KVC to develop quality facilities from which to serve children and families.

The J. E. and L. E. Mabee Foundation, Inc. was formed in 1948 by Mr. John E. Mabee and his wife, Lottie E. Mabee, with its office in Tulsa. As stated in its charter, the purposes of the Foundation are to aid Christian religious organizations, charitable organizations and institutions of higher learning.

Mr. and Mrs. Mabee, who were natives of Missouri, had no children. Mr. Mabee died in 1961 and Mrs. Mabee died in 1965, leaving a substantial portion of their personal estates to the Foundation.

Connie and Tom Mullinix

For three decades, Connie and Tom Mullinix have provided leadership to KVC. Connie was on the search committee when Wayne Sims, KVC Health Systems, Inc. President and CEO, was hired in 1980. “He was by far the best candidate,” said Connie. “We didn’t have much to offer financially, so we were amazed and thrilled he took the offer.”

“Child advocacy is my passion, so working with this project was a fit,” said Connie. She served on the KVC Board of Directors for more than a decade, and Tom served more than 20 years. Although the Mullinix couple no longer serves on the KVC Board, they stay involved. You will find the Tom Mullinix Band at a variety of KVC events entertaining children, foster parents and donors.

KVC really needed help. Bill payment was slow. At the time, there were five residents and three individual homes. The office was a “little bitty thing” in the Huron office building. “Child advocacy is my passion, so working with this project was a fit,” said Connie. She served on the KVC Board of Directors for more than a decade, and Tom served more than 20 years.

Although the Mullinix couple no longer serves on the KVC Board, they stay involved. You will find the Tom Mullinix Band at a variety of KVC events entertaining children, foster parents and donors.

“I remember Connie coming home after interviewing the candidates, and I asked her what she thought of them. She said there was this one guy who was really nice looking, and they were probably going to offer the job to him. That was Wayne,” said Tom. “The entire staff is just excellent, and I can’t emphasize enough the vision, integrity, work ethic and enthusiasm of Wayne Sims,” said Tom. “From there to here, he has done it.”
Laura McKnight –
Greater Kansas City
Community Foundation

The Greater Kansas City Community Foundation offers a better way to give. The Community Foundation consistently ranks among the top ten community foundations in the country. Since it was established in 1978, the Community Foundation has launched several of philanthropy’s most innovative giving tools and is now a leading provider of back office services in the charitable giving field, serving more than 3,000 corporations, individuals, families, funds and foundations across the country. Over the years, the Community Foundation has supported KVC Health Systems, Inc.

“We always ask, ‘What is important to you? What would you like to see improved in your community?’” said Laura McKnight, President and CEO. “You can see the answers to those questions reflected in the wide variety of organizations that have received support from our donors, including KVC, and the amount of the grants demonstrates the deep passion our donors have for their favorite charitable causes.”

Sunderland Family

Ash Grove Cement Company makes the products that build the superstructures of an ever-changing, ever-growing America. The company, headquartered in Overland Park, Kansas, has been under the leadership of the Sunderland family since 1909. The Sunderland Foundation was one of KVC’s earliest supporters and has provided cornerstone backing to the organization.

“KVC’s dedication to building one of the strongest child welfare and behavioral healthcare continuums in the nation has long been recognized by the Trustees of the Sunderland Foundation,” said Kent Sunderland, Ash Grove Cement Vice President and Secretary. “The goal of our Foundation is to invest in great causes and in bold and exciting organizations that help change and save lives. KVC Health Systems has shared our common vision to enrich and enhance the lives of children and families.”

Through various capital grants, the Sunderland Foundation has helped provide the infrastructure for KVC to reach out into the community and provide vital services. “We congratulate the Board and the staff of KVC on 40 years of service, and we look forward to continuing collaboration with this outstanding organization,” said Kent.

“KVC Health Systems has shared our common vision to enrich and enhance the lives of children and families.”

Kent Sunderland
Joni and Thornton Cooke

Joni and Thornton Cooke have been instrumental contributors to KVC for decades. Joni, a Wyandotte County native, has volunteered and fundraised since the 1970s, and she played a key role in the early years at what was then Kaw Valley Center.

“My good friend Betty Crooker strong-armed me with her charm to get involved with a worthy cause,” said Joni. Joni lent her talents as a fundraiser, decorator, landscaper and strong supporter. She helped furnish two homes for children on KVC’s children’s campus. “We painted tables gray, framed colorful posters without glass and brought lamps from home,” remembered Joni.

Through the decades, the Cookes have always remained involved. In 2008, the couple served as the KVC Tree Gala honorary chairs.

Several years ago, the Cookes established a college scholarship program in remembrance of Joni’s father, Norman A. Fordyce. It was Thornton’s wish to honor this man who loved working with children. The Fordyce Scholarship provides for children who have lived in foster care. These students attend community colleges, trade schools and Kansas universities. Joni personally follows each child’s progress, and she and Thornton are passionate about education leading the way to future success for these students.
Joe Fahey

It was the late 1980s. J.M. Fahey Construction Company was looking to become more active in the nonprofit arena of Wyandotte County. Joe Fahey remembered reading an article about Wyandotte House in the *Kansas City Kansan*. “They were having a chili dinner at the Wyandotte County Fairgrounds as a fundraiser. I attended and gave them a check for $500,” said Joe. “It might as well have been a check for a million dollars, as excited as they were.”

Joe and Wayne Sims hit it off. “I thought he was doing a wonderful job. He was so full of passion and vision that I knew he would continue on to much greater things,” remembered Joe.

Soon after the chili supper, Joe received an invitation to be on the Board. “The entire staff had the passion to help others. It just felt good to be involved.”

During his tenure, Joe served as chair of the KVC Board of Directors, and he was key in acquiring the land and raising funds to build what is now the KVC Psychiatric Hospital in Kansas City, Kansas.

Joe recalled another fundraiser at the Wyandotte County Fairgrounds where he, Wayne and Bert Cantwell participated in a camel race. “Before the event, I had imagined us on a couple of camels lumbering through the desert, almost falling asleep.”

“Well, we climbed up on top of these dirty and odorous animals. I don’t know what they did to those camels, but they shot out of the gate, I got my foot lodged in a rope and was dragged about 100 feet,” recalled Joe. “I was roughed up a bit, but mainly it was my ego that was bruised. I guess this is an example of just how far we would go to raise money for the kids.”

Joe Fahey often spoke on behalf of KVC to community groups.

“We just felt good to be involved.”

Joe Fahey
The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities generously donated the land for KVC’s first campus. Here, on 75 acres of wooded rolling hills, sits the KVC Psychiatric Hospital for children and adolescents and three cottages for youths who need a less restrictive environment for mental health treatment.

“In the beginning, even though KVC was right next door, I didn’t really appreciate what was there,” said Don Gray, BPU General Manager. But after a KVC employee reached out to BPU, things changed.

BPU is a consistent supporter of KVC kids. “Proceeds from our annual charity golf tournament have been donated to KVC, allowing us to reach out, even in a small way,” continued Don. Over the years, BPU has donated backpacks with clothing, hygiene products and other essentials needed for children when they first come into KVC care.

“I’ve taken a tour of the facility, and it is top rate. Having a clean, safe environment helps kids build trust,” said Don. “I was naïve about how many children are at risk. Now, our organization appreciates being able to help the children and families in need.”
Firefighters are in the business of rescuing people. Whether it is responding to a medical call or serving a meal to kids on the KVC campus, KVC has battalions of friends within the Kansas City Kansas Fire Department.

For nearly two decades, the firefighters have come out in force to serve Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to children at the KVC Psychiatric Hospital. Wearing their boots, badges and big smiles, they dish up turkey, dressing and all the fixings.

The men and women from KCK's 18 stations find it rewarding to be around the children. "It is the nature of the job to help people. The reward is the feeling we get with interacting," said Chief John Paul Jones. "It is the essence of who we are."

The firefighters serve KVC kids in other ways as well. They helped raise funds for the development of the outdoor basketball courts, and they have assisted with Easter egg hunts and clothing drives.

KVC finds comfort in knowing that the KCK Fire Department is committed to keeping our kids, our campus and our community safe.

For more than 10 years, Kansas City, Kansas, firefighters from Station #5 and Station #18 have served the children under KVC’s care a Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixings. “This is one of the traditions that we keep up, because it’s nice we can help these kids out,” said Deputy Chief Kevin Shirley.
Governor Bill Graves

Governor Graves initiated the state’s bold public-private partnership in child welfare reform. He signed the law in 1996, which led to significant improvements in services for children and families and significantly increased adoptions. Today children stay in foster care a shorter time period before being safely reunited with their families or adopted.

“Those were challenging but wonderful times. Linda and I adopted our baby daughter, Katie, in October of 1995. Once she came into our lives, it gave me a whole new perspective on life, and I suddenly understood our responsibility to young people.” Prior to the adoption, Governor Graves focused on roads and transportation issues. After the adoption, however, he became a catalyst for social issues. People within state government referred to it as “The Katie Factor.”

“I am given credit for this public-private partnership, but really we had many great people working on this issue. I just happened to have the honor of signing the bill.”

Secretary Rochelle Chronister

Seventeen years as a state legislator gives you a lot of experience with people, problems and challenges. Rochelle Chronister needed all that experience and more when she agreed to become Secretary of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) under Kansas Governor Bill Graves.

“He told me to turn SRS upside down and make it work,” said Secretary Chronister. “I can’t remember how many times I thought this was too much to ask.” The year was 1995.

For years, the Kansas State Legislature held numerous hearings on the workings of SRS, and when Bill Graves became governor, he determined it was time to make some changes. He gave Secretary Chronister the leeway to initiate advancements, and with the help of many, she did. She led the effort to bring about historic and sweeping changes in the state’s child welfare system, forming a public-private partnership and contracts for reorganization of child protective services. This made Kansas the first state in the country to contract for services to children in need of care for family preservation, foster care and adoption. KVC was a pioneering force and one of the state’s lead contractors, and it remains so today.

SRS makes the determination whether a child should be removed from the home. Then private contractors, like KVC, work directly with families to bring about life changes. The results speak for themselves. Children spend much less time in foster care, the child and family receive counseling and aftercare services, and most children either return to their birth families, relatives or permanent adoptive families.

“I felt the most enjoyment when Kansas received the nation’s first-ever award from the Child Welfare League of America for Child Protective Services. That was a direct result of all the work we had done,” recalled Secretary Chronister.

1996

The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) initiated the privatization of the state’s child welfare services and selected KVC as one of its initial lead contractors in this endeavor. KVC remains a primary contractor and significant partner with SRS and continually raises the bar in its provision of child welfare services, with broad experience in both urban and rural communities. KVC staff provide case management services geared toward the achievement of safe and timely permanency for children and families. Aftercare is provided for a full year to ensure safety and stability.
Senator Pat Roberts

When KVC needed federal assistance to complete a major capital campaign, U.S. Senator Pat Roberts stepped forward and made it happen.

Senator Roberts first learned about KVC’s critical role in Kansas from his good friend, Kansas State Senator Dick Bond, who made him aware of the education, treatment and support that KVC provides to families across Kansas.

“It has been a privilege to work with such an admirable organization that assists vulnerable Kansans on a daily basis. I commend the staff and Board of Directors for their compassion and work to help Kansas families in need, which today has grown to nearly 25,000 children and their family members across five states.”

In 2001, Roberts obtained a $1 million federal investment for what are now the KVC Corporate Headquarters and the Ball Conference Center in Olathe. He said he is proud to have worked with an organization that came to him for assistance, after already privately raising 80 percent of the needed capital. In appreciation of Senator Roberts’s efforts, KVC presented him with the 2001 Children’s Award.

“I am honored to be named one of the 40 Heroes by KVC, along with so many influential Kansans like Senators Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum, but KVC is truly a hero to so many Kansas children and families. Thank you for improving the lives of Kansans each day for the past 40 years. Here’s to 40 more!”

Dunn Family

J. E. Dunn Construction Company has left a lasting imprint on the Kansas City skyline with the building of projects ranging from the H&R Block World Headquarters to the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. They also possess a national reputation.

The company’s success has resulted in the Dunn family’s tremendous generosity to people and organizations throughout the Kansas City metro area. Their spirit of giving helped make it possible for KVC to build its corporate headquarters in Olathe, Kansas. In addition, the Dunn family has provided leadership gifts to KVC’s past capital campaigns, and KVC sincerely thanks the entire Dunn family’s support.

Wayne Sims, KVC President and CEO, expressed appreciation for the interest and wisdom gleaned from Bill Dunn, Sr. in discussing the challenges of taking a business to the national level. As a member of the KVC Board of Directors, Bill Dunn, Jr. continues to help build the KVC organization.
Larry and Linda Kaminsky

Linda and Larry Kaminsky have provided personal commitment and support to KVC for many years. Larry’s professional expertise and guidance as the KVC Board Chair have been invaluable as the organization continues to expand into additional states to enrich and enhance the lives of children and families. “It will be to the benefit of the kids. That is what we are all about,” said Larry.

Wayne Sims relies on Larry’s consultation as Board Chair. They routinely hold breakfast meetings. “Wayne discusses with me his ideas and concepts, and I offer feedback,” said Larry. “Wayne, being visionary, will put together facts and concrete plans that will be full of information — pluses and minuses.”

Linda sees her role as advisor. “Larry comes home and bounces ideas off me, and I give him my gut reaction,” said Linda.

Larry first became associated with KVC when long-time supporter Fred Ball asked him to meet with Wayne Sims and join the Board. “I did it because Fred asked, but I was thoroughly impressed with what the organization does.” Since that initial meeting, Larry has been involved with the construction of the KVC Corporate Headquarters in Olathe and the organization’s ventures into multiple states.

What does Larry see for KVC’s future? “An expanded organization on a controlled basis — perhaps consulting with local groups. We are open to all possibilities. If we can help satisfy a need and do some good, we will.”

“[It will be to the benefit of the kids. That is what we are all about.”

Larry Kaminsky
Marianne Aitken

Marianne Aitken knows what it takes to motivate young people. She did it for years through the Country Store on the campus of the KVC Psychiatric Hospital. The Country Store is filled with rewards for children who are making progress and acting appropriately—anything from candy and toys to barrettes and CD players—items they could purchase with tickets earned through good behavior.

“I could see the kids change,” said Marianne, who served many years on the KVC Board of Directors. “What we were doing was really making a difference.”

Marianne said running the Country Store was the best volunteer job of her life. She would shop for comic books, dolls, electronics, sweets—anything you can imagine that a child would want. Then every Thursday after lunch, the Country Store was open for business. “The CD player cost 250 tickets. But kids would save for weeks, and some of them got it!”

With the opening of Wheatland Psychiatric Hospital in Hays, Kansas, in May 2010, also came the opening of KVC’s second Country Store. There, a new generation of children is earning rewards for modified behavior—a practice initiated by Marianne many years ago.

“’What we were doing was really making a difference.’”

Marianne Aitken
Honorable Daniel Cahill

Wyandotte County District Court Judge Daniel Cahill appears to be a quiet, soft-spoken man. But don’t let that low-key demeanor fool you. Judge Cahill is a man of force, making decisions in one of the largest counties in Kansas.

Each November, however, Judge Cahill puts aside the tribulations that come with trials and spends a Saturday morning making families whole. It is all smiles on National Adoption Day when the judge enters the courtroom to finalize the adoption of a child. In 2009, one of the children was a 17-year-old boy, and another was an infant.

Cahill’s dedication to children and families runs deep. Each December he serves on the judges’ panel at the KVC Resource Family Conference and explains to foster and adoptive families the whys and hows behind some of his decisions.

Honorable Daniel Mitchell

Shawnee County District Court Judge Daniel Mitchell was appointed to the bench in 1985 by Kansas Governor John Carlin. The opening was a Juvenile Court assignment. “If I am appointed, that will be my career because that is where I want to serve,” he told the Governor.

“Working in Juvenile Court — you either love or hate it. I enjoy working with children and families and working to find what is in the best interest of the child. Children deserve the opportunity to grow and develop to their fullest potential. Every child deserves that.”

“From my perspective, KVC is top-notch and first class in its delivery of services and resources. The sincerity and professionalism of KVC employees is amazing. I am truly appreciative of all that KVC does on behalf of children.”

Judge Mitchell feels rewarded when someone comes back and thanks him for his help. “Just this morning, I saw a young woman in court who said, ‘I was before your court at age five. It was a case of abuse and neglect. I still remember that you cared what happened to me.’ I just looked at her and said, ‘I still care.’”

“We do make some progress. We have made some families whole.”

These judges represent jurists across the country who work with KVC to make strong decisions for children and families.
Honorable Kathleen Sloan

The Honorable Kathleen Sloan will tell you that National Adoption Day is her favorite day of the year. It is on this Saturday in November that Johnson County District Court Judge Sloan finalizes multiple adoptions to bring attention to the need for more permanent families.

“I feel really good about my working relationship with KVC,” said Judge Sloan. “Everybody is so responsive, the case managers, the workers. If you ask KVC to do something, they get it done.”

An example of that quick reaction is KVC’s development of the TREAD Program. When Judge Sloan was frustrated about sending runaway girls 300 miles west to a safe facility, KVC trained key foster parents on how to care for and monitor these youth. “KVC steps forward and comes up with a good program. They are on it.”

This November, along with celebrating National Adoption Day, Judge Sloan will commemorate her sixth year on the bench.

Honorable Jean Shepherd

Judge Jean Shepherd is a strong advocate for families and children. She sets high standards and makes clear her expectations of service providers in the community. She also stresses the importance of effective collaboration and continued commitment among educators and providers, including KVC.

“I’ve seen some wonderful growth and changes in KVC since the beginning of privatization,” said Judge Shepherd. “They have demonstrated a strong commitment to the children they serve.”

Judge Shepherd helped establish the state’s first Citizen Review Board in Douglas County. She also helped found the county’s Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Volunteers for both groups help advocate for abused children who have to appear in court, and the volunteers review cases and help judges decide where to place the children. After 27 years of service, Judge Shepherd plans to retire in early 2011.
In 2000, a representative from the West Virginia Attorney General’s office approached Wayne Sims to explore KVC’s interest in assuming responsibility for the management of a large organization in its state. West Virginia was at risk of losing a local provider offering in-home therapy services to more than 2,000 children per day across the state. KVC’s “lessons learned” in Kansas had increased its appreciation for strong, community-based mental health services to keep children and families together safely. KVC entered the state with great sensitivity to long-standing local service providers and, through strong communications and transparency, very quickly helped create a spirit of cooperation and trust.

2000

KVC successfully provides in-home therapy across much of West Virginia and continually increases its work to recruit, license, train and support local foster families.
Jeff Wolfe and Cindy Tucci – Jay Wolfe Automotive

Cindy Tucci and her brother, Jeff Wolfe, always share the holiday spirit with the employees of Jay Wolfe Automotive. Cindy remembered one holiday in the late 1980s when they had more turkeys than they needed for their employees, and the delivery man suggested donating the extra turkeys to KVC.

“We received the nicest thank you letter from the director, and we realized how such a small gift could make a big difference,” said Cindy.

Since that first Christmas, the Wolfe Automotive Group has grown and so has its support of KVC. The company has donated TVs, game tables and other major items for KVC’s residential facilities. More recently, employees have collected money and coordinated major shopping sprees. Each year they buy thousands of dollars worth of toys, electronics, clothing, games and books.

“We love to support organizations, especially those who help children. KVC has a special place in our hearts, and we have so enjoyed watching it grow,” said Cindy.

So, along with sales and service, Cindy, Jeff and their associates are great at playing Santa. “It is just an outstanding organization, and we are so happy to participate,” said Jeff.

Steve Roling – Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City

KVC is honored to partner with the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City to help serve the underinsured and uninsured in the greater Kansas City area.

The Foundation, under the leadership of President/CEO Steve Roling, has provided funding for multiple KVC initiatives, including the electronic medical records system, Trauma Systems Therapy research and training, and KVC's developmental pediatrician.

“Foundations have the easy job of giving away the money. Partnering agencies such as KVC have the hard job. They have to serve the various and oftentimes desperate needs of clients while achieving measurable outcomes,” said Roling. “Through our grants, we are able to collaborate with KVC to make a difference in the lives of children and families.”

Significant components of KVC's continuum of care in Kansas include the “book-ends” of community-based, therapeutic and case management supports at one end with “no reject-no eject” acute care services for those with the greatest needs at the high end. KVC provides strong Outpatient and In-Home Therapy services and recruits, licenses, trains and supports more than 500 foster families across eastern Kansas.
Tom Ryan –
Prime Health Foundation

The Prime Health Foundation's mission is to support opportunities that demonstrate potential for improving the health of our community. That includes the mental health of children.

As a Foundation board member, Tom Ryan helps identify worthy organizations that improve quality, availability and accessibility of healthcare and service delivery. Since 1989, the Prime Health Foundation has distributed more than $10 million to recipients throughout the Kansas City community.

Tom learned that youth seeking mental health services often had to wait for beds at the KVC Psychiatric Hospital. He directed a grant of $44,000 to support the hospital by adding 12 beds, bringing its capacity to 97 patients. This helped close the gap in care and shorten the time for patients to receive treatment.
In a collaborative venture with KUMC, Sharon Cain, M.D., helped KVC establish telepsychiatry services in Kansas.

Barbara Atkinson, M.D.

Barbara Atkinson, M.D., has spent her life devoted to science and research. As the University of Kansas Medical Center's first woman Executive Vice Chancellor, she oversees a faculty and staff of 2,500 and a $317 million annual budget.

She knows how important it is to be forward thinking. “It takes a visionary leader in this day and age to figure out what the future is going to look like and to push the right agenda,” said Dr. Atkinson. “That is why I admire Wayne Sims so much. He is so dynamic and always looking ahead.”

KVC partners with KUMC on a variety of initiatives. The KU Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry offers a two-year accredited residency program. Graduates develop the knowledge and skills necessary to respond to the greatest number of young people suffering from the broadest range of emotional problems. KU Medical School students work with KVC during their residencies as child and adolescent psychiatry fellows.

KU faculty member Sharon Cain, M.D., helped establish KVC’s telepsychiatry program. KU shares its Grand Rounds continuing education program with KVC via a video link. The Paul Laybourne Symposium, another continuing education program, is offered at KVC’s Ball Conference Center to doctors, nurses, social workers and other clinicians participating in mental healthcare for children and adolescents.

KVC values these collaborations and recognizes Dr. Atkinson for her leadership and commitment to this community partnership. “KUMC and KVC are continuing discussions about furthering our clinical and training connections,” said Dr. Atkinson. “In the meantime, I wish you the best for the next 40 years and hope it is as exciting and eventful as the first 40 years.”
Congressman Dennis Moore represents 3rd District Kansans in our nation’s capital. As a United States Representative, he spends time in Washington, D.C., but his thoughts are never far from his home district and his constituents.

Congressman Moore attended the National Adoption Day ceremonies in November at the Johnson County Courthouse. On National Adoption Day, judges open their courtrooms on a Saturday to finalize adoptions. It’s a homecoming of sorts for Moore, who served as District Attorney in the 1990s.

Congressman Moore has also been an engaging speaker to adoptive families at KVC events and helped distribute Christmas gifts to children in foster care.

KVC appreciates the Congressman acquiring federal funds to support continued development of KVC’s quality services for Kansas children and families.
In 2008, the Annie E. Casey Foundation completed a journalistic review of KVC’s work in Kansas child welfare as a national best practice model.

Gene Balloun

Gene Balloun will tell you that becoming involved in the care of foster children has changed his life. The year was 1987, and he and his wife, Sheila Wombles, had decided to become foster parents. On a crisp November day, 14-month-old David was placed with them by social workers. Gene and Sheila’s job was to love and care for this toddler.

They had not considered adoption, but that is how the story goes. Their first foster child later became their adoptive son. Over the years, the family has cared for 29 foster children, and they adopted once more. In January of 1999, 7-week-old Hannah was placed with them. Today, Hannah is 11 and on occasion accompanies her father to the courtroom to see adoptions take place. Gene, an attorney, has finalized more than 650 adoptions of foster children in the past 15 years. The fees he earns from the State of Kansas for that work are donated to a college fund, which was created by Gene, Sheila and his law firm, Shook, Hardy & Bacon. This scholarship fund is for young people who have ever lived in foster care in Kansas. The fund has awarded 200 scholarships totaling $280,000.

Today, David is a 24-year-old college student and Hannah is into friends, violin and Taekwondo. Gene and Sheila no longer provide foster care, but their love and commitment to children and families remain a strong force in the lives of foster children and families. Throughout the year, and especially each November on National Adoption Day, you can find Gene at the Johnson County Courthouse, donating his time and ensuring children become a part of a Forever Family.

In 2006, the Kansas Department of SRS awarded a grant to KVC to provide acute inpatient services to children and adolescents from across eastern Kansas, allowing the state to close Rainbow State Hospital units for this population. This “no reject-no eject” psychiatric hospital program serves all children and adolescents as deemed appropriate by Community Mental Health Center screeners. This program has been tremendously successful, offering a more child and family friendly treatment program in a more fiscally accountable way.
Superintendent Jim Hinson, Ed.D., will tell you that as a school district, Independence, Missouri, was bewildered about how to serve troubled children and families. That was until he found KVC.

“We sat down with Wayne Sims and instantly knew a perfect partnership had already been formed,” said Dr. Hinson. “This is an authentic partnership, and authentic partnerships are rare. We work collaboratively in the best interest of the clients. This level of collaboration is unprecedented.”

Since 2007, KVC has partnered with the Independence School District to provide in-home family therapy, individual and group therapy, outpatient psychiatric care and medication management for at-risk children and families. Dr. Hinson believes it is important to work in the home where the issues are critical so that family members can sustain changes.

Dr. Hinson relates emotional scars to physical wounds. “If something has occurred, if I’ve hurt my leg or arm, I have a scar on my body. Emotional scars are similar in that they stay there. We need to work to prevent scars in the lives of kids. As adults, we are charged to take care of kids to the highest degree.”

“KVC exceeded our expectations. The life changes that are created as a result of this partnership are unparalleled. I am ecstatic and deeply humbled. We really are changing people’s lives and improving their quality of life forever.”

2006

KVC was approached by leadership from the Independence School District of Missouri (ISD) to partner on the development of an innovative service delivery model. KVC, as the community-based provider, linked with the Missouri Department of Social Services and the school district to provide intensive school-based and in-home family therapy to children at risk of removal from their homes and referral to foster care. KVC was sought out after local providers were either unable or unwilling to respond to the community needs identified by ISD. This initiative was noted by Center School District as well, and similar services were expanded into that district in 2009.
Doering Family

Shirley and the late Dr. Robert Doering family are enthusiastic supporters of KVC. For more than a decade, family members have helped make sure that KVC events are a success. Early on, the couple could be found at the KVC campus delivering gifts for children. They soon encouraged their own children to support the mission of the organization.

Their daughter, Marianne Ensz, is an enthusiastic volunteer, contributing to the success of the annual KVC Tree Gala, including serving as Chair. For years, Marianne has created hand-made ornaments as gifts for the tree designers, and she often engages the children at the KVC Psychiatric Hospital in making clay decorations for Tree Gala patrons. You can also catch Marianne and her children at KVC’s campus volunteering to plant flowers.

Shirley and Bob’s son, Mike Doering, and his son, Charley, play golf in the KVC Kids Classic, keeping the family commitment alive. As KVC has grown, so has the supportive spirit of the Doering family, planting seeds of third generation supporters.

KVC has learned many lessons about effective treatment and case management and is continually expanding its depth of leadership and staff. KVC is passionate about spreading its “lessons learned” to positively impact the lives of children and families in Kansas and beyond. In July 2008, with the support of an entrepreneurial and visionary Board of Directors, the KVC structure was modified into one that promotes continued growth with quality and fiscal accountability, while effectively managing risk. KVC transitioned to this new management structure on July 1, 2008, resulting in the creation of the parent corporation, KVC Health Systems, Inc.
Janene Ervin loves to build things. She owns KDC Construction, Inc., a general contractor of industrial and commercial construction projects. She also loves children. She is a mother of three, two of whom are adopted, and she has fostered 15 children over six years.

Janene sees a lot of similarities between erecting a building and raising a family. “You have to have a firm foundation. You have to start from bedrock. If you never had a stable foundation, your building or your life will be wobbly.”

“I like to make a difference in the life of a child, one child at a time. I enjoy fostering because I can show them what success looks like,” said Janene. “The success of getting up, going to school, keeping the house clean, being responsible — the basics.” Janene sees these basics as the foundation for a happy, productive life.

She is one of thousands of foster parents who open their hearts and homes to children each day. These foster families are truly heroes. Janene serves on the KVC General Board of Directors and is an enthusiastic supporter of KVC fundraising events.

“Parenting, like construction, is a very creative process. Most things don’t go according to plan.”
In April 2009, KVC celebrated its 1,000th adoption of a child from foster care. Since then, more than 300 additional children have been matched with adoptive Forever Families through the assistance of KVC.

“This is what everyone in the child welfare system works for – tremendous success.”

Wayne Sims
Commissioner Patricia Wilson

Kentucky Commissioner Patricia Wilson was instrumental in helping KVC initiate services in Kentucky. She serves as the Commissioner of the Department for Community Based Services, the state agency which delivers services to families and manages issues and needs such as abuse, neglect, foster care and adoption.

In the fall of 2008, based on the recommendation of other child welfare professionals, Commissioner Wilson made a site visit to KVC to learn first-hand about KVC’s work with children in foster care. “I came away from that visit quite impressed — impressed with the structure of the program, the infrastructure supporting the program and, most of all, the commitment and dedication of those working in the program,” said Commissioner Wilson.

In 2010, she paved the way for KVC Behavioral HealthCare Kentucky, Inc. to expand services to include foster care.

“A colleague in Kansas provided the most ringing endorsement a private provider can receive — ‘KVC does what they say they will do.’ I am grateful we in Kentucky have the opportunity to partner with this organization.”

In 2009, KVC became acquainted with the therapeutic services of Croney & Clark in eastern Kentucky. Owned and operated by Elizabeth Croney and her husband, Jim Clark, Ph.D., for more than a decade, Croney & Clark has enjoyed a strong reputation as a provider of high quality in-home therapy and diversion services. These services are very similar to those KVC has provided since 2001 just across the state line in West Virginia. Late in 2009, KVC acquired Croney & Clark and continued with expansion of these services across eastern Kentucky.

Children Grow Best in Families

Elizabeth Croney, President — KVC Behavioral HealthCare Kentucky, Inc. and Wayne Sims

KVC initiated the recruitment, licensing and training of therapeutic foster families in eastern Kentucky during 2009.
When Bonnie and Jerry Kelly chaired the 2009 KVC Holiday Tree Gala, they brought to it all the glamour, elegance and excitement that define them in the business world. They also brought to the Gala the sincerity, compassion and commitment that characterize them in their personal lives.

Bonnie first heard about KVC from her longtime friend and General Board member, Jan Howard. Bonnie and Jerry found out about the foster and adoption services, and learned how KVC’s school-based family therapy programs work directly with at-risk students and parents. But the Kellys became hooked on the KVC mission after they toured the KVC Psychiatric Hospital for children in Kansas City, Kansas.

“It took my breath away — to see the type of care you are providing for children and families,” said Bonnie. “I was amazed by the size and quality of the facility and the extreme dedication of the staff. It hit home for me. This is the right place to put our resources and our energy.”

In the summer of 2009, the Kellys graciously invited their friends to their home to share the KVC story. “Children and families are very special to us,” said Jerry. “We wanted to let others know the tremendous work KVC is doing, and urge them to get involved.”

Last year, the Tree Gala was the largest and most successful ever, raising funds for the annual Resource Family Conference. This year, Bonnie is involved as co-chair of the Tree Gala once again. “We are just more than happy to help.”

In 2009, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) initiated a reform of its child welfare/juvenile justice systems, and KVC was awarded contracts in a 19-county area surrounding Omaha and Lincoln. This initiative incorporates service coordination from the point that a child/family has contact with DHHS and continues through the provision of in-home services and, if necessary, through the achievement of permanency (reunification, adoption, guardianship, independent living). In addition, a full year of aftercare is provided to ensure lasting safety and stability.

Wayne Sims and the KVC staff introducing themselves to Nebraska families
KVC opened Wheatland Psychiatric Hospital in Hays, Kansas, to provide acute inpatient services to children and adolescents in central and western Kansas. This was made possible when the state of Kansas awarded a grant to KVC to provide care for children who were previously served at the Larned State Hospital.

2010
The KVC Wheatland Hospital was dedicated April 27 with nearly 200 in attendance to help celebrate.

Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce were on hand with their larger-than-life scissors to help Jason Hooper cut the ribbon signifying the official opening. (Pictured from left) Michael Hinton, James Roberson, Jason Hooper, Ryan Speier, Rick Schults, Dr. James Van Buren and Wayne Sims.

Jason Hooper, President — KVC Hospitals, Inc., gives Rick Schults, SRS Mental Health Director, a tour of Wheatland Psychiatric Hospital during the open house in April 2010.
In the early years, Wayne Sims dressed up as “The Big Dog” at Halloween.

Wayne Sims surrounded by children at the Resource Family Conference

Wayne Sims with U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius (top), Kansas Senator Sam Brownback (middle) and KU Head Men’s Basketball Coach and KVC Board member Bill Self.

B. Wayne Sims

Wayne Sims came to Kansas City in the spring of 1980 as a young man with his wife, two small daughters and a U-Haul filled with furniture. “We offered him a pittance,” remembered Betty Crooker, a member of the search team who hired Wayne as the new director of Wyandotte House. He accepted, in part, as a way to return to the Kansas City area to be nearer to his parents.

What Wayne found were tremendous needs: children with severe emotional or behavioral health concerns, parents facing significant challenges, and a system representing many silos that posed barriers to safe and timely permanency.

The first day on the job, Wayne met with leadership from the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to share his commitment to building a program that would make the community proud. JoAnn Ball remembered that during that first year the Board of Directors contributed personally to a Christmas bonus for Wayne. “We were so impressed because he took that money and bought a pool table for the boys’ home,” said JoAnn. “We knew we had hired someone special.”

From the very beginning, Wayne focused on building trust and integrity through consistently good work, hiring quality staff who shared the KVC vision and mission, and engaging community support to help KVC continually identify and fill service gaps. “People trust him, believe in him, and people work hard on behalf of KVC because of Wayne,” said Dick Bond.

Children and families in need moved Wayne’s compassionate and entrepreneurial spirit. Early on, the original group home concept grew through his vision of a campus representing a full service continuum to meet the needs of any child or family, including medical attention from physicians and therapists. That expanded into a vision of service development and commitment to continual research and “raising the bar” for children and families with no geographical boundaries, resulting in KVC Health Systems, Inc. — an agency now helping families across five states and serving as a national best practice model.
BECOME AN EVERYDAY HERO TODAY!

At KVC Behavioral Health Systems, Inc., we have the honor of working with Everyday Heroes.

We realize it takes a special calling to become a foster parent, to adopt a child, or to care for a child with mental health challenges. Nevertheless, many of us would still like to reach out to these children and the families who step forward to care for them.

You can be an Everyday Hero, too.

KVC’s Everyday Heroes monthly giving program supports children and families by increasing available resources and services. This could be anything from piano lessons for a grade-schooler to more beds at one of the KVC Psychiatric Hospitals for children and adolescents to special medical equipment.

The money will be used for mental health counseling, adoption services, tutoring, summer camp, after school activities, orthodontic care and so much more.

When you become an Everyday Hero, you will be giving your love, support and care to children and families.

Enrollment is simple. Just go to www.everydayheroes.org or call 913.322.4941 for more information.
EVERYDAY HEROES

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Scott Asner
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Ryan Bowling
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Angela Canaday
Lillie Carther
Betty Crooker
Aaron Dale
Bert Darling
Timothy Davis
Margaret DeGoler
Bob Dercher
Debbie Dominick
Julie Dunn
Bill Dunn, Jr.

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Tammy Fruits
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Daryn Henry
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John Hoffman
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Jason Hooper
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Larry Kaminsky
Cheryl Kellerman
Mike Kennedy
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Diana Kurtz
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John Minnis
Zeke Montana
Heather Muller
Gloria Murray
Mary Ann Noll
John O’Conner

Becky and Sam Perry
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Anne Roberts
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Justin Shobe
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Nancy Snyder
Ryan Speier
Jim Stawarz
Erin Stucky
Jackie Suttington
Touch Plan Direct
Laura Treas
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Steve Vaughan
Trish and Gary Walker
Kurt Wallace
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Zipco Contracting, Inc.

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KVC HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

SOURCES OF OPERATIONAL REVENUE
FISCAL YEAR 2010 (unaudited)

A KANSAS – RESIDENTIAL SERVICES .......... 15%
B KANSAS – CHILD PLACING .................. 7%
C KANSAS – PERMANENCY CONTRACT ....... 36%
D KANSAS/MISSOURI OUTPATIENT ........... 2%
E KENTUCKY SERVICES ........................ 3%
F NEBRASKA SERVICES ...................... 20%
G WEST VIRGINIA IN-HOME SERVICES .... 8%
H WEST VIRGINIA CHILD PLACING ......... 7%
I CONTRIBUTIONS ............................ 1%
J GRANTS & OTHER INCOME .............. 1%

OPERATING REVENUE

A B C D E F G

CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER SHERRY LOVE AND
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT – PUBLIC AFFAIRS KYLE KESSLER

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER PAUL KLAYDER
Management Team

B. Wayne Sims  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Anne Roberts  
Chief Operations Officer

Paul Klayder  
Chief Financial Officer

Sherry Love  
Chief Clinical Officer

Kyle Kessler  
Senior Vice President – Public Affairs

Renny Arensberg  
Senior Vice President – Administrative Services

Erin Stucky  
President – KVC Behavioral HealthCare Kansas, Inc.

Elizabeth Croney  
President – KVC Behavioral HealthCare Kentucky, Inc.

Sandra Gasca-Gonzalez  
President – KVC Behavioral HealthCare Nebraska, Inc.

Matthew Loehr  
President – Outpatient Services and KVC Behavioral HealthCare West Virginia, Inc.

Jason Hooper  
President – KVC Hospitals, Inc.

Vishal Adma, M.D.  
Medical Director

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John Barnes

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David F. Ball, Vice Chair – Development  
Teresa Markowitz

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Fred Ball, Emeritus

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Angel Parmalee  
Hillary Wolbach

Janene Ervin  
Jennifer Ponzuolo  
Rick Wolf

Stephen Heiner  
Fran Riedemann  
David Woolf

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