

KVC Matters



KVC Health Systems, Inc.
21350 West 153rd Street
Olathe, Kansas 66061

Return Service Requested



KVC touches the
lives of more than
25,000
children and families
each day.



www.kvc.org

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THE GALA

2013

...with a twist...



EVENT CHAIRS Jan Frankenberg, Rupal Gor, Jessica Nelson, Courtney Siemens, Marsha Voran

FRI, NOVEMBER 22

**Studio Dan Meiners
7pm - MIDNIGHT**

Benefiting KVC
Children & Families

We are rolling out the
red carpet for an evening
featuring Chef Andrew Sloan
of Room 39, Bartender
Travis Stewart of Kill Devil
Club, Artist Allan Chow,
the swinging beats of the
Atlantic Express and
other local celebrities!

Call (913) 322-4944
for more information, or
visit www.kvc.org/thegala
to purchase tickets
and sponsorships.

Meet KVC Kids can be found
on page 3 in this issue of KVC Matters.

Save the Date

Annual Meeting

October 15, 2013

Olathe, KS

KVC Kansas Kids Classic

October 21, 2013

Parkville, MO

The Gala

November 22, 2013

Kansas City, MO

National Adoption Day

November 23, 2013

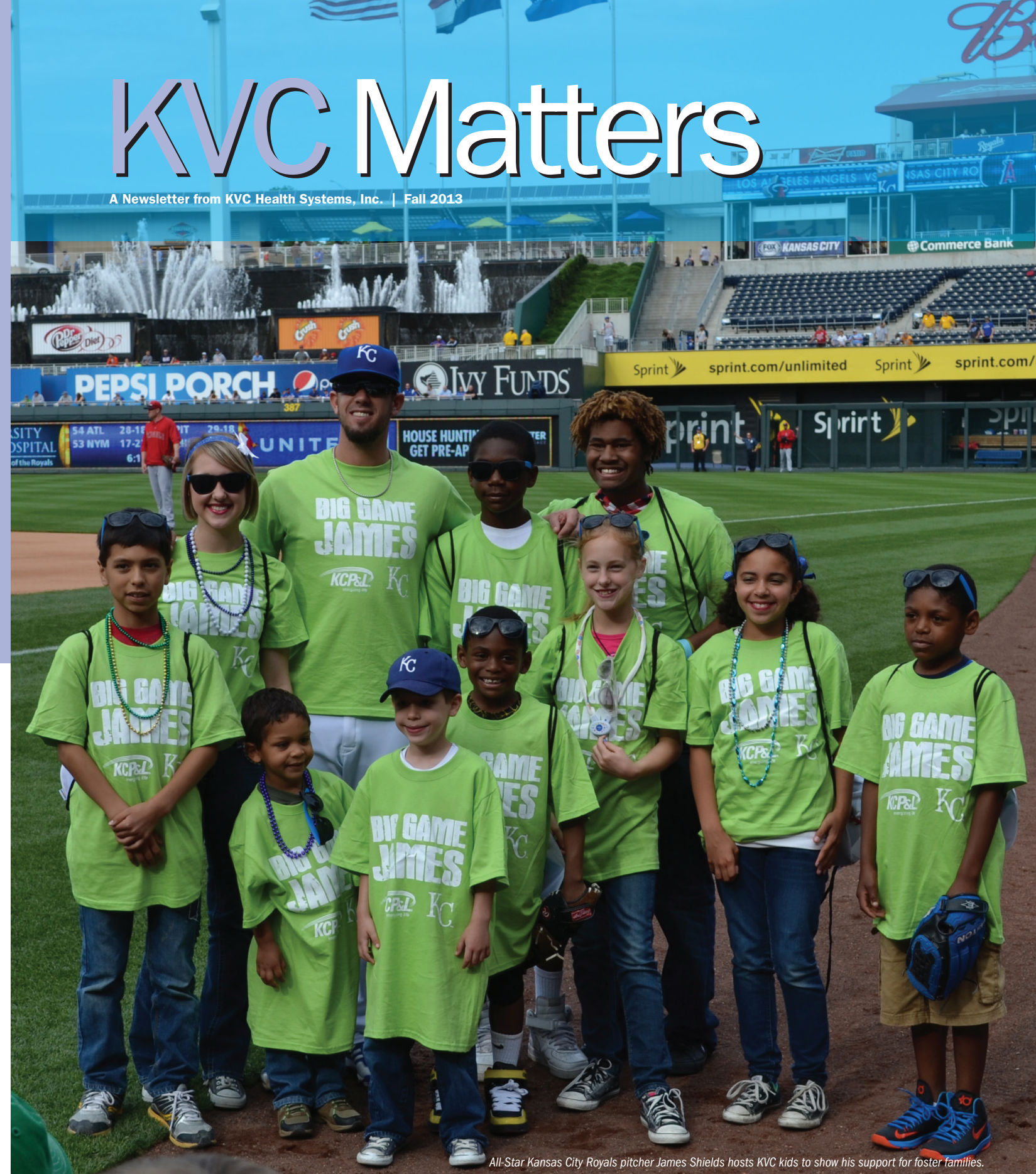
Resource Family Conference

April 25-26, 2014

Kansas, Nebraska,
West Virginia and Kentucky

KVC Matters

A Newsletter from KVC Health Systems, Inc. | Fall 2013



All-Star Kansas City Royals pitcher James Shields hosts KVC kids to show his support for foster families.

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Capital Campaign

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Outcomes in
Washington, D.C.



Dear Friends of KVC,

At the core of KVC's mission is the belief that children grow best in families. To support this mission, our continuum of care reflects our commitment to deliver such services as providing in-home therapy and education; recruiting, training and supporting foster and relative families; residential treatment to some of our most vulnerable members of society; and reuniting families safely or matching children of all ages with the best forever homes.



B. Wayne Sims

But KVC cannot achieve its vision alone. We depend on hundreds of volunteers and community supporters across the country to give their time and talents to help us reach our goals. In this issue, you will see a small snapshot of the many different kinds of support received — from gospel singers in West Virginia to Young Friends of KVC in Kansas to golfers in Nebraska. Hundreds of individuals in each KVC community are eager to participate in our mission.

Corporate partners are vital as well. Our recent collaboration with Seven Counties Services, Inc. in Kentucky is helping to integrate research and technology to further best practices in the area of child welfare, and our new promotion with Kansas City Royals pitcher James Shields (pictured here and on cover) and KVC board member and University of Kansas Coach Bill Self is helping to get the word out about the need for more foster families.

I am very grateful for the support from our volunteers, corporate partners, and our very talented and committed staff. Knowing that KVC has such a strong base of support, we have initiated our Building Families Capital Campaign to fund the creation of the Institute of Practice Improvement and Innovations in Child and Family Services. Research and learning opportunities for clinicians, therapists, case managers, parents, and foster families all over the country will be significantly expanded with our new, state-of-the-art facility. Campaign funds will further support KVC's nationally recognized efforts in the area of evidence-based practices in the child welfare arena.



KU basketball Coach Bill Self, KC Royals pitcher James Shields and KVC kids raise awareness about the need for foster families. Check out the PSA at youtube.com/KVCKids.

KVC has provided consultation to many states' leadership and child welfare providers across the country and most recently hosted a delegation from Singapore — all eager to learn how we have achieved our successful outcomes. Working together, we will continue to raise the bar for child welfare and behavioral healthcare services across our nation and possibly beyond.

Sincerely,

B. Wayne Sims
President and CEO

KVC MISSION:

To enrich and enhance the lives of children and families by providing medical and behavioral healthcare, social services and education.

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KVC is nondiscriminating in its admission and employment practices. KVC is accredited by The Joint Commission.

KVC is a member of the Alliance for Children and Families, a member of the Child Welfare League of America, and a recipient of United Way funds.

Dramatically Improving Outcomes in Washington, D.C.

KVC Executive Vice President Sandra Gasca-Gonzalez has achieved great success in working with the Washington, D.C. Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) to enhance their use of best practices and management strategies. The biggest improvement in the past year has been the reduction of the number of children in care, which has decreased by 18 percent from June 20, 2012 to July 31, 2013. Sandra has worked with CFSA staff and administration to re-engineer the Child Protective Services' practice infrastructure. Prior to the new strategies being in place, the monthly average number of children removed from their homes was 45; currently, the monthly average is 24. Sandra has also supported improvements in areas of kinship care by developing a "KinFirst" culture. She has worked with staff to expedite the licensing of relatives when children are removed from their homes so that children can be placed immediately with familiar loved ones, resulting in an 8% increase in the number of children placed with kin.

In addition to achieving the improvements in measurable outcomes for children and families, Sandra has worked with KVC's Kelly McCauley and Dr. Adam Brown, Clinical Assistant Professor in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the NYU Child Study Center, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, to implement Trauma Systems Therapy across Washington, D.C.'s child welfare system.

"This partnership is so exciting, not only for CFSA but also for KVC, because it marks the first time a private agency is transferring knowledge to a public agency of this size," Sandra said. "Not only are we sharing knowledge with them, but we're also learning from them, and the give and take of knowledge will enrich both of our organizations and ultimately the lives of the children and families we serve."



Marie Morilus-Black, DC's Department of Mental Health Children's Director; Sandra Gasca-Gonzalez, KVC Executive Vice President; Brenda Donald, DC's Child Welfare Director; Wayne Sims, KVC CEO; Barbara Bazron, DC's Department of Mental Health Senior Deputy Director; Cheryl Durden, DC's Child Welfare Program Administrator for Health Services; and Dr. Glenn Saxe, NYU.

KVC is launching a new Adoption Support Group in the Kansas City metro area. All families are welcome including those who have already adopted a child, are in the process of adopting or are simply interested in learning more. The first meeting will be November 14 in Overland Park, KS. For further details, visit www.kvc.org or contact Dena Gates at dgates@kvc.org or 913-956-5331.

State of Kansas Expands KVC's Child Welfare Contract

Due to KVC's proven track record in improving outcomes for children, the state of Kansas recently awarded KVC an expanded child welfare contract. As of July 1, KVC began providing reintegration, foster care and adoption services as well as family preservation services for 30 additional counties in eastern Kansas beyond its existing work in the Kansas City area. This expansion nearly doubled the number of kids KVC serves in Kansas, and means that KVC is responsible for approximately 50 percent of all children in the state's child welfare system.

New KVC offices are in Atchison, Ottawa, Topeka, Chanute, Pittsburg, Hiawatha, Parsons and Independence, Kansas.

"KVC is excited to be working with the children and families in these regions," said Chad Anderson, President of KVC Behavioral HealthCare, Inc. "KVC is very pleased that DCF has shown ongoing confidence in the ability of our organization to continue to serve as strong partners in providing quality services to so many children and families."



Wayne Sims, KVC CEO (center) and Erin Stucky, Executive VP (far left) congratulate KVC Kansas staff for a job well done. (From left to right) Danielle Bartelli, VP of Operations; Linda Bass, VP of Clinical Services; and Chad Anderson, President.

Volunteer Supports KVC Through Her Art



Holiday card designer Cynthia Hudson is one shining example of the kind of volunteer support KVC receives from individuals all over the country. For more information about how you can support the KVC mission, contact Rochelle Parker at rparker@kvc.org.

Staff Receive Extensive Training Opportunities in Kentucky

Great outcomes for children and families require highly motivated and qualified staff. KVC Kentucky is strongly committed to investing in the professionals who serve our clients through intensive and diverse trainings and professional development experiences. In June 2013, KVC Kentucky staff trained across a spectrum of topics, including Research for Mental Health Professionals, Social Inequalities and Behavioral Health Problems, DSM-5 Training, TOM (Team Observation Measure) Training, DBT Training (5-day intensive) and Car Seat Safety Training. Over the past year, direct service staff and supervisors participated in over 60 trainings, totaling over 250 hours of continuing education.

This new contract year promises more exciting and relevant training opportunities, including Motivational Interviewing, CARE Skills, Nurturing Parenting, Autism Spectrum Disorder Training, Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Training and others. In addition, KVC Kentucky is excited to have the opportunity to send staff to the “Treatment Foster Care” Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, as well as the “Kids Are Worth It” Conference in Lexington.

In addition to the specific trainings offered throughout the year, IMPACT Plus Case Managers have begun weekly training in the Wrap Around Model to continue to increase the effectiveness of this service model to children and families. This training, in conjunction



KVC Kentucky staff gather to gain new skills that benefit the children and families they serve.

with observation of service team meetings using the TOM method, will continue to enhance intervention fidelity.

KVC Collaborates with Seven Counties Services, Inc. on Practice Wise in Kentucky

KVC Kentucky is excited about the recent collaboration with Seven Counties Services, Inc. on the Practice Wise Model, which incorporates the use of a research database that helps providers identify treatment components of evidence-based practices found to be effective for targeted symptoms, as well as the practice elements to incorporate in their treatment of children and families. Two Directors and two Diversion Specialists attended the training on utilizing Practice Wise and are beginning to implement the model with clients. Within a year, the KVC Kentucky Directors will complete additional training sessions in supervising the use of MAP (Manage-Adapt-Practice) and will be able to train additional KVC staff on the Practice Wise Model.

Couple Named Resource Foster Parents of the Year in West Virginia

In August 2013, KVC Behavioral HealthCare West Virginia named Pete and Daphne Murphy of Wayne County, Virginia, as the 2013 Resource Foster Parents of the Year at the 6th Annual KVC Foster Parent Picnic. Pete and Daphne have been foster parents with KVC since 2007 and have welcomed over 20 children into their home since they began. They are asked for by name by the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) because they are willing to take children with challenging needs and are flexible. Pete and Daphne have also adopted six children, three of them recently, and due to being at capacity, this home will be closing with KVC. However, they jokingly noted at the picnic that they would divorce and move



Pete and Daphne Murphy and family

across the street from one another if it meant that they could adopt six more. Pete and Daphne are funny, kind and hardworking parents who are not afraid to think outside of the box when it comes to parenting and raising a large family. They have been an asset to the KVC West Virginia foster parent program and will certainly be missed, but KVC is pleased to be able to honor them as the 2013 Resource Foster Parents of the Year.

KVC Hosts Celebration for Families Reintegrating Children from Foster Care

In June, KVC hosted the first annual Families United Picnic to honor families who have successfully completed reintegration of their children from foster care. Seventeen families attended the event in Overland Park, Kansas.

The picnic featured face painting, balloon animals, family photos, a scavenger hunt, dinner and prizes.

“The families we are celebrating have demonstrated a commitment to improving the safety and well-being of their children and their family as a whole,” said Angela Ryan, KVC Permanency Supervisor.

“They have traveled a challenging road and have embraced the supports available to them. KVC is honored to have played a role in reunifying these children with their families.”



Meet KVC Kids



Meet Philip and Rhiannon, two great kids who want a family that will adopt them together.

Big brother Philip, age 14, is very creative and has a big imagination. He loves to watch television and movies, with WWE wrestling being one of his favorite shows. In school Philip likes singing in his vocal class and doing algebra in his math class. Little sister Rhiannon, age 11, reports she is good at making her bed and helping others. She is a very sweet and loving child who works hard at anything she does. Rhiannon likes to play outside, and enjoys

playing with dogs and with her dolls as well. Rhiannon will need a family who will make sure she is provided the necessary support to do her best in school. Both Philip and Rhiannon need a strong family who is patient and understanding and is able to provide them with the structure and love they need. It is also important to them to remain in contact with their other siblings and grandparent.



Angel, age 14, is an adorable, outgoing, and friendly girl who loves to roller-skate, dance, and play video games. She is great at cooking and reading, and likes to just hang out with friends. Angel is a healthy eater, as her favorite foods include salad, raw carrots, and coleslaw. Angel will benefit from a family that can be patient and willing to provide the support she needs. Angel gets along very well with adults and is able to express her needs and concerns. She wants to be adopted by the right family. If Angel could choose anything about her Forever Family, it would be that they love her!



Darius and Darrell are friendly and energetic 11-year-old twins who share many of the same interests and want a family who will adopt them together. Darius enjoys creative activities such as coloring, artwork, and playing his keyboard. He also likes sports and singing in the choir at church. Like his brother, Darrell likes to play with Legos and do things with his hands like coloring and artwork. He also enjoys playing football and singing in the choir at church. Darius and Darrell need a patient and committed Forever Family who will provide

structure and set boundaries to help the boys manage their behavior.



Joshua, age 6, is a playful, happy, and engaged child who loves counting and building with blocks. Joshua struggles some with his speech, but is a very active child and does great with one-on-one attention. Joshua loves being outside and playing with cars. If you are a family who can provide Joshua with unconditional love and the support he needs, please contact us.

To learn more about adopting these KVC Kansas kids, please call 888-655-5500.

Young Friends Group Engages Next Generation

In Fall of 2012, KVC Health Systems, Inc. launched the KVC Young Advisory Board to serve as a volunteer and outreach opportunity for young professionals in the community and to raise awareness about KVC. The group started out as 13 members chaired by Jessica Nelson and helped collect surprise box items for the 10th Anniversary KVC Gala. This summer, the Young Advisory Board launched a happy hour series to engage more members in what has now grown to become the Young Friends of KVC. For more information on how to get involved with the Young Friends of KVC, visit our Facebook page, “Young Friends of KVC.”

KVC Volunteer of the Year



KVC Health Systems, Inc. General Board Member Dave Blankenship was recognized as KVC’s Volunteer of the Year and recognized by the United Way of Wyandotte County, KS for his many contributions to KVC events

and activities. Congratulations, Dave, and thank you for all you do!

Gospel Sing Benefit in West Virginia

Victory Baptist Church in Cross Lanes, WV and New Testament Community Church in Sissonville, WV were proud to sponsor the First Annual KVC Gospel Sing on Saturday, June 29.

The event took place at Victory Baptist Church. Approximately 60 people attended the KVC Gospel Sing and raised more than \$2,500.



KVC West Virginia Regional Director Sara Wyer, her daughter Sydney, and her aunt attended Gospel Sing.

The featured singers were the Hometown Independent Mission Choir, Noland Tucker, The Fellowship Trio and Bobby Craig. There was dinner offered, and proceeds from the dinner and all donations given benefited KVC West Virginia.

KVC Launches Exciting Capital Campaign

KVC has initiated a Building Families Capital Campaign to raise \$6 million to fund the creation of its Institute for Practice Improvement and Innovations in Child and Family Services.

The Institute will be located on KVC's campus in Olathe, Kansas. It will incorporate the expansion of KVC's existing Ball Conference Center. These two components provide the foundation for development and dissemination of research and effective child welfare practice improvement strategies.

KVC is currently providing national leadership in child welfare outcomes and has been identified by the Annie E. Casey Foundation of Baltimore, Maryland, as a best-practice organization in child welfare. KVC has also been recognized as a national leader in trauma treatment resulting in a partnership with New York University (NYU) for the development of the NYU/KVC Midwest Child Trauma Training Center through its Ball Conference Center.



This Building Families campaign will provide the foundation for KVC to propel innovative strategies into direct services for children and families, utilize data management improvements for supportive research, and expand proven initiatives far more efficiently.

This campaign will benefit tens of thousands of children and families across the nation, who will be positively impacted by the Institute and resulting innovations. Please partner with us by contacting Rochelle Parker, Vice President of Development, at 913.322.4941 or rparker@kvc.org.

Hero Luncheon a Huge Success

With nearly 450 people in attendance, the KVC Hero Luncheon successfully featured University of Kansas Head Basketball Coach Bill Self, who is a member of KVC's Executive Board, as the keynote speaker. Luncheon guests also heard Becky Lawrence's inspiring story. Becky and her husband, Phillip, have fostered numerous children, and she has served as President of KVC's Foster Parent Advisory Board.

In addition, the KVC Hero Luncheon included John Holt from Fox 4 News as the emcee and several of our KVC "superhero" kids.

The luncheon helped spread the word about the great work our Heroes do in the community. To become an Everyday Hero, sign up at www.everydayhero.org.



(Above) Prior to the arrival of Coach Bill Self, KVC Health Systems, Inc. President and CEO Wayne Sims (far left) and luncheon Chair Jeff Spencer of Holmes Murphy (far right) with two KU basketball dancers and a life-size Coach Bill Self cutout.

(Left) Spencer, Sims and Self after the luncheon.

Tribute to JoAnn Ball, Friend of KVC

On May 14, 2013, KVC lost its dear friend JoAnn Ball. JoAnn and her family have long been considered KVC's "First Family." They've been devoted supporters of KVC for more than 30 years, and we are deeply saddened by JoAnn's passing.

JoAnn was part of the Junior League that originally recognized the great needs of children in our community and helped KVC become the organization it is today. Her kindness, generosity and compassion were remarkable, and her dedication to the children and families KVC serves inspired so many in the community to join her in her mission to make a difference. JoAnn, along with her husband, Fred, served many years on the KVC Board of Directors, chaired multiple capital fundraising campaigns, and was instrumental in introducing new friends and funding to KVC. Together they founded the Ball's Charity Classic, an annual golf tournament that grew from a backyard barbecue to one of the largest golf tournaments in Kansas City and a tremendous blessing to our organization. They were honored among KVC's 40 Heroes in 2010 for KVC's 40th Anniversary. JoAnn and Fred's support of KVC, which continues as their legacy through the work of their children and grandchildren, has made a profound impact on countless children, families and communities, and they will never be forgotten.



Golf Tournaments in Nebraska and Kansas

KVC hosted its First Annual KVC Nebraska Kids Classic on September 20 at Thornridge Golf Course in Milford. Thank you to the many generous participants and sponsors who made the Kids Classic a tremendous success.

The KVC Kansas Kids Classic was rescheduled for Monday, October 21, 2013 at The National Golf Club of Kansas City due to inclement weather on the original July 29 date.

Resource Family Conference Inspires and Educates

More than 1,000 people in four states participated in KVC's 2013 Resource Family Conference, an annual event designed for foster, birth and adoptive parents and their children. The conference allows parents to learn new strategies for handling family challenges, while kids get to have fun together. Families arrive Friday night and are treated to entertainment, dinner and complimentary hotel rooms. On Saturday, nationally-known speakers share about the issues facing foster parents.

This year's keynote speaker was Mark Anthony Garrett. Garrett grew up in foster care, and is now the author of three books. While Garrett spoke in Overland Park, Kansas, families in three other states were treated to his live presentation using videoconferencing technology.

In Kansas, the adults participated in trauma systems training, human trafficking awareness training, and grump meter and psychotropic medication workshops. While the adults were busy learning, the children bonded through games, bouncy houses, Radio Disney events and a field day.

In West Virginia, KVC staff customized the conference by giving special recognition to 17 parents for their five years of service and to eight young people preparing to graduate from high school.

In Nebraska, the training workshops had a particular focus on caring for teenage youth. Foster parents also enjoyed the always entertaining and motivational Derek Clark, author of Never Limit Your Life and the award-winning I Will Never Give Up book series. Youth enjoyed an amazing talent show and a great day at Papio Fun Park.

In Kentucky, KVC staff took children to the zoo and the aquarium while foster parents were given time for training and education.

The Resource Family Conference succeeded in its mission to both inspire and entertain, and KVC foster families are already looking forward to the next gathering in 2014.

We Need Your Help!

At each year's Resource Family Conference, our families have the opportunity to win incredible gift baskets that they can take home and enjoy. The baskets contain everything from board games to laundry kits to supplies for a spa night. Volunteers Jan Frankenberg and Cynthia Ryan coordinate this effort in Kansas and do a great job of putting together beautiful baskets that are fun to receive. If you're interested in contributing to the basket drive by making a donation or putting a basket together, please contact Renny Arensberg at rarensberg@kvc.org. Gift baskets are welcome and appreciated for families in each of the four conference locations (KS, NE, KY and WV).



Save the Date

The next Resource Family Conference weekend is April 25-26, 2014. The conference takes place simultaneously in Kansas, Nebraska, West Virginia and Kentucky. Stay connected with your local KVC on Facebook for details on how to volunteer.



Nebraska Staff Help Improve Response to Child Abuse in D.C.

KVC Nebraska has experienced tremendous success with adapting and implementing evidence-informed practices from researcher Sue Lohrbach related to child abuse response and intervention. As a result of this success, KVC Nebraska President Jodie Austin recently joined KVC Executive Vice President Sandra Gasca-Gonzalez on an expanded contract to apply this new information-sharing and consultation framework with Washington, D.C.'s Child and Family Service Agency. Jodie is honored to work with Washington, D.C. leadership and other key stakeholders to share this training with other child welfare professionals.

KVC Hospitals Staff Member Wins Patriot Award

KVC Hospitals, Inc. Unit Supervisor Regena Pearl received the Patriot Award from the National Guard after KVC Behavioral HealthCare Technician John Grant nominated her for her willingness and flexibility to work with him on his schedule and for being supportive of



his other needs regarding his work with the National Guard. KVC is proud to support employees who are reserve or active military and veterans and congratulates Regena on this outstanding honor.

Did You Know?

KVC is the largest Child Placing Agency in Nebraska and is proud to serve more than 600 children and youth in foster care. KVC has experienced a steady increase in in-home services and looks forward to continued growth.

KVC staff in Nebraska welcome the Toy Industry Foundation's donation of more than 500 Pillow Pets for children.

