

A Newsletter from KVC Health Systems, Inc.



KVC Matters

Fall/Winter 2016

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Dear Friends,

The holiday season is in full swing. For many of us, it's the happiest time of the year. And for nearly all of us, it's the busiest time of the year. That's certainly the case at KVC. Our team is working hard to keep families safely together, facilitate foster family care and adoptions, and stabilize and support youth and adults who are experiencing a mental health crisis. On top of this, they're also gathering thousands of gifts for children who are spending the holidays in foster care or otherwise involved in the child welfare system. It's a labor of love and one that we are so thankful to many of you for supporting.

Throughout the busyness of this season and the complexity of the integrated health and child welfare work we do, we have found a common thread. That commonality is this: *People matter*. And because people matter, we wake up every day committed to our mission of enriching and enhancing the lives of children, adults and families.

There's another common thread we've found across every state and program area. It's that childhood experiences, both positive and negative, have a tremendous impact on lifelong health and opportunity. People who experience childhood adversity are much more likely to develop chronic health problems in adulthood. This is because problems in childhood can interrupt healthy brain development and promote unhealthy behaviors, causing a ripple effect. Protecting and transforming childhood is everyone's business and you can learn more our vision for that on pg. 3.

In this issue, you'll learn about how we're:

- **Sharing research-backed parenting skills** that can benefit every family (pg. 5)
- **Forming creative partnerships to help youth in foster care**, ranging from a national alliance with Mattress Firm and Olympic gymnast Simone Biles (pg. 6) to a bike-building campaign sponsored by our friends at Toyota in Lexington, Kentucky (pg. 11)
- **Celebrating diversity and inclusion** by beginning new services for individuals with developmental disabilities in Nebraska (pg. 5) and introducing youth at our psychiatric hospitals to unique cultures and groups (pg. 6)

To those of you who interact with KVC as parents, donors, volunteers, and business and community partners, thank you for joining us in work that is meaningful and very much needed.

Sincerely,



Jason Hooper
President and CEO



Jason Hooper

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Many professionals generously contribute their time and talent by serving on KVC advisory boards and volunteer committees. See their names and learn how you can get involved at www.kvc.org/volunteer.



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KVC MISSION:

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



Protecting and Transforming Childhood

Childhood is the best part of many people's lives. The good memories can include hours of imaginative play, giggling with friends, riding bikes, enjoying holidays, and getting lots of hugs from mom, dad, or other caretakers who provided love and support.

But for a significant portion of the population, childhood also evokes painful memories. Many adults experienced bad things when they were children including physical, sexual or emotional abuse; chronic neglect; or were exposed to divorce, domestic abuse, substance abuse and mental illness.

If you are someone who had these negative experiences, you're not alone. Researchers from Kaiser Permanente and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who conducted the groundbreaking Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study were surprised to find that these experiences are fairly common. In the sample of nearly 17,000 participants, 28% reported exposure to physical abuse and 21% reported being sexually abused during childhood. Over 40% reported being exposed to two or more different adverse childhood experiences and 12.5% reported four or more exposures in childhood (Feletti, et al, 1998).

But what's even more surprising is that the study showed a link between childhood experiences and later-life health. People who experienced adversity in childhood are much more likely to develop chronic health problems such as heart disease, cancer, substance abuse, diabetes and depression. Problems in childhood can interrupt healthy brain development or foster unhealthy behaviors, causing a ripple effect of serious physical health problems long into adulthood. In high doses childhood adversity can even shorten a person's lifespan by as much as 20 years.

Because childhood experiences, both positive and negative, have such a tremendous impact on lifelong health and opportunity, health experts and researchers are identifying adverse child experiences as a top priority to address the many major public health issues in the United States.

The solution has at least two parts: first, prevent child maltreatment by strengthening families, and second, help individuals and communities become more resilient so they can move past negative experiences.

With its many partners, KVC is actively involved in advancing both strategies. The goal of the new KVC Institute is to transform the experience of childhood for all children by advancing health and wellness. Protecting and transforming childhood means ensuring that all children have safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments. There are many research-backed approaches that governments and communities can put into

(continued on page 9)



ACE Survey

These questions are the basis of the historic Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study. Find out your ACE score and risk for negative health outcomes. Check box if your answer is yes.

Prior to your 18th birthday:

- ☐ Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often... swear at you, insult you, put you down, or humiliate you? or act in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt?
- ☐ Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often... push, grab, slap, or throw something at you? or ever hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?
- ☐ Did an adult or person at least 5 years older than you ever... touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way? or attempt or actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?
- ☐ Did you often or very often feel that... no one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special? or your family didn't look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other?
- ☐ Did you often or very often feel that... you didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, and had no one to protect you? or your parents were too drunk or high to take care of you or take you to the doctor if you needed it?
- ☐ Were your parents ever separated or divorced?
- ☐ Was your mother or stepmother: often or very often pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her? or sometimes, often, or very often kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard? or ever repeatedly hit over at least a few minutes or threatened with a gun or knife?
- ☐ Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic, or who used street drugs?
- ☐ Was a household member depressed or mentally ill, or did a household member attempt suicide?
- ☐ Did a household member go to prison?



Now add up your "Yes" answers: _____
This is your ACE Score.



Meet Children Who Need a Forever Family

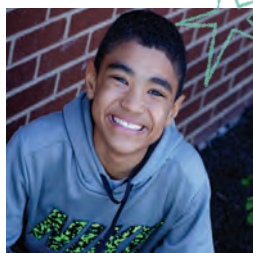
Each of these children needs and deserves a forever family. Watch videos and search additional child profiles at <http://adoption.kvc.org>. To inquire, call 888-655-5500 or email adoptionspecialist@kvc.org.



BILLY (11) and ELLEN (10)

Meet siblings Billy and Ellen! Billy is the big brother who enjoys reading and playing different sports. Ellen is a sweet, loving girl who gets along with both peers and adults. She enjoys playing games and will bring a lot of love to any family. When asked what she would want in her adoptive family, she wants "a nice and caring family." Keeping birth family connections is important for Ellen. These two siblings

would benefit from a two-parent household in Kansas who possess the patience and understanding they need to succeed.



DWAYNE "DJ" (13)

Your family would be full of life and happiness to have this young man in your home. Dwayne "DJ" is a joy to be around. He has a wonderful sense of humor, gets along with younger children and has big dreams for his future!

Maintaining birth family connections is important to him and he has worked very hard and made progress in school. He needs a family who will be open and honest with him, allow him to develop at his own rate and keep him in his current supportive services.



AUBREYELLE (14), JAIREN (13) and CHLOE (11)

Watch my video online!

Aubreyelle, Jairen and Chloe are sisters who are very close!

Oldest sister Aubreyelle really likes sports! She enjoys volleyball, basketball and longboarding. Jairen, the middle sister, has an easygoing personality and is a great student! She earns very good grades and is well-liked by her classmates and teachers. Younger sister, Chloe, is fun-loving and a bit of a jokester. She likes to laugh and hang out with her friends. And ask about their dog, Lizzie! She needs to be adopted with them!



KEITH (10) and JACKY (7)

Keith and Jacky love having fun and playing outside. Older brother Keith is a social and happy child who is protective of his little sister. He enjoys

playing with his cars and trucks. Little sister Jacky is characterized as lovable, social and energetic. She really enjoys playing with her baby dolls and watching SpongeBob. Both children will thrive in a patient, loving home that is structured and consistent.



New Leadership Defines Focus for KVC Institute

Current President of KVC Nebraska, Jodie Austin, L.C.S.W. has also been named Executive Vice President of the KVC Institute. Austin will help the KVC Institute to develop three areas of focus including **direct practice**, where the everyday work is applied and tested; **education, training and consultation** both internally and with other institutions; as well as **research and development** to advance the wellbeing of children and families.

KVC Institute Executive Director Sue Lohrbach, MS, LICSW and Associate Director Kelly McCauley, L.S.C.S.W. have been working with Washington, D.C.'s Child and Family Service Agency to provide trauma-informed care training to foster parent trainers and the intake departments. The KVC Institute has also identified, with Singapore's Ministry of Family and Social Development, two additional locations in need of residential service consulting. The Institute is looking toward expanding into new consulting projects with the Kansas Technical Assistance and Support Network, training KVC employees nationally, and consulting on trauma-based care in the workplace. To learn more, visit kvc.org/institute.



Austin

Helpful Parenting Skills Shared in 12-Part Blog Series

If you're a parent, you know that children don't come with a handbook. While there's no simple guide for helping a young person along the road from childhood to adulthood, there are many time-tested skills that every parent can benefit from learning. During 2016, the KVC Institute for Health Systems Innovation is sharing one article per month focused on the 12 parenting skills of Parent Management Training – Oregon Model (PMTO). This is a model that was developed on forty years of research and practice with the core belief that parents are their children's best teachers. KVC uses PMTO with its public and private agency partners in Kansas and elsewhere.

Read blogs covering a wide range of topics such as giving good directions, encouraging good behavior, managing conflict and more at www.kvc.org/parenting. Be sure to follow us on Facebook (KVC Health Systems) and Twitter (@kvckids) as well.



November is National Adoption Month



The month of November is dedicated to raising awareness of the 100,000 U.S. children and youth in foster care who are waiting for permanent families. Last year, we had the privilege of matching 442 children who could not safely return home with adoptive families. Prior to being adopted, these

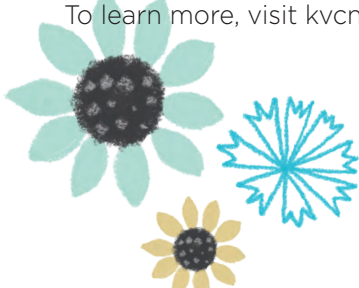


children were in foster care. Whether due to abuse, neglect, incarceration, death or other heartbreaking circumstances, their parents were unable to care for them. By recruiting and supporting adoptive families, KVC helped these children's dreams of having a forever family come true.

Since 2005, KVC has matched 3,385 children and youth with adoptive families. Many of these adoptions are of teenagers, sibling groups, or children with special behavioral or medical needs. If you are looking to adopt or know a family who is, meet the children in need of an adoptive family at www.kvc.org/adopt or visit www.kvc.org/NAM to read stories and learn more about National Adoption Month.

Seeking Nebraska Families to Support People with Disabilities

KVC Nebraska is now recruiting extended family homes (EFH) that will care for individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities. The homes can be a family, couple or individual who will provide a safe place to live and support life skills training to increase independence. A family home setting provides one-on-one attention as well as consistency that traditional group homes or institutional settings have a hard time providing. EFH families will provide support to the individual with life skills such as cooking, medication management, personal hygiene and other tasks. To learn more, visit kvcnebraska.org/efh.



Celebrating Diversity at KVC Hospitals



This past May, KVC Hospitals' Diversity Matters committee planned activities and learning opportunities to celebrate

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. "As we have a group of diverse staff members who are providing services to a diverse group of clients, celebrating and embracing diversity is important," said Sara

Schlagel, Associate Director of Hospital Services and member of the Diversity Matters Initiative committee.

Youth receiving psychiatric treatment at KVC Prairie Ridge Hospital were heavily involved in celebrating and learning about Asian Pacific American Heritage throughout the month. Activities around art, music, Henna, and crafts were included in the celebrations. The Diversity Matters Initiative has also held programs for Caribbean American Heritage Month, LGBT Pride Month and Black History Month. See more at kvchospitals.org/about/diversity-matters-initiative.



Dates for 2017 Resource Family Conference Announced

KVC's 2017 Resource Family Conference is a unique training opportunity for KVC foster families to gather for a weekend of training, inspiration and fun. Families in Kansas, Nebraska, Kentucky and West Virginia are invited to attend the conference, which will take place March 31-April 1.

Families will learn about topics such as managing behavior challenges, repairing the effects of stress and trauma, and transition planning into adulthood,

while children enjoy fun activities like games, bouncy houses and talent shows. Inspirational keynote speakers will be present at each location and announced later this year. These individuals have typically been in foster care as a child and achieved success into adulthood. Past keynote speakers include veteran newsman Dominic Carter, country music artist Jimmy Wayne and author Mark Anthony Garrett.



KVC raises private funds to fully underwrite the hotel, meal and training costs of each annual conference. Generous companies, foundations and individuals in the community make the RFC possible by sponsoring and attending fundraising events hosted by KVC Health Systems and its subsidiaries throughout the year.

Location and registration details will be shared soon. Learn more at www.kvc.org/rfc.



Olympic Gymnast Simone Biles and Mattress Firm Help Children in Foster Care

Three-time champion gymnast Simone Biles and Mattress Firm are teaming up to promote the importance of sleep with the Mattress Firm Foster Kids program. This program will support local foster care nonprofits in communities across the country including KVC.

Six donation drives will be held throughout the year to collect funds and physical donations, like clothing, school supplies, shoes and toys. These necessities make transitioning a little bit easier for youth who are entering new homes, schools or communities.

The Ticket to Dream Foundation will collect donations in addition to the six annual donation drives. Donations will remain in the community where donated.

KVC programs in Kansas have benefitted from Mattress Firm's nationwide campaign and the resulting donations. Thank you, Mattress Firm and Simone Biles, for creating awareness about the needs of children in foster care!



Stories Educate, Inform and Inspire Hope

Over the summer, we asked our staff as well as children, youth and families to submit stories of how they benefitted from KVC services or helped make a difference in someone's life by partnering with KVC. Over 80 stories were submitted and entered into a contest for a team of both staff and external volunteers to select the top stories in several different categories. Here are just a couple examples of how KVC is making a positive difference in the lives of children, adults and families:

Single Mother Gets Help to Make a Fresh Start

Anna is a single mother with 5-year-old twin girls. She was employed full-time but could not afford safe, reliable childcare. The house Anna and her girls lived in was in bad shape and needed major repairs. The stress of inadequate finances, childcare, housing and family support overwhelmed Anna and she began using marijuana and methamphetamine.

She was referred to KVC for drug and alcohol outpatient counseling and completed it successfully. KVC staff helped the family relocate into brand new low-income housing in another town. Anna also earned a promotion at work and enrolled her girls in kindergarten. The family successfully completed family preservation services, preventing the need for foster care. They are now thriving thanks to the support they received during a difficult time.

Never Too Old to Be Adopted

Bob is a 17-year-old teen who had been in foster care for some time and needed a forever family to adopt him. Over time, he began to think that he was too old to be adopted. His foster family wanted to continue supporting him and decided that they could provide guardianship. Bob was interested in pursuing this, but still hoped a family would adopt him. He agreed to do a television taping to be featured as a youth in need of an adoptive family, and his KVC adoption worker also made a video of him talking about what he was looking for in an adoptive family.

One day, Keira Jones came across Bob's video online. She and her husband Jerry Gross had previously worked with KVC to adopt a boy from foster care, and they had two other children in the home. As she listened to the things Bob desired in a family, Keira realized her family could meet all of his needs and contacted KVC the next day. Jerry and Keira officially adopted Bob on September 19, 2016.

Stay tuned for more stories about families kept safely together, foster care, adoption, mental/behavioral healthcare including substance abuse treatment, psychiatric hospital treatment, and more. Individual winners will be announced later this fall, and each of those individuals will receive a prize.



KVC Releases CARE Software Built In-House

KVC's talented team of software engineers in its Information Solutions Department is building a

new platform called CARE. CARE is a modern, mobile-friendly application built to support case management, therapy, and other types of client records for behavioral healthcare and child welfare. It is replacing several legacy systems built in-house, while adding additional functionality to benefit users.



The first release of CARE was an application called CAREConsult, or the Consultation & Information Sharing Framework. It is a digital version of the process that KVC uses to make decisions with families involved in the child welfare system.

The second release of CARE applications benefitted KVC Nebraska. The team transformed six frequently-used Word documents into web-based forms easily accessible on mobile devices. The forms are used to document interaction with clients and foster families that happens in homes or in the community.

Some cool features of these CARE forms are:

- Mobile access. Forms can be completed on smartphones or tablets, a huge benefit for staff who spend the majority of their time in the field.
- Clients, foster parents, and staff can sign forms electronically on a mobile device using their finger or on a laptop using their mouse.
- Sophisticated workflows allow for multi-step approval processes.

Staff are excited about each release of CARE. Because the software saves them time documenting their work, they can focus on what they do best – working directly with children and families providing high-quality, effective services.

KVC Releases 2016 Annual Report and Honors Alliance CEO Susan Dreyfus



On October 19, we celebrated the positive impact KVC has had in the lives of children and families over the past year by releasing our 2016 Annual Report. KVC board members, donors, partners and staff gathered at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center in Kansas City, Missouri for a short program to learn about our outcomes and how the latest brain science is influencing practice, policy and public decisions. We also honored Susan Dreyfus, President and CEO of the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities, with KVC's 46th Hero Award. KVC selected Dreyfus for the award for her inspiring leadership of the Alliance and particularly its initiative called, "Change in Mind: Applying Neurosciences to Revitalize Communities." (Learn more about the initiative at www.kvc.org/brain)

KVC touches the lives of over 60,000 children, adults and families each year through its diverse continuum of services including in-home family support, foster care, adoption, behavioral healthcare, substance abuse

treatment, and psychiatric hospitals. In the 2016 fiscal year, KVC achieved these national results:

- Directly touched 61,004 people's lives
- Helped keep 6,184 families safely together
- Matched 442 children with adoptive families
- Supported 6,319 children in relative, kinship or foster families
- Provided 21,674 children and adults with in-home therapy and other critical support
- Treated 3,492 youth and adults at our psychiatric hospitals



The 2016 Annual Report provides more details on how we were able to achieve these positive outcomes and features stories of children, youth and families who benefitted from our services.

View the full report online at www.kvc.org/2016report.



KVC and Niles Home for Children Pursuing Partnership



KVC Health Systems has entered into an agreement with Niles Home for Children, a residential and day school treatment center in Kansas City, Missouri. Niles is expected to become part of KVC Health Systems later this year. The partnership will bring behavioral healthcare best practices, high-quality support staff, and cutting-edge training to Niles and expand KVC Health Systems' broad continuum of care with a unique short-term treatment facility for youth.

At the completion of the process, Niles will have maintained its name and legacy of serving the urban

core at its current location and expanded family preservation services. It will become a separate entity under the KVC Health Systems brand.

Niles Home for Children is a 133-year-old organization founded by Samuel Eason, an African American bricklayer who opened his home to orphaned and homeless children living in the historic 18th and Vine District. Today the organization continues its legacy of caring for vulnerable children.

"We're excited to bring Niles into the KVC family because we have found that their culture is very similar to ours," said Jason Hooper, President/

CEO of KVC Health Systems. "They have an incredible history and dedicated partners committed to making Niles the strongest it can be. Both KVC and Niles are not only mission-driven but also driven to innovate and elevate care. Our dedicated staff are passionate about advancing the health and wellbeing of children and families."



Protecting and Transforming Childhood *(continued from page 3)*

practice to strengthen families and champion positive parenting skills. Another way to help is sharing the core story of neuroscience so that people understand how vitally important childhood experiences are; healthcare costs soar and entire communities suffer when any child is allowed to experience adversity.

The second strategy, building resilience, means helping people build the skills and resources needed to buffer the toxic levels of stress and adversity. KVC is actively engaged in several resilience-building initiatives. For example, KVC is part of Resilient KC in the greater Kansas City area. This group is working to build a trauma-aware and resilient community. One of Resilient KC's first steps has been to put the Adverse Child Experiences survey online and learn about the community's exposure to adversity.

Across the nation KVC is building resilience in youth and adults every day through its in-home therapy, outpatient behavioral healthcare, and psychiatric treatment centers. KVC has developed a set of emotion regulation tools and brain strengthening exercises. Our staff help vulnerable, traumatized youth build their resilience by practicing ways to calm down, gain control over their emotions, think critically, and engage in healthy habits so they can make decisions that are in their own best interest.

Will you join us in protecting and transforming childhood, promoting mental health and building resilience? You can:

- Take the ACE survey (in sidebar on pg. 3) to understand your exposure level
- Talk openly about mental health to reduce stigma
- Advocate for investments in families and early childhood education
- Strengthen relationships with your friends and family and be a supportive friend to others
- Nurture a positive view of yourself, keep challenges in perspective and maintain a hopeful outlook
- Take care of yourself — exercise, eat well and rest. Some people also journal about their experiences, meditate or engage in spiritual practices.



(Source: APA)

By preventing adversity and building resilience, we can take a big step toward protecting and transforming childhood ... and all the wonderful memories it should hold.



James Roberson, L.M.S.W.,
Vice President of Program Services,
KVC Hospitals

Suzanne Lohrbach, M.S., LICSW,
Executive Director,
KVC Institute for Health Systems Innovation

KVC Uses Klara Messaging to Improve Healthcare Communication



KVC Hospitals recently began integrating a healthcare messaging tool called Klara into its workflows to improve communication between patients and healthcare professionals.



Technology and Innovation

Klara is a HIPAA-compliant medical text messaging platform that allows for patients, doctors, pharmacists, other healthcare professionals and office employees to securely discuss medical information. Advancing communications to include mobile messaging can increase productivity. Klara will save time by reaching patients in the way they want, on smartphones and tablets.

"We are always looking for innovative ways to use technology to simplify our team's work and elevate the care we provide," said Jason Hooper, President and CEO of KVC Health Systems. "By using Klara for secure medical messaging, we will make care more convenient, accessible and beneficial for the tens of thousands of people we serve."

Improving Patient Communications

The Klara messaging app, built for Apple devices and all types of web browsers, will allow for a simplified workflow by creating a history of documented communication. Doctors can share results and keep in touch with patients more effectively.

The app will initially be used at KVC's psychiatric hospitals for children, adolescents and adults, and will eventually expand to subsidiaries nationwide.

KVC Golf Tournaments Raise Funds for Children and Youth

Kansas City Area Golf Tournament



On Monday, August 24, over 160 representatives from leading Kansas City area companies participated in the 15th Annual KVC Kids Classic Golf Tournament in Parkville, Missouri. Thanks to the generosity of the tournament Chairs Susan and Scott Asner, along with our sponsors, golfers and volunteers, we raised \$120,706 to help children and families involved in the child welfare system, including thousands of youth who have experienced abuse and neglect and are in caring KVC foster families.

Ashland, Nebraska Golf Tournament

On Friday, September 9, KVC Nebraska hosted its 4th Annual KVC Kids Classic Golf Tournament at the Ashland Golf Club in Ashland, Nebraska. The event raised nearly \$10,000 — exceeding the amount of funds raised the previous year. Twenty-five teams enjoyed 18 holes of golf and meals throughout the day. Generous businesses and individuals also donated over 65 raffle prizes for the event.



Leaders from KVC Hospitals Present at Community Mental Health Conference



During the breakout session, Roberson and Lindenmeyer showed attendees multiple emotion regulation drills like deep breathing, mirroring, and affirmations. These drills help children to learn self-regulation, recognize physical reactions to stress and develop a way to cope with difficult emotions.

to show what effect positive and negative experiences have on brain development. The goal is to build the brain as sturdy as possible, while understanding how negative experiences impact the structure. This interactive game helps to visualize the influence that childhood experiences have on a child throughout his or her lifetime. Learn more about these drills at kvchospitals.org/blog.

KVC Hospitals presented its own emotion regulation drills to a room of 85 healthcare service providers during the 37th annual Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas Annual Conference for Behavioral Health in Manhattan, Kansas on September 14. Vice President of Program Services James Roberson, LMSW and Program Director of Wheatland Hospital, Audrey Lindenmeyer, MLS, led an afternoon course called Emotion Regulation and Strengthening My Brain Tools designed to show creative ways to help traumatized children.

The service providers also played The Brain Architecture Game, which shows how the brain is developed. This tabletop game uses items such as pipe cleaners and straws



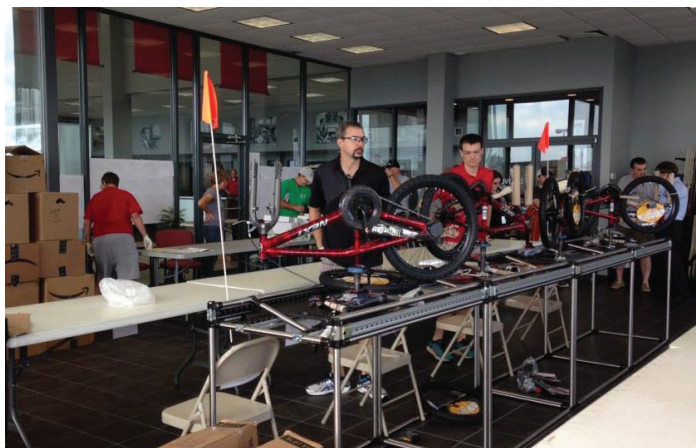
Toyota Builds Bikes for Children in Foster Care

Approximately 200 volunteers from Toyota Motors Manufacturing Kentucky, Toyota Christian Fellowship, The Kentucky Foster/Adoptive Care Association and KVC Kentucky set up makeshift assembly lines inside Toyota South in Richmond to build nearly 100 bicycles for children in foster care this past June.

For every car sold in the month of May (National Foster Care Month), Toyota South pledged to build the same number of bikes. In true Toyota style, a bicycle was assembled every 30 seconds with a quality inspection and test drive included!

Of the 100 bicycles, 50 were donated to children being cared for in KVC Kentucky foster families. To a child in foster care, a bicycle made just for them is a symbol of hope and a sign that someone really does care about them.

Toyota South owner Steve Gates said, "Our goal here, aside from building 100 bikes, is to bring awareness



to (youth in foster care) that need our help and understanding."

The bike build was so well received that Gates announced it will become an annual event to support Kentucky children every year.

Creating a Brighter Future for West Virginia Youth

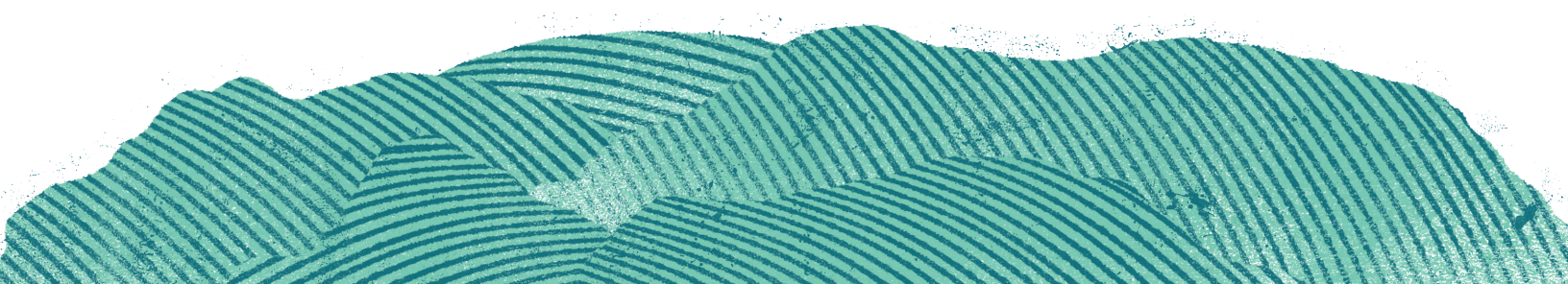
Safe At Home West Virginia is an initiative of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Children and Families. Safe at Home West Virginia focuses on youth ages 12-17 living in congregate care. Its goals are to ensure youth remain in their own communities whenever safely possible,



reduce reliance on foster care, reduce the number of children in high cost placements out-of-state and reunify youth in congregate care with their families.

The state of West Virginia has a high rate of children entering out-of-home care such as foster care each year; 8.6 per 1,000 children in the population, which is nearly three times the national entry rate of 3.3. The state also cares for 71 percent of youth ages 12-17 in congregate care which is shown by research to have negative developmental impacts.

KVC has a strong track record of right-sizing congregate care of children, integrating trauma-informed care and increasing community-based care options such as foster families. For that reason, KVC West Virginia has been one of the primary organizations helping to implement the program for the last two years. KVC has helped dozens of children return from out-of-state facilities and benefit from support in their home communities.

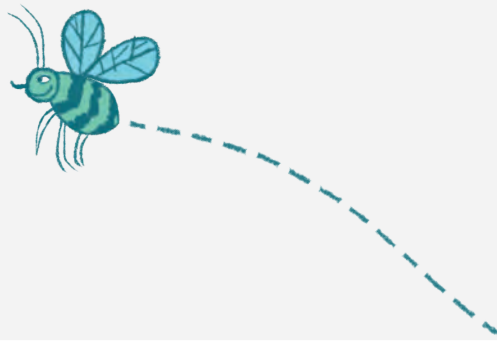




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Visit www.kvc.org/events for details on these events and others.

The Gala on Fire

November 18

Kansas City, MO

National Adoption Day

November 19

Courthouses Nationwide

Giving Tuesday

November 29

Visit www.kvc.org/donate

KVC's Resource Family Conference

March 31–April 1, 2017

Overland Park, KS;

Lincoln, NE; and Daniels, WV



BECOME A **HOLIDAY HERO**

Looking for a way to give back this holiday season? Join our Holiday Heroes program and donate gifts to a child or youth in foster care!

Sign up online at
www.kvc.org

