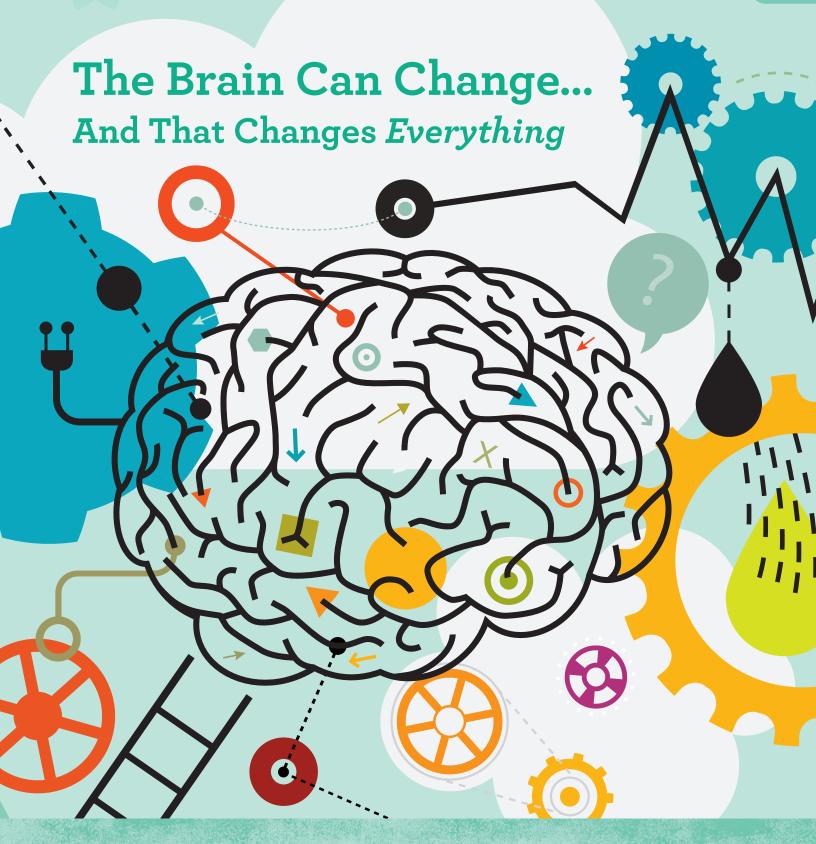


KVC Matters



Dear Friends of KVC.

What a joy and solemn responsibility it is to lead this wonderful organization. At the start of this year, KVC President/CEO Wayne Sims, who served an incredible 35 years, transitioned to our board of directors and other retirement opportunities. From 1980-2015, Wayne grew the organization in its size and reach, but more importantly, he scaled KVC in terms of quality. The outcomes we've



achieved with children and families and the endorsements we've received trace back directly to his values and leadership. (Read more about Wayne's legacy on pg. 6.)

While no one can fill Wayne's shoes, I do intend to fulfill and build on his vision. Thankfully, I have the support of an exceptionally bright and valuesdriven team to help make that happen: Chief Operations Officer Erin Stucky; Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel Marilyn Jacobson; and Chief Clinical Officer Chad Anderson. (Get to know these new executive leaders on pg. 4.)

A change in leadership is always a special moment in time and brings potential for new ideas. But it doesn't change the heart of how we work: that's through our amazing people! We have over 1,300 strong across the U.S. who are social workers, therapists, doctors, nurses, psychologists, software engineers, administrative professionals and in so many other roles, all committed to enriching and enhancing the lives of children and families.

Of course, we face some big challenges. The families we serve are up against forces like poverty and addiction. Overcoming these requires systemic changes, supportive relationships and personal growth, but we keep showing it can be done because people matter.

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

- Infusing neuroscience into practice (pg. 3), based on the reality that the brain can still develop in substantial ways, long into adulthood.
- Expanding hospital services (pg. 5), with new partnerships that bring our psychiatric expertise to adults needing inpatient treatment and women with eating disorders.



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.

ason/Hooper 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.



Jason Hooper

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Lonnie Johnson

Vice President of Rusiness Technology Solutions -KVC Health Systems

Michelle Lawrence, C.F.R.E. Vice President of Development -KVC Health Systems

COMMUNITY LEADERS

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.











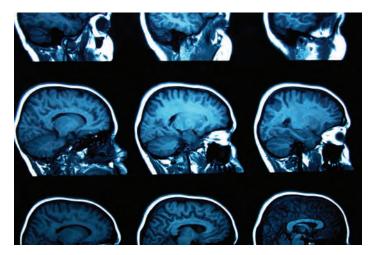
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KVC is a member of the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities, a member of the National Council for Behavioral Health, and a recipient of United Way funds.

The Brain Can Change... And That Changes Everything

When Ben was in third grade, things were tough at home. His single mother struggled with alcohol addiction and job instability. She loved her son, but her disconnectedness left Ben without the skills to manage his feelings of anger, sadness and worry. He sometimes lashed out at other kids. One day in middle school, Ben started yet another fight, but this time it became so violent that his mother and mental health professionals agreed that he needed psychiatric treatment. Maybe professionals could help him.



At KVC Prairie Ridge Hospital, Ben was first resistant because he was used to feeling the way he did. But over time, the clinical treatment, activities and groups helped him understand his experiences, giving him words to express his loneliness. Then, while his mom got help of her own, his therapist helped him forge connections with adult mentors in his life. He also participated in exercises that used creativity, logic, emotion regulation and other tools to build his capacity for staying calm and making decisions that were in his best interest. Today he's a confident, funny and emotionally literate senior preparing for graduation.

The fact is that the human brain is developing every second of every day, long into adulthood. Through positive interactions, the brain actually gets stronger, learns how to solve complex problems and develops resiliency to bounce back after difficult situations.

The opposite is also true. Adversity such as poverty or traumatic experiences, especially those that happen during childhood and adolescence, can interrupt brain development, making it more difficult for children to control their emotions, behavior and decision-making as they get older.

The latest neuroscience tells us that people *can* change. Brains *can* be strengthened. And those of us who find it difficult to manage the stresses of life can build the capacity to solve challenges and lead happy, healthy lives.



The Change in Mind Initiative

These topics are the core of a new initiative KVC is participating in called *Change in Mind: Applying Neuroscience to Revitalize Communities.* The program is led by the Washington, D.C.-based Alliance for Strong Families and Communities, which is a network of hundreds of human-serving organizations.

KVC was one of only 15 nonprofit agencies selected for Change in Mind. As part of this cohort, we're raising awareness of how life-altering toxic stress affects children and families. We're also leading efforts to align systems and public policy with the latest science in order to make real progress on difficult social issues like poverty, substance abuse, family discord, trauma, and physical and mental health.

Building Brain Capacity

A glass is a good metaphor for the brain. Think of the water in the glass as stress. That stress can come from serious childhood adversity or from everyday challenges. Water in the glass should be kept as low as possible.

But everyone can also make their glass bigger. Simple things like going for walks, meditating, and talking a situation over with a friend are ways that you can build your brain's executive functioning, which is the ability to do things like pay attention, plan and organize, and manage time and behavior.

To help more individuals and communities, KVC is expanding its neuroscience initiative this year. That includes developing new hands-on brain development tools for professionals and families and sharing information to influence policymaking at the state and



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.



GARY (13) CHRISTIEN (16)

Gary and Christien are brothers who enjoy being together. They are active in all sports and especially love basketball. Gary enjoys soccer, basketball and

baseball. He loves staying busy and active. Big brother Christien has plans to attend college after high school. He enjoys history and making friends. He is considering a future in the military. He is mature for his age and responsible. Both boys would love to be adopted by a family in Kansas who will commit to them and be "fair and understanding."



ELIJAH (14)

Elijah has a contagious smile and a sweet spirit. He enjoys all things outdoors and loves to learn about rocks. He is smart and motivated to do well in school. With his determination, there is

nothing he cannot accomplish. Birth family connections are important to Elijah and he needs to stay engaged in his current supportive services so he has every chance at success. Elijah says he's looking for "a family who is funny, friendly, lives in the country and who will play games" with him.



BETHANY (16)

Watch my
video online!

Bethany is an outgoing, artistic, easygoing young woman who loves animals and is selfmotivated. She enjoys listening to music, laughing and would

love being around many different types of animals such as horses, dogs, cats and even reptiles. Bethany likes to help around the house and has the energy to match her great smile and fun personality. Bethany will benefit from a family that will encourage her and show patience and understanding.



CHEYENNE (13)

Watch my video online!

Cheyenne loves to read and interact with others. She enjoys playing with her friends and going swimming. Cheyenne likes school and is making

great academic and behavioral improvements in the classroom. Cheyenne would do best in a family where she is the youngest or only child in the home. She would benefit from a family that is structured, consistent, and loving, and helps ensure that her special educational needs are met.

New Executive Leadership Team Hired from Within

KVC Health Systems' new CEO Jason Hooper has the help of three new chief officers in leading the national behavioral healthcare and child welfare organization. Erin Stucky is now Chief Operations Officer, Marilyn Jacobson

Stucky

is Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel, and Chad Anderson is Chief Clinical Officer.

The changes are part of a leadership succession plan that has been in the works for two decades, with three of the four top leaders averaging 19 years with the organization and the fourth holding a similar tenure in the public arena.

Read more about each leader at www.kvc.org/execteam.









Jacobson

Anderson

Family Preservation Programs Declared a Smart Investment in Families

KVC's family preservation and reunification programs in Kentucky were recently recognized as a smart investment in families by the Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA). At times, families need guidance on the use of effective tools, such as parenting and coping skills, before problems escalate and potentially lead to an unsafe environment. When appropriate for a family, these services keep kids from experiencing the further trauma of being removed from their home.

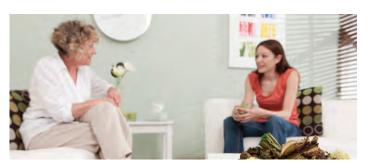
A diversion specialist from KVC Kentucky shared a case in which long-term adoptive parents were considering giving up custody of a child due to behaviors stemming from a long history of trauma. Due to the services and resources available through KVC, the specialist was able to work with the parents to increase their understanding of trauma and safety planning for the child. Eventually, the family reported a decrease in challenging behaviors due to their better understanding of the effects of trauma. The family remained intact and grew stronger due to the tools from KVC.



KYA also urged that as budget decisions are made during this legislative session, ensuring access to these high-quality services in order to keep families safely together should be a priority. It's clear that family preservation and reunification programs are effective at helping Kentucky families create a safe home environment for their children while also saving money by avoiding the cost of removing children from their homes.

New Partnerships for Adult Psychiatric Care and Eating Disorder Treatment





KVC Hospitals and The University of Kansas Hospital have partnered to cooperate on adult psychiatric care. As a first step toward a larger vision, the adult psychiatric beds at KVC Prairie Ridge Hospital in Kansas City, Kan. became part of The University of Kansas Hospital. KVC will continue to manage the adult services and provide ancillary services. Additionally, KVC will continue to provide child and adolescent psychiatric treatment separate from this partnership.

"As a national healthcare leader, we are committed to providing the full continuum of care for our patients," said Bob Page, president and CEO of The University of Kansas Hospital. "This is the first step in a longer-term vision for psychiatric services for adults in Wyandotte County."

"We are excited to affiliate with The University of Kansas Hospital," said Jason Hooper, president and CEO of KVC Health Systems. "KVC's expertise in managing and providing inpatient psychiatric treatment combined with the hospital's strong infrastructure and reputation for care will further benefit our patients and communities."

Separately, KVC announced a treatment collaboration with Thalia House, a supportive living environment for women with eating disorders.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HOSPITAL ADULT SERVICES AT KVC PRAIRIE RIDGE

"The collaboration with KVC and Thalia House provides psychiatry and medical multi-disciplinary assessment, treatment planning,



quality client care and evidence-based outcomes," said Emma Wood, LCMFT, clinical director of Thalia House.

"This is an exciting venture that allows for both Thalia House and KVC to use their respective expertise and provide additional services in a new and innovative way," said Ryan Speier, president of KVC Hospitals.

KVC Tests New Foster Parent Training Curriculum in Ohio and Maryland



KVC, in partnership with New York University and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, has developed and distributed a hands-on, experiential training curriculum for relative and foster parents. The focus of the curriculum is to provide effective strategies and tools that help caregivers manage children's challenging emotions and behaviors and answer the question, "Now that I know about the impact of adverse experiences on children, what can I do to help?"

The training, which was written by Kelly McCauley, LSCSW, associate director of the KVC Institute for Health System Innovation, was field-tested in early 2016 at two national pilot sites — Richland County, Ohio and Washington County, Md. Kelly Young and Matt Arnet have offered additional support and in-person coaching sessions to these sites, and will continue sharing the curriculum with other public agencies across the U.S.



Legacy of KVC's CEO for 35 Years: Treat Every Child as Your Own

KVC Health Systems CEO Wayne Sims retired at the end of 2015 after 35 years of leading the organization.

Sims grew KVC exponentially from a single home serving at-risk children in Kansas City, Kan. to a national organization serving nearly 60,000 children and families each year in Kansas, Nebraska, Kentucky and West Virginia.

Under Sims' direction, KVC played a leadership role in pioneering child welfare system reform in Kansas when, in 1996, it became the first state to fully privatize children's services. This successful public/private partnership led to consultation and training requests worldwide.

Sims shaped KVC's culture by instilling values such as "Children can't wait" and "Excellence is not an act; it's a habit."



The board of directors recently honored Sims by naming an expanded wing on its Olathe, Kan. headquarters as the "KVC Sims Family Center." The Center is the hub of the KVC Institute for Health Systems Innovation. The City of Olathe, Kan. recognized Sims with its 2016 Cathedral Builder Award in March. This May, the greater Kansas City community will honor him as Nonprofit Professional of the Year at Nonprofit Connect's Philanthropy Awards Luncheon.

Learn more about Sims' legacy and watch a video tribute at www.kvc.org/sims.



Bluegrass Wellness at Work Challenge Kicks Off in Kentucky

For the fourth year, KVC Kentucky is recruiting companies across the state to participate in its Bluegrass Wellness at Work fitness challenge. This six-week challenge is a fun way to promote wellness in the workplace and encourage employees to get



active. From May 1 through June 12, companies will compete as teams against organizations of similar size. Daily activities get logged on the Bluegrass Wellness at Work website or in the easy-to-use app created by KVC. The company with the highest level of participation at the end of the competition will be named "The Healthiest Place to Work" and there are other awards. The nominal cost to participate benefits Kentucky children and families. Visit www.bluegrasswellnessatwork.org to learn more.

New 12-Part Parenting Skills Blog Series

KVC recently launched a 12-part series of online articles on parenting skills based on teachings from the Parent Management Training — Oregon (PMTO) model. KVC teaches this empowering evidence-based practice to parents and caregivers involved in the child welfare system, but the skills are beneficial for anyone who interacts with children.



Topics covered so far include:

- The Most Effective Way to Teach Your Kids to Follow Directions
- 5 Tips to Help Parents Identify and Regulate Their Emotions
- How to Use Encouragement to Reinforce Your Child's Good Behavior

Additional blogs on problem solving, communication, managing conflict and more will be shared online. See them at www.kvc.org/parenting and follow us on Facebook (KVC Health Systems) and Twitter (@kvckids).

The PMTO model is largely used in Kansas and is part of a statewide collaborative involving KVC, Saint Francis Community Services, the Kansas Department for Children and Families and the University of Kansas. PMTO is developed on forty years of research and practice with the core belief that parents are their children's best teachers.

2,000 KVC Foster Parents Gather for Training and Inspiration

In December 2015, KVC foster families across the Midwest and Eastern U.S. gathered for a weekend of training, inspiration and fun at the KVC



Resource Family Conference (RFC). The event was a unique training opportunity for kinship, foster and adoptive families who are caring for children who are temporarily in foster care due to abuse, neglect, parental drug use or other family challenges.

The event took place in four cities — Overland Park, Kan.;

Lincoln, Neb; Lexington, Ky.; and Daniels, W.Va. — and portions of the event were simulcast among all four locations for a total audience of more than 2,000 people.

The keynote speaker was veteran newsman Dominic Carter. As a child growing up in the housing projects in South Bronx, N.Y., Carter experienced abuse and was in foster care. His book, "No Momma's Boy," chronicles his triumphant struggle to overcome years of childhood abuse endured from his mother and her mental illness as a chronic paranoid schizophrenic. Past RFC keynote speakers include country music artist Jimmy Wayne and author Mark Anthony Garrett.



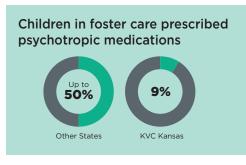
In 2015, KVC's MyLink™ telehealth and distance learning program was expanded to include our subsidiaries in Kansas, Nebraska, Kentucky and West Virginia. Children and families in Kentucky and West Virginia were the first to complete pilot testing of the new program, and both distance learning and therapeutic sessions using MyLink are now fully implemented. Kansas and Nebraska were the latest states included in the expansion, and a pilot group of foster families participated in continuing education sessions from the convenience of their homes using the new technology. They provided invaluable feedback on the experience in order to help KVC sort out any technical issues.

MyLink is a robust, HIPAA-compliant videoconferencing program that provides children in foster care and others served by the child welfare system increased access to therapeutic and crisis intervention services and also delivers state-required training to foster parents in the home. When fully implemented, MyLink will provide iPads to more than 1,000 foster families in Kansas, Nebraska, Kentucky and West Virginia. Learn more at www.kvc.org/institute.

Safely Reducing Psychotropic Medication for Children in Foster Care



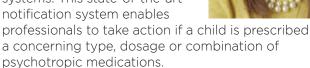
Nationally, the rates of children in foster care who are prescribed psychotropic medications are staggering. Rates can be as high as 50 percent of children on one or more psychotropic medications (ACF, 2012). Additionally, many of the children on medication are being prescribed antipsychotics, which are known to have serious side effects. Armed with this information and working from the KVC value, 'What would you want for your child?,' KVC administrators began developing an oversight system in 2012.



KVC's sophisticated medication monitoring and response system is currently used in Kansas where KVC cares for more

than half of all children and families involved in the child welfare system. This ensures that the more than 3,000 Kansas children in KVC foster families on any given day and 5,000 children in home-based programs are safe from inappropriate medication use.

KVC's medication tracking system allows for broad oversight as well as the opportunity to drill down to each individual child. Of particular importance is the real-time data generated on each child, as this does not exist within most monitoring systems. This state-of-the-art



In addition to responding to concerns with an individual child, the KVC system creates a series of aggregate reports that are reviewed by administrators each month.

The work done by KVC over the past three years is paying off. The number of children on psychotropic medications across all KVC Kansas programs is less than 9 percent, only a fraction of the number that many other foster care programs experience. Watch a short video on this topic and see other noteworthy outcomes at www.kvc.org/institute.



Keeping West Virginia Children Safe at Home



KVC West Virginia is honored to be among the youth-serving agencies implementing "Safe at Home West Virginia." The program is an initiative of the WV Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Children and Families. Its aim is to maximize the benefits

of home and community-based services for children in out-of-home care, in conjunction with providing behavioral and mental health services, in order to reduce the use of congregate and out-of-state care.

Historically, the state of West Virginia has had 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. It is better for children to grow in the context of stable, loving families.

By providing wraparound services to children, KVC joins the state of West Virginia in its goal to help children living in congregate care settings to safely return to their home communities and ultimately to their own families. KVC helped the state of Kansas achieve a similar goal, reducing congregate care from 30 percent of youth to 4 percent today, which is far better than the national average of 14 percent.

Can you help rally around these children and families by mentoring, volunteering or donating? Visit www.kvcwv.org/safeathome.



KVC Celebrates Social Work Month

This past March, KVC recognized National Social Work Month as a time to shine a spotlight on the important contributions made by social workers to improve relationships within families, make social systems more effective and build stronger communities. Each of our teams in Kansas, Nebraska, Kentucky and West Virginia took to blogging and social media to give shoutouts to workers, share positive messages, highlight interviews with staff and give recognition for a job well done to staff who provide exceptional care and support to children and families in need.

Thank you to all of our staff nationwide for your passion, dedication and commitment to helping our clients!

If you would like to join our team of innovative, passionate professionals, visit www.kvc.org/careers to browse open jobs.

















Artist Donates Her Work to the KVC Sims Family Center



The new KVC Sims Family Center in Olathe, Kan., opened in May 2015, is the hub of the KVC Institute for Health Systems Innovation and is also the headquarters for KVC Kansas, which serves thousands of Kansas children and families with family preservation services, foster family support, adoption, in-home therapy, and outpatient behavioral healthcare.

International award-winning painter, sculptor and filmmaker Rita Blitt graciously donated artwork from her collection to brighten up the walls in conference rooms, work areas and wellness/simulation rooms. Blitt says, "My work celebrates nature, my love of music, dance and the spontaneous flow of movement captured in the drawn gesture. My drawings and paintings, some of which become sculptures. are often created with two hands at once. When the lines flow from my hands, I feel like I am dancing." View more of her work at www.ritablitt.com. Thank you, Ms. Blitt, for your generous donation. This beautiful artwork enhances our environment for children and families.



Many Grandparents and Relatives Care for Children When Parents Unable

During times of crisis when parents are unable to care for their children, which can be due to a wide range of factors, the next desirable option is when a grandparent or relative can provide a safe and caring environment.

Children may come to live with a grandparent or relative in a number of ways, and not all involve the child welfare system. The Child Welfare Information Gateway describes three categories of relative (kinship) care:

- 1. Informal kinship care: does not involve the child welfare system. A parent may leave a child in a relative's care while he or she is overseas or when an illness prevents the parent from caring for the child. Legal custody of the child remains with the parent.
- 2. Voluntary kinship care: involves the child welfare system; however the state does not take legal custody. In many cases, the parent receives family preservation and reunification services to resolve conflicts or disruptions and learn healthy skills so that the child can safely return home. Legal custody of the child remains with the parent.
- 3. Formal kinship care: a case in which a judge places children in the legal custody of the state, and a child welfare agency places the children with relatives or a foster family. The child welfare agency has legal custody of the children and works in partnership with the family to make legal decisions about the children.

According to a U.S. census report, over 2.7 million grandparents across the nation are raising their grandchildren.



Due to a unique and successful public/private partnership, KVC Kansas provides foster care services for more than 3,000 children each day served by the Kansas Department for Children and Families. KVC has matched 42 percent of these children with relatives or people they are familiar with, which is a high kinship care rate. This includes non-related kin such as teachers, neighbors and family friends.

Coordinating placement of children with relatives they know and trust helps promote a child's sense of identity and self-esteem, which develops from knowing their own family history and culture. It also strengthens the ability of families to give children the support they need and facilitates familial bonds. In many cases, children can also remain in their same school districts and communities.

All states need more adults ready and willing to provide care. To learn how you can provide a safe home for a relative, a child you know or other children in the community, visit www.kvc.org.

A Deepening Commitment to People with Disabilities

KVC Nebraska has expanded to help the state serve individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. An internal workgroup paved the way, and the effort took a big leap forward when KVC hired Liz Wollmann as director of this program area this past March.

"Having Liz on our team ensures we begin to serve individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities in the best possible way," said Jodie Austin, president of KVC Nebraska. "It will allow us to learn more, provide more safe, loving homes for special populations and continue to help us align our interventions with our core values. Liz is well-known in the community and is thought of in the highest regard when it comes to her work, dedication and service to the people of Nebraska."

Wollmann brings 12 years of clinical and programmatic experience in child welfare and in serving people

in serving people with developmental disabilities.

KVC Nebraska touches over 1,500 people's lives each year by providing intensive in-home family services, and in serving people with foster care and adoption.



New Software Digitizes Case Planning, Benefiting Families

Making decisions with and for the children and families served by the child welfare, juvenile justice and related systems is an enormous responsibility. The process also brings logistical challenges since families are unique and complex with many details that need to be considered.

For this reason, KVC uses the Safe & Connected™ integrated child welfare practice model developed by KVC Institute Executive Director Sue Lohrbach. The model emphasizes organizing information to promote critical thinking.



Staff in the Wayne, W.Va. office make a family-centered plan using Safe & Connected on the whiteboard. The process is now digitized.

The heart of the approach is a large grid called the Consultation and Information-Sharing Framework® or often referred to as "The Framework."

Staff facilitate a conversation and fill out The Framework on a conference room wall covered in whiteboard paint.

Information about family member relationships, the reason for referral, complicating factors, individual strengths and even so-called "gray areas" covers the wall from floor to ceiling, empowering staff to see the situation clearly and develop a strong plan. After the planning session, they take a photo of the handwritten grid or type the information into a document.

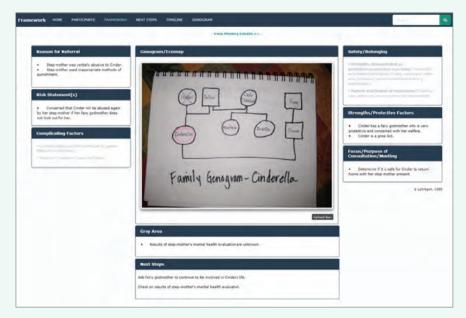
That cumbersome process changed this past January when KVC's Business Information Technology Department and a KVC Institute project innovation team created a new software program that digitizes the process. The Framework application is a living document that evolves throughout the life of a child, teen or family.

The Framework application's benefits include:

- Easy access to information due to web-based platform, robust search and ability to upload photos and other documents
- Auto-formatting and built-in prompts speed up the process
- Tracking of action items for staff and families allows monitoring of progress
- Visual timeline organizes and displays events chronologically



In short, KVC's Framework application allows social workers and other professionals to save time documenting and tracking. This allows them to instead invest their time and energy in the areas that require their gifts and insights: assessing, planning and implementing strategies that benefit children and families.





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people matter

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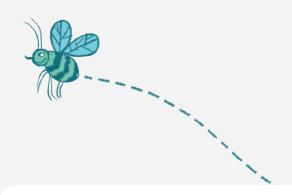








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Visit www.kvc.org/events for details on these events and others.

National Foster Care Month May 2016

National Reunification Month June 2016

Home. Hope. Heroes.

June 2

Charleston, WV

KVC Hero Luncheon with Bill Self and Rob Riggle

June 16 Olathe, KS

KVC Kids Classic Golf Tournament - Kansas City

Aug. 22 Parkville, MO

KVC Kids Classic Golf Tournament - Nebraska

Sept. 9 Ashland, NE



DONATE | Back to School Drive

With the 2015-16 school year coming to an end, KVC wants to ensure that each child in our care is fully prepared to return to school in the fall. Over the summer months, we invite you to extend a helping hand to local children in your community by donating new backpacks, pens, pencils, calculators, binders and more to your local KVC office.

By donating a backpack filled with new school supplies, you are giving a child the best possible start to a successful school year!

