

KVC Matters

A Newsletter from KVC Health Systems, Inc. | Summer 2011

Be An Everyday Hero

Help families all year long.
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B. WAYNE SIMS
PRESIDENT/CEO
KVC HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.

Dear Friends of KVC:

The only thing constant is change. This quote was thought to originate with a Greek philosopher nearly 3,000 years ago. The adage still holds true today, and resonates with all of us at KVC.

KVC is constantly changing. Our vision to bring our proven method of care to the children and families in Nebraska is evolving, improving and growing. Positive change can mean results that benefit those we serve.

In Kentucky, we are working to add a number of new, licensed clinical therapists and social workers who will implement evidence-based practices to the region. There, as in Nebraska, we are honored to be managing systems and changing processes. It allows us to reach huge milestones on behalf of so many children and their families.

Another constant in our lives are the presence of heroes, families and foster parents, our donors, staff and volunteers who give compassion, hope and healing to each child's life. This year we established a monthly giving program called **Everyday Heroes** to offer children in care the opportunity to experience ordinary everyday activities—summer camp, scouting, soccer or music lessons. These are the ways our everyday heroes touch the lives of our kids in every way.

Through all of this change, your dedication to KVC remains constant. Our volunteers, donors and supporters provide energy and steadfastness. Our board members, past and present, offer enduring strength.

Thank you for your continued support to our mission of enriching and enhancing the lives of children and families. Wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

www.kvc.org

Follow us on



Facebook and



Twitter.

KVC Matters is published at KVC Health Systems, Inc., 21350 W. 153rd St., Olathe, KS 66061; 913-322-4900. Please send comments, change of address and duplicate copy notices to the attention of the Development Department.

KVC is nondiscriminating in its admission and employment practices. KVC is accredited by The Joint Commission. KVC is a member of the Child Welfare League of America and is a recipient of United Way funds.

KVC's 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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Vishal Adma, M.D., M.S., QMC
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Become an Everyday Hero!

Life is busy! It's hard these days to find the time to help and give of our talents.

With our **Everyday Hero** monthly giving program we've tried to make it easy for you to make a meaningful difference in a child's life! We want the children we serve to experience boy scouts, prom, senior trips, play club soccer, and be a member of the band.



To do that... we need **Everyday HEROES!**

Your monthly gift will ensure that

children who have been abused or neglected get the chance to do those extra everyday things that most children experience. Please visit our website and sign up today to be someone's **HERO** at www.everydayhero.org.

Be Heroic! Join our monthly giving program!

Annie E. Casey Selects KVC for Trauma Research

KVC is proud and honored to have been chosen to receive a five-year, \$830,000 grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The foundation is a private charitable organization, dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children in the United States. The grant will support *Bridging the Way Home*, to support the emotional and behavioral needs of children who experience serious barriers to permanency.

With this grant, KVC will further its work with Trauma Systems Therapy (TST), a method of providing care to children who have experienced severe abuse and neglect. We will consult with Glenn Saxe, M.D., Chair and Clinical Professor of Adolescent and Child Psychiatry at NYU Medical Center. Our staff will create a manual for clinicians and develop training materials for our outpatient and residential therapists. KVC foster parents, case managers and Child Placing staff will be trained on TST, which will incorporate TST into everything we do.

KVC staff will research the effects of TST on children and address how a child's mental health contributes to a stable placement in a foster home and reunification with a child's family. The outcomes of this national research will make significant contributions to the child welfare field.

KVC has one of the country's largest continuums of care utilizing Trauma Systems Therapy.

Like Us on Facebook!

Become a KVC Facebook Fan. You will receive updates when KVC posts a new child on our KVC Adoption website, when it's time to participate in a KVC fundraiser, and you'll hear of new and exciting initiatives KVC is undertaking on behalf of children and families. [Join us on Facebook today!](#)



Follow us on Facebook www.kvc.org

KVC Director Serves on National Association Board



Lynn Castrianno,
Ph.D., MLS

KVC's Director of Quality Management was recently elected to the Foster Family-Based Treatment Association (FFTA). Lynn Castrianno, Ph.D., MLS, will serve on the 2011 board. The FFTA is an agency-led organization of treatment foster care providers that works to define and refine Treatment Foster Care practices.

"I am very privileged to be a part of the FFTA, and will serve as a co-chair on the research committee," said Dr. Castrianno. "We are in the process of developing a practice guide for agencies to help them manage private/public partnerships."

Community Gifts Help KVC Teens

Whole Foods teamed up with KVC to assist teens transitioning into their own homes. During April, Whole Foods sponsored a Kitchen Equipment Drive to collect dishes, pots and pans, utensils and everything else needed to set up house. The drive gained the attention of KMBC-TV in Kansas City, where reporter Brenda Washington focused on the appeal during an early morning newscast.

During the TV broadcast, Stefanie Werth, KVC Program Manager, thanked everyone for their donations for the transitioning youth, and said "It's a big adjustment for anybody, especially when going out on your own from foster care." The carloads of collected items were given to KVC teens at a party in May.

"It helps me start-up my life," said Jacqueline, a teen looking toward college. "We need clothing, we need items like these."



Brenda Washington of KMBC-TV with KVC teen Jacqueline

To
help teens
like Jacqueline
every day, become
an Everyday Hero.
everydayhero.com

Foster Parents Work to Strengthen KVC



Jayne Duncan, Chelsea Mayfield, Matt Smith, KVC President Sandra Gasca-Gonzalez, Mark and Theresa Bartels, Irina Shcherbina and her daughter Sophia

A group of dedicated KVC foster parents meet monthly to provide input on the challenges facing KVC foster parents and families. These parents are specifically offering their assistance in Nebraska, where the state is transitioning to a private/public partnership. The parents advocate with their legislators on behalf of KVC, offer input on procedures that need refining and lend a hand with KVC events. Thank you Foster Parents Advisory Board!

> Want to Help?

More than half of the KVC kids who need school supplies are ages 11-18.

To locate a KVC office nearest you, go to www.kvc.org and click on your state.

School Supplies Needed

Organizers

- Backpacks (sturdy, plain colors)
- Three-ring binders
- Notebook organizers
- Pencil bags/boxes
- Folders (two-pocket)

Paper

- Notebook paper (wide-rule)
- Spiral notebooks (wide-rule)
- Big Chief Tablets
- Construction art paper

Writing/art

- Ink pens (blue, black, red)
- Colored markers
- Black markers
- Pencils (#2) and erasers
- Highlighters
- Colored pencils
- Paintbrushes/watercolor sets
- School glue (bottles)/glue sticks

Other

- Scissors, rulers
- Protractors, compasses
- Scientific calculators
- Staples and staplers
- Plastic storage bags

Other Ways to Give

Please consider a planned gift to KVC, a thoughtful and generous way to meet both your financial objectives and help children and families. Including KVC in your estate plan ensures continued hope, help and healing are available to those who need it most. To learn more, please contact Emily Hess, Development Officer, at 913-322-4944.

Valuable KVC Collaborations



Barbara Atkinson, M.D.

Dr. Barbara Atkinson has devoted her life devoted to science and research. As the University of Kansas Medical Center's first woman Executive Vice Chancellor, she oversees a faculty and staff of 2,500 and a \$317 million annual budget. During KVC's recent 40th anniversary celebration, Dr. Atkinson was honored as one of our 40 heroes.

KVC partners with KUMC on a variety of initiatives. KU's Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry offers a two-year accredited residency program. Graduates develop the knowledge and skills necessary to respond to a great number of young people suffering with a broad range of emotional problems. KU medical school students work with KVC during their residency as child and adolescent psychiatry fellows.

In addition, KU faculty member Sharon Cain, M.D., helped establish KVC's telepsychiatry program. KU shares Grand Rounds continuing education program with KVC via a video link. The Paul Laybourne Symposium, another continuing education program, is offered to doctors, nurses, social workers and other clinicians participating in mental health care for children and adolescents.

KVC values these collaborations and recognizes Dr. Atkinson for her leadership and commitment to this community partnership.

Wheatland Forges Community Partnerships



Michael Hinton Clinical Director, Ryan Speier, Director of Administration, and James Robertson, Assistant Director of Administration

KVC's Wheatland Psychiatric Hospital in Hays, Kansas, just completed its first year of service to the residents of central and western Kansas. Wheatland serves on average more than 18 patients per day.

The community of Hays has welcomed KVC with many community Partnerships. Partner organizations include USD 489, Community Mental Health Centers, district courts and juvenile authorities. The Hess Clinic has been an invaluable source of medical support and consultation. KVC refers all medical emergencies to the Hays Medical Center, and this relationship has been met with mutual respect and professional support.

Unified School District 489 administration has been very helpful and cooperative in supporting KVC in the education of children while in care. Two classrooms, a computer lab and library are staffed by two teachers. All instruction is accredited, which allows students to transfer educational credits.

KVC has received several gifts from local donors of recreational equipment, including two Nintendo Wii stations, and air hockey and foosball tables to allow youth who have earned privileges to enjoy recreational activities.

Childhood Trauma Seminar Benefits Many



Joy Osofsky, Ph.D.

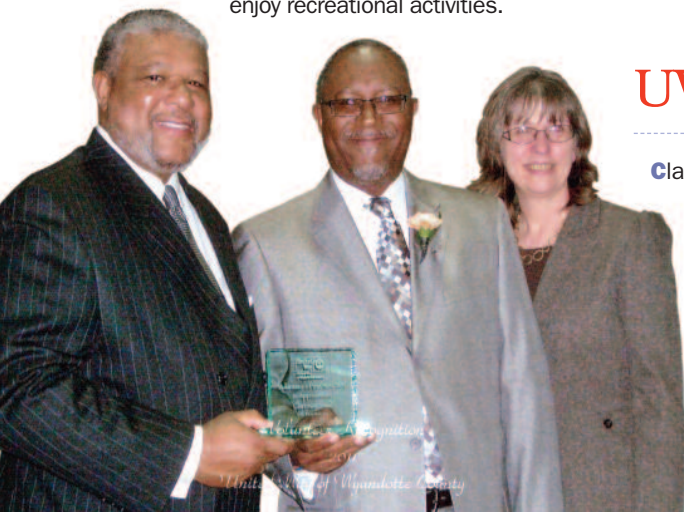
Hundreds of people who work in the behavioral healthcare field learned first-hand about the effects of trauma on infants. Joy Osofsky, Ph.D., presented ***Trauma through the Eyes of a Child***, a two-day seminar in April at the Ball Conference Center in Olathe, Kansas. Dr. Osofsky is a clinical and developmental psychologist and Barbara Lemann Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans.

Children who experience trauma are often significantly more reactive to their surroundings and may have increased emotional needs. The seminar was designed specifically for infant and toddler program staff members who can help advocate for services that include trauma-focused therapy for young children and their families, and was open to KVC staff and professionals throughout the community.

UW Volunteer of the Year

Clarence Small was recently honored by United Way of Wyandotte County for his work with KVC's Prairie Ridge Hospital. Clarence and his friends bring uplifting music, praise dancing, gospel rap and inspiration messages to the children in residential treatment. He and his wife, who are also KVC foster parents, have provided care for more than 20 children over the past 15 years and adopted one child. Thank you Clarence for all you do!

United Way of Wyandotte County President/CEO Wendell Maddox, KVC volunteer Clarence Small and KCK Chamber of Commerce President Cindy Cash



Diners Support Children in Foster Care

Hundreds of people participated in the *Dine Out for Foster Children* event on May 5. When diners purchased a meal at any one of the more than forty participating restaurants, the restaurant donated a portion of the sale to KVC children in foster care.

Two of the diners, Carlos Pineda and Inocencia Falcon started out their morning bright

and early by having breakfast at the Omaha Double Tree Hotel Signatures Restaurant. The Double Tree has chosen KVC to be its **Community CARE** partner, and will help advance the KVC mission throughout 2011.

We want to give a big thanks to all the restaurants, employees and diners who made this fundraiser such a huge success!



Carlos Pineda and Inocencia Falcon

Resource Family Conference

I will never give up! That is the inspiring message Derek Clark will deliver to the 14th Annual Resource Family Conference. Derek is a motivational speaker, singer and songwriter. He reminds us all to take responsibility for our own lives, and tells us to stop using excuses and blaming others for our own failures.

Derek spent 13 years in the foster care system. At five years old his mother and stepfather turned him over to the county social services.

He survived child abuse, and was diagnosed with early psychiatric issues. As he developed, it became clear to his wonderful foster parents that this diagnosis was without merit.

KVC offices in four states will hold Resource Family Conferences the first weekend of December, and Derek's inspiring message will be sent to foster parents via a live satellite feed. This educational weekend is a time for foster parents to earn educational credits needed to remain licensed. Their children will enjoy activities, a visit from Santa and the camaraderie of friends.

It's a Gold!

The KVC Holiday Tree Gala invitation recently received a gold award from the Kansas City Direct Marketing Association for innovation.



Chase Wilson of REACTOR; Clifton Alexander, owner REACTOR // design studio; Heidi Wooten, KVC Sr. Director of Marketing and Development Operations; and Tim Whitmore from AC Printing

SAVE THE DATE



Pictured: Tree Gala Chairs Bonnie Kelly & Jan Howard with children of Melissa & Jack Schartz, KVC adoptive family

SHAKE IT UP
2011

November 18th
6:30 p.m.
2500 West Pennway
Kansas City, MO 64108

We're shake'n it up! The 9th Annual KVC Holiday Tree Gala is dramatically new! New venue, caterer, entertainment, and imaginative designers!

The Tree Gala is moving to the breathtaking Pennway Place, a space owned and operated by designer Dan Meiners. This venue is sure to create a new and exciting energy to an always exceptional evening. Caterer Lisa Burgess will delight patrons' taste buds with sensational surprises.

Artists and designers will thrill patrons with their creations of unique trees and contemporary art for auction. The auction will include unusual centerpieces, winter wreaths and big-board items. Join co-chairs Bonnie Kelly and Jan Howard for a spectacular evening of friends, food and fun.



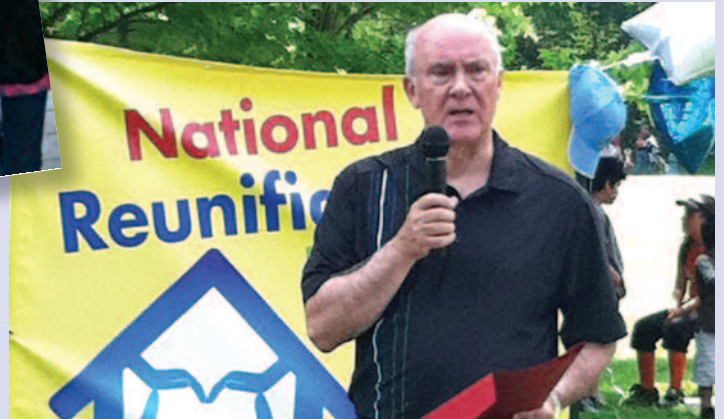
To learn about becoming a sponsor,
contact Heidi Wooten at (913) 322-4942.

Save the Date — and stay tuned for more details!

Thank you to Girl Scout Troop 396!
These energetic girls raised \$250 for the KVC Kids Activity Fund.



Ryan Hogue of the Kansas Speedway presented Robin Herken with Speedway tickets for enthusiastic recruiting of other **Everyday Heroes**.



Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle speaks at the Nebraska Reunification Celebration.



Volunteers from U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri-Kansas City with Heather Staggers from KCTV-5 planted flowers at Prairie Ridge Hospital.



Travis Payne, Foster Parent Recruiter, and Tami Soper, Director of Public Affairs for the Nebraska Reunification Celebration in Lincoln

Thanks to Our Outgoing Board Leaders!



KVC Executive Board Chair
Larry Kaminsky



KVC General Board President
John Ritter



Congratulations to Kate Luikart, Director of Clinical Services and Regional Director for West Virginia in Parkersburg, Mason, Putnam, Ripley and Spencer Counties. She recently received a Leadership Award at West Virginia's annual Alliance for Children Conference.

KVC Matters

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

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95%

of KVC children who enter foster care and return home will remain at home. The national average is 67%.



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www.kvc.org

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Facebook and



Twitter.

Meet KVC Kids at www.kvc.org

Keyshawn – Age 12

Keyshawn and Jayzion need a Forever Family who will love them unconditionally.

Keyshawn likes to be outside, playing sports or riding his bike. He is very proud of himself for his baseball and football skills and would like to be a professional football player. Keyshawn can be very competitive and needs to be encouraged to get along with the peers and adults. Keyshawn is looking for a *Forever Family* who will be patient, consistent, provide positive feedback and provide a strong male role model. He would also prefer a family who is active and involved in the community.



Jayzion – Age 14

Jayzion is thoughtful and polite. He likes playing basketball and reading comics. He would do better in a two parent family who is active and can encourage Jayzion to get involved with activities and sports. He needs a family who will be patient and consistent, as Jayzion likes to test the limits of his care givers. Keyshawn and Jayzion are ready to have a *Forever Family* who is willing to fully commit to them.



Children need forever families... Since July 2005, KVC has found adoptive *Forever Families* for more than **1,400** children.