Dear Friends,

In a real and meaningful way, KVC achieves its mission each day. Over the last year, we kept thousands of children safe and helped them heal from unimaginable trauma such as abuse or neglect so they can lead happy, healthy lives. We gave people the caring attention and clinical treatment needed to prevent suicide or help them fight and beat addiction. We stabilized and strengthened vulnerable families, keeping them safely together rather than having a child enter foster care. We matched hundreds of children with adoptive families to give them the love, safety and sense of belonging they deserve. And we recruited, trained and supported hundreds of relatives and foster families as they provided loving care to thousands of children.

While it’s true we accomplish our mission every day, our mission also has no end in sight. We will keep working until every child, teenager and adult is safe and connected to others. We pledge to continue giving our best and improving the way care is delivered until all families are strong and every community is healthy.

Thank you for making this work possible by being a partner, donor, volunteer, client, foster or adoptive family, or a staff member. We are so grateful that you care about the challenges children and families face and that you’ve joined us in being part of the solution.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Jason Hooper
President/CEO

David F. Ball
Board Co-Chair

B. Wayne Sims
Board Co-Chair and Past President/CEO
2016 Results at a Glance

**National Results**

- **6,184** families kept safely together
- **442** children matched with adoptive families
- **6,319** children cared for by KVC foster families
- **21,674** children and adults supported with in-home services
- **3,492** youth and adults treated at our psychiatric hospitals

**State by State**

**Kansas**

- **9,595** children and adults received family preservation services
- **1,030** children safely reunified with their **634** families after being in foster care
- **333** children matched with adoptive families last year
- **2,844** children matched with adoptive families since 2005
- **1,741** children received aftercare support services following family reunification or adoption
- **4,951** children cared for by KVC foster families
- **909** children and adults received outpatient behavioral health services

**Kentucky**

- **9,778** children and adults received family preservation services
- **234** children safely reunified with their families after being in foster care
- **1,412** children and adults benefitted from behavioral healthcare services
- **180** youth received substance abuse treatment
- **25** children cared for by KVC foster families

**West Virginia**

- **396** children and adults received in-home support including behavioral healthcare
- **343** children cared for by KVC foster families
- **37** children supported in their home communities through the new Safe at Home WV program

**Nebraska**

- **710** children and adults received intensive in-home support
- **1,000** youth cared for by KVC foster families
- **58** adoptions facilitated

**61,004** lives directly touched by KVC in 2016
Total Impact
This past year, we provided direct care to over 60,000 children, youth and families. One important way KVC is ensuring the quality of care is by joining together two fields often treated as separate. It’s an approach that unlocks the potential of individuals and communities to experience greater health and wellness.

The first field we’re leading is integrated healthcare. With KVC’s expertise in behavioral health, we help people who have depression, anxiety, thoughts of suicide, feelings of violence, addiction, psychiatric disorders, or the effects of childhood traumatic stress.

Our services include in-home therapy and skill-building, developmental disabilities support, substance abuse treatment, psychiatric residential treatment, and psychiatric hospitals for children, adolescents and adults.

The latest neuroscience tells us that a person’s mental health is often a result of early childhood brain development and affects his or her physical health in adulthood. Solutions must address a person’s holistic health and stretch beyond the individual to also include his or her environment and community.

The second field is child welfare or social services. We help ensure that children are safe and that families have the support they need to successfully care for their children. Services include in-home support to keep families safely together (family preservation), family reunification, foster family care, and adoption.

Child and family services need the lens and tools of integrated health, and the healthcare field must look beyond physical health to understand underlying causes related to childhood adversity and relationships.

Families have needs all along the continuum of care. Whether their need is for a low level of intervention such as prevention and education, or the need is complex and acute, calling for high-level intervention such as hospitalization, KVC stands ready to help. By improving care and innovating where different fields intersect, we make a lasting impact in the lives of children and families.
Families Kept Safely Together
6,184 families kept safely together

Of those families,
5,550 received family preservation services to prevent the need for foster care
774 safely reunited after one or more children were in foster care

Preventing Foster Care
Children belong with their own families whenever safely possible. Last year, we provided support to keep 5,550 families safely intact, preventing their children from entering foster care. We provide family preservation services in the family’s home to make help convenient and accessible. Crisis management, in-home therapy and skill-building, and connecting family needs with community resources are key components.

Families Reunified After Foster Care
While foster care often involves heartache, it can be a necessary intervention. Foster care is a safe place that gives a child and his or her birth family an opportunity to resolve conflicts or disruptions so the child can safely return home. Last year, we helped 774 families safely reunify after one or more of their children were in foster care. We applaud and honor these families who worked incredibly hard to overcome obstacles so they can bring their children home.

KVC Success Story
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.
Nothing is more joyful than a child without a family being welcomed into one with open arms. Adoption is beautiful; we all understand that safety, love and a sense of belonging are the most fundamental needs in life.

Last year, we had the joy 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.

Most of the adoptions KVC facilitates are for teenagers, sibling groups, or children with special behavioral or medical needs. Their new families look beyond challenges into the hearts of their children and see the simple longing to be loved. We are honored to be a part of their journey to expand their families!

KVC continues to use innovative ways to share about children needing to be adopted. Short videos combined with social media help us share a child’s unique personality, often leading to new connections.

One foster family in particular seemed like the perfect match for Lily. Crystal and Dyer Frame adopted Lily and their parenting style was the perfect match for her. Lily thrived with the Dyers and learned how a healthy family works – something she would have never experienced in a group home. Lily found a permanent home with the Dyers and now has a supportive, loving family forever.

KVC Success Story

Lily is a teenager who had been in foster care for some time and needed a forever family to adopt her. During a court hearing to decide a permanency plan for Lily, the prosecuting attorney and guardian ad litem suggested that she live in a group home for girls. The KVC worker had developed a close bond with Lily and believed this smart, beautiful girl deserved a home and family to call her own – not a group home.
When a judge decides to remove a child from his or her home due to abuse, neglect or other family challenges, foster families provide a safe and supportive environment for a child during a difficult time. Foster care gives a child and his or her birth family the opportunity to resolve conflicts or disruptions and learn healthy skills so the child can safely return home.

KVC recruits, trains and supports foster parents to care for children ages birth to 18. Foster families not only provide a safe and caring environment but also help children recover from trauma they have experienced.

We continue to share our “big idea for transforming foster care” (learn more at www.kvc.org/bigidea). Our philosophy involves treating each child with urgency, matching children with caregivers they know, and working with foster parents as highly valued partners in permanency. Our Safe and Connected™ model is reducing the amount of time foster care is needed, and our MyLink™ telehealth program, which uses iPads, makes therapeutic and crisis intervention services available to children 24 hours a day.

Maintaining open communication with the children’s parents is an important part of foster parenting and it was always a top priority for the Dawsons. Doug and Jamie also ensured the girls’ parents were included in their extracurricular activities, parent-teacher conferences and medical appointments. The Dawsons also tirelessly advocated for the girls to ensure that their voices were heard and that their needs were met. More foster families like the Dawsons are needed to provide safety and support to children and youth in foster care!
In-Home Support
Families from all walks of life often face tremendous challenges that impact their mental and behavioral health or their ability to stay together as a family. Too often, they don’t know where to turn. The in-home family support and therapeutic solutions provided by KVC make it possible for families to overcome any disruptions and for children to remain safely in their homes.

Our high-quality, effective services are delivered to children, adults and families right in their homes, which is where change must occur and where therapy is most effective. This in-home model removes barriers to receiving treatment and eliminates the need to travel to an office, coordinate child care or take off from work. Providing treatment in a family’s natural setting also offers a unique opportunity for KVC staff to teach authentic coping and problem-solving skills to children and parents alike.

Shelby’s family was referred to KVC for in-home services. After assessing the needs of the family, KVC staff suggested that Shelby write a Trauma Narrative to describe her past experiences in detail. She wrote about her thoughts and emotions, revealing the full impact that the experience had and how it affects her life presently.

The Trauma Narrative helped Shelby’s parents understand how to better support her. Most importantly, Shelby learned to live with the terrible things that happened to her and is now aware that her traumatic past does not define her; it is simply part of her story. Shelby is incredibly brave and by sharing her story, she now feels stronger and more empowered than ever.
Psychiatric Hospitals
youth and adults treated at KVC Hospitals last year — nearly a 15% increase over the previous year

97% of youth showed improvement in trauma-related symptoms within the first 7 days of treatment

KVC Hospitals demonstrates national expertise, providing consultation and treatment of individuals from 16 states

Each year, KVC Hospitals serves thousands of children, adolescents and adults who struggle with depression, anxiety, trauma, substance abuse, suicidal thoughts and feelings of violence. Our acute/inpatient and residential treatment services help stabilize youth and adults and provide healing in a modern, safe and secure environment.

Our approach to behavioral healthcare uses the latest neuroscience that tells us brain development occurs long into adulthood and correlates with our capacity to handle life’s challenges.

Armed with this knowledge, the KVC Learning Lab was created so that youth can learn how their brain develops and functions. Knowing this information teaches them skills to better manage difficult emotions, process and move beyond trauma, and build a strong, healthy brain.

Other organizations are taking notice and striving to learn from our innovative approach. This past year, we partnered with the University of Kansas Health System to provide adult psychiatric care, with Thalia House to enhance treatment for women with eating disorders, and with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to showcase art created by youth receiving psychiatric treatment at KVC Hospitals.

KVC Success Story

A teenage girl was receiving psychiatric treatment services at KVC Prairie Ridge Hospital. During a routine health discussion, she became upset and emotionally dysregulated. Dr. Anh Vinh, Director of Integrated Health Services, had developed a strong relationship with the youth from the time she first entered the hospital and was able to talk the girl through her emotions as well as the physical symptoms she was experiencing. Because the teen had grown to trust Dr. Vinh, a trauma-informed treatment plan was created to ensure the youth received the right help and support she needed during an important time in her life.
The KVC Institute for Health Systems Innovation is headquartered in the greater Kansas City area; however, it exists without walls and beyond borders. It brings together the expertise held by our more than 1,400 employees across the country.

The mission of the KVC Institute is to transform the experience of childhood for all children through the advancement of health and wellness. It expedites research into direct practice and offers training and consultation to a wide range of public and private agencies.

By bringing best practice approaches to leaders in primary and behavioral healthcare, child welfare, juvenile justice and related systems, the KVC Institute indirectly benefitted tens of thousands of children and families.

Through its neuroscience initiative, the KVC Institute is educating communities about the link between childhood adversity and life-long health problems and leading efforts to address it through prevention and innovative treatment.

We’re sharing expertise through videos on topics like safely reducing psychotropic drug use in foster care, healing from the life-long effects of childhood trauma, and using the Safe and Connected™ framework to make decisions with and for children and families. We’ve also produced a 12-part parenting skills blog series that can benefit every family. Learn more at www.kvc.org/institute.
On behalf of the more than 61,000 children and families KVC served last year, we sincerely thank the individuals, corporations, foundations and state and federal agencies that give their time and treasures to make a difference.

*Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Many thanks to the professionals who donate their time, talent and expertise by serving on KVC’s General Board, Young Advisory Board or other local groups.
KVC Mission
To enrich and enhance the lives of children and families by providing medical and behavioral healthcare, social services and education.

You can make a difference
There are many different ways you can help children and families in crisis:

• Foster or adopt a child
• Sponsor a fundraising event
• Become an Everyday Hero via monthly giving
• Donate holiday gifts or school supplies
• Follow KVC on social media and share our posts
• Educate others
• Volunteer