

thriving

The Power of Love: Siblings Thrive After Traumatic Early Childhood



We're Growing!
Expanded family
services in Missouri,
Kentucky, West
Virginia & Kansas

Safety Alert:
How to Prevent
Suicide Attempts
from OTC Medication

I'm LGBTQIA+
Can I Be a Foster or
Adoptive Parent?

Why KVC is a Great Place to Work



Reason 43

KVC actively recruits **diverse professionals** to join the team so it can **provide better services.**



Reason 12

KVC trains managers monthly on how to support team members well.



Reason 8

KVC has provided life-changing mental health treatment for more than **30,000 youth.**



Reason 37

KVC is a fun place to work! There are meals, parties, casual get-togethers, and meaningful work.



Reason 40

KVC is focused on **diversity, equity, and inclusion** with employee-led councils in every local team.



Reason 35

KVC frequently promotes people from within, providing exceptional career opportunities.



Reason 2

KVC works every day to **strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.**



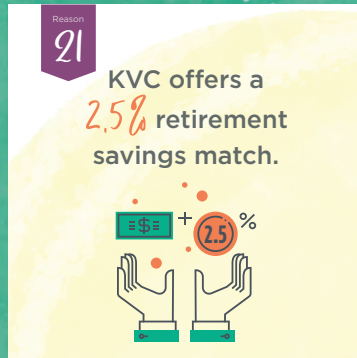
Reason 49

The majority of KVC's work is about safely preventing family crises and mental health crises.



Reason 21

KVC offers a **2.5%** retirement savings match.



Reason 1

KVC's inspiring mission is to **enrich and enhance the lives of children and families.**



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



Dear Friends,

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once gave a speech on human greatness. He said, "If you want to be important, wonderful. If you want to be recognized, wonderful. If you want to be great, wonderful. But recognize that 'he who is greatest among you shall be your servant' — that's the new definition of greatness. **Everybody can be great because everybody can serve.** ... You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

That drive to serve others — to really see people and name the good in them, so their eyes open wider to their strengths and limitless potential — is in our DNA at KVC Health Systems. **The heart of our work is helping people.** And as a new survey shows Americans are facing greater stress than ever before due to the pandemic, money concerns, the war in Ukraine, social media and more, the KVC team hears the call to serve loud and clear.

Meeting people's needs is why we are growing so rapidly in 2022, expanding our reach and elevating quality of care for children, adults, and families. In Missouri, we're partnering with Great Circle, a children's behavioral health organization. When the restructuring and integration is complete, we expect to have upwards of 1,000 Missouri team members working to strengthen families and provide children's psychiatric treatment. We're also growing rapidly in Kentucky and West Virginia, having recently hired nearly 200 professionals to help strengthen families and safely prevent the need for foster care. And in early 2023, we'll be opening a new children's psychiatric hospital in western Kansas.

In this issue of *Thriving*, you'll read stories of how supporters like you are changing people's lives:

- In **The Power of Love: Siblings Thrive After Traumatic Early Childhood** (pg. 6), you'll meet two children who entered foster care at an early age. KVC matched them with loving first-time foster parents who ended up becoming their forever family.
- In **Couple Adopts Their Grandchildren, Then Woman Begins Working at KVC** (pg. 12), you'll meet Sabrina Jenkins on our team. Her life's calling is now to help families stay safely together.
- And in **KVC's 2022 Gala Raises \$370k for Children and Families in Crisis** (pg. 22), you'll read about the amazing supporters who came together for our first in-person gala in two years to show their support for families we serve.

Thank you for believing in and supporting KVC's mission. Every day, we help children and adults experience the life-changing power of human connection, thanks to your generous support.

Sincerely


Jason Hooper
President and CEO



To find out all the reasons visit: kvc.org/careers

21 KVC Opening New Children's Psychiatric Hospital

In early 2023, KVC Hospitals will begin providing inpatient youth psychiatric treatment in Western Kansas in a new space. KVC operated a youth hospital in Hays for a decade but paused since 2019 due to state funding changes.



thriving

Spring/Summer 2022

Health

14 How to Prevent Suicide Attempts from Over-the-Counter Medications

As youth suicide attempts with medications like acetaminophen and ibuprofen increase, learn important steps for prevention including how to educate children and teens.

Strengthening Families

12 Couple Adopts Their Grandchildren, Then Woman Begins Working at KVC

Sabrina Jenkins' and her husband's lives were turned upside down when their grandchildren entered foster care. But the experience led her to discover her calling in life. Now she helps countless children stay safely with their families.



Creating Families

6 The Power of Love: Siblings Thrive After Traumatic Early Childhood

Within their first five years of life, Malachi and Neveah's mother dropped them off at a stranger's house and abandoned them. This began a difficult foster care journey for the children. Thankfully, during this same time, a couple named Miranda and Craig Coleman felt called to begin the process of foster parenting. And, as it turns out, the first and only children they fostered were destined to become part of their family forever.

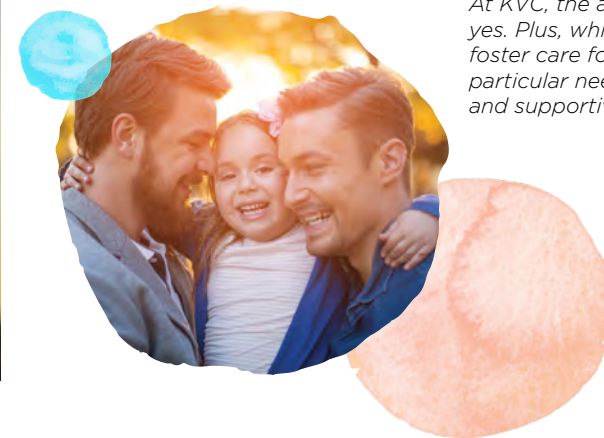


13 Meet Children Who Need a Forever Family

BreAnna, Taniya, Rockie and Lexi are teens who each need adoptive families to provide them with safety, a sense of belonging and unconditional love.

19 I Identify as LGBTQIA+. Can I Be a Foster or Adoptive Parent?

At KVC, the answer is a resounding yes. Plus, while you can provide foster care for youth of all backgrounds, there is a particular need for adults who are understanding and supportive of LGBTQIA+ youth.



News & Events

10 KVC Missouri and Great Circle Announce Exciting Opportunity to Provide Highest Quality Care

Two nonprofits with a shared mission to serve Missouri children and families have signed a letter of intent that will elevate quality of care.

16 KVC Expanding to Serve More Children and Families in Kentucky and West Virginia

To meet the needs of families facing serious challenges ranging from financial and family stress to mental health, KVC is growing significantly in the Appalachia region. The expansion will result in hiring about 150 more professionals and serving 850 more families per year.

20 People on the Move

See our leaders across the country who were recently hired, promoted, or recognized for their accomplishments

22 KVC's 2022 Gala Raises \$370k for Children and Families in Crisis

Sponsors and attendees raised a record-breaking \$370,000 at KVC's 2022 Gala to ensure children are safe and connected to a strong family and healthy community.



Page 13

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- John N. Barnes — Co-Chair
- B. Wayne Sims — Co-Chair and Past CEO
- William H. Dunn, Jr. — Vice Chair-Finance
- David F. Ball
- Patrick Desbois
- Jason R. Hooper
- Teresa Markowitz
- Bill Self

LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Jason R. Hooper, M.S.W. — President & Chief Executive Officer
- Erin Stucky, L.S.C.S.W. — Chief Operations Officer
- Chad E. Anderson, L.S.C.S.W. — Chief Clinical Officer
- Lonnie Johnson — Chief Information Officer
- Sherri Lohe — Chief Financial Officer
- Cheryl Marquardt, J.D. — General Counsel
- Dr. Linda Bass, Ph.D., L.C.M.F.T. — President - KVC Kansas
- Robert (Bobby) Eklofe, M.H.S.A. — President - KVC Hospitals
- Gina Klyachkin, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., L.I.C.S.W. — President - KVC Kentucky
- Ashley Brown, L.C.S.W. — President - KVC Nebraska
- Brent Lemon, L.C.S.W., L.I.C.S.W. — President - KVC West Virginia
- Lindsey Stephenson, L.S.C.S.W. — President - KVC Missouri
- Michelle Lawrence — President - KVC Foundation
- Dr. Suzanne Lohrbach, Ph.D., L.I.C.S.W. — Executive Director - KVC Institute
- Dr. Anh Vinh, MD — Executive Medical Director - Medical & Nursing Services, KVC Hospitals
- Renny Christian Arensberg, M.A. — Executive Vice President
- Katie Easley — Vice President of Information Solutions
- Jenny Kutz — Vice President of Marketing & Communications
- Erik Nyberg, M.H.S.A. — Vice President of Technology
- Venkata Rao, M.S.H.R.M., S.P.H.R., S.H.R.M.-S.C.P., L.S.S.B.B. — Vice President of Human Resources
- Tabetha Vance — Vice President of Finance
- Dr. Abyssinia Washington Tabron, DEI Leader and Director for Well-Being and Clinical Practice - KVC Institute



Thriving 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 Communications Department.

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

KVC is a member of Social Current, a member of the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, and a recipient of United Way funds.



The Power of Love:

Siblings Thrive After Traumatic Early Childhood

Adoptive family helps brother and sister learn to trust and love again

“Thank you for the love,” said Malachi Coleman in a tweet. As a young man who was once in foster care and is now a high school football phenom with 19 college offers and counting, Malachi humbly shares messages of gratitude like this with his thousands of Twitter followers (@ChiColeman23).

Every person deserves to feel loved and valued. That’s what Craig and Miranda Coleman have worked so hard to instill in their children Ean, Malachi and Nevaeh.

By the time siblings Malachi and Nevaeh met the Colemans, they had endured more than their fair share of heartbreak. Malachi’s father died when he was young, and Nevaeh’s father’s whereabouts were unknown. Their mother dropped them off at a stranger’s house when the kids were 5 and 2 and never returned.

“She said she’d be back,” Malachi said. “I haven’t seen her since that day.”

Though Malachi doesn’t recall much about that time, he remembers stepping into a caretaker role so he and his sister could survive. When Malachi and Nevaeh entered foster care, KVC Nebraska supported them in three foster homes before the child placing team — and a stroke of fate — brought the siblings and the Colemans together.

A Divine Push

Craig and Miranda Coleman found their inspiration to become foster parents from hearing a message at church. They intended to foster one child at a time, but at the end of their licensing class, KVC asked them to consider adopting two siblings who were at risk of being separated. After a couple weeks, the Colemans said yes, knowing KVC would support them every step of the way.

“We decided to help children in foster care because God was pretty actively shoving us,” said Miranda. “God was leading us down that path, and we tried to not shut down what God was putting in front of us.”

After the Colemans said yes, Malachi and Nevaeh spent every weekend with the Colemans from October 2014 to January 2015. Then the siblings moved in January 2015 and never left. Malachi and Nevaeh are the first and only kids the Colemans cared for in foster care.

“If we didn’t adopt, they were going to be separated,” said Miranda. “That piece alone, especially once you meet these two and see their relationship, you knew that could not happen. It would have devastated them.”

Love, Trust, and Progress

Malachi and Nevaeh’s early childhood taught them to fend for themselves and rely on no one else but each other. At ages 9 (Malachi) and almost 6 (Nevaeh), they didn’t fully believe that they were deserving of receiving and giving love. The Colemans’ church, pastor and a Bible study that focused on attachment parenting added to their KVC training, giving them the skills to address trauma.

“Trauma is unforgiving,” said Miranda. “When the kids first came to us, I sat them down because I could see that neither one of them really believed they had value to others. I was like, ‘How can you bless someone tomorrow?’ Malachi probably fought me for an hour. Finally, I just looked at him and I’m like, ‘Can you hold one door for one person tomorrow? Just one?’ And he looked at me and was like, ‘Yeah, I can do that.’ There hasn’t been a door that kid doesn’t hold for somebody to this day. He will hold doors for anybody.”

Craig and Miranda’s unwavering support and love helped grow the siblings’ confidence and self-esteem. On Nov. 20, 2015, Malachi and Nevaeh officially joined the Coleman family forever.

“They did the hard work in learning to trust us and taking a leap of faith,” said Miranda. “Without that, we wouldn’t be where we are today.”



continued on page 8

Helping Youth Just Like Them

Exceptionally talented in football, basketball and track, Malachi is using his voice to help other kids in foster care see their worth and potential. With Nebraska's first high school football Name Image Likeness (NIL) deal, Malachi is raising money and giving it all back. Through his fundraising and advocacy, Malachi hopes to make foster care better for the next generation of kids.

Malachi has created a successful brand, Fly Like Chi, and releases Chi-branded merchandise for his nationwide supporters to purchase. Partnering with local Lincoln, Nebraska restaurant, Muchachos, Malachi also created his own burrito special called, "The Giver." He hosts youth sports camps for aspiring athletes, too. He donates all proceeds from his brand's merchandise sales, his collaboration with Muchachos, and other NIL deals to KVC Nebraska and the Foster Care Closet of Nebraska.

"Without KVC, I wouldn't be where I am today," said Malachi. "When I learned that I could do NIL in high school, I knew I wanted to be impactful. I knew giving back to people who got me to where I am today would be important to me."

When asked if they had any advice for youth currently in foster care, Malachi and Nevaeh encourage kids not to give up, even though the process can be long. They hope youth try to understand that there are so many people working to find the perfect home for them, whether that's a safe reunification with their biological caregivers or finding an adoptive family.

Advocating for Vulnerable Children

While his and Nevaeh's stories have a happy resolution, statistics show that more than 15,000 youth in foster care across America age out each year without finding a permanent family or home.

"Every once in a while, you'll hear a story of how everything's amazing and it worked

"Without KVC, I wouldn't be where I am today," said Malachi.



out perfectly, but those stories are very slim," Malachi said. "A lot of these kids don't get chances because the opportunities are not there for them. I want kids to have as many opportunities as they can so I'm doing everything I can to make sure that happens."

Craig, Malachi, and Miranda are planning to sit on KVC's foster care panel for the TIPS-MAPP class—the same licensing class Craig and Miranda took to become foster parents. Malachi will join the KVC Advisory Board as a youth voice, too.

Bouncing Back and Playing Ball

Their life experiences before and during foster care made Malachi and Nevaeh more resilient. They also shaped who and where they are today.

"Sometimes the tough things are the things you gotta bounce back from and you just gotta keep going forward," said Nevaeh Coleman.

Currently in eighth grade, Nevaeh shares her brother's passion for sports. As she gets older and starts high school, she sees herself having fun and competing in softball and track.

As Malachi finishes his junior year, his sights are set on senior year and then college. With over 19 Division I offers to play football, Malachi has more choices for his future than he ever thought possible. He will announce where he will play college football this December.

But most importantly, he knows he will continue to make connections in his community to increase his positive impact on youth in foster care. After his football career is over, Malachi's goal is to pursue a career in affective cognitive therapy, a behavioral health approach that focuses on feeling, verbalizing, and regulating emotions.

With the love their mom and dad have given, Nevaeh says she has the opportunity and confidence to follow her dreams. Malachi says he looks at himself differently now.

"I see myself as wanted," said Malachi. "I have an amazing support system. Without my family especially, I would never be who I am today. I just thank them every day for that."



Prevent More Heartbreak, Keep Siblings Together

For many youth experiencing foster care, their siblings are the only constant presence in their lives. A brother or sister may be the only person who understands and shares their experiences. They can help each other make sense of all the changes. Siblings placed together in the same foster home often feel more connected and secure, too.

When siblings are separated from one another, research from the National Center for Youth Law indicates many youth feel "they have lost a part of themselves." The grief and complex emotions that stem from losing connection with a sibling can compound the anxiety and pain they feel over separation from their parents.

"I see myself as wanted," said Malachi. "I have an amazing support system. Without my family especially, I would never be who I am today. I just thank them every day for that."

More than 50% of all youth in foster care have one or more siblings. Keeping siblings together can prevent a lifetime of longing and searching for lost brothers and sisters.

"The impact you have on lives, even if it's just temporary, can be life-changing," said Craig Coleman.

It only takes **ONE** caring adult to change a child's or sibling group's life forever. Visit kvc.org/foster to learn how foster parenting can bring joy and meaning to your life, too.

Photos by Kenny Tong

KVC Missouri & Great Circle

Announce Exciting Opportunity to Provide Highest Quality Care

In March, two nonprofits with a shared mission to serve Missouri children and families with high-quality children's behavioral health and family services announced they've signed a letter of intent. KVC Missouri and Great Circle are planning to integrate in the summer of 2022.

Together, the organizations could employ upwards of 1,000 social workers, therapists, educators, and other professionals across the state. The team will pursue its shared mission of strengthening families, preventing child abuse and neglect, and helping both children and adults achieve mental health wellness.

"Bringing KVC Missouri and Great Circle together will elevate the quality of care across a wide range of services, from family strengthening prevention, to foster care, to children's psychiatric treatment," said Jason Hooper, President and CEO of KVC Health Systems, parent organization of KVC Missouri. "It will also rapidly expand the state's capacity to care for youth with acute mental and behavioral health needs. At KVC, the heart of our work is helping people. Whether that means helping families in crisis with personalized support or helping state leaders solve complex problems in innovative ways, we're eager to bring forward solutions."

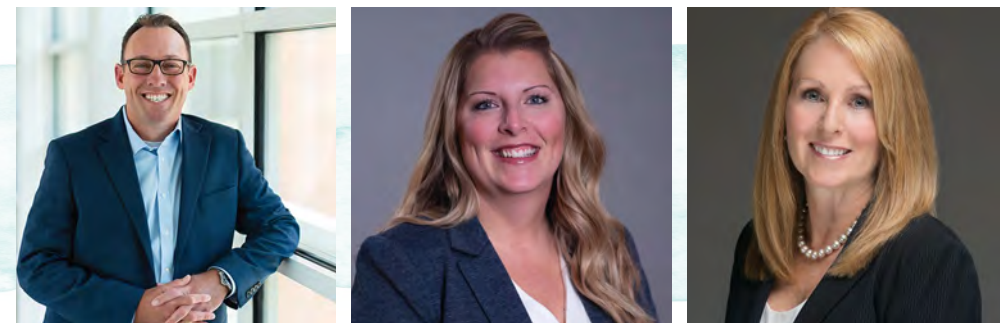
The restructuring will integrate two like-minded organizations whose approach to care is rooted in trauma-informed principles and a culture of continuous improvement. Together, the organizations can become the best point of care for child welfare, mental and behavioral health, and education services.

"We have complementary missions and share a passion for strengthening families and helping children tackle life's toughest challenges," said Paula Fleming, CEO and President of Great Circle. "Together, we have a transformational opportunity to create a comprehensive prevention infrastructure that truly improves the safety, permanency and well-being of children, youth and families across our state."

Like the rest of the nation, Missouri is in a period of rapid change with the implementation of federal Family First Preservation Services Act that is increasingly focused on strengthening families and safely reducing the need for foster care and residential treatment services. The entire country is shifting from child welfare to child and family wellbeing at a time when the acuity of need among children and families is greater than ever.

"From coast to coast, the U.S. is reimagining child welfare into child and family wellbeing systems," said Lindsey Stephenson, President of KVC Missouri. "That's because it's much better for children and families, as well as for taxpayers, if we invest in prevention and strengthening families long before a mental health need or child maltreatment arises. I'm excited to continue to help the state of Missouri expedite its capability to be a leader in prevention strategies."

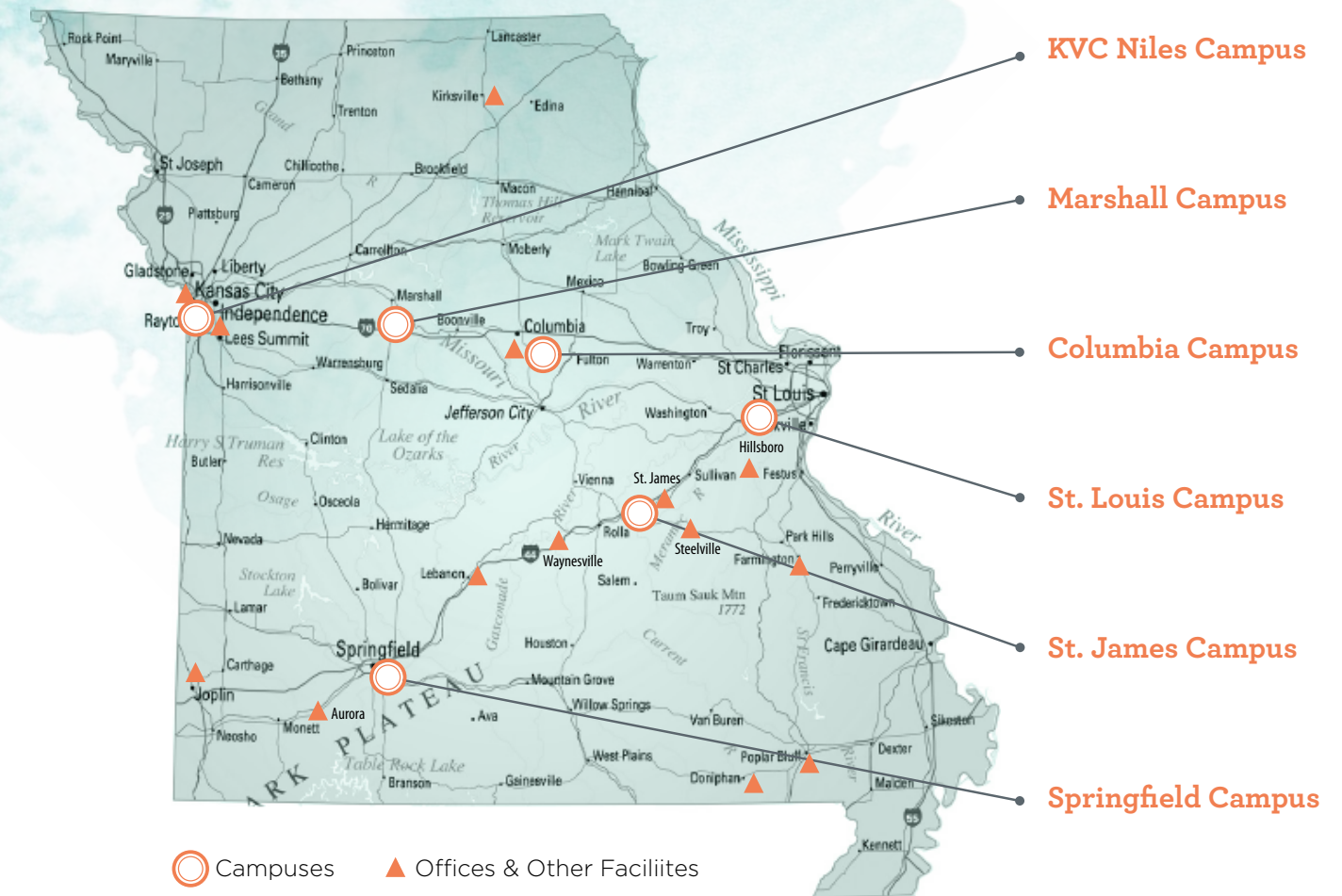
Leaders of the two organizations are working on an agreement that will further define the details of the integration. Updates will be shared at kvc.org/missouri-greatcircle.



Pictured from left to right: Jason Hooper, KVC Health Systems President and CEO; Lindsey Stephenson, KVC Missouri President; and Paula Fleming, President and CEO of Great Circle.

KVC Missouri & Great Circle Locations

Transforming & Elevating Care for Children and Families



Couple Adopts Their Grandchildren, Then Woman Begins Working at KVC

by Sabrina Jenkins, Case Manager with KVC Kansas



When my grandchildren had to enter foster care, my husband and I agreed to take them in and provide them with a loving home. At the time, I didn't know what foster care was, and suddenly workers from the state and KVC were visiting me and asking questions about our home and other personal details. I was initially uncomfortable with this and started to feel overwhelmed with all the "rules" involved with my grandchildren being placed in our home.

Fortunately, my KVC worker was very patient and kind. When they would visit my house, I put on a pot of coffee because I knew we'd be talking for a while. Over time, I found our conversations beginning to inspire me to do more to help children in need.

I felt passionate about helping kids safely reintegrate with their families. And I wanted to make sure youth who have to enter foster care can end up with their grandparents, uncles, aunts — someone close to them. Bottom line: I just wanted to help kids stay with their families.

I applied for a position at KVC and was brought on board as a Family Support Worker. I have since made sure youth who age out of foster care have everything that they need to be successful in adulthood. It warms my soul when I hear someone say, "You have done so much for this child in foster care." KVC has become more than just my job; KVC has become my family.

I adopted my grandchildren with the help of KVC. This experience, along with working for KVC, is my biggest accomplishment in life and has shown me that even when there is bad in the world, helping children and families in a time of crisis no matter how large or small brings overwhelming satisfaction. The connections I have made make me smile and cry tears of joy. I can't ask for anything better.

If you want a purposeful career like Sabrina's that allows you to help children and strengthen families, check out our job openings at kvc.org/careers. Or, to learn about becoming a foster or adoptive parent, visit kvc.org/foster.



Meet Children Who Need a

Forever Family

We're honored to play a role in matching children with loving adoptive families in Kansas, Nebraska, Kentucky and West Virginia. Due to our role as a lead foster care agency in Kansas, we're able to share photos and videos of Kansas children like those below at <http://adoption.kvc.org>. To inquire, please call (888) 655-5500 or email adoptionspecialist@kvc.org. To see children near you who need adoptive families, visit www.AdoptUSKids.org.



BREANNA (14)

Watch my video online!

BreAnna is a happy and healthy 14-year-old who loves baking, camping and being with friends. When she grows up, she wants to be a super star! She needs a family that will love her unconditionally and support her in all areas of her life.



TANIYA (15)

Watch my video online!

Taniya is a bright, charismatic young girl who's great at singing, dancing, and reading. She has a magnetic personality, and others love to be around her. She deserves a family who will give her plenty of structure, guidance, and love.

ROCKIE (12)

Watch my video online!

Rockie is an active and affectionate young boy. His love of people and animals makes him a joy to be around. People who know Rockie say that he is very kind and caring.



LEXI (15)

Watch my video online!

Lexi is a teen who has been waiting years to be adopted by a loving forever family. She is energetic, full of joy and is always cheering people up. In her free time, she likes reading and painting. When she grows up, she wants to be a foster parent or a nurse.



How to Prevent Suicide Attempts from Over-the-Counter Medications



No parent wants to imagine their child is at risk of suicide. Nevertheless, all caregivers need to be aware of the risks of suicide, specifically, the dangers of over-the-counter (OTC) medications. Reports show that youth between ages six to 19 years accounted for half of all suicide-related OTC painkiller cases from 2000-2018. As youth suicide attempts with medication increase at an alarming rate, educating children with purposeful conversations has never been more important.

Why is the number of suicide attempts with medications rising in youth?



Teens are facing a great mental health crisis, explains Dr. Van Tran, medical provider with KVC Hospitals.

“Social media is one of the leading causes of the increase in suicide attempts,” Dr. Tran says. Growing research indicates that higher social media use can increase a person’s risk of anxiety, isolation and hopelessness.

“Several other circumstances can increase suicide risk such as bullying, parental pressure, peer pressure and exposure to trauma,” states Dr. Tran. According to the CDC, nearly one in five children ages 14 to 18 reported having seriously considered suicide in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic has also brought about an uptick in youth mental health crises.

Why are over-the-counter medications a significant danger?

“Over-the-counter medications are easily accessible,” says Dr. Tran. “Children and teens don’t have to see a doctor for a prescription, and they can easily get a large quantity of these medications.” While having OTC medications on hand is helpful, they can also pose an unexpected danger.

Of particular danger are over-the-counter painkillers like acetaminophen, ibuprofen and aspirin. One study found that more than 90% of cases of suicide by self-poisoning among young people involved pharmaceuticals.

What can caregivers do to proactively prevent suicide attempts?

“Store medications in a locked safe place and dispose of unneeded pills,” Dr. Tran recommends. “Consider buying small amounts of medication for each incident and then disposing of the rest, so you don’t have any excess in the house.”

Talking about appropriate uses of over-the-counter medications and their potential side effects is very helpful when educating children. Many times, if children understand the reason behind a medication, they will see that as its primary use rather than what friends or peers may suggest.

How can caregivers start conversations about responsible use?

“Provide an open forum and safe place for children to ask questions about the use of medications,” Dr. Tran suggests. “You can explain why you’re giving a medication when your child is sick and how it will help.”

Safe and healthy connections can help prevent suicide. The more youth feel connected to safe people, the more likely they are to express their feelings and have difficult conversations. Get comfortable asking children how they are doing or what they’re seeing among their friends. The biggest thing, according to Dr. Tran, is to withhold judgment and be supportive.

How can you make sure a child in emotional distress gets help?

The CDC reports that 54% of people who died by suicide did not have a known mental health condition. Watch for changes from a child’s typical behaviors.

If you suspect an overdose, call 911. If a child is struggling with their mental health, you can call the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/suicide-prevention-lifeline) at **1-800-273-TALK**. In July 2022, the FCC is releasing a crisis line at the emergency number 988.

If you are concerned about a child’s behavior, make an appointment with their primary physician or community mental health center or look to other trusted adults to help them open up. A licensed mental health professional, youth group leader or pastor, school counselor, or another trusted community resource can be a safe place for conversation.



“At KVC Hospitals, we can help families determine if their child needs to be in the hospital,” Dr. Tran explains. “If a child is in need of this level of care and is admitted to KVC, a multidisciplinary team including a licensed therapist and psychiatrist works directly with the child. The therapist contacts the child’s guardians regularly to review treatment progress updates and coping skills the child is learning. Before a child leaves the hospital, guardians are provided with resources, a safety plan for prevention of further mental health crises, follow up appointments, and a therapist and psychiatrist in the community, when appropriate.”

The risks of over-the-counter medications are real. By educating yourself and children in your care on appropriate use and household safety, you can take an important step toward preventing suicide.

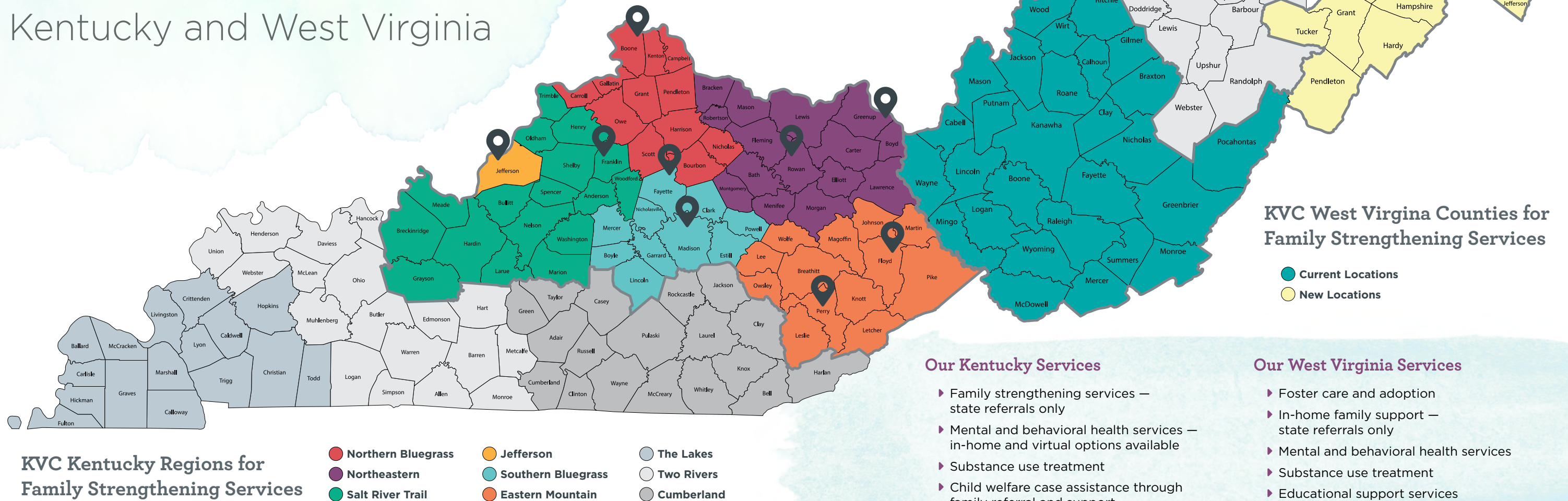
Quick Assessment:

Could Your Child or Teen Benefit from Mental Health Treatment?

Get the **FREE** eBook at:
info.kvc.org/quick-assessment



KVC Expanding to Serve More Children and Families in Kentucky and West Virginia



Our Kentucky Services

- ▶ Family strengthening services — state referrals only
- ▶ Mental and behavioral health services — in-home and virtual options available
- ▶ Substance use treatment
- ▶ Child welfare case assistance through family referral and support

Our West Virginia Services

- ▶ Foster care and adoption
- ▶ In-home family support — state referrals only
- ▶ Mental and behavioral health services
- ▶ Substance use treatment
- ▶ Educational support services

Throughout the Appalachian states of Kentucky and West Virginia and into their urban centers of Louisville and Charleston, many families face serious challenges. These often include financial stress, family stress, mental health needs, or substance use disorders, all of which can escalate to an unsafe situation.

This has created a greater need for KVC's services which strengthen families, prevent child abuse and neglect, and help people achieve mental health wellness.

We're happy to share how our services are growing in these states, and how you can be part of supporting KVC's mission to enrich and enhance the lives of children and families.

Hiring Over 100 Professionals to Serve 650 More Kentucky Families

KVC Kentucky has long been one of the leading providers of services that strengthen families and safely prevent the need for foster care, as well as safely reunifying families after foster care.

Based on the quality of these services, the state awarded KVC Kentucky new and expanded contracts for Family First Prevention and Reunification Services in early 2022. These services will increase support to families in the Southern Bluegrass, Northern Bluegrass, Salt River Trail, Eastern Mountain, Northeastern, and Jefferson regions.

The growth can be seen in:

- ▶ **Geographic Reach** — KVC Kentucky is growing from providing family preservation services in five regions of the state to six. The new service region, Jefferson, includes the state's most populated city, Louisville. KVC Kentucky will also serve 8 new counties in the Salt River Trail region. The state has enhanced the funding and scope of all six regional contracts to reduce waitlists and better meet family needs.

- ▶ **Passionate Team** — KVC Kentucky is hiring over 100 new social workers, therapists, and other professionals. This 88% growth in the family preservation team will enable support for more children and families. KVC is proud to be attracting talented employees since it is known as a great place to work. A national survey shows that our team members are significantly more engaged and satisfied than the average worker due to KVC's inspiring mission, tremendous flexibility, inclusive culture, and robust compensation and benefits.

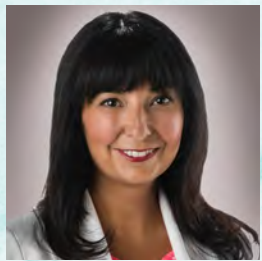
continued on page 18

KVC Expanding in Kentucky and West Virginia

continued from page 17

- **Community Impact** — This growth in program funding will enable KVC Kentucky to provide life-changing support to 657 more families. We previously made a positive difference in the lives of 856 families, and now expect to serve 1,513 families. This is 77% growth in our positive impact.

Family Preservation and Reunification Services are 98% successful at safely keeping children with their families. They are designed to help families going through crisis and prevent children from having to enter foster care. Separating children from their family due to safety concerns is a traumatic experience that can have physical and mental health repercussions for years. Oftentimes, children don't need to be removed from the home when parents are provided with empowering services and support from healthcare professionals.



"We are extremely grateful to Kentucky state leadership for leading the way in implementing the Family First Prevention and Services Act and expanding this vital programming that strengthens families. The children and families we serve deserve the very best, most effective services, and our dedicated professionals deserve the very best tools, practices and supports to provide these services."

Gina Klyachkin, President, KVC Kentucky

For 22 years, KVC Kentucky has provided services that help families overcome their most serious challenges. We use evidence-based practices that are proven effective with parenting, mental health, and substance use. We positively impact the lives of over 12,000 children and families each year by providing in-home behavioral healthcare and substance use treatment, family preservation and reunification, and more. KVC Kentucky is committed to strengthening and supporting the well-being and vitality of Kentucky's children, families and communities through our high-quality, impactful services designed to empower clients by building on their unique strengths.

Family First Preservation and Reunification Services are a collaboration between the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services and KVC Kentucky, and are made possible through state and federal funding.

Learn more about KVC Kentucky career opportunities or ways you can support our mission at kvcky.org.



"Access to supportive, in-home wraparound services for children and families reduces the need for disruptive out-of-home care and keeps families safely together. I'm thrilled we are going to be addressing the increasing need for child welfare and mental health treatment across the state."

Brent Lemon, President, KVC West Virginia

Expanding to Serve 200 More West Virginian Families Each Year

KVC West Virginia is expanding its Safe at Home, Children with Serious Emotional Disorder Waiver, and foster care programs in the Eastern and Northern Panhandle regions of the state. Growth into these regions will allow KVC to serve over 200 additional families each year.

In the past decade, the number of West Virginian youth in foster care has increased 71%. Foster care can be traumatic for kids because they are separated from their families and communities. While foster care may be necessary for their safety, the trauma of that loss and the unknowns can impact their long-term wellbeing. If families can stay together and resolve challenges before they escalate into crises, they maintain their bond and grow stronger together. KVC's expansion into these regions will give families access to preventative services that keep them safely together and keep youth out of foster care.

Youth who do experience time in foster care often struggle with depression, anxiety or other behavioral health disorders and need a mental health professional to teach them how to understand and cope with their feelings. But children's mental health treatment waitlists are long, especially for youth insured by Medicaid. KVC's expansion will give so many children healing and skills for resilience.

Families in the Eastern and Northern Panhandle regions can access these new in-home wraparound and behavioral health services from KVC starting immediately.

Learn more about KVC West Virginia's exciting expansion at kvcwv.org/expansion.

You can help strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect by supporting KVC. Join us as a donor, volunteer, advocate, or a foster or adoptive family. Learn more at kvcky.org and kvcwv.org.

I Identify as LGBTQIA+.

Can I Be a Foster or Adoptive Parent?

At KVC, the answer to the question of **"Can LGBTQIA+ people be foster or adoptive parents?"** is a resounding **yes**. In fact, while you can provide care for youth of all backgrounds, there is a particular need for adults who are understanding of LGBTQIA+ youth.

LGBTQIA+ Youth Experiences in Foster Care

Of the approximately 260,000 kids ages 11 and older who are in foster care at any given time, it is estimated that 5% to 10% identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, or asexual (LGBTQIA+).

All kids enter foster care due to abuse, neglect, or other serious family challenges. While LGBTQIA+ kids enter foster care for reasons other than their identity, they are overrepresented due to family rejection of their gender identity or expression or their sexual orientation. Once in foster care, LGBTQIA+ kids are less likely than non-LGBTQIA+ kids to achieve a permanent home.

LGBTQIA+ kids are more often subjected to hostile environments and trauma that can lead to mental health struggles. LGBTQIA+ kids who face rejection from their family are six times as likely to experience depression and eight times as likely to attempt suicide.

Providing LGBTQIA+ Youth with Loving Homes

The treatment LGBTQIA+ kids experience is heartbreaking. At KVC, we believe that all kids deserve a loving and safe environment.

When a child in foster care is learning who they are, trying to fit in at school, and dealing with the trauma of abuse or neglect, their life is hard enough. No child deserves to feel judged or disliked by their caregiver.

To support a child who identifies as LGBTQIA+, caregivers should:

- » Maintain open lines of communication.
- » Condemn slurs or jokes made about gender or sexual orientation.
- » Allow the child to express themselves through clothing, hairstyles, room decor, etc.

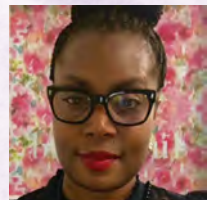
Is Fostering for You?

Kids need loving homes, and the most important qualification is whether potential foster parents can provide safety and love (in addition to practical requirements such as stable housing and meeting income guidelines).

If you are willing to provide a loving home to a child or teen, visit kvc.org/foster to learn more.

People on the Move

NEW ROLE



Abyssinia Washington Tabron, PsyD.
DEI Leader & Director of Well-Being and Clinical Practice
KVC Institute
4 years with KVC

In addition to her role in the KVC Institute, Dr. Aby was just named KVC Health Systems' nationwide leader of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Dr. Aby is a clinical psychologist and a gifted leader who enhances and innovates child welfare practice. In her new DEI role, she facilitates a system-wide DEI Council focused on making KVC an inclusive place to work and ensuring KVC services are provided to all people with compassion and respect.

PROMOTION



Kimberly O'Connor-Soule, LSCSW
Senior Vice President
KVC Hospitals
10 years with KVC

Kim leads strategic planning across the organization and collaborates with leadership team members to prioritize business strategies, with a strong focus on initiatives that work to improve communication, teamwork, employee engagement and project management.

PROMOTION



James Roberson, LMSW
Senior Vice President
KVC Hospitals
17 years with KVC

In this new leadership role, James will continue his commitment to high quality, compassionate mental health treatment and trauma-informed practices with an enhanced focus on business growth opportunities.

PROMOTION



Sara Schlager, LCSW, LSCSW
Vice President of Behavioral Health Services
KVC Hospitals
11 years with KVC

Leading in the areas of programming, staff development, compliance, and quality assurance, Sara will partner with leadership to promote best practices and innovation while working to enhance employee engagement, DEI and special projects.

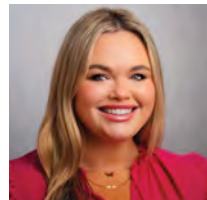
NEW HIRE



Venkata Rao, MSHRM, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, LSSBB
Vice President of Human Resources
KVC Health Systems

Ven and his team support all KVC business units in their efforts to retain our 1,500 professionals nationwide and recruit diverse talent. He uses human capital data analytics and lean six sigma methodology to develop human-centered solutions for individual, team, and organizational impact.

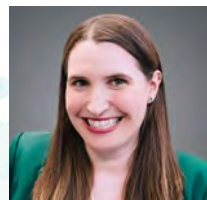
PROMOTION



Annmarie Arensberg, LSCSW
Vice President of Clinical Advancement
KVC Hospitals
9 years with KVC

Annmarie will continue her leadership and innovation in youth mental health with oversight of all KVC Hospitals clinical teams, nurturing referral partner relationships, developing therapeutic services, and supporting employee engagement.

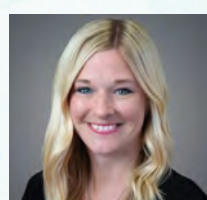
PROMOTION



Erin Connelly Marceau, LSCSW
Executive Director
KVC Hospitals Wichita
3 years with KVC

Erin leads the multi-disciplinary team at KVC's children's psychiatric hospital in Wichita to ensure children and their families receive positive outcomes and compassionate care through enhanced collaboration, clinical practices, and operations.

PROMOTION



Brittany Broeckelman, LSCSW
Executive Director of Acute Hospital Services
KVC Hospitals Kansas City
9 years with KVC

Brittany will co-lead this facility and oversee acute hospital services and programming to ensure a safe, therapeutic environment that accommodates the needs of each youth being served at KVC as well as compliance with meeting licensing standards.

PROMOTION



Brynn Fowler, LMSW
Executive Director of Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) Services
KVC Hospitals Kansas City
5 years with KVC

Brynn will co-lead this facility with a strong focus on oversight of residential treatment operations and leadership of strategic planning, interdepartmental projects, compliance, quality assurance and scheduling teams.

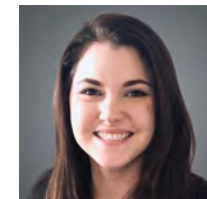
NEW ROLE



Phil Caldwell
Associate Director of Programs
KVC Hospitals Kansas City
17 years with KVC

After some time with KVC Missouri, Phil has returned to KVC Hospitals to oversee programming with a focus on improving documentation practices and enhancing the culture to ensure all clients and employees receive support and connections.

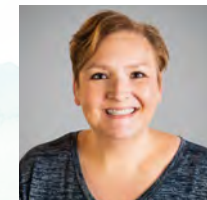
PROMOTION



Alexandra Beineman, LMSW
Associate Director of Program and Staff Development
KVC Hospitals
4 years with KVC

Transitioning into this new leadership role with KVC Hospitals, Alex will focus on the development of treatment programs and ensuring employees are given the skills and tools to support each client through their treatment journey.

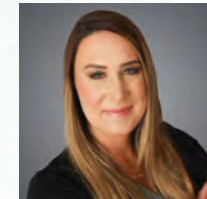
PROMOTION



Sharla Martinez
Associate Director of Nursing
KVC Hospitals Wichita
3 years with KVC

Sharla oversees the nursing department to ensure clients are receiving exceptional care, that all standard policies and procedures are being followed, and that the hospital is maintaining compliance with regulatory bodies.

PROMOTION



Marlayna Hargitt
Associate Director of Nursing
KVC Hospitals Hays
9 years with KVC

Marlayna oversees all aspects of nursing care, coordinates with other departments and disciplines to ensure high-quality patient care and program improvement and maintains compliance with regulatory bodies.

PROMOTION



Jackie Harwig
Director of Community Engagement
KVC Kansas
15 years with KVC

In this role, Jackie supports foster and adoptive parent recruiters, foster family licensing workers, and the community resource team.

KVC Opening a New Children's Psychiatric Hospital

KVC Hospitals has reached an agreement with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to open a new, modern psychiatric hospital in Hays, Kansas. **This expansion will allow KVC to serve 600 more youth each year with expert mental health treatment.**

KVC Hospitals currently provides psychiatric residential treatment facility (PRTF) services in Hays and will continue providing those services at its current location. In January 2023, KVC will relocate to 3000 New Way Boulevard in Hays, continuing to provide PRTF services and adding 14 beds for children's inpatient hospitalization.

The space, which KVC is leasing from Hays Medical Center, is being renovated and designed to meet the treatment and safety needs of youth experiencing an acute mental health crisis. Both treatment programs will serve youth ages 6 to 18 years old.

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly said, "My administration is committed to protecting our vulnerable children, and ensuring they have access to the services they need. This facility will provide critical mental health services in an under-served region of our state."

KVC is fundraising to help support this expansion and relies on the generosity of donors to fund these imperative programs. The Dane G. Hansen Foundation has given a lead gift of \$250,000 to help bring these life-saving services to children and families.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to expand our services so that we can touch the lives of more children when they need it most," said Bobby Eklofe, President of KVC Hospitals.

"This expansion will help reduce wait times and make access to care for children in crisis more easily and readily available," KDADS Secretary Laura Howard said.



To learn more about KVC Hospitals, visit [kvhospitals.org](https://www.kvhospitals.org).

KVC's 2022 Gala

Raises \$370K for Children and Families in Crisis

March 4th was an incredible evening filled with spectacular energy, cowbells and so many memorable moments.



Maria and Sean Hurley

Sponsors and attendees raised a record-breaking **\$370,000**, supporting our work to ensure children are safe and connected to a strong family and healthy community.

Guests arrived at The Abbott on a gorgeous spring evening. Over 400 partygoers enjoyed delicious cuisine and plentiful cocktails, played Heads or Tails, and danced to the music of Lost Wax. Emcees Christa Dubill and Kevin Holmes presented a heartfelt video about one young girl's journey to mental wellness at KVC Hospitals. The KC Improv Company brought the laughs with their hilarious show and Tanna Guthrie led an exciting live auction. All proceeds from the night benefited the children and families served by KVC.

Thank you to our Gala Chairs Maria and Sean Hurley; our Presenting Sponsor Brown & Brown; and our many generous corporate sponsors, donors, committee members, partygoers and volunteers for making this year's Gala such a success!

We'd also like to thank ShutterBooth KC for keeping our guests entertained and providing keepsake photos of the fun; Randy Neal Floral Design for adding colorful flair with stunning florals; Forerunner Signs & Graphics for providing helpful and eye-catching signs, and the amazing Karen Watts for delivering mouth-watering catering for all of our guests. **We're so grateful to all of you!**



Row 1: Renny Arensberg, Erin Stucky, and John Barnes; Emcees Kevin Holmes and Christa Dubill; Camille and Brandon Brown, Tonya Guinn, and Dawn Rattan; Rob and Jennifer Welker **Row 2:** Joel Colletti, Sean Hurley, Jason Hooper, Rian Watts, and Brian Hoffman; Janine Bales, Natalie Bowes, and David Davis; Brandi Palmer, Jen Mann, Nicole Feltz, Lori Holmes, and Suzanne Bradbury; Wendy Watts, Brandy Hoffman, Jennifer Welker, Michelle Hooper, Lisa Colletti, and Amy Garrelts **Row 3:** Skyler Aldrich and Kimberly Lor; Lindsey and DJ Balazs, and Laurie Minard; Dan Ransdell and Laura Treas; Cyndi and Lonnie Johnson **Row 4:** Brian and Heather Geary, and Dietz Meyer; Chad and Gretchen Anderson, and Noreen and Darren Dupriest



We all need connection.

21350 West 153rd Street
Olathe, Kansas 66061
www.kvc.org



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 1996

Please Recycle 

Play with a Purpose!

Get out for a good cause
at one of our upcoming
**KVC Kids Classic
Golf Tournaments.**



10th Annual KVC Nebraska tournament
Ashland Golf Club in Ashland, NE
September 9
Register at kvcnebraska.org/golf

21st Annual KVC Health Systems tournament
NEW LOCATION! Canyon Farms Golf Club
in Lenexa, KS
September 26
Sign up or become a sponsor at kvc.org/golf

