

2019-2020



Annual Report

From the President and CEO

Thank You for the Memories and Thank You for the Support.

After ten years as the President and CEO of Sunflower House, it's hard to say goodbye. Making the decision to retire was not an easy one, especially when you love your job as much as I do! It has truly been my honor to serve in human services for over four decades dedicating my career to helping children and families in need.

Sunflower House is the most collaborative agency I have ever known. The partnerships and commitment to child safety and justice from law enforcement, child protective services, medical, mental health and court services is what makes the children's advocacy model so effective in combating abuse. I enjoyed working alongside the staff, partners, board, volunteers and supporters in our fight to protect children, as together we truly made a difference!

Serving as leader for nearly half of Sunflower House's history, I am proud to have played a role in its evolution. I will leave behind an exemplary team of dedicated staff, passionate board of directors, financial sustainability, and our beautiful facility well-maintained. I am especially proud of building Sunflower House's counseling center that helped over 1,000 victims heal from their trauma.

I now hand the baton to Judi Rodman with utmost confidence. Her experience, passion for our mission and personality are a good fit, and I believe she will take Sunflower House to the next level.

When I turn in my keys and tearfully walk out the door for the last time, know that Sunflower House will always hold a special place in my heart.

Sincerely,



Retired President and CEO
(as of October 30, 2020)



Board of Directors and Leadership Staff

Board Leadership

Stephen Howe, Chair
Johnson County District Attorney

Keegan Odle, Vice Chair
Burns & McDonnell

Jeanene Kiesling, Secretary
KC Fraternal Order of Police
KC Police Officers Memorial Foundation

J.J. Winston, Treasurer (through
December 2019)
BKD, LLP

Karla Schulte, Treasurer (Starting
January 2020)
Retired Hallmark Executive

Board of Directors

Jody Adams
Weavers Auto Center

Anthony Arnold
First Home Bank

Dr. Tanya Burrell (2019)
Children's Mercy

Mark Dupree
Wyandotte County District Attorney

Sheri Garner
Turner School District

Katie Gates-Calderson (through
September 2019)

Taylor Hemness (2020)
KSHB-TV

Claire Hillman
Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLC

Robert Hingula (2020)
Polsinelli

John Jennings
Kiewit Power Constructors

Dr. Sara Kilbride (2020)
Children's Mercy

Frank Koranda
Polsinelli

Natalie Muehlberger
St. James Academy

Greg Shelton
Shafer, Kline, and Warren

Tina Shipman
Ronald W. Nelson P.A.

Tad Smith
Americo Financial Life and Annuity

Vandra Solomon
Retired Educator

Barry Sutherland
Henderson Engineers

Pamela Waldeck (2020)
Kansas City, Kansas Police Department

Leadership Staff

Michelle S. Herman, *President and CEO*

Sara Lissauer, *Director of Resource
Development*

Cindy Riddell, *Child Assessment Program
Director*

Bev Turner, *Education Program Director*

Audited Financials

Revenue

Government Grants	\$772,670	46%
Contributions	\$351,709	21%
Foundations and Corporations	\$261,733	15%
Special Events (net)	\$194,120	11%
United Way Grants	\$54,162	3%
Fees and Other Income	\$35,266	2%
Interest Income & Gains on Investments	\$21,227	1%

Total \$1,690,887

Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$985,180	60%
Other Program Costs	\$274,774	17%
Operations	\$272,576	17%
Depreciation	\$102,327	6%

Total \$1,634,857

Our Mission

The mission of Sunflower House is to protect children in our community from physical and sexual abuse through education, advocacy, forensic, medical and mental health services.

Our Vision

Sunflower House envisions a world where children are thriving in nurturing families and communities.

Every Child Counts

- 176** different schools and early childhood centers hosted Sunflower House
- 506** forensic interview were conducted
- 224** children received therapy services
- 243** Happy Bears plays were presented by Sunflower House in schools
- 2,003** hours of trauma-focused therapy were provided
- 3,447** caregivers and professionals received mandated reporter training and other abuse prevention programs
- 20,393** children participated in one of Sunflower House's education programs

Abuse Allegations

- 86%** Sexual Abuse
- 10%** Physical Abuse
- 4%** Witness to Violence
- 56%** Johnson County
- 35%** Wyandotte County
- 9%** Other



Child Assessment & Therapy Program

Instead of driving a frightened child from agency to agency to retell their story multiple times, Sunflower House provides one place where all authorities who need to understand the child's story will gather to witness an interview between the child and the Sunflower House forensic interviewer. Within our walls is a warm, welcome, and safe place to tell and a place for caregivers to receive the support they need through this difficult process and traumatic time.

The Child Assessment Program works together with a team of professionals on each case that includes local law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health and medical agencies to provide a coordinated response to reduce the trauma of an abused child within Johnson or Wyandotte counties.

There was a 6% decrease in abuse cases that Sunflower House worked in the 2019-2020 year over the previous year. This is attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic that brought about stay-at-home orders for the last quarter of the year. With children staying home and away from other adults, there were fewer reports of abuse.

98% of parents of children seen at Sunflower House were satisfied or very satisfied with the services they received

100% of caregivers reported that they received resources to support their child and respond to their needs



"The process was clearly explained and everyone was friendly and compassionate during this difficult time."

"I appreciated the way the information was provided in a friendly manner. It is a lot to take in. It is so very nice to know that there is support and that this situation was taken seriously."

"Thank you for all that you do for the kids who are experiencing tough/scary things."

"I greatly appreciate the time and concern that you gave us. Thank you very much."

Prevention Education Program

If children are taught at an early age about the difference between welcome and unwelcome touches and who to notify when receiving unwelcome touches, they are more likely to report abuse earlier than children not receiving proper prevention education. Those receiving education are also less likely to believe the abuse is their fault, thus decreasing the likelihood that they will experience negative mental health outcomes.

The overall goal of the Prevention Education Program is to educate the community at large, including children and the adults who care for them. By using current information and practical strategies to prevent child abuse, we can protect children from this devastating form of violence.

In 2019-2020, the Prevention Education Program experienced a dramatic shift in the way that they were able to provide valuable abuse prevention education due to the pandemic closing down schools and limiting gatherings. During the fourth quarter of the year (April - June 2020), only 158 adults and 0 children were reached, compared to 650 adults and 5044 children in the same quarter of 2019. However, the Education Program Director received approval through KDHE to offer professional training online for clock hours, enabling us to reach early childhood education staff with the training they need without exposing them or our staff to increased risk. The staff also reworked the children's programs: Happy Bear, Think First and Stay Safe, and ESafety to be offered in classrooms virtually have seen very positive results.



97% of children indicated, following a Sunflower House program, that they would report unwanted contact, including physical touches and electronic communications.

At least **95%** of adults attending abuse prevention trainings indicated as a result of the training they will more closely monitor the electronic communications of children in their care.

"We use the program to make sure students are aware of appropriate and inappropriate touches. Also we want them to know how to protect themselves and seek help if they have already been abused. Children benefit because they are armed with information and tools to safeguard themselves against others' predatory behaviors. The after effects are that the students are knowledgeable and may feel more comfortable to talk about these type of topics. Also, sometimes a student feels empowered to come forward about his/her own abuse after a presentation like this."

- Kansas City, Kansas School Social Worker

