

Improving children's lives & strengthening families through education, advocacy & family support.

The Advocate

The voice of children & families for those who support them

*Every Child Matters Dinner
has record attendance*

Read more inside...



CAPS awarded piece of \$13.6 Million Family First Prevention Services Act Grant

Grants will help families prevent the need for foster care

Kansas families will now have access to strong evidence-based programs designed to prevent the need for foster care. On Tuesday, October 1, Governor Laura Kelly along with Department for Children & Families Secretary Laura Howard awarded 18 agencies from across the state with \$13 million in Family First prevention grants.

"From day one of my administration, I've made it clear that the safety & well-being of children in Kansas is my top priority," Kelly said. "I am proud that Kansas, as one of the first states in the nation to implement Family First, has partnered with community organizations to support vulnerable families."

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) provides new federal funding for prevention activities. The funding is available for children at imminent risk of placement in foster care as well as parents or kinship caregivers. The Act provides federal matching dollars for evidence-based services rated as "well-supported" in the areas of mental health, substance use disorder, parent skill-building & kinship navigation.

CAPS was awarded a \$219,812 to expand its Family Mentoring Program in Saline & Ottawa Counties. This in-home, case management service focuses on identifying the family's strengths & needs through the Nurturing Parenting curriculum & provides parent skills training, crisis management, & referral to other community partners to engage the supports needed to stabilize the family & build connections for future needs.



Pictured Left to Right: Secretary Laura Howard for the Dept. for Children & Families, Vicki Price, Chelsea Sutton & Lori Blake.

The grant enables CAPS to expand services from five half-time employees to full-time in Saline County & to add a full-time Family Mentor serving families in Ottawa County for the first time. This bridges CAPS work in Ottawa County through Happy Bear (sexual abuse prevention education), Victim Advocacy & case coordination through Chris's Place – Child Advocacy Center & the Ottawa/Saline County CASA program.

As part of the evaluation effort, the University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc will convene regional & statewide advisory teams

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Many Thanks!

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Barb Short
Linda Taggart
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Jo Martin
Mary Jane Mortimer
Laykin Walker
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Dakota Iford

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Cooper Cobb
Hadley Johnston
Harper Johnston
Molly Michaelis
Azbey Peckham
Danielle Peckham
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Cora White

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Reagan Goetz
Kate Breeding
Soren Mannebach
Kylista Kindlesparger
Kyiella Kindlesparger
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Our deepest gratitude to Christina Trocheck, President, & John Presley for their 4 years of leadership & service on the CAPS Board of Directors. They have helped the agency to continue its legacy of serving families in central Kansas as we strive to create a place where every child is healthy, safe & strong.



Every Child Matters Dinner
has record attendance
to hear Darrell Scott's

Message of Hope

Since Columbine:

144 Students have died in school shootings
52,150 Students have died from suicide
362 to 1 ratio 7 more will die today!



Tuesday, October 15 gathered 150 of CAPS loyal supporters, board members & staff to hear a message of hope & resilience from Rachel's Challenge founder, Darrell Scott. To highlight work aligned between Rachel's Challenge & CAPS Bullying Prevention Program, Scott encouraged the audience to be look-throughers, not look atters. He emphasized the importance of truly getting to know people & their problems creates connections that allows people to help each other.

His next point was to be purposeful in how we live our lives. Showing people compassion & kindness leaves an impact that is often unknown. This came to light for the Scott family when Rachel Joy Scott was the first person killed in the Columbine High School shooting on April 20, 1999. But that was only the beginning of the story. After her death, many students that Rachel reached out to shared stories with the Scotts about the profound impact her simple acts of kindness had on their lives; even preventing one young man for taking his own life. They soon realized the transformational effect of Rachel's story & started the non-profit organization that is Rachel's Challenge today.



Lori Blake & Darrell Scott.

According to the National Center for School Engagement, 160,000 students skip school every day for fear of being bullied.

It doesn't have to be this way. Creating a school climate less susceptible to harassment, bullying & violence is possible. We see it happening in socioeconomically & demographically diverse schools across North America every day. CAPS joins this work of prevention & empowerment by serving every Saline County student in grades 3-6 with it's Bullying Prevention program. Each year, Vicki Price helps over 2600 students practice how to use their voice by standing up for others & practicing compassion, kindness, empathy, acceptance & respect.

In the two decades since twelve innocent lives were taken at Columbine, Rachel's legacy has touched 28 million people & is the foundation for creating programs that promote a positive climate in K-12 schools. Her vision to start a chain reaction of kindness & compassion is the basis for our mission: Making schools safer, more connected places where bullying & violence are replaced with kindness & respect; & where learning & teaching are awakened to their fullest.

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around Family First Prevention Services Act implementation.

The evaluation activities in this grant award begin in October & the grant may extend up to five years.

"I am excited that we are able to partner with agencies across the state to make Family First a reality in Kansas," DCF Secretary Laura

Howard said. "Whether you are in Cherokee or Cheyenne county, families will have access to strong evidence-based programs all with the goal of preventing the need for a child to enter the foster care system."

CAPS was one of 55 proposals for Family First prevention grant services. Grant review teams represented each region, DCF administrative staff, & representatives from the Kansas Department for Aging & Disability

Services, the Kansas Department of Health & Environment, & the Kansas Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund.

Team representatives had program expertise in foster care, mental health, early childhood programming, quality assurance, substance use disorder services, & prevention services.

The grants term awarded is Oct. 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

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Saturday, Feb. 1 • 8 a.m. Pancake Feed • 9 a.m. Auction

CAPS 32nd Annual Benefit Auction

Pancake feed starts at 8 am, auction at 9. Bring the whole family for breakfast! Come bid on live and silent packages including trips, dinners, original art, jewelry, quilts & more!



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Apparel in Recognition of
Bullying Prevention Month!



Order through our online store at
<https://shirtsbyfrancis.com/CapsAntiBullying/shop/home>



So Many Possibilities!

- Bullying Prevention Class
- Respite Child Care
- Parenting Instruction
- Happy Bear Session
- Family Mentoring Services
- Victim Advocacy & Support
- CASA Volunteer
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\$50

\$100

\$250

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