

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



JOHNSON COUNTY
BOARD OF SERVICES



2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

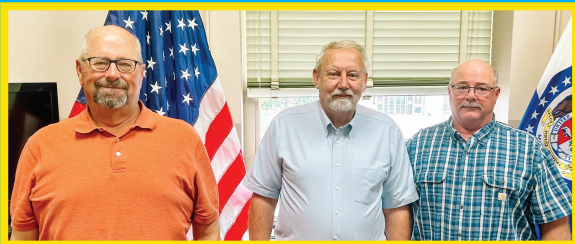
- Sid Tiller – President
- Jenna Franklin – Vice President
- Amanda Bliss – Treasurer
- Rebecca Timbers – Secretary
- Kristin Donze – Member
- Logan Miller – Member
- Patty Cox – Member
- Jenna Guengerich – Member
- Lisa Meisenheimer – Member

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We'd like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to our amazing Board of Directors. During this past year, they've been committed to our mission, shared valuable and insightful knowledge with our team, and spent a lot of time helping our agency become the best it can be. Their leadership ensures we provide excellent services to the families and individuals we serve. The Board's strong support is integral to what we do and we're fortunate to have such a dedicated group supporting our mission.

2023 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Natasha Meddock – President
- Ashley Sibley – Vice President
- Carmen Schick – Treasurer
- Suzy Latore – Secretary
- Jamie Brisbin – Member
- Lesa Tracy – Member
- Jenna Franklin – JCBS Board Liaison



We'd like to express our appreciation to the Johnson County Commissioners for their continued support of the SB40 Tax Levy Funding. This funding source has a profound impact on the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities residing in Johnson County. JCBS is privileged to serve as stewards of these tax dollars, committed to ensuring that every cent contributes meaningfully to the well-being of those with developmental disabilities in our community. With gratitude, we pledge to diligently oversee the allocation of this funding, ensuring it continues to make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities in Johnson County.

2023 JOHNSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- Presiding Commissioner – Troy Matthews
- Western Commissioner – Charles Kavanaugh
- Eastern Commissioner – John Marr

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER



I'm delighted to share a glimpse into our efforts at Johnson County Board of Services through this year's annual report. In 2023, our team worked tirelessly to uphold our mission of Supporting People with developmental disabilities through Advocacy, Resources, and Kindness (SPARK). They truly take the time to listen, understand, and respond to the individual needs of those we serve, ensuring that everyone feels valued and respected.

We're incredibly grateful to our community for supporting our mission, too, providing a place where individuals are seen, heard, and valued for who they are, where barriers are broken down, and where everyone has the opportunity to contribute and belong. At the heart of this supportive community are the families we serve. They are our partners, our advocates, and our inspiration, and their voices shape and guide everything we do.

This report highlights our team's achievements, initiatives, and partnerships, as well as the impact of our services on the people we serve. Throughout these pages, I hope you find inspiration in the stories of triumph and spirit. I also hope you enjoy the photos that reflect our fun and vibrant community.

In closing, I'd like to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, supportive stakeholders, and the resilient families and individuals we serve. Together, we can break down barriers and ensure everyone, regardless of ability, can live their good life.

Thank you for being a part of our journey.

Sincerely,

MELISSA FREY | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP WITH RISE COMMUNITY SERVICES



In a significant step towards fostering community growth and service excellence, the Johnson County Board of Services officially signed over property deeds to three establishments: RISE Vocational Center, RISE Center for Growth, and RISE Group Home. The property ownership was transferred to RISE Community Services on August 22, 2023, solidifying their role as the stewards of these vital community assets.

While RISE Community Services takes on the role of property owner, JCBS will continue to play an active role in supporting these facilities through the SB40 Tax Levy dollars. This collaborative approach ensures that the resources and expertise of both organizations combine to create an environment that is conducive to growth, development, and community integration. JCBS and RISE Community Services aim to create an inclusive, empowering, and sustainable future for all.

FOUNDATION



The Foundation Board proudly aligns with the mission of the Johnson County Board of Services: Supporting people with developmental disabilities through Advocacy, Resources, and Kindness. Since 2011, the unwavering support of **individuals like you** has empowered us to fulfill the needs of our neighbors facing intellectual and developmental disabilities, propelling us toward our financial goals. As stewards of your generosity, we bridge the gaps left uncovered by insurance or other resources, collaborating closely with Targeted Case Managers (TCMs) at the Johnson County Board of Services, who possess an intimate understanding of the unique needs of those they serve. In 2023, we made a significant impact by covering costs for respite care, medical equipment, specialized food items, equine therapy, sensory items, and more, providing a total of nearly **\$12,800** in assistance to our cherished individuals and their families. A heartfelt thank you extends to all our 2023 donors and sponsors for making these transformative contributions possible.

2023 BRUNCH & BUBBLY SPONSORS

IMPACT BUILDERS

- Abilities, LLC

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

- F&C Bank
- Warrensburg Ford
- Andrew Gelbach
- Neighborhood LTC Pharmacy

INCLUSION BUILDERS

- Suzy Latare & Paul Polychronis
- Craig Coen & Jeffrey Bellamy
- Summer's Pharmacy
- Mike Keith Insurance

AWARENESS BUILDERS

- Warrensburg Quick Lube & Tire
- Gillum & Gillum CPA LLC
- Murdock Banner Financial Group
- STEAMAGIC Carpet Care LLC
- Jamie Brisbin – Fairway Mortgage
- The Meddocks
- Teresa Colster, CPA LLC
- Sheehan Financial
- Finnane & Robison Dental
- Michael & Suzanne Taylor
- Mid American Turf & Landscaping
- Dennis & Deborah Orr
- Dee Hudson
- Briscoe Auto Service LLC
- RLS Professional Home Care LLC
- 360 Media Co.
- Chamber of Commerce
- Girl Scout Service Unit 657
- Eck Farms

- Green Truck Bakery
- The Hargraves
- Warrensburg Cumberland Presbyterian Church
- F&C Bank
- Republic Services of Warrensburg
- Community National Bank & Trust
- The Beers Family
- The Harpers
- Missouri American Water Co.
- The Meddocks

OTHER

- Denise Markworth – Action Realty Co.

2023 SUMMER FOAM PARTY SPONSORS

- Lindsay Tegtmeier – State Farm
- Johnson County Board of Services

2023 FESTIVAL OF TREES DONORS

- Abilities LLC
- L & L Termite & Pest Control
- Suzy Latare
- Central Bank
- Crossroads Hospice & Palliative Care
- Johnson County Board of Services
- Morning Brew – Warrensburg
- Homes by Darcy
- Stormy Taylor
- Lewis Ground Maintenance
- Lisa Lemler
- Warrensburg Animal Shelter
- Corina Villarreal
- Johnson County E-911 Dispatch

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Targeted Case Management | *Helping individuals obtain their good life*

In reflecting on the past year, our department has experienced significant growth, faced challenges, and achieved notable milestones that have collectively fortified us as a team. This year welcomed new additions to our agency, with individuals showcasing impressive adaptability and dedication in various roles. Notable achievements include the establishment of a new Host Home in Johnson County and securing funding to broaden support for individuals and families. Tenured team members have consistently demonstrated leadership qualities, contributing to the overall strength of the team. In the realm of leadership, seamless transitions and mentorship have been key elements. The entire team has shown remarkable resilience in the face of changes, advocating for necessary modifications at both the state and agency levels. As we look forward, we express gratitude for the team's collective commitment, resilience, and perseverance. Here's to another year of growth, collaboration, and making a positive impact in the lives of those we serve.

Community Resources and Outreach | *Creating awareness and opportunities for inclusion*

In 2023, the Community Resources and Outreach Department achieved significant milestones through its dedicated efforts, particularly in the success of the Family Navigation program. Designed to assist individuals and families navigating the intricate Kansas City Regional Office intake process, often a months-long and overwhelming journey, the program has successfully guided 22 people through the intake process. This accomplishment not only showcases the program's effectiveness but also highlights our department's commitment to alleviating the challenges faced by those we serve. Moving forward, we remain steadfast in our mission, continuing to ease the intake process and ensuring that our community members can access essential resources with greater ease and confidence..

Administrative Services | *Developing staff to confidently provide resources and advocacy*

Throughout 2023, retaining our employees through development and training continued to be at the forefront of our minds. Our Administrative Services Department evolved in 2023 with the addition of the Quality Assurance position. This new position supports audits and training to ensure our targeted case managers are supporting our individuals in the best way possible while also ensuring quality of documentation. This position also assists with new intakes so that new individuals can be directed and work toward services that could best support them from day one. Finally, the position allows for the current Director of Administrative Services to focus on human resources tasks such as agency culture, benefits and preventing burnout—all essential in terms of retaining quality staff. We're excited to continue this SPARK of development and improvement concerning training and employee retention into 2024!

VALUES IN ACTION



ADVOCACY

In Missouri, proposed changes in funding for at-home disability care, particularly the recalibration of Self-Directed Services (SDS) rates, have stirred widespread concern within the advocacy community. The suggested reduction in these rates has spurred families to vocalize their discontent, underscoring the crucial role SDS rates play in facilitating the hiring of essential direct care staff. Families assert that these rates extend beyond mere financial figures; they serve as a lifeline, enabling the provision of necessary care and support for their loved ones with disabilities. The potential impact of lowered SDS rates on the well-being of individuals with disabilities has ignited a fervent movement, with families rallying to preserve a system they deem indispensable for ensuring the quality of care and assistance. Advocates emphasize the importance of maintaining SDS rates to sustain the critical support network that empowers families to navigate the complexities of at-home disability care effectively. In alignment with this cause, the Johnson County Board of Services stands in support of our families who are advocating for the retention of current SDS rates, recognizing the vitality of these rates and their role in enabling families to hire essential staff. The strength of SDS lies in empowering families and individuals to take charge of their care.



“NOTHING WILL WORK UNLESS YOU DO.”

— Maya Angelou





FAMILY FIRST

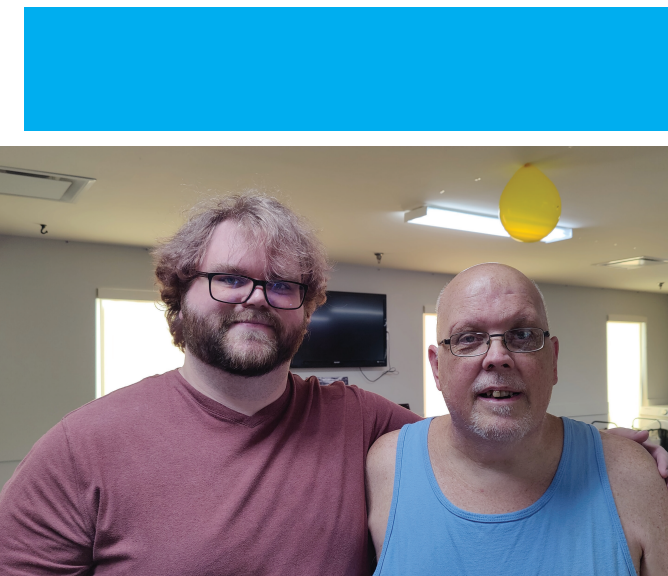
Targeted Case Management Lead, Shelly Taylor, dedicated over a year collaborating with one of our individuals and his parents to obtain specialized care for their adult child. The parents needed a lot of support because their child needed constant care, making everyday life tough. Shelly worked hard to get support by gathering important information for a Comprehensive waiver. Things got tough when the first attempt failed, but Shelly didn't give up. She appealed and, after a rough emotional ride, found out the individual's needs didn't score high enough for the waiver.

Despite this, Shelly stuck by the family, gathered more information, and did another assessment, this time getting a higher score. With a newfound hope, she got the waiver approved, giving the family a break, and putting the individual on the wait list. At the same time, Erica Wilson, our Quality Assurance lead, saw how difficult it was for the parents. She helped Shelly by finding a provider for Individualized Supporting Living services through Abilities LLC, which meant he was able to move out of his parent's home and into his own.

This change was big. The individual became more independent, and the parents didn't have to be full-time caregivers anymore. It meant the family could enjoy being a family without the heavy weight of constant care. It was a big win, not just on paper, but in real life.



Pictured Above (L to R): Quality Assurance Lead, Erica Wilson and Targeted Case Manager Lead, Shelly Taylor



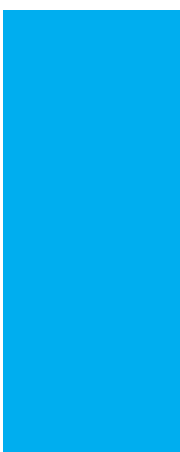


COMMUNICATION

In 2023, we continued our Get to Know Me series, spotlighting different individuals and their families. One of our favorite videos from this year was about Brandon Brown. His mother, Laura Brown, walked us through her journey towards finding out Brandon was diagnosed with Down Syndrome and who he's become today. One of our favorite moments from this video is when Laura is explaining that the medical staff asked if she knew what to do with a child who had Down Syndrome. She replies, "raise him like normal?"

These stories serve a purpose, fostering empathy and providing valuable support for families navigating similar paths. The importance of these stories lies in their ability to reassure others that they are not alone. By sharing experiences, we promote understanding and resilience, emphasizing that, despite the challenges, families can navigate the developmental disability world.

Laura's perspective reinforces the idea that, with the right support, every individual has a unique and valuable role in our community.



SB40 FUNDING HIGHLIGHT

In 2023, JCBS proudly supported equine therapy at The Barn Therapeutic Riding Center in Leeton, by providing scholarships for individuals who have developmental disabilities in Johnson County. By providing scholarship opportunities we've been able to help this organization make a profound impact on the lives of people with developmental disabilities. One of our favorites stories is about Finnean, a scholarship recipient who is diagnosed with muscular dystrophy.

Due to this diagnosis, Finnean lacked core strength which greatly affected his speech. Riding horses can greatly increase your core strength due to the rider constantly moving and switching positions to stay upright. Since the age of 3, Finnean has participated in equine therapy with his speech therapist. Befriending a horse named Bucky, Finnean found not only a new friend, but a source of inspiration for his speech development. From whispering the one syllable words "Buh" and "Kee" to clearly uttering Bucky's two syllable name within a few short weeks, Finnean was already making huge strides with his speech goals. While at the farm, Finnean also befriended an abandoned cat. This bond became so profound that, during a lesson, Finnean surprised everyone by asking, "Kitty ride too?"

Finnean's progress has truly been a testament to the power of equine therapy. We are privileged to have supported Finnean and his family during this journey and appreciate the service this wonderful agency provides.



“**THOSE WHO ARE HAPPIEST ARE THOSE WHO DO THE MOST FOR OTHERS.**”

— Booker T. Washington

2023 SB 40 EXPENDITURES

RISE COMMUNITY SERVICES
TRANSPORTATION

50%

CLIENT FUNDING

5%

BUILDINGS

27%

AUDIT, LEGAL, & DUES

1%

PARTNERSHIP
FOR HOPE

3%

SALARIES

13%

INSURANCE

1%

