

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



JOHNSON COUNTY
BOARD OF SERVICES



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We are deeply grateful for the incredible dedication of both of our Board of Directors. Over the past year, their unwavering commitment to our mission, insightful guidance, and dedicated support have been invaluable. Their leadership plays a crucial role in helping our agency excel and ensures we provide outstanding services to the families and individuals we serve. We are truly fortunate to have such a passionate and devoted group driving our mission forward. Thank you for making a difference!

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

2024 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Natasha Meddock – President
- Lesa Tracy – Vice President
- Jamie Brisbin – Treasurer
- Suzy Latore – Secretary
- Kim Jennings – Member
- Toni Hawley – Member
- Annette Matthews - Member
- Jenna Franklin – JCBS Board Liaison



We sincerely thank the Johnson County Commissioners for their steadfast support of the SB40 Tax Levy Funding. This critical funding profoundly impacts the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities in our community. At JCBS, we are honored to serve as stewards of these tax dollars, dedicated to ensuring every dollar is used to meaningfully enhance the well-being of those we support. With heartfelt gratitude, we remain committed to responsibly managing these resources to create positive and lasting change for individuals with developmental disabilities in Johnson County.

2024 JOHNSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER



I am excited to share this year's annual report and highlight the incredible work happening at Johnson County Board of Services (JCBS). In 2024, our team remained dedicated to our mission of Supporting People with developmental disabilities through Advocacy, Resources, and Kindness (SPARK).

We placed strong emphasis on listening to the families and individuals we serve. Through initiatives like JCBS Listens, targeted case management (TCM) surveys, and an unmet needs assessment, we gathered valuable feedback to better understand how we can meet the needs of our individuals, families, and community. These efforts allowed us to identify gaps, strengthen our services, inform our 2025 strategic plan, and prioritize what matters most to those we serve.

Our work would not be possible without the families, community partners, and supporters who share our vision of breaking down barriers and ensuring every individual has the opportunity to live their best life. The photos, stories, and data shared in this report highlight the progress we've made together.

I'd like to express my gratitude to our dedicated team, resilient families, supportive board members, and community stakeholders for making this progress possible. Together, we're building a more inclusive, Johnson County.

Thank you,

MELISSA FREY | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CELEBRATING MILESTONES

In 2024, we proudly marked 45 years of serving Johnson County and 15 years of providing Targeted Case Management. We also celebrated our longest-serving Targeted Case Managers, Katie Haynes and Morgan Mullins, as they reached their 5-year anniversaries. Their dedication and expertise have been instrumental in supporting the individuals and families we serve, and we are deeply grateful for their continued commitment to our mission.



FOUNDATION

The Foundation Board is proud to align with the mission of the Johnson County Board of Services: Supporting people with developmental disabilities through Advocacy, Resources, and Kindness. Since 2011, the steadfast support of individuals like you has enabled us to meet the needs of our neighbors facing intellectual and developmental disabilities, helping us achieve our financial goals year after year.

In 2024, thanks to your generosity, we provided over \$9,000 in funding to bridge gaps left uncovered by insurance or other resources. Collaborating closely with the Targeted Case Managers (TCMs) at the Johnson County Board of Services—who have an in-depth understanding of the unique needs of those they serve—we were able to cover costs for respite care, medical equipment, specialized food items, sensory items, equine therapy, and more. Additionally, we extended support to special education programs throughout Johnson County, further enhancing the opportunities available to individuals with developmental disabilities.

A heartfelt thank you to all our 2024 donors and sponsors for making these contributions possible.

BRUNCH & BUBBLY SPONSORS

IMPACT BUILDERS

- Abilities, LLC

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

- Blaine Whitworth Foundation
- Sheehan Financial
- F&C Bank
- Community National Bank & Trust
- Warrensburg Chrysler
- Johnson County Board of Services

INCLUSION BUILDERS

- The Home Team
- 360 Media
- Premier Lawn & Lighting
- State Fair Community College
- Ivory & Lace Bridal Boutique
- Warrensburg Quick Lube & Tire
- UCM Alumni Foundation

AWARENESS BUILDERS

- Briscoe Auto Service LLC
- Summers Pharmacy
- Fox Heating & Cooling
- Denise Markworth – Action Realty
- Gillum & Gillum CPA LLC
- Mid America Turf & Landscaping LLC
- Teresa Colster, CPA LLC
- Joe Good - State Farm Insurance
- Finnane & Robison Dental
- Ginny McTighe

OTHER

- Dennis & Deb Orr

SUMMER FOAM PARTY SPONSORS

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



FESTIVAL OF TREES DONORS

- Abilities LLC
- Aflac
- The Meddock Family
- American Water
- Stormy Taylor
- Johnson County Board of Services
- The Mitcheltree Family
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters
- Harris, Harris, Sommer & Peppard LLC
- Lisa Lemler
- Community National Bank & Trust
- Fairway Mortgage
- Survival House
- The Jennings Family
- Moonlit Petrichor
- Central Bank
- The Hargrave Family
- RISE Community Services
- Assured Partners
- Republic Trash Services
- F&C Bank
- The Barn Therapeutic
- 393rd Bomb Squadron, Whiteman AFB
- Suzy Latare
- The Harper Family
- Bailea Kelley
- Donna Bartlett
- Michelle Schubert
- Jamie Brisbin
- Melissa Frey

A BIG SHOUT-OUT

to Girl Scout Troop 1048 for their incredible generosity and dedication! These amazing scouts donated their time to lead our holiday craft station at the Festival of Trees event, creating a fun and festive experience for attendees.



We'd also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Former Senator David Pearce for serving as our auctioneer at both the Brunch & Bubbly and Festival of Trees events. Your support and involvement helped make these events truly special!





ADVOCACY

In 2024, one of our dedicated Targeted Case Managers, Molly Glover, helped turn a challenging situation into a story of hope and stability. The individual she worked with had unique triggers, such as exposure to news and politics, which made finding a suitable living arrangement difficult. After being moved multiple times, he was placed in a skilled nursing facility in Kansas City, far from the community he loved. Being away from his job and his favorite scooter rides left him feeling disconnected and frustrated, making it harder for him to thrive.



Molly was determined to help him find a place where he could feel happy and included. She worked tirelessly to secure a living arrangement that supported his well-being and sense of belonging. Although he didn't initially meet the usual requirements for Individualized Supported Living (ISL) services, Molly refused to give up. Using the Olmstead Act, she advocated for his return to the community and completed the process in just a few weeks—something that typically takes a year.

Now, he is thriving in his home. He's back in the community he loves, working his job, enjoying his scooter rides, and living with a renewed sense of purpose and joy. Those who knew him before are amazed by his progress and how much his life has transformed. This incredible story highlights the dedication and advocacy of case managers like Molly, who go the extra mile to create opportunities for people to succeed and live their best lives.

“TO BE AN ACTIVIST IS TO SPEAK. TO BE AN ADVOCATE IS TO LISTEN. SOCIETY CAN'T MOVE FORWARD WITHOUT BOTH.” —Eva Marie Lewis



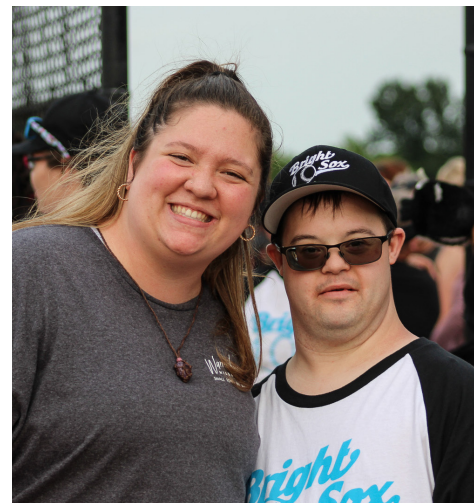
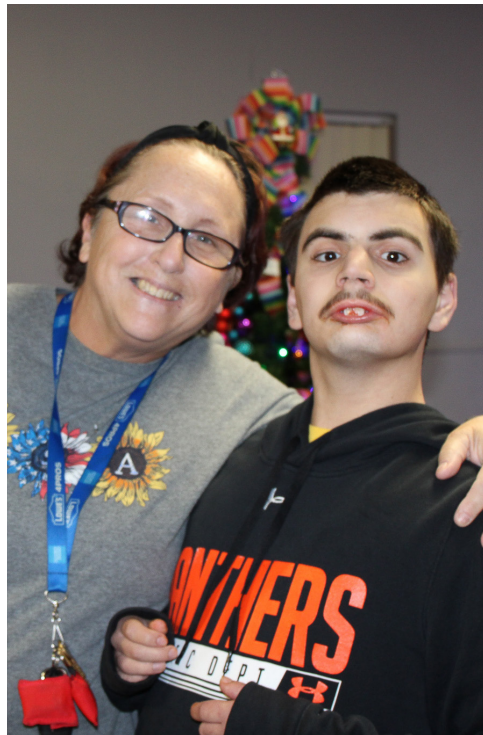


FAMILY FIRST

In 2024, we proudly hosted our first annual JCBS Listens event, an opportunity to connect directly with the stakeholders we serve and reinforce our commitment to the value of Families First. This event brought together individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and the agencies we collaborate with to engage in open, meaningful dialogue about our community and services. Attendees shared valuable insights on what is working well, highlighted areas in need of improvement, and expressed their aspirations and needs—not just from us, but from the broader community. The feedback gathered during JCBS Listens helped us identify key areas where advocacy is needed and underscored the importance of placing families at the heart of everything we do. This event served as a vital step in ensuring our efforts align with the needs of those we serve, fostering a stronger, more supportive community.



“ONE OF THE MOST SINCERE FORMS OF RESPECT IS ACTUALLY LISTENING TO WHAT ANOTHER HAS TO SAY.”
—Bryant H McGill





COMMUNICATION

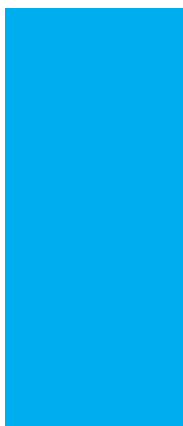
In 2024, Shelly Taylor, Robyn Snuffer, Noah Stites, and Melissa Frey took an 8-week American Sign Language (ASL) class through Warrensburg Parks and Recreation, taught by Ashley Perman. It wasn't just a class—it gave them practical tools to better connect with the people we serve.

Melissa didn't have to wait long to put what she learned into action. At Special Olympics bowling, where athletes come together for fun and friendly competition, she got to use her new skills to connect with Rebecca, one of our athletes. Melissa said, "I was surprised how quickly I could use what I learned from the ASL class, but Special Olympics bowling was the perfect opportunity! It not only helped me connect with Rebecca, but it also reminded me how small efforts can make a big difference in creating inclusive moments."

This experience is a great reminder that even small efforts—like learning a few signs—can make a big impact.



“SIGN LANGUAGE IS NOT JUST A LANGUAGE; IT'S A CULTURE, A COMMUNITY, AND A BRIDGE TO INCLUSION.” —Unknown



DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

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

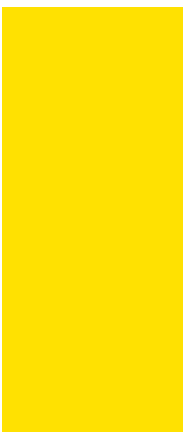
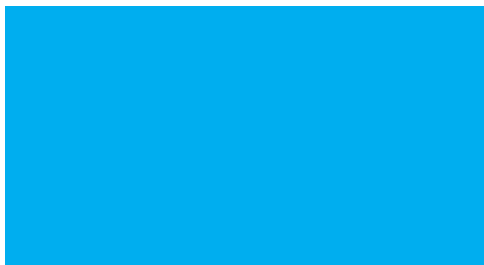
The TCM Department made great progress by managing 45 client transitions, completing 318 DMH Waiver packets with a 98% approval rate, and securing 39 new waivers and 9 successful appeals. We improved our processes with a new task list for transitions and received positive feedback for our well-organized ISPs. The team adapted to new systems, celebrated milestones like Morgan and Katie's 5-year anniversaries, and had no staff turnover. Our advocacy efforts and community involvement helped ensure individuals received the services they needed. Looking ahead to 2025, we're excited to continue building on these successes and supporting our families.

Community Resources and Outreach | *Fostering connections and creating inclusive opportunities*

This year, the Community Resources and Outreach Department made great strides in supporting our community. We successfully guided 34 individuals and families through the Family Navigation program, helping them navigate the complex Kansas City Regional Office intake process. We also launched JCBS Listens, an initiative designed to connect with the community and better understand their needs, and began work on a sensory garden at Hawthorne Park to create an inclusive and engaging outdoor space. In addition, we welcomed a Marketing Outreach Specialist to strengthen our ability to share resources and build connections.

Administrative Services | *Streamlining support for resources and advocacy*

The Administrative Department achieved several significant milestones. We enhanced quality assurance processes by assisting with designing and implementing multiple trackers in Monday Work Management that assist in improving services. Office remodeling efforts continued, including new carpets in common areas and the addition of an accessible bathroom with an adult changing table. We also began comprehensive in-house audits of targeted case management processes, such as ISP Addendums and Annual Documents.



SB40 FUNDING HIGHLIGHT

In partnership with Warrensburg Parks and Recreation, we started an exciting sensory garden project in 2024 to create an inclusive space for all visitors. This garden will feature a textured garden, a winding sensory trail, and sound-producing equipment to engage multiple senses.

In 2024, we provided Warrensburg Parks and Recreation with \$25,000 to help start the project. With these funds, they paved an ADA-compliant parking lot for better accessibility and began work on the sensory trail. A perimeter fence was also added to improve safety and create a more welcoming environment. Additional plans include interactive sensory stations and seating areas designed to accommodate individuals with mobility challenges, ensuring a fully accessible experience for all.

We are thrilled to be working with Warrensburg Parks and Recreation on this impactful project because every park should be inclusive. This sensory garden will provide a safe and engaging space for visitors of all abilities to enjoy by the end of 2025. We look forward to seeing the community come together in this space, fostering connection, exploration, and joy for years to come.



CHANGE WILL NOT COME IF WE WAIT FOR SOME OTHER PERSON OR SOME OTHER TIME. WE ARE THE ONES WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR. WE ARE THE CHANGE THAT WE SEEK.

— Former President Barack Obama

2024 SB 40 EXPENDITURES

SALARIES AND BENEFITS

25%

AUDIT, LEGAL, DUES AND INSURANCE

1%

JCBS BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE

14%

RISE BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE

36%

RISE TRANSPORTATION

13%

PARTNERSHIP FOR HOPE

2%

CLIENT FUNDING

9%

