

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



ballard center

Changing Lives since 1965



STAFF

Becky Price, Chief Executive Officer
Kyle Roggenkamp, Director of Development & Programs
Charlotte Marthaler, Chief Operating Officer
Meg Pearson, Outreach & Communications Director
Sissy Krehbiel, Education Program Director
Allie Richardson, Education Coordinator
Claire Gallagher, Pantry Services Coordinator
Chelsea Steinbach, Cook and Education Support
Elliot Klopp, Education, IT, Building & Grounds Support



OUR TEACHERS

**Josh Baker | Kat Geddings | Adia Gloeckner | Dora Gonzalez |
Gabi Howard | Judy Keifer | Amelia Neuhaus | Margaret Madsen |
Katie Maitland | Mitra Pakravan |
Rachael Washington | Conner Wiggins**

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michelle Chronister, Chair | **John Krehbiel**, Vice Chair | **Greg Gardner**, Treasurer | **Lauren Davis**, Secretary | **Elly Claussen | Pam Cullerton | Walt Jamison | Steven Koprince | Rosemary O'Leary | Chris Schmid | Jim Smiley |
Dr. Scott Thellman | Kim Rack**



Mission: The Ballard Center partners with individuals and families to achieve stability through early childhood education and needs-based services by cultivating a strong network of organizations, businesses and individuals dedicated to serving our community.

Vision: At Ballard, we envision a community where every child and family has access to resources and support to reach their goals of stability, safety, health and well-being.

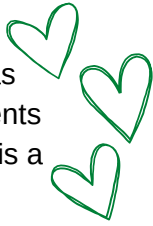


LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

I say it every year, but I am simply blown away by the support we receive from this resilient, caring and amazing community. Thank you for joining us in this magnificent opportunity to do wonderful things for individuals, children and families in our community facing the burden of poverty.

Our crisis funding capacity almost tripled over the past year. We went from serving 529 household members with family stabilization assistance in 2021 to 1,388 household members in 2022. Some of these are families that are not houseless today because of the work done at Ballard.

Ballard's *Get Set for School* curriculum aligns with the Kansas Kindergarten Readiness quality standards, and Ballard students graduating to kindergarten scored an average of 95%! Each is a child better prepared for future academic and social success than kids without an early childhood education.



Through the generosity of this wonderful community, we've had a record-breaking year and served more families and individuals with dignity and compassion so that they not only stabilized, but also thrived more than ever. Some just needed a helping hand to make ends meet; others were facing a crisis that was completely out of their control such as a death, a divorce, or medical bills.

Together, hand in hand, we are proving yet again that anything truly is possible when you are surrounded by incredible people.

Because together, anything is possible.

Handwritten signature of Becky Price in black ink.

Becky Price



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR:

WHAT A YEAR! As I pore over the 2022 end-of-the-year statistics, I am BLOWN AWAY! You, our staff, volunteers and donors have created sustainable change through your dedication and hard work.

It's one thing to see how we as a family help the most vulnerable in our community day in and day out, but to witness the long-term impact of sharing our time, treasure and talents to secure the future of our mission is breathtaking.

The focus of our Education Department to create a lasting, positive influence on our children, more than doubling our numbers through our pantry services and directly keeping more households than ever from experiencing homelessness was achievable thanks to the determination of our community to do the right thing when nobody was looking.

You have given your time, talents and resources to help us move mountains and all of our efforts are paying off. We are well on our way to expanding our space to meet the needs of our Douglas County family, not just for today but for years to come. I'm looking forward to the day when a person in need of help will be able to sit down and have a private conversation with Ballard staff to find the path to self-sustainability. You did this!

I am humbled by your generosity and vision and deeply honored to be a part of Ballard. Thank you so very much.

Sincerely,

Michelle Chronister



2022 AT A GLANCE

200+

Children & families benefitted from our Early Childhood Education program.

1,388

Household members received rent/utility assistance and stabilization resources.

684

Household members impacted by our holiday Adopt-a-Family program.

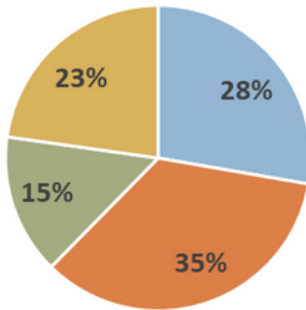
6,972

Household members impacted by our pantry services.

8,337

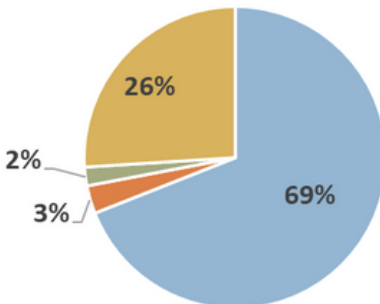
Community members served at our Mobile Food Distribution.

2022 INCOME TOTAL: \$1,128,710



- Donations
- Local Grants & Foundations
- Fundraising Events
- Tuition

2022 EXPENSES TOTAL: \$887,739

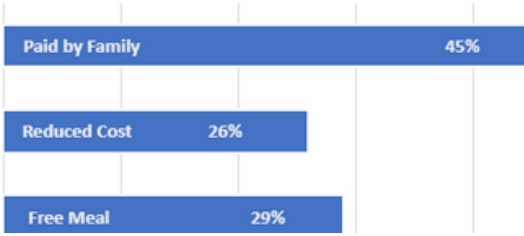


- Program Expenses
- Fundraising
- Repairs & Maintenance
- Operations

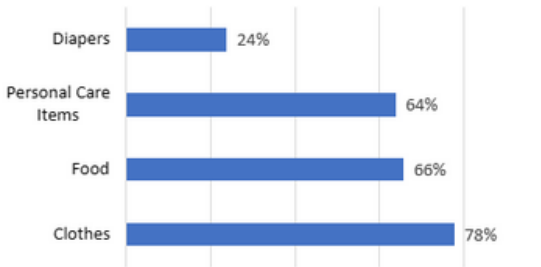


EARLY EDUCATION DEMOGRAPHICS

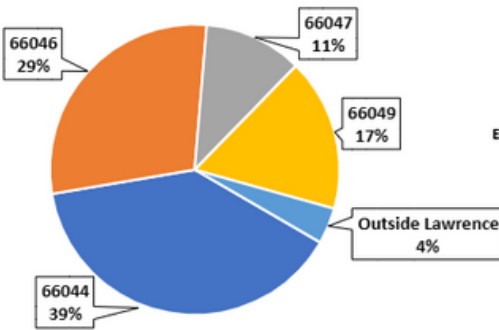
Students Income Levels as Defined by Meal Category



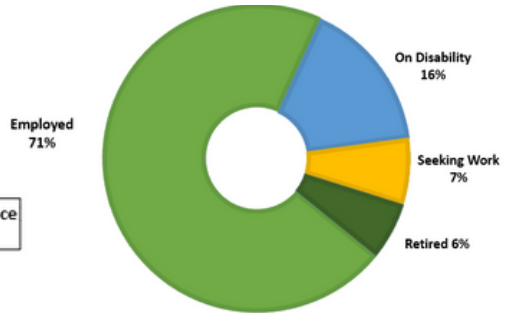
FAMILY STABILIZATION DEMOGRAPHICS



Employment Status of Those Receiving Crisis Funding



Zip Codes of Individuals Receiving Crisis Funding



Percent of Clients Receiving Pantry Goods



Early Childhood Education

Ballard is committed to preparing students to lead happy, productive lives socially, emotionally and academically. We prepare students for kindergarten through a blend of play-based academic and social-emotional curriculums. Ballard's early childhood education program helps bridge the gap between home and school by offering affordable childcare and providing wrap-around services for families through our Family Stabilization program.



In 2022, we continued to enrich student lives in numerous ways by partnering with community resources. For example, Ballard kids were able to participate in the Watkins Museum Summer Games program, grow sweet potatoes at the Common Ground Community Garden, and receive books from the Lawrence Public Library Dottie bookmobile. A local university sorority, Pi Beta Phi, contributed hundreds of volunteer hours providing playground and classroom support each week and organizing events.



To assure that our students have the greatest opportunity for success, we again collaborated with community partners to provide children with speech, vision, hearing and dental screenings so that identified problems can be addressed early and lessen the impact on a child's learning during this critical developmental stage. Students also benefited from play therapy provided pro bona by a clinical psychologist as well as speech, occupational therapy and screenings for children with IEPs provided on-site by USD 497 staff. Volunteers provide instruction for art lessons, playground supervision and one-on-one reading time.



PROGRAMS

Family Stabilization

Family crisis is something that has become heightened over the last few years in our community.

The need for resources has never been higher, and Ballard has responded in creative ways to support our community during these trying times.



The 2022 calendar year was a record-breaking year for Ballard's capacity to serve families facing a crisis. We tripled our output helping 1,388 household members avoid eviction or utility disconnect, obtain necessary vehicle repairs and so much more.

Our Help Team has worked tirelessly to connect as many individuals and families as possible with stabilization resources. We developed the Pantry Depot where local businesses and faith-based groups are filling gaps in our pantry with items like diapers, wipes, laundry detergent, new underwear, socks, food and other essential items.

Throughout the year, Ballard provides family stabilization resources that include crisis rent and utility funding, emergency financial assistance, Help Team care coordination, free pantries for food, clothing, personal care items, diapers and professional clothing for work.

Our Mobile Food Distribution pantry provides hundreds with groceries twice a month. In addition, hundreds of children receive holiday gifts from Ballard donors during our Adopt-a-Family Holiday Bureau. We are honored to provide families with these vital resources and could not do it without community support.



THE STORY OF A BALLARD GRANDMOTHER



A paternal grandmother of two Ballard students came to Ballard for help when she was suddenly given custody of the two girls. The grandmother and her son had been alienated from the girls since the youngest girl was three months old.

The girls were placed in protective custody with the state when the youngest one was released from the hospital after experiencing trauma at just two years old. Children's Mercy confirmed that she had been the victim of abuse at the hands of her mother, and that it had been going on for a while. It was at this time that the grandmother's son confided that he had been in an abusive relationship but had no idea that the kids were being abused.

Six days after the hospital visit and jumping through countless hoops, the grandmother was given custodial rights. Before the girls could move in, she was given 24 hours to bring her home up to Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) standards as well as gather a long list of items to secure in order to meet compliance. She called Ballard to explain the urgency of her situation and was desperate to find affordable childcare so she could get back to work.

Within 24 hours, Ballard staff secured every item on the list (from beds to diapers and everything in between). The next challenge was that the girls could not attend Ballard until they were given DCF's "red book". Ballard staff made countless calls and hounded DCF until the "red book" with their shot records was handed over, which took 10 days. Meanwhile, Ballard held the girls' spots without any fee and gathered the required items that all kids need to start school.

Ballard helped the grandmother get in touch with a pediatrician for the girls. Both girls, because of the abusive environment, are socially, emotionally, and cognitively behind. Ballard helped get the girls access to social and emotional evaluations and future support through the school district.





Ballard provided an on-site therapist to meet with the girls once a week and, as it does with many families facing trauma, Ballard dedicated its own social and emotional teaching staff to work with the girls during their recovery from the setbacks caused by abuse.

The grandmother said, "I could not have done that alone. The system is broken for all abused children. It is hard to navigate, there is high turnover with staff, and there is no consistency. It is frankly unacceptable that without Ballard, I would have been unable to navigate that system. So many children end up in foster care because good people like me cannot navigate the system. Ballard showed me the path, kept me on it, and showed my family love along the way. They are experts in this type of thing. They are what I needed and still need to get through it.

"Most importantly, Ballard was always just a text away for me. They were my lifeline when I felt so alone. During the holidays, they even took care of the gifts for the girls because they knew I was overwhelmed with everything. You have to understand, the long-lasting effects of abuse do not go away quickly. The girls have struggled with their emotions. Night terrors, rash behaviors, anger, and sadness. All of these effects of abuse and trauma were witnessed firsthand by Ballard teachers and staff. They have seen the breakdowns; they have seen the impacts of trauma on these beautiful girls. Ballard has never given up on these kids, and they have never given up on me.

"I know that any other center would have moved on. They would not have taken on the additional stress of working with two kids that have faced abuse and the negative outcomes that have followed. They would not have dealt with the outbursts, the anger, and the sadness that children express as they try to cope with trauma. Everyone else would have moved on to the next family with children that have not been negatively impacted by abuse. Not Ballard. They stuck by our side, and I can never thank them enough and I will never give up on these girls, and neither will Ballard."



Ballard's Volunteers



**CONTRIBUTED OVER
7,220 HOURS
OF SERVICE TO
BALLARD IN
2022.**



**ADDED A VALUE OF
MORE THAN
\$215,240 THROUGH
THEIR TIME AND
SERVICES.**

One of Ballard's 2022 goals was to expand the capacity of our volunteer program. Over the course of 2022, data was collected to measure this initiative's success.



As a result, our volunteer program engaged 659 unique volunteers and 42 community service minded groups in 2022!



HEROES AMONG US



CT Design + Development has played a vital role in Ballard's ability to build an addition to our historic building in 2023. From the conception of the building addition idea, Principals Connor Treanor and Chris Cunningham have volunteered their time and talent to Ballard for everything from designs to securing the grant funding and navigating the process with contractors and meeting compliance with the City of Lawrence.

CT DESIGN + DEVELOPMENT



Without Connor and Chris helping Ballard along the way, the dream of an addition would have never been possible. This project is a generational game-changer for Ballard and the deserving clients we serve. Connor and Chris will always be remembered as the heroes that greatly increased our impact in Douglas County. We are forever grateful for the support of these heroes!



KEN & JOANN CLOUSE

Ken and JoAnn Clouse have been incredible Ballard supporters for years. The word "hero" sums up what they mean to us.

JoAnn provides staff with homemade cookies, holiday gift cards and makes sure to remind them that their work matters. In addition, Ken has done everything from renovating bathrooms, to fixing fences, faucets, flooring and so much more! Anytime something breaks in our 108-year-old building, Ken and JoAnn are always our first call. They have saved us thousands of dollars through the years.



The children at Ballard love Ken and JoAnn, who always take the time to talk to the children and give out high fives. We all love you, Ken and JoAnn!

**Read up on all of
Ballard's amazing
achievements from
2022!**

ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

The Education Program increased resources for families by creating Goal-Oriented Success Plans. These plans also improved collaboration between parents and teachers and helped provide early intervention for the students that developmental screenings.



A Service Enterprise is an organization that operates with a culture of volunteerism that enables it to fundamentally leverage volunteers and their skills to achieve its social mission.

Ballard became a Service Enterprise and joined the top 11% of high performing nonprofits in 2022. By implementing Service Enterprise practices, Ballard grew its volunteer program from 101 volunteers in 2021 to 659 in 2022.

The Family Stabilization expanded our Help Team to include Somos Lawrence volunteers, legal experts and AmeriCorps Kansas members which resulted in a tripling of crisis services in 2022. This change was made possible by having more experts to focus on each client to provide more robust crisis support, longer care coordination, legal guidance and services in Spanish.



To support all this organizational growth and ensure that Ballard will be able to serve our community for years to come we have also set a plan in motion to expand. The Ballard Center has been working with CT Design and Development and have completed the plans to address Ballard's critical need for additional space. In fact, we will be building a 1,800 square foot addition on the west side of our current building!

Ballard has secured funds to complete this expansion which will house our pantry and Family Stabilization staff, allowing every inch of our beloved old building to be used for our Early Childhood Education program.

The funds also have allowed Ballard to give the original building some upgrades including a new accessibility lift, a new roof, a new HVAC system and a fully renovated kitchen!





Join the Ballard Family

WWW.BALLARDCENTER.ORG

If there's one thing we've learned, it's that with you by our side we can make monumental impacts in the lives of the countless families currently struggling in our community. Here are a few ways you can become a part of the Ballard family and join others dedicated to fighting the impacts of poverty.

- 1 Many businesses in Douglas County donate time and services on behalf of our clients. Your business, your time and your talents can make a difference in the lives of others!
- 2 Hold a drive to raise food, clothing, diapers or personal care items for our pantry.
- 3 Valued community members advocate and serve on many committees that focus on helping Ballard achieve its mission.
- 4 Volunteer with our education program or help out in our pantry to ensure individuals and families have access to necessary items.
- 5 Monetary donations support all our programs directly.



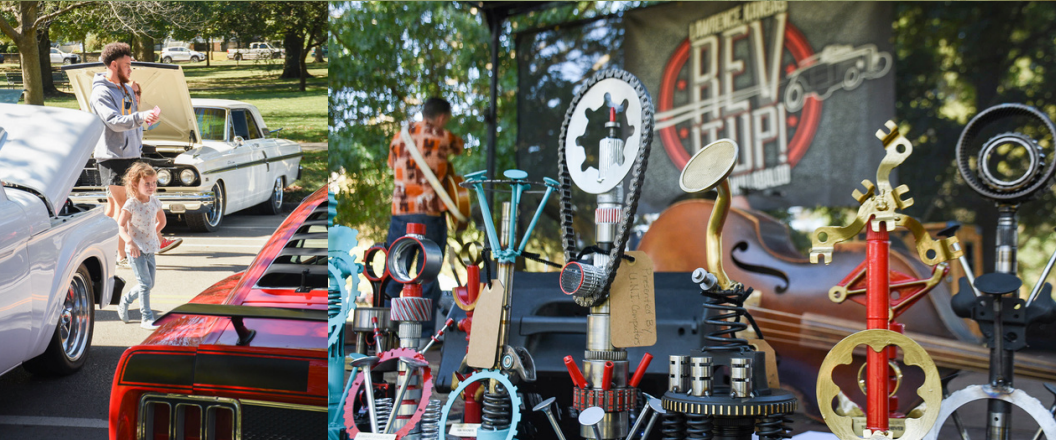
• THREE-STAR CHARITY •



CHANGING LIVES GALA



REV IT UP



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708 Elm St. Lawrence, KS 66044
(785) 842-0729
WWW.BALLARDCENTER.ORG



@BallardCenterKS



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