



WE HAVE MOVED!

323 POYNTZ, SUITE 101
MANHATTAN, KS 66502

NEW PHONE NUMBER:
785-205-2970



2022 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

- POSITIVELY IMPACTED MORE THAN 550 LOCAL CHILDREN & FAMILIES
- RENOVATED AND MOVED ALL THREE AGENCIES INTO ONE NEW SPACE
- OUR VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED 2,643 HOURS TO OUR COMMUNITY
- HOSTED 1ST ANNUAL WABASH ON THE PRAIRIE FUNDRAISER FOR SUNFLOWER CHILDREN'S COLLECTIVE



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

SUNFLOWER CHILDREN'S COLLECTIVE

We are no longer Sunflower CASA Project. We are Sunflower Children's Collective. We changed the name of our agency in 2022 to give each of our three agencies the credit they were due. Sunflower CASA was a household name, but the other two, Stepping Stones CAC and Sunflower Bridge CEVC weren't. To spark the question "Who is Sunflower Children's Collective?" we chose our new name. We know you'll grow to love it and think of Sunflower Children's Collective as fondly as you have always thought of Sunflower CASA Project.

In 2022, we not only changed our name and moved locations, but we also kept up with the ever-growing need for our services from CASAs needing to be trained and appointed to child in need of care cases, to increased requests for forensic interviews conducted by our CAC, and to providing more supervised visitations and exchanges than ever before.

In December of 2022, our staff and board took on the massive task of moving all three agencies, on the same day, into one new location. We managed, and now, by March, we're movin' and groovin' stronger than ever and happy to have things most offices take for granted, such as actual offices with doors for privacy, a staff kitchenette, a conference room, and yes, even a self-care room so our staff can unwind and destress.

Sunflower CASA and Sunflower Bridge CEVC are hosting training in our new conference/meeting room and the new recruits have no idea how good they have it. Stepping Stones CAC has brand new forensic interview equipment and soundproof walls, and Sunflower Bridge CEVC is enjoying its new family space with room for two couches, a table, chairs, and all of the games and toys any family could need to continue building bonds, even when court-ordered to meet under supervised conditions.

We are so grateful to be able to serve our community better than ever in our new space.

See you in September at Wabash on the Prairie,

Executive Director

START
HERE

GET INVOLVED

- Become a trained CASA
- Become a trained CEVC observer
- Become a board member
- Become a committee member and work on
 - fundraising
 - programmatic needs
 - community awareness
 - policy & procedure

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Meagan Cramer
Vice President: Pamela Polk
Secretary: Jenna Tripodi-McIlwee
Treasurer: Rebecca Claar

Florence Cornish
Shannon Horton
Shanna Jager
Brian Johnson
George Lauppe
Leah McKeeman
Scott Seel

Interested in serving on the board?
Let us know!





SUNFLOWER BRIDGE CEVC

CEVC: Child Exchange & Visitation Center

Substance abuse. Mental health challenges. Domestic violence. Child abuse and neglect. Estrangement. These are all reasons why a court may order supervised visits between a parent and their children. In each of these situations, the court believes it is in the best interest for the children to stay connected to both parents but has concerns for the safety of the children if the family is unsupervised. That's where we come in. We provide a welcoming, safe and neutral space for families to re-connect with each other. They meet regularly, eat together, play together and catch-up. Without our services, courts would be left with the extreme choices to 1. sever the connection between a family or 2. possibly put the children in an unsafe situation. We offer a third option. Families come to our center to keep and grow their bonds until they can resolve the safety concerns that brought them to us in the first place.

CEVC STATS

Child Exchange & Visitation Center

- 22 Families Served
- 353 Total Supervised Visits & Exchanges
- 29 Volunteers Providing Services

CEVC PROGRAM EXPENSES

\$101,010.00

- 74% of Total Expenses for Salary & Benefits
- 26% of Total for Facility, Supplies, and Training



CEVC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are looking for volunteers who can help us in our mission to provide families a welcoming, safe and neutral place to connect and strengthen the relationship between parent and child. If this sounds compelling, call or email for details on the upcoming training.

Our Previous Office Space



NEW CONTACT INFO:

Sunflower Children's Collective
323 Poyntz, Suite 101
Manhattan, KS 66502
785-205-2970

www.sunflowerchildrenscollective.org



We are always appreciative of any assistance, be it volunteerism or financial. To make a donation, please send a check to our new address or visit our website.



SUNFLOWER CASA

CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates

Our CASA has been in our community for a long time (35 years!) which is why we were known for so long as the Sunflower CASA Project. Even though our umbrella name has changed to Sunflower Children's Collective, our CASA program continues to do the same hard and necessary work it's done for the past three decades. We still train volunteers to walk hand-in-hand with child victims of abuse and neglect, advocating for whatever they need to ensure the best outcomes. We still offer support to our volunteers as they are meeting with teachers, and therapists and writing court reports on behalf of the child. We still need volunteers to train to become CASAs. All of these things, we still do every single day. We look to this community to help us continue to work for the child victims of abuse and neglect by volunteering, attending fundraising events, offering donations, and spreading the word about the hard work that Sunflower CASA performs.



STEPPING STONES CAC

CAC: Child Advocacy Center

In communities without a Child Advocacy Center – and there are many in Kansas – when there are allegations of child abuse, the child is most likely taken to the police station to share the details of what's happened to them in a foreboding room. They are asked to re-live their trauma again and again, in rooms and with people that can be intimidating. Our Stepping Stones Child Advocacy Center exists to avoid that type of situation. Working alongside our partner agencies, our highly trained staff performs forensic interviews with children in a welcoming location with the goal of reducing trauma for children. We also provide advocacy support for the families of the children long after the forensic interview. In recent years, the number of interviews and requests to appear in court have increased as we establish our services as a critical step in situations of child abuse allegations. We don't anticipate the need for our services to slow down and are prepared to grow to meet the needs of our community.

CASA STATS

- 46 CASA Volunteers and 3 Staff served 115 Children
- CASA Volunteers contributed 1,638 hours of service
- 20 New CASAs trained to serve child victims of abuse & neglect

2022 CASA PROGRAM EXPENSES

\$284,717.00

- 85% of Total Expenses pays for 3 Full-Time Staff's Salary & Benefits



CASA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are looking for more volunteers to advocate for the best interests of children and youth who come into the court system of the 21st and 2nd Judicial Districts. For more information, call or email for details on the upcoming training this summer!

CAC STATS

- 157 Forensic Interviews Conducted
- Over 200 Families Received Advocacy
- 53 Partners Trained through Educational Presentations

2022 CAC PROGRAM EXPENSES

\$286,010.00

- 81% of Total Expenses pays for 3 Full-Time Staff's Salary & Benefits

Scan to
DONATE
TODAY



Thank You!

FRIDAY, APRIL 21



**GROW GREEN
MATCH DAY**

SEPT. 17: 3-7:30 PM



2nd Annual
Wabash
ON THE PRAIRIE

LAZY T RANCH, MANHATTAN, KS

In 2022, we showcased the KSU Marching Band, the Manhattan Municipal Band, and the Classy Cats for a concert in the Flint Hills at sunset. This year, we'll have those same awesome performers, but we are also expanding this event to include more live music, food trucks, and family fun options. Keep an eye on our website for news and tickets for this event.

2023
save
the
dates



**2022
Wabash
Sponsors**

