2011 Annual Report

Message to the Community

United Community Services provides leadership to help Johnson County public, private and voluntary entities develop and maintain an effective response to human needs. Board and staff are heartened by all we have achieved in 2011. We believe it has been particularly important to raise awareness of increasing poverty in Johnson County and its implications for organizations and policy makers.

The 2011 Human Service Summit focused on the issue of growing poverty. The 150 attendees worked in 12 small groups to discuss the question, **"If we were really serious about reducing poverty in Johnson County what are the things that need to be done?"** The responses were grouped into common themes. This list serves as a reminder that local, state and federal policy decisions play a critical role an effective response to poverty.

- The most frequent type of response focused on **improvements** needed in the **community infrastructure**. In other words, jobs at a living wage, transportation alternatives and affordable housing.
- The next most frequent response addressed the need to **raise awareness** about growing poverty in order to reduce stigma, generate greater community awareness and inform public policy decisions.
- Support for **public education** was another theme, particularly **early learning programs** as a proven effective strategy to reduce poverty in the long-term.
- Various suggestions to **strengthen the safety net and improve service delivery** – both public and private – were offered by several of the small groups.
- Another theme addressed increasing **access to information** about services in order to connect people to the help they might need.

Looking ahead, UCS will continue to serve our community by advocating for policy choices that effectively promote positive outcomes for vulnerable people, leading collaborations to improve human service delivery, leveraging resources to increase capacity of service providers, and providing information and trends analysis.

Our work would not be possible without the support and active participation of human service providers, advocates, elected officials, community partners and funders. We acknowledge and thank them all, with special recognition of our primary funders – United Way of Greater Kansas City, the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners and local city governments.

Carol Gonzales, UCS Board President

Karen Wulfkuhle, Executive Director

Major Accomplishments

On a contractual basis, UCS staff provided **United Way of Greater Kansas City** with regional data collection and analysis, and assistance with implementation of United Way's Community Impact Agenda. UCS provided the primary research and data analysis for Community Needs and Trends Assessments for each United Way building block - Education, Income and Health.

*One of UCS' unique roles is to **raise awareness of human service issues** in Johnson County and across the Kansas City metropolitan area. While every human service organization works to raise awareness about the need that it addresses, UCS examines human service trends and system-wide issues to focus on the "big-picture." In 2011 UCS:*

- Hosted the 10th Annual **Human Service Summit** on June 14, 2011. The 150 people in attendance heard about growing suburban poverty from Elizabeth Kneebone, Brookings Institution, and participated in small group discussion. A Summary Report from the Summit is available at *www.ucsjoco.org*. In addition to the Summit, UCS in partnership with United Way of Greater Kansas City hosted a meeting for metro-area funders to hear Kneebone's presentation.

- Provided **informational presentations** on county and regional human service trends to various groups. Many of the presentations are available on the UCS web site.

- **Communicated information** about human service needs and issues by way of e-newsletters and postal newsletters. UCS produced Fact Sheets were included with e-newsletters and posted to the UCS website.

To raise awareness and **recognize contributions** that improve the quality of life for Johnson County residents, UCS presented three awards at its annual meeting in December.

- Citizen of the Year - Fred Logan
- Distinguished Public Service Award - Senator Tim Owens
- Excellence in Community Service - BackSnack Program -
  Harvesters the Community Food Network and Johnson County Faith Community Partners

Asbury United Methodist Church	St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
Community of Christ Church, Olathe	St. Andrew Christian Church
Gardner Church of the Nazarene	St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Hands to Hearts KC	St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal Church
Merriam Christian Church	St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church
New Journey Church	Village Presbyterian Church

Fred Logan
and UCS board member Brad Stratton

Harvesters Board President Mary McClure
and UCS board member Brent McCune

Senator Tim Owens
And UCS board member Jill Quigley

*UCS **leveraged resources** to support the human service infrastructure and **provided leadership for community action** around families and children, poverty and homelessness, substance abuse and the improvement of human services.*

The Children's Coordinating Council. To better address the needs of vulnerable children and families, UCS convenes a collaboration of 35 service providers and facilitates related work groups.

The Johnson County Continuum of Care on Homelessness. UCS acts as the convener for the Continuum, which is made up of 30+ service providers. The Continuum, with UCS' support, is responsible for submission of Johnson County's application for federal homelessness funding and the biennial homelessness count. In 2011, local agencies requested $417,721 from HUD.

In 2011, UCS continued work initiated in 2009 to improve the response to adults with mental health needs who are in contact with the criminal justice system. **The Consumer Project,** with support from a grant from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, helped advance recommendations from the **Mental Health and Criminal Justice Intercept Project** to improve information sharing. Two specific strategies were developed and implemented through the collaborative work of three mental health consumer support groups, the Mental Health Center and justice system partners. The premise alert form will make a responding law enforcement officer aware that someone at the premise may have a mental illness. The voluntary medical information form, used after arrest, is completed by family/significant other to convey information.

UCS Staff
Front row (l-r) Donna Zimmerman, Valorie Carson.
Back row (l-r) Karen Wulfkuhle, Marya Schott

UCS' 2011 Public Policy Platform focused on influencing policy choices that promote positive outcomes for people. UCS co-hosted a public policy forum with United Way of Greater Kansas City to inform human service providers and advocates about legislative activity. Key advocacy areas were investment in early learning, improvements in Driving Under Influence laws and retaining the state refundable Earned Income Tax Credit. A 2012 platform and policy principles were adopted in November.

To leverage resources for programs that target economic security and personal safety, UCS manages the **Human Service Fund**. With funding from 13 cities and the Board of County Commissioners, $239,625 was awarded to 12 programs in 2011. More than 40,000 people benefited from these programs. During 2012, $256,500 will be awarded to programs through commitments secured by UCS.

The Drug and Alcoholism Council of Johnson County. On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners and eight cities, the Council oversees the allocation of local **Alcohol Tax Funds** to substance abuse prevention and treatment programs. More than 45,000 people benefited from programs funded in part by Alcohol Tax Funds in 2011. For 2012, jurisdictions committed to allocate $1.3 million to 24 programs.

2011 Financial Review

Revenue	
United Way of Greater KC	*$165,000*
Human Service Fund	*$239,885*
Government Grants & Contracts	*$179,970*
Private Grants & Contributions	*$ 68,600*
Miscellaneous	*$ 13,450*
Un-audited Total	*$666,905*
Expenses	
Community Planning	$262,980
Drug & Alcoholism Council	$ 72,230
Human Service Fund Grants	$239,885
Admin/Fundraising	$ 64,440
Un-audited Total	$639,535

Audited Financials for 2011 will be available in June 2012.
For additional financial information, contact UCS.

UCS Board of Directors

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Marie Ramirez
Kimberly Reene
Samantha Shannon
Carmen Williams
Sally Williams

Major Funding Support

United Way of Greater Kansas City

Corporate, Foundation, Government and Other Funders

10th Judicial District Court
Ash Grove Cement
Amerigroup
Compass Financial
Community Development Block Grant
Fidelity Charitable Fund
Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City
Jagoda Family Foundation
Johnson County Government
Johnson County Mental Health Center
Johnson County Young Matrons
Merck Partnership for Giving
REACH Healthcare Foundation
Temple B'nai Jehudah
White Goss Bowers March Schulte and Weisenfels

Individuals

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Stephen Tatum
Becky and Jim Tilden
Dennis Jay Tucker
Robert Vancrum
Melissa Witcher
Eugene Wilson
Marc Wilson
Bev Wittenborn
Karen Wulfkuhle

Alcohol Tax Fund and Human Service Fund Partners

Alcohol Tax Fund participating jurisdictions: Gardner, Leawood, Lenexa, Mission, Olathe, Overland Park, Prairie Village, Shawnee and Johnson County Government.

Human Service Fund contributing jurisdictions: Gardner, Leawood, Lenexa, Merriam, Mission, Olathe, Overland Park, Prairie Village, Roeland Park, Shawnee, Spring Hill, Westwood, Westwood Hills and Johnson County Government.

United Community Services of Johnson County is a §501(c) (3) organization. Contributions to UCS are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Every attempt was made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please report any errors to us so that we may correct our record