

NEK-CAP News

Fall Edition ~ September 2016

Serving Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, Jewell, Leavenworth, Marshall, Mitchell, Nemaha, Osborne, Pottawatomie, Republic, Riley, Smith, and Washington Counties.



NEK-CAP's Mission

We provide comprehensive education and social services to low-income community members through collaborative partnerships focused on promoting family development, empowerment, and economic security.

The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

From the Executive Director's Desk

Submitted by Jeanette Collier, Executive Director

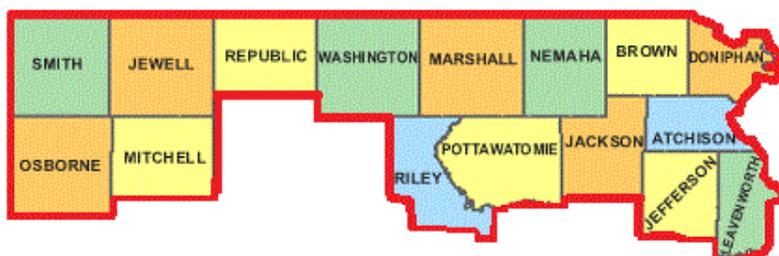
I am pleased to announce that once again NEK-CAP, Inc. has received a clean fiscal audit with no findings, nor concerns. To view the most recent audit, visit our website at www.nekcap.org. Congratulations to Robert Grissom, CFO, our fiscal team, and our Multi-County Board of Directors for their accountability, transparency, and prudent use of agency resources.

We will be embarking on our 3-year comprehensive Community Needs Assessment this fall. Quantitative and qualitative data will be gathered from across the 16 county service area. You will have the opportunity to participate through on-line surveys and community forums. Help us to address the current

conditions of many working families - low wages, lack of benefits, limited childcare, and little access to public transportation. Also, help us to ensure that those who are unable to work due to age, disability, health status, or other factors are protected by public policy decisions that promote the dignity and well-being of all individuals. We value your input in assisting our team to create solutions that support family and community financial resiliency and sustainability.

Enjoy the fall season and remember to vote on November 8th in one of the most critical elections in recent years at both the state and national levels. Be the voice for those with no voice!

~ Our 16 County Service Area ~



Comments/Questions: please contact Linda Grier, Office/Data Coordinator, lgrier@nekcap.org

2nd Annual Head Start Conference = Success!

Submitted by Jet Sperslage, Director - Program Operations

"Side by Side: Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM)" was the theme for the 2nd Annual NEK-CAP, Inc. Head Start Conference, held at the Fisher Center in Hiawatha.

September 6-8, 2016 kicked off another successful conference for Early Head Start and Head Start to begin the school year. Approximately 115 participants, 19 vendors, and 14 workshops and plenary sessions promoted the conference theme – the cheers we heard throughout the three days were **Helping People - Changing Lives** and **Head Start Works!**

Staff participated in a variety of workshops including "Working as a Team to Build a Healthier Worksite"; "Put me in Coach, I'm ready to Play.... Leading with L.O.V.E. in Head Start"; and "Department of Homeland Security's Active Shooter Training".

As an employee of NEK-CAP, Inc. it is important to us that you work as a TEAM and give families – young and old and children the services need to support them in changing their lives and being school ready.

NEK-CAP, Inc. would like to thank our conference sponsors - Constructive Playthings, Masters Transportation, Citizens Bank & Trust Wealth Management and Staples Foundation, plus everyone that participated, presented or exhibited their products. We look forward to seeing you at next year's conference.

For more conference photos and videos, please visit our facebook page.

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Serving the counties of:
Atchison, Brown,
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Jefferson, Jewell,
Leavenworth, Marshall,
Mitchell, Nemaha,
Osborne, Pottawatomie,
Republic, Riley, Smith
and Washington

services vary per county



Staff visiting with vendors



One of the workshops at the conference



Fire Extinguisher training for staff



Speakers energizing staff



****Comments/Questions: please contact Linda Grier, Office/Data Coordinator, lgrier@nekcaph.org****

Achievements ~ Accomplishments ~ Successes

Submitted by NEK-CAP, Inc. staff members



NEK-CAP, Inc.'s Vision:

One by one
all families and communities
become self-reliant.

*NEK-CAP, Inc. is an equal
opportunity provider
and employer.*

I did an application with a lady maybe a week and half ago. She was telling me she had applied for KanCare two months ago and still was not covered. The problem is, she has a four year who is autistic, nonverbal, with several others disabilities on top of that. She said that she has not been able to get her any of the assistance that she needs and that she is was at loss with what to do. I asked her to print me the application and I will see what we can do to help. I emailed Kate last week with a short story telling her all the issues this family was dealing with and her application. I saw the mom at the grocery store yesterday with her daughter and she said look there is saving grace...she come over and gave me big hug and was bawling. They now have insurance and an appointment for the daughter next Wednesday to get her help. She thanked me a million times. If I were to lose my job today, I would be okay, because I now know I made a difference for someone. *Submitted by Katrina Killoren, Child & Family Development Advocate, South Brown County*

I wanted to share a success story about how staff grow: Sometimes I wonder "Am I making a difference?" Then I come across moments when I know that not only am I making a difference but families are making a difference with me. Bonds that we form with our families are strong. I found that in times of need, I am there for families as support. I have seen the appreciation from families when they have had crisis such as a death in the family, and I was there to hold a hand, listen to the story, and a hug that was so

needed. When I walked away from that visit, I knew that I make a difference, because I cared enough to be there. When I first started the job I wondered what my impact would be. And now, I know. Because I care about each of my families, that by being there for them, talking thru, listening, be in the moment, that I have developed bonds that go both ways with the families – I care and they care back. A full circle relationship, a bond that is strong. Strong enough to make a difference. I know many of you understand this and I am so thankful we do what we do, so that the little section we serve makes the world a little better place to live. *Submitted by Pam Wilburn, Child & Family Development Advocate, Atchison County*

Three of my Early Head start moms got jobs – one at Fargo, one at Nek-CAP Head Start, and the other one is using her CDL experience she received from NEK-CAP to drive a bus for public school, along with working at Casey's General Store. I'm so proud of their accomplishments! *Submitted by Pam Wilburn, Child & Family Development Advocate, Atchison County*

We want to hear from YOU - please take a moment to complete our Customer Satisfaction Survey. Your participation will be greatly appreciated!!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/201617customersatisfaction>



Comments/Questions: please contact Linda Grier, Office/Data Coordinator, lgrier@nekc.org

Two Complete the Family Self-Sufficiency Program

Submitted by Mary Schreifels, FSS Program Coordinator

"Self-Sufficiency is the greatest of all wealth" - (Epicurus)

This month we are celebrating two fantastic ladies who have worked very hard and have completed the Brown County Housing Authority Family Self-Sufficiency Program/NEK-CAP, Inc. HUD started this five year program to assist families in gaining and maintaining employment, gaining additional education, and teaching families financial goals in order to become more economically independent and self-sufficient.

As participants of the Housing Choice Voucher the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, also known as the FSS Program, encourages families to increase their earned income. In doing so, families have the opportunity to save money, as their earned income increases, a percentage between their initial rent and their new rent is placed into an interest bearing account set up by NEK-CAP, Inc. This incentive assists families in saving money which may help them in paying for additional schooling, maybe a newer car, reducing outstanding bills, or sometimes even a down payment on their very own home.

In September 2011, both Ellie and Melanie began working to improve their work skills and education. Ellie,

determined to own her own business and become self-employed and Melanie, a single mom determined to take care of her family, get her degree, and both to better their lives. Both of these ladies have worked very hard to become more than they believed they could be. Both had gone through changes in relationships, Ellie said, "I knew I could not rely on anyone else" their determination and drive set their course for them to be in control of their destiny.

It has truly been a pleasure to work with both ladies, to see the growth and to see their self-worth and esteem grow. Today they graduated; this part of their journey is over. These stepping stones open the doors into another season, another direction, and now another journey. To quote Melanie as we spoke, she stated, "It's easy, all you have to do is try" ". This program rewards the work, the ambition, the drive to become better and to never give up. Today we celebrate the impact and the commitment to our communities and with our graduates; Ellie set out to be self-employed and accomplished it and Melanie went back to school and has a job working in the school system, both loving their jobs and the achievement they have accomplished.

Congratulations to Ellie and Melanie!!!

What your child
learns before age 5
is the key to
success!

Enroll your child
now in
NEK-CAP
Head Start!!

Applications always
accepted!



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