

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



ballard center

Changing Lives since 1965



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Becky Price, Former Chief Executive Officer
(Jan 2023 - July 2023)

Kyle Roggenkamp, Current Chief Executive Officer
(August 2023 - present)

Charlotte Marthaler, Chief Operating Officer

Nick Detrano, Outreach & Communications Director

Kathrine Ward, Family Stabilization Director

Sissy Krehbiel, Education Program Director

Allie Richardson, Education Coordinator

Claire Gallagher, Pantry Services Coordinator

Chelsea Steinbach, Cook and Education Support

Josh Baker, Education, IT, Building & Grounds Support



OUR TEACHERS

Adia Gloeckner | Anazella Kisslinger | Amelia Neuhaus |

Rashai Plymer | Karisa Shiraki | Shannon Sides |

Shelbi Smith-Cromwell | Rachael Washington



2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michelle Chronister, Chair | Steven Koprince, Vice Chair | Elly Claussen, Treasurer | Lauren Davis, Secretary | Greg Gardner | Chris Schmid | Walt Jamison | Kim Rack | Dr. Scott Thellman | Jessica Grimes Mooneyham | Pam Cullerton | Dr. Scott Robinson



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 have access to resources and support to reach their goals of stability, safety, health, and well-being.

Changing Times, Changing Lives

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

My friends, I am the luckiest guy in the world. I have a mentor in Becky Price who led us through some major transitions in 2023 flawlessly. She is honestly a hero to me and my family.

Ballard is truly a second home to myself, my wife, and our three boys. Lisa spends over 30 hours a week volunteering in our pantry, and on the weekends, we bring the boys to come and pitch in. Ballard is not a job. Ballard is our heart. Thank you for allowing us to be here, with you behind us, serving this deserving community.

This place is special folks. The people. The work. The passion. It's truly magical. In 2023, our early education program was recognized by Wichita State University as having the second-highest kindergarten readiness scores for at-risk children in the entire state.

Our family stabilization department helped keep over 500 families in our community housed with crisis funding. That's 500 families that aren't homeless right now because of the support you provided. Additionally, over 950 children received holiday gifts and holiday meals because of your generosity and support. Another Ballard record. Our pantry served over 8,000 people in 2023, yet another record for Ballard. All of this happened during a year of transition.

This is what is possible when you have a family to lean on. You are our rock. Without you, our hard work does not have the same impact. Because as Becky taught me, if we stick together, anything is possible.



Kyle Roggenkamp



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR:

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone! The pace at which we navigated through all of the change here at the Ballard Center is almost dizzying. With our incredibly adaptable and loyal staff, we have seamlessly transitioned through the change in leadership to welcome our new CEO, Kyle Roggenkamp. Thanks in huge part to Becky Price for her foresight, wisdom, and training, Ballard was able to fill her incredibly talented shoes without a pause.

Thanks to YOU, Ballard is now entering a new era of community service with a precision focus on Best Client Outcomes. Our dreams of teaching and supporting families to achieve self-sustainability are becoming self-evident through the hard work and dedication of our two newest admin employees, Nick Detrano and Kathrine Ward. Our early childhood education staff is the best team I have ever seen in over a decade working with Ballard, which is showing in our enrolled children. Ballard's early childhood education children are not only becoming kindergarten-ready but are also using the tools taught to them from our implemented trauma-informed curriculum. Today, I could not be prouder to count myself as a member of the Ballard Center Family!

With that said, we still have so much work to do as an organization. I am looking forward to yet again getting out of my comfort zone to see what great things we can achieve as a dedicated family and community-supporting agency.

To our Staff, Donors, and Volunteers, THANK YOU SO MUCH! Thank you for coming together in the way that best expresses your generosity. You are truly the reason we are still here, working one moment, one person at a time to create the change we want to see.

Blessings Back To You,



Michelle Chronister



2023 AT A GLANCE

171

Children & families benefitted from our Early Childhood Education program

1,299

Household members received rent/utility assistance and stabilization resources

986

Children impacted by our holiday Adopt-a-Family program

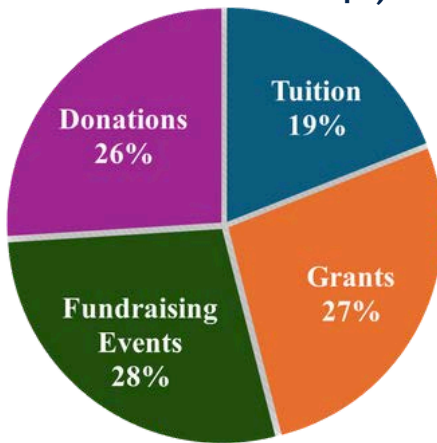
8,854

Household members impacted by our pantry services

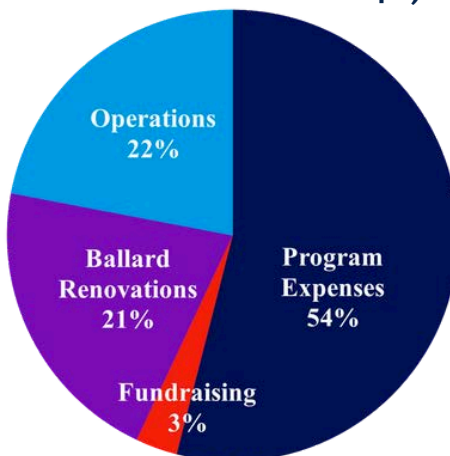
10,150

Community members served at our Mobile Food Distribution

2023 INCOME TOTAL: \$1,308,307

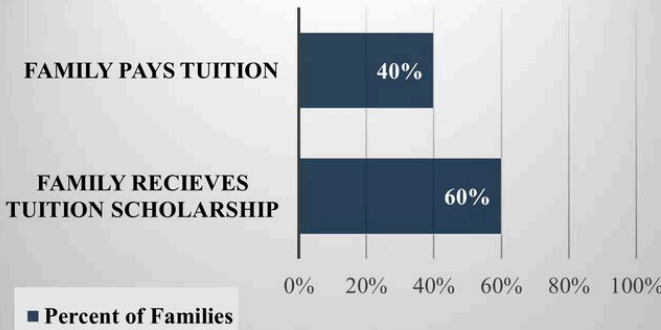


2023 EXPENSES TOTAL: \$1,149,558



EARLY EDUCATION DEMOGRAPHICS

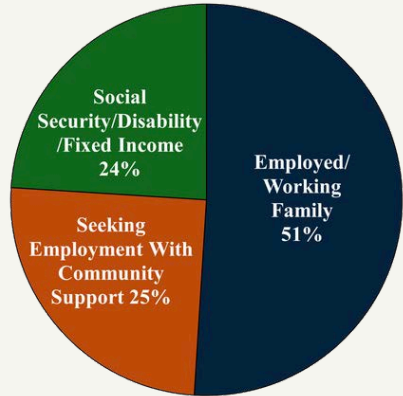
What Does Accessible Child Care Look Like?



\$1,120 is the average annual scholarship awarded per family while Ballard works with them towards achieving stability.

What this means - Ballard is providing access to childcare for working low-income families. **Two months in length** is the average scholarship needed while staff work with families to access resources.

FAMILY STABILIZATION DEMOGRAPHICS



2023 Crisis Funding Distribution

Total Amount Distributed:

\$380,329

Avg Amount Per Household:

\$799

Total Households in Crisis:

512

What this means

Every year Ballard works with over 500 families to avoid evictions and utility disconnects, preventing homelessness for families in Douglas County experiencing a financial hardship or housing crisis.

LIFE-CHANGING PROGRAMS

Early Childhood Education

The Ballard Center 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.

What makes The Ballard Center unique?

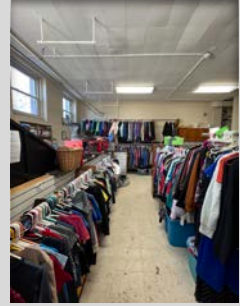
- Animal Therapy for the kids with the amazing group Loving Paws
- Play Therapy onsite from the very capable Spence Counseling
- Teeth cleaning and dental wellness checks from Heartland Community Health Center
- Sweet Potato Garden Curriculum at the Common Ground Community Garden
- Onsite visits and free Pre-K reading materials from the infamous Dottie mobile library
- Creative movement classes for gross motor skills from the talented Jean Denney
- Screening and early intervention for IEP development from USD 497
- Daily Autism services for Ballard children from Autism Services of Kansas
- Playground and indoor play activities provided by Pi Beta Phi sorority and KU Athletics (KU Men's Baseball/Basketball/Football and Women's Basketball)
- Speech and occupational therapy from the wonderful Speech Solutions and USD 497
- Vision screenings and interventions by the amazing local Lions Club
- Hearing screenings and interventions by our friends at USD 497
- Watkins Museum of History partnership with the Ballard Center to provide Ballard kids with local history insights
- Art classes provided weekly by Kim Rack, our amazing volunteer art teacher
- One-on-one reading with incredible volunteers, led by the talented Carol Schmitt.
- Career day and play days provided by our loyal friends at the Douglas County Sheriff's Department
- Annual holiday T.O.Y.S (Take Our Youth Shopping) Program in partnership with local law enforcement



LIFE-CHANGING PROGRAMS

Family Stabilization

Over the last few years, families experiencing crisis have increased within our community. The need for resources has never been higher, Ballard has responded in creative ways to support our community during these trying times.



The Ballard Center's Family Stabilization programs strive to offer support and assistance to families in need within Douglas County. These programs focus on addressing challenges and circumstances such as financial hardship, homelessness, domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health issues, and lack of essential resource accessibility that can lead to instability within a family unit. The primary goals of the Family Stabilization programs are to help families in need overcome these obstacles, achieve stability, promote healthy relationships, and sustain an overall healthy well-being.

Ballard's Family Stabilization program offerings include crisis funding, housing support, parenting/life skills training, care coordination, and access to necessities like food and clothing. By providing comprehensive support services to families, the Family Stabilization programs exist to enhance each family's capacity for self-sufficiency and resilience. These programs often take a strengths-based approach, empowering families to develop their skills, expand their support networks, and make positive changes to gradually improve aspects of their lives.

By implementing these programs, the Ballard Center works towards mitigating the risk factors that can lead to family instability, helping to build healthier and more sustainable communities.

THE STORY OF A BALLARD GRANDMOTHER



In 2023 we had a child graduate from Ballard's early education program whose story reminds us of why Ballard's work is so vital. When he arrived at the Ballard Center a few years ago he was filled with both fear and anger. His grandmother told us that she was seeking custody of her grandchild that had been living in an environment filled with addiction, violence, and neglect. The tragedies this child had suffered through were unimaginable. At three years old, he had been through more than most of us could ever understand.

Ballard immediately started working with the grandmother to secure custody of her grandson. Navigating the system of child custody is nearly impossible. At Ballard, we spend countless hours working with families trying to keep their loved ones safe. This child deserved a safe, loving home, and we knew that without our support, the grandmother would struggle to navigate a broken system.

Over the next year we were able to navigate the system and help get the grandmother custody of her grandson. It was incredibly difficult work, but the grandmother stood side by side with us until we reached the finish line. She is truly a hero, and we are so proud of her resilience for her grandson. During that same time, we were providing therapy and support for her grandson, with the ultimate goal of him being able to enter kindergarten with the tools and resources necessary to not only learn but thrive. Our journey with this child was filled with ups and downs, tears, smiles, and after a while, some real hope for his future.

HOPE

THE STORY OF A BALLARD GRANDMOTHER



In August of 2023, this beautiful child graduated from our early education program and started kindergarten. His test scores showed he was ready, and our team was so proud. We kept following up with this family, providing supports, and ensuring they did not fall off our radar. In December of 2023 our CEO ran into grandma and our graduated student at a local store. Grandma pulled Kyle aside and said, "He is doing so well. I cannot believe how well he is doing in kindergarten. Kyle, we could not have done this without Ballard. Your teachers, your therapists, everyone over there saved us." Kyle looked grandma in the eye, gave her a big hug, and responded, "We did it together, because that's what family does." He sat in his car and cried for about thirty minutes. Tears of joy. He was so proud of his team, proud of the grandmother, and most importantly, proud of the little boy.

This child is a constant reminder that if we stick together, if we treat one another as family, truly anything is possible!!



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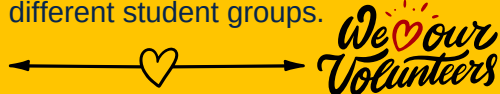
Outstanding Community Volunteers



CONTRIBUTED OVER **30,483** HOURS OF SERVICE TO BALLARD IN 2023. CREATING A VALUE OF MORE THAN **\$969,350** THROUGH THEIR TIME AND SERVICE OUTPUTS.



The Ballard Center has successfully increased our outreach capacity through volunteer days of service, community pantry drives with local businesses and strengthening existing partnerships with local churches, partner agencies, and a variety of different student groups.



The Rich Miller Jr., Devin Neal and Jason Bean Toy and Coat Drive in December of 2023, allowed Ballard to partner with **15+** local businesses to collect over **1,000** Winter Coats and **300+** toys for children in need.

HEROES AMONG US

THE NEUMAN FAMILY

I want to tell you about three amazing kids. Noah, Evan, and Theo. They are so young, and already so intentional in their life choices. They have raised items for our pantry. Noah chose to have his birthday party at Ballard so that all of his friends could help us out. They are entrepreneurs already, and anything they earn goes into three jars. One of those jars is for intentional giving in our community. These boys have the financial skills outpacing most adults. How you may ask?

Their parents, Matt and Alice. Being intentional with their time and resources is a staple of their teaching to their boys. When we were facing a deadline with fundraising for our upcoming Ballard addition, they came to us and said, "We want to take the pressure off, we will take care of the rest." Every holiday season they put together an entire staff appreciation holiday party with bonuses for teachers and gifts for everyone. This family has made an intentional decision to put their resources somewhere in the community that would cherish them. Theo, Evan, Noah, Matt, and Alice, you represent everything the Ballard Family stands for. It's truly an honor to acknowledge your family.



KIM RACK

The impact Kim has had at Ballard is beyond measure and we are so lucky to have her in the Ballard Family. Kim volunteers on our board of directors, our education committee, and our gala committee. She plays a key role in the vision of Ballard's future, especially for the children we serve. What makes Kim so very special is her dedication to volunteering onsite with us. She can do anything! She runs our front desk every Tuesday. She is our volunteer art teacher for the children, having spent years doing so at the Art Center in her career.



Kim creates most of our agency Thank You's for staff, donors, and other volunteers. Kim spends hours every week in the classroom supporting our teachers with the most at risk children. She gives her time, her talent, and her entire heart to the Ballard kids, because that is what heroes do, they sacrifice for the greater good. And have we mentioned her cookies??!! BEST COOKIES EVER!! Kim, we love you and are so very lucky to honor you as a hero at Ballard.



Ballard Center Addition and Renovations

2023 was a big year of continual movement on our capital campaign addition and renovations! We have a new roof, new kitchen, a new lift/elevator for access to the building and we are set to break ground on our addition **March 28th, 2024!!** None of this would be possible without the support of our wonderful community.



SOMOS Partnership

We are so proud of our partnership with SOMOS, the incredible volunteer group in our community that does translating for Spanish speaking households attempting to access services at Ballard. Due to their efforts, so many households within this population are now being served with respect and dignity. There are currently two Ballard children that arrived only speaking Spanish; they will now be graduating from the Ballard Center and entering Kindergarten in August 2024 better prepared to fully participate in their new classrooms. We could not be prouder of SOMOS Lawrence's work!



AmeriCorps Program

In 2023 Ballard was selected by the Kansas Volunteer Commission to receive a planning grant award so that we can work towards establishing our very own AmeriCorps program. This opportunity will allow Ballard to have four full-time AmeriCorps members in the fall of 2024. We have been working very hard in the planning and development stages and are excited to implement the new program!!



Early Education Accolades

Wichita State University, the entity that collects data on our children that receive scholarships, reached out in 2023 to ask us about our social/emotional and kindergarten readiness curriculum. We wanted to know why they were so curious about our program and they let us know that Ballard children on scholarship are scoring the second highest in the entire state! We knew our program was fantastic, but to be recognized in this way was truly an honor.

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 countless families currently struggling in our community. Here are a few ways you can become 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.

A HUGE Thank you to Ballard's amazing 2023 sponsors!!



DR. STEPHEN CHRONISTER, DDS



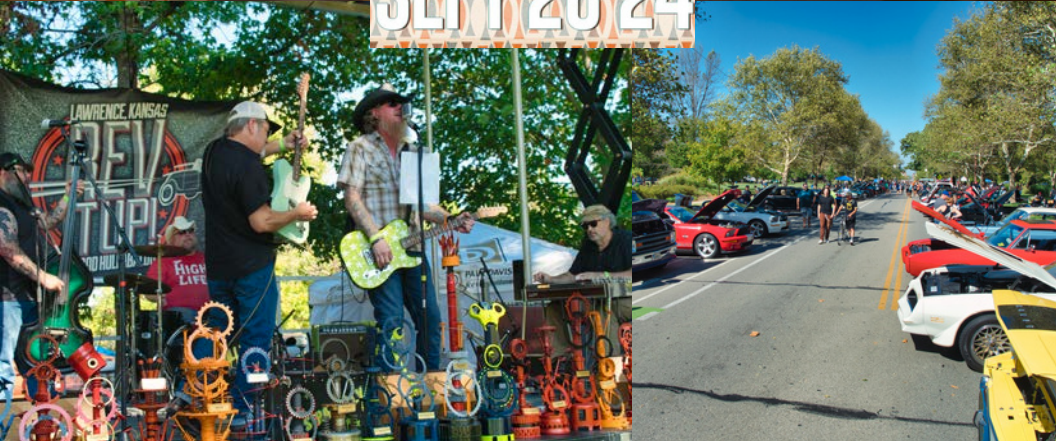
GOOD ENERGY SOLUTIONS, INC. Energy with Integrity



CHANGING LIVES GALA



REV IT UP



WWW.BALLARDCENTER.ORG/EVENTS

The Ballard Center has been Proudly serving Douglas County and positively changing lives since 1965!



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