



Shower of Love Event Surpasses Half Million Dollar Mark Over Eight Year Span!

St. Charles County moms and babies have been showered with over

\$554,000 in donations over the past eight years from the annual Shower of Love, which is organized by The Community and Children's Resource Board. "This year's event raised over \$100,000 in donations and when added to the previous seven years, the drive has exceeded over \$554,000 in baby care items and cash donations," says Michelle McElfresh, Shower of Love Coordinator.



In 2006, The Community and Children's Resource Board became alarmed about critical child abuse incidences that had occurred in St. Charles County. These tragedies provided the impetus for the formation of a Child Summit to determine the best community response, one that would reduce the risk of baby abuse and help young families deal with stressful situations. Action to address baby endangerment took on the form of a community baby shower. By 2014, the collaborative efforts of the Shower of Love benefitted the following organizations: Birthright of St. Charles and Wentzville, Crisis Nursery, Nurses for Newborns, Our Lady's Inn, Mary Queen of Angels, The Sparrow's Nest Maternity Home, ThriVe St. Louis and Youth In Need. These local non-profit agencies serve moms and babies in our community by providing crisis intervention, counseling, housing, nursing, supplies of baby-care items, and other services.

Basic baby-care necessities including diapers, baby wipes, formula and clothing are collected through the annual Shower of Love collection drive and distributed through these nine local agencies in St. Charles County. "The partnering agencies of the Shower of Love work diligently and lovingly with families in need, and rely on the donations from the Shower of Love to supply their clients with necessities for 6 to 12 months," says Michelle McElfresh.

In 2015, Sts. Joachim & Ann Care Service will be a new partner to the Shower of Love. The 9th annual Shower of Love is tentatively scheduled for April 30, 2015. To get involved, contact Michelle McElfresh at 636.939.6200 or mmcelfresh@sckkids.org or visit www.freewebs.com/showeroflove.



Applications for the 2015 Children's Trust Fund License Plate program fund are available online (www.stcharlescountykids.org) or through the agency's Sharepoint online portal system. Funds must be used to support, develop, implement, and evaluate child abuse and neglect prevention programs and services in St. Charles County.

"We receive funds annually from the Children's Trust Fund through the sale of specialty license plates. Since 1998, this program has provided \$265,000 for child abuse prevention services in our community," says Jan Lewien, Grants Administrator for the CCRB.

The deadline for submitting applications is 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 26, 2014. Applications are reviewed by the CCRB Directors and allocation decisions will be announced in January 2015.

Mid-Year 2014 Agency Reports (January-June 2014)

Over 38,000 St. Charles County children, youth, and families received services provided through CCRB funded-agencies during the first six months of 2014. Ninety-four percent of all agency outcomes were met or exceeded. The following lists the types of services and agencies funded through the CCRB:

Respite services were provided to 240 children through the Crisis Nursery, Children's Home Society, and Community Living, Inc.

School-based prevention services involved 35,588 children and youth in programs such as bullying prevention (Crider Health Center and Catholic Family Services), sexual abuse prevention (The Child Center), and substance abuse prevention (Preferred Family Healthcare). Suicide prevention education is provided at the Francis Howell, Wentzville, and Ft. Zumwalt School Districts through Kids Under Twenty One (KUTO). Thrive St. Louis provides sexual abstinence education through the Best Choice Sexual Integrity program at Ft. Zumwalt, St. Charles City, Orchard Farm, and Francis Howell School Districts. Over 400 parents, caregivers, and professionals also received prevention trainings.

Substance abuse outpatient treatment services engaged 137 youth in programs sponsored by Bridgeway Behavioral Services and Preferred Family Healthcare.

Home and community based services reached 1,465 children and youth in St. Charles County with programs offered through Saints Joachim and Ann Care Service, CHADS Coalition for Mental Health, Crider Health Center, the Crisis Nursery, Eleventh Circuit Court, FACT (Family Advocacy and Community Training), National Alliance for Mental Illness, and United Services. FACT provides a family-based component that works in conjunction with Crider Health Center's Partnership with Families program. The Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition works with families with foster and adoptive children. CHADS, a new partner with CCRB, works with families dealing with suicide.

Crisis intervention, counseling, and psychiatric services were provided to 1,241 children and youth through Behavioral Health Response, Catholic Family Services, Children's Home Society, Crider Health Center, Salvation Army, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, and Youth In Need.

Teen parent programs were provided to 260 youth through Nurses for Newborns, Our Lady's Inn, and Youth In Need.

Temporary shelter services were offered by Youth In Need to 34 youth. **Transitional living services** were also provided to 7 youth by Youth In Need.



Groundbreaking ceremonies at
The Sparrow's Nest Maternity Home

The Sparrow's Nest Maternity Home Open for Teen Moms in our Community

St. Charles County welcomes The Sparrow's Nest Maternity Home into the community as they serve pregnant teen girls, 14 to 18 years old. The Nest opened its doors in July, 2014. The agency's mission is to provide a Christ-centered shelter and to educate homeless, pregnant and parenting young women. Moms will receive housing, parenting skills, counseling, life skills and other services. For more information, contact Carissa Figgins, Executive Director, at 636-336-2534 or visit www.thesparrowsnest.stl.org.

CCRB and Partner Agency News

Catholic Family Services has welcomed Tom Duff, LCSW, as its new executive director. Tom comes to the agency from Mt. Vernon, Illinois, where he had served for the previous eight years as director and as a treatment manager for a children's organization. He has more than 14 years experience as a clinician, administrator, and therapist in both residential and outpatient settings.

Good news from the Our Lady's Inn (OLI) homefront. Following significant winter storm damage in the first part of the year, which included taking two client rooms out of commission for several months, repairs and reconfiguring space has put those rooms back in use, and they have actually increased their capacity to serve 13 families. OLI has also hired a new case manager, Sister Rosalie Wisniewski.

Kudos to Youth In Need (YIN)! The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported YIN as one of this region's Top Workplaces. Compared to other organizations in the Non-Profit: Human and Social Services category, YIN scored well above the benchmarks in the areas of confidence in organizational leadership, strong belief in the agency's values and this as well as satisfaction with the agency's employee benefit packages.

Bridgeway Behavioral Health has exciting news. On August 11, the agency opened their new boys' residential center in Winfield called "The Farm." The capacity is 10 male clients. They are partnering with an adjoining ranch to use their facility for swimming, hiking, and horseback riding. They also offer equine therapy, which has proven to be very effective in substance abuse treatment.



Ron Berrey, Ed.D.

2014 Appointees to CCRB Directors

Last January, three members were appointed to the Community and Children's Resource Board (CCRB) by recommendation of County Executive Steve Ehlmann and confirmed by the St. Charles County Council. Joining the Board of Directors were Nancy Matheny, Ron Berrey, Ed.D., and re-appointed to his second term is Kevin Cantwell.

Mrs. Matheny, an accountant and small business owner, has served most recently as a St. Charles County Councilwoman. She currently sits on the CCRB Finance Committee. Dr. Berrey had previously served on the Board from 2003 to 2012, serving as Vice Chair and Chair for the last four years of that time. Ron is a retired Superintendent of Schools for the Wentzville School District and consultant for DESE. He will be serving on the Personnel Committee and is heading up the CCRB Strategic Planning Committee. Mr. Cantwell is the president of Big River Telephone Company and has been active in several athletic organizations (AAU Basketball, St. Charles County Athletic Association, and the State Show Me Games). Kevin currently serves as the CCRB Chair.



Kevin Cantwell



Nancy Matheny

November 4, 2014 marks the 10th Anniversary of Proposition 1, which formed the Children's Services Fund. CCRB thanks the residents of St. Charles County for their support of this important issue and the agencies for their on-going services to children, youth and families in the areas of mental health programs, substance abuse treatment, and child abuse and neglect prevention.



Bruce Sowatsky,
CCRB Executive Director

While our recently completed 2014 Needs Assessment demonstrated over \$6 million in unmet need for children’s mental health and substance abuse services, the investment of funding through the CCRB since 2005 appears to be making a significant impact within the County. According to Missouri Kids Count, which has ranked St. Charles County as either the first or second best County to raise children for the past 9 years, and other statewide or local sources, there have been a number of very significant trends that have occurred during this time. We have witnessed the following results:

- 40.5% drop in births to teenage mothers
- 44.4% drop in the public school dropout rate (DESE)
- 54.3% drop in reported youth runaways (MO Highway Patrol)
- 57.4% drop in juvenile delinquency crimes (SCC Juvenile Court)
- 69.2% drop in status offenses (SCC Juvenile Court)
- 3.2% increase in public school graduation rates (average gain among the 5 districts, DESE)

We believe that the expansion of our services to thousands of more youth and the outcomes that our partner agencies are achieving are contributing to these community results, and we are grateful to the frontline providers who work so caringly with the families. While research will be necessary to tie these factors together, and will be the subject of our next strategic plan, we are well positioned to participate in the regional Ready By 21 Campaign and to be a leader in determining how to invest in youth and make a difference in the community. Even with our successes, we can do more and we can achieve even greater results so that every child has a pathway to success.

CCRB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kevin Cantwell
Chairperson
- Ron Berrey, Ed.D.
Vice-Chair
- Luanne Cundiff
Treasurer,
- Linda Haberstroh
- Larry Marty
- Nancy Matheny
- Andrea Robertson
- Jill Skyles
- Steven Stahl

Staff:

- Bruce Sowatsky,
Executive Director
 - Janet Lewien,
Grants Administrator
 - Michelle McElfresh,
Administrative Assistant
- 2440 Executive Drive #214
St. Charles, MO 63303
Phone: 636.939.6200
Fax: 636.939.6202
www.stcharlescountykids.org

CCRB FUNDED AGENCIES

Behavioral Health Response (BHR).....	314.628.6223
Bridgeway Behavioral Health.....	636.757.2300
Catholic Family Services.....	636.281.1990
CHAD’s Coalition for Mental Health.....	314.952.2046
Child Center.....	636.332.0899
Children’s Home Society.....	636.940.1119
Community Living, Inc.....	636.970.2800
Crider Health Center.....	636.332.6000
Crisis Nursery-St. Charles/Wentzville.....	636.947.0600
	636.887.3070
Eleventh Circuit Family Court	636.949.3040
F.A.C.T.....	636.949.2425
Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition.....	314.367.8373
Kids Under Twenty One.....	314.963.7571
Lutheran Family & Children’s Services.....	636.949.5522
NAMI	314.962.4670
Nurses for Newborns.....	314.544.3433
Our Ladies Inn.....	636.398.5375
Preferred Family Healthcare.....	636.946.6376
Saints Joachim and Ann Care Service.....	636.441.1302
Salvation Army.....	636.240.4969
ThriVe St. Louis	314.783.3040
United Services.....	636.926.2700
Youth In Need.....	636.946.5600