



Community Connections — September 2026



Now Accepting 2027 Fee-for-Service Grant Applications

If you're an existing network agency with a fee-for-service contract, you still have time to [submit your 2027 application](#) before the October 9th deadline.

Have questions about our Partnership Exchange Portal (PEP)? Our recorded [PEP walk-through](#) is available on demand, or [email us your question](#) and we'll respond promptly.



Thank you, Kansas City!

Ready, Set, Thrive! Was a Big Success

We threw a 45th-anniversary bash to celebrate mental health access in Kansas City, and boy, did our friends, partners, and neighbors turn out!

More than 25 partner agencies treated attendees to games and giveaways and provided helpful resources and program information. Throughout The Gathering venue there were activities galore, including free popcorn, balloon art, face painting, plus pictures with K.C. Wolf and members of the Chiefs' cheerleaders — and that was just inside!

Outside, guests played carnival games, snacked on [Ignition Lab](#) food truck treats, toured the [Aim4Peace](#) van, and picked up free produce from [United Market](#). Market owner Anthony Estrada briefly spoke to tell guests he was proud to operate a full-service market that residents can count on for quality food in their Santa Fe neighborhood. The Kansas City Fire Department also stopped by to give everyone an up-close look at their fire engine.

Back inside, the day's program continued with special guests, one-of-a-kind performances, and partner awards:

- [Jackson County Executive Phil LeVota](#) acknowledged CMHF's mental health support with a proclamation that commended the agency's community service and continued commitment to improving access to care.

- The talented students of [Harmony Project KC](#) Honors Quartet performed "Oblivion" by Astor Piazzolla and "Salsa Verde" by Thom Sharp. Listening to their performance within The Gathering's beautifully renovated surroundings was a musical treat.
- Board Chairwoman Sandy Jiles presented six agencies with awards for their 45 years of mental health-focused partnership with CMHF: [Centerstone](#), [Swope Health](#), [Cornerstones of Care](#), [ReDiscover](#), [University Health Behavioral Health](#), and [Crittenton Children's Center](#).

Thank you to everyone who stopped in to learn more about mental wellness, connect with their neighbors, and share in the fun.



Marsha Campbell Retires from the CMHF Board of Trustees

Advocating for her constituents' needs as a Missouri state legislator piqued Campbell's interest in mental health funding and access.

Marsha Campbell has served on the CMHF Board of Trustees since 2005, but her commitment to mental health access dates back to the '90s. As District 39's Representative in the Missouri General Assembly from 1996 - 2004, she learned a lot about mental health — both from her time on the Mental Health and Social Services Committee and from assisting her constituents.

From her vantage point as a legislator and Board member, Campbell has seen Missouri strengthen its commitment to Community Mental Health Centers. Today, the Centers are on stronger financial footing — and better equipped to serve the public thanks to the adoption of trauma-informed care.

Campbell credits the Board for its early advocacy of this treatment, which is now a best practice in the mental health field. She also pointed to other funding advances during her tenure, including the introduction of one-time Innovation Projects that enable agencies to make specific improvements to quality and/or outcomes of services through partnerships and evidence-based practices.

These projects, along with the overall reduction in mental health-related stigma and expanded recognition of children's mental health needs make Campbell optimistic about the future of access to care in Jackson County.

"Our partners do such an amazing job of collaborating and having honest conversations about how they can best serve the community's mental health needs. The fund will continue to be a big part of that," Campbell said.

Thank you, Marsha, for your 21 years of service to the CMHF Board. Jackson County has benefitted greatly from your commitment to our partners, residents, and access to quality mental health care.

Staff Snaps

Board members, staff, and friends helped Susan Jones celebrate her much-deserved Advocate of Hope award at [The Children's Place](#) August 27 bruncheon.

Susan reflected on her 29-year relationship with the agency and recounted both the small moments and lasting connections that have made working with the agency so fulfilling.



Interested in being highlighted on CMHF's social media and in our newsletter? Reach out to smccall@jacksoncountycares.org.

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