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2019



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Holidays

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2019 *Home Tour*

Saturday, Nov 23: 10am - 5pm
& Sunday, Nov 24: 10am - 3pm



Thank You
to each of this year's homeowners
who generously opened their
hearts and their homes to benefit
the children of Shawnee County.

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CASA HOLIDAY HOMES TOUR *Committee Members*

Marquia Bayless
 Gayle Burns
 Peg Dunlap
 Jan Howard
 Sheila Krohe
 Erin La Row
 Cathy Leonhart
 Erin Lesser
 Sue Lockett
 Terry Maines
 Vicki Peterson
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LETTER FROM THE *President*



Welcome Friends! I am so excited to be celebrating the 32nd annual Homes for the Holidays Tour with you. The tour is CASA of Shawnee County's major fundraiser held every year to help spread the word about CASA and the work we do every day for the children in Shawnee County. The homes on the tour are always gorgeous and sure to get you in the holiday spirit. We would not be able to provide a voice for the children in our community without the tour and all of you.

Every year more than 700 children are placed into Shawnee County foster care. At this time, CASA is only able to serve 150 of those children in need. Our goal is to serve 175 this year. In order to serve more children, we need more staff, volunteers and money.

This holiday season, please consider making a financial gift to CASA of Shawnee County so that we are able to expand our services to more children in our community and help make a difference in their lives.

On behalf of the CASA Board of Directors, I would like to extend a huge thank you to this year's staff, volunteers, decorators, sponsors and the homeowners who graciously agreed to open their homes to the Topeka community.

Blessings,

Erin Lesser
President, CASA of Shawnee County

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LETTER FROM THE *Executive Director*



My life is like a quilt. The circumstances that shape me, the events that make me who I am, are the color blocks – discrete experiences cut into singular and independent shapes. Like the most intricately woven cloths, some events in my life have been harmonious and beautiful. Other circumstances have jarred me with jagged experiences – colors that don't really seem to fit. When viewed as individual pieces, I'm unable to see the overall pattern. When I step back and look from a distance I can admire what is before me because, in my eyes, the pieces have come together beautifully.

I often wondered in the middle of the most difficult situations how I would ever fit all the pieces together seamlessly, but today I realize the seams are what bring out the beauty in a work of art. The lines and details depict a person's life without words.

I rest comfortably knowing I was taught to sew the details of my life together by my own master quilters – my Mom and Dad.

Sadly, not everyone in the world is blessed to be raised in a home led by “master quilters,” as was I. We have so many children right here in Shawnee County who need help mending their quilts as they go through life. Which is where our CASA volunteers, our very own quilt masters, come in – helping children fit their lives together in unique quilt designs made up by their own stories.

I've made three real quilts in my life – each of which felt like it took forever to complete and none of which I would say are ready for public consumption. But that's OK. Just the act of achieving creative accomplishments like these – putting together color blocks that make up my life – gives me the drive I need to jump out of bed every morning when my alarm goes off. Each day I come to work, I know I will discover some new fabric or color that my colleagues and I will use to sew together the pieces and parts of our organization's own quilt.

While I'm hardly a master “life quilter” like my long-serving colleagues and committed volunteers, nothing makes me prouder than beginning my life at CASA of Shawnee County as their student. We invite you to join us this year – to sit beside us as we find new ways to sew together the pieces of our lives in service to others.

Blessings,

Terry Manies
Executive Director, CASA of Shawnee County



MEET OUR
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**Thank you CASA
for all you do for
our community!**

**From the whole
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Happy Holidays!**

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MEET OUR *Staff*



Terry Manies – Executive Director

Favorite holiday treat? **Potato latkes**

Favorite holiday song? **Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire (The Christmas Song)**

Favorite holiday movie? **Grumpy Old Men**

What do you like most about working for CASA? *Each day gives me an opportunity to make real and lasting positive impacts on the lives of children who need help from supportive adults. Knowing my efforts make this little corner of the world a better place fills me with pride.*



Marquia Potter – Office Manager

Favorite holiday treat? **Pumpkin pie**

Favorite holiday song? **Where are you Christmas?**

Favorite holiday movie? **The Grinch**

What do you like most about working for CASA? *I love all the people that I work with and that we are helping change the community.*



Cathy Baer, CINC Supervisor

Favorite holiday treat? **Ghirardelli's Peppermint Bark**

Favorite holiday song? **White Christmas**

Favorite holiday movie? **Miracle on 34th Street**

What do I like most about working for CASA? *I have the privilege of witnessing the most incredible resilience in some children. It fills me with joy to be able to touch the lives of children in a positive way.*



Carole Wright, CINC Supervisor

Favorite holiday treat? **Anything chocolate**

Favorite holiday song? **White Christmas**

Favorite holiday movie? **National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation**

What do I like most about working for CASA? *I am so privileged to have the opportunity to work with such a dedicated staff and volunteers who truly care about children and continue to be a voice in court and in the community for children who find themselves, through no fault of their own, in need of care and support during a difficult period in their lives.*



Georgia DeVader, CINC Supervisor

Favorite holiday treat? **Pumpkin pie with whipped cream**

Favorite holiday song? **White Christmas**

Favorite holiday movie? **A Christmas Carol**

What do I like most about working for CASA? *I enjoy working for CASA because I like meeting children who have had a troubled childhood and I want to be a positive person in their lives. I also enjoy working with the agency workers who want to make a difference in the lives of children and families.*

MEET OUR *Staff*



Ruth Santner, CINC Supervisor

Favorite holiday treat? ***Peanut brittle***

Favorite holiday song? ***Do You hear What I hear?***

Favorite holiday movie? ***National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation***

What do you like most about working for CASA? ***I like that CASA volunteers make a commitment to serve a child for at least 2 years, and hopefully until the court case closes. By making this commitment, the CASA volunteer is most often the only person serving the child and family who really gets to know them and to be an effective advocate for the child, due to the frequent turnover in provider staff.***



Terri Jowett, CINC Supervisor

Favorite holiday treat? ***Peanut butter Cookies or festive Rice Krispy treats***

Favorite holiday song? ***John Lennon's "And so this is Christmas"***

Favorite holiday movie? ***Elf, Bad Santa, A Christmas Carol***

What do you like most about working for CASA? ***I like that I work with a lot of really neat people with a shared goal – to work very hard to help make some of our Shawnee County children experience a safe and abuse free childhood with a sense of permanency.***

I like being part of an agency that is not bureaucratic, that works creatively to ensure a child is able to grow up in an environment which helps that child to become a contributing member of our community in a positive way, and in a way that child does not repeat the cycle of abuse/neglect/abandonment that resulted in the child becoming involved in the CINC System.



Jamie Dempewolf, Program Director

Favorite holiday treat? ***Peanut Butter Balls with Rice Krispies***

Favorite holiday song? ***Silent Night***

Favorite holiday movie? ***Definitely Home Alone***

What do you like most about working for CASA? ***I love working for CASA because working here offers me an opportunity to help someone be the positive change in the lives of other people and I get to work alongside people who share the same vision and level of dedication to our community as I do.***



Lynne Bourne, Program Assistant

Favorite holiday food? ***Southern broccoli casserole***

Favorite holiday song? ***Mary Did You Know***

Favorite holiday movie? ***Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer***

What do you like most about working for CASA? ***I love the purpose, philosophy and the hearts of the people who work for CASA.***



Volunteers OF THE YEAR

CASA of Shawnee County's success depends entirely on committed volunteers, master "life quilters" like Sherry and Bob Jaymes – a dynamic duo and dedicated co-CASA team.

When Sherry and Bob began volunteering for CASA in 2016, staff knew they would be stellar advocates. With a background in teaching at-risk youth, the Jaymeses were the perfect people to take on a complicated case including seven siblings.

The time and talent Sherry and Bob put into their work is truly something to behold. In the last 3 years, for example, they have traveled more than 4,250 miles to see the children for whom they advocate. They have attended dozens of hearings and written timely court reports for each one. They've gone to sibling visits without fail and always make themselves available to their kiddos by email, phone and text.

Sherry and Bob also make it a priority to ensure each child for whom they advocate has access to the resources they need to be successful in school. The husband and wife team have attended IEP meetings, parent teacher conferences, and met with countless school counselors. They've helped children finish their homework and took one of the girls on a local college campus tour.

Sherry and Bob even stepped-up to the task of driving around town in an effort to help one boy fund the "best burger in Topeka."

The Jaymeses have attended case plans and framework meetings for every child to which they've been appointed and have carefully monitored circumstances prior to the finalization of each child's adoption. They have proudly attended adoption finalizations in the courtroom and have been excited to show each child just how happy they are to see them find "forever homes."

With a collaborative attitude and energy to spare, Sherry and Bob tirelessly work with all agencies and parties involved in their case(s), painstakingly gaining the children's trust. And on one particularly difficult day when a teenaged girl felt bereft and alone, she called Sherry when her thoughts turned to suicide. Of course, Sherry went running without hesitation, because she knows just how much children need adults upon whom they can rely.

For all this, and so much more, we ask you to join us in celebrating the achievement of Bob and Sherry Jaymes.

Of course, it was not easy to select CASA of Shawnee County's 2019 Volunteer(s) of the Year. We are, after all, blessed to work with many dedicated and devoted advocates. Like all our wonderful volunteers, Bob and Sherry understand how important it is to give children hope. They understand just how important – and fulfilling – it is to be the person who makes it possible to Change a Child's Story™.



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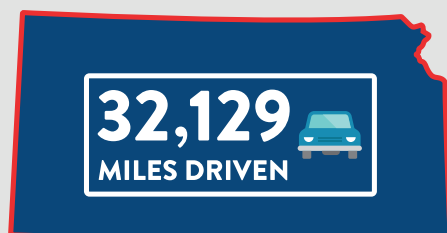
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2018 - 2019

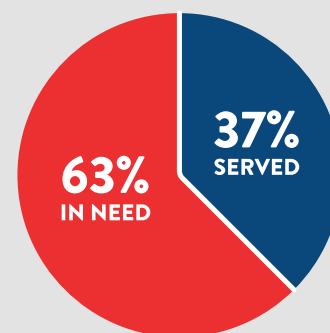
CASA OF
SHAWNEE COUNTY, INC
STATISTICS



Personal visits, phone calls, emails,
meetings with teachers, family
interviews, case planning, court
appearances...all take TIME!



Children in foster care can be
placed anywhere in the state.
Volunteers go the distance to
advocate for their CASA child!



Last year, 703 children in Shawnee County
were removed from their homes. CASA
Volunteers were only able to serve 37%.
Additional volunteers are needed to increase the
number of children served in Shawnee County.

CASA OF
SHAWNEE COUNTY, INC
**VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES**



- Review case plans, services and court orders to ensure children are receiving access to the supports they need.
- Ensure all parties engaged in a child's life are acting in their best interests and helping them make progress.
- Analyze barriers to success children may face and work with a team to identify and access programs to help them overcome obstacles.
- Make recommendations to the court about what services are needed to ensure children succeed.



- Establish a life-changing relationship with a child and advocate for his or her best interest.
- Interview people involved in a child's life and review available records regarding their family, education, development, and health.
- Submit written reports to CASA staff and members of Shawnee County's judicial branch detailing findings.
- Appear at court hearings and make recommendations in the best interests of a child.



**Fund life-changing programs by making a
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- Join CASA of Shawnee County's Board of Directors or serve on the Advisory Board.
- "Show Them They Are Loved" Follow us on Facebook @CASAShawnee to learn how you can adopt a CASA kid for Valentine's Day.
- Help recruit volunteers! Invite CASA to make a presentation at your membership group.
- Help make our outreach and fundraising events successful by serving on an event committee.



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MEET DESIGNER

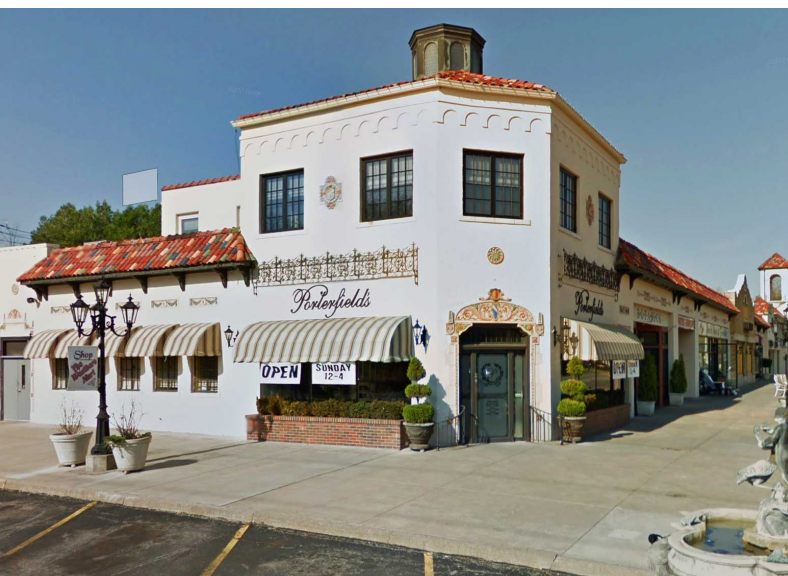
Chris Page



Local designer and Realtor®, Chris Page, has always had an eye for design. After selling her successful floral business after 25 years, she took up real estate, working at Realty Professionals in Topeka. Though helping families buy and sell their homes gives her great satisfaction, the itch to decorate hasn't left her bones. Decking the halls of the distinguished Cedar Crest home, and corporate offices around Topeka, Chris has left her mark all around the city. Being involved with CASA gives Chris an opportunity to share her passion with the local community, while contributing to a great cause. As a kid at Christmas time, she always enjoyed a warm and full house – CASA allows her a way to provide other children the same experience. Soon Chris will be opening her own DIY and decor-inspired website, where she will share tips and tricks for others to enjoy. You can find her on Facebook and Instagram (@ChrisPageDesigns) or her website, chrispagehomes.com.

MEET DESIGNER

Porterfield's Flowers & Gifts



Founded in 1965, by Brooke and Virginia Porterfield and owned today by their son, David, Porterfield's Flowers and Gifts has long been a supporter and important partner in CASA of Shawnee County's Homes for the Holidays tradition. A bellwether of classic floral design with an original flair, Porterfield's has been involved in many momentous events throughout our city's history, including inaugurals and other State events, presidential visits and services for local dignitaries. The company has been chosen as Topeka's best florist many times and is the only local florist selected as a member of Fine Flowers, the nation's listing of premier florists.

Owner, David Porterfield, attended Topeka Public Schools and graduated from Washburn University. His dedication to Topeka's community is evidenced not only by his steadfast support for CASA, but by the service he's done as president of the Mulvane Art Museum and so much more. Professionally, he has served as president of the Kansas State Florists Association and has twice been on the national Board of Directors of the American Institute of Floral Designers.

David's team of experts includes Design Director, Patrick Wages, an important part of the Porterfield's family since 1995. Patrick ensures every design that leaves the store is impeccably done, regularly consulting with clients to produce some of Topeka's most memorable occasions. They are joined by Linda Kennison, a veteran floral designer who's been on the Porterfield's team since 2017. Whether creating a show-stopping display on the sales floor or designing a gorgeous floral remembrance, Linda's work is perfection. Porterfield's design team is rounded out by Denise Peterson, a multi-faceted individual who splits her professional duties, both helping to keep things running smoothly in the office and working in the design room to ensure clients receive top-tier service – satisfaction guaranteed.

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MEET DESIGNER

Red Door Home Store



Photo credit: Topeka Capital-Journal

Jesse and Stacie Borjon love what they do as the owners of Red Door Home Store, and it shows. With over 25 years of experience in the design field, they proudly offer Topekans a great selection of unique, high-quality, stylish options in home décor and accessories. Located in Fairlawn Plaza, when you walk through the front door of Red Door Home Store you will immediately discover carefully vetted pieces ensured to match each customer's styles and tastes. Whether it's a shelf, a corner, flower arrangement, a room or your entire home, no challenge is too small for the Borjons.

The Borjon's expertise, business acumen and dedication to TopCity is appreciated community wide as evidenced by their having been named finalists in The Greater Topeka Partnership's 2018 Emerging Entrepreneur of Distinction competition. This year marks the fifth time they have participated in CASA's Homes for the Holiday's tour. But then, we're not surprised by their steadfast support. As Jesse told the Topeka Capital Journal in November 2018, "when we opened the store, we wanted it to be about community and how we could have an impact in the community ... It's a win-win. We get to support CASA and showcase what Red Door has to offer."



WELCOME TO THE *Mike & Grace Morrison Home*



Mike and Grace Morrison loved waking up in their Knollwood home on

Christmas morning after Santa had come. Seeing the excitement, delight and wonder in their children's eyes began the day on a high note before bundling the kids off to grandparents' houses where all the cousins got together for family-filled holidays. And while spending the holiday with loved ones was an important part of their family's traditions, it was in their beautiful home near Shunga Park where some of the family's most special memories were made.

In the Morrison house, custom dictated that Christmas began the day after Thanksgiving with the traditional playing of Barbra Streisand's "Christmas Album" – beginning with "Jingle Bells," of course. As the music blared, the songs of the season kicked off the holiday countdown. A small doll ornament with a hand-crocheted dress – a gift to Grace from the woman who introduced her parents to each other – made her annual appearance when the tree was decorated. Delicious smells filled the air as the family looked forward to opening gifts on Christmas morning. Everyone sitting on the floor around the tree opening presents gave them wonderful memories to share. And even more memories were made when they sat

down together for the traditional family Christmas breakfast of the "Best Ever Overnight Cinnamon Rolls," egg casserole, and bacon.

Built in 1988, remodeled in 2007, and augmented again in 2018, the Morrison's home has undergone many changes over the years. Major renovations have seen Mike and Grace relocating rooms, closets, and bathrooms. The kitchen has been transformed, wall treatments, arches, columns, glass and wrought iron have been added. Granite countertops and a kitchen-island bar have come and gone. Rooms have been added, like their much-beloved breakfast room with a glorious view of the park. And most recently they built a screened-in deck which gives them hours of joy as there's nothing the couple loves more than sitting in their bug-free outdoor room with Cally, their lovable but naughty kitty, enjoying a view of the park as they read, nap, eat, listen to the sounds of nature, and entertain.

The Morrisons are excited about sharing their beloved home with Topekanas as part of CASA's Homes for the Holidays tour. They are excited about helping TopCity kick-off the holidays, inspire decorating ideas, and increase community awareness about and support for CASA of Shawnee County. The Board of Directors and staff thank Mike and Grace Morrison for their support of CASA's commitment to, as Grace says, "being a voice and support to children who need it the very most, and for whom there is little or no other help."



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WELCOME TO THE
*Tighe & Margaret
LaRue Home*



CASA volunteer and local child advocate, Margaret LaRue, and her husband, Tighe, a local business owner, are long-time Topekan who look forward to the holiday season each year. Celebrating with their two grown children, the LaRues enjoy entertaining in their custom-built home nestled within McFarland Farms. The couple stays involved in the community throughout the year, sharing their contagious laugh and love with those they touch. Thanks to the LaRues for their generosity in opening their home this year for the Homes for the Holidays Tour!



WELCOME TO THE *Mark & Peggy Murnahan Home*



It's always a beautiful day when you step inside Mark and Peggy Murnahan's Clarion

Lakes home. You're immediately taken in by the 15-foot hand-painted blue sky ceiling highlighted by the glow of a beautiful Strass Swarovski crystal chandelier. Their home, designed as a family "palace" by Dr. Rao Donepudi and GLPM Architects, Inc., was built in 2003. It features granite and slate floors throughout as well as three custom-designed fireplace mantles. A special feature is an antique Indian palace window and mantle on a fourth fireplace in the master bedroom.

Mark, Peggy and their four children, Simon (16), Madeline (14), Jack (10) and Jude (6) – along with a cat, a turtle and 300 assorted fish – call this amazing house of more than 8,000 square feet home. With four kids of their own, the Murnahans understand how personal experiences can affect children during their formative years. They say their love of kids is why they are opening up their home for CASA of Shawnee County's

Homes for the Holidays tour. Peggy says kids will never get that time back, so "protecting it and using it well deserves great effort."

The holidays are a special time for the family. You may find Mark and Peggy enjoying hot buttered rum while the kids guzzle Peggy's magical hot chocolate. You'll likely hear the theme song for Christmas Vacation playing on a continuous loop as the turkeys and pumpkins are put away and replaced by Christmas trees.

One of their traditions is to shop for new Christmas ornaments on Halloween – yes, while in costume! It's a fun way for them to kick off the holiday season. They enjoy decorating many trees each year, including a homemade ornament tree, patriotic tree and a 9-foot family tree representing each family member's greatest interests. It takes them more than 8 hours to decorate just that one tree.

Please join CASA of Shawnee County in thanking Mark and Peggy Murnahan for opening their home to further our cause.

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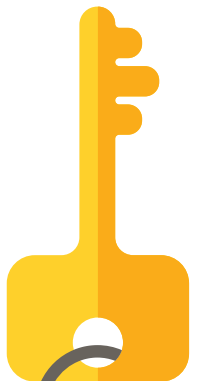


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WELCOME TO THE *Josh & Kimberly Svaty Home*



This isn't the first time Josh and Kimberly Svaty have graciously opened their lovely Westboro home to benefit Kansas' kids.

Upon purchasing the gorgeous 1926 Colonial-style house in 2012, they immediately volunteered to delay moving in until after renovations were completed as part of that year's Designers' Showhouse fundraiser. Such dedication to the well-being of Kansas' kids is par for the course for the busy couple. Kimberly serves on the Board of Directors of Harvesters, the Community Food Network and is on the Board of Trustees for the University of Kansas Hospital Saint Francis campus. Josh, meanwhile, spent his career in public service, having been elected as a Kansas State Representative, and serving as the State Secretary of Agriculture, and as the Vice President of Salina's world-famous Land Institute (respectively).

Kimberly is the Founder and CEO of Gencur Svaty Public Affairs, a communications, public relations, legislative advocacy and event management company, serving a diverse set of clients ranging from non-profit organizations to large companies. The busy couple works together in these endeavors, and also own and operate Free State Farms, a diversified crop and livestock operation located in Josh's boyhood Ellsworth County home.

These parents of four active children look forward to the holiday season every year as a special time to make new memories. Each year they venture out to the Optimist tree lot the Sunday after Thanksgiving to pick out the family Christmas tree, which is decorated with meaningful holiday ornaments from Kimberly and Josh's youth. When they got engaged they began buying or making their own ornaments each year which has added to their collection and carried the tradition forward for their children.

Annually on December 23rd, the Svatys head off to the grocery store where everyone picks out one thing they want for dinner. That night they enjoy a meal under the beautiful tree made from the six elements they bought earlier in the day. These joyous traditions are topped off by a family-sleepover under the tree that night in preparation for Santa's visit.

Kimberly and Josh know how much Topekans enjoy this special time of year and are proud to share their love for the holidays in support of CASA of Shawnee County. They know about the undeniable difference our volunteers make in the quality of life for area children and are pleased to open their home for those who join them in their desire to leave an indelible mark on those in need.

Snow Fun!

Here's what you need:

- Dish, bowl, or cookie sheet
- Liquid food coloring
- Small bowls, paintbrushes, spoons, plastic dispensers, small toys, or whatever you have on hand
- Snow!

Directions:

1. Mix liquid food coloring into small bowls of water to make paint. Watercolor paint works great, too! Mixing the colors is half the fun. Let kids experiment with mixing and creating new colors.
2. Use whatever tools you have to create snow art! Drip, spray, brush or pour to make your snow colorful. Mix in toys, colored ice cubes and other fun supplies. Get messy!

How do kids benefit from making snow art?

They learn opposite words like warm and cold, smooth and rough, hard and soft, big and small.

They touch, squeeze, smell and feel, helping build connections in the brain.

They practice using the small muscles in their hands (fine motor skills) later used for writing.

They imagine! Using symbolic thinking, the snow can become an animal habitat, a painting in museum, a frozen castle, or sky full of clouds.

Older kids may get into the science they see at work!

They see capillary action, or wicking, as colors spread through the ice crystals in the snow. Kids may notice a drop of paint spreads to the surrounding snow, or that a hunk of snow placed in a bowl of colored water gradually becomes the color of the water. They're seeing liquid move through snow by filling in spaces between molecules.

They see freezing and melting, and how that impacts absorption. An ice cube doesn't absorb color like snow does because snow has more space between molecules than ice to soak in water.

They may like experimenting with different substances to see chemical reactions in their art. Try a sprinkle of salt!



Blizzard in a Bottle!

Winter weather blues got you down? Turn it around with this easy DIY blizzard that teaches kids about science!

Here's what you need:

- Cup
- Spoon
- Clear glue
- Blue Food coloring
- Water bottle
- Glitter
- Duct tape (optional)

Directions:

1. Pour about 2 ounces of clear glue into a cup.
2. Mix a small drop of blue food coloring into the glue.
3. Mix about 4 ounces of water into the glue.
4. Carefully pour the water/glue mixture into a mostly full bottle of water.
5. Pour as much glitter as you want into the water bottle.
6. If the lid is a little loose, you can secure it with duct tape.
7. Shake it up and watch it shine!



Handprint Snowman

Hang a memory on your tree every year!

Here's what you need:

- Blue ornament
- White paint
- Permanent markers
- Spray acrylic sealer

Directions:

1. Dip your child's hand in white paint, then press her hand against the ornament.
2. Let the ornament dry completely.
3. Once the paint has dried, transform the fingers into snowmen by drawing faces, hats and scarves onto the snowmen.
4. Spray the ornament with the acrylic sealer to protect the paint, then allow it to dry before hanging it on the tree.



HOST OF THE 2019 Patron Party

From the moment you arrive at The Topeka Country Club, you will know that you're in for something special! The Club has recently completed a renovation and expansion of the Clubhouse. After working with an award-winning team of architects and interior designers, the new clubhouse opened at the beginning of 2019. New and improved amenities provide members with the perfect retreat from the rigors of everyday life. Improvements touch every aspect of Club life, including a new Health & Wellness Center, a new Beach Entry Resort Pool, dining facility expansions and new Golf Shop. The Topeka Country Club is a "vacation spot" close to home!

Throughout its 100-plus year history, The Topeka Country Club has always been a warm and welcoming gathering place for members to call home. The Club experience is about being the place for families and friends to come together and create lasting memories. With an active social calendar filled with themed dinners, wine tastings, holiday celebrations, family movie nights and more, there's always something going on at The Topeka Country Club.

Our beautiful and challenging 18-hole golf course was designed by world renowned designer, Perry Maxwell. We have no tee times and the Golf Shop is always stocked with the latest fashions and equipment that any golfer may need. Our PGA golf staff is available for private lessons, clinics and they also teach the summer Junior Golf program.

The brand-new Health & Wellness Center features free weights, state-of-the-art Life Fitness equipment, spin bikes, a group exercise room and Titleist Performance Institute (TPI) Golf Fitness Assessments to help members improve their on-course performance. Massage therapy

by one of Topeka's best is available by appointment. An attendant in our new Youth Room is available at peak times for convenience in helping watch children. In addition, nationally accredited personal training and a comprehensive schedule of wellness programs for every fitness level is offered.

Our new resort style pool features a beach entry, a submerged bench for relaxing with friends and family, lap lanes and interactive water features for kids to enjoy. Outdoor furnishings provide members a place to relax while enjoying the pool area.

At the Tennis Center, you will have your choice of 3 indoor or 4 outdoor courts. The professional tennis staff teaches private or group lessons and also holds tennis clinics for adults and children. During the summer, the tennis center has an All Children's Sports Camp that is very popular and they also host Kid's Night Out once a month.

The casual dining Grille Room offers a seasonal menu tailored by our Executive Chef. Weekly specials feature something for everyone. The first Sunday of every month boasts a spectacular Sunday Brunch buffet with variety of choices as well as an omelet station, carved selections and a dessert station.

From the moment you enter The Topeka Country Club, you'll be catered to by people who personally know and care about you. For your family and friends, for your business associates – for yourself – we invite you to discover the very finest our city has to offer. Welcome to The Topeka Country Club.

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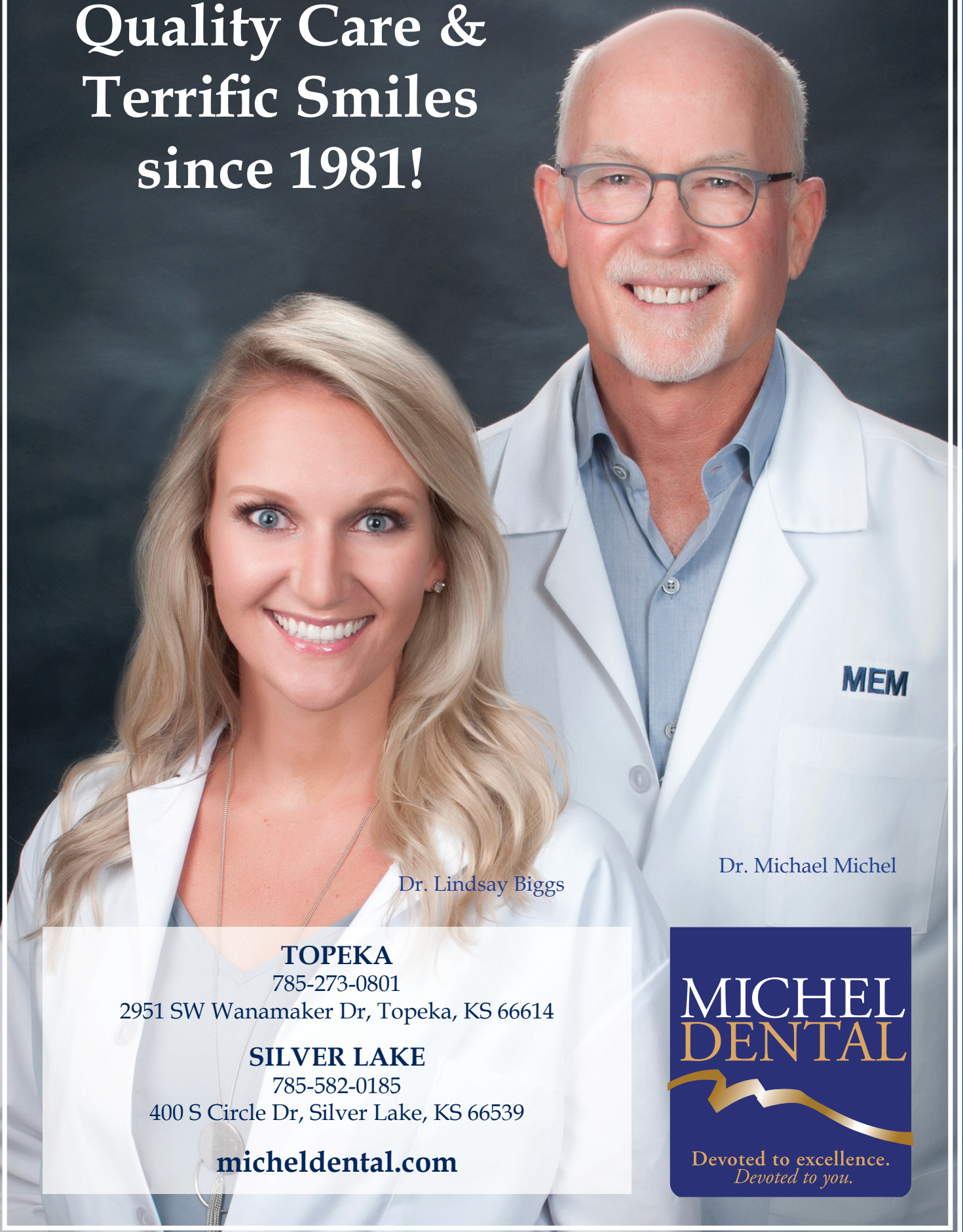





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CASA volunteers are empowered to make a lifelong difference in the lives of children who have experienced abuse and neglect, and are currently navigating the Shawnee County court system. Each CASA advocates for the child or children for whom the judge has given them oversight. They work in the best interests of their kiddos in an attempt to help the child reach and maintain stability when they have been removed from home and are involved in court cases.

Our CASA volunteers visit with children in their foster homes or other placements and speak with children's families, social workers, caregivers, teachers and other important people in children's lives. After gathering relevant information volunteers report findings to CASA of Shawnee County and submit official recommendations to the court.

Every step of the way, our volunteers work in the best interests of the children to whom they are appointed, helping them stitch together the unique quilts of their lives.

CASA Best-Interest Advocacy



Citizen Review Board Volunteers

Members of Shawnee County's Citizen Review Board (CRB) make lasting positive impacts on the lives of area children by working with the court to develop common sense approaches to cases they are assigned. Like our CASA volunteers, their goal is to help children reach and maintain stability in their lives.

Volunteers are divided into 4 groups of 3-7 volunteers, each of which makes up its own operating unit. They are people just like you from the local community who have the ability to make recommendations outside the realm of the involved social workers and attorneys. With assistance from our CRB Program Coordinator, CRB members review

foster care cases under the juvenile district judge and make recommendations as to the programs and activities that could best be employed to benefit the child.

Each board meets one time per month on Thursday afternoons. At present, CASA of Shawnee County holds up to three hearings each Thursday. But we're ready to grow this program and need your help to make it happen! Volunteer to join Shawnee County's CRB to help us change the stories of even more area youth.



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