

October 2021

Celebrate CrossWinds to go Virtual

In order to provide the safest possible environment for our staff, clients, and many community advocates, CrossWinds' annual fundraising event will be hosted in an online format again in 2021. Set to run from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 4, this edition of Celebrate CrossWinds will surround the theme of resilience.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has been at the front of our minds for the past 19 months, it has not distracted from our longstanding mission of removing barriers and restoring lives. During our 2020 event, we stated that, "COVID can't stop good!"

Although 2021 has definitely brought its own unique set of challenges, resilience throughout our organization and in our surrounding communities has allowed those words to remain true.

CrossWinds employed its largest workforce in agency history over the summer, peaking at 192 employees in late August. With the need for care rising throughout our seven-county coverage area, we anticipate reaching those numbers again in the coming months. Total services provided have increased by 6% in the last calendar year thanks to the rollout of improved telehealth options, and new

grant opportunities have made the expansion of our delivery model more practical than ever before. With your continued support, CrossWinds can keep seeing this kind of sustained growth.

Those interested in attending this year's virtual fundraiser should see attached materials for more information. Whether you come to donate, or simply to get the latest updates on what the agency has been working on, we thank you for your continued interest in improving the mental wellness of our coverage area. It is people like YOU that allow us to be resilient!



"We hope to see everyone at our upcoming Celebrate CrossWinds event. We will highlight our theme of 'resilience' and take advantage of an excellent opportunity to share some of the great things happening at CrossWinds. It's one of my favorite events of the year and we always appreciate the support received. We couldn't do what we do without our community members believing in our mission!"

Amanda Cunningham

CrossWinds Competes in Corporate Challenge

CrossWinds Counseling & Wellness was well represented in this year's edition of the Emporia Recreation Commission Corporate Challenge. Throughout late August and early September, 17 employees competed in 10 total events ranging from bocce ball to putt-putt. CrossWinds came in 15th place out of 22 teams overall, but two squads enjoyed top event finishes. Amanda Cunningham and Lucas Moody tied for second place in RampShot while Callie Fischer and Karen Moorman earned third place in pickleball.



Pickleball ft. Callie Fischer (foreground) and Karen Moorman



Cornhole ft. Jessica Mock and Tim Catlin (in white)

CrossWinds Receives \$2.3 Million SAMHSA Block Grant

CrossWinds Counseling & Wellness was recently awarded a two-year, \$2.3 million block grant as part of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Community Mental Health Center Grant Program.

The newly funded project, titled "Expanding Services; Strengthening Communities", will help address the needs of those who suffer from serious mental illness, experience serious emotional disturbance, or battle with co-occurring substance use disorders. Grant funds will also be used to improve access to treatment for underserved Hispanic and agricultural populations throughout Chase, Coffey, Greenwood, Lyon, Morris, Osage, and Wabaunsee counties.

"We are incredibly thrilled about this award from SAMHSA," said CEO Amanda Cunningham. "These funds will allow us to improve service delivery for our community members and provide better support to our staff. Being able to increase staffing and offer new programs is going to be crucial for us in meeting the ever-growing needs of the seven counties we serve. The ability to expand our existing community partnerships will be invaluable moving forward, and we are so grateful for the opportunity to continue improving the overall wellbeing of our coverage area."

Upcoming changes to CrossWinds' service delivery will include the implementation of same-day treatment, an increased crisis response presence, enhanced coordination with local criminal justice systems, and the further establishment of culturally appropriate services. Such improvements will help pave the way for the sort of innovative, high-quality care that will come as part of the state's recently approved Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model, putting the agency in position for future success.

"We are always excited to implement any changes that help us better serve our clients and communities on an everyday basis," said Development Manager Lucas Moody. "The opportunity to assist our underserved populations, provide same-day services, and grow our staff will prepare us to achieve CCBHC certification and adapt to any other potential expansions of Kansas' mental health system."