

## Construction Underway at Sauder Family Center

Late February marked the official start of construction at CrossWinds' newly christened Sauder Family Center. Located at 1601 State Street in Emporia, the facility is set to host several vital programs upon completion in late 2023.

"The top floor will include a medication clinic, the Genoa Pharmacy, therapeutic services, space for new teletherapy rooms, and also serve as a headquarters for emergency services," said CrossWinds Development Director Lucas Moody. "The lower level will contain our child-based services and an expanded therapeutic preschool. "We're anticipating about eight to nine months for construction. I want to send a special thanks to Mitchell-Markowitz Construction and Ben Moore Studio for their guidance as we move forward with

the process of combining six of our service locations into two beautiful locations."

Continuing a trend of positive community support, volunteers from ESU's volleyball team spent an afternoon salvaging carpet squares in preparation for further renovations.

"It has been great to see everyone

come together in support of this project and the broader mission of CrossWinds," Moody said. "Whether through making donations or actually rolling up their sleeves and helping with some of the building work, these volunteers are making a direct, positive impact on the future of mental health in their communities."



*A rendering of the Sauder Family Center's front entrance*



*Thanks again, Hornet volleyball!*



*This rendering of the future Sauder Family Center shows the facility's dedicated children's services entrance*

**STAND UP** **for** **Mental Health**



★ **FRIDAY** : **MAY 5** ★  
**GRANADA THEATER**  
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE  
STARTING MARCH 16 ★

# Employment Services Benefit Local Clients

Beyond affecting physical wellbeing, mental illness can often disrupt an individual's ability to live an independent and socially fulfilling life. Knowing this, staff involved in CrossWinds' Individual Placement Services and Supported Employment programming are hoping to reach clients throughout the agency's coverage area in 2023.

CrossWinds' IPS/SE services are designed to assist clients with severe and persistent mental illness in finding and/or maintaining steady employment based on their own unique skills and interests. Employment Specialists consider all clients interested in joining the workforce eligible, ensuring continued mental health support throughout their time in the program while simultaneously aiding with speedy job placement and retention. The goal is for each client to achieve competitive employment which includes orientation, on-the-job

training, expectations, and requirements of the job.

A total of 35 CrossWinds clients received assistance from IPS/SE in 2022, with five graduating from the program. Of the five graduates, four received part-time employment, with the other attaining a full-time position.

"These types of programs help clients learn new skills, increase their community involvement, improve their social lives, grow their self-esteem, and can help reduce some of the negative symptoms they may be experiencing," said CrossWinds Supported Employment Specialist Wendi Soendker. "Maybe most importantly, IPS/SE helps clients gain a sense of stability and independence in their own lives.

"Our hopes for the future of Supported Employment are to get organized for an official fidelity review. This has motivated staff to evaluate, update, and utilize new forms and policies to support the individuals participating in SE services. Moving forward, we are also wanting to expand SE services into regions outside of Lyon County in order to support individuals in more rural areas."

# CrossWinds Visits State Capitol

March 7th officially marked Kansas Mental Health Advocacy Day. Held at the state capitol building in Topeka, the event offered attendees a chance to speak on the importance of updated mental health policies and funding. A coalition from CrossWinds spent the afternoon meeting with local legislators and state representatives.



*CrossWinds Development Director Lucas Moody, CSS Manager Andrea Myers, and CEO Amanda Cunningham*

# CCBHC Update

Those familiar with CrossWinds have probably heard the acronym "CCBHC" at some point in the last year. Standing for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic, our agency has been hard at work in achieving this federally recognized model of service delivery.

At the most basic level, the CCBHC model will expand CrossWinds' treatment offerings and enhance our role in coordinating client care. Treatment will soon go beyond referring clients to outside resources, allowing us to collaborate directly with other health providers, eliminate barriers to care access for those we serve, and offer direct follow-ups on patient health outcomes. A new emphasis on "person-centered" treatment will ensure we address the physical and social health of our clients in addition to their mental health.

At this point in time, we have applied to receive provisional CCBHC certification in July 2023 and full CCBHC certification by July 2024. While there is still significant effort to be made in achieving these goals, great strides have already been achieved. CrossWinds has received a Substance Use Treatment license and is in the process of examining how to best serve clients while maintaining referrals to and coordination with community partners. An Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team is also in place and growing. Designed to reach high-needs clients wherever they may be, these mobile units operate with a focus on reducing client hospitalizations, mental health crises, and involvement with area justice systems. Elsewhere, staff have been serving in a Nursing Facility for Mental Health (NFMH), working to reintegrate individuals into the least restrictive environment possible. Additional efforts are

currently focused on providing same-day access, allowing clients the ability to receive services shortly after their initial intakes. These are just a few of the many great things in the works at CrossWinds, and as we continue this journey, we're thrilled to have the consistent support of the communities we serve. We look forward to the positive changes this certification will cause in the lives of our clients and to providing more updates on this process in the very near future.

*Lauren Rickner, Project Director*

