

THRIVE  ALLEN COUNTY

2023

IMPACT REPORT



www.thriveallencounty.org

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Leading with Vision, Promoting Success:

Message from the CEO



Dear Supporters and Community Members,

2023 marked Thrive’s Sweet 16, and it was indeed a sweet year full of wins and opportunities we believe will better Allen County for years to come. The most newsworthy accomplishment of the year was the creation of Lehigh Portland State Park. Thrive led the efforts on behalf of Iola Industries, to donate the \$2 million property to the state of Kansas to ensure it is preserved and used to its greatest potential for generations to come.

Inviting tourism into our county will bolster our small businesses, while also providing a beautiful space for our entire community to enjoy once the new infrastructure for the park is in place. We are so excited for the future of Lehigh Portland State Park and are eternally grateful for all of you who wrote letters, made phone calls or personally visited with legislators to ensure they supported the legislation creating Kansas’ newest state park.

While Lehigh was the most prominent accomplishment over the past year, the team at Thrive was ardently working to ensure so many additional good things were happening in Allen County. Our transportation program, ART, provided more than 4,500 rides to our residents, covering over 85,000 miles and ensuring they had access to healthcare services, groceries, work and more. Our care coordination program grew statewide and assisted thousands of residents in enrolling in health insurance plans, Medicaid, Medicare, food assistance, utility assistance and so much more. They are truly Thrive’s frontline workers.

We continued to work both locally and statewide on childcare and early childhood development and have proudly worked alongside our childcare centers and educators to address issues in these fields. Our Southeast Kansas Recovery Resources program continued to address stigma related to substance misuse, as well as provide support to families, children and individuals that are impacted through this work. Our Recovery House, located in Iola, opened a year and a half ago, and has been a refuge for individuals seeking a healthy, safe and welcoming environment as they go through active recovery, transitioning back into the community.

Our community conversations continued to inform our work this past year and we look forward to seeing you when we are in your town this year! We challenge everyone to show up like Mildred; in a town of 17, we had 16 people attend to advocate for their community! This year our interns have ensured our Allen County youth are also being heard, holding conversations in the local high schools. We are excited to have our future generations showing up to share their concerns and hopes for our community’s future.

We also continued to focus on housing and workforce development, picking up wins in these areas that we believe will only grow in 2024. This includes the City of Iola annexing additional land with PrairieLand’s expansion on the north side of town, creating an entirely new thriving area for Allen County. There are so many good things to come and we can’t wait to work on all of these opportunities alongside you in 2024!

Thank you for all of the ways you have supported our work over the past year! Your belief in our mission drives us forward and we love being part of such a wonderful community!

Together we thrive!

Lisse Regehr
President & CEO

Uniting Talents, Fueling Innovation:

Department Overview

- Jessica Thompson** - Deputy Director
- Rhonda Culp** - Director of Care Coordination
- April Jackson** - Director of SEK Recovery Resources
- Marcia Davis** - Director of Community Engagement
- Jeff Keithly** - Director of Allen Regional Transit (A.R.T.)
- John Leahy** - Director of Trails
- Jenny Tatman** - Assistant Director of Thrive Kansas
- Dan Carroll** - Director of Communications

Meet our dedicated management team who have contributed their expertise, passion, and collaboration to drive our success in 2023.



Celebrating Breakthroughs, Inspiring Progress:

Development Summary



- Lisse Regehr** - President & CEO
- Jessica Thompson** - Deputy Director
- Terri Jackman** - CFO
- Chi Wiggin** - Executive Assistant
- Tamisha Sewell** - Development Coordinator
- Rachel Moore** - Community Planning & Development Coordinator

The national average for grant writing success is around **15%**. Thrive's current win rate is close to **40%**. This greatly benefits the community as well, as nearly 1/3 of grants written this year were written specifically for sustainable community projects.

THRIVE ALLEN COUNTY

grants applied for:

60
 (\$15.5m)

grants awarded:

25
 (\$4.9m)

FOR THE COMMUNITY

grants applied for:

16
 (\$16.4m)

grants awarded:

8
 (\$7.3m)

Kansas CARES:

Care Coordination

Rhonda Culp - Director of Care Coordination
Greta Ingle - Lead Care Coordinator
Heather Patterson - Program Officer
Lorraine Kuzen-Stephens - Bilingual Care Coordinator
Andrea Campbell - Care Coordinator


Our Care Coordination team works closely with local residents to ensure community access to healthcare and other health-related resources.

23
CARE
 COORDINATORS
 STATEWIDE



Enrolled
4,470
 Kansans in
 health insurance
 over a three year
 grant period.

3 Thrive
 Care Coordinators
 can now complete
Homeless Certificates
 for a rapid rehousing
 program through the
 Kansas Housing
 Coalition.


**KANSAS
 CARES**
 Partnered with Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas to promote and provide Flu/COVID vaccines for people 60+, educating them on the importance of vaccines.

Assisted with **Renewing Medicaid** plans that began in May 2023, helping Kansans prevent loss of coverage as the continuous enrollment status] comes to an end.

Hosted **5 Rural Health Community Conversations** across KS in partnership with United Methodist Health Ministries Fund. Topics ranged from Medicaid expansion, improving access to care, and other ways to promote health in rural communities.



Hear from Iowa citizen, Kim Fishback, about how she has benefited from our Care Coordination team on YouTube!

Our Best Days Are Ahead:

Thrive Kansas

Lisse Regehr - President & CEO
Jenny Tatman - Assistant Director
Logan Stenseng - Policy Coordinator

Thrive Kansas is a statewide nonprofit organization committed to advocating on behalf of non-metropolitan communities in the state of Kansas, aiming to bring rural communities together to support one another and to create a stronger unified voice.

Obtained
501(c)(3)
status in 2023


The Zero to Thrive Early Childhood Education Advocacy Coalition with a network of 300+ advocates, supports statewide **advocacy for policies** and investments needed for children and families in rural Kansas to thrive.

Board Members:
Travis Rickford
Marci Penner
Jennie Toland
Alan Weber
Brian Wolfe
Tom Bell

Focused on creating organizational structure, strategic planning, **building relationships** with key stakeholders and organizations across the state while working toward **advocacy and policy efforts** related to rural health.

Participated in **statewide coalition meetings, conferences, and workshops** with topics related to rural communities and social determinants of health, *including:*
KS Suicide Prevention Coalition, KS Governor's Conference on Public Health, KS Breastfeeding Coalition, K-State Research & Extension, Big Rural Brainstorm, National Community Foundation Conference, *and more!*



Lisse Regehr, Thrive Allen County, and David Jordan, United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, host a health-focused community conversation in Pittsburg, Kansas.

Volunteerism, Youth Interns:

Community Engagement

Marcia Davis - Director of Community Engagement
Brigham Folk - Youth Intern
Christopher Holloway - Youth Intern
Shelby Peters - Youth Intern

Our Community Engagement team works closely with Allen County communities to organize local conversations and foster greater relationships.

Held **9 community conversations** throughout Allen County.

COMMUNITY GRANTS MANAGED:

AARP Grant:
Humboldt school garden
SEED Grant:
Marmaton Market, Mildred Store, Our Market, as well as Library improvements in Savonburg, Moran, and Humboldt...
and more!

Participated in **Meals on Wheels**, hired **3 student interns**, and assisted with projects such as **recycling** and a **DEI (Diversity, equity, and inclusion) training** for staff and partners.

Assisted Thrive Interns in planning, presenting, and reviewing **future-focused conversation** with students in Allen County with the goal of **improving schools** and providing more opportunities.

Through the **NetWork Kansas Community Solutions Grant**, Thrive hosted 4 conversations around Allen County focused on increasing **volunteerism** and promoting various volunteer opportunities.



Hear from our student interns about their Youth Community Conversation project, meeting with almost 300 students to discuss the future of Allen County. Watch it on [YouTube!](#)

Addiction Prevention and Education:

SEK Recovery Resources

April Jackson - Addiction Prevention & Recovery Resources Director
Charlie Harding III - Recovery House Manager
Summer Boren - Rural Health Coordinator

UPDATED LOGO:



SEK Recovery Resources is a coalition project serving six counties in the Southeast Kansas region: including Allen, Bourbon, Coffey, Neosho, Wilson and Woodson. Join their [Facebook Group](#) to get involved!

Distributed **Narcan (Naloxone) and health safety kits** across southeast Kansas. Plans are in place for vending machines to be placed with these materials at seven locations.

Brought speaker **Jake White** with **Vive18** to talk with students in multiple school districts about healthy lifestyle choices and preventing drug & alcohol use.

\$3,275 raised through fundraising efforts in 2023.

- In-Patient Referrals **21**
- Medication-Assisted Treatment Clients **14**
- Transportation Provided Rides for Care **237**
- Peer Support Services Provided **709**
- Peer Support Hours Served **1104**
- Community Service Hours by Residents **534**
- # of Residents **27**



Hear from our Recovery House residents and staff as they share their experiences and how this program has impacted their lives. Watch it on [YouTube](#)!

Lehigh Portland State Park:

Bike and Trails

John Leahy - Director of Trails
Kelsy Carroll - Bike & Trails Coordinator

Our Bike & Trails team works tirelessly to preserve and maintain our trail systems and prepare the newest State Park in Kansas.



Find out about our **Volunteer Days** on [Facebook](#) or on our [website](#).

Achieved dedication of Kansas' newest **State Park.**

Published a current **Trails Magazine.** Read the full PDF [here](#).



Thrive Kansas partnered with **Mike Goodwin** to assist with continuing the **Trail in a Box** program.



Art on the Trail: Stephen Gilpin's mural encourages Kansans to get outside, and stay outside. Find it on the Connector Trail near Elm Creek.

Social Media, Website, News:

Communications

Daniel Carroll - Director of Communications
Hayden Steadman - Communications Coordinator
Marla Wilson - Office Manager

Our Communications team produces photo/film projects to document progress, and other media to stay in touch with the community. Follow us on Social Media through the links below!



Collaborated with *Kinfolk Created* to **launch a website update**, with a brand new design and fresh layout. Check it out [here!](#)

Gathered media equipment and **built a video library** in an ongoing effort to **share more stories** and engage with a wider audience.

WSU Increase the Reach,
Community Solutions,
CMS Navigator,
and more!

Assisted with projects over multiple grants, including:

2023 METRICS:

Facebook Reach -	
Beginning of 2023	Current
7,488	18.5K
Instagram Reach -	
Beginning of 2023	Current
26	3,126
YouTube views -	
Beginning of 2023	Current
241	4.8K



THRIVE ALLEN COUNTY
Year In Review 2023

LIKE

2023 was a year of change for Allen County. Watch our highlight reel from the Annual Celebration [here!](#)

Transportation:

Allen Regional Transit (A.R.T.)

- Jeff Keithly** - Director of Transportation
- Angie Roney** - Dispatcher
- Mike Vile** - Driver
- Norma McDaniel** - Driver
- Frank Smith** - Driver
- Jana Corbin** - Driver

A.R.T. offers public transit to residents in Allen County.
 Follow them on [Facebook](#) for more information!

Obtained
501(c)(3)
 status in 2023

\$2.7K
 Received in
 Donations

2,560
 Medical & Pharmacy
 Appointment
 Transport provided
 in 2023

Board Members:
 Jon Wells
 Josiah D’Albini
 Cathy Dreher
 Georgia Masterson
 Megan Meiwes

5,540
 Total Rides
 Given in 2023



A.R.T. driver Frank Smith brightening up rides with a necklace of lights during the week of Christmas 2023.



Thank You

to our funding partners who made this year's successes possible, especially:

HEALTH FORWARD FOUNDATION

REACH HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

UNITED METHODIST HEALTH MINISTRY FUND

SUNFLOWER FOUNDATION

CENTER FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGING

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD KS PATHWAYS PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

KANSAS BREASTFEEDING COALITION

ALLEN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

CITY OF IOLA

CITY OF HUMBOLDT

IOLA INDUSTRIES

THRIVE  **ALLEN COUNTY**