

Community Connections — July 2026



Join CMHF Sept. 12 for — Ready Set Thrive — A Wellness Celebration

What is **Ready Set Thrive**? It's a celebration of 45 years of happier childhoods, reclaimed lives, uplifting connections, and ongoing mental wellness journeys made possible by funding from Jackson County's mental health levy. The event is free and open to the public, and we invite the community to join us from 11-2 pm on Saturday, September 12, at [The Gathering KC](#).

We're memorializing this milestone with an all-ages afternoon of food, fun, and community resource information. We'll also have entertainment centered around wellbeing and our network partners' commitment to providing equitable, quality mental health care for everyone.

[Watch our website](#) for additional information on the day's festivities as we finalize details. Together, we'll celebrate creating a community where everyone's mental health can thrive.

CMHF Announces Inaugural Community Grant Awards

Our 18 new partners broaden access to whole-person mental health services in Jackson County.



The Hella Good Deeds team — pictured at the 2026 AANHP Heritage Festival. Image courtesy of Hella Good Deeds.

Offering an array of mental health services that are trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and accessible, each of the new Community Grant recipients are partnering with the Community Mental Health Fund to expand care and achieve positive mental health-related outcomes.

The first nine agencies are listed below. Watch for the remaining nine in next month's Community Connections, or [explore the full award list](#) on our website.

Organization	Program	Award
<u>Art as Mentorship</u>	Rebel Song Academy — Empower Our Youth	\$30,000
<u>Building Beautiful Black Girls Project</u>	The BBBG Power Up Experience	\$10,000
<u>Center for Conflict Resolution</u>	Restorative Reentry Program	\$25,000
<u>Creative Emajinations</u>	M.E.N.T.A.L.	\$32,000
<u>Exculta Health & Wellness</u>	Hidden Helpers Healing Initiative	\$25,000
<u>Friendship Baptist Church</u>	Mindful Mondays for Seniors	\$20,000
<u>Gilda's Club Kansas City</u>	Emotional Wellness for the Cancer Journey	\$40,000
<u>Greater Impact KC</u>	Community Healing & Resilience Initiative (CHRI)	\$50,000
<u>Hella Good Deeds</u>	Hella Healing	\$50,000

Explore our new Community Grant agencies

CMHF Announces Staff Promotions

Susan Jones Expands Network Partner Support as Director of Programs

As a member of CMHF's senior leadership team, Susan maintains a small portfolio of agencies and leads ongoing development and operations of the Value-Based Payment initiative. She also ensures cross-the-board quality assurance and equitable practices, adherence to statutory guidelines, and consistency in organizational cultural practices for all CMHF programs.



Samantha McCall Named Communication & Advocacy Manager

Along with her responsibilities for CMHF website, social media, and newsletter communications, Samantha will track and report on mental health-related legislation. Her efforts will identify key bills' impact on mental health services and raise public awareness during the fast-paced session.



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

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