



HBCAT NEWS

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The Healthy Bourbon
County Action Team
Newsletter

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Third Street Park Celebration



HBCAT invited the 3rd-grader from Eugene Ware Elementary to try out the new playground equipment at Third Street Park. The kids excitedly played at the park and also went down the new stairs to play kickball at the field at the bottom of the hill. To top it all off HBCAT partnered with Tiger Ice Sno Cone Truck to give each student a delicious treat.

The kids played, had fun, and laughed! One of the parents commented, “Thank you all so much!! My 3rd grader loved it and has asked to go back every day since then!”

A special thanks to superintendent Destry Brown and Principle Yasmina Query for attending this event and continuing to support HBCAT’s efforts.

HBCAT is thankful for partnerships with The Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of Fort Scott, and Fort Scott Kiwanis. This project couldn’t have happened without our funders Patterson Family Foundation and Blue Cross and Blue Shield Pathways to a Healthy Kansas.



A Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Initiative



PATTERSON
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Children's Business Fair

The HBCAT partnered with the PSU Small Business Development Center and Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce to organize the Children's Business Fair. The Children's Business Fair was held at the Fort Scott's Farmer's Market.

Most of the participants in the Business Fair had attended at least one workshop at HBCAT prior to the event. HBCAT held 2 different workshops prior to the Children's Business Fair. One workshop was about business planning that introduced business terminology to the kids. The other workshop taught the kids about pricing and expenses.

There were 20 kids that participated in the Children's Business Fair. HBCAT gave out \$340 in prize money to the vendors. 1st Place received \$50, 2nd Place received \$25 and 3rd Place received \$10.

There were 4 different age groups - 5-7, 8-10, 11-13 and 14-16. Network Kansas provided the funds for the prizes. Winners are listed below:

5-7 Age Group

1st Place - Adelaide Bowman - Addie's Framework

2nd Place - Judah Whitson - Judah's Bakery

3rd Place - Ethan Nilges

8-10 Age Group

1st Place - Jonathon Howard

2nd Place - Camren lamb

3rd Place - Asher Whitson

11-13 Age Group

1st Place - Gunner Keyton

2nd Place - Anabelle Nilges

3rd Place - Isabelle Nilges

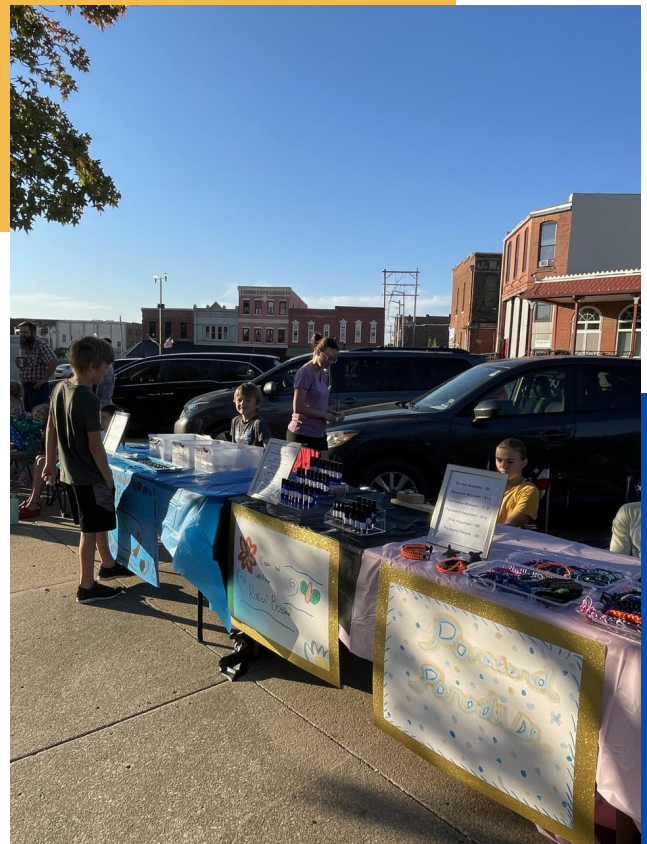
14-16 Age Group

1st Place - Natalie Lehman

2nd Place - Luke Lehman

3rd Place - Devlin Cole

For more information or if you would like to make sure you are on our list for the next Children's Business Fair, please reach out to Rachel Carpenter at info@hbcats.org.



Entrepreneurship
Community
Partnership

Child care providers increase child capacity, thanks to The Healthy Bourbon County Action Team

Recent funding from the Bourbon County Childcare Coalition, an initiative formed by The Healthy Bourbon County Action Team, already is making a big difference to the capacity of local childcare providers at a time when Kansas is facing a childcare crisis.

“A recent survey by the coalition found that 95 percent of adults seeking childcare said they would return to the workforce if they had access to high quality childcare,” said Jody Hoener, HBCAT president and CEO. “Childcare is incredibly important not just to our economy, but to the wellbeing of our families.”

The survey found that individuals seeking care for their children are on an average of nearly three waitlists and have been for more than 23 weeks.

This fall, HBCAT was awarded a \$45,000 grant from Child Care Aware of Kansas and an additional \$3,500 from the Patterson Family Foundation to address capacity.

Within just a few weeks, those funds had been passed on to the coalition, which worked with local providers to understand what they needed to be able to create new slots.

“Ultimately, with the help of this grant, childcare providers will be able to increase 51 childcare slots,” Hoener said.

Of the funding, \$32,000 is being spent on capacity-building equipment and materials at numerous providers.

Among them: Lana’s Daycare, owned by Lana Beerbower, where the funding was used to buy a larger refrigerator, which increased food storage to accommodate additional children.

The daycare also was able to expand activity spaces to accommodate additional children through the purchase of an outdoor playhouse, activity table, play mat, drawing mat, and carpet.

For Tiny Tots, owned by Susie Castleberry, it was used to buy a bigger food pantry, additional individual cubbies for childrens’ belongings, and an extended playground with safety fencing.

“That will enable us to increase our slots because we can have play areas for both toddlers and older children, and we’ll be able to have more food on hand to serve them,” Castleberry said. “It will help us comply with regulations and serve more children safely.”

“We’re grateful and super excited,” she said. “We’ve been wanting to be able to help more families.”

At Happy Kids Daycare, owned by Lindsay Knopp and Afton Brown, funding was used for curriculum and staff training, as well as salaries for additional employment.

“This means the ability to serve more children in a more impactful way, and for our teachers to have the tools they need to be effective,” Knopp said.

“Having a proven curriculum and early intervention to use with the children we serve is huge for them. It’s a building block that will better prepare them for school with modules in social, emotional, and academic areas, and in daily skills that will prepare them for success.”

Funding also will be spent by the coalition on a new provider recruitment coordinator (\$2,000) and on quarterly training for providers, including materials and keynote speakers (\$11,000)



BLUE COLLAR CAREER FAIR

The Action Team's Center for Economic Growth program had a booth at the Advance Bourbon County's Blue Collar Career Collar Fair. This Career Fair had a special focus on trade programs and invited local employers have booths to start making connections with the next generation of workers. Over 350 students from seven high schools in the area attended the event. Students were able to talk to potential employers, trade programs, and the local community college. PSU Small Business Development Center was there to be a resource for students who want to start their own businesses. Southeast KANSASWORKS was present to help students learn about their career development programs. The Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce shared a table with HBCAT to share local resources for students.

