



KISRA

KANAWHA INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH & ACTION, INC.

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START

Championing Positive
Community Change

Changing Behaviors,
Changing Lives,
Changing Futures
for West Virginia Families.

Dr. Michelle Foster
KISRA CEO



At KISRA we've been about families since we first came to be in 1993.

Creating stronger ones. Better educated ones. More empowered ones, ready to change the course of their lives and contribute to our community.

Carl Chadband, M. Ed.
KISRA COO



OUR MISSION

We empower West Virginians through education, employment, economic empowerment and behavioral health services

Susan Plants
Clinic Manager



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

If we teach West Virginians certain skills and facilitate access to certain resources, then they will become more self-sufficient.

OUR FRAMEWORK

KISRA



You'll see us providing safe havens for children.

Showing men how to be better fathers.

Befriending those with mental illness so they can live at home rather than state facilities.

Giving ex-offenders the tools to reenter the community.

Loaning money to small business owners.

Helping people buy homes and acquire other assets that create stability.



WHO DO WE SERVE?

Children/youth – 6 weeks to high school

Adults

Families

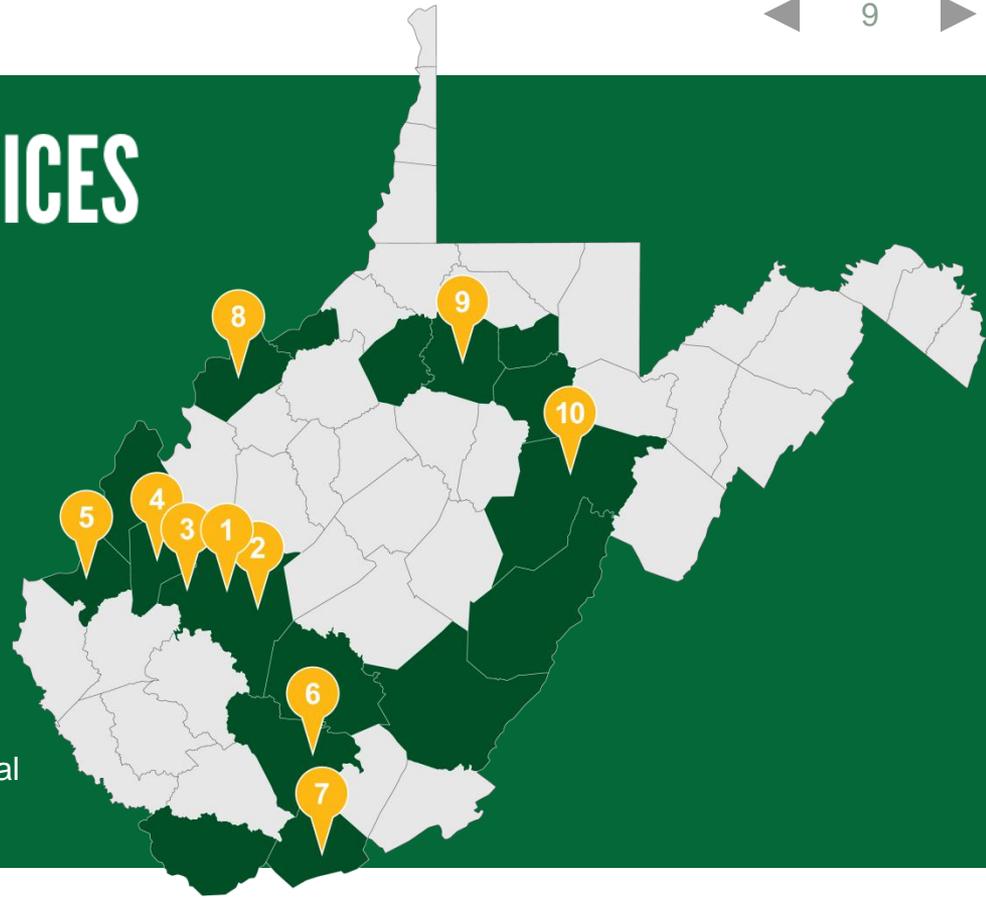
2012 Harambee CDC
Graduation Ceremony



WHERE WE PROVIDE SERVICES

- 1 Dunbar (Empowerment Center)
- 2 Gore Hall (WVSU Campus)
- 3 Charleston
- 4 Winfield
- 5 Huntington
- 6 Beckley
- 7 Princeton
- 8 Parkersburg
- 9 Clarksburg
- 10 Elkins

We provide services at community hubs and correctional facilities in the counties shown on the map



SKILLS & RESOURCE AREAS

- Education
- Employment
- Economic Empowerment
- Behavioral Health

EDUCATION

Programs that offer children appropriate early childhood development, safe after-school havens and prepare them for academic success. Also includes programs that help teens make good life decisions and successfully pursue higher education

HARAMBEE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

**Preparing our community's youngest children
for academic success**

At HCDC we believe that academic success begins in preschool.

Since we first opened our doors in 2004, we've provided a nurturing, safe and drug-free haven that encourages a lifetime love for learning in the youngest members of our community.





HARAMBEE LEARNING CENTER

**Offering kindergarteners through fifth graders
a safe after-school haven**

The Harambee Learning Center was opened in 1998 to serve as a safe, drug-free, after-school refuge for children attending Kanawha County Schools.

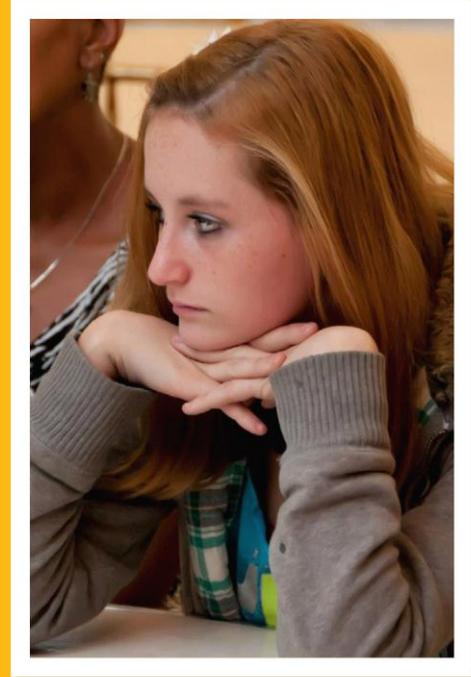
Its focus is on preventing the onset of adolescent problem behaviors by reducing their risk of academic failure.



KISRA PREP (KPREP)

Giving teenagers the tools to make better decisions

KPREP provides teenagers with valuable knowledge to help them in their transition in to adulthood including decision making, money management and career planning skills.



EMPLOYMENT

Programs to help people find jobs and achieve economic self-sufficiency, encourage men to become better fathers and providers, and pave the way for ex-offenders to reenter the community

EMPLOYMENT

1. present TANF recipients, former TANF recipients or whose children are receiving TANF; or
2. 200% or below the federal poverty level; or
3. within 9 months of their release from prison; or
4. Ex-offenders.

PATHWAYS TO RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD

Empowering men with the skills and resources that they need to succeed as fathers and providers

Supporting stronger families by helping low income, incarcerated and previously incarcerated fathers to become more involved in their children's lives.

Empowering these fathers with occupational and life skills that help them achieve economic self-sufficiency, reconnect with their children and support them financially.



SECOND CHANCE MENTORING PROGRAM

Helping former offenders to reclaim their place in our community

Helps former offenders reenter our community, stabilize their lives and achieve self-sufficiency.

Enhances community safety by reducing the chances that they will return to prison in the future.



GROWING JOBS PROJECT

A fresh idea that's making good things happen in our community

The Growing Jobs Project is a fresh, new way in which KISRA is making a positive difference in our community.

It's a farm-to-table program that's creating jobs, encouraging entrepreneurship, and giving people access to fresh, organic produce for a healthier lifestyle.



KISRA

Championing Positive Community Change

GROWING JOBS PROJECT

Key components are:

- urban farm with 2 greenhouses;
- commercial kitchen;
- farm stands at Capital & West Side Farmers' Markets;
- farming skills, culinary skills and business development training;
- food truck/mobile kitchen.











ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Programs that help people become more financially fit, buy homes, establish a pattern of saving and open or expand small businesses

FINANCIAL FITNESS

Bringing help and hope to community members in need of financial education

The goal of KISRA's Financial Fitness program is to help members of our community improve their finances and, in turn, their lives.

When we help remove individual barriers to the accumulation of wealth, everyone benefits with a community that's stronger and more prosperous.



KISRA HOMEOWNERSHIP

Helping members of our community realize the American Dream of homeownership

The goal of the KISRA Homeownership program is to turn area residents from renters to proud homeowners.

To that end, the KISRA staff provides practical knowledge, guidance and support that equip the people in our community to do just that.



MICROLOAN PROGRAM

Providing financial assistance to help small business entrepreneurs succeed

Owning a small business is a goal for many members of our community.

Getting financing through conventional lenders is a struggle for some small startup businesses.

The Microloan Program helps entrepreneurs in need to realize their dream of business ownership.



WVIDA INITIATIVE

Helping families and individuals of modest means establish an going pattern of saving

Members of our community with modest means struggle with establishing and staying committed to a savings program.

The WVIDA Initiative helps them do just that with special savings accounts known as IDAs (Individual Development Accounts). IDAs empower them to work toward their goals of owning a home, starting a new business, or getting an education.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

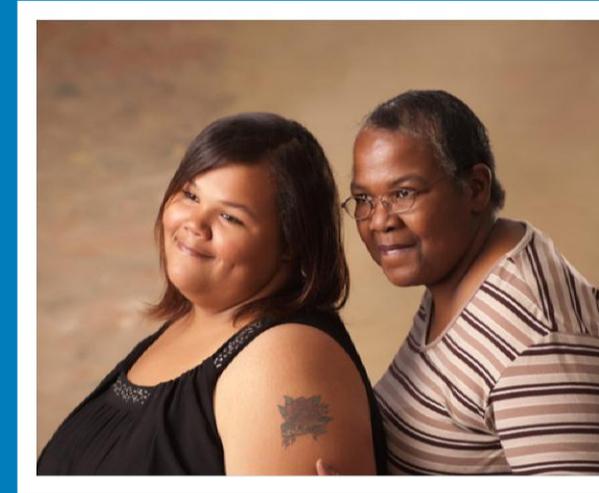
Programs that support mentally ill citizens as well offer a full range of health care services

CARE COORDINATION

Supporting those in our community dealing with mental illness

Research shows that lack of support is one of the primary reasons that people with serious mental illnesses eventually go to live in mental health facilities.

This program provides intensive case management that helps them to survive and thrive in the "real world" beyond the confines of our overcrowded facilities.



COMPEER FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM

Serving as friends and mentors to members of our community dealing with mental illness

Strengthens our community by helping those living with mental illness on their recovery journey.

Pairs participants with community residents and AmeriCorps members. These volunteers become friends and mentors, providing participants with social support and keeping them integrated in the community.



COMMUNITY CLINIC

Offers a full range of healthcare services, including family planning.

Every person who comes to the clinic receives a warm welcome and quality care, regardless of their ability to pay.



RECENT RECOGNITION

2012 Fatherhood Champion of Change
recognition from the White House

2012 Purple Ribbon Award from the West Virginia
Coalition Against Domestic Violence

2011 Community Leadership Award from Prevent
Child Abuse West Virginia



RECENT RECOGNITION

2009 Living the Dream Service Organization
Honor Roll from the Martin Luther King, Jr.
Holiday Commission

2009 Minority Small Business Champion Award
from the US Small Business Administration

Ture' Johnson

Instructor / Former Program Participant



KISRA

Championing Positive Community Change

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KISRA is a faith-motivated initiative established in 1993. We are a 501(c)(3) organization that was started by Ferguson Memorial Baptist Church located in Dunbar, West Virginia.