



Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** American values are at their best when meeting challenges through service to others; and
- WHEREAS,** leaders in the neighborhoods of Northeast Kansas City, Kansas in the 1960's were seeking greater opportunities for residents and greater access to intellectual resources to help pursue their goals; and
- WHEREAS,** research, service, and teaching comprise the central mission of the University of Kansas; and
- WHEREAS,** leaders from the University of Kansas and Northeast Kansas City reached out to one another in troubled political times and formed a unique collaboration that opened a Center located in the Juniper Gardens Housing Project - Community Center that eventually expanded into local Church basements, the Turner House Preschool, and the KCK Schools, dedicated to the discovery of new approaches to teaching, parenting, and caregiving; and translating them to services for area children and families; and
- WHEREAS,** the Juniper Gardens Children's Project (JGCP) remains located in the community - still dedicated to the advancement of educational opportunity, academic achievement, and social well-being, continuing its mission uninterrupted till today; and
- WHEREAS,** JGCP was a founding partner with Project EAGLE Community Programs, the Family Conservancy, and the KCK District in development of the Children's Campus of Kansas City, a 10-year effort now serving hundreds of area children and families in outstanding facilities using evidence-based practice; and
- WHEREAS,** the JGCP has become a leading model of a new higher education discipline commonly referred to nationally as Community-Engaged or Community-Participatory Research; and
- WHEREAS,** the JGCP has been a local economic asset by renting space from local owners (3rd Street Church of God, Physicians, and El Centro), and by hiring/training local residents who acquired better skills and who went on to higher paying jobs, while many who stayed, have had lengthy careers employed at JGCP/University of Kansas, and
- WHEREAS,** many current and past leaders - residents of Kansas City, KS, grew up experiencing our early preschool programs, improved instruction in the KCK Schools, better ways of teaching, and caring for children with disabilities and preventing behavior problems; and
- WHEREAS,** many of these leaders were advised in their higher educational experiences at the University of Kansas by JGCP-based faculty, completing their master's and doctoral degrees mentored individuals who became Teachers, School Principals, Program Directors, Superintendents, Higher Education Faculty, City Commissioners, and even Mayors. Hundreds of others became leaders and faculty members in other cities, School Districts, and Universities in the U.S., and in other countries -Australia, Canada, Greece, Israel, Korea, Mexico, among others; and
- WHEREAS,** accumulating research findings at JGCP led to the founding of the Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training (Kcart) at the University of Kansas with facilities at JGCP, the Medical Center, and the Edwards Campus (<http://kcart.ku.edu/>); and
- WHEREAS,** research conducted in Kansas City, KS and reported in scientific journals continues to impact state and national practices and policies, for example, state-wide child seatbelt restraint policies, improving school performance with peer tutoring, curricula for preschool language and literacy, better approaches to treating disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Act, and nationally, impetus of President Obama's efforts to bridge the word gap, an original discovery reported by researchers at the JGCP (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gu5P5NbGxEY>); and
- WHEREAS,** the research conducted and lessons learned in this effort have been disseminated to others locally and around the world, and have become central elements in the practice of education, special education, early intervention, and early childhood education.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Mark R. Holland, Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, do hereby proclaim, Saturday, November 7, 2015 as:

"Juniper Gardens Children's Project Day"

in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas and congratulate and thank them for 50 years of service. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County / Kansas City, Kansas.



MARK R. HOLLAND, MAYOR/CEO