



# Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2023

It's not enough to get **fired up**.

It's not enough to care.

*Real change takes action.*

**It takes movement.**

**Forward motion, always.**

**We are**



 SparkWheel

# Malissa Martin

## PRESIDENT AND CEO



Dear supporters, partners, and friends:

I am pleased to share with you this year's annual report, which commemorates our final year as an affiliate of the Communities In Schools network. Many of you know of the deep strategic work in which we engaged and the resulting transformative decisions made during the past year. My deep appreciation is due to our Board of Directors, who were thoughtful, open, and fearless during our considerations. Deep gratitude also goes to our dedicated staff. They not only continued providing the very best of Integrated Student Supports (ISS) while the prospect of change was whirling around them, but they also became champions and advisors in our decision-making.

Despite all of the strategic work underway during the last year, as you read, you'll see that our services, partnerships, and funding were not compromised. Outcomes remained strong, partners were excited about new opportunities, and funders continued to demonstrate their support with strong giving.

In this, our last annual report reflecting our work as Communities In Schools of Mid-America, we are proud of the work of the previous quarter-century and excited about the work of the next...the work of SparkWheel.

**Regardless of our name or affiliation, you can count on us to never waver from our commitment to serve with excellence, on a strong foundation of evidence and research, and with determined, devoted hearts and minds.**

Thank you for being a part of our journey thus far; we think you're going to get really excited about the journey to come!

*Malissa Martin*





# Becoming SparkWheel

For more than 25 years, schools and families have counted on us to remove barriers, fill gaps, and be personal champions to help students thrive. Our trustworthy, passionate staff work inside schools alongside community partners to do everything we can to help students reach their full potential.

In the summer of 2023, we announced we would begin operating under the new name SparkWheel, effective July 1, 2023. Before the announcement, we had completed an extensive evaluation of our program and impact strategies, brand identity, and growth projection. Results from these evaluations led us to disaffiliate from Communities In Schools. This decision reflects our evolution and vision for the future. The new tagline, "Igniting Student Success," expresses the mission and impact of the SparkWheel organization.

**"Becoming SparkWheel is a major milestone for us. We are more excited than ever about our future. With our new program, we will be able to expand services where they are needed and to meet better the needs of those we serve, existing and new," said Malissa Martin, President and CEO of SparkWheel.**

As SparkWheel, students and families have continued to receive support services to help them overcome barriers preventing them from achieving their goals. With the departure from the national organization, we can continue to serve pre-K and post-secondary education while providing new, exciting, original programs and services.

**"Our new name reflects the spark that we see in every person we help, while the wheel symbolizes the circle of support we provide," said Victoria Partridge, Vice President of Communications at SparkWheel.**

\* **1995**

Communities In Schools of Kansas is established to help local Kansas students break through barriers that impact their education, safety, and ability to succeed in life.

\* **2007**

CIS of Kansas gains new leadership and new standards, changing the way that services and supports are delivered to students.

\* **2014**

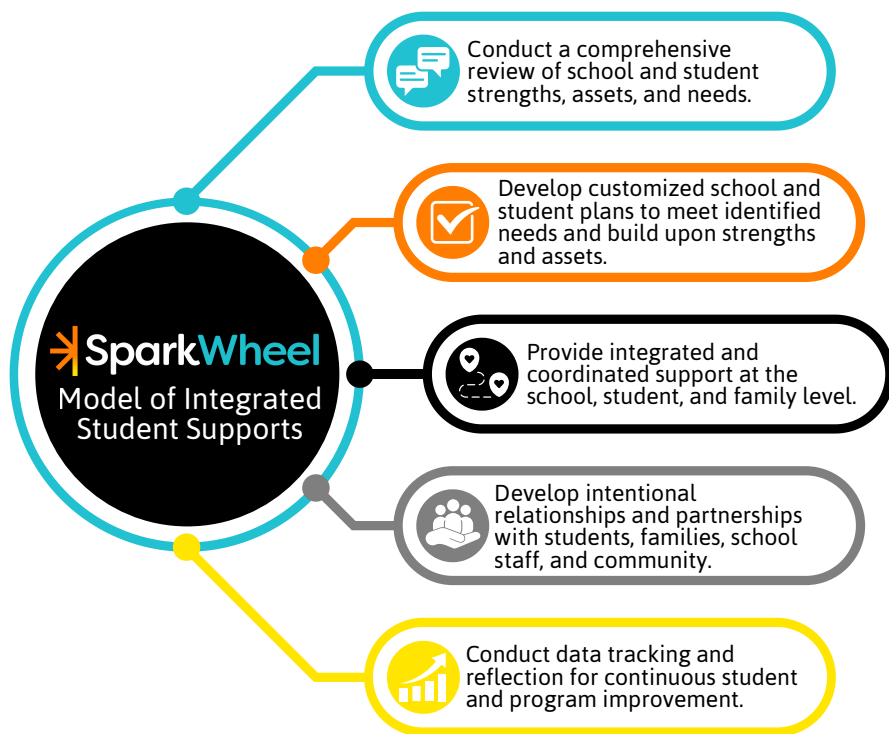
Extended our services to include supporting students and families in Iowa, Missouri, and Oklahoma Schools, becoming Communities In Schools of Mid-America.

\* **2023**

Reborn as SparkWheel to better reflect the power and passion we bring to solving student struggles.

# Our Model of SUPPORT

The SparkWheel Integrated Student Supports model is evidence-based, helping students and families overcome challenges that hinder learning or prevent students from attending school regularly. We customize services for every school, placing a Student Support Coordinator in each location to provide supports for individual students, as well as supports accessible by the whole student body.



## How We Help



### Academic Support

SparkWheel provides academic support to students aimed at facilitating student success in the classroom.



### Attendance Interventions

SparkWheel works with students and caregivers to help students be in school, on time, every day.



### Positive Behavior Interventions

SparkWheel supports schools in fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment.



### Family Engagement

SparkWheel provides families with supports and resources to increase parent-school engagement.



### Future Preparation

SparkWheel helps students learn to connect the dots between education and their future.



### Enrichment Activities

SparkWheel delivers enrichment activities so that students can experience more of what the world has to offer.



### Life Skills

SparkWheel works to equip students with the life skills that are critical for their success in both academics and life beyond the classroom.



### Essential Needs

SparkWheel supports students by addressing essential needs that affect overall physical and mental wellbeing and success.

# Where We Served

# 2022-2023



## Kansas

### CHANUTE

Chanute Elementary School  
Chanute High School  
Royster Middle School

### DODGE CITY

Dodge City High School

### EL DORADO

El Dorado Middle School

### EMPORIA

Emporia High School  
Logan Avenue Elementary School  
Walnut Elementary School  
William Allen White Elementary School

### FORT SCOTT

Fort Scott High School  
Fort Scott Middle School

### GARDEN CITY

Garden City High School

### INDEPENDENCE

Independence High School  
Independence Middle School

### KANSAS CITY

Argentine Middle School  
New Stanley Elementary School  
Silver City Elementary School

### LAWRENCE

Prairie Park Elementary School

### MARYSVILLE

Marysville High School

### NEODESHA

North Lawn Elementary School  
Heller Elementary School  
Neodesha Middle/High School

### OTTAWA

Ottawa High School  
Ottawa Middle School

### PARSONS

Parsons High School  
Parsons Middle School

### PITTSBURG

George Nettels Elementary School  
Lakeside Elementary School  
Meadowlark Elementary School  
Pittsburg Community Middle School  
Pittsburg High School  
The Family Resource Center  
Westside Elementary School

### TOPEKA

Highland Park High School  
Ross Elementary School  
State Street Elementary School  
Topeka High School  
Topeka West High School

### UNIONTOWN

West Bourbon Elementary School  
Uniontown Junior High/High School

## Missouri

### BOONVILLE

Hannah Cole Primary School  
Laura Speed Elliott Middle School  
Boonville High School

### KANSAS CITY

Benjamin Banneker Elementary  
Central Middle School  
Crossroads Preparatory Academy  
DeLaSalle High School  
Frontier School of Innovation  
Middle School  
Guadalupe Centers High School  
Southeast High School  
Troost Elementary School

### LINCOLN COUNTY

Cuivre Park Elementary School  
Troy Middle School

### MCDONALD COUNTY

Noel Elementary School  
Pineville Elementary School  
Southwest City Elementary School  
White Rock Elementary School

## Iowa

### WATERLOO

Central Middle School  
George Washington Carver Academy

## Oklahoma

### ANADARKO

Anadarko East Elementary School  
Anadarko Middle School  
Anadarko Mission Elementary School  
Anadarko Sunset Elementary School  
Anadarko High School

### TULSA (delivered in partnership with Growing Together)

Daniel Webster Middle School  
Daniel Webster High School  
Eugene Field Elementary School  
Kendall-Whittier Elementary School  
Sequoyah Elementary School  
Will Rogers Junior High School  
Will Rogers High School



# Malika's Spark

SparkWheel Student Support Coordinators (SSC) understand the importance of addressing their students' basic and mental health needs to help them succeed in the classroom. One student, Malika\*, was falling behind in classes and had significant issues with attendance and truancy. Our SSC stepped in and began meeting with Malika, and she revealed that she was struggling with depression and anxiety that was causing a lack of motivation to get out of bed, much less to go to school.


**With Malika's guardian, we worked out a plan to focus on her mental health and get her back on track with her classes and attendance.**

Within the first semester, the SSC worked to transport this student to several medical appointments and obtain much-needed mental health services. Malika began thriving and was able to pass all of her classes the first semester and raise her attendance to 90%! By the second semester, Malika had worked hard enough that she was able to qualify to enroll in the alternative school program where she takes online classes in the morning and can work her part-time job in the afternoons.

**Malika continues to thrive in her classes and is now on track to graduate on time or potentially even earlier than expected!**

Without the help of SparkWheel, Malika believes she would not be where she is today and is so thankful for all of the support she has received.

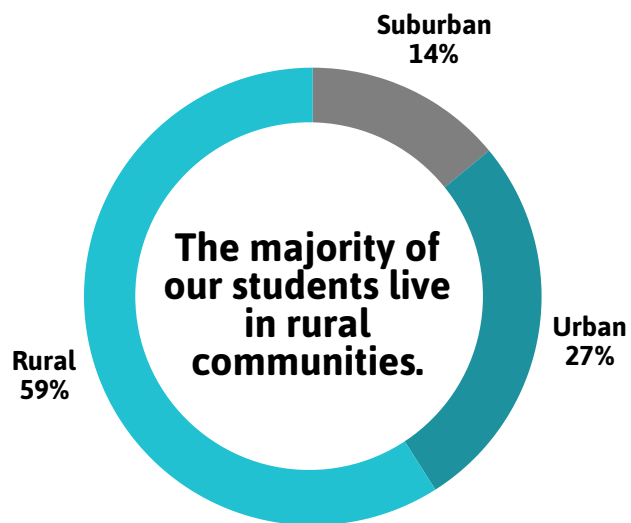
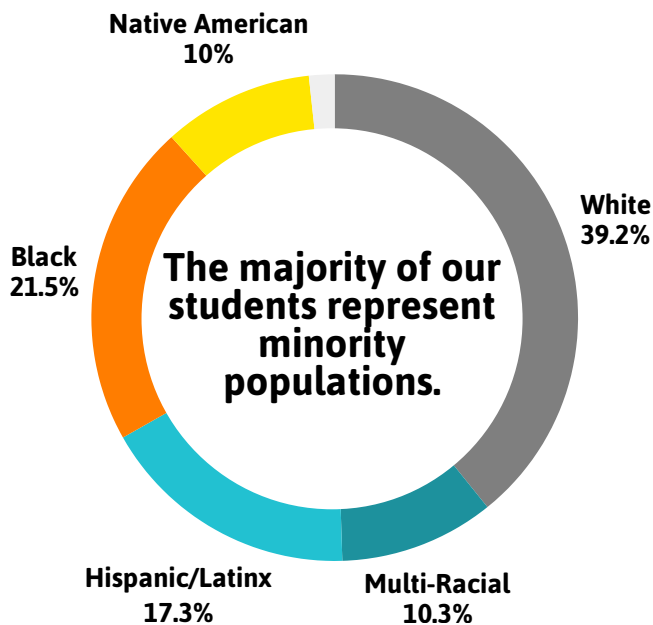
\*Name has been changed to protect the student's privacy. The photo is a stock image.



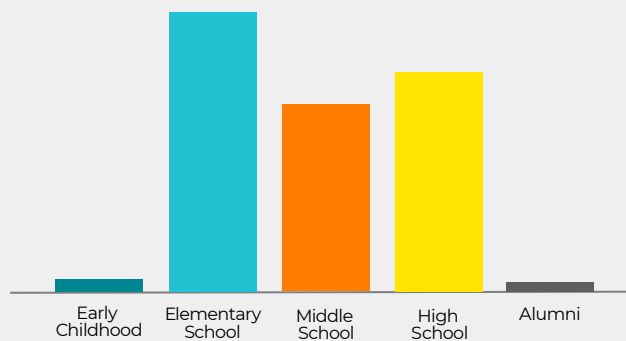
# EACH YEAR, WE SERVE:

## 60+ Schools

## 30,000+ Students



We serve students from pre-K through graduation.



Data on this page reflects caseload students served during school year 2022-2023.





# Tony's Spark

SparkWheel's Student Support Coordinators (SSC) know the importance of forming connections within the community. When one SSC found out one of her students, \*Tony, had no furniture in his apartment, she immediately took action! Tony was living independently and working full-time in addition to attending high school.

**He was forced to sleep on the cement floor in his apartment, hindering his ability to perform well in school.**


To help, the SSC contacted Sleepyhead Beds, a nonprofit organization that donates gently-used beds and bedding to local children and families.

**The organization supplied Tony with a mattress, box springs, and bedding.**

SparkWheel also partnered with Flourish Furniture Bank, which assists with providing whole-home furnishings. The SSC took Tony shopping at their warehouse to help him pick out a couch, table, dresser, chairs, and all the furniture he could want for his apartment. The SSC drove the 10-foot U-Haul to Tony's apartment and, with his girlfriend, moved his furniture into his apartment.

**Tony now has a safe, comfortable living space and can fully focus on completing school to earn his diploma.**

\*Name has been changed to protect the student's privacy. The photo is a stock image.



# Our Impact

SparkWheel's success is not merely anecdotal. We have the numbers to back it up.



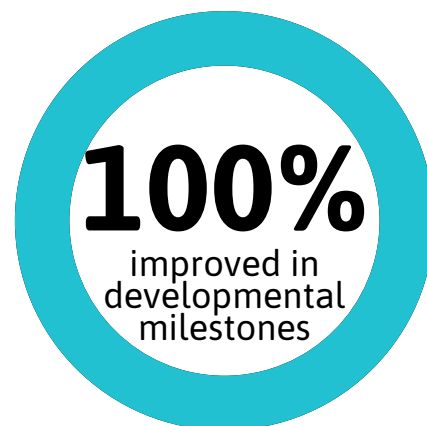
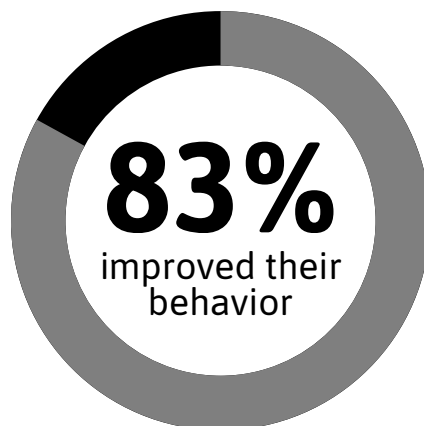
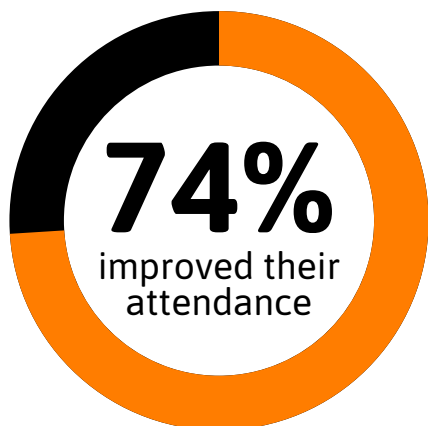
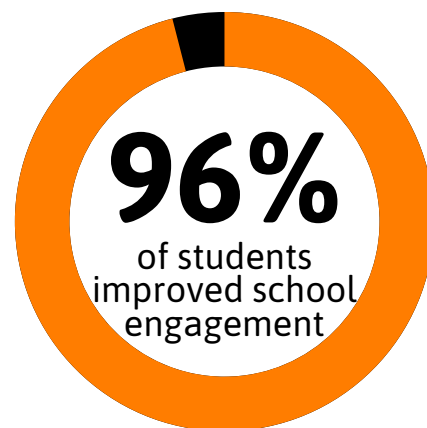
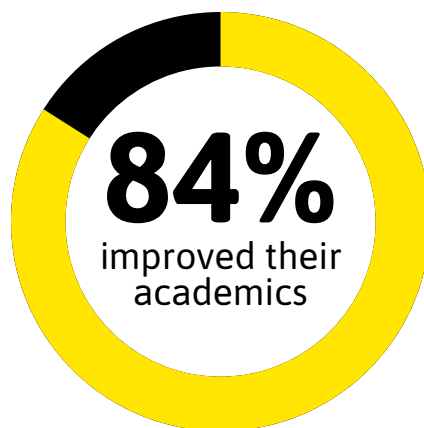
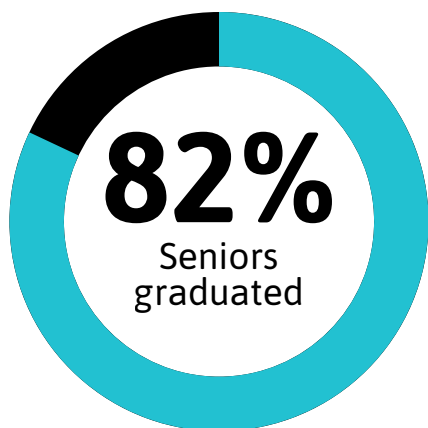
DATA FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023

**3,902**

students received intensive,  
individual support

**86%**

of case-managed students  
were on free/reduced lunch

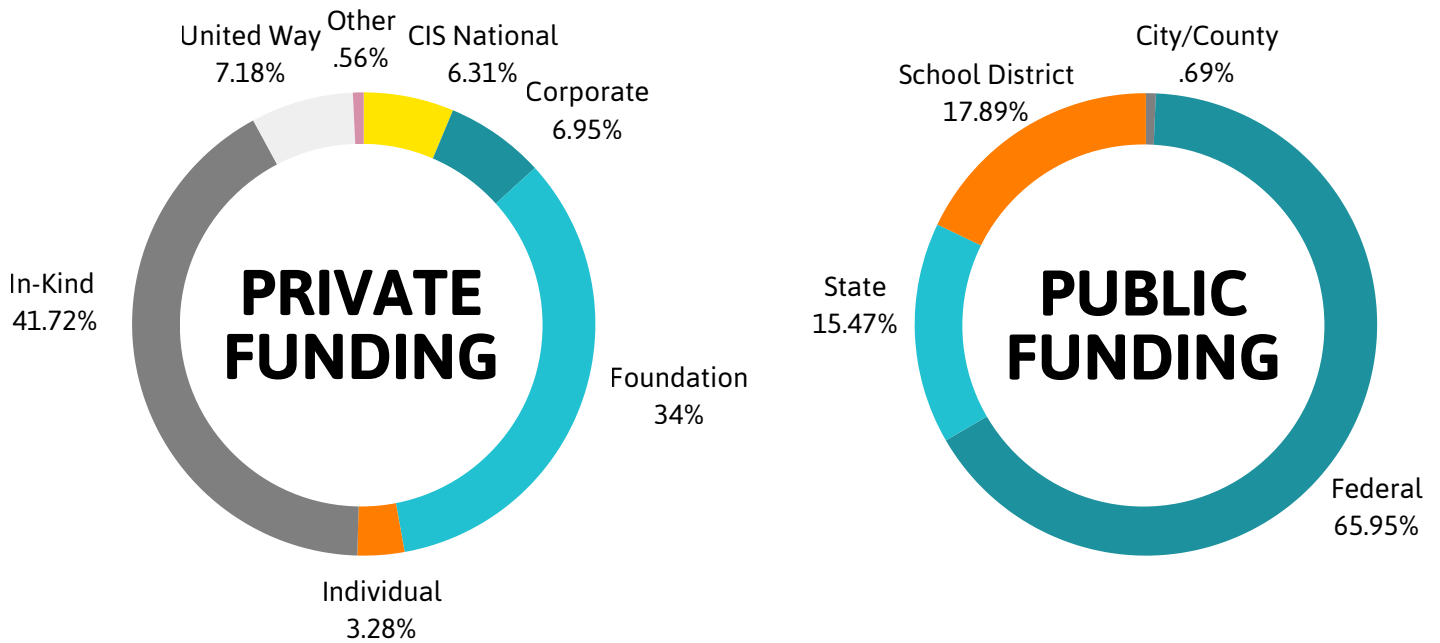


Data on this page reflects caseload students served during school year 2022-2023.





# Funding Support



Value of In-Kind Donations Received

**\$1,070,498**



## **\$2,000,000+**

Kansas Department for Children and Families

## **\$250,000+**

National Indian Education Association  
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

## **\$100,000+**

Anonymous Foundation  
Boonville R-1 School District  
Communities In Schools National  
Hall Family Foundation  
Kansas City Public Schools (MO)  
Kansas State Department of Education  
Lincoln County R-III School District  
McDonald County R-I School District  
SchoolSmartKC  
United Way of Kaw Valley (formerly United Way of Greater Topeka)

## **\$50,000+**

Health Forward Foundation  
North American Savings Bank  
State of Kansas  
The Family Resource Center  
USD 235 - Uniontown School District  
USD 250 - Pittsburg Public Schools  
USD 413 - Chanute Public Schools  
USD 500 - Kansas City, KS Public Schools

## **\$25,000+**

Cloud L. Cray Foundation  
Crossroads Charter Schools  
DeLaSalle Education Center  
Frontier Schools, Inc.  
Guadalupe Educational Systems, Inc.  
State Farm Insurance Foundation/Neighborhood Assist Program  
USD 234 - Fort Scott Public Schools  
USD 253 - Emporia Public Schools  
USD 290 - Ottawa Public Schools  
USD 446 - Independence Public Schools  
USD 501 - Topeka Public Schools  
USD 503 - Parsons Public Schools  
Waterloo Community Schools District

## **\$15,000+**

City of Pittsburg  
City of Topeka  
Douglas County Community Foundation/Bo's Hog Wild Children's Fund  
Everyy  
Finnup Foundation Trust  
Growing Together, Inc.  
Lewis H. Humphreys Charitable Trust  
R. J. McElroy Trust  
USD 443 - Dodge City Public Schools  
USD 457 - Garden City Public Schools  
USD 461 - Neodesha Public Schools  
USD 497 - Lawrence Public Schools

## **\$10,000+**

Cargill - Emporia  
Christine and Katharina Pauly Charitable Trust  
Direct On Site Care, LLC  
EL & Z Irene Hopkins Foundation  
James S. McDonnell Family Foundation  
Otto Schoitz Foundation  
United Way of El Dorado  
United Way of Kaw Valley (formerly United Way of Douglas County)  
USD 364 - Marysville Public Schools

## **\$5,000+**

American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation  
Bank of the West  
Bicknell Legacy Foundation Fund  
Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa/Agness Educ. Fund and Walker Fund  
Douglas County Community Foundation/Momentum Grant  
Finney County United Way  
Greater Horizons  
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation/Raymond C. & Marguerite Gibson Foundation  
Hudson Group  
Jones Health Care  
Life Circles  
Pittsburg Spirit Project/Multiple Donors  
Richard Miller/Miller Family Foundation  
Royals Charities  
Topeka Community Foundation/Greater Topeka Fund  
USD 490 - El Dorado Public Schools  
WATCO Companies

## **\$2,500+**

Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Cassie Bicknell  
City of Parsons  
Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas/Elm Acres Fund  
Dodge City High School Student Activities SADD  
Douglas County Community Foundation/Community Grant  
Emporia Community Foundation/79 Fund  
Fort Scott Area Community Foundation  
Parsons Area Community Foundation  
Security Benefit  
Sunflower Bank  
United Way of Dodge City  
United Way of Southwest Missouri and Southeast Kansas  
United Way of the Flint Hills

## **\$2,000+**

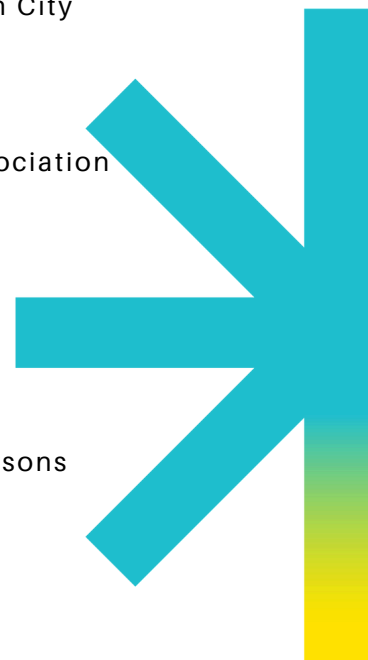
Azura Credit Union/Azura Employee Foundation  
Bicknell Family Foundation/Greater Kansas City Community Foundation  
Cindy Wilson  
Topeka Community Foundation/40th Anniversary Grant

## **\$1,000+**

Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Boonville Lions Club  
Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas/General Fund  
Don Turnbaugh  
El Dorado Charities Auxiliary  
Evangelical United Church of Christ - Marysville  
First Physicians Business Solutions  
Golden Plains Credit Union - Garden City  
Great Southern Bank - Parsons  
Howard Keim/Imagine That  
Laura Kaiser  
Neta Jeffus  
Paul Carttar  
United Way of Franklin County, Association  
Wayne Holum

## **\$500+**

Alex & Ali Delaney  
Ash Grove Cement Company  
AEO Inc.  
Boonville Rotary Club  
Dr. Steve Karlin  
Earl Devore  
Emily Engle  
Faith United Methodist Church - Parsons  
Kiwanis Club of Boonville  
Matt Godinez  
Paul Bean  
Peoples Savings Bank  
Rebecca Nevergold  
Trent & Joleen Lancaster



# Alex Delaney

## BOARD CHAIR



As the Chairman of the Board, I am thrilled to share with you the journey of Communities In Schools of Mid-America's transformation into SparkWheel. Our decision to become an independent organization this year was driven by our unwavering commitment to serving the communities and students we interact with.

By becoming independent, SparkWheel gained the freedom to shape our own strategies and initiatives, allowing us to tailor our services to the unique needs of our communities. This newfound autonomy enables us to make decisions that are in the best interest of the students we serve, without external constraints.

The rebranding to SparkWheel also symbolizes our commitment to being a driving force behind positive change.

**We aim to propel our community towards a brighter future by fostering innovation, progress, and genuine compassion.**

This transformation has opened up new opportunities for partnerships and collaborations, attracting like-minded individuals and organizations who share our vision. Together, we can actively contribute to the growth and development of the region, ensuring that students have access to the best possible opportunities for success.

Our decision to become independent as SparkWheel was fueled by our desire to assist our communities and students better. We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and the positive impact we can have on the lives of those we serve.



# FY23 Board of **DIRECTORS**

## **BOARD CHAIR**

**Alex Delaney**  
MAD Ones Marketing Group  
Castle Rock, CO

## **BOARD VICE-CHAIR**

**Paul Carttar**  
Carttar Consulting, LLC  
Lawrence, KS

## **BOARD SECRETARY**

**Matt Godinez**  
Kansas Department of Commerce  
Chanute, KS

## **BOARD TREASURER**

**Cindy S. Wilson, CPA**  
Liberty Utilities  
Berryton, KS

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

**Laura Kaiser**  
Overland Park, KS

**Whitney Casement**  
Stevens & Brand  
Topeka, KS

**Steve Karlin, PhD**  
Newman University  
Garden City, KS

**Neta A. Jeffus, CFP**  
Wells Fargo Advisors  
Topeka, KS

**Don Turnbaugh**  
Lucia's Sarto  
Westwood, KS

**Dion Lake**  
Capitol Federal  
Topeka, KS

**Tasha R. Fridia**  
Friends of the Children  
Porcupine, SD

**Howard Keim, PhD - Chair Emeritus**  
Hesston, KS





@sparkwheelinc  
[www.sparkwheel.org](http://www.sparkwheel.org)