

# NEWSLETTER

MCSEA would like to congratulate and welcome our 2024 board of directors. We are looking forward to working together to make this year the best yet!

**President** – Linda Carey  
**Vice President** – Donna Jo Prather-Rhoads  
**Secretary** – Nikki Hartley  
**Treasurer** – Kerensa Morrow-Kempf  
**Past President** – Vicky Randle  
**Region I Director** – Katie Lanfersieck  
**Region II Director** – Tammy Whitney  
**Region III Director** – Courtney Lowman  
**Region IV Director** – Monica Wilson  
**Region V Director** – Rachel Keller  
**Region VI Director** – Whitney Rogers  
**Region VII Director** – Grant Kelley  
**Region VIII Director** – VACANT  
**Region IX Director** – Sharyl Hyerstay  
**Region X Director** – Patricia Harris  
**Region XI Director** – VACANT  
**Region XII Director** – Danielle Earls

Of course, as we say welcome to our new friends, we also want to thank our outgoing board members.

**Past President** - Dori Moore  
**Region I Director** - Monique Abby  
**Region V Director** - Whitney Distler  
**Region XI Director** - Paula Hendrickson

These ladies have been a huge asset to MCSEA and even though they don't have board positions this year we hope they continue to take an active role in MCSEA and future events.

*Thank  
you*

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24



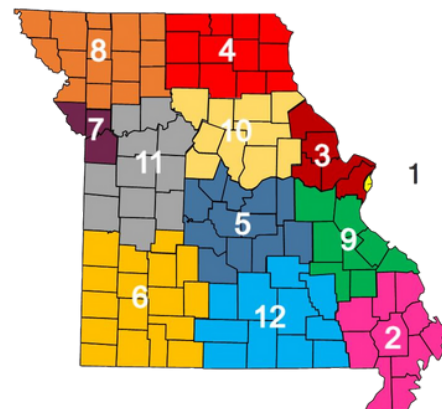
## Town Halls

Spend a day networking and learning with child support workers in your area. Renew your MCSEA membership in person and purchase your MCSEA apparel and merchandise. Gather additional information on this year's conference and the charity MCSEA is supporting this year. This year's town hall meetings are predicted to be the best ones yet!

Town halls are organized according to region. This year's town halls will be held in Kansas City, Memphis, Cape Girardeau, St. Louis, Jefferson City and Springfield.

Keep an eye on the MCSEA website for evolving plans and remember to get your supervisor's permission to attend.

**Do you know what Region you are in?**



## A Message from Our President

Greetings MCSEA friends!

I am excited to be reaching out to everyone for the first time as your 2024 MCSEA President. Here we are, almost a quarter of the way into the New Year, and I would like to remind everyone to make sure to check out our new REVIVED website [www.mcseonline.org](http://www.mcseonline.org) where you can join MCSEA, find out how to register for MCSEA Town Hall meetings, and hear the news about our upcoming 2024 MCSEA Conference.

There is a location hosting a Town Hall meeting near you so make plans to join us. Once again, MCSEA's 12 Regions will join forces to host six events, one in St Louis, Cape Girardeau, Jefferson City, Springfield, Memphis, and Kansas City. The website will feature our speaker line-up and topics as well as any CLE or LDR credits we plan to provide. Be sure to check us out regularly to as our Secretary and website Superhero, Nikki Hartley, keeps those updates coming!

Mark your calendars now! The 2024 MCSEA Conference returns to The Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center located at 2601 S Providence Rd, Columbia, MO 65203. Join MCSEA and friends Tuesday October 22 through Friday October 25, 2024 to meet some real life heroes and learn everything you need to know to be a Child Support Superhero! The 2024 Conference Registration and Scholarship Application are already available on the MCSEA website. \* To be eligible for scholarship, you must be a MCSEA member and have permission from your supervisor/office management to attend prior to turning in your completed scholarship form.

This year, MCSEA plans to provide more registration only scholarships so start planning now in case you need to cover some hotel costs. How about a fundraiser at your office to help send more of your people?

Find out more about the Stoney Creek by visiting [www.stoneycreekhoteles.com](http://www.stoneycreekhoteles.com). And don't forget, if you are making your own hotel reservations, be sure to mention MCSEA so you are given the special Conference rate of \$98 per night!

Feel free to contact me or another board member if you have a favorite speaker from a past conference that you would like for us to consider bringing back or if you would like to suggest an idea to enhance your conference experience.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as I can and as always, THANK YOU for supporting MCSEA!!

Linda Carey  
2024 MCSEA President

MCSEA invites you to join!



# 47th Annual Conference

**October 22-25, 2024**

**at the Stoney Creek Hotel, Columbia, MO**

Everyone HAS A  
**SUPERHERO**  
INSIDE THEM WAITING TO BE  
*Discovered*



## The Super Sam Foundation and MCSEA

The Missouri Child Support Education Association is proud to announce its partnership with the Super Sam Foundation! In keeping with this year's superhero theme, Super Sam was the perfect recipient for this year's children's charity at our Annual Conference. The Board and I are already excited and busy planning for the big event! Part of the fun of Conference week is the Charity Raffle; heading up that event will be our Co-Chairs Monica Wilson and Nicole "Nikki" Hartley! If you want to help or have any questions about the raffle, please reach out to one of us!

Cassie and Matt, Sam's parents, founded the Super Sam Foundation to keep their final promise to fight for All the Kids. They do so by providing comfort, support, awareness, and research to pediatric cancer.

*"Sam wanted nothing more than to take the pain away from All the Kids in their fight. He was always concerned for the kids around him, more than himself. It was his mindset that we are founded on today."*

The Super Sam Foundation supports their mission to support families dealing with childhood cancer and honor Sam in three ways, Comfort Packs, Research, and Awareness & Advocacy. To find out more about these individual programs, check out the link to their website!

As for MCSEA, we hope to support this worthwhile organization in several ways. The first will be to collect items for the Annual Charity Raffle and sell tickets to attendees to raise money to donate directly to the foundation

(we will also take direct donations for them as well). The second, to challenge all of our FSD, PA, Circuit Clerk, vendor, and partner offices to collect items to donate to Super Sam to create Comfort Packs for kids going through cancer, their siblings, and parents! These small items can bring so much comfort! I plan to host a tie-quilt making party as a way to get some blankets made to donate. I am sure with all of our creative team members, we will hear some great ideas for item collection activities come out of this challenge! Take pictures and send them to [mcsea77@gmail.com](mailto:mcsea77@gmail.com) so we can post pictures of our members getting together and doing good for our community! A third and final way we hope to make a difference is to offer to help Super Sam by volunteering! If there is a way to host an MCSEA Volunteer Day in Fulton MO at the Super Sam Foundation headquarters, we want to do it! We would like anyone who can to come lend a hand doing whatever they might need us to do! It would be a great opportunity for MCSEA to be out in the community supporting children and families.

I hope you will join MCSEA as we support this worthwhile cause. Take a minute to read about Super Sam, his twin sister Ava, and family, and their mission to serve others and honor Sam! Thank you!

Donna Jo Prather Rhoads  
MCSEA Vice President 2024



## Words of Wisdom from the *Change Purse*



In Spiderman the movie (2002), Uncle Ben told Peter Parker, "With great power comes great responsibility." I believe this is true no matter how big or small a task you undertake. Your actions always affect someone. Missouri Child Support Education Association (MCSEA) provides training to front line staff, supervisors, managers, prosecuting attorneys, circuit clerks, positive parenthood organizations, tribal organizations and members of other state agencies. When they return to the office from MCSEA, they serve our clients with renewed energy to assist families; they share their knowledge and enthusiasm with coworkers. They become a superhero for someone in need.

MCSEA is a small non-profit training organization, but we plan SUPER town hall events and host a Marvelous conference to facilitate the education of child support related matters. Transitioning to the treasurer of MCSEA has been an honor and an eye-opening experience. I learned from Donald Stream, our previous treasurer to be fiscally responsible. So, my goal as treasurer is to ensure the financial security of MCSEA for future heroes. It would be wonderful to meet you at a town hall meeting this year or conference (and learn about your superpowers) at Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center, 2601 S Providence Rd, Columbia, MO.

Kerensa Morrow-Kempf  
MCSEA Treasurer

"You're going to make a difference. A lot of times it won't be huge, it won't be visible even. But it will matter just the same." ~ James Gordon

## Get to know your Region Directors

We want you to get to know your Region Directors, so each quarter we want to feature three with a short introduction. Then you can come to conference in the fall to meet them in person! Sometimes it's nice to know who is representing your region.

### **Danielle Earls, Region 12**

As a Region Director for the last 4 years, I continue to be more and more excited for Town Halls and Conference every year!

Hey All, I'm Danielle Earls. Many of you know my name from Genesys Tech Assist Chat as a Call Center Supervisor. I am so proud to be a part of this team that contributes to the grander picture for all CS teams! But that pales in comparison to how proud I am to contribute and support to each of your learning paths! It's my absolute blessing to serve this FSD CS Family.

As the MCSEA Board Members prepare for another year FULL of exciting events, keep me in mind and let me know if there's anything I can do for you. We want to meet ALL the Superheroes we know are out there!

### **Sharyl Hyerstay, Region 9**

My name is Sharyl Hyerstay, Region 9 director. I have worked for the State of Missouri for the last 13 years and have been with Child Support since 2014. I took over the region 9 director's position when Connie Morris retired from the state to get married and have loved every minute being on the board.

I have been married for 31 years and have a 25 year old son that just graduated with a Bachelor in Business from Missouri Baptist University.

I am looking forward to see all of you at our Annual Conference in Columbia this year and to see the St. Louis area team members at our Regional Town Hall this summer.

## Grant Kelley, Region 7

Grant originally joined the Clay County Prosecutor's Office in March of 2016 as an Assistant Prosecutor in the Child Support Division. As a prosecutor he handled civil, criminal, and bankruptcy matters before he transitioned to a position as Office Manager in July of 2021. In late 2022, Grant briefly left public service to join a private practice, before returning to the Prosecutor's Office as Director of the Clay County's Family Support Division in March of 2023.

Grant was admitted to the Missouri Bar in 2014 after graduation from the UMKC School of Law, is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court in the Western District of Missouri and U.S. Bankruptcy Court Western District. He has also been a Director for Region VII (Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties) of the Missouri Child Support Education Association (MCSEA) since 2021.

Grant and his family are longtime residents of Clay County, Missouri, where they enjoy their pets, Lego building, and planning their next Disney vacation.

CONTACT US

### MCSEA

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Education Association

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### Website:

[www.mcseaonline.org](http://www.mcseaonline.org)



## 2024 MCSEA Board

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**President Elect -**

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### Advisory Board

Sylvia Harper

Donald Stream

