



**Ballard Community Services
Fourth & Florida, Lawrence, KS**

**Petey Cerf Early Education Center for Children & Families
(formerly DCCCA, Inc., First Step House)**

PROPOSAL & BACKGROUND

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Fourth & Florida**

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Proposal:

Ballard Community Services would like to expand its operation to the Fourth and Florida site, formerly the DCCCA First Step House. The proposal for this site would be to create a business private partnership that includes working with local employers to provide their employees with early education slots for children ranging in age from infants that are 12 weeks old to preschoolers to the age of five. This project would primarily house Ballard's early education program but would allow for the agency to provide all of their human service programs to the families of the children participating in the program. Ballard would also like to collaborate with other non-profit organizations to provide services to the children and families as necessary.

Concept:

Ballard Community Services will raze the existing structure at the property and will build a LEED Certified Green building to be used as an early education facility which will include the following:

- 2 infant rooms which will each have 9 infants enrolled
 - 2 toddler rooms which will each have 10 toddlers enrolled
 - 1 toddler room which will have 14 toddlers enrolled
 - 3 preschool rooms which will each have 12 preschoolers enrolled
- In addition a minimum of 16 employees will be on site at any given time.

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Background

Mission:

Ballard Community Services is a non-profit corporation that provides an affordable, high quality early education program and essential basic life assistance to families and individuals in need.

History:

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| 1964 | Ballard Community Center was purchased by Anna “Petey” Cerf from the Board of Education. She donated the building in memory of her mother to the Community Children’s Center, Inc., for use as a community center to benefit the citizens of Lawrence. The first use was to house the Children’s Hour nursery school program. Originally, the Community Center formed Head Start – currently housed at Plymouth Congregational Church, the Big Brother’s program and the Ballard Center programs. |
| 1967 | Library opened at the center with 1,000 books – first 5 ½ weeks 600 books checked out, mostly by children never experiencing a library before. |
| 1968 | Housing and Leadership programs developed and implemented the following programs:

4-H Club
Arts & Crafts Classes
Teen Drop-In Center was organized with adult volunteer leadership
Clothing Room opened – sold clothes for 10 cents per item
Ballard Youth Council developed
North Lawrence improvement Association Developed through Ballard Center
Ballard Center Employment Office opened. Prospective employees brought to center to meet potential employers. |
| 1969-1975 | Center operated as a drop-in center for local black teens |
| 1975 | Ballard after school and summer youth program developed |
| 1976 | Academic component of other school program added |
| 1981 | Rainbow Child Development Center opened at Ballard Community Center |

2003	Merged the Douglas County Emergency Services Council with Ballard Community Center
2005	Merged with the Penn House Association with Ballard Community Center, following the merger, the Board of Directors changed name of the organization to Ballard Community Services with administration of the Ballard Center, Emergency Services Council, and Penn House
2007	Ballard Community Services consolidated with Brookcreek Learning Center expanding early education services to three sites serving infants to preschoolers
2008	Purchased the property located at the corner of Fourth and Florida with the plan to renovate the building and open a new early education center
2009	Due to a faulty 4" end-cap on the fire suppression system, the cap burst, flooded and destroyed the building
April 2010	Sixteen months after the flood, Ballard Community Services received their settlement from the insurance company for the destroyed building
September 2010	Just five months after receiving settlement, Ballard Community Services has a design developed for the site to be a LEED Certified Green building which will operate as a learning tool as well as early education center for 88 new students

Statement of purpose:

The Elizabeth B. Ballard Community Center is committed to being a place that serves children by ensuring that all children, particularly those who are low-income, have access to an affordable high quality early childhood education. Children learn better if they are not hungry, if they are not worrying about where they are going to stay or whether they are going to have a warm place to sleep, therefore, we work hard to provide food, shelter and positive relationships for children and families. Our staff and volunteers also provide opportunities for families to learn new skills and seek further education. We help provide families with the necessary encouragement to help them seek true self-sufficiency. The Ballard Center Board and staff believe that it is necessary to the well being of the community that we work with other agencies and partners to solve issues that arise and that threaten the well being of children and their families. We know that it is vital to our community that children and families are provided with the assistance they need to reach their highest potential. The Ballard Center prides itself on being a community driven agency whose mission to serve for the success of others.