Lifeline

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CIRCLE OF CARE

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Our Team

Open your phone's camera and click the QR code to view.

Spring is a season filled with milestones. Across Oklahoma, high school seniors are putting on caps and gowns and preparing for what comes next: college, technical school, the military, or entering the workforce.

Our family is experiencing that season too. One of my daughters is graduating, and like many families, we are having conversations about what the future holds and what path she wants to take.

These moments remind me of my early days as a young case manager working with youth in foster care. I recall a young man on my caseload who wanted to attend college. Graduation was approaching, so we loaded him up and took a college visit. We walked the campus, talked with admissions, and before we left, we filled out his application.

Then he turned to me and said, "Keith, I have to fill out my FAFSA." I remember pausing and laughing a little before replying, "Umm… I've never filled one of those out before. My mom always did mine."

That moment made me realize something simple, yet profound. Many of the steps taken to help launch teens into adulthood occur because a caring adult is walking beside them—explaining the process, filling out forms, and encouraging them when things feel overwhelming.

But what happens when a young person doesn't have that support? That's where our **Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program** steps in.

Through PAL, Circle of Care staff provide coaching, encouragement, and real-life guidance to young people aging out of foster care. Our team helps them navigate everything from job applications and budgeting to college enrollment and life skills. Just as importantly, we provide housing and stability so they have a safe foundation to build their future.

Just this week, I've been working with our team to help several of our young adults obtain their driver's licenses. The cost will likely exceed $15,000 each year including training, fees, insurance, and transportation.

But our team understands the value of a driver's license. It can mean access to work, education, and independence. So we will lean in, raise the funds, and find a way. Because every young person deserves **the chance to dream and the support to pursue those dreams.**

Thank you for helping us provide Christian help, healing, and hope to Oklahoma's young people. If you have questions or would like to help with the need above, don't hesitate to reach out to me on my cell phone at 918-453-3558.

K. Howard

Keith Howard
President & CEO

PUTTING FOR A PURPOSE

Neither rain nor time could stop this day from coming. On March 9, supporters from across Oklahoma gathered at Meadowbrook Country Club in Tulsa for the 4th Annual Arrowhead Consulting Charity Golf tournament. Inclement weather caused the original event in August to be postponed, but more than 20 teams still showed up on this sunny Monday for more than a friendly competition. They came as a powerful display of support for children and families across our state.

For the 2nd year in a row, Circle of Care was honored as the beneficiary of this annual event. We are deeply grateful to Arrowhead Consulting for bringing together businesses and individuals, such as Title Sponsor The Helmerich Family and Platinum Sponsor Bama Companies, to ensure that vulnerable children and families receive the support they need to thrive.

Every dollar raised through the tournament helps Circle of Care continue its work through 7 different programs in Oklahoma. Events like this serve as a reminder that meaningful change occurs when communities come together. Businesses, volunteers, and donors each play a role in building a stronger future for families in need.

The Arrowhead Golf Tournament was just the first of several opportunities to connect and participate in Circle of Care's mission in 2026. On April 24th, we will host Crescendo in Oklahoma City, an evening featuring live music, artists, coffee, and dinner as we amplify the voices of Oklahoma families. Sponsorships and tickets are now on sale for what always proves to be one of our favorite nights on the calendar *(see pg 4 for more information).* Later in the year, supporters in northwest Oklahoma can join the fun at the Woodward Adult Prom on September 19 — an energetic evening of food, music, and dancing. It's a great chance to dress up and dance the night away for a good cause (see pg 5). Finally, we have another Arrowhead Golf tournament in Tulsa on August 17.

Whether through a round of golf, an evening of music and art, or a night on the dance floor, these events create opportunities for people to come together in support of children and families in crisis in Oklahoma.

To each of our sponsors, volunteers, and participants who helped make the Arrowhead Consulting Charity Golf Tournament a success—thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Your partnership is making a real difference, and we look forward to seeing you again at the next event.

crescendo

CIRCLE OF CARE

Friday, April 24, 2026

Church of the Servant 14343 N MacArthur Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK

circleofcare.org/crescendo

SPONSORSHIPS & TICKETS AVAILABLE!

Join us in amplifying the voices of Oklahoma families with a night featuring local music, artists, and plated dinner on one magical evening at Church of the Servant in northwest Oklahoma City. Contact Kyla Powers at (405) 530-2078 or kyla.powers@circleofcare.org for payment options and further information.

IT'S ALMOST TIME AGAIN!

Woodward
ADULT PROM

JOIN US FOR WOODWARD'S PREMIER EVENT BENEFITING FOSTER FAMILIES THE BEST WAY WE KNOW HOW - WITH AMAZING MUSIC, FOOD CATERED BY GUSTO'S, A DESSERT AUCTION, AND DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY!

SAT, SEPT 19

WOODWARD
Conference Center

AT THE HEART OF THE WORK

PREPARATION FOR ADULT LIVING

Every day at Circle of Care, dedicated leaders and teams work in programs across the state to support children and families. In this series, we're sitting down with the directors who lead this work to learn more about their programs, the joys and challenges of their work, and how they see lives changing through Circle of Care.

During this initial installment, we visit with Nicholas Johnson, the Director of Preparation for Adult Living (PAL), about their work with young adults.

CIRCLE OF CARE: Preparation for Adult Living supports young adults as they age out of the foster care system. What are some of the most significant challenges or risks these young people face as they transition to adulthood?

JOHNSON: Steady housing is at the top of the list. Many young adults exiting the Foster Care system do not have a next step placement prepared. Some are able to make connections with friends, distant relatives, or community partners. Even then, they often end up moving from house to house. Having a safe, long term home is crucial to a young person's success.

Second would be gaining a "Circle of Support." We all need help, encouragement, guidance, and someone to call when we need it most. Building that supportive community is hard for everyone, but even more so for this population. The resources needed to help transition from dependence on other adults to independent living are extremely difficult to navigate without support.

CIRCLE OF CARE: What are the common misconceptions people might have about the 18-24 year old people that your program serves?

JOHNSON: There are many, actually. Some common ones are that all of these young people are all the same, that every young adult should be able to live independently at 18 years old, or that they all have behavioral problems.

I think the greatest misconception is that they just need tor try harder to be independent. Many youth leaving foster care are learning adult skills without the safety net most peers have. While many 18–24-year-olds rely on family for financial help, housing, or emotional support, youth aging out often must manage, housing, employment, education, healthcare, and transportation all at once and without backup support. Programs like PAL exist precisely because independence requires gradual skill-building, not instant self-sufficiency.

CIRCLE OF CARE: What kind of specific support does the PAL program provide that helps bridge that gap between foster care and adulthood?

JOHNSON: At PAL, we attempt to help them navigate all of the challenges I mentioned earlier successfully. We provide life skills that include things like cooking classes, health care and hygiene maintenance, budgeting, interview skills, and so much more. Each young adult in our program has an individual service plan that is tailored to that client's specific needs and goals. We then help coach them through that plan through weekly 1:1 meetings.

Our goal for all PAL young adults is to help them further their education. That can be through traditional college, through vocational-technical school, or through other approved forms. We also help all young adults with employment by offering life skills in resume building and the basics of interviewing well.

CIRCLE OF CARE: What are the biggest needs the program has? If someone wanted to help or provide support, what's the best way they could do that?

JOHNSON: I'd start with just awareness of the population we serve and prayers for their future. They each have a unique story and face continuing challenges.

Financial support is always needed. Programs like PAL require significant funds and any donation helps impact a young adult forever.

Third would be referrals. If you know someone that could benefit from a program like PAL you can go fill out a request for service application by visiting our website.

CIRCLE OF CARE: What has you excited about the PAL program as you look to the rest of 2026?

JOHNSON: I am always excited to see new clients come to the program. It means that we are continuing to make a difference in the lives of others. I'm also excited about some building renovations in 2026. We're making preparations to remodel two apartments, the basement, as well as doing some work on the front exterior of the building.

CIRCLE OF CARE: Is there anything else you feel is important to share?

JOHNSON: I want to mentions the three young adults entered PAL in the last few years who had yet to graduate high school. Today, all three have received their diplomas, enrolled in college, and have secured employment. We love to walk alongside these folks as they start to find these types of successes and independence.

For more information about the Preparation for Adult Living program, visit our website at https://circleofcare.org/programs/preparation-for-adult-living/.

HONORS & MEMORIALS SPRING 2026

Circle of Care sincerely appreciates the following, who support this ministry through the Honors & Memorials program.

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Lou & Pat Meadors
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GIVING IN HONOR & MEMORY

To set up your gift, please contact Kyla Powers at kyla.powers@circleofcare.org, or send a check with the remittance envelope included in your Lifeline.

Join us for a LUNCH & LEARN

OUR STATE SHOWS UP

TULSA

APR 21 | MAY 19 | JUN 16

OKC

APR 23 | MAY 21 | JUN 18

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Oklahoma City, OK 73106

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501 W Main
Ardmore, OK 73401

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3400 N. Oakwood Rd
Enid, OK 73703

FLYING M RANCH
PO Box 999
Gore, OK 74435

FRANCES E. WILLARD CAMPUS
1616 N Gilcrease Museum Rd
Tulsa, OK 74127

MCALESTER CAMPUS
101 S 2nd St
McAlester, OK 74501

OKC FOSTER CARE
720 W. Wilshire Creek, Suite 108
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

TAHLEQUAH CAMPUS
549 Mathes Park Drive
Tahlequah, OK 74464

TULSA FOSTER CARE
6910 S. 101st E. Ave
Tulsa, OK 74133

WOODWARD CAMPUS
1915 Oklahoma Ave, Suites 4&5
Woodward, OK 73801

PROGRAMS

FOSTER CARE SERVICES
405-463-6626

PREP. FOR ADULT LIVING
918-456-6166

PEARL'S HOPE
918-583-9506

COUNSELING SERVICES
405-698-0550

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918-708-5561

BEYOND
405-823-1706

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918-380-4912

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