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KISRA
KANAWHA INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH & ACTION, INC.

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START

Championing Positive Community Change

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Changing Behaviors,
Changing Lives,
Changing Futures
for West Virginia Families.



Dr. Michelle Foster
KISRA CEO

KISRA Championing Positive Community Change

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At KISRA we've been about families since we first came to be in 1993.

Creating stronger ones. Better educated ones. More empowered ones, ready to change the course of their lives and contribute to our community.



Carl Chadband, M. Ed.
KISRA COO

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OUR MISSION

We empower West Virginians through education, employment, economic empowerment and behavioral health services



Susan Plants
Clinic Manager

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OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

If we teach West Virginians certain skills and facilitate access to certain resources, then they will become more self-sufficient

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OUR FRAMEWORK



Adapted from the PELP Coherence Framework

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You'll see us providing safe havens for children.
 Showing men how to be better fathers.
 Befriending those with mental illness so they can live at home rather than state facilities.
 Giving ex-offenders the tools to reenter the community.
 Loaning money to small business owners.
 Helping people buy homes and acquire other assets that create stability.



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WHO DO WE SERVE?

Children/youth – 6 weeks to high school
 Adults
 Families




2012 Harambee CDC Graduation Ceremony

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WHERE WE PROVIDE SERVICES

- Dunbar (Empowerment Center)
- Gare Hall (WVSU Campus)
- Charleston
- Winfield
- Huntington
- Beckley
- Princeton
- Parkersburg
- Clarksburg
- Elkins



We provide services at community hubs and correctional facilities in the counties shown on the map.

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SKILLS & RESOURCE AREAS

- Education
- Employment
- Economic Empowerment
- Behavioral Health

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EDUCATION

Programs that offer children appropriate early childhood development, safe after-school havens and prepare them for academic success. Also includes programs that help teens make good life decisions and successfully pursue higher education

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HARAMBEE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Preparing our community's youngest children for academic success

At HCDC we believe that academic success begins in preschool.

Since we first opened our doors in 2004, we've provided a nurturing, safe and drug-free haven that encourages a lifetime love for learning in the youngest members of our community.



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HARAMBEE LEARNING CENTER

Offering kindergarteners through fifth graders a safe after-school haven



The Harambee Learning Center was opened in 1998 to serve as a safe, drug-free, after-school refuge for children attending Kanawha County Schools.

Its focus is on preventing the onset of adolescent problem behaviors by reducing their risk of academic failure.

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KISRA PREP (KPREP)

Giving teenagers the tools to make better decisions



KPREP provides teenagers with valuable knowledge to help them in their transition in to adulthood including decision making, money management and career planning skills.

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EMPLOYMENT

Programs to help people find jobs and achieve economic self-sufficiency, encourage men to become better fathers and providers, and pave the way for ex-offenders to reenter the community

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PATHWAYS TO RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD

Empowering men with the skills and resources that they need to succeed as fathers and providers



Supporting stronger families by helping low income, incarcerated and previously incarcerated fathers to become more involved in their children's lives.

Empowering these fathers with occupational and life skills that help them achieve economic self-sufficiency, reconnect with their children and support them financially.

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SECOND CHANCE MENTORING PROGRAM

Helping former offenders to reclaim their place in our community



Helps former offenders reenter our community, stabilize their lives and achieve self-sufficiency.

Enhances community safety by reducing the chances that they will return to prison in the future.

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GROWING JOBS PROJECT

A fresh idea that's making good things happen in our community

The Growing Jobs Project is a fresh, new way in which KISRA is making a positive difference in our community.

It's a farm-to-table program that's creating jobs, encouraging entrepreneurship, and giving people access to fresh, organic produce for a healthier lifestyle.



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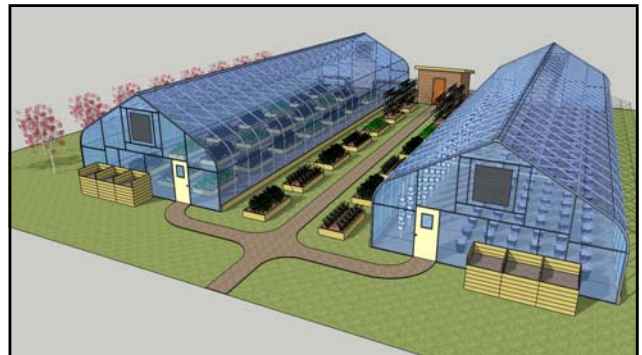
GROWING JOBS PROJECT

Key components are:

- urban farm with 2 greenhouses;
- commercial kitchen;
- farm stands at Capital & West Side Farmers' Markets;
- farming skills, culinary skills and business development training;
- food truck/mobile kitchen.



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ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Programs that help people become more financially fit, buy homes, establish a pattern of saving and open or expand small businesses

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FINANCIAL FITNESS

Bringing help and hope to community members in need of financial education

The goal of KISRA's Financial Fitness program is to help members of our community improve their finances and, in turn, their lives.

When we help remove individual barriers to the accumulation of wealth, everyone benefits with a community that's stronger and more



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KISRA HOMEOWNERSHIP

Helping members of our community realize the American Dream of homeownership

The goal of the KISRA Homeownership program is to turn area residents from renters to proud homeowners.

To that end, the KISRA staff provides practical knowledge, guidance and support that equip the people in our community to do just that.



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MICROLOAN PROGRAM

Providing financial assistance to help small business entrepreneurs succeed

Owning a small business is a goal for many members of our community.

Getting financing through conventional lenders is a struggle for some small startup businesses.

The Microloan Program helps entrepreneurs in need to realize their dream of business ownership.



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WVIDA INITIATIVE

Helping families and individuals of modest means establish an ongoing pattern of saving

Members of our community with modest means struggle with establishing and staying committed to a savings program.

The WVIDA Initiative helps them do just that with special savings accounts known as IDAs (Individual Development Accounts). IDAs empower them to work toward their goals of owning a home, starting a new business, or getting an education.



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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Programs that support mentally ill citizens as well offer a full range of health care services

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CARE COORDINATION

Supporting those in our community dealing with mental illness



Research shows that lack of support is one of the primary reasons that people with serious mental illnesses eventually go to live in mental health facilities.

This program provides intensive case management that helps them to survive and thrive in the "real world" beyond the confines of our overcrowded facilities.

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COMPEER FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM

Serving as friends and mentors to members of our community dealing with mental illness



Strengthens our community by helping those living with mental illness on their recovery journey.


Pairs participants with community residents and AmeriCorp members. These volunteers become friends and mentors, providing participants with social support and keeping them integrated in the community.

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KISRA COMMUNITY CLINIC

Offers a full range of healthcare services, including family planning.



Every person who comes to the clinic receives a warm welcome and quality care, regardless of their ability to pay.

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RECENT RECOGNITION

- 2012 Fatherhood Champion of Change recognition from the White House
- 2012 Purple Ribbon Award from the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- 2011 Community Leadership Award from Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia



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RECENT RECOGNITION

- 2009 Living the Dream Service Organization Honor Roll from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission
- 2009 Minority Small Business Champion Award from the US Small Business Administration



Ture' Johnson
Instructor / Former Program Participant

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KISRA is a faith-motivated initiative established in 1993. We are a 501(c)(3) organization that was started by Ferguson Memorial Baptist Church located in Dunbar, West Virginia.