

December 19, 2018

Dear Prospective Eckerd Connects Employee:

Family has always been at the heart of Eckerd Connects. When we were founded in 1968 by Jack and Ruth Eckerd, the legendary power couple was often asked what motivated them to start a non-profit. Their answer was always the same. **“It’s the kids.”**

Today those words still hold true – but much like other families, ours has grown. Nearly five decades later with a presence in 20 states and the District of Columbia, our family of services has expanded to include foster care, adoption, workforce development, aid for the homeless, transitional services for troubled youth, and so much more.

Eckerd Connects has been a provider in Kansas since 2014 operating a child placing agency, providing Functional Family Therapy for youth involved in the juvenile justice system and workforce development services. As you likely know, we were recently awarded a grant to provide family preservation services across three regions of Kansas serving 1,850 families per year. These regions include Wichita, the East, and the West.

We are excited that you would consider joining our Kansas team to help and care for children and families in our community. This work is extremely personal to me. I am a lifelong Kansan and have worked in the Kansas child welfare system for the past 27 years. This includes serving 10 years at the Director of Family Preservation services and also serving as a foster parent myself.

With transition comes change and I understand that can be uncomfortable for some. Our entire Eckerd Connects team is committed to ensuring a smooth transition for both clients and staff. Each of you have made important contributions to the children and families of Kansas and I would encourage you to visit our website, read our frequently asked questions, and consider employment with Eckerd Connects.

During the transition period, we will be maintaining up to date information for staff who are interested in transitioning to Eckerd Connects. Please visit <http://eckerd.org/KansasFPSTransition> to learn more about our organization and all the opportunities that exist for you.

I’m committed to transparency and keeping the lines of communication open. Should you have any questions, please feel free to email me directly at [estandlee@eckerd.org](mailto:estandlee@eckerd.org).

Thank you for all that you do to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed!

Sincerely,



Ellen Standlee  
Eckerd Connects Kansas Operations Director