

KISRA

Championing Positive Community Change

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

GREETINGS,

I am thrilled to be coming to you representing KISRA and the great work we are doing around the state. The longer I am onboard with KISRA, the more I am impressed with its staff, board of directors and the program services we offer. It is one thing to offer “lip service” about making an impact and changing lives, it is something altogether different to be a part of an organization who lives it out on a daily basis. I see it in the dedication of our staff day in and day out. I see it when I overhear our staff give a word of encouragement to a down-hearted customer that inspires them to persevere. I see it in the vision and work of KISRA's founders and those that came before me. I see it in the commitment to success demonstrated by KISRA's board of directors. I also see it in KISRA's rich history of advocating for marginalized populations and communities.

This I have come to know as a fact--at some time in our lives, we are all faced with difficult life situations. We sometimes respond by making poor choices and mistakes. Some of us are simply faced with having to endure hard-hitting social, economic and emotional environments that endeavor to dictate our life outcomes. Even though we sometimes make mistakes and poor choices or simply find ourselves facing situations and circumstances that are hard to manage—I still firmly believe in the God-given potential of us all to be successful in life. This is why I am so very proud to be a part of this great organization because when you slow down long enough to look around, you can see lives being impacted in a meaningful way and potential being reached.

Thank you to all of our trusted supporters. There is no way we could be as successful and impactful as we have been and will continue to be without your care. Keep an eye out for more great work coming from KISRA! Thanks!



Reginald Jones,
MSW, BSW

KISRA Chief Executive Officer
reggie@kisra.org

H E A L

**Our services are diverse but
our mission is consistent:**

*Strengthening Families
in West Virginia.*

With the help of our staff and dedicated volunteers, we make a difference every day. It is a difference that can be seen in the faces of the people we serve and felt across the state in terms of a stronger economy.

KISRA

Championing Positive Community Change

THE EMPOWERMENT CENTER

131 Perkins Avenue
Dunbar, West Virginia 25064

KISRA.org

At KISRA we have been working to support FAMILIES from every walk of life, since we were first started by Ferguson Memorial Baptist Church in 1993. We have worked to create stronger and better-educated families who are more empowered and ready to change the course of their lives and contribute to our community. It all started with the desire to help children. It has grown to become a comprehensive offering of programs that HEAL and benefit people from every walk of life in West Virginia.

Find us on social media!



KISRA Selected for Nationwide Study



BUILDING
BRIDGES &
BONDS | B3

A Program to Strengthen Fathers, Families and Communities

The Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action, Inc. (KISRA), has been selected to participate in a large-scale study that will eventually lead to new ways that fatherhood programs can support dads' parenting and employment goals across the country. Building Bridges and Bonds, or B3 for short, is an important project/study that is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. A nonprofit called MDRC is running the study along with MEF Associates and ABT SRBI.

WEST VIRGINIA
REFORM
Initiative
A KISRA PROGRAM

Through KISRA's West Virginia ReFORM Initiative, formerly incarcerated participants receive case management, mentoring, transportation assistance, housing location assistance, substance and mental health treatment referrals,

legal assistance referrals, transitional employment and work clothes assistance. As part of the B3 study, eligible fathers will have the chance to receive additional services to help them maintain long-term employment.



“Fathers participating in the B3 study have the opportunity to receive services to help them hold a job,” said Reggie Jones, Chief Executive Officer for KISRA. “Additionally, their participation helps organizations like KISRA identify the best services that will offer the most impact to those participants and ultimately their families and communities.”

KISRA currently offers services to fathers through the West Virginia ReFORM Initiative, to improve services for fathers and their children.



Harambee
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Great Things Happening

- ★ The Child Development Center held an end of the year celebration event for the three and four year old students. The children performed songs and had a quiz bowl. The bowl highlighted the units of study and learning experiences from this school year. The children did a great job and everyone enjoyed the refreshments.
- ★ Harambee is gearing up for the Energy Express Program, which will focus on maintaining reading skills and proper nutrition throughout the summer. The program is from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. for students from grades first through sixth grades, beginning June 19th until July 21st.
- ★ In addition to Energy Express, the Harambee Child Development Program will provide summer programs from 12:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. for first through sixth grades. Each day a nutritious breakfast, lunch and snack are served. **For additional information, please contact Sharon Gordon or Donnetta Dailey at 304-768-4232.**
- ★ All children up to 18 years old may receive a free breakfast and lunch at Harambee.

Everyone Deserves a Second Chance

**Second
Chance**
MENTORING PROGRAM

SUCCESS STORY

When Ron came to KISRA he had been in some trouble but was being released back into his community after serving his time. Once Ron started working with KISRA, he began taking classes through KISRA's Fatherhood Program. Those classes taught Ron how to be a more kind and patient father, a better employee and how to manage his personal finances, just to name a few. In addition, Ron became a part of the Second Chance Mentoring Program. The Second Chance Mentoring Program is designed to help non-violent offenders reclaim their place in the community, stabilize their lives and achieve self-sufficiency.

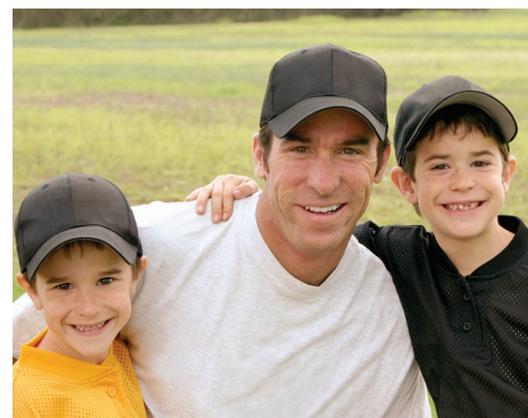
During Ron's time with the Second Chance Mentoring Program, he formed a strong bond with his mentor. That relationship helped him set and achieve goals, have someone to talk to and encourage him and gave him someone he could always count on for solid advice and friendship. In addition, KISRA hired Ron to provide janitorial duties because of his strong work ethic and desire to improve himself. If it were not for the strong relationship he built with his mentor, Ron may not have stayed on the path to fulfill his goals.

Ron has since moved out of state to help out his son but keeps in touch with his mentor on a regular basis, in order to keep him accountable to his goals. He has recently received a promotion and a raise from his current job and uses the skills he learned from KISRA daily.

If you would like to help provide a Second Chance to someone in your community, contact:

William Lipscomb

304.395.6059 | wlipscomb@kisra.org | KISRA.ORG



SPOKES - A Partnership for Success

Through a partnership with WVDOE, Office of Adult Education, Workforce Development and DHHR, KISRA provides training classes to SPOKES (Strategic Planning in Occupational Knowledge for Employment and Success) Students. All students are adult TANF recipients who have children. The training series provides students classes on work place skills, computer skills, CPR, and parenting.



McDowell County SPOKES Class taught by Bonita Mitchell, Instructor for KISRA

KISRA is 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. KISRA's caring and knowledgeable staff will help guide applicants through every step of the process.

ASSET DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



503 CARVER STREET, DUNBAR WV, 25064

\$95,000 - 3 BR / 2 BA - 1277 sq. ft.



215 CARLEE DR., POINT PLEASANT WV, 25550

\$115,000 - 3 BR / 2 BA - 1404 sq. ft.

KISRA has homes available now! KISRA will provide a newly built home with down payment assistance and closing cost assistance.

For Specific Details on Each Home:

Patricia Scott at 304-768-1300 or visit kisra.org



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY