



Lucas Neece

KU Undergrad, KU MPA

- Grew up in Topeka/Lawrence
- Married, 2 young kids (kindergartener & 1 year old)
- Became Assistant City Administrator in Lindsborg in December 2018
- Lack of high-quality childcare is a real barrier to my family thriving in Central Kansas

Lindsborg had been moving towards doing something to improve childcare when I was hired at the end of 2018.

Together, community leaders and the board of the existing non-profit childcare center crafted a vision for high-quality childcare.

Half of my time is committed to managing the project as an economic development initiative, using an MOU between the City and the non-profit childcare center board.

With the generosity of a large donor, the project has moved forward. The large donor has given \$1.5 million of a total \$2.8 million for the \$3.1 million construction project.

Construction started at the end of June; we expect to be in the building July 2022.

What is
Lindsborg
doing?



We developed a 5-point plan:

- Constructing a new building to expand and improve our program
- Raising salaries to attract and retain highly qualified staff
- Improving our programming to help each child develop into their very best self
- Achieving and maintaining NAEYC certification to hold ourselves to national standards and set ourselves apart in the region
- Setting the childcare center onto a financially sustainable path



Sprout House Child Development Center

COMING SPRING 2022



Caring for infants, toddlers, preschoolers & afterschool

Learn more at www.childcareforlindsborg.org



We are fundraising \$2.8 million for a \$3.1 million building



\$2 million will be in our fund at the McPherson County Community Foundation where it is projected to grow over time



The gifts will be used over 21 years to pay the industrial revenue bonds purchased by a local bank



After the bonds have been paid, we project an endowment of more than \$2 million that will ensure that the building can be maintained, expanded, and that operations can be supported.







Is this over-the-top?

I don't think so.

We are inviting people to come invest themselves in our community. People who have invested in their education and skills...and who have high expectations.

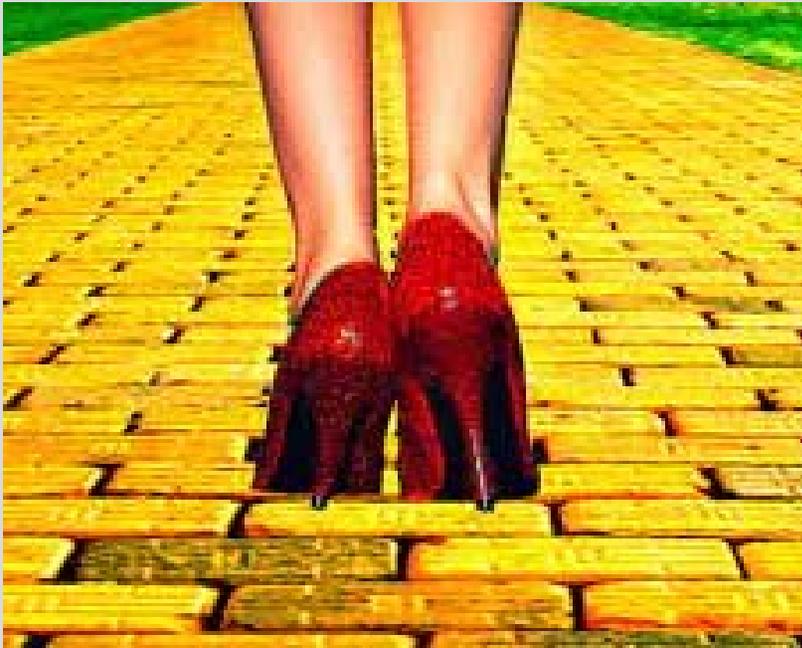
Lindsborg's pitch is:

Like many places, we have great jobs available;

We also have:

- a fun arts scene;
- good schools;
- great childcare.

What our project isn't...



- There is no yellow brick road.
- There is not a single solution.
- This is not the last word in the work we as a state need to do in childcare.

But rather...

- A) More private money
- B) Better business models
- C) Systems change at the state level
- D) Systems change at the federal level
- E) All of the above

This is one example of the work that needs to be done, alongside the important systems work being done by:

- Childcare Aware
- Kansas Action for Children
- Kansas Children's Cabinet
- Each individual provider
- DCF
- Legislature

THANK YOU!



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