



January 2022

Dear Supporters,

Did you know that 90% of brain development occurs by the age of 5? The stress of living in an impoverished environment can cause children long lasting effects.

I hope this letter finds you and your family happy and healthy! As you know Opal's Embrace was established in honor of my grandmother...Opal, who loved children. Even though she had several children of her own she took on the responsibility of helping my father care for me when my mother left when I was three years old. I believe I became the person I am because she surrounded me with a loving and supportive environment in my developing years. Opal's Embrace focuses on vulnerable young children and their families. We have even been able to help some families reestablish after being homeless.

*Marquita found herself homeless with her four children. After securing a place to live she was struggling to move forward because she had no furniture to make a home for her family. Together, with your assistance, we were able to give her needed support by donations of furniture, and we even found an inexpensive washer and dryer, so she didn't have to take the whole family to the laundry mat. She was so excited to be able to have her family holiday celebration at her home for the first time in her life. **Together...we do make a difference!***

This past year we had an influx of applications to support with food and household items because families are struggling as a result of the pandemic. We continue to assist some food programs in our area, and we delivered food to many homes for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are still having many families needing help following the holidays. If you have any interest in donating toys, small household items, or food there is always time to help. We love gently used books! Currently, over 75% of the families we serve have a child in their home with special needs and several that have been in various types of domestic violence. We can always use your help...go to our website, opalsembrace.org or visit our Facebook page for a donation button. You can also mail a check to 4901 W. 103rd St. Overland Park, KS 66207. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 816-550-1588 or email us at opalsembrace@kc.rr.com.

We have collaborated with many other nonprofit organizations to better serve more children. We do provide books and materials for childcare centers that serve children who receive services to impact growth in hundreds of vulnerable and low-income families with young children. We have touched over 400 children by getting books, activities, and needed supplies into their early care settings.

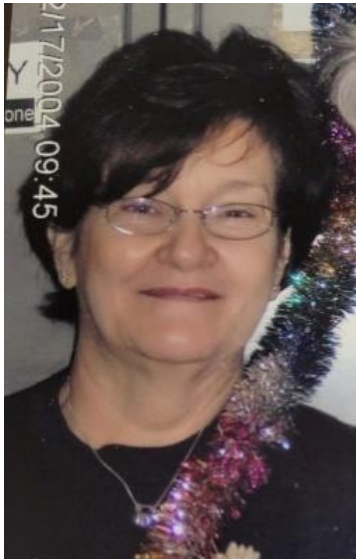
Thank you to everyone that donated to Opal's Embrace in my father's name. He loved donating his time and money to the families that we serve. This year we received over \$3,700 in memorial contributions. Big News...we are currently constructing a small building to have an office and storage space so that we may continue to grow and serve more children and families. Once everything is completed, we will designate a space to remind us of these special individuals.

Sincerely,

Marsha Wiard (Founder of Opal's Embrace)

We Lost Two Special Individuals This Year That Were Dear To Us!

In Loving Memory:



Arlene Anderson
1946-2021



Russell Clark
1940-2021

New Building Coming Soon:



Healthy, Supported Families Provide Children the Help They Need To Develop Appropriately.

Tax ID#: 26-3005196