

Children's Square

Judy Guttau introduced Karen Jones, MS, Senior Director of Programs and Services at Children's Square USA in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Karen has worked at Children's Square for 20 years.



The Christian Home Association-Children's Square U.S.A. is a private, not-for-profit organization founded on December 23, 1882 and incorporated on March 16, 1883 by a Baptist minister who saw a need for the care of children. Children's Square U.S.A. has a rich history of caring for children from birth to age 21 and their families, meeting their individualized needs, instilling hope and helping restore lives.

Karen explained that in the 1970's Children's Square began contracting services for children. Today the three service areas are: Education, Child Welfare, and Behavioral Health. She described the services within each of these areas, together with the funding source for each. Approximately 1500 children from 30 counties in Iowa and three in Nebraska are served each day. Eighty-five percent of the operating expenses are met by state or federal funding and 15% by private pay, private insurance, donations and an endowment fund. Children's Square employs 180 to 200 people and has five locations: the Main Campus in Council Bluffs, two additional off-campus sites in Council Bluffs and an office site in both Sioux City and Omaha. Volunteers are needed, especially help to care for the 10 acre campus and 10 buildings (handymen), mentors, Sunday Fun Day the first Sunday of each month, and the Spiritual Life Program. Karen believes people who volunteer send a message of care to the children. For more information about volunteer opportunities call the Children's Square office at 712-322-3700.