



## Family Services Hosts Care Camp

First Call's family services started Care Camp over five years ago, and continues to help children gain a healthy, productive lifestyle by unpacking the impact of substance use in the family with education, resilience and safety. This year's camp was offered through both a morning and evening session for better flexibility.

"The camp gives us an opportunity to reach youth that may be otherwise too busy to commit to seven separate sessions. It speaks to our goal of being as accessible to those in need of our services as possible," Family Services Counselor Bethany DePugh said.

The kids will work through Caring for Kids curriculum, learn tools for coping, safety plans and words for feeling they may not have been able to name before, while in an environment with their peers and with the support of First Call counselors. While children growing up in alcohol or drug-affected homes have a higher risk of developing substance use disorder themselves, DePugh wants them to know they are not alone.

"I hope they know they are not alone. I hope they know that there is recovery for them even if there isn't recovery just yet or maybe ever for their loved ones. I hope they know that there are resources available to them," DePugh said. "Growing up as a child in these situations I know how detrimental that it and I know what its like when you don't have that."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

How To Cope: Tuesday &  
Thursdays 10AM-Noon  
August 22, 24, 29, 31

8.2 Outcome Committee  
Meeting @ 9AM

8.2 Events Committee  
Meeting @ Noon

8.4 Emerging Professionals  
Board Meeting @ 11AM

8.8 HTC Alumni Group  
Meeting 6-8PM

8.28 Jackson Co. Townhall  
Meeting

8.30 National Drug  
Endangered Children's  
Conference \*

9.4 EPB Alcohol-Free BBQ  
@ Minor Park

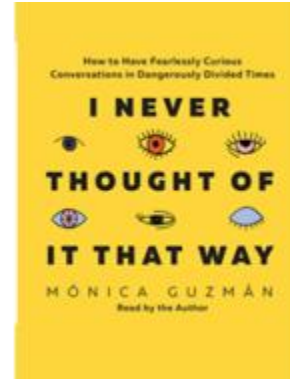
\*indicates presenting and  
speaking engagements

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## Book of the Month

### I Never Thought Of It That Way by Monica Guzman

August's Book of the Month challenges you to step back and take a look at the world from another perspective. How has their journey and experiences shaped their lives and every day decisions? Why do they think so differently than you? And does that make them 'wrong'?



When the country could no longer see straight across the political divide, Mónica set out to find what was blinding us and discovered the most eye-opening tool we're not using: our own built-in curiosity.

In this timely, personal guide, Mónica, takes you to the real front lines of a crisis that threatens to grind America to a halt - broken conversations among confounded people. She shows you how to overcome the fear and certainty that surround us to finally do what only seems impossible: understand and even learn from people in your life whose whole worldview is different from or even opposed to yours.

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Join us for First Call's signature fundraising event, the Soiree, presented by



. The event will feature a keynote performance by artist, John Bukaty, sharing his story of recovery through a live painting. The evening's dinner will showcase seasonal ingredients through a farm to table experience. The program will also include entertainment from local artists in the recovery community, an auction and stories of hope from former First Call clients.

**Thursday, September 28, 2023**

Hotel Kansas City  
1228 Baltimore Avenue  
Kansas City Missouri 64105

Doors open at 5:45PM, program begins at 6:30PM

For questions or more information, contact Sarah Link Ferguson  
[sferguson@firstcallkc.org](mailto:sferguson@firstcallkc.org) or 816.800.8048

**Purchase Tickets & Sponsorships**

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# DEI Committee

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

First Call recognizes that substance use disorders can impact communities differently, and support for these communities needs to be culturally appropriate.



First Call staff has been working for the last year with Phyllis Becker, Senior Fellow with the Full Frame Initiative, to reformat and provide staff-lead guidance to our DEI team. Phyllis has been an asset to our work, and we also found out that she wears many hats in her own personal work.

Phyllis, along with the founding members of the Weston Black Ancestors Awareness Campaign, attended a June staff meeting to present their video “From Slavery to Freedom” and spend time answering questions about the video after. This was an opportunity for our team to learn more about the often-hidden history of the Black community in Weston, MO, and how that community built the area into what it is today. We were also pleasantly surprised to recognize many friends of First Call in the video.

You can also learn more about the BAAC’s work and watch their video at this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RS5krBCxnKI>

The First Call DEI Committee is excited to continue bringing opportunities like this to the staff of First Call, inviting in voices in that help remind everyone of the impact of our work on all communities that First Call serves on a daily basis.

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Our Emerging Professionals Board is hosting their first **alcohol-free** event.

So, whether you are sober-curious or just looking for an alcohol-free activity over the Labor Day weekend, plan to join our family-friendly BBQ.

**September 4 @ Minor Park**

Follow up email with more details to follow

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**August 7  
7-9PM**

MEMORIAL STATION  
602 MAURER PKWY  
BELTON, MO 64012

This event is hosted by Congressman Mark Alford, and features a panel of City, County and State officials, along with area families who have been devastated by this drug.

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**Donor of The Month**  
**Karen Gerson**

Karen is an active board member, advocate for First Call and is this year's Soiree Event Chair. Karen, in partnership with her supervisor and mentor, has changed the trajectory of several organizations and created programs that have stood the test of time. She has changed the lives of thousands of kids who receive free books from a program she brought to Kansas City and created an internship program serving over 100 young adults.



[Donate Now](#)



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