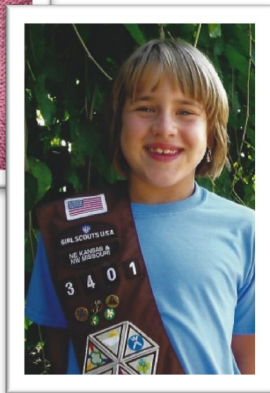
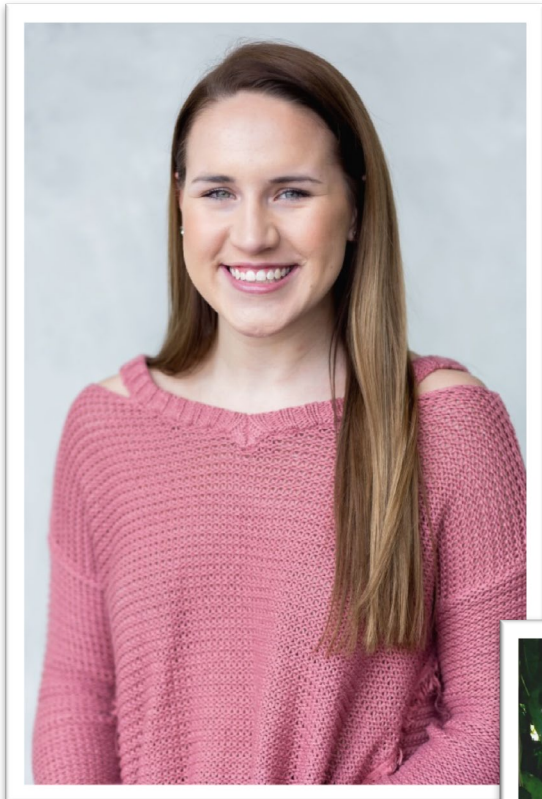


Accessibility to Community Services



Kristen Collom

Topeka, Kansas

Kristen Collom has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and is in Troop 3401 in Service Unit 701. She is currently a senior at Seaman High School. She will be attending Kansas State University in the fall to major in Psychology.

For her Gold Award Project, Kristen addressed the issue of access to local support groups for members of the community with mental health and behavioral issues. Kristen observed that bus route maps are difficult to read to determine which route to take in order to reach local support groups. Kristen created a new, easy to read bus route map that pinpoints local addiction support group sites and food banks in the Topeka area. The map shows which bus route people can take to get to each location.

Kristen presented her project to the case managers at Valeo and gained confidence in her project after receiving positive feedback from the case managers. Her project will be sustained beyond her involvement by organizations such as Valeo, Interim Healthcare and Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church, who have all received a hard copy and thumb drive of her map. These organizations have direct access to people in need and will dispense the map to those who could benefit from it.

Because of Girl Scouts, I have confidence in my own voice to speak up about what matters most to me. I've gotten the chance to meet so many people and I have learned skills that will last a lifetime.