

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Heart of America Chapter

NEWSLETTER | Edition 88, Volume 4

Working together for a safer, stronger future. | kc.assp.org

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Officer List



president@kc.assp.org

President
Ashley Parker, MS, CSP, CRIS



vp@kc.assp.org

Vice President
Shelly Higgins, CSP



secretary@kc.assp.org

Secretary
Ashlie Walker-Deffenbaugh, MS, CSP



treasurer@kc.assp.org

Treasurer
Ravi Narayan, CSP, ARM



Past President
Michael Carlson, CSP

ASSP
HEART OF AMERICA
CHAPTER

PEOPLE.
PREVENTION.
A SAFER TOMORROW.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 2026

CONNECT. EDUCATE. SUPPORT. SERVE. GROW.

> "As we head into the holiday season, I want to start with a few well-deserved thank yous."

Ashley Parker
MS, CSP, CRIS

PRESIDENT
ASSP HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER

Dear Chapter Members,

As we head into the holiday season, I want to start with a few well-deserved thank yous.

A big **thank you** to **Black & Veatch** for hosting our October monthly meeting and providing our venue, speaker, and lunch. Your hospitality and support of the Heart of America Chapter are truly appreciated.

I also want to thank **Select Physical Therapy** for hosting our November meeting and providing our venue, speaker, and lunch. We appreciate your partnership and willingness to support our chapter and our members.

Both meetings provided attendees with **0.1 CEUs**, and I'm excited that we plan to continue offering CEU opportunities as part of our chapter programming into 2027. Providing relevant professional development along with opportunities to connect with other safety professionals continues to be an important part of the value of our local chapter.

Our Emerging Professionals group is continuing its **Winter Clothing Drive through December 11h**. If you have new or gently used winter clothing to donate, there is still time! If you need to arrange a pickup or drop-off with one of our Emerging Professionals members, please contact **Jessie Todd at JEGLENN@travelers.com.**

We're also excited for another opportunity to give back to our local community on **Friday, December 11** from 10 to 11 AM. We will gather at The Builders off Oak St. to pack kid-friendly care kits for Ronald McDonald House Charities Kansas City. Space is limited to 15. Keep an eye on your email for additional information about the event and how you can help and/or provide a donation.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I've been thinking about what I'm especially thankful for this year. First, I feel incredibly fortunate to serve alongside such an amazing **Board and Executive Committee**. I'm grateful for the time, ideas, energy, and passion each of you brings to our chapter. It truly takes a team to keep our chapter strong, and I appreciate each of you more than you know.

On a personal level, I'm especially thankful for my family. My husband and our two sons continue to be my biggest support system, and I'm grateful for every opportunity we have to slow down, spend time together, laugh, and simply enjoy being a family. And I can't forget Mija, our frenchie, who will be more than happy to snuggle up with me on my heated blanket as the colder weather settles in!

With the pace of work, volunteer commitments, and everyday life, I'm definitely looking forward to some well-needed downtime this holiday season with the people who matter most.

I hope each of you has an opportunity this Thanksgiving to slow down, recharge, and spend time with the people who matter most to you.

Happy Thanksgiving from the ASSP Heart of America Chapter!

Ashley Parker
President
ASSP Heart of America Chapter

Stronger Together
FOR A SAFER TOMORROW.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

GREAT PEOPLE.
STRONGER TOGETHER.



We're excited to welcome our newest members to the Heart of America Chapter! Your involvement strengthens our chapter and helps advance our shared mission of safer workplaces, stronger communities, and a brighter tomorrow.

Jennifer DeSchepper, SMP
Monica Austin
Joseph Kennard
Dakota Simpson
Curtis Ohlde, CIT

Seth Doman
Matt Lyda
Mr. Stephen Joseph Bax, CSP, ASP
Miss Nevina Emmelyne Lamont
Abbey Cox

CHAPTER NEWS



The Chapter website provides information regarding upcoming events and training held by our Chapter, other ASSP Chapters, ASSP, and from other organizations with safety, health, environmental and risk management topics that may interest you. Please visit the website regularly to view upcoming events that may not be specifically listed in the newsletter.


AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS
PEOPLE.
PRACTICE.
A SAFER TOMORROW.™
CONNECT
LEARN
GROW
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE
Stronger Together for a Safer Tomorrow
Safety Professionals Build Brighter Futures
I WANT YOU TO SERVE
IN OUR CHAPTER
If you're interested in serving, please reach out!
Mike Carlson, CSP, Past President, is leading the election committee. Elections are held annually in early Spring (March timeframe).
BUILD YOUR NETWORK
SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE
SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL GROWTH
ADVANCE SAFETY TOGETHER
SAFER PEOPLE. SAFER WORKPLACES. A STRONGER TOMORROW.

HEART OF AMERICA
EMERGING PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE 2ND ANNUAL

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

This season, let's make a difference by participating in our Winter Clothing Drive. Donate your gently used clothing and help someone stay warm during the cold winter months!

WE ARE ACCEPTING ANY SIZE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- WINTER COATS
- HATS
- GLOVES
- SWEATSHIRTS
- SWEATERS
- SCARVES
- BLANKETS
- BOOTS

DONATIONS WILL BE COLLECTED AT CHAPTER HEART OF AMERICA MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, & NOVEMBER.

DEADLINE FOR DONATIONS IS DECEMBER 11, 2026

Community Service Event

RMHC
Kansas City

Kid-Friendly Care Kit Assembly & Delivery for Ronald McDonald House KC – Longfellow House



KID-FRIENDLY CARE KITS

December 11 • 10–11 AM • The Builders in KC
729 Oak St, Kansas City, MO 64106
Limit: 15 participants

Registration information will be shared soon through an HOA chapter registration link via email.

What are the care kits?

Care kits are small packages of kid-friendly snacks and helpful items for families staying at Ronald McDonald House Kansas City. They provide practical support and comfort when families need it most.

Why they help

These kits give children and families convenient, familiar items during a stressful stay and show them that their community cares.

Questions?

Please reach out to Jessie Todd at jeglenn@travelers.com.

Put together by
ASSP Heart of America Emerging Professionals Group

CHAPTER SPONSORS

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The Power of Physical Therapy™

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JOB OPENINGS

If you or someone that you know in the safety profession are looking for employment, jobs openings are posted on our Chapter website. Please check out our website for recent job postings.

Environmental, Health and Safety Manager

Safety & Health Manager

Safety Specialist

Looking for a Job?

If so, then send your resume to

president@kc.assp.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES
MEMBERS

Newsletter
| **Harold Rudd,** STS

Student Section & Scholarships
| **Phil Shoemaker,** CSP, CRIS, CHST

New Member Engagement
| **Mike Combs,** COSS | **AJ Turner,** CHST

Vendor Promotions
| **Shelly Higgins,** CSP | **Ashley Parker,** MS, CSP, CRIS

Website Update & Job Postings
| **Dave Hallerud,** ALCM

Social Media & Communications
| **Ashlie Walker-Deffenbaugh,** MS, CSP

Events Coordinator & Catering
| **Mindy Prichard,** MS, CSP | **Jennifer DeSchepper**

Professional Development Workshops
| **Tom Metzner,** CSP, ARM-P, CFPS | **Mindy Prichard,** MS, CSP

Emerging Professionals Group
| **Jessie Glenn,** MS, CSP | **Anthony Gallagher,** CSP | **Eric Hallerud,** CSP

Election Committee
| **Derek Farmer,** MBA, CSP, CRIS | **Tom Metzner,** CSP, ARM-P, CFPS
| **Mindy Prichard,** MS, CSP | **Mike Carlson,** CSP