

Meet **Mary Edwards** from Leawood, who joined the KABC board in 2014.



I'm married to my husband, George, who is a retired anesthesiologist. Our two children, Laine and Ian, live in KC. We have two young grandsons-ages 8 and 10. Like many people, I had the experience of being responsible for my parents and their placement in skilled nursing facilities in Kansas. And it wasn't a pleasant or gratifying experience.

I graduated with a BSW from KU and began working at the Juvenile Court in Wyandotte County, primarily focused on child abuse and neglect. This was an incredibly challenging job on many levels and one that informed my views on many issues. I was there 10 years but, in many ways, it was a lifetime. I still draw on my experiences at the court to guide me today. My job there was to advocate for children who had no voice; now I am advocating for the elderly through my involvement with KABC. There are definitely some similarities; *both children and older adults are often unseen and unheard.*

After I left the Court, I volunteered with child abuse agencies in the KC area mostly doing training and public speaking. I was a member of Kansas City Young Matrons for many years and served on their board in several capacities. Most recently I have been a volunteer and a board member of Planned Parenthood Great Plains. I am still on several PPGP committees.

Lenette Hamm gets all the credit for my involvement with KABC. We are childhood friends-grew up together in the same Kansas City, Kansas neighborhood. She persisted in asking me to join the board and I am so grateful to her. I feel very honored to be a part of this fine organization. The staff and board members are focused, hard-working and very professional.

KABC is a strong leader in advocating for the rights of aging Kansans. We have so much to offer, and I hope that our presence continues to grow throughout the state. With our dedicated & knowledgeable staff, I feel we are headed in that direction.