

DRIVING CARE: MEETING YOU WHERE YOU ARE

Exploring The Center's Transportation Fleet

Across Barton, Rice, Stafford, and Pawnee counties, care doesn't always happen inside an office. Sometimes it happens in a home, at a school, or on a rural road miles from the nearest town. Every day, The Center's staff travel throughout our region to meet people where they are—because access to care should never depend on someone's ability to get to us.



“IN 2025 ALONE, CENTER VEHICLES TRAVELED 336,863 MILES ACROSS CENTRAL KANSAS.”

One of the most important ways we make that possible is through our fleet of vehicles.

Today, The Center operates 52 vehicles that support services across our catchment area that keep us ready whenever our community needs us.

Transportation as a Bridge to Care

For many individuals and families, transportation can be one of the biggest barriers to receiving help. A missed appointment, a lack of reliable transportation, or living in a rural area can quickly create distance between someone and the support they need.

Our fleet helps bridge that gap.

Center staff use these vehicles to transport clients to appointments, housing resources, employment services, and other critical supports. They also allow our team to deliver care directly in the community—meeting people in the places where they feel safest and most comfortable.

In 2025 alone, Center vehicles traveled 336,863 miles across central Kansas. Those miles represent thousands of moments of care—rides to treatment, visits to homes and schools, crisis responses, and connections that help people stay supported and stable.

Responding When People Need Us Most

Our vehicles are also essential to programs like Mobile Crisis

Response, where time and accessibility matter.

When someone in our region is experiencing a behavioral health crisis, our team is able to go where we're called, when we're called—arriving in person to provide support, de-escalation, and connection to services.

“Transportation is a critical part of how we deliver care,” says Transportation Coordinator Michael Shook. “Our staff are constantly on the move—picking clients up, traveling between counties, or responding to urgent calls. Having dependable vehicles means we can focus on helping people instead of worrying about whether we'll make it there safely.”

Prioritizing Safety for Staff and Clients

Just a few years ago, many of our

“THESE VEHICLES HELP OUR TEAM LIVE OUT OUR MISSION EVERY DAY.”

vehicles were aging, carrying high mileage and increasing maintenance needs. Repairs were becoming more frequent, and parts were sometimes difficult to source. Recognizing how important dependable transportation is to both staff and clients, The Center’s Board supported a transition toward leasing newer, lower-mileage vehicles.

Leasing has allowed us to maintain a fleet that is more reliable, easier to maintain, and safer for everyone on

The 2024 and 2025 Trailblazer models both carry a 5-Star Overall Safety Rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and strong crash-worthiness ratings from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. These ratings reflect strong performance in frontal, side, and rollover crash testing—giving added confidence to the staff and clients who travel in them every day.

Because whether someone is

our leased vehicles are sourced through Marmie Chevrolet, Chrysler, Ford in Great Bend and Ehler Chevrolet in Hoisington.

These partnerships have been incredibly valuable. Local dealerships understand the nature of our work and have been quick to assist with maintenance and service needs, helping ensure our vehicles stay on the road and ready for the next call.

More Than Vehicles—They’re Tools for Care

While they may look like ordinary vehicles on the road, The Center’s

fleet represents something much bigger. Each one is a tool for connection, safety, and access to care.

Whether transporting a client to services, helping someone maintain independence, or responding to a crisis call in the middle of the night, these

vehicles help our team live out our mission every day.

Because when someone needs help, we go where we’re called—when we’re called.

And sometimes, that journey begins with the simple turn of a key.



board.

Many of our newer vehicles include the Chevrolet Trailblazer, chosen for its size, accessibility, and strong safety features—important qualities for vehicles that operate across rural highways, city streets, and changing Kansas weather conditions.

visiting one of our locations or riding with a provider to a service appointment, their safety matters.

Supporting Local Partnerships

Our fleet also reflects The Center’s commitment to supporting local businesses whenever possible. Many of