

HomeTalk

WINTER 2014

2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT EDITION

A magazine of the Nebraska
Children's Home Society



nebraska
children's home
SOCIETY

www.nchs.org

Winter 2014 | Vol. 79

HomeTalk magazine is a publication of the Nebraska Children's Home Society.

Sisters

"A sister is a gift to the heart, a friend to the spirit, a golden thread to the meaning of life."

-Isadora James

These three sisters, Aliyah, Ta'Miyah and Alanah definitely light up any room.



All photos in this publication are of children and families served by Nebraska Children's Home Society. Photos by VWC Photography.

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Cover Sam and Noah are pictured being as cute little boys should be: cute, energetic and ready for life.

03 Letter from Chief Executive Officer, Karen Authier

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The mission of Nebraska Children's Home Society is to provide safe and loving care to children of all ages.



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Dear Friends of the Nebraska Children's Home Society,

Our Annual Report is full of numbers. Numbers are important. We teach our children to count when they are toddlers and preschoolers. We watch the numbers in our bank balance to make sure we're not overdrawn. Numbers play an important role in our communication and decision making. The numbers in this report will tell you how many children and families we served, how much we spent to serve those children and families and how much income we received to support those services.

The sole purpose of Nebraska Children's Home is to make a difference in the lives of children. Outcomes of our services are important to us. In order to measure the impact of our work we rely on numbers: How many children found permanent families through NCHS permanency, adoption and foster care services? How many children found safety in a nurturing foster family? How many babies were born to parents who learned how to nurture their infant's development with support, guidance and training from NCHS parenting specialists? How many girls avoided teen pregnancy as a result of our Teen Chat program? How many infants, toddlers and preschoolers in our early childhood programs are meeting physical, cognitive, emotional and social developmental goals?

Numbers are about how much and how many, but numbers don't tell the whole story of the impact NCHS has on the lives of children and families in Nebraska. The pictures of the children we served and quotes from their families, their personal expressions of gratitude and the life-changing stories they tell illustrate the importance of the numbers and convey the true importance of our work.

Another set of numbers makes our work possible. Those are the numbers reflected in gifts to the Children's Home that provide funding for our life enhancing and life changing mission. Without those gifts, there would be no positive outcomes for children and families.

Through your generous support, you play the number one role in turning our mission into reality for children and families across Nebraska.

Thank you.



Karen Authier, Chief Executive Officer, Nebraska Children's Home Society



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Omaha, NE 68144
(402) 898-0021

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Grand Island, NE 68803
(308) 381-0568

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P.O. Box 1896
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 237-2304

2501 Lakeridge Dr., Suite 104B
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(402) 379-3378

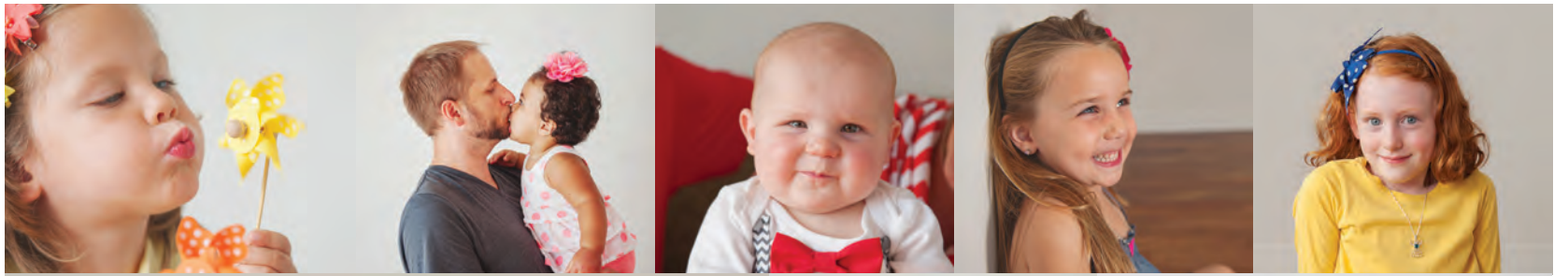
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P.O. Box 2181
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(308) 632-8377

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(402) 483-7879

121 N. Dewey, Suite 206
P.O. Box 596
North Platte, NE 69103
(308) 534-3250

1320 West 3rd St.
P.O. Box 835
Alliance, NE 69301
(308) 761-0472



We work for the children and the numbers are:



HEALTHY BEGINNINGS

312 FAMILIES RECEIVED HOME VISITING SERVICES → **95%**

40 → **20% increase**
 INFANTS WE PLACED THIS PAST FISCAL YEAR

OF MOTHERS AND FATHERS RECEIVING HOME VISITS ARE PROGRESSING OR HAVE MET THEIR INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY GOALS.

 **31** ADOPTIONS FROM FOSTER CARE

BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

130 FAMILIES SERVED BY RIGHT TURN® → **98%**
 OF FAMILIES INDICATED THEY WOULD REFER ANOTHER FAMILY TO RIGHT TURN®

112 FAMILIES WERE HELPED IN POST ADOPTION → **31** SEARCHES FOR BIRTH FAMILIES WERE COMPLETED

668 PARENTS AND CHILDREN RECEIVED IN-HOME REUNIFICATION SERVICES

PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

176
 CHILDREN SERVED, BOTH THROUGH FOSTER CARE AND KINSHIP PLACEMENTS

44 NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL AND/OR DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIAL NEEDS SERVED BY FOSTER CARE

41 CHILDREN IN OUR PERMANENCY SERVICES

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

623 BUSINESSES AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDED **\$744,764** IN CASH AND SERVICES TO FURTHER OUR MISSION

10,789
 PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

603 PARENTING EDUCATION CLASSES OFFERED ACROSS NEBRASKA





“No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure.”

-Emma Goldman

Nicholas' face foretells a bright future for him and those he encounters.

95%

95% OF TEEN CHAT PARTICIPANTS ARE FAMILIAR WITH COMMON METHODS OF PREVENTING PREGNANCY AND STDs; 90% REPORT HAVING POST-HIGH SCHOOL-GRADUATION PLANS, AND HALF HAVE PLANS THAT INCLUDE AN ADVANCED DEGREE. (IN 2015 THIS SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN 4 ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS ACROSS NEBRASKA)

93%

OF EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDENTS MET TEACHING STRATEGIES GOLD STANDARD

100%

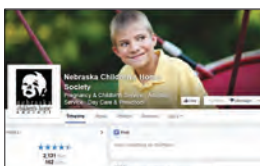
OF EARLY CHILDHOOD “GRADUATES” ARE KINDERGARTEN-READY

“My life has been shaped by the decision two people made over 24 years ago. They decided to adopt a child. They got me, and I got a chance at the kind of life all children deserve.”

-Karen Fowler



Keep in touch and stay up-to-date with the most timely news and activities of NCHS! Like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NebraskaChildrensHomeSociety



See our latest class offerings and check out upcoming special events on our Events & Classes Calendar at www.nchs.org



18 REQUESTS WERE RECEIVED

↓ TOTALING
\$609,000

THESE GIFTS ARE "PERPETUAL" AS NCHS DEPOSITS THEM IN OUR FOUNDATION, AND STRIVES TO USE ONLY THE INTEREST.

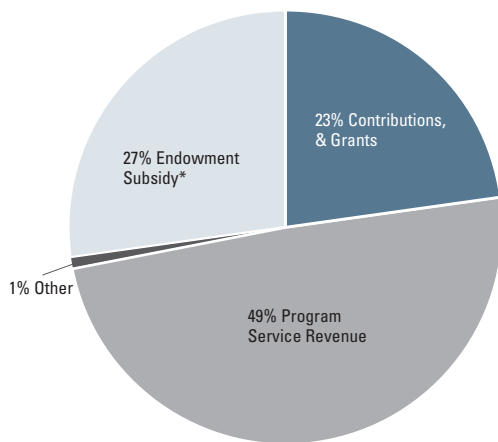
"I am blessed and I couldn't be more grateful. Because I am a mother, but that's only half of it. I'm blessed because, when I need to, I can still just be a daughter. I get the feeling that there is nothing more precious than to have both of these roles simultaneously."

-Adrianna Stepiano

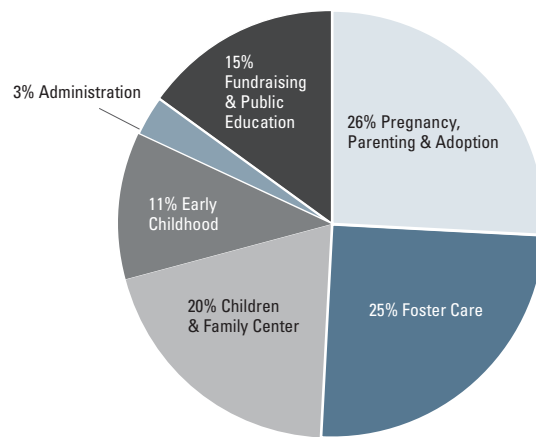


Nebraska Children's Home Society | Nebraska Children's Home Society Foundation
Financial Report | Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014

NCHS REVENUES
\$6,411,868



NCHS EXPENSES
\$6,633,740



Net Change
Net Assets Beginning of Year
Net Assets End of Year

\$3,962,509
\$36,888,445
\$40,850,954

*Transfers from the Foundation for program services investment totaled \$1,825,000 (listed as "Endowment Subsidy" above). The Foundation's unrestricted investment fund increased \$4,027,316 and totaled \$36,190,631 on June 30, 2014. A copy of the independent auditor's report by Awerkamp, Goodnight, Schwaller and Nelson, P.C., is available for review from the NCHS Finance Department.

TRIBUTES

Thank you to the following individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations who gave a gift in memory or honor during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013. Your gifts help us sustain and grow our services to Nebraska's next generation of children and families.

Gifts Given In Honor Of:

Adopted sons

Laurie Bendy

Mari & Gage Agosta

Tim & Lucy Meschede

Kathleen Al-Marhoon

Gary Nelson & Glenda Plettner-Nelson

Katie Anderson's Birthday

Rev. Lester & Mrs. Marion Dumer

Kellen Anderson

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Alexis Dawn Anderson

Rob Zarek

Chelsea Andrews and Ben Wampler

Alice Belz

Charlie Ankerson

John & Kathy Ankerson

Elizabeth Ann Apking

Drs. Roger & Colleen Dilley

Sarah Armatys

Gene & Anne Burton

Jami Baldwin for Mother's Day

Kali Johnson

Steve Bauers

Kenneth & Loretta Kerchal

John & Marlys Becic

Scott & Pamela Wendt

Zachary Beran

Richard & Mildred Beran

Jeff Biegert & Family

Central Feeders, Inc.

Lana K. Birkel

Gene & Lana Birkel

Birth Mom

Christopher & Heather Tillotson

Birth Mothers

Don & Carol Gilpin

Birth Mothers of Our Grandchildren

Rev. Verdell & Mrs. Elaine Schramm

Sutton David Blahak

Rex & Jeanne Sasso

Andrea Hanson Blake

Keith & Mary Hanson

Justin and Megan Blobaum

John Blobaum

Trae Bly

Marjorie Husman

Diane Boals Birthday

Prudence Wilson

Jackson & Elizabeth Boll

Bryan & Julie Boll

Larry & Ronda Bonifas

Keith & Jan Bonifas

Mark & Trish Bonifas

Mike & Deb Bonifas

Pat & Shelly Bonifas

Peggy Bruce

Jodi Rostvet

Daryl & Lynda Brabander

Barry & Barbara Brabander

Stephanie Brazda's 16th Birthday

Robert & Sheila Brazda

Tyler Burks

James & Christina Burks

Michelle Catterson

Kenneth & Loretta Kerchal

Juanita Chavez

Robert & Maria Hall

D.J. Clark

Marcia Clark

Lori Clark

Marcia Clark

The Classen Family

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Samuel Joseph Combs

Timothy & Rachel Combs

Ben & Katie Cruickshank

Richard & Hallie Wilson

Rebecca Davidson's

Fredstrom 3rd grade Teachers

Michael & Amy Davidson

Kelsie's 16th Birthday

David & Jann Dibben

Jill & Taylor

Lloyd & Retha Dowding

Michelle, Ava, & Payton Dukes

Richard & Kitty Johnson

Gay and David Emry

Julienne Emry

Angel Taylor Engel

Daniel & Rosellen Policky

Adelina Claire Engler

Joe & Sue Engler

Judy Faketty

Terry Terrill

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Amy Schwarz

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Noah Trinity Scott Fields

Kevin & Deirdra Fields

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Maddie & Marek Flynt

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Dennis & Nancy Gilmore

Emery Goolsby

Jameson & Emily Wiebold

Alaina & Claire Grosskopf

Cliff & Peggy Grosskopf

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Eric & Sigrid Gustafson

Esther E. Hamburger's 102 Birthday

Rev. Gary & Mrs. Susan Hamburger

Cathy Storer Haney

Dennis & Carole Storer

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Alice Belz

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Lucille J. Hoyt, BSN, RN

Fidelity Charitable

Lucille Hunnicutt

Willia Hunnicutt

Mary-Kathryn Hunsberger

Robert & Julia Freeland

Ken & Valerie Jackson

Steven Jackson

Erma and Gary James' 50th Wedding Anniversary

Larry & Lois Wattjes

Jim Johnson for Father's Day

Kali Johnson

William Jace Fedderson

Kali Johnson

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Kay Jones

Mike Jorgensen

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and Caleb Moore

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De Etta Moss

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Gary Nelson & Glenda Plettner-Nelson

Anna Plettner-Nelson

Gary Nelson & Glenda Plettner-Nelson

Gary Nelson

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Norian Nelson

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Edward Jones

Ann Poncelow

Stephanie & David Poncelow

Tyler Pratt

Denis & Sandra Pratt

Luvern Qualm's 90th Birthday

Darren & Alisa Eberspacher

Mary Ann Riecke

Marcia Hovermale

Millie Rinne

"We knew that we wanted to expand our family when we first contacted the Children's Home, and that our lives would be changed dramatically. What we did not expect is the profound positive impact that these two little people would have on our family, friends and community."
-NCHS parent



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Kenneth Hugo
Bart Allen Hull
Karen Isaacs
Mid Hummel
Oneta Clark
Calvin Hutchison
Gary Nelson & Glenda Plettner-Nelson
Michael Jackson
Anonymous
Dr. Jerry & Mrs. Karen Authier
Joan Clements
James & Becky Crofoot
Joslyn Art Museum Docents
Vern & Gail Krenzer
A.L. Malcom & Patricia Malcom
Gary Nelson & Glenda Plettner-Nelson
Jodie & Mike Nolan
Nicole Riddle



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"[My Mom] was one of your adoptive parents, and I'm one of two incredibly lucky children you placed with her in the 1960s. You folks chose well. From before we really knew what adopted meant, she taught my brother and I that it was better than "regular." Regular just happened, adopted you had to wait for. I miss her everyday."
 -Carol in Arizona



"Family isn't always blood. It's the people in your life that want you in theirs; the ones who accept you for who you are. The ones who would do anything to see you smile and who love you no matter what."
 -Foster Mom



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