

# HomeTalk

WINTER 2015

2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT EDITION

A magazine of the Nebraska  
Children's Home Society



nebraska  
children's home  
SOCIETY

[www.nchs.org](http://www.nchs.org)

# Winter 2015 | Vol. 81

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

A daughter is a day brightener  
and a heart warmer.

Kamai, age 4

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

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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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Karen Authier

**Chief Development Officer**  
Brian Osborne

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HOME SOCIETY BOARD  
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## Dear Friends of the Nebraska Children's Home Society,

Distilling the essence and the impact of the work of Nebraska Children's Home into a few paragraphs for this year's annual report is a challenge. What is the common denominator that best communicates what we do, how we do it and why we do it? The simple answer is - **It's all about relationships.**

**Relationships are at the very heart of everything we do.** Our four areas of focus – **healthy beginnings, building and strengthening families, pathways to the future and engaging communities** – all start with and depend on relationships.

Our capacity to form relationships makes us truly human and it all begins when infants develop bonds of trust within their families. Even before a child's birth our work with pregnant moms and dads helps them plan for **healthy beginnings** for their babies: preparation for birth and parenting classes, counseling for women with unplanned pregnancies and home visitation to make ready for the new little one. We prepare prospective adoptive parents for their new role in parenting by offering educational opportunities. Once baby is born, there is more focus on the importance of those new relationships that foster positive development. Our early childhood education programs provide school readiness opportunities for infants, toddlers and preschoolers within the context of nurturing relationships.

Families are the incubators for attachment and relationships. Children belong in families and NCHS is at work **building and strengthening families** through adoption and post-adoption services, support for grandparents raising grandchildren, and in-home skill-building and support for families involved with the child welfare system.

Success in life depends on relationships and NCHS equips youth and teen parents to chart their **pathways to the future** as they develop an understanding of healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, set and achieve personal goals, avoid risky behavior and learn skills that will lead to success in school and life. When a child's trust and ability to form relationships has been damaged by abuse, neglect or abandonment, NCHS steps in to connect youth to kinship or adoptive homes that will meet their needs for permanent, stable families and provides mental health therapy to heal emotional wounds and foster the capacity for loving relationships. NCHS foster and adoptive parents teach children the meaning of relationships and provide loving environments for children to practice new relationship skills.

Relationships also lay the foundation for **engaging communities**. Relationships depend on reciprocity. Healthy relationships are characterized by an understanding of the value of give-and-take. In the community, NCHS understands that more can be accomplished when we are good partners and collaborators – using our resources and unique expertise as well as depending on others to provide resources and expertise to improve life in communities for children and families.

As you read this report, I encourage you to look at the photographs of those whose lives we touched, the data on outcomes and the recognition of gifts given with an understanding that the backdrop for all is relationships – the relationships between children and their parents, the relationships between our staff and those receiving our services, the committed relationship of our staff, board, trustees and donors to the mission of NCHS. Our mission is vital; much work remains to be done. I invite you to become part of the network of relationships that constitute NCHS.

**Thank you.**

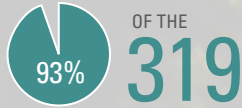


Karen Authier, Chief Executive Officer, Nebraska Children's Home Society



**"Relationships are the very heart of everything we do."**

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS



PARENTS RECEIVING SERVICES AT THE CHILDREN & FAMILY CENTER DEMONSTRATE THE SKILLS NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR CHILDREN

125 CHILDREN SERVED THROUGH NCHS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTERS

→ 104,616

HOURS OF CARE 



CHILDREN JOINED FOREVER FAMILIES THROUGH INFANT AND FOSTER CARE ADOPTIVE PLACEMENTS

263 families served through home visitation

95% OF CHILDREN AT NCHS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTERS HAVE AGE APPROPRIATE SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND COGNITIVE SKILLS

David & Jamie  
Xander, 8 months



118

INDIVIDUALS  
ATTENDED CIRCLE  
OF SECURITY®  
PARENTING CLASSES,  
TOTALING 167 HOURS  
OF INSTRUCTION



167  
hrs.

122%

INCREASE IN NUMBER  
OF FAMILIES SERVED  
BY RIGHT TURN® POST  
ADOPTION SERVICES

100%

OF PARENTS  
IMPROVED HEALTHY  
PARENT-CHILD  
INTERACTIONS  
AFTER RECEIVING  
RIGHT TURN® POST  
ADOPTION SERVICES



80%

GRANDPARENTS  
SUPPORTED THROUGH  
THE RAISING YOUR  
GRANDCHILDREN PROGRAM  
REPORTED IMPROVED AND  
ENHANCED CAPACITY  
TO UNDERSTAND  
CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR

113

CLIENTS SERVED  
THROUGH NCHS  
MENTAL HEALTH  
SERVICES

Gary & Roxanne  
Joe, 5  
Amelia, 7



91%

OF TEEN CHAT PARTICIPANTS  
MADE INFORMED DECISIONS  
ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS,  
SEXUALITY AND PREGNANCY

92%

OF PARTICIPANTS  
IDENTIFIED GOALS  
FOR THEIR FUTURE

100%

SIBLINGS IN NCHS FOSTER  
HOMES WERE PLACED TOGETHER

100%

OF CHILDREN REMAINED  
SAFE FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT  
WHILE SUPPORTED IN THEIR  
FOSTER HOMES

133

CHILDREN SERVED  
IN FOSTER &  
KINSHIP HOMES

NCHS CREATED  
243 LIFETIME  
CONNECTIONS FOR  
50 FOSTER CHILDREN  
AWAITING ADOPTION

1176

INDIVIDUALS  
SERVED THROUGH THE  
CHILDREN & FAMILY CENTER

44% INCREASE FROM  
LAST YEAR

Alexis, 10

Last year generous individuals like you donated over **\$800,000**. You gave through NCHS, to children and families. You make our work possible.



556

NUMBER OF NEW DONORS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

679

PARENTING EDUCATION CLASSES OFFERED ACROSS THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

13%

INCREASE FROM LAST YEAR

506

BUSINESSES AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDED \$702,338 IN CASH AND SERVICES TO FURTHER OUR MISSION

3,675+

VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS

37,698

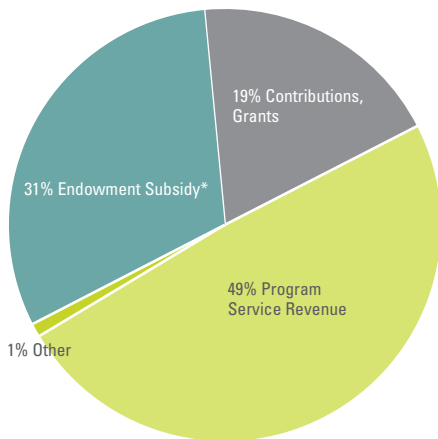
INDIVIDUALS VISITED NCHS.ORG

PROJECT ELF PUT GIFTS UNDER THE TREE FOR 1,500 CHILDREN ACROSS THE STATE

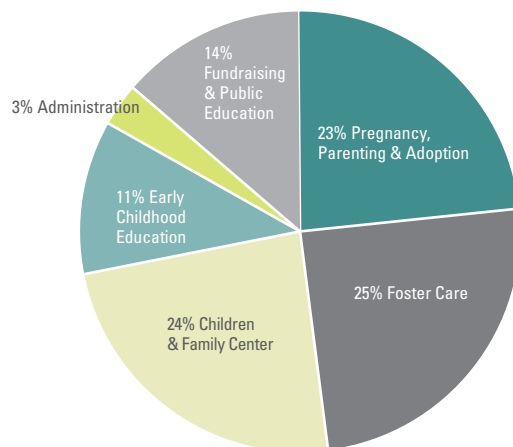
Bree, 10 months

Nebraska Children's Home Society | Nebraska Children's Home Society Foundation  
Financial Report | Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

REVENUES  
\$6,664,111



EXPENSES  
\$7,062,154



Net Asset Beginning of Year  
Net Asset End of Year  
Net Change

40,850,954  
40,510,789  
(340,165)

\*Transfers from the Foundation for program services investment totaled \$2,188,200 (listed as "Endowment Subsidy" above). The Foundation's unrestricted investment fund increased \$354,362 and totaled \$36,544,993 on June 30, 2015. 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.



It's all about relationships. Across the state, we meet you where your needs are and support you throughout your journey of providing safe and loving care to children of all ages. Together, one step at a time.

## pregnancy support

ALLIANCE



family finding



SCOTTS BLUFF

grandparents raising grandchildren



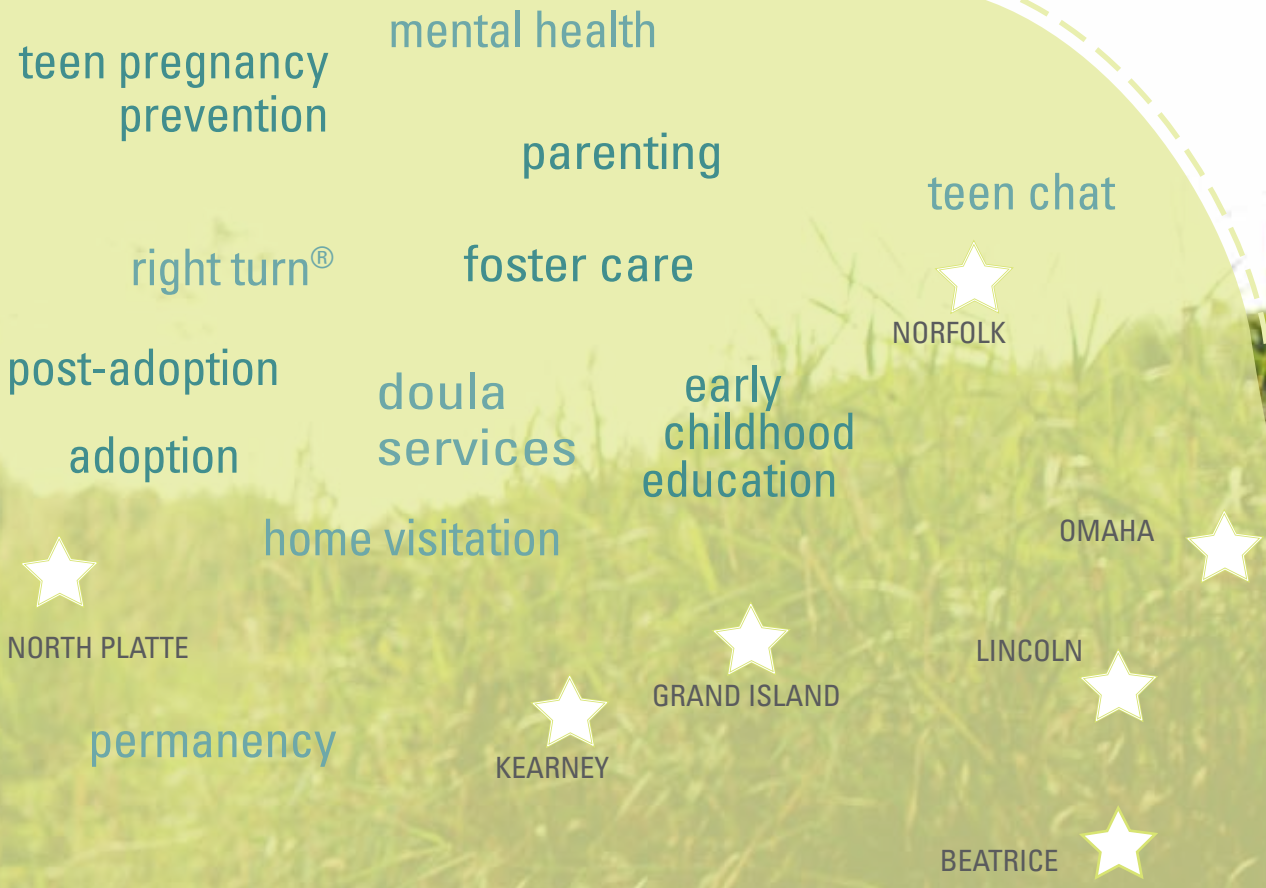
### STATEWIDE SERVICES:

Adoption  
Parenting  
Permanency

Post-adoption  
Pregnancy support  
Right Turn®

Mei, 6  
Kai, 4





**NEBRASKA CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY STATEWIDE OFFICES**

**Alliance**

1320 W. 3rd St.  
PO Box 835  
Alliance, NE 69301  
308-761-0472

**Beatrice**

5109 W. Scott St., Ste. 410  
Beatrice, NE 68310  
402-223-0096

**Grand Island**

908 N. Howard Ave., Ste. 107  
Grand Island, NE 68803  
308-381-0568

**Kearney**

2222 2nd Ave., Ste. 802  
PO Box 1896  
Kearney, NE 68848  
308-237-2304

**Lincoln**

4700 Valley Rd.  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
402-483-7879

**Norfolk**

2501 Lakeridge Dr., Ste. 104B  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
402-379-3378

**North Platte**

121 N. Dewey, Ste. 206  
PO Box 596  
North Platte, NE 69101  
308-534-3250

**Omaha**

4939 S. 118th St.  
Omaha, NE 68137  
402-451-0787

**3549 Fontenelle Blvd.**

Omaha, NE 68104  
402-451-0787

11926 Arbor St.  
Omaha, NE 68144  
402-451-0787

**Scottsbluff**

115 Railway St., Ste C 101  
PO Box 2181  
Scottsbluff, NE 69363  
308-632-8377

## Rosalind Morris Scholarship Winners

The Rosalind Morris Education Scholarship was created to benefit the children and families served by NCHS's adoption program. Applicants are young people who were adopted via the service of the Children's Home, and who are starting their post-high school education at a Nebraska post-secondary institution, majoring in the education or social work fields. Additionally, the winners are excellent students who are community minded.\*



### **Marie Sitz**

"I understand that I am blessed twice...I am a child of God and adopted into His household as well as having been adopted in to the Sitz household...which I will always be grateful for."

Marie is the daughter of Wendell & Anne Sitz. She graduated from O'Neill High School where she was active in FCCLA, Student Council, Speech Team, choir, band, dance, drama, bowling and golf. She worked as a swim instructor, lifeguard and babysitter. Marie is currently attending Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa and hopes to become a social worker or counselor, and then continue her education with the hopes of becoming a psychiatrist one day.



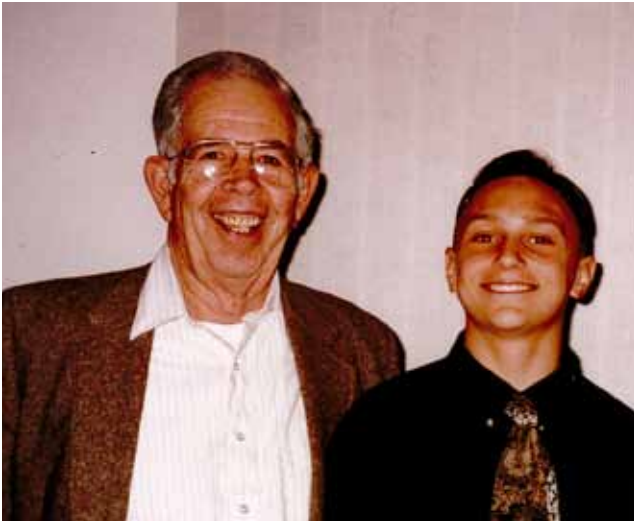
### **Sarah Supenski**

"Being adopted has truly molded me into who I am today...and has helped to mold my decision into being a teacher...mentoring students and showing them they are all beautiful in their own ways."

Sarah is the daughter of Robert and Jane Supenski. She graduated from Bellevue West High School where she was active in FBLA, National Honor Society, Concert Band and theatre. She worked at Michael's Arts and Crafts and spent time volunteering at the Bellevue Food Pantry and at her church. She is currently attending Creighton University and plans to become a teacher.



## Footsteps: A Path for Estate Planning and Charitable Giving



A LIFE WELL LIVED: ALBERT ALBIN AND HIS SON LARRY

**NCHS was blessed  
with 16 bequests  
totaling \$867,953**

The Children's Home has been blessed over the years with many significant gifts. In fact, every gift we receive is significant, and greatly appreciated. Some of our supporters give of their time, others of their talent, and still others give to the Children's Home from their "treasures." All gifts are received with great gratitude, and awareness that donors intend that we use the funds to continue to provide safe and loving care for children.

One person that NCHS was blessed to have crossed paths with was a hardworking, kind, and extremely generous gentleman named Albert Albin.

Albert's humble start in life, in an orphanage, is just a small part of the story. Albert's 91 years were a shining example of the merits of perseverance and hard work.

He graduated from Omaha South High School then traveled the world as a Merchant Marine.

Albert and his first wife Mary adopted their son Larry from Nebraska Children's Home Society in 1955. Thus began nearly 60 years of continuous generosity towards the Children's Home.

Mr. Albin built their family home in the Hitchcock Park area of Omaha, and spent much of his free time maintaining the house and his half-acre of flowers and trees.

Sadly, in 2001 both his wife Mary and their son Larry passed away. He was blessed again in 2004 when he met and later married Mauricette. The couple spent Albert's golden years camping, fishing, dancing and working in their beautiful yard.

Albert was never considered (by himself or others) to be rich in the material sense. But he was frugal, and he maintained his commitment of giving to the Children's Home throughout his lifetime. Albert's will named the Nebraska Children's Home Society his sole beneficiary.

Albert passed away in late 2014 at the age of 91. When NCHS received the funds from Albert's estate we placed those funds (as we always do with bequests, unless otherwise instructed by the will) in our endowment. The Children's Home is committed to using only the interest from these funds, so in effect, Albert has made a gift that will generate nearly \$17,000 a year forever. Albert Albin's last act of generosity will benefit children and families for generations to come.

**Consider a gift to the Children's Home during November in honor  
of National Adoption Awareness Month.**

# 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, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015. 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 Bandy  
**Connor, Caitlyn, and Claire**  
 Steven & Beverly Aerts  
**Mari & Gage Agosta**  
 Tim & Lucy Meschede  
**Katie Anderson's Birthday**  
 Rev. Lester & Mrs. Marion Dumer  
**Kellen Anderson**  
 Gary & Marian Anderson  
 Paul & Connie Nyland  
**Meg Araujo**  
 Dr. Beth & Mr. Dana Ernst  
**Sarah Armatys**  
 Gene & Anne Burton  
**Karen Authier**  
 Kenneth & Judy Nanfita  
**Harlan & Ardis Bang**  
 Greg & Lisa Hoffman  
**Dalton & Jade Bartek**  
 Freeman & Betty Ott  
**Carson and Ava Bartelt**  
 Douglas & Sandra Anderson  
**Ann Baxa**  
 Arian Smith  
**Jonah Baxa**  
 Carol Rustad  
**John & Marlys Becic**  
 Scott & Pamela Wendt  
**Zachary Beran**  
 Richard & Mildred Beran  
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 Central Feeders, Inc.  
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 Wilbert & Clara Van Gelder  
**Birth Mothers of Our Grandchildren**  
 Rev. Verdell & Mrs. Elaine Schramm  
**Birth Parents**  
 Larry & Corinne Harre  
 Tom & Julie Stubby  
**Sutton David Blahak**  
 Chad Blahak & Tera Sasso-Blahak  
**Andrea Blake**  
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**Trae Bly**  
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 Ralph & Uvonna Bucher  
**Randy Bumgarner & Family**  
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 James & Christina Burks  
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 Mark & Sandra Kimle  
**Jenna Christensen**  
 Milrae Korb  
**D.J. Clark**  
 Marcia Clark  
**Lori Clark**  
 Marcia Clark  
**Dennis Connolly**  
 Susan Connolly  
**Linda Connolly**  
 Susan Connolly  
**The Connolly's 40th**  
**Wedding Anniversary**  
 Anonymous  
**Marzee Conway**  
 Brad Plotz & Lana Temple-Plotz  
**Becky Crofoot**  
 Robert & Carolyn Standerwick  
**Ben & Katie Cruickshank**  
 Steve & Marty Cruickshank  
 Richard & Hallie Wilson  
**Rebecca's 3rd Grade**  
**Teachers at Fredstrom**  
 Michael & Amy Davidson  
**Kelsie's 17th Birthday**  
 David & Jann Dibben  
**Tyson, Alex, & Natalie**  
 Anonymous  
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 Clara Schraeder  
**Gwen Elsasser**  
 Bruce & Linda Buchanan  
**Gay and David Emry**  
 Julienne Emry  
**Angel Taylor Engel**  
 Daniel & Rosellen Policky  
**Chad Evans**  
 Dr. Evan Evans  
**William Fagan**  
 Mike & Carol McGlade  
**Father's Day**  
 Ron & Julie Ryan  
**Nancy Feldman**  
 James & Becky Crofoot  
**Noah Fields**  
 Kevin & Deirdra Fields  
 Kerry & Cindy Krutsinger  
**Kaci, Quinn and Bryson**  
 Don Fouts  
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 Henry & Phyllis Blanke  
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 Bill & Betty Joseph  
**Breane Hoffman**  
 Dennis & Marlene Von Seggern  
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 Joseph Leahy  
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 Eugene & Brenda Holman  
**Emily Horacek**  
 Shirley Ann Nelson  
**Nathan Howland**  
 Roger & Linda Howland  
**Mark and Ashley Hustad Family**  
 Anonymous  
**The James Family:**  
**Scott, Tina, Karissa**  
 Mark & Constance Vander Stoep  
**Jane & Kerry Jech**  
 Jeremiah & Leah Jech  
**Sheri Jelinek**  
 Joan Schwann  
**Grant Bailey's 1st Birthday**  
 Kari Jeune  
**Matthew Johnson**  
 Delton & Merilee Johnson

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 Brian & Beth Langenberg  
**Mike Jorgensen**  
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 Gary Nelson & Glenda Plettner-Nelson  
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**Jill McCandless**  
 Jennelle Larson  
**Hudson McKeehan**  
 Rex & Mary Barker  
**Marti McNamara**  
 Jon & Melissa Freeland  
**Heather McPherson**  
 Stephen & Gizella Folmer  
**Treven Melroy**  
 Lyn & Beverly Wagner  
**Stan and Susan Meyer**  
 Virginia Kingsbury  
**Madysun Taylor Alexis Mildward**  
 Kip Mildward & Amy Frahm-Mildward  
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**Samantha, Kristen, Allie**  
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 Paul & Judy Moeller  
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 Dr. Peter & Mrs. Ruth Diedrichsen  
**McKenzie, Nicholas**  
 and **Caleb Moore**  
 Scott & Amy Moore  
 Ardieth Stultz  
**Russel and Carolyn Morgan**  
 Jeffrey Morgan  
**Shannon Morse**  
 Bruce & Kate Morse  
**Avery Munter**  
 Dan & Bev Munter  
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 Gary Nelson & Glenda Plettner-Nelson  
 Kim & Maurice Anderson  
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 Denis & Sandra Pratt  
**Patty & Wade Preston**  
 Jeremiah & Leah Jech  
**Demetrius Ward Richardson**  
 Wendy Kenny  
 Ron & Sylvia Ward  
**Mary Ann Riecke**  
 Marcia Hovermale  
**Alicyn K and James D. Ringle**  
 Diane & Thomas Hand  
**Millie Rinne**  
 Ann Rinne  
 Neal & Helen Rinne  
**Brook and Daniel Rishel**  
 Peter & Mary Rishel  
**Holly Rogge-Hafer**  
 Paula Mau  
**Hazel & Maggie Rohfs**  
 Tom & Jeni Reiva  
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**Pat and Larry Ruth**  
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 LaVere & Anne Schipper  
**The Philip Schreiber Children**  
 Philip Schreiber  
**Jeff Schreiner**  
 David & Linda Schreiner  
**Schrock Land & Cattle**  
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 and **Family**  
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**Ellie Sheffield**  
 Scott Sheffield  
**Cindy Simmons**  
 James & Roma Mansfield  
**Katelyn Grace Smith**  
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 Delvin & Pam Stahl  
**Julie Snell**  
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 Tom & Monica Colligan  
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 Gerald & M. Lynn Sobczyk  
**Grace & Sophie Spence**  
 Becky Kowitz  
**Eric, Mark, & David Steffan**  
 Michael & Paula Steffan  
**Amelia Z. Stoller**  
 Jack & Karen Swanda  
**Kyle Stone**  
 Marcia Smith  
**Dave Strathman**  
 Central Feeders, Inc.  
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Norvin & Jean Elmshaeuser  
**William Welton**  
Rebecca Kerr  
Gary Nelson & Glenda Plettner-Nelson  
**Terry Werner**  
Pat Aldridge

**Carl & Audrey Whitcomb**  
Ken & Carol Laux  
**Levi and Julia Whitcomb**  
Ken & Carol Laux  
**Larry Whiting**  
Gary & Anna Williams  
**Wima Willens**  
Kenneth & Marjo O'Mara  
**Dawn Michelle Williams**  
Donald & Mary Williams  
**Winifred "Grandma Freddie" Willis**  
John & Kristy Toy  
**Betty Wills**  
Tom & Mary Burke  
**Barbara Jean Wilson**  
Nathan Wylie  
**Lennox Wilson**  
Wendy Wilson  
**Carol Windhorst**  
Dan Windhorst  
**Ken Wolken**  
Gary Nelson & Glenda Plettner-Nelson  
**Mark Woodworth**  
Stephen & Diane Woodworth  
**Cheryl Wotton**  
Thomas & Julie Dunn  
**Hilda Yung**  
Darrel & Wilda Leisy  
**Russell Yung**  
Anonymous  
**Ada Zarek**  
Rob Zarek





Your support of NCHS  
last year grew 43 forever  
families, including ours.

Sisters are different flowers from  
the same garden.

Addison, 6  
Evelyn, 4 months



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children's home  
SOCIETY

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www.nchs.org

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Clockwise from top left:  
Josh, 8, Brenden, 10,  
Michael, 12, Charles, 16,  
Isabelle, 17, Chance, 4.

*Safe and loving care since 1893*

## STATEWIDE OFFICES

### Alliance

1320 W. 3rd St.  
PO Box 835  
Alliance, NE 69301  
308-761-0472

### Beatrice

5109 W. Scott St., Ste. 410  
Beatrice, NE 68310  
402-223-0096

### Grand Island

908 N. Howard Ave., Ste. 107  
Grand Island, NE 68803  
308-381-0568

### Kearney

2222 2nd Ave., Ste. 802  
PO Box 1896  
Kearney, NE 68848  
308-237-2304

### Lincoln

4700 Valley Rd.  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
402-483-7879

### Norfolk

2501 Lakeridge Dr., Ste. 104B  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
402-379-3378

### North Platte

121 N. Dewey, Ste. 206  
PO Box 596  
North Platte, NE 69101  
308-534-3250

### Omaha

4939 S. 118th St.  
Omaha, NE 68137  
402-451-0787

3549 Fontenelle Blvd.  
Omaha, NE 68104  
402-451-0787

11926 Arbor St.  
Omaha, NE 68144  
402-451-0787

### Scottsbluff

115 Railway St., Ste C 101  
PO Box 2181  
Scottsbluff, NE 69363  
308-632-8377