



nebraska  
children's home  
SOCIETY  
[www.nchs.org](http://www.nchs.org)

# HomeTalk

WINTER 2016 | 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT EDITION

## Winter 2016 | Vol. 83

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



Emily, 22 months

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

**Cover** Siblings Isaiah, 11, Miracle, 14, Veronica, 5, and Aurora, 10, remind us what they love most about home is who they share it with.

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

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Life is sometimes like a

# kaleidoscope

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

I remember my first encounter with a kaleidoscope. I was a little girl and thought it was magical! Pretty colors. Pretty design. Everchanging. It was fascinating and a favorite toy. But I also remember that I had to be shown how to hold the kaleidoscope up to a light source. The pretty colors and design were dependent on a light source.

Life is sometimes like a kaleidoscope. The pattern of our lives may change very quickly in ways that are beyond our control. A woman or teen becomes pregnant at an unwelcome time in her life. A child is removed from her family—an abusive family but the only family she has ever known. A parenting teen becomes fearful for her safety and the safety of her child when the child's father holds a gun to her head. A grandparent receives a call that her daughter has been arrested and if she doesn't provide a home for her four grandchildren, ages 2—13, they will be placed in foster homes. A child has experienced 8 different foster homes and is picked up from school by a case worker who tells him that he is being moved to yet another foster home that evening with no permanency in sight. A young mom, struggling with depression and the challenges of caring for a premature infant with high medical needs, is reported for child neglect and her 3 children are removed. After a series of infertility treatments and several miscarriages, a couple is questioning whether they will ever welcome a child into their home.

There is no magic in the NCHS kaleidoscope, but when the patterns in the kaleidoscope are tinged with fear, anxiety, hopelessness, frustration and uncertainty our skilled staff assists in turning the kaleidoscope toward a light source and reconfiguring the pattern to reflect hopefulness, confidence and opportunity. Desperate women and teens with unplanned pregnancies receive the support and information they need and are empowered to face their future confidently by developing a parenting plan or an adoption plan. A frightened and angry child is placed in a loving foster home where healing can take place with foster parents who also reach out to the biological parents with messages of concern and reassurance. A teen fearful for her safety and the safety of her infant finds safety after she confides in her NCHS home visitation specialist. An overwhelmed grandparent is connected with needed resources to care for her "second time around" family and is surrounded by a support system of other grandparents who have made it through a similar crisis. A child who has experienced multiple placements with one rejection after another is reunited with extended family members who cared deeply about him but had lost track of him once he entered the child welfare system. An anxious, despondent mother receives support in learning the skills needed to care for her children and is reunited with them. A couple grieving their dashed hopes of parenting receives a call with the happy news that a birth mother thinks they would be perfect parents for her unborn child.

In this issue of HomeTalk, you will see pictures of children and families who experienced the NCHS kaleidoscope effect, data on outcomes of our services and acknowledgements of gifts given in honor or memory of a loved one. As you will note from reviewing our financial report, 18% of our funding is from donations and philanthropic grants. Your gifts make a difference in the lives of children and families across Nebraska.



Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Authier".

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

**110 participants**

in pregnancy and parenting classes offered across greater Nebraska.

**127** children served through NCHS Early Childhood Education Centers, **101,399** hours of care

**94%** of parents have adequate knowledge to support children's healthy development after attending an NCHS Children & Family Center class

**93%** of children at NCHS Early Childhood Education Centers have age appropriate social-emotional skills

**335** new mothers supported in creating healthy beginnings for their child

At the height of laughter, the universe  
is flung into a kaleidoscope of new

**possibilities**

-Jean Houston

Addison, 3



**50** children joined forever families through infant and foster care adoptive placements

**95%** of grandparents supported through the Raising your Grandchildren program reported improved emotional well-being

**109** clients served through NCHS Mental Health Services

**861** cases opened at the Children and Family Center providing help for **1,292** individuals & over **6,441** hours of support

Right Turn® Post Adoption Services:

**269** attended support groups

**531** individuals participated in statewide training opportunities

**201** cases opened

**179** Facebook support group members

They are wonderful here!  
I love Chris as my therapist!  
She's gone above & beyond for me in helping me with the trauma & grief as a birth mother. 21 years strong as a birth mother & proud of it. Thank you Chris!  
Amber

288

parents in the child welfare system  
received NCHS services

## PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

# 100% of children

remained safe from abuse and neglect  
while supported in NCHS foster homes

**261** youth education participants across  
the state of Nebraska

**133** children served in foster and  
kinship homes

NCHS created **over 400** lifetime  
connections for **over 100** foster  
children awaiting adoption

Dear Mr. L.D.,

We (the residents of Youth Links) would like to thank you for all the help and knowledge you have offered us. We really appreciate you taking the time out of your day to teach the kids that society has forgotten. You have really impacted our lives for the better. If it wasn't for you coming here week after week, showing us that someone still cares, I feel like some of us would never make it out of here.  
Thank you Mr. L.D.!

L.D. is an NCHS Teen Education Specialist. He works with Omaha area youth educating them about men's sexual health, decision making, problem solving and life skills utilizing the Wise Guys® curriculum.

## ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

# 564

new donors committed to support NCHS mission

452 businesses & organizations  
provided \$808,966 in goods and  
services to further our mission

55,247 unique visitors to [nchs.org](http://nchs.org)

3,925 volunteer service hours

229 hours of outreach provided  
to over 3,950 individuals across  
the state



Having a place to go — is a **home**

Having someone to love — is a **family**

Having both — is a **blessing**



Trenel, 12  
Talik, 13

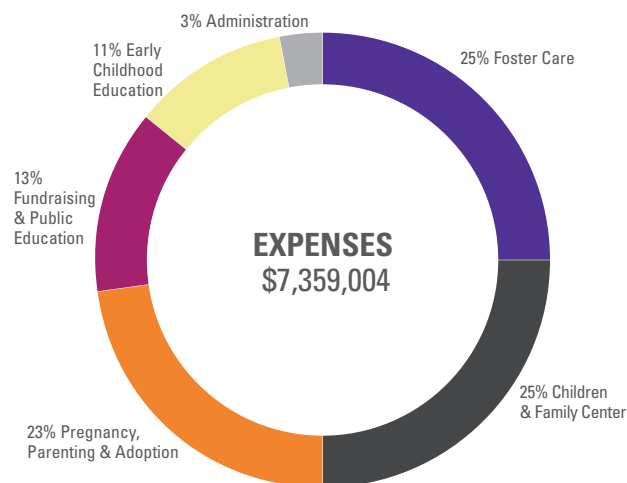
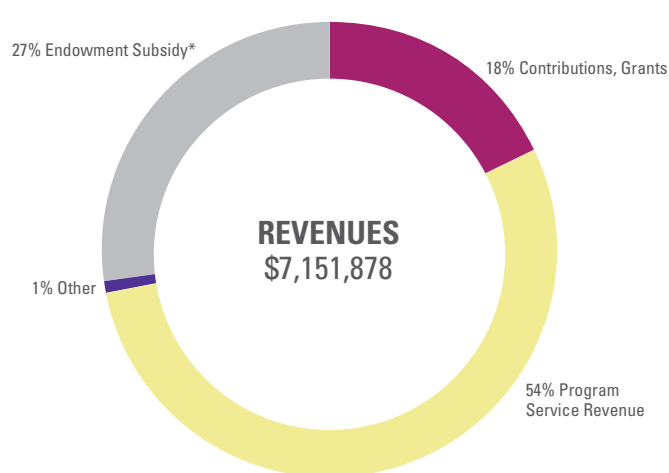
Your **love**

has made my life  
so colorful!

Miles, 5 months



**Nebraska Children's Home Society | Nebraska Children's Home Society Foundation**  
**Financial Report | Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016**



Net Asset Beginning Year	40,510,879
Net Asset End of Year	38,826,238
Net Change	(1,684,641)

\*Transfers from the Foundation for program services investment totaled \$1,961,000 (listed as "Endowment Subsidy" above). The Foundation's unrestricted investment fund decreased \$1,482,210 and totaled \$35,062,783 on June 30, 2016. A copy of the independent auditor's report by Averkamp, Goodnight, Schwaller and Nelson, P.C., is available for review from the NCHS Finance Department.

**Our work is not possible without the generosity of the following funders:**

James M. Cox Foundation  
 The Jim and Shirley Young Family Foundation  
 The Kim Foundation  
 Lincoln Financial Foundation  
 March of Dimes  
 Mutual of Omaha Foundation

Nebraska Crime Commission  
 Sherwood Foundation  
 United Way of the Midlands  
 Valero Energy Foundation  
 Wellcom  
 Women's Fund of Omaha

## 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, science or social work fields. Additionally, the winners are excellent students who are community minded.\*

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**Molly Engebretson, Crete, NE, Daughter of Alec & J.S. Engebretson**

"NCHS and my adoption experience changed my life in so many positive ways. Through my open adoption, I was given a better opportunity to live, to learn, and to be the most successful person I can possibly be. The life that was chosen for me is one I am eternally grateful for and extremely lucky. I grew up in a close, supportive family and have also been able to develop a special relationship with my birth mom and family."

Molly plans to major in Global Studies with an emphasis in health and medicine at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. She wants to use her bilingual skills in English and Spanish to help others not only in the U.S. but in other countries where good medical help is especially needed.



**Alexis Fletcher, North Platte, NE, Daughter of David & Michelle Fletcher**

"The beginning of my life threw a lot challenges my way: I was conceived in prison, born with cocaine in my system, am biracial and have Asperger's Disorder. But I was also adopted, nurtured and told I could become anything as long as I work hard."

Alexis is a wallaby owner which has helped her overcome the social fears that are a part of having Asperger's. She enjoys educating groups about macropods, husbandry and the responsibilities of caring for an exotic animal. She plans to pursue a career in science, specifically, research at Doane College. "Maybe I will be the person who cures cancer and saves families the grief of losing a loved one!"



**Brendan Folk, North Platte, NE, Son of Shane & Tonya Folk**

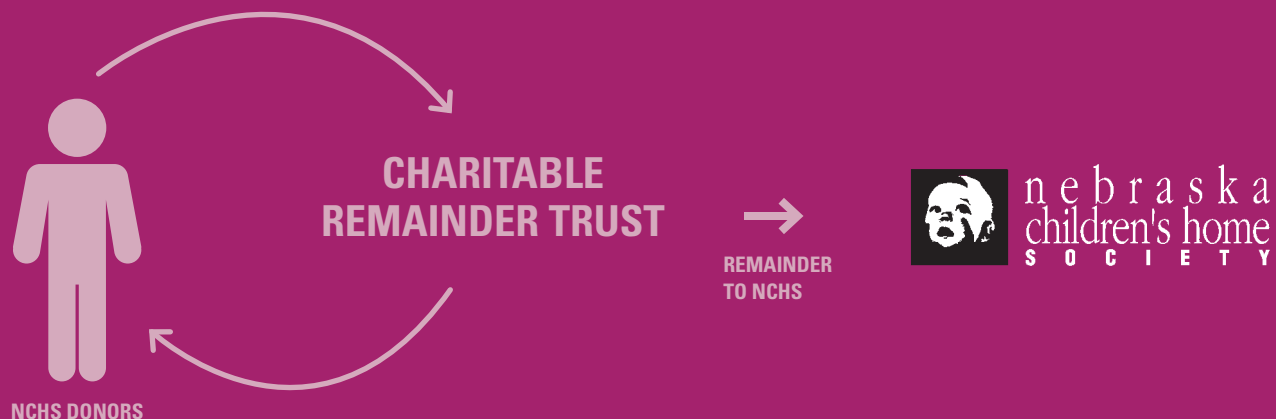
"I have been really fortunate to have had an open adoption with not only my birth mother, but with her family as well. I have always known them and have had regular visits with them throughout my childhood. I think that this has made a real difference in my life with my adoption experience."

Brendan attends Chadron State College and plans to major in secondary education. He would like to become a high school math teacher and coach football. "I have had some really great teachers, coaches and mentors over the years and I hope to someday be that person for younger people that I may teach or coach."



## Gift of cash, stock or property

A charitable remainder trust (CRT) is an irrevocable trust that generates an income stream for you, as the donor to the CRT, or other beneficiaries, with the remainder of the donated assets going to your favorite charity (NCHS) or charities.



### What is an IRA Charitable Rollover?

As of December 18, 2015, the IRA Charitable Rollover was passed by Congress and signed into permanent law by the president, allowing taxpayers age 70 ½ or older to transfer up to \$100,000 annually from their IRA accounts directly to charity (like NCHS) without first having to recognize the distribution as income.

The following programs offer an easy and free way to support Nebraska Children's Home Society. Last year we earned over \$1,450.00! **Enroll today.**



# 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, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016. Your gifts help us sustain and grow our services to Nebraska's next generation of children and families.

## Gifts Given in Honor of:

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