

## NEBRASKA CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY children first.

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

A safe and loving family for every child.

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# **Leadership** 2020-2021

#### **EXECUTIVE TEAM**

Chief Executive Officer Lana Temple-Plotz Chief Financial & Resource Officer Stephanie Poncelow Chief Philanthropy Officer Carly Wegner Chief Program Officer Kim Anderson Chief Operating & Information Officer Kent Carson

#### **BOARDS & TRUSTEES**

Our board members represent a cross-section of our community and have a passion for our organization and those we serve. The members work hard to ensure long-term sustainability of the organization and ensure that the funds raised go towards improving the lives of children and families in Nebraska.

President Dave McCue Vice President Erin Froschheiser Secretary Dr. Karen Rolf **Treasurer** Keith Hier Wilson Banks Fd Cochran

Krista Eckhoff Darlene Mueller Kelli Sweet Sue Weidner Jim Winterscheid

#### FOUNDATION DIRECTORS

President Jim Winterscheid Treasurer Kelli Sweet

Vice President Sue Weidner Secretary Ed Cochran

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Building Revenue and Awareness for Nebraska Children's Home Society is a volunteer board of supporters who strive to build support for the children and families served by NCHS.

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# Message from the CEO

The coronavirus pandemic continues to impact everyday life throughout the world. Despite the challenges, we continue to put children first with the support of you and our community partners.

Our country, this state and NCHS are no stranger to challenges. Nebraska Children's Home Society was founded during The Panic of 1893. In that year, almost all crops in the state failed due to a persistent drought. The ensuing years would bring more crop failures and a financial depression. It was, in large part, due to these reasons that our services to children and families were needed.

With the community lifting us up, we have and continue to provide critical services throughout Nebraska. We've had to adapt to the changing needs that the time and circumstances bring.

Last year we completed a year-long strategic planning process to leverage our strengths and prioritize the new needs of families over the next decade. These changes will ensure that we remain good stewards of your donations and put children first through every trial and tribulation.

In this annual report, you'll see our accomplishments over the last year and see what we've planned to work on for the next decade to work towards a vision of **"a safe and loving family for every child."** 

We thank you for your continued support and wish you and your community health and peace.

Truly,

Lana Temple-Plotz Chief Executive Officer



# About NCHS

# Vision

A safe and loving family for every child.

# Mission

To provide safe and loving care to children of all ages.

## Our Core Values - The six values below guide us.



We strive to do what is right for the child. Integrity is the foundation upon which we have built our organization, and is at the heart of everything we do.



We embrace continuous improvement, bold creativity and change. We will persevere until all children thrive and families have the tools they need to succeed. We recognize that one size never fits all and push to design interventions that benefit every person.



#### We embrace the richness inherent in our

**diversity.** Integrating our unique experiences, knowledge and perspectives helps us better understand children and support their families.



#### We are champions for children.

We speak out and take action to protect children, and strengthen families and communities. We work to create change in policies and practices to put children first.



#### We care deeply for children and their

families. Compassion begins with understanding trauma and promoting healing. We partner with families to develop, enhance and secure nurturing connections.



#### We value the importance of teamwork.

We join forces with team members, professionals and community leaders, but, most importantly, we partner with families and children. By passionately working together with all stakeholders, we challenge each other to achieve the highest levels of professional excellence.



**WHO WE SERVE:** Our services are designed to support families and put children first at every stage.

**49** of 93 Nebraska counties received services.

**69%** of adults served had a high school diploma, GED or less.

**\$20K** or less is the reported annual income of 42% of adults (18<sup>+</sup>) served.

## "ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH." - Helen Keller

**VOLUNTEERS:** Volunteers are vitally important to the mission of NCHS. Because of our dedicated volunteers, we have more capacity and more resources to serve children and families throughout Nebraska.

**36** new volunteers joined NCHS, 356 volunteers returned for another year of service.

**990.17** volunteer service hours, valued at \$24,724.55.\*

\*The value for volunteer hours is provided by Independent Sector (IS), a coalition of nonprofit organizations. In 2018, IS estimated the value of a volunteer hour in Nebraska at \$24.97.

# A Legacy of Giving

The story of Project Elf

hat started as a donation project for one family, has turned into an outpouring of love and generosity towards children and families across Nebraska.

Each year, hundreds of people donate gifts to Nebraska Children's Home Society, ensuring that every child served by the organization has a gift for the holidays. This all started in the home of Leann Elkins, a former NCHS volunteer. Her husband, Greg, and their four children started buying holiday gifts in December of 1986 for the children staying at NCHS's "Receiving Home," today known as the Children and Family Center.

In 1990, due to the growing number of children served by NCHS, Leann recruited her neighbors in Armbrust Acres at 160th and Center Streets in Omaha. She hosted an annual coffee at her home where gifts were gathered and prepared for pick up by NCHS. Donations of candy were provided by Albertson's and Baker's supermarkets.

ALTHOUGH SHE IS NO LONGER WITH US, HER KINDNESS CONTINUES TO GROW.

That first year, Harris Van Oort, former executive director for NCHS, picked up the gifts saying that "we've had nothing



Courtesy of Omaha World-Herald

Harris Van Oort helps Leann Elkins pick up gifts donated by Armbrust Acres.



quite like it." He was impressed by the thoughtfulness and organization of the whole project.

Initially, Leann worked with Prudy Knowles, an NCHS social worker, to coordinate giving gifts to the children. She was instrumental in coordinating efforts so that each child would receive a set of gifts.

The giving circle kept growing and eventually another neighborhood committed to Project Elf. Leann's sister, Brenda Christiansen, brought together her neighbors in Barrington Park at 156th and Dodge Streets to do the same thing.

"Eventually, each of the two neighborhoods would commit to gift giving for over 150 children," Christiansen said.

On August 6, 2020, Leann passed away at the age of 62 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Although she is no longer with us, her kindness continues to grow.

Today, Project Elf continues to brighten the holidays for children. The tradition, which still includes holiday parties in both Armbrust Acres and Barrington Park, has expanded to include companies, clubs, churches, youth groups, families and individuals who commit to give gifts to more than 1,200 children.



Children Jenny Cepek, Nicky Retzlaff, Dan Elkins and Jeff Elkins stand in front of a picture of their parents, Leann and Greg Elkins.

## Ways to Give



Cash gifts



Bequests or Estate Gifts



Gifts of Stock



Employer Matching Gifts



Gifts of Grain



Partners: AmazonSmile, Thrivent Financial, TAGG App, Baker's Community Rewards, Ebay for Charity and Paypal Giving Fund

To discuss planned giving, contact us at 402.898.7753

# Adoption.

Our history is rooted in our commitment to ensure children are raised in safe and loving families. We connect families with children who need them, as well as provide adoptive parents, birth parents and extended family members with education and ongoing support social and emotional support.

## **ADOPTION AVENUES**

- Infant
- Kinship
- Foster Care

### ADOPTIVE PARENT PREPARATION

- ADOPT Training
- PREPARE Educational Group
- Extended Family Workshop

## **POST-ADOPTION SERVICES**

- Birth Parent Support Group
- Post-Adoption Mental Health
- Right Turn<sup>®</sup> (for families formed through adoption and guardianship)
- Transracial Adoptees Support Group



**21** children joined forever families through infant and foster care adoption



**158** adoption search requests



**33** birth parents attended support groups



**59** people received post-adoption mental health services



**129** adoptive and guardianship families served through Right Turn<sup>®</sup> Permanency Support Services





# Foster Care

Our Foster Care services are centered on the idea that true stability for the child is achieved through collaboration between parents and foster parents. Nebraska Children's Home Society unites foster parents with the children and adolescents who need them while ensuring that parents stay connected and involved with the care their children receive.

### FAMILY PREPARATION AND SUPPORT

- Foster Care & Kinship Family Training
- Home Study & Licensing
- 24/7 Support

## **CHILD PERMANENCY**

- Family Finding
- 3-5-7 Model®
- Child-Focused Recruitment



**118** children reconnected with their family members



**119** youth served by licensed & kinship (foster care) families



**94%** of youth had no change in caregiver



**100%** of children were placed with at least one of their siblings



**100%** of children remained safe from abuse and neglect while in an NCHS supported foster home



# **Family Support**

Nebraska Children's Home Society supports families through classes, counseling, support groups and ongoing involvement focused on healthy, successful family relationships. Putting children first requires continuous attention to the well-being of the family as a whole.

### INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

- Self-Sufficiency Support
- Home Visiting Services

### PREGNANCY COUNSELING

- Parenting & Adoption Options Counseling
- Temporary Newborn Care

## **PARENT EDUCATION**

- Fatherhood P<sup>3</sup> (Purpose, Presence, Participation)
- Raising Your Grandchildren

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

- Infant Care
- Toddler Care
- Pre-Kindergarten



85 parents received pregnancy counseling



**462** families served through the Children & Family Center



LZI people served with



**51** children in early childhood education. served with 40,792 hours of care



**100%** of grandparents raising grandchildren report improved care for themselves and their emotional well-being





# **Strategic Plan**

Ithough the challenges have changed over the years, children still come into the world vulnerable and facing risks. NCHS continually evaluates and adjusts services to address children's needs. As a mature organization, NCHS is ready to make bold strides to serve children and families like never before.

In a comprehensive sustainability planning process spanning over the course of a year, we've engaged our team, those we serve, service partners, investors, the Board, Trustees and key stakeholders to come together to assess and deepen the Nebraska Children's Home Society's approach to its work and the commitment to our mission. This included an examination of current service offerings, historical and current financial sustainability, and fundraising effectiveness.

This work illuminated seven issues critical to the continued success and

sustainability of NCHS, and when achieved, will allow Nebraska Children's Home Society to expand our life changing work to children and families across the state.

Addressing these critical issues will strengthen our organization, allowing us to successfully engage with our partners across the state, to achieve our Aspirations for Nebraska's children and families.

While the aspirations we've identified are plotted on a ten-year course, we recognize community and family needs are constantly changing, therefore we will be regularly engaging key stakeholders in the re-evaluation of our plan to ensure it remains timely and relevant.

The aspirations in our ten-year plan are bold, compelling, and cannot be achieved in isolation. We need our exceptional team, our service partners, our Board and investors to join us in this important work. Together, we are prepared to do more of what we do best for the people who need it most. This Strategic Plan provides a new path of innovation and intentionality as we strive to meet the needs of all children and families across the state and uphold the vision of the Nebraska Children's Home Society.

> A safe and loving family for every child.

# Strategic Plan: Aspirations

Aspiration 1

Enable Successful Transitions to Adulthood for Every Foster Youth

As an organization committed to the success of Nebraska's most vulnerable youth, NCHS will connect every youth leaving foster care with a community of caring adults to help them navigate their future and prevent homelessness, incarceration, unplanned pregnancy, trafficking and addiction.

Aspiration 3

Expand access to home visitation

As an agency committed to the overall success of families, NCHS will unite with schools and community partners to provide home visitation for all families in targeted communities. Through strong partnerships, NCHS will ensure families can holistically access all the services necessary to build selfsufficiency, break cycles of abuse and poverty, and provide safe and loving care to their children.



As an expert in harnessing the power of relationships to create lasting change for children and families, NCHS will partner with parents and caregivers raising children under unexpected and challenging circumstances to ensure they receive the knowledge, resources, and support needed to insulate their youth from the detrimental impacts of family trauma, poverty and other adverse childhood experiences.



Aspiration 4

Lead Innovation to Strengthen Nebraska's Families

As a practitioner of innovative service delivery, NCHS will unite and strengthen Nebraska's families by partnering with universities, national and state coalitions, and thought leaders to design, test and implement cutting edge solutions focused on supporting responsive relationships, reducing sources of stress and strengthening core life skills.

# Strategic Plan: Priorities



## **Priority 1**

#### Establish a clear strategic direction

Using the strategic plan as a guide, align the work of the NCHS board, committees and the entire organization around strategic priorities and bold aspirations for the future.



## **Priority 2**

#### Prioritize programs and services

Prioritize programs and services to align with NCHS's mission, vision and expertise. Services will undergo regular evaluation to ensure optimum alignment with the needs of Nebraska's children and families.



Overall fundraising efforts will align with a long term plan to ensure the sustainability of NCHS services. Compelling cases for support will foster investment from prospective donors.



## Priority 4

#### Assess Community Needs/changing needs

Leverage the knowledge and expertise of communities across Nebraska to ensure NCHS's expertise aligns with community needs. Enhance and establish partnerships with nonprofits, businesses and foundations.



## Priority 5

Strengthen endowment

Focus on enhanced planned giving strategies and major gift opportunities to strengthen the NCHS endowment.



## Priority 6

Leadership succession planning & board engagement

Strengthen leadership succession planning and board engagement, to retain and recruit the best and the brightest in pursuit of the NCHS vision.



## Priority 7

Optimize marketing and communication

Leveraging the power of personal stories, educate Nebraskans about purpose and services of NCHS.

# HONOR & MEMORIAL GIFTS

Thank you to the following individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations who gave an honor or memorial gift during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020. Your generous gifts support services to Nebraska's most vulnerable children and families.

#### **GIFTS GIVEN IN HONOR OF:**

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David O. Merklin Mark & Karen Fanning Dawn Michelle Donald & Mary Williams Karianne Kav Miller Marvin & Patricia Miller Gale & Virginia Moon Kenneth & Kathryn Major Bill Moser Mark & Karen Fanning Irene Mueller Jodie Mackintosh Robert Mueller Anonymous Richard Musser Harold & Marilyn Mueller Frank Naranio Charles & Judith Schwartz Jovce Nelson Michael & Katie Beacom Norlan & Bernie Nelson Tim & Rose Birgen Patricia Ann Nelson Richard & Marv Barmore Mr. & Mrs. James Gallentine Scott & Keri McClellen Leland Nelson Milan Dale & Adela Alice Nickel Diane & Thomas Hand Delores Nitz Jack Nitz Charles F. Noren Nancy Noren Dwain Ohnoutka Pat Aldridge Wendy O'Neel Rodney O'Neel Jill Ann Orput Harry & Rosemary Orput Dean Ortner Janet Ortner Harry Osterman Stan & Claralynn Wudtke Donald Overholt Cassidy Ochs Ellsworth & Mildred Page Nan Page McCov John Emery & Marie Palma Mary Kay Fmery Louis & Rose Palmer Anonymous Ralph "Bud" Pederson Richard & Sue Darling

Don Peitzmeier Ron & Julie Rvan Michael Pelowski Judy Pelowski Lee Perkins Lucetta Andrews Anonymous Sue Perkins **Connie Peterson** Mike Peterson Mike & Jacki Peterson Ernest M. Pfannestiel Scott & Amy Moore Albert & Bessie Pierce Roger & Carol Boltz Paula Leah Pierce Darlene Pierce **Myrle & Arthur Pinkerton** Jeannie Pinkerton-Harris Ludvik & Georgie Policky Dave & Jovce Policky Victor Polston Terry & Vicki Haussler Sandy J Psota Rodney O'Neel Wesley Ouail Eva Óuail Larry Ranslem Betty Schacht Lucille Rapczynski Katherine J. Thomas Charles Rasmussen Cliff & Nan Buckingham Evelvn Reid Millie Rinne Greg Renard Mrs. Judy Cass Nola Rinne Millie Rinne Dr. Dennis Rohrs Dr. Rick & Mrs. Cyndi Rohrs Alma Romine Mr. & Mrs. David King Sandra Rose Ron & Julie Ryan Bill & Darlene Ross Allan & Judy Pearson Edith & Emanuel Roth Kenneth & Janis Roth Eunice Ruth Heidi Loges Jovce Salsman Ronald & Julie Salsman

Verna Sandman Mark & Karen Fanning John & Jackie Schizas Mark Mundorff Nora Schmidt Delvin & Pam Stahl Rosemarie Schmidt Delvin & Pam Stahl Steve Schneider Sally Schneider **Daivd Schreiner** Linda Schreiner Allen D. Schukei Anonymous Joan Schultze Clark & Kathy Wilke Paul F. Seger Darrel & Wilda Leisv **Bill Sharp** Anonymous **Chester & Virginia Shaw** Steven & Florence Shaw Mary Short Don Short Joyce Schobert Siepelmeier James & Becky Crofoot Rodnev A.Simonsen Keith & Carol Henricksen Neldene & Chris Skwarek Kip & Coleen Bressler Audrey & Matthew Smith Judy Clark Gene Smith Mark & Karen Fanning Marle Smith Mark & Karen Fanning Matthew Smith Emily Ryan Dr. & Mrs. Charles Stoehr Victoria Wiles Denny Smith Sharon K. Smith Ronald Smith **Richard Sorensen** James & Becky Crofoot Barbara Davis Barbara Davis Garv & Marv Ehlers John & Kathy Lehman Billy & Candace Williams Mark & Rhona MacMillan-Jorve Celia Spady Mark & Karen Fanning

Connie Sternad William Sternad Shirlev Stewart Gerard & Susan Hughes James & Glenda Mueller Thomas & Sharon Samek Jeanette Sukraw Nathan & Dayna Sukraw Terry Tallon Ronald & Linda Liston Diann Tallon Terry Terrill Anonymous Kenny Thernes Betty Schacht Angie, Nicole, Nicki Thielen Corrine Scarpello Lyle Thies Anonymous Heidi (Cooper) Theiszen Bert Thieszen Gerald Thomas Cynthia Thomas Lex Thompson Mark & Karen Fanning Gloria Tirro Thomas & Julie Dunn Wilford Tomky Mark & Karen Fanning **Betty Jo Tompkins** Mark & Karen Fanning Charles Trumble James & Becky Crofoot Tom Uhl Kathleen Hegler Glenda Gallisath Roberta Uhl Rita Van Oort Robert & Susan Guv Ms. Jane S. Van Oort Mr. Floyd Vires Dr. Rick & Mrs. Cyndi Rohrs Irene Volnek Gary Nelson & Glenda Plettner-Nelson Jim Vosburgh Brian & Kathleen Brady Hannah Joy Wahlmeier Timothy & Gwen Sampson Floyd Allan Wait Anonymous Roshélle Campbell Greg & Julie Ellenwood Norman & Darlene Pedersen Steve & Susie Pleiss

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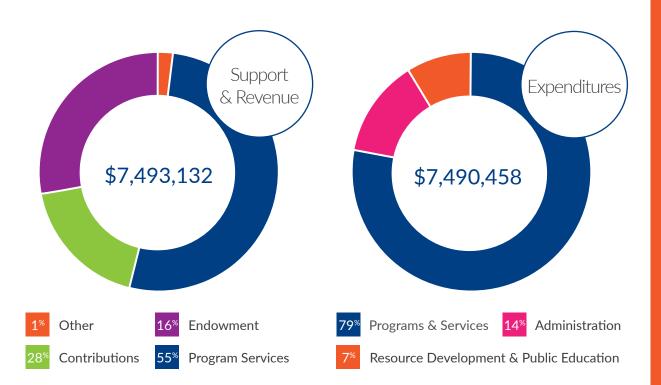
Stephen & Diane Woodworth Frwin Wudtke Stan & Claralynn Wudtke Leona Wudtke Anonymous Arvene & Judy Schultz Janice Jones Gregory & Javne Werner Harvey & Jerri Arnold Stacey Wolf Garv & Pamela Frecks John Frecks Dennis Wudtke Stan & Claralynn Wudtke Darwin & Arnez Gans Ada Zarek Rob Zarek Oaklie Scott & Tammy Millard Our Beloved Parents Curtis & Darlene Kenzy Our Parents Llovd & Donna Petersen Wilfred, Jackson, Jack, Maddux Mark & Karen Fanning

Mark Woodworth



# Financials

Nebraska Children's Home Society and Nebraska Children's Home Society Foundation



# **NET ASSETS**

Beginning of the Year \$43,666,042

**End of the Year** \$45,667,268

# **Net Change** \$2,001,226

\*Endowment: Transfers from the Foundation for program investments totalled \$1,185,000. The foundations' unrestricted investment fund increased \$1,216,001 for a total of \$41,713,050 as of June 30, 2020. A copy of the independent auditor's report by Frankel Zacharia is available for review from the NCHS Finance Department.



4939 South 118th Street Omaha, NE 68137



# A safe and loving family for every child.

Photography generously donated by Evie Costanzo

