Children First
Yesterday, Today & Always
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

BOARD & 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President ......................................................... Dave McCue
Vice President ................................................ Erin Froschheiser
Secretary ....................................................... Ed Cochran
Treasurer ......................................................... Kelli Sweet

FOUNDATION DIRECTORS

President .......................................................... Jim Winterscheid
Vice President .................................................. Sue Weidner
Secretary ........................................................ Ed Cochran
Treasurer ........................................................ Kelli Sweet

BRANCH GROUP

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.

President ......................................................... Eric Jusyk
Past President .................................................. Sarah Morris
VP of Finance/Treasurer ..................................... Nick Rieschl
VP of Finance/Treasurer ..................................... Mike DeBoer
VP of Marketing ................................................. Rachel Slowik
Secretary ......................................................... Michele Brown
Advisor ........................................................... Wilson Banks
Consultant ....................................................... Kelli Sweet

TRUSTEES

Aurora ............................................................... Troy & Jennifer Dvorak
Battle Creek ...................................................... Chris & Heather Tillotson
Bellevue ............................................................. Krista Eckhoff
James & Dr. Melinda Winterscheid
Bennington .......................................................... Wilson Banks
Bladen ............................................................... Daren & Buffy Niemeyer
Denton ............................................................... Tom & Tracy Focht
Fullerton ............................................................ Annette Dubas
Grand Island ...................................................... Brad & Stephanie Kissler
Hastings ............................................................. Gary & Regina Anderson
Gary & Glenda Buss
Hickman ............................................................. Norma Oerter
Johnstown .......................................................... Adam & Jennifer Beel
Keary ................................................................. Dona & Dr. Beth Ernst
La Vista .............................................................. Kell Sweet
Lincoln ............................................................... Laureil 
Lansing .............................................................. Larry & Susan Koranda
La Vista .............................................................. Kell Sweet
Scottsbluff ........................................................... Scottsbluff
Scribner .............................................................. Jim Bogus
St. Paul .............................................................. Alan & Dr. Angela Brennan
Omaha ............................................................. Ed Cochran
Jason & Erin Froschheiser
Keith Hier
Dave & Lisa McCue
Randy & Darlene Mueller
Eric & Miranda Nielsen
Matt Jackson & Beth Pantano
Gary W. Radi
Dr. Karen Rol
Tim & Sally Vanderberghe
Tony Vargas
Alan & Terri Wasmoen
Sue Weidner
Mark Pold
Craig & Tonia Steel
Alain & Dr. Angela Brennan

Ways to Give

Cash gifts
Bequests or Estate Gifts
Gifts of Stock
Employer Matching Gifts
Gifts of Grain
Partners:
AmazonSmile, TAGG App, Baker’s Community Rewards, eBay for Charity and PayPal Giving Fund
Times of adversity prove friendship and character.

These words are immortalized in a 1933 edition of the Nebraska Children’s Home Society Advocate. On December 19, 1932, a fire ravaged the Fontenelle receiving home. In the days that followed, a vast network of families, community partners, and agency staff worked tirelessly to ensure that each displaced child received safe and loving care. Others toiled day and night to salvage the charred remains of the home, pushing through frigid conditions to restore a place worthy of welcoming children.

89 years after that devastating fire, the Fontenelle building still rings with the sound of children’s laughter and the bustle of staff. Our agency rebuilt, coming back stronger thanks to dedicated friends and the relentless character of our team. The year outlined in the following pages tells a similar story of resilience and commitment to putting children first.

We are a stronger NCHS today than we were before COVID-19 upended our familiar landscape and challenged us to reconsider the ways we operate. We adapted programs to make them more accessible to families statewide. We are now situated to provide ongoing support to kinship caregivers through our Kinship Navigation program. We launched our Families Forever program to help adoptive and guardianship families thrive. We embarked on a journey to examine our own workplace practices and culture to make NCHS a place where all employees, program participants, and stakeholders are valued and included.

We stand on a 128-year history of meeting the moment. In periods of turmoil, we press on, we make do, and, sometimes, we comb through soaking wet ruins on a freezing December night.

We thank you for being here and proving your friendship in times of adversity, then and now.

Truly,

Lana Temple-Plotz
Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.

– Arthur Ashe

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.

62% of adults served had a high school diploma, GED or less.

$20k or less is the reported annual income of 34% of adults (18+) served.

*The value for volunteer hours is provided by Independent Sector (IS), a coalition of nonprofit organizations. In 2021, IS estimated the value of a volunteer hour in Nebraska at $28.54.
FAMILY SUPPORT

NCHS is there for families through an array of one-on-one and group support options. These services take a holistic approach to family functioning and address an array of needs for the caregivers, parents, and children.

- Self-Sufficiency Support
- Home Visiting Services
- Pregnancy Counseling
- Raising Your Grandchildren
- Early Childhood Education

342 families served through the Children & Family Center

80 parents received pregnancy counseling

53 children in early childhood education, served with 40,032 hours of safe and loving care

153 people received in-home visitation services

2,410 one-on-one home visits completed

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. NCHS unites foster parents with the children and adolescents who need them while receiving the support they need to achieve reunification. Our Family Finding program helps ensure long-term stability and positive relationships for children by connecting them with an expanded network of family members willing to provide lifelong connections and support.

90% of youth had no change in caregiver

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

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

75 youth served by licensed & kinship (foster care) families

240 children established connections with family members through Family Finding
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 social and emotional support. The journey does not end when an adoption is finalized. Through our post-adoption services, we help families formed through adoption thrive and support adult adoptees in learning about and connecting with their birth families.

17 children joined families through infant and foster care adoption

80 birth family search and records requests

129 prospective adoptive couples served

441 individuals served through Right Turn® Permanency Support Services

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

There is not a single aspect of life that was not impacted by the pandemic over the past year. While the means of service delivery were challenged, the need for NCHS programming drastically increased. Families living in precarious financial circumstances were further upended by layoffs and illness. Networks of social support were threatened as in-person gatherings ceased. Familiar ways of life came to an abrupt halt, leaving families in a place of uncertainty.

Our children first mission is without precondition. Pausing until circumstances improved was never an option. Rapid adaptation and enhancement of services supported families across the state in weathering all of the challenges associated with the pandemic.

27,121.5 hours of Zoom meetings, trainings, and virtual visits with families

$79,678.61 distributed through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

63 families across the Nebraska received direct financial assistance
Anteneshia came to NCHS because she wanted to give her children the best start in life. “I learned about Nebraska Children’s Home Society when I was pregnant with my daughter at the Bethlehem House,” says Anteneshia. Throughout Anteneshia’s time with NCHS, she’s been able to provide for her children and attend college. “Recently I wanted to go back to school, and I did not have the financial means for that, and the Children’s Home Society paid for the courses.” Anteneshia is optimistic about her family’s future. “I would like to say thank you to Nebraska Children’s Home Society and that I love you guys, and without you, my family wouldn’t be where we are now.”

As a single mother, Olivia needed more resources to care for her children, “I came here as a means to access resources because I have so many children and as a single mom, that was something that I needed.” After being referred to NCHS, Olivia says she found just what she needed. She currently meets with a self-sufficiency specialist weekly, who she says has helped her to gain trust in others. Olivia also works with her specialist to discuss goals and to talk about the progress she is making. She is also excited because NCHS is assisting with funding a vehicle to comfortably seat her four children. “There are so many people in our community that need resources and a place like Nebraska Children’s Home Society. If other parents like me knew, then life would be easier for not just me, but for my neighbors and people in my community,” says Olivia.

“My specialist has helped me to trust people outside of my family and to feel like there are people who will see past your flaws.”— Olivia

“Things are great. I have a positive outlook on parenting both of my children now with Nebraska Children’s Home Society behind me.”— Anteneshia
JoAnn is in a unique situation having adopted four of her grandchildren. When she learned about the Raising Your Grandchildren program, she knew it was the place for her. “It was nice to join a group of people that were doing the same things that I was doing,” says JoAnn. She says that NCHS gave her the outlet to come to meetings and talk about her day-to-day life and challenges, big and small, with peers in similar situations. Through the ongoing pandemic, the Raising Your Grandchildren program went virtual. “With COVID and the pandemic, I’ve had the three youngest ones doing remote learning at home, so that’s been an experience. It’s given me more time to spend with them and be more active in what they are learning,” says JoAnn. She shares that the group has been there for her to share and they’ve given her input and suggestions on how to handle certain situations. “I’ve had a lot of laughs. We do a lot of laughing. They’re just a blessing. They’re so helpful and so kind and so patient. I like that what I say stays there,” says JoAnn.

“They gave me that outlet of being able to come to the meetings and being able to talk about things that might be going on and challenges that I might be having.”

— JoAnn
(referencing grandparent support group)
FINANCIALS  Fiscal year ending June 30, 2021

Nebraska Children’s Home Society and Nebraska Children’s Home Society Foundation

$7,493,132

Support & Revenue

16% Endowment
28% Contributions & Grants
1% Other

$7,490,458

Expenditures

$7,490,458

Net Change

14% Administration
7% Resource Development & Public Education
79% Programs & Services

$8,540,435

Endowment: Transfers from the Foundation for program investments totaled $1,072,045. A copy of the independent auditor’s report by Frankel Zacharia is available for review from the NCHS Finance Department.

NET ASSETS

Beginning of the Year

$45,667,268

End of the Year

$54,207,703

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Nebraska Children’s Home Society meets all 20 of the Better Business Bureau Standards for Charity Accountability.

As a GuideStar Gold Participant, NCHS demonstrates its deep commitment to transparency and accountability.

NCHS adheres to best practices in nonprofit management, following guidelines and principles recommended by the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands.

Joseph Age 4

Tyler dad

Liam Age 3

Gregory 5 months

Jaxon Age 5

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2021
Thank you to the following individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations who gave an honor or memorial gift during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021. Your generous gifts support services to Nebraska’s most vulnerable children and families.

**GIFTS GIVEN IN HONOR OF:**

- B. English
- Mandi & Kelly Costanzo
- Judy Costanzo
- Jill Reeves
- Creg & Stephanie Simon
- Drew & Amanda Whitman
- Kathie Cotton Cramer
- Jennequin
- Dean Dallmann
- Central Feeders, Inc.
- Kelsie & Derek Diben
- David & Jim Diben
- Jason Dlugosh
- Larry & Jane Dlugosh
- Michelle Dukes
- Richard & Kittie Johnson
- Cami Beck and Andrew Eledge
- Jorns Eledge
- Taylor Engel
- Daniel & RoseAnn Policy
- Matthew Engler
- Joe & Sue Engler
- Kathryn Fye and Taylor Ever
- Lloyd & Retha Dowding
- Noah Fields
- Kerry & Cindy Krutsinger
- Gerald Fitzpatrick
- Jason & Erin Froschneier
- Joy & Dan Fornoff
- Hazel Geiser
- Madyson Taylor Alexis Mildward
- Amy Fushan
- Robert Frazer
- Dixie Gerhart
- Jason Frazier
- Marlene Frazier
- Jon Freeland
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- Emery Goolsby
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- Judy Hansen
- Blake and Brock Hansen
- Robert & Beth Hanson
- Frank Harding
- Richard & Nancy Anders
- Allison, Ariell, Rosetta
- Micah and Grace Hardy
- Emily & Jeff Hardy
- Grace Hardy
- Emily & Jeff Hardy
- Tracy Hayer and David Hayer
- Kent & Barbara Strange
- Tom and Cheryl Hedstrom
- 50th Wedding Anniversary
- Betty Johnson
- Donis Herrick
- Christine Rentzel
- Keith & Carol Herrick
- Ashley Renee Hermann
- Dave & Pat Gartner
- Garrison and Carolyn Hermann
- Gary & Carol Schmitz
- Loyd and Mary Anne Hickey
- Central Feeders, Inc.
- Keith W. Hier and Thomas G. Foley
- Margaret Hobza
- Hudson Hince
- Tom & Nancy Osborne
- Kathy Hilt
- Aidan and Maren Hogan
- Joseph & Mary Leahy
- Marilyn Holquist
- Kelly Huernik
- Coy & Bernadette Marick
- Ken and Valerie Jackson
- Steven Jackson
- Shawn Jacobs
- Central Feeders, Inc.
- Rick Jacob
- Dottie Diebold
- Chris Jones
- Benjamin Varga
- Steven and Scott Cammeren
- Larry & Amberne Cammeren
- Amelia Jane Cathol
- Jon Cathol & Jody Keiser
- Jim & Betty Jo Keiser
- Will Kautter, Luke Richardson & Trent Richardson
- Jeanne Huelskamp
- Noah Kautz
- Craig & Lela Kautz
- Josie Keithley
- Michael & Susan Keithley
- Anne Marie Kingsley
- Tevila Wilton
- William Wilson
- Marvin Krolln
- Central Feeders, Inc.
- Nick Koralessi
- Jeff & Patt Koralessi
- Keamey Lackas
- Kerry & Jeannie Kolter
- Elizabeth Lenhoff
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- Margaret McInteer
- Molly McInteer, D.D.S.
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- Donald & Margaret McPherson
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- Deana Clopton
- Samantha, Kristen & Allie Scott & Tammy Millard
- Thomas Miller
- Gary & Scott Miller
- Janice and Tim Miller
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- Rolland & Linda Moody
- Amy Moeller
- Bob & Cherry Lindburg
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- Arthi Suthar
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- Dawni Olson
- Mary Osterman
- Ann & Andy Schultz
- Stan Ourada
- Central Feeders, Inc.
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- Joe Peschel
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- Alice Plettnrer
- Barbara Everett
- David & Sandra Pratt
- RCGL Advertising and Media
- Collin Korab
- Doyle Reed & Family
- Central Feeders, Inc.
- Gavin, Grace, and Olivia Rehmer
- Heidi Logan
- Millie Rinne
- Ann Rinne
- Neal & Helen Rinne
- Todd & Denise Way
- Rebecca Rong
- Scott & Dawn Rong
- Daniel Edward Ryan
- Ann Harris
- Grace Schimmels
- Dave & Anne Apelley
- Mr. & Mrs. Jim Down
- Candice Schneider
- Tim & Kimberly Mathewson
- Our Grandchildren’s Birth Mothers
- Roy, Vendell & Mrs. Elaine Schramm
- Jeffrey A. Schreiner
- Linda Schreiner
- Ashley Sedlak
- John & Betty Sedlak
- Mrs. Anne Sitz
- Genny Binney
- Emily Smith
- Gerald & M. Lynn Sobczyk
- Julie Snell
- Robert & Marlene Colligan
- Amelia Stoller
- Steven & Joan Stoller
- Parker Straka
- Nicole Straub
- Sharlyn K. Sweet
- Deanna Sweet
- Sweetwater Cattle Company
- Central Feeders, Inc.
- Richard & Rosemary Teller
- Ryan & Tanya Teller
- Lana Temple-Ploetz
- Rick & Carol Russell
- Richard and Christina Thomas
- Peter & Joanna Thomas
- Tierney Land and Cattle
- Central Feeders, Inc.
- Heill Tilstoon
- Cooper Real
- Kyle and Alex Van Norman
- Andrew & Lu Lohr
- Family of Kim and Andy Vasey
- Tracy Edgerton
- Alden and Elliott Vasey
- Amy & Deborah O’Dell
- Ruth Wally
- Emily Buddenberg
- Jason Walls
- Nancy Van Laar
- Liz and Amanda
- Daniel & Kathryn White
- Michelle Wissner
- Douglas Reher
- Travis Witt
- Central Feeders, Inc.
- Courtney, Caitlyn and Codi Wudtke
- Stan & Caralynn Wudtke
- Sammi Yates
- Kappa Kappa Gamma Sigma Chapter
- Neelie King

**HONOR/MEMORIAL GIFT**

Thank you to the generous community and family foundations that support our vision of “a safe and loving family for every child.”

- Generations United
- The Hawks Foundation
- Immanuel Vision Foundation
- James M. Cox Foundation
- Lincoln Financial Foundation
- Medica Foundation
- Mutual of Omaha Foundation
- Nelson Family Foundation
- Omaha Community Foundation
- Oliver and Ferrel Barklage Foundation
- The Sherwood Foundation
- Todd and Mary Heistand Family Foundation
- United Way of the Midlands
- William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation

1,254 donors gave more than they did the year prior
Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.

– H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

YOU help provide a safe and loving family for every child.
The decision to pursue adoption is never an easy one.

In 1968, Ron and Jan Jacob had been struggling for years to start their family. When a physician mentioned adoption, they felt unsure about pursuing that option. But one day, according to Jan, Ron came home and said, "When are we going to go get that baby?"

Jan’s mother suggested they start at the Nebraska Children’s Home Society. During their visit with an NCHS adoption specialist, they were advised that it could be several years before they would be able to adopt.

Imagine their surprise when just a few months later, as they were walking out the door, the phone rang and changed their lives forever. 

“We got the call from the Children’s Home,” Jan recalled. “They asked us, ‘Would you like to come pick up your son tomorrow?’ And of course, we did!”

But they had no baby supplies. So they made a frantic trip to local department store, Richman Gordman. Ron said, "We bought out the baby aisle – everything we could think of that a baby could need."

Ron and Jan arrived at the Fontenelle office the next day and picked up their son, Kelly. Two years later, they approached NCHS about adopting another child. Within a few months, with the addition of Stacey, they were a family of four.

Kelly, now 53, is a successful business owner in Lincoln. Stacey is 51 and adopted her daughter through NCHS 15 years ago.

Ron and Jan have been supporting NCHS ever since they brought their children home over 50 years ago. They have provided regular donations to NCHS over the years, never forgetting about the organization when it came time to make their charitable gifts.

The Jacobs have made an incredible impact on advancing the NCHS mission to provide safe and loving care to children of all ages. They provided a safe and loving home for two children, and their gifts have supported programs and services for more than half a century.

When asked why they decided to start giving back to NCHS all those years ago, Ron and Jan shared the following quote: “We just felt so blessed. We want to help others the way we were helped.”

We just felt so blessed. We want to help others the way we were helped.”

— Jan Jacob

Ron & Jan Jacob received the 2021 Randall C. Biart Philanthropy Award from NCHS. The award is presented annually to individuals who have been actively involved in philanthropic efforts for NCHS.
A safe and loving family for every child.