



NEBRASKA
CHILDREN'S
HOME SOCIETY



2020-2021
ANNUAL REPORT

Children First
Yesterday, Today & Always

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

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

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Vice President. . . Erin Froschheiser	Ed Cochran	Sue Weidner
Secretary Dr. Karen Rolf	Krista Eckhoff	Jim Winterscheid
Treasurer. Keith Hier	Darlene Mueller	

FOUNDATION DIRECTORS

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Vice President. Sue Weidner	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.

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 Sue Weidner
Scottsbluff Jim Bogus
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St. Paul Alan & Dr. Angela Brennan



Marilyn
mom

Michael
4 months

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

CEO'S MESSAGE



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



Vision

A safe and loving family for every child.

Mission

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



INCLUSION

We embrace the richness inherent in our diversity. Integrating our unique experiences, knowledge and perspectives helps us better understand children and support their families.



COMPASSION

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.



INNOVATION

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.



ADVOCACY

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.



INTEGRITY

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.



COLLABORATION

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.



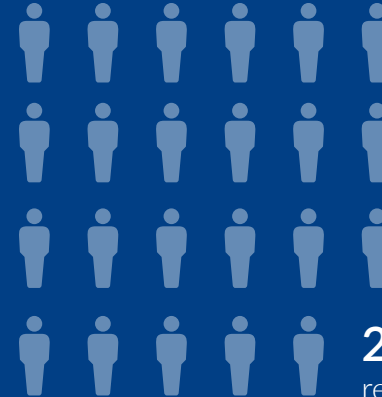
”

Start where you are.
Use what you have.
Do what you can.

– Arthur Ashe



98 EMPLOYEES



VOLUNTEERS

692.75 volunteer
service hours, valued
at \$19,771.09*.



23 new volunteers joined NCHS, 286 volunteers
returned for another year of service.

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.



61 of 93 Nebraska counties



WHO
WE
SERVED



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

FAMILY SUPPORT

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

FOSTER CARE

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

ADOPTION

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

RESPONSE



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



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.”

“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.



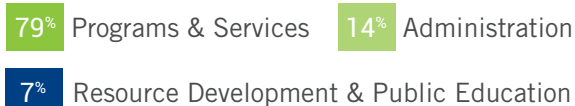
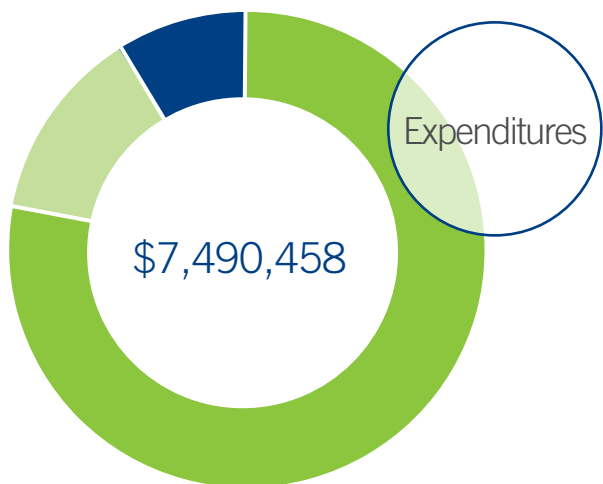
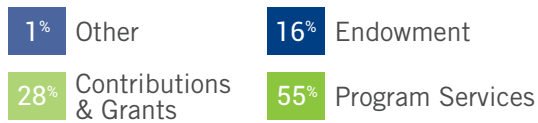
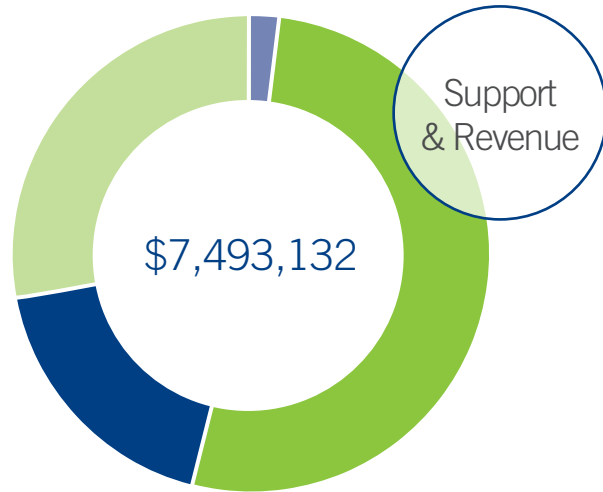
“They gave me that outlet of being able to come to the meetings and being able to talk about things that might be going on and challenges that I might be having.”

— JoAnn
(referencing grandparent support group)

FINANCIALS

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2021

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



NET ASSETS

Beginning of the Year

\$45,667,268

End of the Year

\$54,207,703

Net Change

\$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.



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.

HONOR/MEMORIAL GIFT

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:

Theresa Acklie-Wells
Mark & Amy Luebbe
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Noah Fields
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Gerald Fitzpatrick
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Joy and Dan Fornoff
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Marlene Frazier
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Craig & Lesa Kautz

1,254

donors gave more than they did the year prior

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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
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- The Sherwood Foundation
- Todd and Mary Heistand Family Foundation
- United Way of the Midlands
- William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation

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“

Remember that the happiest
people are not those getting more,
but those giving more.

– H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

”

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THE CALL

The decision to pursue adoption is never an easy one.

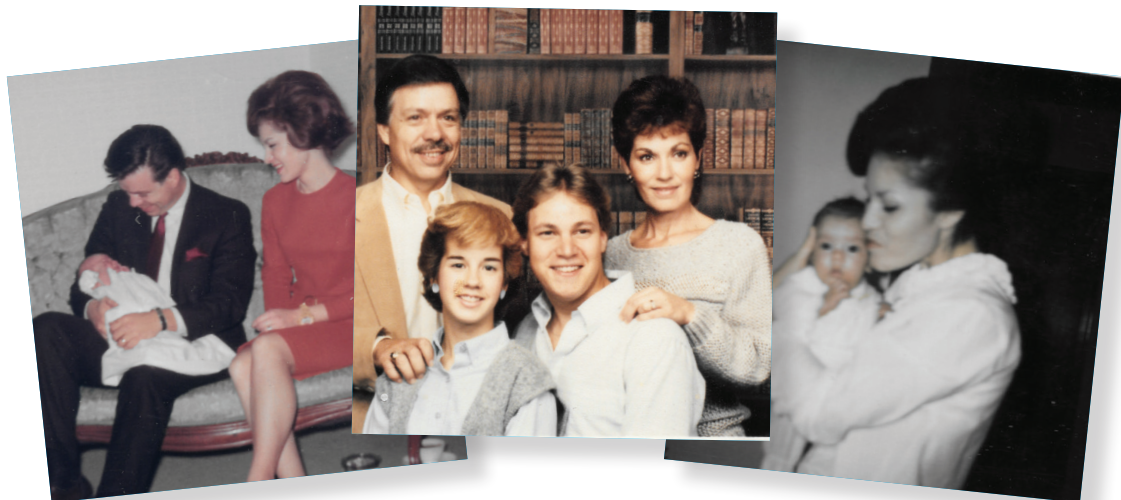
In 1968, Ron and Jan Jacob had been struggling for years to start their family. When a physician mentioned adoption, they felt unsure about pursuing that option. But one day, according to Jan, Ron came home and said, “When are we going to go get that baby?”

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.”



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.

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

— Jan Jacob



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