

HomeTalk

FALL 2018



NEBRASKA CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

— 125 YEARS —

children first.

A magazine for Nebraska Children's Home Society

VISION MISSION VALUES

A safe and loving family for every child.

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

The six core values below are at the heart of our service to children and families.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.

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DEAR FRIENDS,

Our 125th year has been filled with reflection and celebration. In this edition of HomeTalk we share our:

- ▶ **Vision and Values.** While our mission has remained the same, we've further defined our vision and values to guide the decisions we make every day. The effort and reflection will ensure we remain focused and prepared to serve for another 125 years.
- ▶ **Refreshed Brand.** Our refreshed look highlights how our services have evolved to support children of all ages and reinforces the importance of those individuals who care about the child, both inside and outside the home.
- ▶ **Strategic Plan.** Our strategic initiatives set the course for the near future with a focus on community impact, people power, financial stewardship and internal processes.
- ▶ **125th Anniversary.** This year marks a quasiquicentennial of service to tens of thousands of the most vulnerable children in our communities. Our celebrations brought together individuals and families touched by NCHS. We enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate our history and honor special people who've played an important role in our success.
- ▶ **Rosalind Morris Scholars.** Our scholarships are awarded to bright young individuals touched by adoption who are ready to pay it forward in service to their communities.
- ▶ **Advocacy Efforts.** We have been busy this year working to build lasting relationships with elected officials and advocating on behalf of children and families.
- ▶ **Profound Gratitude.** Dr. John Sage, a longtime trustee and true champion for children recently passed away. Although he is sorely missed, his legacy of service is fondly remembered.

As we wrap up our 125th year, I am reminded that all we do is summed up in two words - children first. No matter what, we will continue to put children first.

Thank you for your generous support.

Lana Temple-Plotz

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NEBRASKA
CHILDREN'S
HOME SOCIETY

CONTINUING OUR MISSION, TRANSFORMING OUR BRAND

Nebraska Children's Home Society
celebrates **125 years** with a
new logo and look.



Over the past 125 years, our services have evolved to fit the needs of the children and families we serve, as well as our expanding capabilities as an organization. But through it all, we have remained dedicated to serving children of all ages and backgrounds.

In the year leading up to our anniversary, we realized the need for a Nebraska Children's Home Society brand that better reflects our understanding of who we are, whom we serve, and what we

hope to accomplish in the years ahead. What followed was a months-long process focused on interviewing our leadership team, staff members, board members and those we serve to ensure that the updated Nebraska Children's Home Society brand represents our collective vision.

The revamped brand features a new logo, a new tagline, brand colors and core messaging that set the stage for all of our communications going forward.

"We're incredibly proud of the results of this process," said Lana Temple-Plotz, CEO of Nebraska Children's Home Society. "Our new logo, and all of the pieces and parts that accompany it, does an excellent job of acting as the visual embodiment of our mission. We're committed to putting children first, and our new brand communicates that notion in every way."

OUR LOGO

The previous Nebraska Children's Home Society logo has been an integral part of our brand for 20 years. However, as our services have evolved to support children of all ages, as well as the people around them, we sought a logo that more accurately represents our mission and those we serve.



The new logo is centered on a child, who is in turn surrounded and supported by a variety of family members, caregivers and providers. They are collectively surrounded by a home, representing both a literal shelter and the figurative support they receive from Nebraska Children's Home Society. It shows that, for our children to be successful, they must receive support both inside and outside of the home, and that families should be connected to a larger community. A range of vivid colors creates a diverse, inclusive look, while a sans serif typeface adds to its modern feel.



NEBRASKA
CHILDREN'S
HOME SOCIETY

OUR TAGLINE

The new Nebraska Children's Home Society tagline, "Children First," conveys – simply and explicitly – the essence of our mission: to serve children by delivering the care and services they need, and by supporting them and the people who care for them. The "Children First" tagline will accompany our new logo when appropriate, and it will also be utilized as a key messaging point, helping to distill our priority as an organization.

children first.



ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN

Our programs and services are how we work towards our vision of “a safe and loving family for every child.” Children and families often face systematic obstacles that make their challenges difficult to overcome. That is why we advocate to protect children and strengthen families and communities. We do this by building relationships with our elected officials, providing insight into proposed laws, and working with other agencies and government entities to develop policies that help kids and families thrive.

In the last year and a half, Rep. Don Bacon and Rep. Adrian Smith, as well as 11 state senators, visited NCHS offices throughout the state. During those visits, we educated lawmakers about the variety of services we provide to children and families and how current laws impact them.

NCHS was busy during the 2018 state legislative session. CEO Lana Temple-Plotz testified in front of the Judiciary Committee in support of Sen. Sara Howard's LB 836. Although LB 836 did not pass, a similar bill allowing mental health therapy for 18-year-olds, LB 982, was signed into law.

On the federal level, Temple-Plotz and Amanda McGill Johnson, community impact and strategic initiatives director, attended the Children's Home Society of America Legislative Briefing in Washington, D.C. on March 14, 2018. The subject of the briefing was “A System on the Brink of Disaster: How the Opioid Crisis Taxes the Child Welfare System and Its Children.” Many congressional staffers were in attendance to hear from experts and from a couple raising their grandchildren as a result of the parents' opioid use.

NCHS recognizes that when our families are strong, our communities are strong. We will continue to advocate for policies and practices that put children first.

When our families
are strong,
our communities
are strong.



Temple-Plotz thanked Rep. Adrian Smith for his support of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program and the Family First Prevention Services Act. The Family First Prevention Services Act will infuse federal money into preventative programs to keep families together and reduce the number of children entering foster care.



State Senator Tony Vargas visits with staff while touring the Children and Family Center. NCHS Family Resource Specialist Anavelle Garcia (far right) testified in support of Sen. Vargas' bill to help teen mothers finish school.



State Senator Curt Friesen of Henderson, pictured with Lana Temple-Plotz and Chief Program Officer Kim Anderson, toured the Grand Island office on July 23 to learn more about the services provided by NCHS and how state laws impact the children and families we serve.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Nebraska Children’s Home Society (NCHS) has grown and evolved over its 125 years to meet changing community needs. To keep the momentum going, a new strategic plan was developed to guide NCHS through the next four years. The strategic direction and goals reflect current community needs, prioritize workplace culture, strengthen internal processes and fiscal responsibility.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Exploring opportunities. NCHS has grown organically over the years, responding to community needs as they evolve. We are taking a more intentional, long-term approach to explore future needs and strategically expanding services to meet those needs. We are also exploring creative ways to attract new champions and launching new volunteer committees.

Increasing public awareness. More people need to know about the great services NCHS has to offer. As part of our rebranding efforts, we are increasing our efforts to educate elected officials and influence public policy.



PEOPLE POWER

Educating our team. Our staff and board must have the knowledge and structure needed to increase our impact on the community. We will continue to maximize learning opportunities and our organizational structure to ensure the strong communication and training needed to succeed.

Being the best place to work! Workplace culture is a top priority with a focus on staff strengths, personal well-being and growth. NCHS constantly strives to promote a healthy and positive culture and evolve into a fully trauma-competent agency.



INTERNAL PROCESSES

Strengthening systems to track and evaluate effectiveness. NCHS provides valuable services to the community and we must better track our outcomes to fully demonstrate our impact. To do this, we are increasing the capacity of our data collection systems, continuing to improve evaluation processes and revamping an organizational satisfaction survey.

Innovating. NCHS is committed to increasing the effectiveness of our programs and the best way to do that is through innovation. We are proud to be working with Harvard’s Center on the Developing Child to integrate evidence-based best practices into our services for children.



STEWARDSHIP (FINANCE)

Expanding and diversifying our funding sources. Having a diversity of funding sources is critical to the longevity and stability of NCHS. We continually evaluate our funding streams like events, donations, grants, and contracts and are develop plans to increase financial support for critical community services.

Protecting our endowment.

Our endowment allows NCHS to put the needs of children first. We must ensure it stays strong and grows along with us. We are reassessing our annual draw on the endowment and working towards targeting a portion of the draw for new strategic initiatives.

“I bounced from one foster home to the next, until a handful of caring adults reached out to me.” – Josh Shipp



On June 9, 2018, Nebraska Children’s Home Society held its first of two events to celebrate its 125th anniversary at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Conference Center in La Vista, Neb.

The event, “Children First for 125 Years,” celebrated a quasiquicentennial of services to the children and families of Nebraska. With approximately 450 people in attendance, more than \$155,000 was raised to support safe and loving care to children.

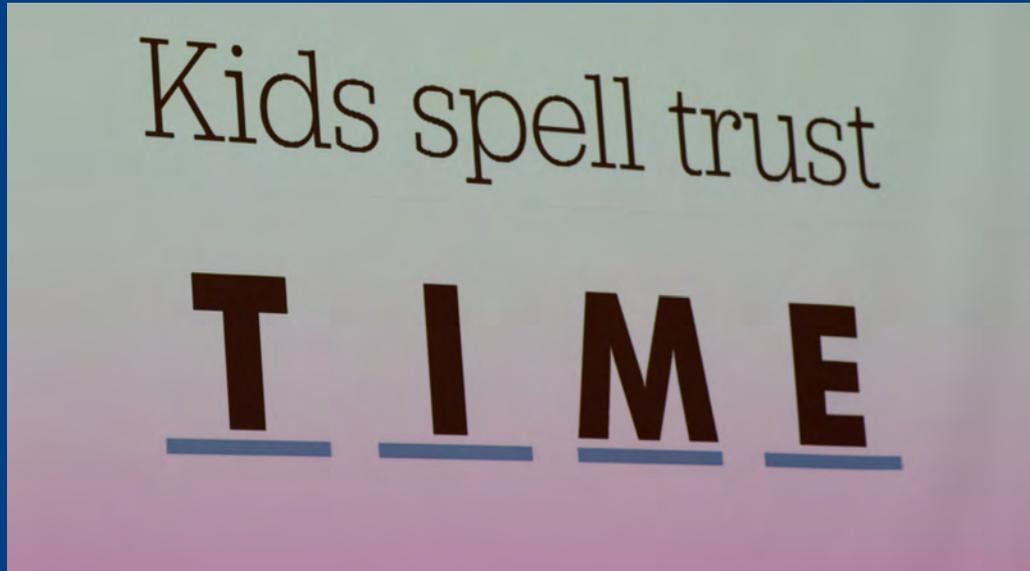
The event’s keynote speaker, Josh Shipp, presented the “The Power of ONE Caring Adult.” Shipp shared his personal experience in the foster care system, the struggles he faced as well as the challenges he presented to those entrusted to care for him. Shipp knows, all too well, the difference one person can make in the life of a child. His keynote ended with an appeal to support NCHS.

Julie Cornell, news anchor for KETV, served as emcee for the event.

RANDALL BIART PHILANTHROPY AWARD

Darlene and Randy Mueller, received the Randall Biart Philanthropy Award in gratitude for their loyal and generous efforts to support Nebraska Children’s Home Society.

The award was presented by NCHS Chief Operating and Information Officer Kent Carson, grandson of the late Randall Biart, the longest serving executive director of NCHS from 1936 to 1971.



LEFT TO RIGHT

Josh Shipp, keynote speaker and teen expert, shared that kids need time with their parents and caregivers during his presentation, the "The Power of ONE Caring Adult."

Julie Cornell, news anchor for KETV Channel 7, served as master of ceremonies for the event.

LD Richardson, NCHS's youth education supervisor at the NCHS Children and Family Center, delivers the dinner invocation.

"The Mueller's are adoptive parents through NCHS, and have been involved as supporters and people we rely on since we first met," said Carson. "Darlene Mueller has been an active member of our Board of Directors for 25 years, she was a founding member of the Nebraska Children's Home Society Guild and has remained active in nearly every event since she began her association with NCHS."

"For several years, Randy served on our Investment Committee, and helped us make prudent money management decisions, which enable us to fund programs while maintaining our endowment," said Carson.

HARRIS VAN OORT FRIENDS OF CHILDREN AWARD

Kathy and Blake Collingsworth received the Harris Van Oort Friends of Children Award for exemplary commitment to providing safe and loving care to children is recognition of their leadership on behalf of children.

Harris Van Oort, executive director of NCHS from 1971 to 1996, presented the award to the Collingsworths.

"Parents of sons Connor and Joshua, adopted through NCHS, the Collingsworths are inspiring examples of strength and devotion to children," said Van Oort. "After losing their son Joshua at the

tender age of two in a drowning accident, the Collingsworths started the Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation to educate children and adults worldwide about water safety through the utilization of drowning prevention campaigns and early childhood water safety training."

"The Collingsworths have remained loyal and generous supporters of NCHS," said Van Oort. "We are very grateful to call Blake and Kathy part of our family."



A safe and loving “family should be the one constant in every child’s life” – Danny Woodhead

On August 11, 2018, Nebraska Children’s Home Society celebrated its second 125th anniversary event in Kearney, Nebraska at the Younes Conference Center.

Through a silent auction and ask, the event’s audience of 125 guests raised \$39,564 to support adoption and foster care services provided by NCHS in Central Nebraska.

The event’s keynote speaker, Danny Woodhead, shared his rise from local hometown football star to a 10-year career in the NFL. His keynote speech, “The Power of Family” touched on the role of family in his upbringing and connected it to the vision of NCHS, “a safe and loving family for every child.” Through his story, Woodhead encouraged the audience to support the work of NCHS throughout Nebraska.

NCHS presented awards to two couples in honor of their support of NCHS.

RANDALL BIART PHILANTHROPY AWARD

This year’s Randall Biart Philanthropy Award was presented to Regina and Gary Anderson of Hastings, Neb. for their generosity in supporting the NCHS vision of “a safe and loving family for every child.” Gary is the owner and operator of Guarantee Electric Company, and Regina is a registered nurse at Mary Lanning Healthcare. The Andersons are long-time supporters of NCHS, serving as members of the NCHS Board of Trustees for over a decade.



LEFT TO RIGHT

Gary and Regina Anderson, recipients of the 2018 Randall Biart Philanthropy Award, stand with Lana Temple-Plotz, CEO of Nebraska Children’s Home Society.

Stacie Goding shares her experience adopting through Nebraska Children’s Home Society.

Danny Woodhead speaking to an audience of 125 people about the importance of family.

“They have a true desire to promote the welfare of others, doing so through their selfless support of NCHS over the years,” said Brian Osborne, chief philanthropy officer for Nebraska Children’s Home Society. “As advocates for children, they understand that the future of our children is built on the individual sacrifices we make today.”

HARRIS VAN OORT FRIENDS OF CHILDREN AWARD

The Harris Van Oort Friends of Children Award was presented to Stephanie and Brad Kissler of Grand Island, Neb. for their tireless efforts to provide safe and loving care for children.

Stephanie serves as director of development for Heartland United Way and Brad is a principal architect with Cannon Moss Brygger & Associates Architects.

The couple serves in a variety of roles with NCHS. Both are active members of the NCHS Board of Trustees, members of the NCHS Society Circle and serve as foster parents. They also adopted their youngest daughter through NCHS.

“Stephanie and Brad give generously of their time, talent and treasure,” said Lana Temple-Plotz, CEO of NCHS. “Simply put, Stephanie and Brad live our tagline, ‘children first.’”

The event also featured remarks from Stacie Goding, a Grand Island adoption attorney, who shared her personal experience adopting through NCHS.

Russ Batenhorst, morning anchor for KSNB Local4, served as emcee for the event, also sharing his story of adopting his son through NCHS.

ROSALIND MORRIS SCHOLARS

The Rosalind Morris Scholarship benefits high school and college students adopted through Nebraska Children's Home Society. Applicants plan to attend or are attending a Nebraska post-secondary institution and are majoring in the fields of education, science or social work. The awardees are community-minded students with excellent academic records who participate in extracurricular activities, leadership roles and volunteer.

**THE TOPIC FOR THIS YEAR'S ESSAY CONTEST WAS "WHAT FAMILY MEANS TO ME."
NCHS CONGRATULATES ALL THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

ARIEL LARSEN – Stuart, Nebraska
Daughter of Debora & Monty Larsen



"Not everyone making up your family will look the same, be the same or be of the same blood. Family isn't blood. . . it means those who mean the most to you." As Ariel grew she shared this insight with her friends and classmates.

Ariel believes her adoption is "something very special." Her life experiences have led her to recognize that "everyone is different in their own way. . . and acceptance and unconditional love are some of the most important characteristics to master."

Ariel is pursuing a degree in social work at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

ANNA PERRETT – Valentine, Nebraska
Daughter of Michelle & Brian Perrett



Anna believes family is a "group of people that have unconditional love for each other, and support you through thick and thin." She realizes how her family gave her the "wonderful opportunity to be better educated and be a healthy-minded individual."

Anna's goal is to "connect with and make an impact on families, especially at the most critical times in their lives." She wants to give other children the same opportunity she was given by working in the adoption and foster care counseling field.

Anna is pursuing a degree in social work at Central Community College.

NICK MCCONNELL – Lincoln, Nebraska
Son of Mary & Keith McConnell



Nick believes that "success is driven not by talent or aptitude, but by powerful willpower and strong resolve." This insight as well as others ingrained by his "parents, birthparents, teachers, and other role models" has shaped Nick's values.

"Family does not stop at the front door, ... state border or at the end of a visit... with a last name." Nick appreciates feeling loved by his parents and birth parents and says "family teaches one how to love, and I've been blessed to know it well."

Nick is pursuing a degree in journalism at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

KAYLYN WEILAGE – Murray, Nebraska
Daughter of Kari & Mark Weilage



For Kaylyn, a family is "the people who offer you support so that you can thrive..., pick you up when you have been down..., make you smile and laugh when all you feel like doing is the opposite..., genuinely care for you and your well-being."

She shares "I cannot even imagine what my life would look like if I had not been adopted, and I will always be tremendously grateful that I was. "

Kaylyn currently attends the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and plans to become a pediatrician.

● children first

nebraska children's home society
125 YEARS OF CARING



“anything YOU CAN DO TO HELP A child MAKES THE world A LITTLE better.”

— BRIAN OSBORNE,
CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

in 1893, grover cleveland was president. the u.s. flag had 44 stars; the melody for the “happy birthday” song was first published; the first ferris wheel debuted; and lillian gish, harold lloyd, mae west and dorothy parker all were born. 1893 was an important year for another reason: **nebraska children's home society** was formed. today, the organization is **celebrating 125 years** and continuing to serve children across the state through a spectrum of services.

Story by Kara Schweiss

REV. E.P. QUIVEY AND HIS WIFE, MARY EVA, FOUNDED NEBRASKA CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY (NCHS) IN AFFILIATION WITH THE CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY MOVEMENT THAT HAD EMERGED IN THE EARLY 1880S; THE NATIONAL, NONPROFIT ENDEAVOR PROVIDED SERVICES AND INFLUENCED PUBLIC POLICY THAT SUPPORTED THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN.

Through his previous work at the Iowa State Penitentiary, E.P. Quivey believed that a family is key to a more promising life, so the primary assistance NCHS provided in its earliest days was facilitating adoptions and foster care services (before Nebraska's child welfare system was in place).

The organization expanded over time to include a wide range of comprehensive adoption, parenting, early childhood education, youth education, and children and family services.

“We might call programs by different names today, but our history shows a consistent level of compassion in the caring for children and families,” Chief Operating & Information Officer Kent Carson said.

Like the mission statement says, NCHS was founded and continues to exist for one primary purpose: to provide safe and loving care to children of all ages.

“At the end of the day you look at what's best for the child,” Chief Executive Officer Lana Temple-Plotz explained. “Our focus is

on the family: families touched by adoption, the families we serve through foster care, and the families we work with on the prevention and early intervention side who are parenting their children and having struggles with that—living in poverty, having domestic violence touch their lives, trauma impacts.”

Thriving in families

The “Home” in Nebraska Children's Home Society represents finding or assuring a safe and loving home for every child, Temple-Plotz added. NCHS's founder believed that children thrive better in families, where they can build lasting, permanent connections, rather than in orphanages. As a result, the organization never operated an orphanage; it challenged the practice of placing orphaned, abandoned, abused or neglected children in orphanages and “poor houses.”

The Children's Home Society movement was focused on improving the lives of children. The whole purpose of that national movement was to find homes in communities for children,” Temple-Plotz said. “We actually did not build a physical location until 1924, and we only built that building because we had grown our administrative staff and needed a temporary place for children coming from all parts of the state.”

Chief Program Officer Kim Anderson explained, “The receiving home was a place intended to temporarily house children for up to six months while NCHS searched for a permanent family.

Children at the home received medical care, clothing, meals and education while they waited to be placed with a family.”

Where the need was

Carson knows some of NCHS’s history firsthand; he joined NCHS in 2005 but happens to be the grandson of Randall Biart, who served as the organization’s executive director for 35 years, from 1936 to 1971.

“I remember the stories from when I was younger where Grandfather would drive out to Scottsbluff because he got a phone call at the receiving home saying, ‘we have a child in need.’ He would drop everything and he would drive out to wherever in Nebraska to pick up that child, and turn around the next day and drive back to Omaha. That was not uncommon,” Carson said. “If there was a need, Grandfather went. (NCHS staff) did what was required to get children the services that were needed and find them a loving home.”

For much of Biart’s tenure there was no Interstate, there were few highways, and there was a lack of paved roads in many parts of the state, Carson added, not to mention no GPS guidance, and no air conditioning in some vehicles. So whether on dirt road or by train, “They made their way to where the need was.”

“In 1936 when my grandfather joined the agency, we had a single office location in Omaha with 10 full-time employees. Besides program staff we also had ‘field men’ whose role was to travel the state seeking goods, services and funding to support the children in our care. And it was not unusual for the field men also to bring a child or children from all parts of Nebraska back to the receiving home in Omaha in an effort to find that loving and caring family,”

Carson said. “In fact, it was not uncommon for my grandfather or field men of the day to pass the hat in community halls or on train rides back to Omaha, collecting funds to support the work of Nebraska Children’s Home Society.”

Carson said Biart involved three generations of his family in local efforts.

“It seemed like almost every weekend I would get up early in the morning with Mom and we’d drive to the local markets; Louis Market, Central Market, Hinky Dinky, and (Baker’s Supermarkets founder) Abe Baker were fabulous and very supportive,” he said. “We’d go pick up goods they were donating and take them over to the receiving home.”

He added, “I also remember many times there were tickets that were donated. We’d get a carload of children together and take them to baseball games, the Shrine Circus or the Henry Doorly Zoo.” Organizations provided these tickets to give children a chance to attend events and other local attractions.

Community involvement

NCHS is still headquartered in Omaha. The first greater Nebraska office opened in 1953 in Scottsbluff. Today there are NCHS offices in Omaha, Lincoln, Norfolk, Grand Island, Kearney, North Platte and Scottsbluff. Logistics have changed significantly since Biart’s day.

“We have strategically placed offices in these locations so we can serve families across the state. We no longer have employees that are called ‘field men.’ Instead, all of us are responsible for building strong and lasting relationships with our families,” Anderson said. “This often involves collaborating with other organizations and professionals across the state to advocate and provide services for children and families.” Community involvement continues to be an important element in the organization’s ongoing success, Temple-Plotz said.

“We as an organization have relied on the generosity of the communities that we serve in. They help us figure out what are the needs in their community, who’s available to help out with those needs and how we can play a part in that,” she said. “That’s still true today. Throughout Nebraska, we have great supporters.” “There are supporters across the country with connections to NCHS—adoptive parents, adoptees, birth parents—who

“THE CHILDREN’S HOME HAS always HAD A POSITIVE reputation AS AN AGENCY THAT’S focused ON PUTTING children first.”

– LANA TEMPLE-PLOTZ, CEO



RANDALL BIART, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 1936-1971



give back to us with their time, talents and treasures,” Anderson added.

Making it possible

Chief Development Officer Brian Osborne said financial support, specifically, makes it possible for NCHS to offer adoption services at no cost to the families involved (it never has charged for those services) and also helps fund other areas like family support, foster care and early childhood education.

“Almost everything we do requires do some fundraising, and the other thing is our endowment; that’s where we fund things like adoption entirely, part of foster care and part of family support,” he said.

A mix of funding sources is involved.

“The endowment is funded primarily by bequests. To make a long story short, it’s paying it forward—people who have benefited directly or indirectly either support us through donations or even write us in through their wills so people can benefit in the future from those same services,” Osborne said. “And we have tremendous support from businesses across the state. In my view, businesses have always been pretty generous and they like to see the betterment of their communities. Most of them view themselves as partners in our efforts. They want to learn about how we used their contributions how it helped make the lives of children and families better.” NCHS also helps children and families connect to resources when their needs are outside the scope of services offered.

“We obviously can’t be all things to all people, so if we have an individual who calls us and needs assistance, our goal is to help them figure it out,” Temple-Plotz said. “We’ll make some of those connections. Because there’s nothing more difficult than asking for help, so once you’ve done that we want to make it as easy as possible for you to get what you need.”

Guidance & assistance

To the people of NCHS, the tagline “children first” means focusing on the child, making their needs a priority, and caring for them by supporting the people around them from parents, grandparents and siblings to caregivers and teachers. Families experiencing an unplanned pregnancy are not urged toward one particular option, but will be given education and support to facilitate making their own choice to parent or place their child for adoption, Temple-Plotz said. Parents struggling to meet their family’s basic needs or who want to parent more effectively learn

about available resources that can help them meet their needs or goals.

“Our focus is support and guidance, assistance and education,” Temple-Plotz said. “It’s not our job to tell parents what they need to do. It’s our job to give them the tools that they need to help them make an informed decision.”

Temple-Plotz said that although NCHS follows the same fundamental child-centered principles under which it was founded in 1893, the organization has also evolved in some ways. She joined the team five years ago with more than 25 years’ child welfare and nonprofit experience and became CEO last October upon the retirement of her predecessor, Karen Authier. She’s led a new strategic plan along with rebranding including a new logo, website and vision statement (“a safe and loving family for every child.”)

“It’s been kind of a whirlwind,” she said. “We have a lot happening in our 125th year. My job as CEO is really to steer the ship and work in partnership with our board of directors to ensure that we are around for another 125 years... The Children’s Home has always had a positive reputation as an agency that’s focused on putting children first. The first question is, ‘How can we help?’ We’re blessed because we have fabulous individuals, companies, foundations and individual donors who support us.”

One of the biggest advantages of being around so long is that NCHS has had the time to develop many collaborative and cooperative relationships with other entities, Temple-Plotz said. NCHS’s teams across the state have also identified resources in each community, preventing redundancies and filling gaps.

“The charities in Nebraska that are working for children are, in my opinion, all our partners,” Osborne said.

Working together

NCHS has a long affiliation with Children’s Home Society of America, a group of agencies across the country with similar missions and services.

Through that relationship, NCHS has accepted the opportunity to contribute to a study led by the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University that is looking at early childhood development.

“We as a group can look at all of the things we are doing and hone in on some of the models we are using to figure out ways to make our work more impactful,” Temple-Plotz said. “We have, along with Children’s Home Society of America, been working with Harvard to identify areas of focus so we can begin to seek out funders to do research to make a bigger, stronger impact.”

Working together—with communities across the state, with families, with other organizations—is something NCHS mastered early on in its 125-year existence. Individuals can follow suit and help in many different ways from making a monetary donation to fulfilling a “wish list” item listed on the website (www.nchs.org) to becoming a foster parent.

“There is no such thing as a small gift,” Osborne said. “Anything you can do to help a child makes the world a little better.”



FAREWELL TO DR. JOHN SAGE

Oct. 1, 1930 - Sept. 6, 2018

On September 6, 2018, Dr. John Sage passed away at the age of 87. As the longest-serving trustee, joining NCHS in 1969, Dr. Sage was a faithful friend to the children and families of Nebraska Children's Home Society.

"For 49 years, Ruthie and John Sage were our biggest supporters," said Chief Philanthropy Officer Brian Osborne. "John was among the most important people on the investment committee, guiding NCHS towards the sound financial practices that we have today."

Ruthie Sage said her husband felt it was important to give back to others because life had been good to him.

"He was just a man who loved life, loved being active," she said.

In addition to his service to NCHS, Dr. Sage volunteered throughout the community and also served on numerous medical boards. Before his medical career, he served in the U.S. Army in Vicenza, Italy.

Dr. Sage is survived by his wife of 62 years, Ruthie, two sons, Jay and Peter, and a grandson, John.



LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

WHERE THERE'S A WILL,
THERE'S A WAY TO **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Nebraska Children's Home Society (NCHS) has served Nebraska's children and families for 125 years. Since the beginning, people have invested their time, talent and treasure to provide safe and loving care to children. Donors have volunteered, provided goods and services and of course, they have made generous monetary contributions.

One special group of donors, the **Society Circle**, deserves special recognition for their dedication to our vision of "a safe and loving family for every child." Thank you to the **490** wonderful members of our **Society Circle**, who have informed us of their intention to make planned gifts to NCHS. Membership in the Society Circle is open to all who have included NCHS in their will, trust, gift annuity or other estate plans. These plans can include beneficiary or ownership designations on life insurance policies, retirement plans, CD's, saving accounts or other investments gifted to the endowment. If you have already included NCHS in your plans, please contact us so we can acknowledge your gift and add you to the Society Circle.

Since 2012, NCHS has received **74 bequests and trusts**, all of which are significant. Funds from bequests and trusts support our endowment, which aids our services to children and their families. The principal is never touched, so these gifts keep giving forever.

How to Make a Tax-Free Distribution from Your Individual Retirement Account

- ▶ You must be 70½ or older at the time of distribution.
- ▶ You may distribute any amount up to \$100,000 in a calendar year to charity, as long it is completed by December 31 of the year in which you intend to make the charitable distribution.
- ▶ Your IRA administrator must make the distribution directly to the charity, or you may write a check payable to the charity from your IRA checkbook. Please contact us for a sample letter of instruction to your IRA administrator requesting a distribution to NCHS.

CREATIVE WAYS TO PUT CHILDREN FIRST

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE MANY CREATIVE WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPING US WORK TOWARDS “A SAFE AND LOVING FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD.”

Donating Business Profits

Stephanie Chambers of Treynor, Iowa donates 10% of profits from her business, EntreDeux Boutique to NCHS.

“Nebraska Children’s Home Society truly values the people they aim to serve... what’s not to love?!”



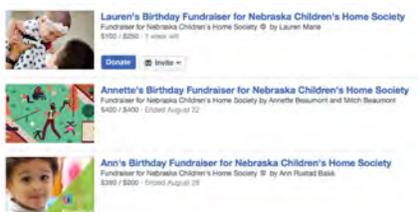
Charity instead of Gifts on Christmas

Instead of gifts on Christmas, the Dugan family pooled the money they would have spent and paid it forward.

“This is our way of saying ‘thank you’ and hoping we can help another couple become a family.”

Facebook Fundraisers

Since February 26, 2018 people have celebrated their birthday by creating Facebook Fundraisers for NCHS! To start your own, click “Support Nonprofit” when you start creating a post.



Blanket Drives

McGrath North Law Firm started a blanket drive bringing in 540 blankets after they learned we needed them for children in foster care from the Giving Guide & Event Book.



Skylar Finch, Brenda Jenny, Rashal Sanders of McGrath North stand in front of the 540 blankets donated by employees.

Charity of Choice

The Nebraska Auctioneers Auxiliary Association adopted NCHS 12 years ago as their charity of choice to sponsor with proceeds from their fundraisers. This year’s fundraiser raised \$1,226.16!



School Fundraiser

Two California eighth graders, one adopted through NCHS, sent in a donation of \$231 raised through an annual school fundraising fair.



Hello, Our name is Josie and Samantha. Our school has a once a year fair, where we sell things to get money for a charity. We chose you because (Josie) have been adopted through your services. We thank you so much. We are giving you our donation to say thank you so much! 😊
Sincerely - Josie and Samantha

Ways to Give



CASH GIFTS



EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS



BEQUESTS OR ESTATE GIFTS



GIFTS OF GRAIN



GIFTS OF STOCK



PARTNERS: AmazonSmile, Thrivent Financial, TAGG App, Baker’s Community Rewards, Ebay for Charity, Paypal Giving Fund

Contact us at 402.898.7783 or development@nchs.org to learn more.



Jeannie and Shane Armendariz with son, Derek Joseph, 8.



Jen and Duane Bartelt with daughter, Ava, 4, and son, Carson, 7.



Josh and Charissa Beckner with daughter, Kinsley, 7.



NEBRASKA CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

— 125 YEARS —

children first.

THESE ARE OUR

ADOPTION CREEDS



Christina Nemeč (NCHS) with Carl Jr. and Erica Fleming and their son Carl III, 8, and daughter, Layna, 4.



Roxanne and Gary Garrett with daughter, Amilia, 10, and son, Joe, 7.



Christy and Tim Hogan with daughter, Maren, 8, and son, Aiden, 12.



Jayme and Nicholas McShannon with daughter, Zoey, 6, and Parker, 8.



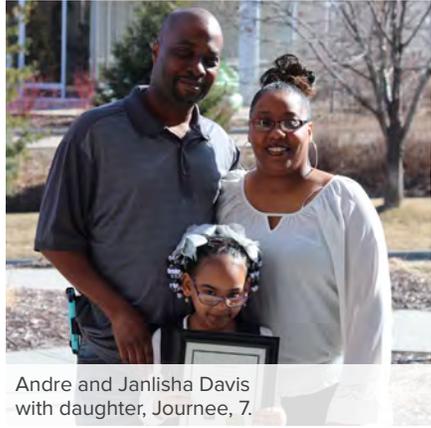
Reggan and Brett Simons with sons, Jaeden, 2, and Connor, 4, and Gary Nelson (NCHS).



David and Marion Schinzel with daughter, Catrina, 12.



Joe and Stephanie De Bauche with daughter, Gianna Marie, 4.



Andre and Janlisha Davis with daughter, Journee, 7.

E ARE MOMENTS



Karen and Chris Lawler with daughters, Reagan, 4, and McKenna, 8.



David and Marlena Laney with daughter, Audrey, 16, and son, Aaric, 12.



Pasquale and Patti Mingarelli with daughter, Talitha, 8, and son, Pasquale, 7.



Patrick and Shannon Sokol with daughter, Ella Kate, 7.

For decades Nebraska Children’s Home Society has presented Adoption Creeds to children adopted through NCHS. The creed, written by Fleur Conkling Heyliger, represents the love of families formed through adoption.

**Not flesh of my flesh
Nor bone of my bone,
But still miraculously
my own. Never forget
for a single minute,
You didn’t grow under
my heart But in it.**

- Fleur Conkling Heyliger



NEBRASKA
CHILDREN'S
HOME SOCIETY
125 YEARS

children first.

4939 South 118th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68137
402.451.0787

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PERMIT #379

FUTURE EVENTS SAVE THE DATES



Give Where You Live

Powered by Kearney Area Community Foundation
November 1 to December 6
Donation at: www.givewhereyoulive.net/NCHS



Candy Cane Hunts

- Saturday, December 1, 2018 | 10 a.m.
Harmon Park, Kearney, Neb.
- Saturday, December 8, 2018 | 10 a.m.
Grace Abbott Park, Grand Island, Neb.



National Adoption Month Movie Night

Special Screening of Instant Family
Thursday, November 1, 2018 | 6 p.m.
Aksarben Cinema, Omaha, Neb.



Thankful Hearts

Sunday, February 10, 2019 | TBD
North Platte, Neb.
Register Online at NCHS.org

STATEWIDE OFFICES

GRAND ISLAND

1028 N Webb Road, Ste. C
Grand Island, NE 68803
308.381.0568

KEARNEY

2222 2nd Ave., Ste. 802
Kearney, NE 68848
308.237.2304

LINCOLN

4700 Valley Rd.
Lincoln, NE 68510
402.483.7879

NORFOLK

1800 W Pasewalk Ave., Ste. 202
Norfolk, NE 68701
402.379.3378

NORTH PLATTE

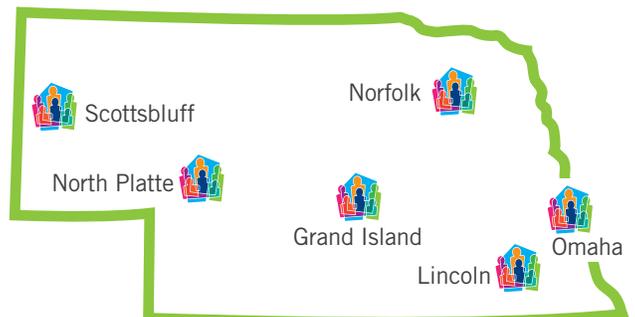
121 N Dewey, Ste. 206
North Platte, NE 69101
308.534.3250

OMAHA OFFICES

4939 S 118th St.
Omaha, NE 68137
402.451.0787

3549 Fontenelle Blvd.
Omaha, NE 68104

11926 Arbor St.
Omaha, NE 68144



SCOTTSBLUFF

1930 E 20th Place, Ste. 200F
Scottsbluff, NE 69361
308.632.8377

nchs.org