A daughter is a day brightener and a heart warmer.

All photos in this publication are of children and families served by Nebraska Children’s Home Society. Photos by Kathy Rae Photography.
Dear Friends of the Nebraska Children’s Home Society,

Distilling the essence and the impact of the work of Nebraska Children’s Home into a few paragraphs for this year’s annual report is a challenge. What is the common denominator that best communicates what we do, how we do it and why we do it? The simple answer is - It’s all about relationships.

Relationships are at the very heart of everything we do. Our four areas of focus – healthy beginnings, building and strengthening families, pathways to the future and engaging communities – all start with and depend on relationships.

Our capacity to form relationships makes us truly human and it all begins when infants develop bonds of trust within their families. Even before a child’s birth our work with pregnant moms and dads helps them plan for healthy beginnings for their babies: preparation for birth and parenting classes, counseling for women with unplanned pregnancies and home visitation to make ready for the new little one. We prepare prospective adoptive parents for their new role in parenting by offering educational opportunities. Once baby is born, there is more focus on the importance of those new relationships that foster positive development. Our early childhood education programs provide school readiness opportunities for infants, toddlers and preschoolers within the context of nurturing relationships.

Families are the incubators for attachment and relationships. Children belong in families and NCHS is at work building and strengthening families through adoption and post-adoption services, support for grandparents raising grandchildren, and in-home skill-building and support for families involved with the child welfare system.

Success in life depends on relationships and NCHS equips youth and teen parents to chart their pathways to the future as they develop an understanding of healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, set and achieve personal goals, avoid risky behavior and learn skills that will lead to success in school and life. When a child’s trust and ability to form relationships has been damaged by abuse, neglect or abandonment, NCHS steps in to connect youth to kinship or adoptive homes that will meet their needs for permanent, stable families and provides mental health therapy to heal emotional wounds and foster the capacity for loving relationships. NCHS foster and adoptive parents teach children the meaning of relationships and provide loving environments for children to practice new relationship skills.

Relationships also lay the foundation for engaging communities. Relationships depend on reciprocity. Healthy relationships are characterized by an understanding of the value of give-and-take. In the community, NCHS understands that more can be accomplished when we are good partners and collaborators – using our resources and unique expertise as well as depending on others to provide resources and expertise to improve life in communities for children and families.

As you read this report, I encourage you to look at the photographs of those whose lives we touched, the data on outcomes and the recognition of gifts given with an understanding that the backdrop for all is relationships – the relationships between children and their parents, the relationships between our staff and those receiving our services, the committed relationship of our staff, board, trustees and donors to the mission of NCHS. Our mission is vital; much work remains to be done. I invite you to become part of the network of relationships that constitute NCHS.

Thank you.

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

“Relationships are the very heart of everything we do.”
125 children served through NCHS early childhood education centers

104,616 hours of care

319 parents receiving services at the children & family center demonstrate the skills needed to support the healthy development of their children

43 children joined forever families through infant and foster care adoptive placements

263 families served through home visitation

95% of children at NCHS early childhood education centers have age appropriate social-emotional and cognitive skills

David & Jamie
Xander, 8 months
BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

118
INDIVIDUALS ATTENDED CIRCLE OF SECURITY® PARENTING CLASSES, TOTALING 167 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION

122%
INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FAMILIES SERVED BY RIGHT TURN® POST ADOPTION SERVICES

100%
OF PARENTS IMPROVED HEALTHY PARENT-CHILD INTERACTIONS AFTER RECEIVING RIGHT TURN® POST ADOPTION SERVICES

80%
GRANDPARENTS SUPPORTED THROUGH THE RAISING YOUR GRANDCHILDREN PROGRAM REPORTED IMPROVED AND ENHANCED CAPACITY TO UNDERSTAND CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR

113
CLIENTS SERVED THROUGH NCHS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Gary & Roxanne
Joe, 5
Amelia, 7
PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

91%
OF TEEN CHAT PARTICIPANTS MADE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS, SEXUALITY AND PREGNANCY

92%
OF PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFIED GOALS FOR THEIR FUTURE

100%
SIBLINGS IN NCHS FOSTER HOMES WERE PLACED TOGETHER

100%
OF CHILDREN REMAINED SAFE FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT WHILE SUPPORTED IN THEIR FOSTER HOMES

133
CHILDREN SERVED IN FOSTER & KINSHIP HOMES

243 LIFETIME CONNECTIONS FOR 50 FOSTER CHILDREN AWAITING ADOPTION

NCHS CREATED

1176
INDIVIDUALS SERVED THROUGH THE CHILDREN & FAMILY CENTER

44%
INCREASE FROM LAST YEAR

100%
OF CHILDREN REMAINED SAFE FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT WHILE SUPPORTED IN THEIR FOSTER HOMES

Last year generous individuals like you donated over $800,000. You gave through NCHS, to children and families. You make our work possible.
Nebraska Children's Home Society | Nebraska Children's Home Society Foundation

**REVENUES**
$6,664,111

- 31% Endowment Subsidy*
- 19% Contributions, Grants
- 49% Program Service Revenue
- 1% Other

**EXPENSES**
$7,062,154

- 25% Foster Care
- 24% Children & Family Center
- 11% Early Childhood Education
- 14% Fundraising & Public Education
- 23% Pregnancy, Parenting & Adoption
- 3% Administration

Net Asset Beginning of Year
- 40,850,954

Net Asset End of Year
- 40,510,789

Net Change
- (340,165)

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*Transfers from the Foundation for program services investment totaled $2,188,200 (listed as “Endowment Subsidy” above). The Foundation’s unrestricted investment fund increased $354,362 and totaled $36,544,993 on June 30, 2015. A copy of the independent auditor’s report by Awerkamp, Goodnight, Schwaller and Nelson, P.C., is available for review from the NCHS Finance Department.
It’s all about relationships. Across the state, we meet you where your needs are and support you throughout your journey of providing safe and loving care to children of all ages. Together, one step at a time.

STATEWIDE SERVICES:

- Adoption
- Parenting
- Permanency
- Post-adoption
- Pregnancy support
- Right Turn®

Any adoptive parent is eligible for post adoption support statewide through Right Turn®. Right Turn® is a collaboration between Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska and Nebraska Children’s Home Society.
Rosalind Morris Scholarship Winners

The Rosalind Morris Education Scholarship was created to benefit the children and families served by NCHS’s adoption program. Applicants are young people who were adopted via the service of the Children’s Home, and who are starting their post-high school education at a Nebraska post-secondary institution, majoring in the education or social work fields. Additionally, the winners are excellent students who are community minded.*

Marie Sitz

“I understand that I am blessed twice... I am a child of God and adopted into His household as well as having been adopted into the Sitz household... which I will always be grateful for.”

Marie is the daughter of Wendell & Anne Sitz. She graduated from O’Neill High School where she was active in FCCLA, Student Council, Speech Team, choir, band, dance, drama, bowling and golf. She worked as a swim instructor, lifeguard, and babysitter. Marie is currently attending Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa and hopes to become a social worker or counselor, and then continue her education with the hopes of becoming a psychiatrist one day.

Sarah Supenski

“Being adopted has truly molded me into who I am today... and has helped to mold my decision into being a teacher... mentoring students and showing them they are all beautiful in their own ways.”

Sarah is the daughter of Robert and Jane Supenski. She graduated from Bellevue West High School where she was active in FBLA, National Honor Society, Concert Band and theatre. She worked at Michael’s Arts and Crafts and spent time volunteering at the Bellevue Food Pantry and at her church. She is currently attending Creighton University and plans to become a teacher.

*To receive application information, please contact dwells@nchs.org
The Children’s Home has been blessed over the years with many significant gifts. In fact, every gift we receive is significant, and greatly appreciated. Some of our supporters give of their time, others of their talent, and still others give to the Children’s Home from their “treasures.” All gifts are received with great gratitude, and awareness that donors intend that we use the funds to continue to provide safe and loving care for children.

One person that NCHS was blessed to have crossed paths with was a hardworking, kind, and extremely generous gentleman named Albert Albin.

Albert’s humble start in life, in an orphanage, is just a small part of the story. Albert’s 91 years were a shining example of the merits of perseverance and hard work.

He graduated from Omaha South High School then traveled the world as a Merchant Marine.

Albert and his first wife Mary adopted their son Larry from Nebraska Children’s Home Society in 1955. Thus began nearly 60 years of continuous generosity towards the Children’s Home.

Mr. Albin built their family home in the Hitchcock Park area of Omaha, and spent much of his free time maintaining the house and his half-acre of flowers and trees.

Sadly, in 2001 both his wife Mary and their son Larry passed away. He was blessed again in 2004 when he met and later married Mauricette. The couple spent Albert’s golden years camping, fishing, dancing and working in their beautiful yard.

Albert was never considered (by himself or others) to be rich in the material sense. But he was frugal, and he maintained his commitment of giving to the Children’s Home throughout his lifetime. Albert’s will named the Nebraska Children’s Home Society his sole beneficiary.

Albert passed away in late 2014 at the age of 91. When NCHS received the funds from Albert’s estate we placed those funds (as we always do with bequests, unless otherwise instructed by the will) in our endowment. The Children’s Home is committed to using only the interest from these funds, so in effect, Albert has made a gift that will generate nearly $17,000 a year forever. Albert Albin’s last act of generosity will benefit children and families for generations to come.

Footsteps: A Path for Estate Planning and Charitable Giving

NCHS was blessed with 16 bequests totaling $867,953

Consider a gift to the Children’s Home during November in honor of National Adoption Awareness Month.
TRIBUTES

Thank you to the following individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations who gave a gift in memory or honor during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015.

Michael Jones
D.A. Junke
Brian & Beth Langenberg
Mike Jorgenson
Central Feeders, Inc.
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Thank you to the following individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations who gave a gift in memory or honor during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015.

TRIButes
NCHS is committed to the belief that a child’s needs come first and all children deserve safe and loving care.
Jeanne Ann McMclmont
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Darrell & Wilia Lesly
Russell Yong
Anonymous
Ada Zarek
Rob Zarek
The best relationships are the ones we never expected to be in.
Your support of NCHS last year grew 43 forever families, including ours.

Sisters are different flowers from the same garden.
Safe and loving care since 1893

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1320 W. 3rd St.
PO Box 835
Alliance, NE 69301
308-761-0472

Beatrice
5109 W. Scott St., Ste. 410
Beatrice, NE 68310
402-223-0096

Grand Island
908 N. Howard Ave., Ste. 107
Grand Island, NE 68803
308-381-0568

Kearney
2222 2nd Ave., Ste. 802
PO Box 1896
Kearney, NE 68848
308-237-2304

Lincoln
4700 Valley Rd.
Lincoln, NE 68510
402-483-7879

Norfolk
2501 Lakeridge Dr., Ste. 104B
Norfolk, NE 68701
402-379-3378

North Platte
121 N. Dewey, Ste. 206
PO Box 596
North Platte, NE 69101
308-534-3250

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4939 S. 118th St.
Omaha, NE 68137
402-451-0787

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PO Box 2181
Scottsbluff, NE 69363
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11826 Arbor St.
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