Leadership

Daughters of Caley & Brian Cornelius

Zoey
6 years

Violet
3 years

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Chief Executive Officer
Lana Temple-Plotz

Chief Program Officer
Kim Anderson

Chief Development Officer
Brian Osborne

Chief Operating Officer
Kent Carson

Chief Resource Officer
Stephanie Poncelow

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Scriber
Craig & Tonia Steel

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Robert Blevens

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Alan & Angela Brennan
Dear Friends of Nebraska Children’s Home Society,

Children First

As I begin my first year as CEO, I am both energized and comforted by this fact. No matter what, we put Children First.

Dr. E.P. Quivey knew it when he formed Nebraska Children’s Home Society 125 years ago and my predecessor, Karen Authier, knew it as she guided NCHS to increased impact during her 10 years of leadership. Following in their footsteps while forging my own path is a great honor, and I know our success will continue as long as we continue to focus on what’s most important – children.

Last fiscal year, we put Children First by:

Continuing our commitment to adoptive families through Right Turn® which, through your advocacy and support, maintains funding and continues to serve adoptive and guardianship families statewide;

Statewide expansion of Family Finding, a service for children in foster care, helping them find caring lifelong connections and permanency when possible; and

Focusing on improving services to children and families through our involvement with Children’s Home Society of America’s (CHSA) Innovation Pipeline, part of a portfolio of projects within Frontiers of Innovation, the R&D Platform of the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University.

As we look to the future, our hopes during our 125th year include the opportunity to:

Implement our newly approved Strategic Plan which sets our course for the next four years with a focus on fiscal responsibility, positive outcomes for children and families, workplace culture that prioritizes education and innovation, and engaging communities across the state to meet local needs and build support;

Increase collaborations on both the local and national levels, through our statewide partnerships and with CHSA, to positively impact more children and families; and

Meet each one of you at one of the many celebratory events we have planned across Nebraska this year, to hear your story and learn more about how NCHS can help in your community.

As you read through this year’s annual report and see the beautiful children we serve, know that our services to them are not possible without your generous support.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Lana Temple-Plotz
Chief Executive Officer

HomeTalk is a publication of Nebraska Children’s Home Society.
“Adopting through the Children’s Home was an amazing experience. The PREPARE class truly prepared us to be parents. When we adopted our twin girls from Oklahoma, Liz, our adoption specialist, walked us through every step of the process. She’s even helping connect our daughters’ birth mother to resources in Oklahoma. We cannot thank NCHS enough for giving us everything we need to build a family.”

–Jacque & Ryan Grass
"Our three boys have been through a lot. They lacked the securities so many of us take for granted. The NCHS foster care team helped strengthen our bonds one day at a time, one situation at a time, until we became the family of eight we are today. We cannot say enough good words about the amazing work the people at NCHS do every day to make a difference for Nebraska’s children and families."

– Cathy & David Adcock

We meet the needs of children and families by providing quality support services centered around the child’s best interests.

**Foster Care**
*Creating Safety and Permanency for Children*

We meet the needs of children and families by providing quality support services centered around the child’s best interests.

**Family Preparation**
- Foster & Kinship
- Family Training
- Home Study & Licensing

**Child Permanency**
- Family Finding Model
- 3-5-7 Model
- Child-Focused Recruitment

**Family Support**
- 24/7 Support
- Resource Connection

**Preservation & Reunification**
- Pathways to Permanency

97% of children served had no more than one placement change

166 children served through 96 licensed foster homes

133 children reconnected with their family members
Family Support
Building and Strengthening Families

We provide a continuum of support focused on educating and empowering all members of the family.

**Individual Support**
- Self-Sufficiency Support
- Healthy Families America®
- Teen & Young Parent Program

**Parent Support Groups**
- Parents Supporting Parents

**Parent Education**
- New Parent Education
- Continuing Parent Education
- Fatherhood Initiative
- Raising Your Grandchildren

**Pregnancy Counseling**
- Parenting & Adoption Options
- Temporary Newborn Care

**Youth Education**
- Chat Circle
- Students With A Goal
- Teen Chat
- Teen Block
- Wise Guys

“I had just become pregnant with my daughter. My former high school principal knew I needed support, so she referred me to the NCHS Children & Family Center. I called them and enrolled in pregnancy classes. Heather, my family resource specialist, met with me weekly to teach me parenting skills and work on birth planning. Because of NCHS, I know what is best for my child and am providing her the love and care she deserves.”

—Briana Gardner

1,076 people served through the Children & Family Center

- 82 participants in pregnancy and parenting classes
- 52 women received pregnancy counseling
- 90% of teens report better decision-making skills for building relationships and pregnancy prevention
- 100% of grandparents raising grandchildren report improved emotional well-being
Early Childhood Education
Ensuring Healthy Beginnings

Our teachers strive to ensure every child is ready for school and has the social-emotional skills needed to be successful.

- Infant Care
  6 weeks-17 months

- Toddler Care
  18-36 months

- Pre-Kindergarten
  3-5 years old

94% of children display age-appropriate social-emotional skills
97% of children use age-appropriate language skills

124 children served
107,842 hours of care

“NCHS has helped Mia in many ways. She is more comfortable in group settings, enjoys playing with other kids and her vocabulary is quickly expanding. She comes home excited to tell us about her day while reminding us that she has to go back to school the next day. The excitement we see in our daughter’s eyes, morning and night, assures us that Mia is safe, learning and having a good time while we have to be away from her.”

– Kristin & Omar Kambi

Omar
Dad

Kristin
Mom

Mia
2 years
Children First

Throughout our history – through every new program, every transition and every step forward, our focus has remained the same: we put Children First.

To us, “Children First” means the child’s best interests are a priority. We care for them by supporting the people around them, from parents, grandparents and siblings, to caregivers and teachers.

At every age, in growth, struggles and success, children are at the heart of all we do.

Our Mission

The mission of Nebraska Children’s Home Society is to provide safe and loving care to children of all ages.
NCHS is part of a portfolio of projects within Frontiers of Innovation, the R&D Platform of the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University.

Volunteers

98 new volunteers joined NCHS and 537 volunteers returned for another year of service.

2,109 volunteer service hours valued at $46,925.25

The estimated value for volunteer hours is provided by Independent Sector (IS), a Washington D.C.-based advocacy coalition for nonprofits. In 2016, IS valued Nebraska's volunteer hours at $22.25 per hour.

Volunteers are vitally important to the mission of NCHS. Because of our dedicated volunteers, we have more capacity and more resources. They make it possible to extend services to more families and children throughout Nebraska.

Employees

In 2007, NCHS had 43 employees.

Today, NCHS has 113 employees.

80% Employee Retention

The average tenure of an NCHS employee is 5.17 years.
On September 30, 2017, Karen Authier, CEO of Nebraska Children’s Home Society (NCHS), retired after 10 years of leadership.

Authier, a Licensed Mental Health Practitioner, served for more than 30 years in human services program development and replication, mental health services, and child welfare programs both nationally and in Nebraska. She has served at The Partners Network, Inc., Father Flanagan’s Boys Home, University of Nebraska Medical Center, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and as vice president of programs for Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska. Authier received numerous awards for her outstanding leadership in the field of social services and was appointed by Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman in 2012 to the newly created Nebraska Children’s Commission.

During her tenure with NCHS, Authier more than doubled the number of staff, reduced reliance on the Foundation endowment, led the development of new services across the state and established the Children & Family Center in the first permanent NCHS office in North Omaha. The Center serves over a thousand individuals each year with Family Support services.

Prior to retiring, Authier initiated a brand refresh and finalized a new strategic plan for the organization.

“My satisfaction in leaving is knowing that the Children’s Home’s legacy will continue to grow with strong board and staff leadership and the combined passion and skill set of all who have become part of the mission,” said Authier.

“I am confident that Nebraska’s children will find open hearts, welcoming smiles and helpful services at NCHS for many years to come.”

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The Rosalind Morris Scholarship was created to benefit the children and families served through the Adoption program.

Applicants are high school and college students who were adopted through NCHS and are starting their post-high school education at a Nebraska post-secondary institution, majoring in the fields of education, science or social work. Additionally, the awardees are community-minded students with an excellent academic record.

**Alyssa Rood, Tilden, Neb.,**
*Daughter of Janet & Michael Rood*

“My adoption experience started in Columbus, Nebraska. This impacted my life in the best way anything possibly could have. I would not be the person I am today if it were not for my parents. They have given me a loving home where all of my needs and more were met.”

Alyssa is an elementary education major at Doane University. As an aspiring teacher, she hopes to “help kids to find that there is always someone who loves and supports them.”

**Breane Hoffman, Pierce, Neb.,**
*Daughter of Diane & Bryan Hoffman*

“Nebraska Children’s Home made all the difference in the world for me. NCHS, along with my birth mother's decision, found me a home that provided me with everything I have ever needed, physically and emotionally. Because of this, I was able to grow up in a loving, caring family.”

Breane is a business major at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. She lives her life “trying to lead by example and hopes to inspire others to do the same.”

**Emily Ritzdorf, Howells, Neb.,**
*Daughter of Sally & Robert Ritzdorf*

“I am beyond fortunate to live in Nebraska and have people at NCHS who were willing to help us become a forever family. I will be reminded that I must always work to make a difference for others because so many have done that for me throughout my life.”

Emily is an architectural engineering student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Teachers describe her caring nature as the driving force behind her desire to help others.

Financials

Support & Revenue | $7,380,771

- 52% Program Service Fees and Contracts
- 27% Endowment Subsidy*
- 20% Contributions & Grants
- 1% Other

Expenditures | $7,895,669

- 77% Programs
- 13% Fundraising & Public Education
- 10% Administration

Net Assets Beginning Year
$38,826,238

Net Assets End of Year
$42,340,099

Net Change
$3,513,861

* Endowment Subsidy: Transfers from the Nebraska Children’s Home Society Foundation for program services investment totaled $2,110,000. The Foundation’s unrestricted investment fund increased $4,051,242 and totaled $39,114,025 on June 30, 2017. A copy of the independent auditor’s report by Dutton and Associates P.C., is available for review from the NCHS Finance Department.
The generosity of donors like you provided over $970,000 in funding to support safe and loving care for 9,478 individuals in communities throughout Nebraska.

Your Support

Our giving partners offer an easy way to support Nebraska Children’s Home Society at no cost to you! Last year, NCHS received over $900 to support safe and loving care for children.

AmazonSmile: smile.amazon.com
Baker’s: bakersplus.com/communityrewards
TogetherAGreaterGood: togetheragreatergood.com

Addie
18 months

Daughter of Stephanie & Greg Simon
Put Children First

Donate

🌟 Cash gifts
🔥 Employer Matching Gifts
✍️ Bequests or Estate Gifts
🌾 Gifts of Grain
💰 Gifts of Stock

Call (402) 898-7783, email development@nchs.org or donate online at NCHS.org.

Engage

Facebook: @NEChildrensHome
Twitter: @NEChildrensHome
LinkedIn: @NEChildrensHome
YouTube: NEChildrensHome

Act

🚿 Donate new items for foster children
👩‍👧‍👦 Become a foster parent
👶‍👦 Organize a diaper drive

Call (402) 451-0787, email volunteer@nchs.org or fostercare@nchs.org.

The Sinnott Family

Dane 10 years
Patrick Dad
Debbie Mom
Grace 11 months

Engage

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NEChildrensHome

The Sinnott Family