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Works Well With Others

Welcome from the Executive Director

Why does the phrase “works well with others” appear so often on the report cards of younger children? Any educator or child development specialist will tell you that the ability to play or accomplish tasks cooperatively is a critical stage in the healthy social and emotional development of children. It’s a core component of lifelong success.

The same holds true for organizations. Successful organizations meet goals and achieve tasks by prioritizing strong, cooperative relationships with their peers and partners. Organizations that fail to do so never truly mature, and all too often fail to live up to the vision and aspirations that should drive their work.

At Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, working well with others isn’t just an aspect of our development. It’s the principal way we pursue our vision.

Since 1997, Nebraska Children has been in the business of improving the lives of our state’s children and families by bringing together and maximizing the resources and expertise of public and private partners who share a common vision. Our efforts have not only touched thousands of individual lives, they’ve helped critically-needed services, agencies and organizations grow in effectiveness, maturity and sustainability.

2006 was a lesson in how we can do more by working and growing stronger together. Nebraska Children and its partners helped bring about the Nebraska Early Childhood Endowment, an unprecedented union of public and private resources dedicated to providing quality early learning experiences for our youngest citizens. Together, we forged the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Partnership - a coordinated, ongoing effort to significantly reduce child abuse and neglect throughout Nebraska. We and our partners established the Nebraska Parental Information and Resource Center, bringing parents and educators together to improve children’s educational experiences in and outside of the classroom. These are just some of the collaborations that made 2006 a watershed year.

Welcome to our review: a report card of Nebraska Children and Families Foundation’s accomplishments in 2006. I hope our successes will encourage you to join us in the work still ahead.



Mary Jo Pankoke
Executive Director

2006 Funded Programs

Panhandle Partnership for Health and Human Services **\$12,500.00**

Sioux, Dawes, Sheridan, Box Butte, Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Garden, Banner, Kimball, Cheyenne and Deuel Counties

Children's Outreach Program **\$12,500.00**

The Children's Outreach Program is a free home visitation program for all families with newborns residing in the 11 Panhandle counties of Nebraska, providing health assessments of mothers and infants, safety check lists, education, general assessments of the home, proper usage of infant safety seats, as well as referrals as needed. The general assessment is of the family's overall well-being.

Box Butte County Family Focus Coalition **\$26,000.00**

Box Butte County

Box Butte County Family Focus Coalition **\$26,000.00**

This program focuses on the prevention of substance abuse in adolescents and child abuse prevention with a focus on mental health. Family Focus is a partner in the After School Alliance and plans to extend the program focus to include childhood fitness and nutrition.

Dawes County Family Preservation Coalition **\$25,000.00**

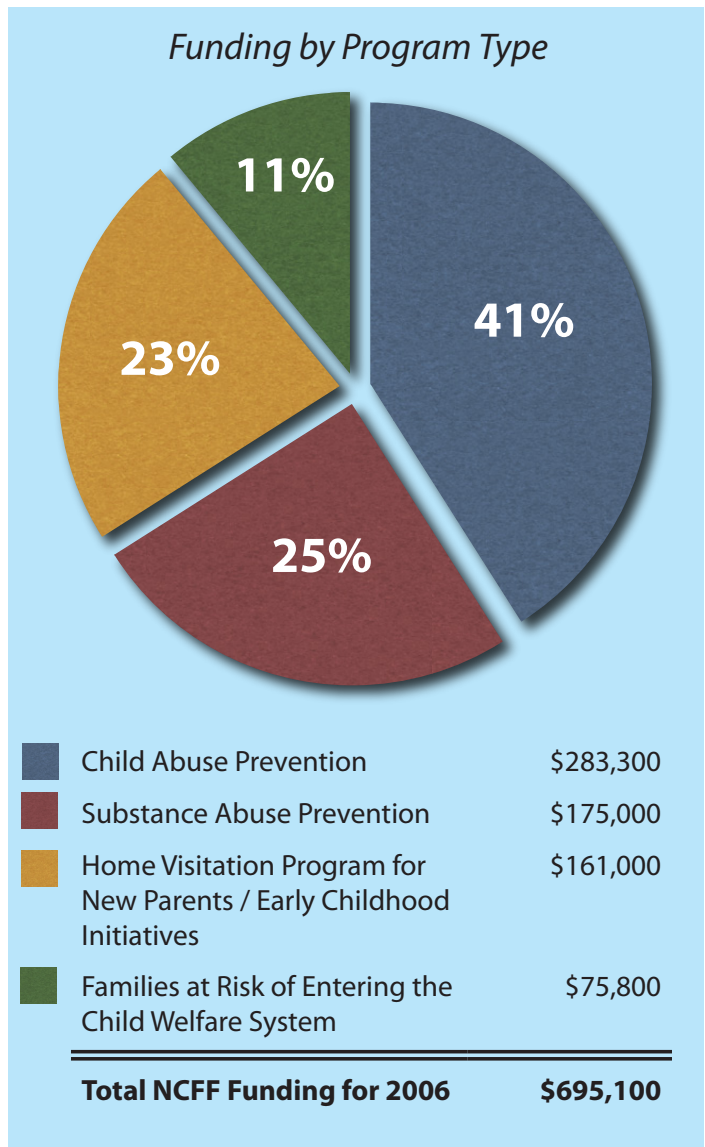
Dawes County

Dawes County Family Preservation Coalition **\$500.00**

This coalition incorporates and provides administrative support, financial tracking and reporting for a series of programs including a youth support group, multi-cultural youth center, homework support, teen intervention, domestic violence prevention, pre-school parent support, an early childhood conference and diversity education for community partners.

Crawford RSVP: Inter-generational/Youth/Parenting **\$3,750.00**

This program provides much of Crawford's continuum of care, pairing youth and senior volunteers in mentoring situations encouraging to both participants. RSVP also offers parenting classes that encourage participants to become invested in their education by selecting the topics studied.



Family Advocate Program **\$20,000.00**

The Family Advocate Program helps families gather information on their assets, interests and needs in order to develop and meet their goals.

Family Rescue Services **\$750.00**

This education project focuses on developing healthy relationships, setting appropriate personal boundaries and understanding the cycle of violence. It collaborates with area schools, youth groups and community groups to educate the public on domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment and child abuse.

**Child Saving Institute
and Camp Fire USA** **\$45,000.00**

*Douglas County***Bridges to Success** **\$45,000.00**

Bridges to Success is a comprehensive, high-quality independent living skills program that helps prepare youth for independent living and promotes healthy lifestyle choices. It includes individual assessments, case management, mentoring, training and support groups, and monthly "family night" events.

Essential Pregnancy Services (EPS) **\$2,500.00**

*Douglas County***Dads Matter - EPS Fatherhood Program** **\$2,500.00**

This program is intended to support, educate and encourage men to be willing, caring, present and capable fathers. It is open to the public, but focuses on male partners (fathers of children) of Essential Pregnancy Services clients. Program components include weekly educational sessions, monthly social gatherings for fathers and children, and monthly father/mother sessions.

Omaha Healthy Start General Council **\$44,000.00**

*Douglas County***Omaha Healthy Start -
Fathers for a Lifetime Program** **\$44,000.00**

The mission of the Fathers for a Lifetime program is to promote greater public awareness about responsible fatherhood and to provide fathers with community-based resources that will enable them to become better parents. The program offers a ten-week course for men that addresses parent education, prenatal, pediatric and adolescent development, alcohol and substance abuse, anger and stress management, child abuse and neglect, and a wide variety of other issues pertinent to healthy parenting.

Community Youth Council, Grand Island **\$25,000.00**

*Hall County***Community Youth Council** **\$1,930.00**

The Community Youth Council is a team of young adults who provide a unified voice for the youth of the community. The Council addresses and educates the public on issues affecting community youth including safety, healthy lifestyles and education. With respect to all variances in social, economic and cultural qualities and values, the Community Youth Council works to ensure the highest possible quality of life for all youth in the community.

Youth Leadership Tomorrow **\$13,500.00**

Youth Leadership Tomorrow is a nine-month interactive leadership development program for high school sophomores. It provides hands-on experience in government processes, management, decision making and community outreach.

Multicultural Coalition and Center **\$9,570.00**

The Multicultural Coalition responds to the needs of Grand Island's increasingly culturally diverse community. The Center is a one-stop, centralized human service resource, providing educational, legal, housing, translation and other services for minorities, enhancing their assimilation into the community.

Lincoln Action Program **\$28,000.00**

*Lancaster County***Lincoln Free to Grow** **\$28,000.00**

This innovative program protects children of child abuse and neglect, alcohol and drug abuse, and other dangers by strengthening families and the neighborhoods in which they live. Based on promising research, Lincoln Free to Grow focuses on the young child's environment – family and community – now, so that child abuse and neglect, substance abuse and other high-risk behaviors will be prevented or reduced in the future.

Lincoln Medical Education Partnership **\$36,300.00**

*Lancaster County***Young Family's Program** **\$36,300.00**

The Young Family's Program serves young parents and their children who are medically, economically and psycho-socially disadvantaged by providing health care, coordinating WIC Program services and nutritional support, parenting and Lamaze classes, individualized counseling, and trusting relationships to enable clients to seek out needed support. The program works cooperatively with a medical program that provides prenatal care and well-baby check-ups.

Cedars ECD Parent Circle **\$44,000.00**

Lancaster County

Therapeutic Child Care ***\$44,000.00***

This project provides training and support for teachers of very young children with potential and verified emotional/behavioral disabilities, observation of specific children with serious behavior problems in child care, and parent consultation. The program strives to prepare children and families to be successful in their typical childcare setting.

“Take a Break” Respite Council **\$50,000.00**

Lancaster County

“Take a Break – TAB” ***\$50,000.00***

The TAB program offers a break for family caregivers so they may have relief from the day-to-day stress of child rearing, a recognized factor in the incidence of child abuse, neglect and out-of-home placement. The program provides respite on three Friday nights per month to caregivers of children between the ages of 6 weeks and 12 years.

Community Connections of Lincoln County, Inc. **\$45,000.00**

Lincoln County

Community Connections of Lincoln County, Inc. ***\$45,000.00***

Community Connections is dedicated to planning and implementing action that furthers the quality of life for children and families in Lincoln County. It incorporates a wide variety of programs and services that focus on reducing substance abuse among youth, promoting youth assets through school and community activities, mentoring opportunities for children and youth in grades K-6, afterschool and summer programming, among other activities.

Human Interagency Services **\$15,500.00**

Nuckolls County

Good Beginnings/Safe Start ***\$15,500.00***

This combined program assists area families by providing comprehensive health, educational and human services through home visitations delivered by professional staff. It works with children ages prenatal through five years.

Omaha Tribe of Nebraska **\$45,000.00**

Omaha Tribe of Nebraska

Huthuga Project ***\$45,000.00***

The Huthuga Project is a new family partnership-building program created in response to family crisis issues. It provides family-based activities designed to help family members re-learn the practices upon which strong Omaha families are traditionally built.

Phelps Memorial Hospital Family Medical Specialties, Two Rivers HD, HHS **\$26,500.00**

Phelps County

Building Blocks ***\$26,500.00***

The goal of the Building Blocks program is to provide all expectant and new parents with the opportunity to receive the education and support they need during their pre-natal and post-natal stages of pregnancy. Home visitation by a nurse encourages pre-natal checkups, well-baby care, immunization, and proper nutrition for the entire family. Home visiting personnel also teach basic parenting skills and inform the family of the resources available in the community.

Phelps County Family Action Support Team, Inc. (FAST) **\$10,000.00**

Phelps County

Phelps County Family Action Support Team (FAST) ***\$10,000.00***

The FAST program promotes prevention through education, early identification of problems and early intervention in order to break the cycle of family erosion. The program seeks to coordinate public and private resources and supports in order to advance parent involvement, and reduce the incidence of substance abuse and antisocial behavior among at-risk youth.

Columbus Community Hospital **\$50,000.00**

Platte, Colfax, Boone and Nance Counties

Healthy Families Nebraska Program ***\$50,000.00***

The Healthy Families Nebraska Program is a voluntary, non-clinical, in-home visitation program that offers support and resources to pregnant mothers and their families. The program uses activities and discussions to provide positive parenting models that promote self-improvement, self-esteem, independence, problem solving, decision making and escaping destructive cycles.

**Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Domestic Violence Community Council \$30,000.00**

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

Ponca Tribe Domestic Violence Program \$30,000.00

This program refers victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking and their children (primarily Native Americans) to services that promote self sufficiency. The program provides advocacy and case management, community resource referrals, legal and court advocacy, job readiness training, counseling, emergency child care and other services.

Southwest Nebraska Child Advocacy Team \$45,000.00

Red Willow County

IMPACT \$45,000.00

The IMPACT project provides child abuse/neglect prevention through parent education, parent support and a resource library. The project incorporates Partners in Parenting, a weekly home visitation project. Other services include mentoring and life choices programs for youth.

Center for Conflict Resolution \$49,800.00

Scotts Bluff County

Family Safety Project \$49,800.00

This voluntary program coordinates with families in order to reduce the risk of harm to children and avoid court involvement. The project brings together community systems and informal supports to create a plan to suit the needs of each family and reduce safety risks.

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska \$30,000.00

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

Violence Intervention/Family Preservation \$30,000.00

This program provides intervention, education and counseling services for families caught in the cycle of violence and dysfunction. Among other services, the program works to foster family cohesion through the Family Healing Camp, which provides recreational, cultural and spiritual activities for program clients and other interested families.

York County Community Health Coalition \$10,000.00

York County

FIRST STEPS \$10,000.00

FIRST STEPS is a home visitation program offered to all parents in York County with children ages birth to five years. It is an early learning program that promotes health, safety and supportive environments, reduces child abuse and helps provide a foundation for children to reach their full potential.

2006 Foundation Milestones

Leading Policy Change

Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment

As the convener of the Nebraska Early Childhood Coalition, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation has been a leader in shaping policy change to improve the lives of our state's youngest citizens. In 2006, Nebraska Children was a key player in advancing legislation that resulted in the establishment of the **Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment**.

The interest and earnings generated by this innovative public-private fund, eventually about \$3 million annually, will be used to support early childhood programs and services for at-risk children ages birth to three. That same year, Nebraska's voters passed a constitutional amendment to allow a fraction of an existing public fund to be used for this purpose, and to redefine "school-age" to include children birth to five years old.

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation was subsequently selected by the State Board of Education to become the private endowment provider through a competitive proposal process. Over the next five years, Nebraska Children will raise private funds to be matched with public dollars.

A generous lead gift has been provided by the Buffett Early Childhood Fund. Community grants from the endowment fund will be administered by a Board of Trustees, which includes the Commissioner of Education, the CEO of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and four other Governor-appointed members, including two members representing the private sector.

Engaging Public Support

Learning from Day One

Engaging and educating the public about the importance of quality early learning experiences is a critical step in promoting positive outcomes for Nebraska's youngest children. In 2006, Nebraska Children launched **Learning from Day One**, a strategic communications campaign to encourage Nebraskans to invest time and resources in giving young lives the start they need. The campaign employs multimedia messaging based on new research in early childhood development, and is designed to be flexible and sustainable over several years.

Learning from Day One is being developed in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, the Nebraska Department of Education and other agencies and private partners. The campaign also incorporates the nationwide **Born Learning™** campaign, developed by United Way of America, Civitas, the Families and Work Institute and the Ad Council.

Uniting Families and Schools

Nebraska Parental Information and Resource Center

Evidence strongly suggests that student achievement in the classroom is directly affected by the degree of parents' involvement in the activities and policies of their children's schools. The Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC) project is a federal grant program intended to build viable, productive partnerships between families, educators and administrators so children's education is consistently reinforced at school and at home.

After a competitive application process, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, with the cooperation of the Munroe-Meyer Institute and the Nebraska Department of Education, was awarded a \$2.7 million federal grant to establish the **Nebraska Parental Information and Resource Center** (NE PIRC) Program. The program focuses on communities where parents face significant challenges to becoming involved in children's education due to poverty, language barriers and other factors.

Over the course of the five-year grant, the program will establish PIRCs in schools throughout the state, where parents and educators will be able to access tools and resources for building strong family-school relationships. The program also involves an intensive public engagement campaign to promote parent involvement through web-based tools, publications and other media.

Building Strong Partnerships

Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Partnership

In 2006, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation entered into a formal partnership with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) and the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board (NCAPFB) in order to more effectively advance abuse prevention efforts throughout the state. The Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Partnership brings together a more cohesive approach to grant-making, technical assistance and training, best practices for prevention, monitoring state trends and program evaluation. Prevent Child Abuse Nebraska, administered by Nebraska Children, is to be the implementation arm of the newly-formed partnership.

In August, the Prevention Partnership unveiled Growing Communities of Hope: The Nebraska Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Plan to over 300 participants at the annual "Children Need Everyday Heroes" conference in Kearney, Nebraska. The plan outlines the overall strategic vision of the Partnership, and includes a wealth of information on best practices in prevention and state trends in abuse and its prevention. The document was presented to Governor Heineman and distributed to state personnel, program administrators and direct service providers throughout Nebraska.

Nebraska Community Learning Collaborative

2006 saw a major step forward in the development of broad spectrum prevention systems throughout the state with the formation of the **Nebraska Community Learning Collaborative**. The Collaborative, coordinated by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation in association with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and other state agencies, builds upon the findings of the 2004-5 statewide Service Array assessment project.

The goals of the Collaborative are to promote common practices and procedures among service providers, build the infrastructure and capacity of prevention-focused agencies, and facilitate the sharing of resources and expertise among multiple partners within the communities themselves.

Nebraska's Promise

Helping young people to grow into self-sufficient, healthy and productive adults is an ongoing process that must occur at every stage of development. In 2006, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation took on a new role as the coordinating agency for **Nebraska's Promise**, a collaborative network of organizations and individuals dedicated to ensuring that young Nebraskans of all ages have the resources, support and opportunities they need to grow into successful citizens. Nebraska's Promise is a state-level partner of America's Promise, a nationwide alliance built upon the conviction that every child needs and deserves "Five Promises" in their lives. These promises are: 1) supportive relationships with caring adults, 2) safe places to learn and grow, 3) healthy bodies and minds, 4) education for marketable skills and 5) opportunities to contribute to their communities.

Much of the work of the Nebraska's Promise staff and committee members for 2006 focused on identifying indicators and collecting relevant data that will help paint a picture of how communities throughout the state measure up to the Five Promises, and what more can be done to make those promises a reality for Nebraska's children.

Strengthening Family Bonds

Camp Catch-Up 2006

All children face a wide range of serious challenges on the path to adulthood. For children separated from their siblings by foster care or adoption, lack of meaningful family contact can have profound effects on their sense of security, companionship and confidence. In 2004, Nebraska Children's Foster Youth Initiative launched **Camp Catch-Up** - an weekend-long retreat for brothers and sisters living in separate placements to reconnect with one another.

The camp offers a variety of fun and engaging activities for participants including crafts, outdoor sports and games intended to strengthen siblings' bonds and create a sense of continuity and support. Attendance at the camp is growing steadily as more and more children, foster parents and adoptive families learn about this innovative, annual event. 2006 saw the largest turnout yet with over hundred campers and staff combined.

Honoring Children's Champions

The 2006 Grace Abbott Awards

Honoring those who strive to improve the lives of children and families is about more than just bestowing an award upon a worthy recipient. It's about holding up to our communities a model worthy of emulation.

In the four years since it was established, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation's **Grace Abbott Awards** banquet has become the premier event for recognizing children's champions in the state of Nebraska. Named for the early twentieth century advocate for children and families and native of Grand Island, the award honors both an individual and a business whose contributions speak to the values our foundation works so hard to advance.

At this year's ceremony, Ally Milder was honored posthumously for her energetic and determined efforts to advance child-friendly policies and legislation in Nebraska. The 2006 corporate award was given to Cabela's, the Nebraska-based outdoor sports company, for promoting innovative opportunities for child and family engagement in and around its corporate headquarters in Sidney, NE.

The March 2006 awards ceremony drew over 260 guests and raised nearly \$20,000 from sponsorships, in-kind donations and ticket sales.

Foundation Personnel

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Cathie Petsch, *President*

Carol Russell, *Vice President*

Dr. Helen Raikes, *Secretary* [1/06 - 6/06]

Kate Sullivan, *Secretary* [6/06 - 12/06]

Bryan Shank, *Treasurer* [1/06 - 6/06]

Carmen Maurer, *Treasurer* [6/06 - 12/06]

Board Members

Dr. Alva Barnett [1/06-6/06]

Roger Doerr

Dr. Eric Jolly [1/06-6/06]

Marta Nieves

Joanne Shephard [6/06-12/06]

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Timothy White

Carole Woods Harris

J. Eric Buchanan

Dr. John N. Harms

Michael McQuillan

Dave Polson

Teri Teutsch

George Watson

Steve Wild [1/06-6/06]

Staff

Administration

Mary Jo Pankoke, *Executive Director*

Stacy Umbenhowe, *Director of Finance*

Katy Cantrell, *Office Manager*

Suzy Thompson, *Administrative Assistant*

Gail Javorsky, *Administrative Assistant*

Fund Development and Marketing

Mary Colacurci, *Director of Development*

Kelly Medwick, *Director of Marketing and Communications*

Gitte Ostermann, *Marketing and Communications Coordinator*

Policy and Advocacy

Jessie Rasmussen, *Director of Early Childhood Policy*

Michael Medwick, *Publications Coordinator*

Programs and Initiatives

Jennifer Skala, *Director of Programs and Evaluation*

Jeff Cole, *Director of Community Development* [10/06 - present]

Lynn Murray Smith, *Program Director - Prevent Child Abuse Nebraska*

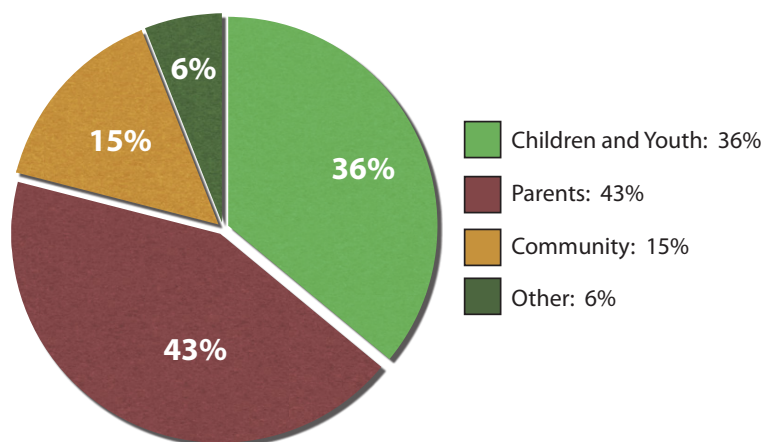
LaRon Henderson, *Program Coordinator - Nebraska Fatherhood Initiative*

Rose Hughes, *Program Coordinator - Positive Youth Development Programs*

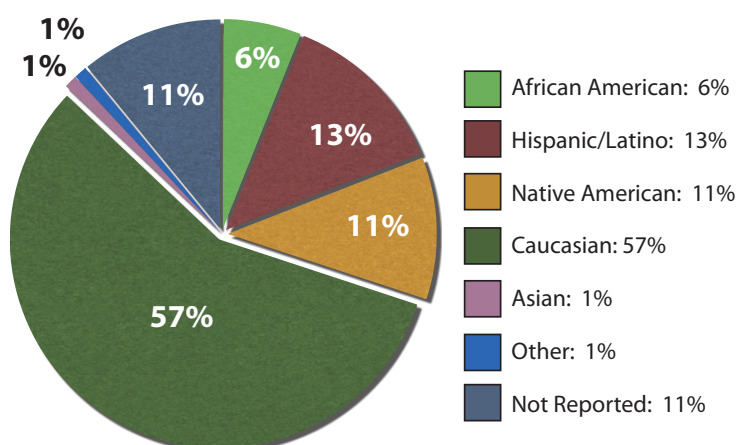
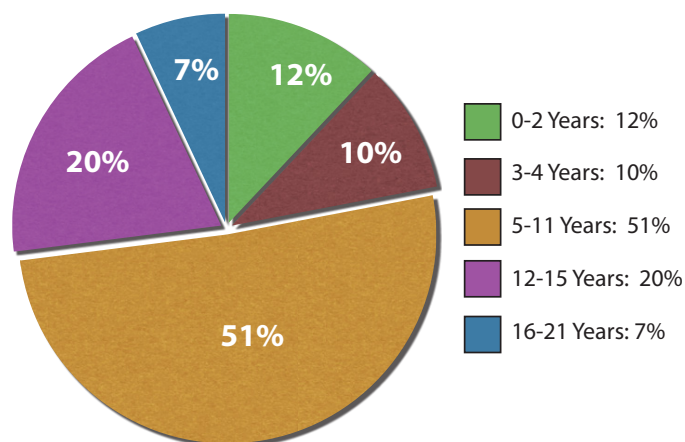
Jessica Hilderbrand, *Program Coordinator - Nebraska Foster Youth Initiative*

Performance Report

Distribution of Services



Participant Demographics



Children, Families and Communities Served

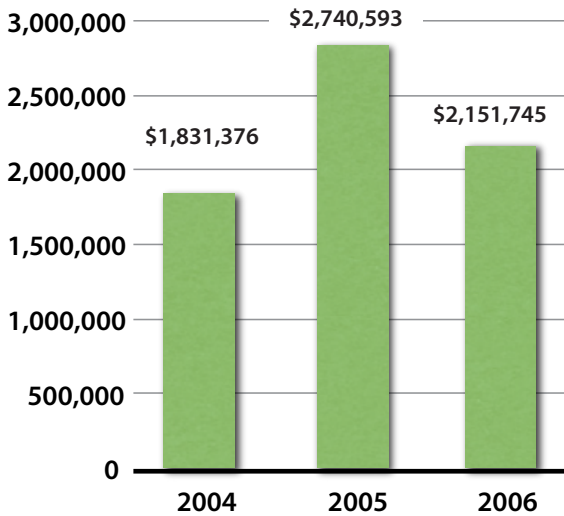
- Twenty-two implementation projects were funded.
- Six of the funded projects specifically targeted minority populations.
- The funded projects targeted a blend of services for children, youth, families and/or communities. The majority of project efforts were on children and youth (36%) or parents (43%).
- Direct services were provided to 585 families and 597 children/youth.
- Indirect services were provided to 7,345 families and 4,674 children.
- Thirty-two percent (32%) of the program services were provided to minorities.

Outcomes

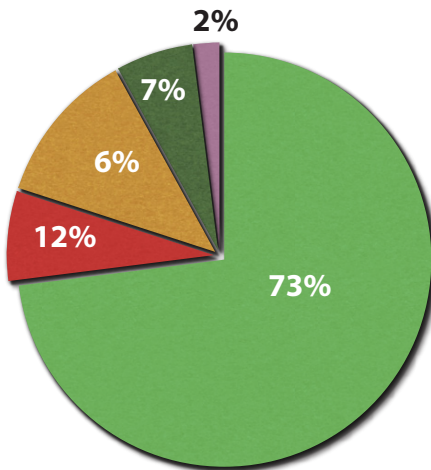
- The majority of children participating in an after-school program met or exceeded district standards in reading (71%) and math (69%).
- Youth who participated in NCFE-funded mentoring programs demonstrated improved grades, reported feeling that they had more options in their future, and got along better with others.
- Three programs serving parents through home visitation services found that family members' parenting skills improved.
- Parents learned leadership skills in a program that helped them support other families or participate in activities to improve their community (4.1 out of 5 on the Satisfaction Survey).
- Community councils had a very positive rating of collaboration (3.6 of 4 on the Working Together Surveys).
- Crime dropped at a great rate in the Clinton neighborhood compared to all other Lincoln neighborhoods. The decrease is thought to be largely influenced by neighborhood revitalization efforts connected with the NCFE-funded Free to Grow program.

Financials

Assets

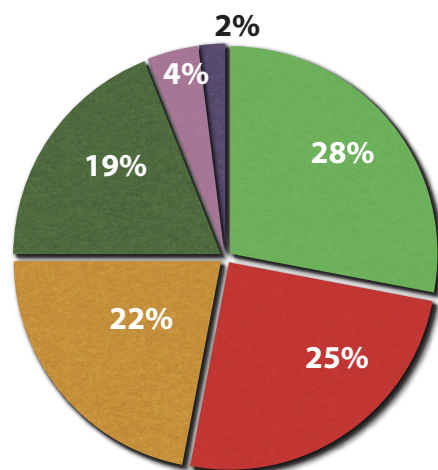


Revenue Breakdown 2006



State Grants :	\$2,364,119.63
Federal Grants:	212,032.37
Private Grants:	388,143.00
Donations:	212,032.37
Interest Income:	77,874.94
Total	\$3,245,408.94

Expense Breakdown 2006



Salaries & Benefits:	\$841,807.00
Grant Awards:	771,146.02
Program/Administrative Expenses:	670,697.82
HHSS Initiatives:	577,390.24
Technical Assistance	128,676.07
Special Events	61,454.85
Total	\$3,051,172.00

Individual Donors

Karen Abbott	L. Dale and Anna Haverty	Carol and Rick Russell
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	Ron and Diane Ross	

We apologize for the inadvertant omission of any donors' names.

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Private Grants

Buffett Early Childhood Fund
 National Women's Law Center

We apologize for the inadvertent omission of any donors' names.



Nebraska Children

AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION

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