

Nebraska Children
and Families Foundation 2008



A society that neglects its children, its most valuable and vulnerable resource, also neglects its future.

Ed Zigler, Ph.D. & Susan Muenchow



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Dear Friends,

2008 was a challenging year for all of us. Few escaped being affected in some way by the downturn in the economy. The pressure placed on Nebraska's families has been especially hard. It is clear that the work of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation is more urgent than ever.

Since our establishment in 1997, our work has been built upon the fact that far too many of Nebraska's children are subject to a serious opportunity gap that threatens their well being and puts them at risk of entering the state child welfare system. We maintain the best way to close this gap is to work 'upstream' to prevent problems before they start. We advocate for policy change and support programs that address the risk factors that may lead to child abuse and neglect, and failure in school. Finally, we believe the most effective way to achieve results is to collaborate with public and private partners to build efficient, comprehensive systems of support for children.

Despite the challenges of the past year – and possibly because of them – we worked hard to cultivate the resources, services, partnerships and policy measures to make it possible for children to thrive.

Whether you are a donor, community partner, policy maker or support us in some other way, we value your trust and confidence in the work we do. Thank you for joining us in ensuring that every child in Nebraska enjoys the "Good Life."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Jo Pankoke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Jo Pankoke
President



Early Childhood Care & Learning

Learning begins at birth. Sadly for many infants at risk, the achievement gap begins shortly thereafter. In fact, thirty-five percent of all of Nebraska's children under the age of three live in low-income conditions, the most prevalent risk factor for failure at school. Children facing this and other risk factors are often already a full year behind peers when they start school.

High-quality early intervention programs are proven to have lasting impact on the lives of children at risk. That's why the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation invests in early childhood policy and programming. We want to have an impact before this early, critical window of opportunity closes.

Through the Sixpence early learning fund, the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation puts high quality early learning experiences within the reach of more children at risk throughout the state. Sixpence funds center-based and home visitation programs to make the most of children's critical early years and strengthen the caregiving skills of teen and adult parents with very young children.

Sixpence is an innovative, nationally recognized public-private partnership between the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, the Nebraska Department of Education, and the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. The funds it administers are generated by the Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment, created through an amendment to the state's constitution in 2006.

“We are extremely pleased with the leadership role the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation played with the first year of implementing Sixpence. You have done an outstanding job of shepherding the development of a national model for a grant process that assures our funds are supporting high quality programs for the children most at risk in Nebraska.”

*Daniel Pedersen, President
Buffett Early Childhood Fund*

Highlights

- Visited each of the 49 State Senators to discuss district-specific data showing the importance of investing in early childhood care and education.
- Hosted the Birth to Three Early Childhood Research Conference. Nearly 350 educators, practitioners and community stakeholders gathered with national experts to discuss promising practices and policies.
- Administered the Sixpence early learning fund, which awarded over \$1.7 million dollars to 11 communities across the state to support centers and programs for infants and toddlers at risk.



Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention

According to Frank Putnam, M.D. of the National Institute of Mental Health, a multi-billion dollar research base annually supports cancer treatment and prevention. Nothing remotely similar exists for child abuse and neglect. Yet, the incidence of child abuse and neglect is ten times as high as that for all forms of cancer.

Every year, the national epidemic of child abuse and neglect denies thousands of children the right and opportunity to grow up in safe, stable and nurturing environments. The cost to society in consequence of these damaged young lives is immense. The cost to the children themselves is simply beyond calculation.

As the home of the state chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation is committed to making the elimination of this epidemic a reality.

In 2008, the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation took another step forward in implementing the Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Plan, an ambitious blueprint for reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect in Nebraska by twenty percent over the next ten years.

“Prevent Child Abuse Nebraska demonstrates the value of collaboration for children and families on a daily basis. Their approach to blending funding streams for overall outcomes is a model from which many of our chapters can learn.”

*Barbara Shaffer
Senior Director of Chapter Services
Prevent Child Abuse America*

Highlights

- Advised 17 local child abuse prevention councils across the state on ways to increase community involvement in abuse and neglect prevention efforts.
- Deployed an original public messaging campaign, *Rethink Your Reaction*, promoting safe and healthy responses to stress through positive family interactions.
- Organized and hosted the 7th Annual Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Conference, *Children Need Everyday Heroes*. Five national speakers, including the President/CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America shared information and insights with more than 250 professionals.



School-Community Partnerships

National research indicates that more than 14 million K-12 youth (25%) are responsible for taking care of themselves after school. Studies suggest that many of these children are more prone to obesity, more susceptible to the temptations of alcohol, drugs and sexual activity, and more likely to become victims of crime.

Conversely, when children spend time outside of the traditional school day in enriched learning activities, they commonly show significant gains in academic performance and positive social development.

Through the Nebraska Community Learning Center Network, the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation is uniquely positioned to help enhance the quality of children's educational experiences. Our work at the systems level – both in state government and with local communities – promotes these partnerships and helps communities to re-think how existing resources can be utilized more effectively to serve the varied needs of youth at risk.

The Nebraska Children and Families Foundation also works to enhance children’s learning experiences through the Nebraska Parental Information and Resource Center. This program focuses on creating partnerships between parents and educators to maximize the effectiveness of schools and children’s time learning in and outside the classroom.

These efforts gain even more momentum through our Nebraska Fatherhood Initiative and programs like Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students), which involves fathers more closely in their children’s educational development through volunteer, in-school activities.

“[We] truly value and appreciate our partnership with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.”

*Leon Golden, Specialist
Student and Community Relations
Omaha Public Schools*

Highlights

- Partnered with the Governor’s Office to convene the Extended Learning Opportunities Summit, a meeting of national and local policy makers, educators, community leaders and other stakeholders to explore the role that extended learning programs can and should play in enhancing educational opportunities for Nebraska’s youth.
- Supported program events instructing over 2,500 fathers of children in more than 20 schools throughout Lincoln and Omaha on how to partner with educators to increase children’s academic achievement.
- Established PIRC centers in 38 schools throughout Omaha, Lincoln, Walthill and Lexington to increase school-parent partnerships on the community level.



Foster Youth Initiative

The typical 19-year-old coming from a supportive family can expect emotional and financial assistance for years, but once a foster youth turns 19 the state is no longer legally obligated to provide support. The current outlook for foster youth transitioning to adulthood is alarming.

Research shows that four years after leaving foster care, only 46% of youth have graduated from high school, 25% have been homeless, 42% have become parents themselves, and fewer than 20% are successfully self-supporting.

Through the Foster Youth Initiative, the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation creates opportunities for youth who are facing the challenges of moving through the foster care system and making the step into independent living. By supporting local, youth-led councils we address the needs of foster youth including housing, employment, education, healthcare and community engagement.

In 2008, the Foster Youth Initiative initiated a number of projects including the Omaha Independent Living Plan, an innovative blueprint for shaping public policy and coordinating existing resources to help foster youth grow into self sufficiency; a collaboration with the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative to develop a co-investment program that helps foster youth grow their financial resources; and a partnership with Nebraska's Independent Colleges to enable more foster youth to pursue higher education.

“The amount of work and the process they [the Foster Youth Council] went through to develop this youth-driven Independent Living Plan were impressive.”

*Shannon Brower
Jim Casey Youth
Opportunities Initiative*

Highlights

- Coordinated 18 presentations by Foster Youth Council members to foster parents, caseworkers, service providers, administrators, and other stakeholders.
- Reunited 62 siblings separated by foster care for four days of fun, bonding and ‘just being kids’ during Camp Catch-Up.
- Granted approximately \$18,000 to 51 foster youth and alumni of foster care to assist with basic needs.



Grant Making

Communities where children and families can thrive means communities where programs and services are comprehensive, accessible and sustainable. The Nebraska Children and Families Foundation pursues this goal by working with communities to identify needs and gaps in available services, helping service providers implement best practices, and evaluating communities' efforts to ensure positive results.

Our financial support of community programs through grant making is enhanced by our experience in leveraging and braiding funds, as well as seeking out new dollars. Helping programs cultivate sustainable sources of revenue and get the greatest impact from their funds is an essential part of our philosophy of stewardship.

“I thought Good Beginnings (funded by the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation) was a great help in getting through the many hurdles I encountered in my pathway to motherhood. Thank you, you are an angel sent from heaven.”

Participating parent in the Good Beginnings home visitation program

Highlights

- Awarded 23 grants totaling \$643,414 which directly impacted 2,340 families and 1,267 children.
- Funded leadership and mentoring programs where over 94% of the youth participating rated themselves more active in supporting their community.
- Funded independent living skills activities where a majority (82%) of participating foster youth graduated from high school and demonstrated independent living skills that enable them to be successful community members (100%).

- Funded home visitation programs where participating parents demonstrated significant changes in their parenting skills and improved access to community resources.
- Funded family support programs where participating parents demonstrated significant improvement in their confidence in parenting and meeting the needs of their families.

Community Grant Awards

Child Abuse Prevention

Dawes/Sioux Counties	Family Preservation Coalition	\$14,063
Lancaster County	CEDARS ECDC Parent Circle: <i>Therapeutic Child Care</i>	\$22,000
Lancaster County	Lincoln Medical Education Partnership: <i>Young Family's Program</i>	\$36,000
Lancaster County	YWCA of Lincoln: <i>Take a Break</i>	\$37,500
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska	Omaha Nation Community Response Team: <i>Huthuga Project</i>	\$41,250
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska	Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Domestic Violence Community Council	\$30,000
Red Willow County	Southwest Nebraska Child Advocacy Team: <i>IMPACT</i>	\$22,500

Home Visitation Programs for New Parents

Panhandle Counties	Regional West Medical Center: <i>Children's Outreach Program</i>	\$6,250
Douglas County	Omaha Healthy Start General Council: <i>Fathers for a Lifetime</i>	\$33,000
Nuckolls County	Human Interagency Services: <i>Good Beginnings/Safe Start</i>	\$15,500
Phelps County	Two Rivers Public Health Department: <i>Building Blocks</i>	\$26,500
Platte, Colfax, Boone & Nance Counties	Columbus Community Hospital: <i>Healthy Families Nebraska</i>	\$50,000
York County	York County Community Health Coalition: <i>FIRST STEPS</i>	\$10,000

Families At Risk of Entering the State Child Welfare System

Box Butte County	Box Butte County Family Preservation Coalition	\$26,000
Scotts Bluff County	Center for Conflict Resolution: <i>Family Safety Project</i>	\$49,800
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska	Winnebago Tribe: <i>Violence Intervention and Family Preservation</i>	\$15,000

Prevention of Substance Abuse in Adolescents

Douglas County	Child Saving Institute & Camp Fire USA: <i>Bridges to Success</i>	\$45,000
Hall County	Youth Leadership Tomorrow/Community Youth Council/Multicultural Coalition	\$14,062
Lincoln County	Community Connections of Lincoln County, Inc.	\$24,000
Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska	Santee Sioux Nation Child Protection Team: <i>Family Preservation Program</i>	\$15,000

Learning Collaborative Awards *(Granted to communities working toward sustainable collaborations)*

Cherry County	North Central NE Child Abuse Prevention: <i>Prevention System for the Future</i>	\$40,500
Hall County	Community Youth Council: <i>Coalition for Children</i>	\$26,489
Keith County	Support with Action Team: <i>Community Collaboration</i>	\$43,000



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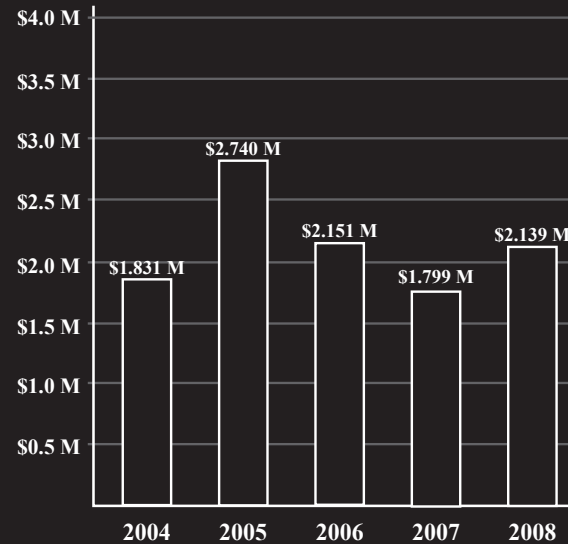
Revenue Breakdown

Private Grants	\$1,942,311
State Grants	\$1,725,784
Federal Grants	\$867,796
Donations	\$89,815
Interest Income	\$67,001
Total	\$4,692,707

Expense Distribution

Grant Awards	\$1,203,588
Program Expenses	\$1,402,060
Administrative Expenses	\$795,553
Fundraising	\$137,114
Total	\$3,538,315

Assets





Nebraska Children
AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION

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www.NebraskaChildren.org