

**HONORING RAINMAKER  
DICK HOLLAND**

**BETTER  
TOGETHER**

**FINDING  
SOLID GROUND**

**LEAVING A  
LEGACY**

# Spout

**Drops of Change for Children**  
Nebraska Children and Families Foundation Fall 2010





## Making Good at It



As a new school year begins, we cannot ignore the children who will start school behind their peers. Without the kind of beginning that leads to a successful, productive and healthy future, too many children in Nebraska do not have the opportunity to experience their true potential.

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation works with communities to overcome barriers like poverty, poor nutrition, addiction and abuse that hold our children back. By engaging decision makers and helping communities find solutions, we create positive change for children.

Since our beginning we've known that to make a big difference, we must not act alone. Our ability to form partnerships and work together is what makes us unique. This newsletter exemplifies the impact of bringing people together for the good of children.

Using the words of Grace Abbott, we would like to thank our UpPour and Camp Catch Up sponsors for supporting us in "doing the next thing and making good at it":

**American National Bank; BKD, LLP; BryanLGH Health System; Cabela's; Catering Creations; Cline Williams Law Firm; INSPRO Insurance; MediBadge, Inc.; Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; Omaha Steaks; Oriental Trading Company; Peetz & Co.; Prairie Life Fitness; RDG Planning & Design; Sherwood Foundation; U.S. Bank; Union Bank; University of Nebraska Omaha; and William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation.**

Thank you for your partnership in creating change for the children among us who need it the most.

Sincerely,  
*Mary Jo*

Mary Jo Pankoke

*"Doing the next thing, and making good at it has this certain advantage: you can never tell what new and possibly thrilling experience is lying in wait, just around the corner."*  
– Grace Abbott, 1887–1939



## **Honoring Rainmaker Dick Holland**

*Now more than ever, people are being called to contribute their talents and resources. Commonly known as philanthropists, we call them Rainmakers.*

Friends and supporters gathered in April at the second annual UpPour event. The happy occasion not only celebrated the work of Nebraska Children and Families Foundation but it also recognized Omaha rainmaker and businessman, Dick Holland as our 2010 Grace Abbott Award honoree.

Dick, a retired advertising executive, and his late wife, Mary have dedicated much of their lives to the well being of children. Mike Fahey, Honorary Chairman of UpPour said, "For Dick Holland, life is not a spectator sport. The challenges our community faces, especially of those faced by local children, he views as opportunities. He does not sit back and wait for others to find a solution to a problem. Instead, he rolls up his sleeves and makes a difference."

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation has recognized many rainmakers over the years through the Grace Abbott Award. Grace, a Grand Island native, served as Director of the U.S. Children's Bureau, represented the United States in the League of Nations and helped craft the Social Security Act of 1935. She worked tirelessly for the rights of women, immigrants and children.

Past recipients of the Grace Abbott Award include: Dr. Doug Christensen; A. Mike Alesio; Senator Kathy Campbell; Donna Tubach Davis; JoAnn LeBaron; Ally Milder (posthumous); BryanLGH Medical Center; Cabela's; ConAgra Foods; Duncan Aviation; and First National Bank.

Learn more about how you can become a Rainmaker by contacting Meg Johnson at [mjohnson@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:mjohnson@nebraskachildren.org) or 402.817.2002.



*Top: Mike Fahey, Mary Jo Pankoke, Eric Buchanan, Mary Colacurci, Sally Ganem.  
Below: Dick Holland, MaryAnn Holland*



## Better Together

Kids enter foster care for many different reasons. Yet, the most common stem from abuse and neglect at home. Often it is the bond between brothers and sisters who survive these experiences together that helps them sustain. When entrance into foster care disrupts sibling bonds, due to being placed in different settings, it can be traumatic.

This is why in 2003 Nebraska Children and Families Foundation established Camp Catch Up, a one-of-a-kind camp that re-connects siblings who have been separated by foster care or adoption. Dozens of kids, 8–19 years old, temporarily put the stressors of their court cases, therapy sessions and foster care experiences aside to join their brothers and sisters for a weekend of fun, food, games and sports.

This year, over 100 campers came to Camp Catch Up at 4-H Camp in either Halsey or Gretna, Nebraska. Activities are specifically designed to strengthen family bonds. Sibling groups have special photos taken, participate in a talent show, enjoy crafts, swim and stay up past 'lights out' to talk and catch up.

Camp is something to look forward to. The Whelchel kids couldn't wait to get back to Camp Catch Up this year. Rueben (15 years old), Arielle (11), Thomas (10) and Josefina (9) live with their adopted parents on a farm between Kimball and Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Their older brother, Carlos (16), lives over an hour away making it challenging to get all the kids together. They saw each other just once last year.



*Josefina, Carlos, Thomas and Arielle Whelchel*



Thanks to Camp Catch Up, these siblings had the opportunity to reconnect. “Camp is so positive and so well organized. The activities work on teamwork and learning to trust your siblings. The kids built great memories,” says mom, Laura Whelchel. Laura also expressed how the camp experience opens up very positive conversations. “The kids are so bubbly and full of energy when they come back. They have wonderful stories.”

To make each family group stand out at camp, siblings wear t-shirts that are the same color. These shirts have images of graham crackers, marshmallows, and chocolate with the saying “Better Together”. Camp Catch Up promotes: “Some things are great on their own, like you and your siblings. But, when together, you’re s’more.”





## Finding Solid Ground

Turning 19 meant life on their own for 664 youth who aged out of foster care in Nebraska last year.

Many young people without stable connections struggle on their path to adulthood. The statistics for foster youth transitioning to independent living are alarming. Research shows that when compared to their peers, youth who leave foster care are more likely to drop out of high school, be unemployed or become dependent on public assistance.

In 2007, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation led an intensive youth-driven planning process involving over forty public and private partners to create the Omaha Independent Living Plan. This plan became Project Everlast, a grassroots effort that promotes using community resources to improve youth's opportunities and networks for housing, transportation, health care, education, and employment.

Thanks to a grant from the Sherwood Foundation, plans for Project Everlast to reach across the state in Lincoln, Norfolk, Grand Island, North Platte and Scottsbluff are underway. Based on the successful model in Omaha, young people, service providers and local partners will come together to assess gaps in services and together determine ways to fulfill unmet needs in their community.

Project Everlast's ultimate goal is for foster youth ages 16–24 to find solid ground—to have access to community supports and connections that lead them to happy, healthy and productive lives with a sense of belonging.





## Leaving a Legacy

There are many ways you can join our work to help children reach their full potential. One simple way to leave a charitable gift is by designating Nebraska Children and Families Foundation as a beneficiary.

Naming individuals and charities who will receive your assets once you have passed away is an important process. Some assets pass to your heirs through your will. Other assets, such as an IRA, retirement plans and life insurance policies, are not controlled by the terms of your will. Instead, they require separate beneficiary forms.\*

Financial planning professionals suggest you check and update your beneficiary designations on a regular basis. While some people update their wills and trusts frequently, we tend to neglect retirement accounts or life insurance beneficiaries. Life changes such as a birth of a child, marriage or divorce, change of your needs or new charitable interests may affect your beneficiary designation.\*\*

To name or change a beneficiary, simply contact the administrator of the retirement plan or life insurance policy for a change of beneficiary form. If you would like to name Nebraska Children and Families Foundation as a beneficiary, decide what percentage of the plan's value (0–100%) you would like us to receive and name us, along with the stated percentage, on the beneficiary form. Then return the form to the plan administrator.\*

Consulting with your professional tax advisors (an estate planning attorney, tax accountant or other qualified professionals) when considering charitable gifts and determining tax consequences and benefits for your specific situation is highly recommended as information in this article is not intended as legal advice.

If you decide to designate Nebraska Children and Families Foundation as a beneficiary, we hope you will let us know so we can thank you. If you wish to be anonymous, your gift will remain confidential.

For more information about leaving a legacy gift please contact:

Meg Johnson

Associate VP of Development

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*\*Source: The Stelter Company \*\*Source: Denise Appleby, Appleby Retirement Consulting.  
Contributing Writer: Investopedia – A Forbes Digital Company*



## **Create Positive Change**

Our children, families, communities  
and state are counting on us.

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