



Nebraska
Children
AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION

2007
Annual
Report

MOMENTUM



M O M E N T



We're on the move!

Letter from the Executive Director

Think back to the days when you were learning to ride a bike. Remember pushing down hard on those pedals, feeling the gathering momentum as the wheels turned, oh so gradually at first? Just a little faster . . . and a little faster . . . the wobble in the frame of the bicycle growing less and less. Then – that indescribable moment of perfect balance. And off you went.

Organizations like Nebraska Children and Families Foundation begin their journeys in much the same way. Every child who learns to ride a bike intuitively knows that the secret isn't about starting off as fast as you can go. It's about growing in balance, grace and controlled momentum.

Since its establishment in 1997, Nebraska Children has been gradually building these qualities. Over the course of the past year alone, we've attracted talented and accomplished staff members to become part of our team, taken on a wide range of in-house projects, and helped dozens of community organizations reach more and more children and families with essential services. We've successfully helped to shape public policy that will have far-reaching impact on young lives for years to come. We've grown not only in our own self-confidence, but in the confidence that our partners, grantees and funders place in us.

More than ever, we're ready to help other agencies, organizations and individuals achieve their own balance and momentum in the pursuit of improving the lives of children and families throughout Nebraska.

I invite you to join us - we've still got a remarkable journey ahead.



Mary Jo Pankoke
Executive Director

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For some families, moving forward is harder

MOMENTUM

As a single mother with a toddler and a six-month-old baby, Jill already faced serious obstacles to her ability to provide for her family. Trying to hold down a full-time evening job and arrange for safe and reliable childcare while battling depression soon made those challenges overwhelming.

When a local physician reported that Jill's six-month-old was underweight, it was a warning sign of other problems facing Jill and her kids. The baby showed signs of developmental delay. Neither child was up-to-date on their immunizations. Jill herself was undernourished and suffering from other health issues.

Help was needed, and soon.



than it ought to be.

Good Beginnings, a program based in Nuckolls County that connects struggling families with comprehensive health support, parent training and home visitation services, stepped in to give Jill the help she needed to get her family back on track.

The Good Beginnings staff helped Jill to train herself to better manage her children's health, nutrition and development. Within two months, her baby was gaining weight normally and soon began showing more age-appropriate developmental skills. Both children are receiving necessary check-ups and preventative care. Just as importantly, Jill is doing better at monitoring her own physical and mental health so she can stay on top of her job as mom.

Jill and her family still have a challenging journey ahead of them. But with the skills and resources she acquired through the Good Beginnings program, her family is moving forward and growing stronger, healthier and happier in the process.

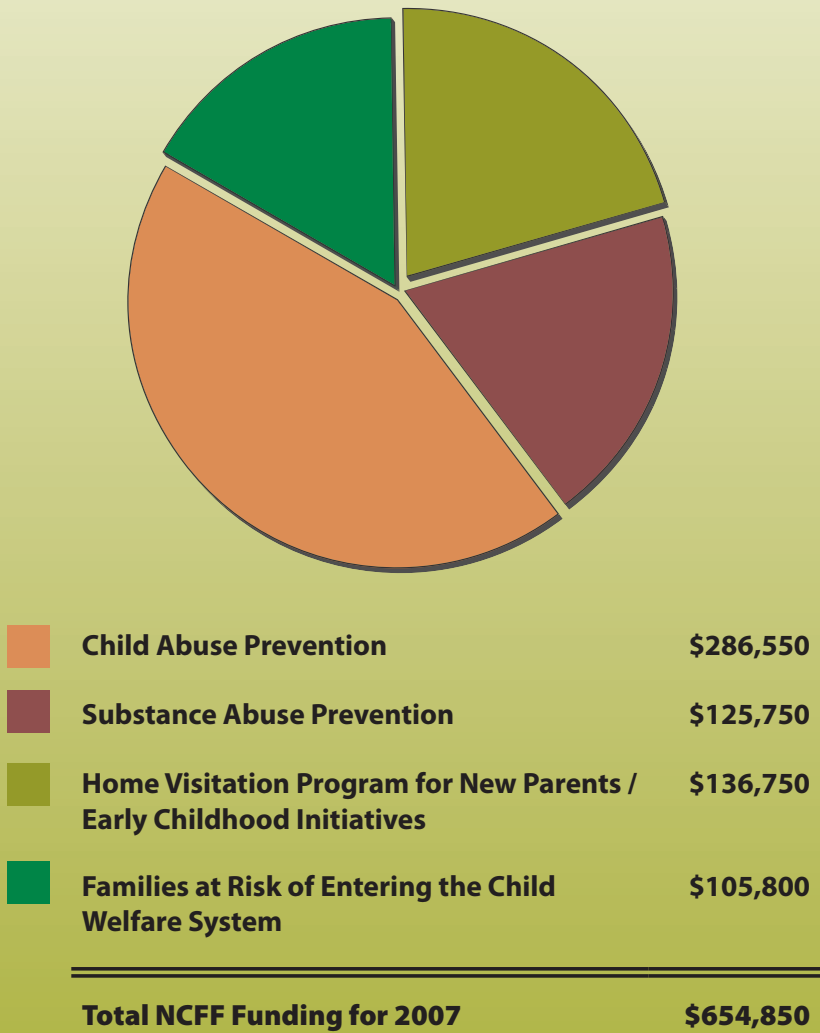


Good Beginnings was just one of nearly two dozen projects funded by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation throughout the state in 2007.

Our rigorous evaluation process enables us to identify and support programs that are based on valid research, employ sound strategy, and focus on measurable results in **helping children and families stay on track and moving forward.**

FUNDED PROGRAMS

Funding By Program Type



Panhandle Partnership for Health and Human Services **\$6,250.00**
Sioux, Dawes, Sheridan, Box Butte, Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Garden, Banner, Kimball, Cheyenne and Deuel Counties

Children’s Outreach Program
This home visitation program is available free of charge to all families with newborns residing in the 11 Panhandle counties of Nebraska. It provides health assessments of mothers and infants, safety checklists, education, general assessments of the home, proper usage of infant safety seats, as well as referrals as needed. The program is intended to advance the overall well-being of families.

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

Box Butte County Family Focus Coalition
This project serves families at risk in Box Butte County with an emphasis on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The program arranges home visitation services by Family Advocates who help at-risk families to develop a network of “wrap around” supports - professional personnel, friends and other family members. Family Advocates help families set goals for healthy development in areas such as parenting, housekeeping, safety, and budgeting.

Dawes/Sioux County Family Preservation Coalition **\$18,750.00**
Dawes/Sioux Counties

Crawford RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program)
Crawford RSVP involves retired and senior citizens in inter-generational volunteer work throughout the community including senior/youth mentoring, parenting instruction and other areas of service.

Western Community Health Resources - Family Advocate Program

This program works with families to develop their own, individualized family success plans by helping them to identify needs and meet goals through formal and informal community supports.

Family Rescue Services

The Family Rescue Services education project focuses on helping families develop healthy relationships, set appropriate personal boundaries and understand the cycle of violence. The project collaborates with area schools, youth groups and community groups to educate the public on topics such as domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and child abuse.

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

Douglas County

Omaha Healthy Start - Fathers for a Lifetime

Fathers for a Lifetime is a community-based initiative designed to promote and support responsible fatherhood and male involvement among men ages 16 to 60 residing in Douglas County. Program services are delivered to volunteer participants through a series of ten-week educational sessions and one-on-one case management and care coordination.

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

Douglas and Sarpy Counties

Bridges to Success

This joint program provides a battery of wrap-around services designed to prepare youth for independent living, including those who are aging out of the child welfare system or are otherwise lacking family support. Program components include individual assessments, case management, training and support groups, and monthly “Family Night” events. The service components are designed to support and train youth on multiple levels - individually as well as in a group setting.

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation is committed to supporting programs that help at-risk youth take steps towards adulthood and self-sufficiency.

The **Bridges to Success** program (Douglas and Sarpy Counties) helps fulfill this critical need. In 2007, 100% of the participating youth

- remained in school, or completed high school equivalent
- completed employment training and job placement
- showed measurable improvement in independent living skills



FUNDED PROGRAMS

Community Youth Council, Grand Island

\$18,750.00

Hall County

Youth Leadership Tomorrow

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

Multicultural Coalition and Center

The Multicultural Center has become a “one stop” centralized resource providing service referrals for school enrollment, banking assistance, legal aid, employment, medical care, immunizations, Medicaid, immigration and housing. Its services help minority populations assimilate into the community.

Lincoln Action Program

\$28,000.00

Lancaster County

Lincoln Free to Grow

Lincoln Free to Grow is an innovative program that focuses on strengthening families and the neighborhoods in which they live as a strategy for confronting the interrelated problems of substance abuse and child abuse/neglect. Free to Grow gathers broad-based community support for improving children's environments through neighborhood safety and revitalization.

"Take a Break" Respite Council

\$50,000.00

Lancaster County

Take a Break (TAB)

This program conducted at the YWCA of Lincoln provides respite services to caregivers of children between the ages of six weeks and twelve years. Activities and programming are designed to engage children in supportive play and learning, and accommodate children with special needs as well as typically-developing children. Take a Break also provides referral services to caregivers, as well as training/collaboration opportunities with volunteers and other community partners.



Lincoln Medical Education Partnership	\$36,300.00
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Lancaster County

Young Family's Program

The Young Family's Program provides a comprehensive battery of integrated services to new and expectant parents at a single, convenient location. Services offered include advocacy and coordination of community resources, substance abuse assessment and referral, counseling, prenatal and infant care education, childbirth education and on-site nutritional support services (WIC).

Research demonstrates that home visitation and education programs are effective in helping new parents to become better care-givers for their children.

Funded programs like **Good Beginnings/Safe Start** and **Children's Outreach** provided services that resulted in

- increased feelings of self-confidence and capability reported by parents of newborns
 - measurable gains in parenting skills related to car safety, nutrition and appropriate response to children's cues
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CEDARS ECDC Parent Circle	\$33,000.00
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Lancaster County

Therapeutic Child Care

This program provides support and training to teachers and consultation services to parents of very young children with potential and verified emotional/behavioral disabilities. The program also conducts observation of specific children with serious behavior problems in child care.

Community Connections of Lincoln County, Inc.	\$32,000.00
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Lincoln County

Community Connections of Lincoln County, Inc.

A comprehensive community program that focuses on youth, Community Connections incorporates substance abuse, mentoring, asset development, out-of-school and tobacco control programming. Community Connections also develops service-focused activities for teens in Lincoln County.

Human Interagency Services	\$15,500.00
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Nuckolls County

Good Beginnings/Safe Start

Good Beginnings/Safe Start is a multi-faceted, community-based program that assists area families in enhancing their capacity to raise a healthy and well-adjusted child in an abuse-free environment. The program provides access to comprehensive physical and mental health support, parenting education and training, and home visitation services conducted by professional staff. Participation in the program is free, voluntary and accommodates families with children from the prenatal period through age five.

FUNDED PROGRAMS

Omaha Nation Community Response Team	\$41,250.00
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Omaha Tribe of Nebraska

Huthuga Project

The Huthuga Project provides a range of culturally-relevant direct services designed to promote healthier family relationships and decrease the rates of child abuse/neglect and domestic violence among families living on the Omaha Reservation. The project also focuses on enhancing family/community bonds through Talking Circles, trainings and seminars, and traditional ceremonies.

Two Rivers Public Health Department	\$26,500.00
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Phelps County

Building Blocks

The Building Blocks program provides supports to expectant parents and parents of children up to five years of age. The program’s services are designed to promote positive parenting, child health and development in order to help caregivers create and maintain family environments that are emotionally positive and physically safe.

Columbus Community Hospital	\$50,000.00
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Platte, Colfax, Boone & Nance Counties

Healthy Families Nebraska Program

This voluntary, home visitation program provides education, support and resources to pregnant young women (particularly single mothers) and their families in order to break the multi-generational cycle of teenaged pregnancies, child abuse/neglect, and dependence on the state welfare system.

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

Ponca Tribe Domestic Violence Program

This program serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and/or stalking within the Ponca community. Services offered include case management, legal advocacy, transportation, housing and employment advocacy, family violence education, resource referrals, access to counseling, emergency child care assistance, access to parenting education, and individualized safety planning.

Southwest Nebraska Child Advocacy Team	\$33,750.00
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Red Willow County

IMPACT

IMPACT is a project that provides comprehensive services from birth to twelfth grade. Project components include home visitation for parents of young children, a parenting support group and resource library, mentoring for local youth, parenting education classes intended to help parents reduce at-risk behavior in older children and youth.

Santee Sioux Nation	\$30,000.00
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Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska

Dakota Family Way of Life/Strengthening Families

This program is a cultural adaptation of Strengthening Families, a nationally-recognized substance abuse prevention program. It serves families with children ages 10 to 14 years old, and reinforces Dakota language and culture while strengthening practical skills in anger and stress management, parenting, gender relationships and other factors.

Center for Conflict Resolution **\$49,800.00**

Scotts Bluff County

Family Safety Project

This project uses early intervention to divert high and medium risk families from entering the child protection and juvenile justice systems. These research-based interventions include family group conferencing, wrap-around services, child-centered family practice, and personal and community resource development. Family participation is voluntary.

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska **\$30,000.00**

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

Violence Intervention/Family Preservation

This project is focused on breaking the cycle of family dysfunction through violence intervention, education and counseling. Like other programs in Nebraska's native communities, the project focuses on addressing family stress through reinforcing the customs and traditions of the tribe.

Respite programs for parents and caregivers are recognized as an effective method for reducing familial stress and creating more positive home environments for children.

In 2007, Lincoln's **Take a Break** program, funded in part by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, provided respite services to parents through dynamic, multi-cultural activities for the children of 150 families in the capital city area.

York County Community Health Coalition **\$10,000.00**

York County

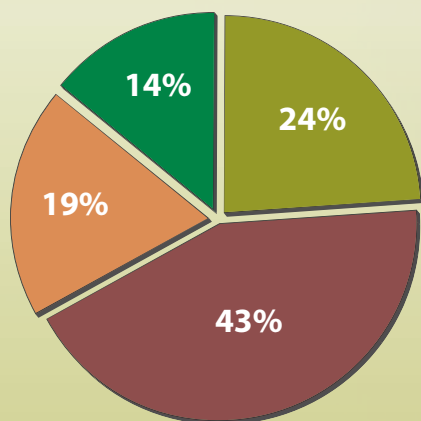
First Steps

First Steps is a home visitation program offered to all parents in York County with children from birth to age five, providing education and support about children's health, safety, parent/child bonding, effective communication, child development and positive parenting.



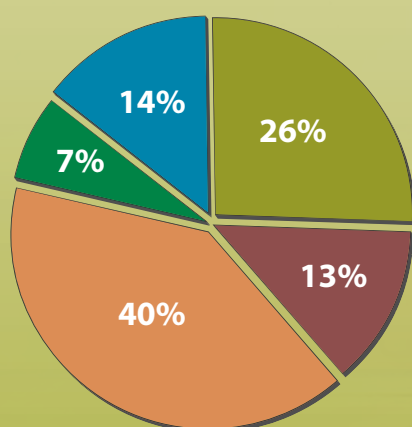
FUNDED PROGRAMS: PERFORMANCE REPORT

Distribution of Services

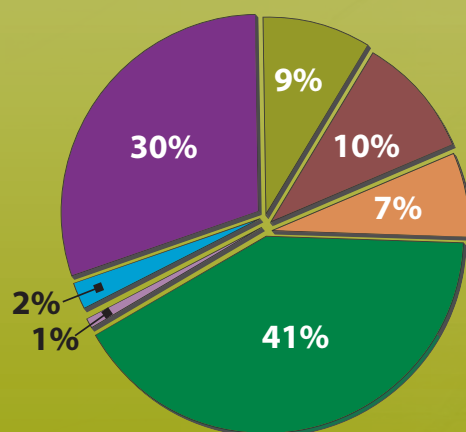


Population Type	
Children & Youth	24%
Parents	43%
Communities	19%
Other	14%

Participant Demographics



Ages of Children & Youth Served	
0-2 Years	26%
3-4 Years	13%
5-11 Years	40%
12-15 Years	7%
16-21 Years	14%



Ethnicity of Participants (Adults & Children)	
African American	9%
Hispanic/Latino	10%
Native American	7%
Caucasian	41%
Asian	14%
Other	2%
Not Reported	30%

Children, Families and Communities Served

- Twenty-two implementation projects and three Learning Collaborative projects were funded.
- Thirty-five percent (35%) of funded services 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 (24%) or parents (43%).
- Direct services were provided to 2,294 families and 4,699 children/youth. These services included parent education classes, youth mentoring, home visitation and wrap-around family support.
- Indirect services were provided to 5,806 families and 4,205 children. These services included workshops, conferences, family nights and neighborhood gatherings.

Additional Highlights of Funded Projects

- Youth participating in Community Connections, a Lincoln County-based mentoring program, reported having better relationships with adults (100%), demonstrated better preparedness for success in school (100%), and were less inclined to use drugs and alcohol (94%).
- The evaluation of the Ponca Tribe Domestic Violence Project indicated that women's participation in the program resulted in increased self-esteem (92%), independence (75%), and connection with community resources (67%).
- Community revitalization efforts in Lincoln through the Free to Grow program involved 770 neighborhood residents participating in 9 separate events.

Service, demographic and outcomes data are adapted from the Nebraska Children and Families Annual Evaluation Report 2007, prepared by Munroe-Meyer Institute, University of Nebraska Medical Center (May, 2008).

**There is no work
more important
than helping
children move
safely and
successfully
through the
stages of
growing up**



FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS

MOMENTUM

Ten Years of Progress

In 1997, **Nebraska Children and Families Foundation** was created at the recommendation of a task force of citizens to unite Nebraska communities and government agencies around a central premise – that the way to address the breakdown in child welfare and family support is to focus on prevention.

The organization built upon that premise would be instrumental in advancing statewide efforts to create a system of care that fulfills the promise of the Good Life for Nebraska's children and their families.

This year, Nebraska Children and Families celebrated ten years of progress with an open house that brought together some of our key founders with many of the champions who have joined our mission along the way.



From left to right: Former Senator and founding member Jessie Rasmussen, Governor Dave Heineman, Nebraska First Lady Sally Ganem, NCCF Executive Director Mary Jo Pankoke, NCCF Board President Cathie Petsch, and former Senator and founding member Vard Johnson.

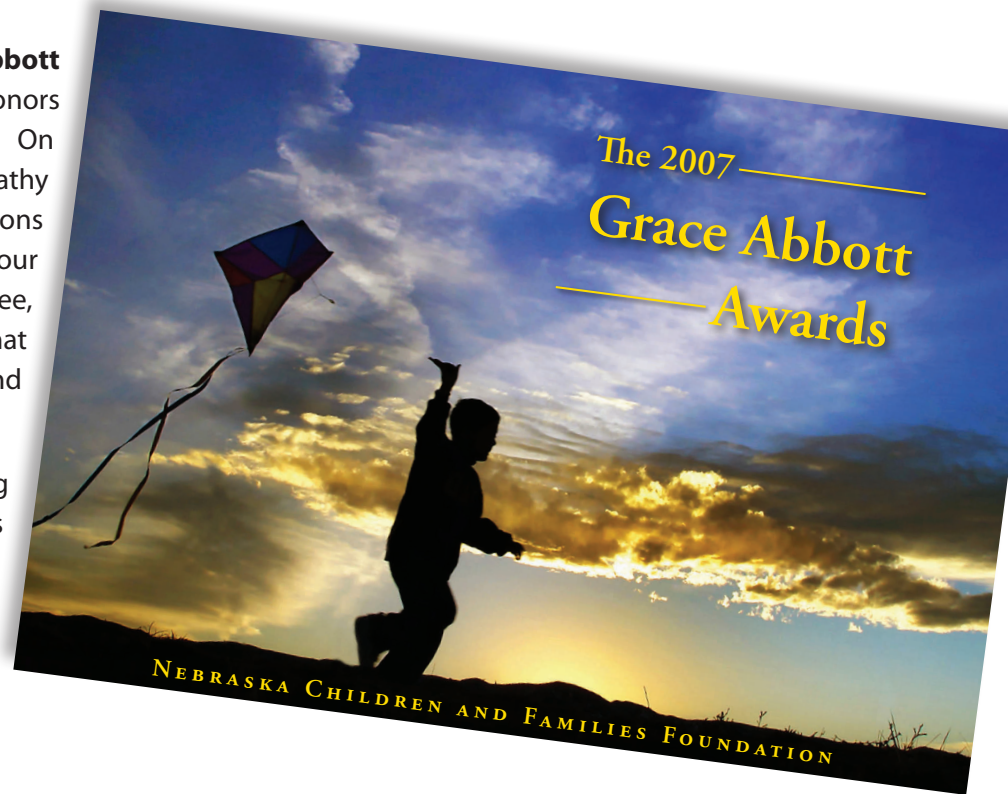
The June 12th event was an opportunity to look back at an extraordinary, decade-long journey from the time when the Foundation consisted solely of an Executive Director and a part-time office manager to nearly 20 full- and part-time staff. Today, our team represents our comprehensive scope and dedication to advancing policy and best practices for early childhood education, the prevention of child abuse and neglect, reduction of the number of citizens entering the child welfare system, promotion of school success and the successful transitioning of youth into adulthood.

"If you think of a child's life in terms of a road map," said Executive Director Mary Jo Pankoke, "the Foundation works to provide support at every major stop along the way. The Foundation team interacts with communities to help them meet children's needs from birth to early childhood, elementary age to early adolescence, and the teen years to young adulthood."

Honoring Children's Champions

Now in its fifth year, Nebraska Children's annual **Grace Abbott Awards Banquet** has become one of the most significant honors bestowed upon champions for children's welfare in our state. On This year, we celebrated the work and achievements of Kathy Campbell, whose service to child- and family-focused organizations have been of such importance in advancing the well-being of our state's young citizens. Duncan Aviation, our corporate honoree, was recognized for creating an outstanding company culture that supports and strengthens the bonds between its employees and their families.

At 416 attendees, this year's event was our largest ever, raising \$30,000 in contributions to support our work in communities throughout Nebraska.



Sharpening Our Expertise in Protecting Children

As the administrative home of Prevent Child Abuse Nebraska, Nebraska Children has hosted our state's premier event for professionals and volunteers in the field of abuse prevention for the past six years. The **Children Need Everyday Heroes Conference** brings together local and nationally-recognized experts to share information, best practices for prevention, and the treatment and investigation of abuse and neglect. Participants represented a wide variety of organizations and agencies, including the DHHS Division of Protection and Safety, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), child advocacy centers, Head Start, county attorneys, pediatricians, domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions, mental health, child care, foster care, and others.

This year, the two-day conference drew approximately 300 participants in 30 individual sessions including a keynote presentation by Olga Trujillo, an acknowledged expert on the impact of sexual assault and domestic violence. Also in attendance was Governor Dave Heineman, who presented the annual Mary Ellen Award of Hope to children's Hero Peter Tulipana, Chair of the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board.

FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS

Preparing Youth for Lifelong Success

Nebraska Children's Foster Youth Initiative kicked off an ongoing series of regional **Independent Living Conferences** with an event at Northeast Community College in October. The conference programs are youth-driven and are designed to address in practical terms some of the issues that have the greatest impact on the lifelong success of current and former foster youth. October's event connected current and former foster youth with foster and biological parents, caseworkers, and community partners to discuss financial self-sufficiency, educational attainment, positive connections with adults, reduction of homelessness, high-risk behaviors, and access to health insurance.

Reinforcing family bonds for siblings separated by foster care or adoption also plays a major role in the healthy social and emotional development of young people. This June, the Foster Youth Initiative's annual **Camp Catch-Up 2007** drew approximately 100 participants for a three-day event that reconnected brothers and sisters in foster care for a weekend of activities that strengthen sibling bonds.



Expanding Opportunities for Early Learning

As Nebraska Children and Families Foundation moves into its new role as the designated provider for Nebraska's groundbreaking **Early Childhood Education Endowment Fund** established in 2006, the push to spread the word about the importance of early learning goes on.

On November 17, Nebraska Children joined the United Way of Lincoln/Lancaster County, the YWCA, the Lincoln Fatherhood Coalition and other local partners to host **"Families Matter,"** a play-and-learn event at the Lincoln Children's Museum. The event drew over 500 parents and children to the museum, where they spent the morning together in a fun, stimulating environment. The event provided a valuable opportunity for our staff to educate parents about the value of quality early learning experiences in their children's lives.



Encouraging Healthy Habits for Children

With the national epidemic of childhood obesity becoming more and more acute, public and private agencies are increasing their efforts to find effective ways to combat this threat to our children's current and future well-being. In 2007, Nebraska Children and Families joined together with the YMCA's Activate America initiative, Nebraska Action for Healthy Kids and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to launch the **Summer Play Every Day fitness scorecard program**. This innovative fitness program, targeting children grades K-5, was designed to encourage daily exercise and the development of other healthy habits throughout the summer months between school years.

Over 17 Nebraska communities signed on with Summer Play Every Day with more than 10,000 children participating statewide. The program received extra publicity from the involvement of Nebraska astronaut and fitness advocate Clay Anderson, who commended and encouraged participating children via live feed from the International Space Station in orbit.

Building Strong Partnerships Between Parents and Schools

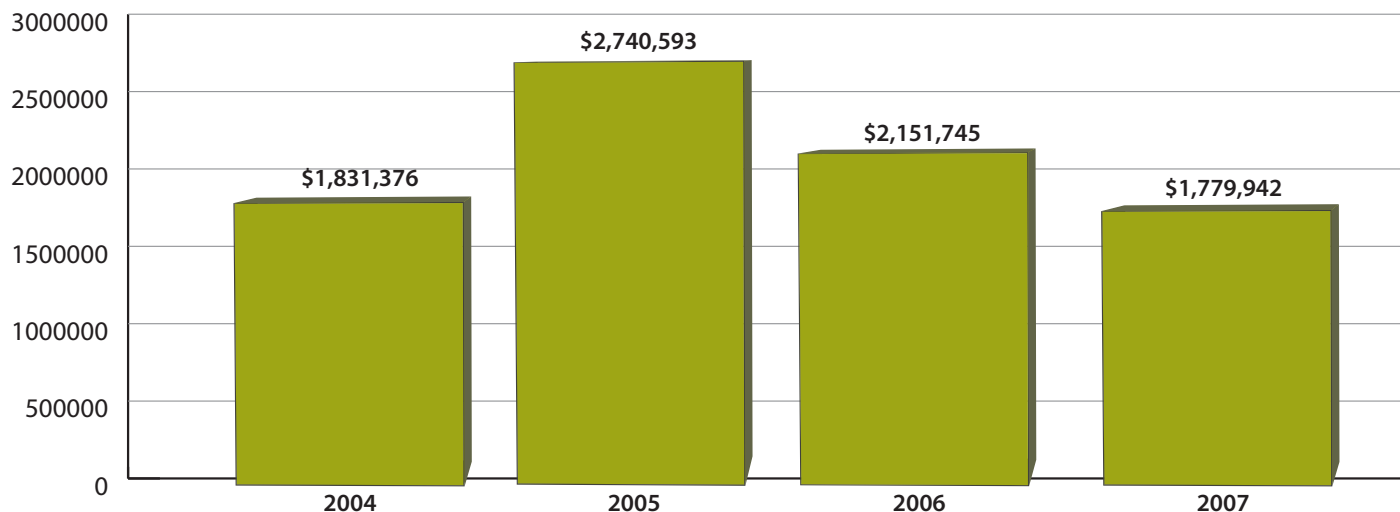
2007 marks the second year of the **Nebraska Parental Information and Resource Center (NE PIRC)** program, administered by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation in association with the Munroe-Meyer Institute, and the Nebraska Department of Education. The five-year project is a federal grant program intended to build dynamic and productive partnerships between parents, educators and administrators so children's education is consistently reinforced at school and at home. As of year-end, 15 PIRC sites were in operation in Nebraska schools.

Widespread support for enhancing the role of parents in their children's learning led to a special proclamation by Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman, officially designating October as Parental Involvement in Education month.

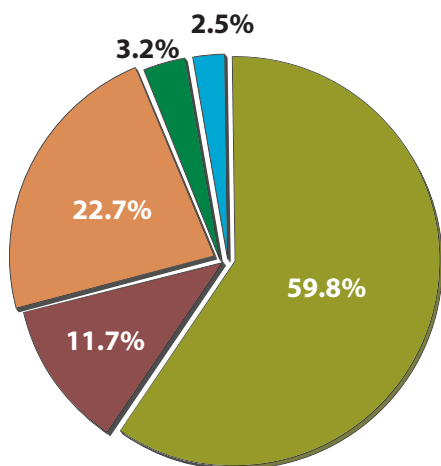


FINANCIALS & DONORS

Assets

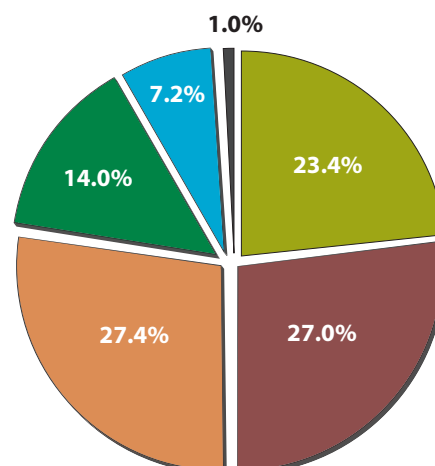


Revenue Breakdown



State Grants	\$2,187,428
Federal Grants	428,879
Private Grants	829,700
Donations	120,645
Interest Income	90,996
Total	\$3,657,648

Expense Breakdown



Salaries & Benefits	\$808,251
Grant Awards	933,409
Program/Admin. Expenses	945,671
HHSS Initiatives	485,614
Technical Assistance	252,969
Special Events	24,886
Total	\$3,450,800

Corporate and Foundation Donors

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Buffett Early Childhood Fund	Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp., USA	Teledyne Isco, Incorporated
Building Blocks for Community Enrichment	Lincoln Action Program	TierOne Bank
Campbell's Nurseries and Garden Center	Lincoln Journal Star	TierOne Charitable Foundation
CEDARS Youth Services	Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska	United Way of Lincoln
Central Plains Center for Services	Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital	University of Nebraska Foundation
Cessna Aircraft	NEBCO, Inc.	University of Nebraska Medical Center
Charles Drew Health Center	Nebraska CASA Association	UNMC Department of Pediatrics
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	Oasis Counseling International	US Bank
Christian Heritage Children's Homes	O'Hara & Associates, Inc.	Visiting Nurse Association of Omaha
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¹ to 6/07 ² from 6/07 ³ from 2/07

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LaRon Henderson, Program Coordinator - Nebraska Fatherhood Initiative

Rose Hughes, Program Coordinator - Positive Youth Development Programs

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