



nebraskachildren
AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION

2014-2015

Annual Report



WHAT DIVIDES US CAN'T OVERCOME WHAT UNITES US.

There are few things all Nebraskans can agree on. At Nebraska Children, we've noticed even when we disagree on other issues, we believe each and every child in our great state deserves love, safety and opportunities to thrive. It's a universal, non-negotiable truth we all hold dear. Our youngest citizens are counting on us to make the Good Life real.

In 2014 and 2015, Nebraska's most vulnerable children received more of what they needed to thrive—in part because we brought together families, policymakers, businesses, service providers, and educators to build systems that help children reach their full potential. Here's how:

- **7 community-based child well-being collaborations** across the state serving 9,326 children, with more in the planning stages
- **3 complete systems of care for older youth** in place, and six more communities covering 40 counties coming on board
- **10 citywide afterschool learning systems**, bringing community partners into schools to educate and enrich student lives
- **31 Sixpence Early Learning sites** across the state to provide at-risk babies and toddlers with the early learning experiences they need for healthy development
- **6 train-the-teacher communities** for early childhood mental health

- Record-breaking statewide awareness of child abuse prevention and child well-being

It's been a year of major growth and progress for Nebraska Children and those who stand beside us, and we're excited to share in this annual report what you helped create. You can be proud of helping us move the needle on important indicators: fewer instances of child maltreatment, fewer youth in foster care, fewer juvenile arrests, and better graduation rates.

Looking ahead to even greater change in 2016

It is the seamless work of Nebraska communities from one year to another that creates a reliable, ever-improving framework of support for children, families and educators. Next year, we'll see exciting new developments take our efforts to the next level:

- **Community response expansion**
The State of Nebraska is working with Nebraska Children to implement expanded community response. This is a coordinated

approach that, for many families, is an alternative to entering the child welfare system unnecessarily. Nebraska Children is pulling together private funders to make this happen in Douglas and Sarpy counties, as well as in many other communities across the state.

- **Sixpence Child-Care partnership grants**
Community grants from a public/private endowment and federal funds will help vulnerable areas of the state improve the quality of their early learning environments.
- **Connected Youth Initiative communities**
Rural community grants of up to \$150,000 will build comprehensive support systems to help a potential 16,000 Nebraska youth with challenges such as aging out of foster care, juvenile justice experience, homelessness or near homelessness.



Table of Contents	
About Nebraska Children.....	4
Investments across the state.....	6
• Omaha Metro	6
• Lincoln and Southeast Nebraska.....	8
• Fremont, Norfolk and Northeast Nebraska.....	10
• Central Nebraska	12
• The Panhandle.....	14
• Statewide Camp Catch-Up	16
2014-2015 Donors	18
Board of Directors and Friends of Nebraska Children	22
Get involved	24

Nebraska Children and Families

Foundation supports children, young adults and families at risk. Our goal? To give our state’s most vulnerable kids what they need to reach their full potential. We do this together with many others, building strong communities that nurture families, so their children can grow up to be thriving, productive adults.



VALUES

Prevention

We believe in early investing before problems start.

Collaboration

We believe it takes all of us to create a Nebraska where all children can reach their full potential. That’s why we leverage funds from both public and private sectors, pool talent from all around the communities we work with, and structure initiatives around a team effort designed to maximize the effectiveness of limited resources.

Opportunity

We believe every child deserves the chance to reach their full potential, so we focus on providing opportunities to children who have the least.

MISSION

Create positive change for Nebraska’s children through community engagement.

VISION

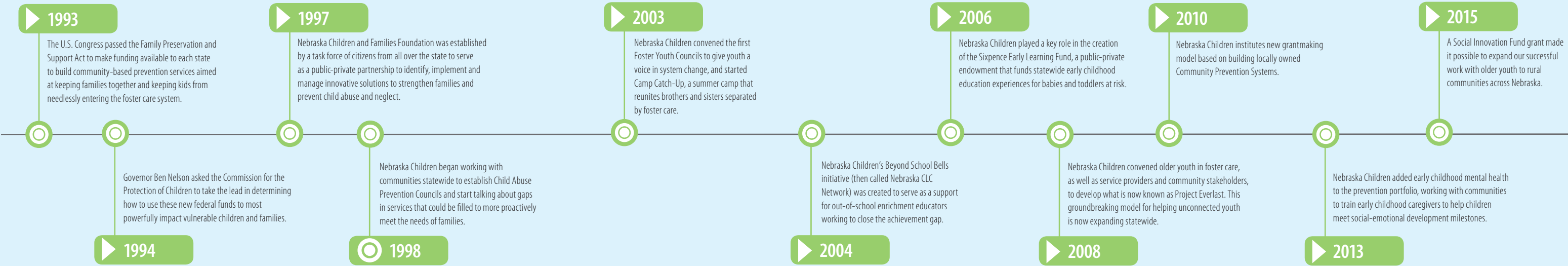
A Nebraska where all children will have the opportunities to reach their full potention.

GOAL

We empower families to:

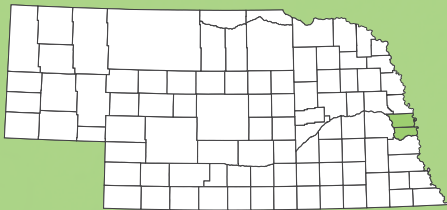
- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy life
- Reach milestones
- Contribute positively to their communities
- Achieve economic stability

A look back . . .



THE OMAHA METRO

In the metro, we reach out to children of all ages in a variety of challenging circumstances. Nebraska Children connects a wide array of existing resources, then provides funding and guidance to support a network of coordinated services. Together, we are leading the way to greater impact and real change for Omaha’s kids in need.



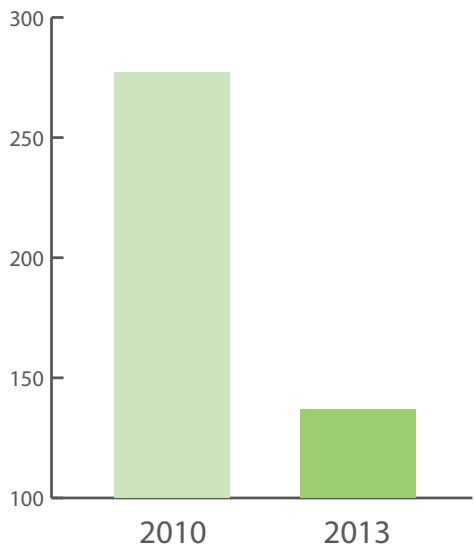
Reducing child abuse through collaboration

Every instance of abuse chips away at a child’s potential. Nebraska Children is fighting this devastating force through collaboration in Douglas and Sarpy counties. Together, we’re implementing a better defined, more comprehensive system of community response—a system that embraces children and families, wrapping services around them to guide them out of crisis and into stability. The state completed a successful pilot of Sarpy County Community Response, and has asked Nebraska Children to fully implement this model in the Metro.

With the extraordinary success of the Project Everlast Omaha system in mind, we’re ready to develop a similarly-structured collaborative system for children across the age spectrum. In the seven communities where Nebraska Children has built Community Prevention Systems, we’re seeing remarkable improvements in:

- Child maltreatment
- Number of youth in foster care
- Juvenile arrests
- Births to teenagers

Substantiated Instances of Child Abuse in Sarpy County (before and after Community Response pilot)



(Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (2013) Child Abuse and Neglect: Annual Data, Calendar Year 2013)

Giving at-risk babies and toddlers what they need to thrive

There are three Sixpence Early Learning grants at work in the Omaha Metro. These grants cover partnerships with Omaha Public Schools, Educare, Nebraska Families Collaborative, Omaha Early Learning Center, Buffett Early Childhood Institute, Millard Public Schools, Papillion-LaVista Public Schools, and Save the Children, and serve 190 babies and toddlers. These high-quality, early education centers and home-visiting programs include comprehensive services for at-risk babies, toddlers and their families.

Helping young people move from foster care to independence

Five years ago, the Omaha Independent Living Plan began helping youth aging out of foster care transition to adulthood more successfully. Since then, the program has evolved into a comprehensive, highly-effective system called Project Everlast Omaha (PE-Omaha). To create this system, Nebraska Children cultivated connections between providers, youth, policymakers, health care, businesses, educators and others. With a tight network of services and a Central Access referral system, no matter which service young people approach first, they can be matched with any service needed, including:

- *Basic living skills.* PE-Omaha conducts frequent classes and provides access to learning opportunities across the metro.
- *Employment.* PE-Omaha’s employment partnership trains young people on the social-emotional skills needed to get a job, keep a job and succeed in a job. When the course is completed, PE-Omaha works with local businesses to interview and place participants in jobs.
- *Education.* PE-Omaha youth can apply for scholarships for college and trade certification programs.
- *Transportation.* PE-Omaha provides a 4-to-1 match in funds to help young people save toward the purchase of a car, a necessary asset for life success.
- *Housing.* PE-Omaha helps young people find safe, secure, affordable housing through several local programs.
- *Access to health care.* With the help of a Healthcare Navigator, youth can find the services they need to stay healthy.

The results of PE-Omaha efforts? More high school graduations. More employment. More and safer housing. And better prospects for the future.



Project Everlast nebraskachildren



SUCCESS AFTER FOSTER CARE

Azar Webb III, Omaha

As a teenager, Azar went through eight foster homes in four years. He describes himself back then as quiet, withdrawn and distrustful. When he became too old for foster care, Azar got involved with Project Everlast Omaha, where he received mentoring and access to services he needed. Now, at age 20, Azar is enrolled at Metropolitan Community College and is pursuing a triple major.

“It’s amazing—people and positive energy, good role models, leadership at Project Everlast—everything you’d ever want to be around to grow and be yourself at the end of the day.”

— Azar Webb, III

1,300

approximate number of youth served in 2014-15 by Project Everlast Omaha

21% increase

in high school graduations

29% increase

in steady employment

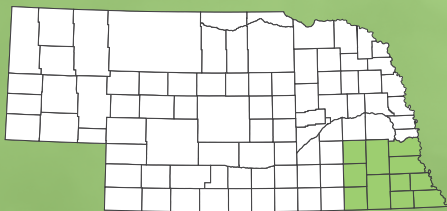
30% increase

in safe, stable housing

(Source: Project Everlast program evaluation data)

LINCOLN/SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA

Nebraska Children has worked with local school districts to maximize services available to vulnerable families and pull together local providers to fill service gaps. Now, families in Lincoln and Southeast Nebraska have access to the wide array of connected resources they need to help their children reach full academic and life potential.



Closing the achievement gap in Lincoln schools

Nebraska Children’s Beyond School Bells initiative partners with Lincoln Community Learning Centers (CLCs) to enrich afterschool and summer learning opportunities for students at risk. Nearly 6,000 students were served by Lincoln CLCs last year. Participation in this kind of high-quality afterschool and summer programming improves student attendance, encourages positive in-class behavior, boosts academic performance and increases parent engagement.

Building a foundation for good mental health

When we began our Rooted in Relationships initiative in 2013, Saline County was one of the first communities to participate. This initiative is focused on providing children from birth to age eight with the benefits of a social-emotionally supportive learning environment. They’ve focused heavily on implementing the Pyramid Model in classrooms, and have begun training parents on Circle of Security, a highly effective parenting strategy to improve family dynamics and social-emotional development.

Lancaster County has recently become a Rooted in Relationships Community, and has begun its collaborative planning process.

Launching youth with foster care experience into a brighter future

In its first year, Project Everlast Lincoln (PE-Lincoln) laid the groundwork and provided services to help youth with foster care experience transition out of the system and into life on their own. Nebraska Children built Project Everlast by assembling a collaborative network of service providers and funding expanded services to this special population.

371

young people received services through Project Everlast Lincoln in its first year.

Participating youth received help with housing, transportation, financial literacy and saving, family-finding services, emergency cash, self-advocacy and peer-to-peer support. PE-Lincoln recently applied for special funding to establish a Career Pathways Model that will help young people find well-paid, long-term employment.

Helping teen parents raise amazing children

Through partnerships with Educare and Cedars, Lincoln Public Schools offers seven Sixpence Early Learning Programs providing high-quality early education and home-visiting services for 130 at-risk babies and toddlers, and their families. The programs provide children with the early experiences they need to reach and exceed developmental milestones. They also support parents in becoming their children’s first and most important teachers. Both are critical foundations for future success.

Nearly

300

babies and toddlers are served by Southeast Nebraska Sixpence Early Learning programs

Outside of Lincoln, there are Sixpence Early Learning sites serving more than 100 at-risk babies and toddlers, and their families, through home-visiting parent engagement programs in Crete, Plattsmouth, Seward/Milford/Centennial, Humboldt-Table Rock-Steinauer, Auburn and Falls City.



NEW KNOWLEDGE TAKES ROOT

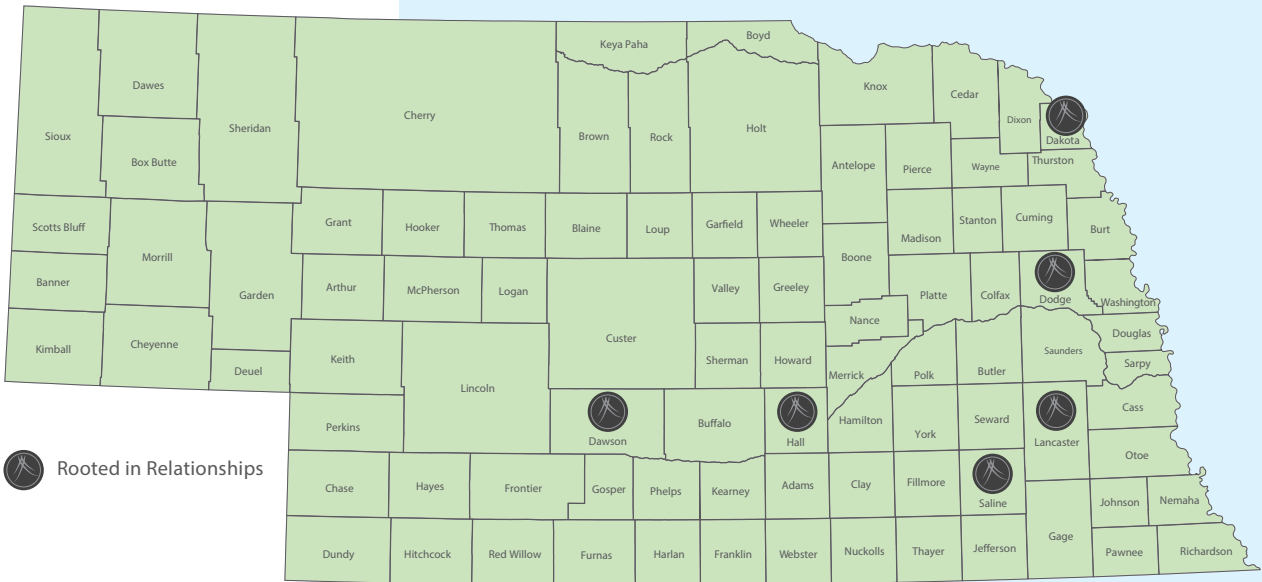
Rooted in Relationships granted \$658,000 to six communities in 2014-2015, including Saline and Lancaster counties. Within these communities, Rooted in Relationships works with educators and caregivers to implement evidence-based practices that enhance the social-emotional development of children birth through age eight. So far:

- 73 child-care providers are implementing new practices, including the Pyramid Model
- 21 coaches are providing training to the providers
- 761 children are benefiting from environments that support healthy social-emotional development

Rooted in Relationships communities also are working on social-emotional screening and referral, providing Circle of Security Parenting classes and creating community-wide awareness about early childhood mental health.

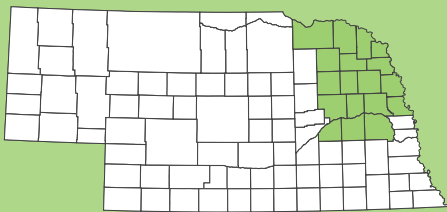
“The Pyramid Model gave me a purpose throughout the day. I had the tools to deal with situations that I didn’t know how to deal with before. I felt like I was kind of drowning with 10 kids in the room by myself. But now I can deal with a few of them misbehaving. I have the tools... and I can teach other people in my room what to do. I can be a model for them of better ways to deal with everything.”

—Saline County Child Care Provider



NORTHEAST NEBRASKA

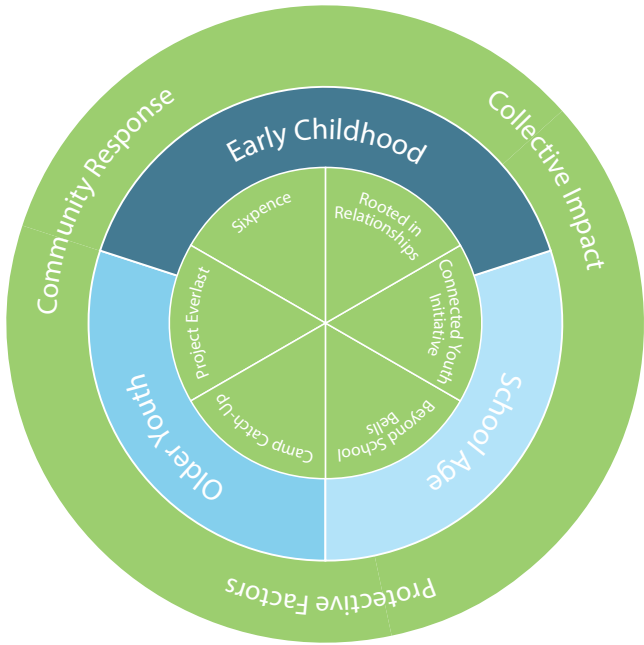
In Northeast Nebraska, many communities work with Nebraska Children to form Community Prevention Systems—networks of care designed to keep children safe and improve their well-being. When stakeholders unite for this cause, they also strengthen families and help them avoid needless placement in the child welfare system.



Improving child well-being through Community Prevention Systems

Entrance into the child welfare system isn’t always the best solution for children and their families. Community Prevention Systems provide an alternative approach to strengthen families and enhance the well-being of children without the intervention of the state. We work with local advocates and providers, coordinating each community’s strengths and resources to serve families before warning signs become a crisis. Partners include nonprofit service providers, doctors, mental health practitioners, schools, churches, housing and transportation services—even utility companies. The goal is to give families what they need to thrive, so they can stay together, be self-sufficient, and support the health and learning of their children.

Nebraska Children has helped build and sustain Community Prevention Systems in Fremont/Dodge County, Norfolk/Madison County, Columbus and Schuyler/Platte-Colfax counties and Dakota County.



Nebraska Children Community Prevention Portfolio

Nurturing our youngest, most vulnerable citizens

Sixpence Early Learning programs in Northeast Nebraska serve almost 200 babies and toddlers, providing the nurturing experiences they need to meet and exceed their developmental milestones. Center-based programs serve tribal communities in Santee and Macy, and the Educare program in Winnebago. Sixpence also provides funding and technical assistance for home-visiting parent engagement programs in Norfolk, Columbus, Schuyler and Fremont.

Dodge County and Dakota County are partners in our Rooted in Relationships initiative. These counties have been implementing best practices in child care environments to support healthy social-emotional development for children from birth to age eight.

Expanding learning opportunities

Nebraska Children’s Beyond School Bells initiative provides financial and technical support to afterschool and summer learning programs in Fremont and Columbus.

Support for unconnected youth

Fremont and Norfolk are homes to Project Everlast Youth Councils made up of young people with foster care experience. The councils provide peer-to-peer support and service opportunities for young people transitioning out of foster care and into adulthood. Interested council members learn public speaking skills and advocate for change in the foster care system with state-level and national-level policymakers. They also have opportunities to conduct training with judges, foster parents, and caseworkers to support quality care for children in the system.

COMMUNITY PREVENTION IN ACTION

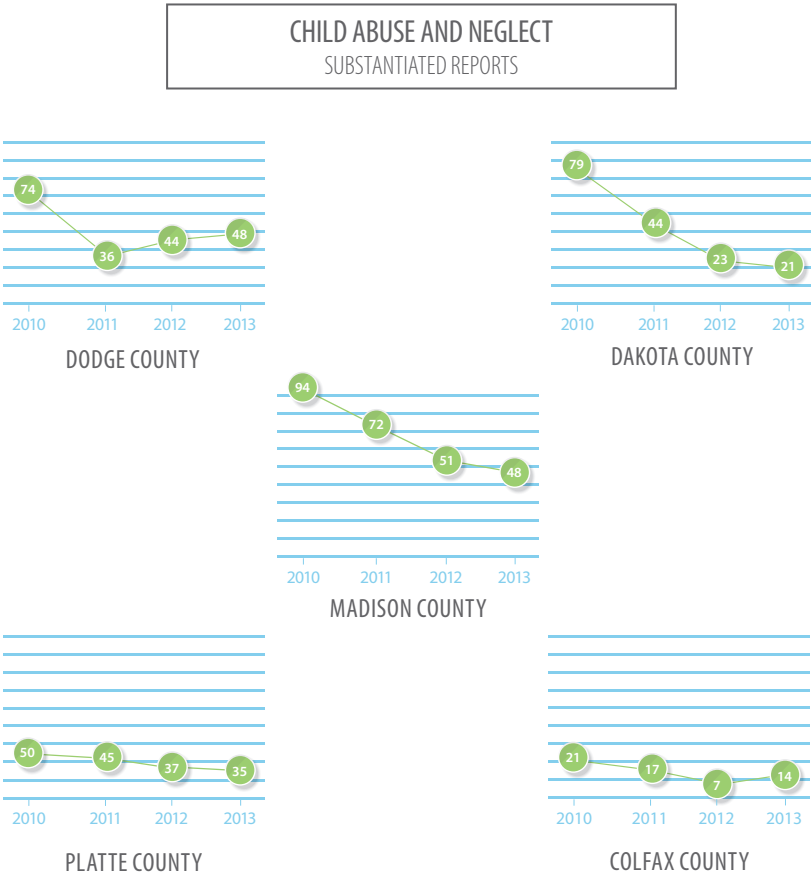
Melissa’s family, Fremont



Melissa, her husband, and their six children had a handle on everything. She was the first in her family to own a home, they were on top of their bills, and the kids were doing well at school. Then her husband lost his job. The family held on for as long as possible, but ended up losing their home and spiraling into instability. Thanks to Fremont Prevention Coalition, an initiative Nebraska Children helped build, Melissa’s family received the services they needed to get back on their feet without having to enter the child welfare system. Now, they’re stable again, the children are thriving, and Melissa and her husband have both been promoted to management positions at work.

“The tools that I’ve learned through these programs have taught us to respond to what our kids need.” —Melissa

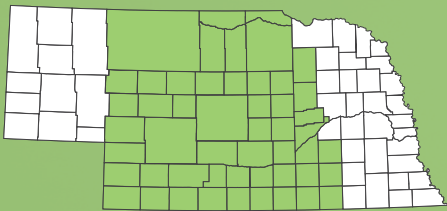
Of the **90 families** participating in Fremont’s Community Prevention System, **ONLY ONE FAMILY** was required to have a child removed from the home.



(Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services)

CENTRAL NEBRASKA

Communities in Central Nebraska have taken action to enhance afterschool and summer learning opportunities—especially for their low-income students. Caring stakeholders have also come together to build better futures for children by preventing child abuse, promoting early learning, and supporting foster children graduating into

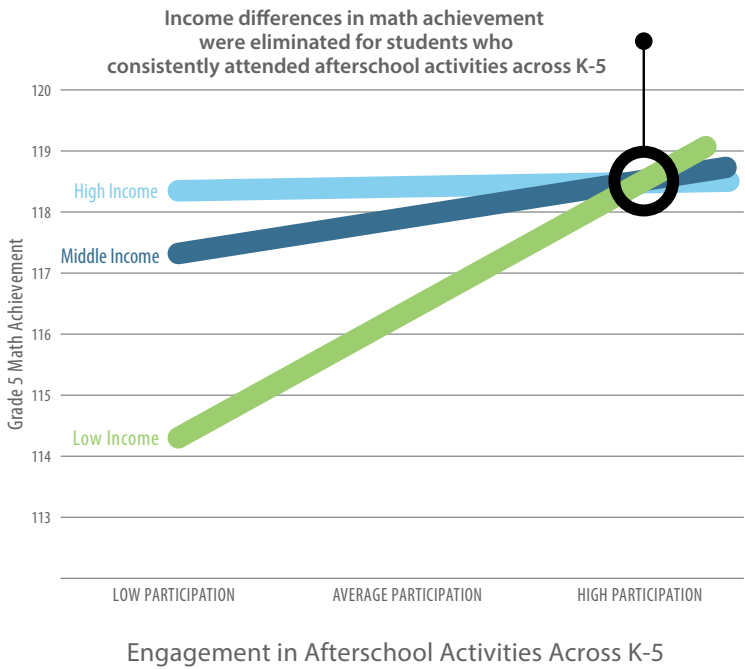


Learning beyond the classroom

Afterschool and summer learning programs in Kearney, Lexington and North Platte are working with Nebraska Children’s Beyond School Bells initiative to improve the quality of their programs and make them more accessible to their students with the greatest need. Each of these sites receives financial and technical support to present STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) opportunities to students, including robotics, coding, chemistry, environmental science and more.

Regular participation in high-quality afterschool learning can eliminate the achievement gap between low-income students and their more affluent peers.

Afterschool Participation Narrows the Math Achievement Gap



Pierce, K. M., Auger, A. and Vandell, D. L. (April, 2013). *Narrowing the Achievement Gap: Consistency and Intensity of Structured Activities During Elementary School*. Unpublished paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Seattle, WA.



Enhancing child well-being

North Platte (Lincoln County) and Grand Island (Hall County) have worked with Nebraska Children for years to build their Community Prevention Systems. Now, these communities are embracing strategies designed to improve overall child well-being. The School Intervention strategy in Grand Island, for example, saw a 100% success rate, keeping participants in school and helping them graduate. Both of these communities have developed robust Community Response practices to help families stay together and get back on track after crises.

In 2015, Nebraska Children began the planning process with stakeholders in York County, to help them develop their own Community Prevention System.

Nurturning strong brains from the start

Nebraska Children’s early childhood initiatives have a strong presence in Central Nebraska. The Sixpence Early Learning Fund supports home-visiting parent engagement programs in Aurora, Broken Bow, Central City, Grand Island, Hastings, Lexington, Loup City, Ord, St. Paul and York. Sixpence also provides funding and technical assistance in Kearney for both their center-based early education program and their home-visiting parent engagement programs. These Central Nebraska communities serve approximately 250 at-risk infants and toddlers, and their families through Sixpence.

The Rooted in Relationships initiative is partnering with Lexington (Dawson County) and Grand Island (Hall County) to train early childhood caregivers in recognized best practices for supporting social-emotional development.

Giving a voice to older youth

Nebraska Children has coordinated Project Everlast Youth Councils in North Platte, at the Kearney Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center (YRTC) and at the Geneva YRTC. These councils give young people with foster care and juvenile justice experience opportunities to form positive relationships, learn self-advocacy skills, and access services to help them achieve independence as adults.



Beyond School Bells
nebraskachildren

STEM learning on the go

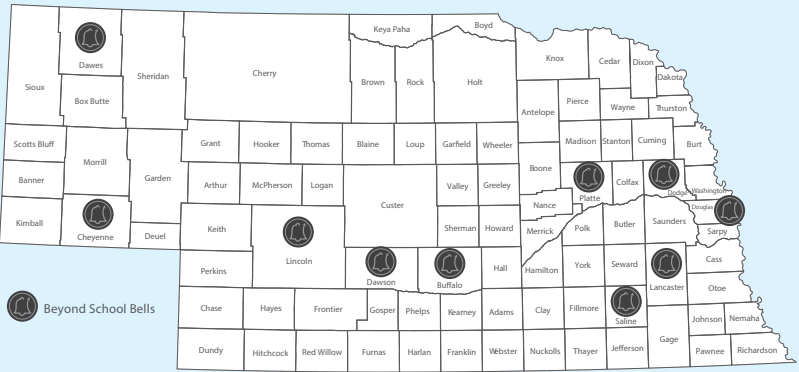
Kearney’s Mobile Maker Lab

Beyond School Bells, a Nebraska Children initiative, recently unveiled TMC Labs, the state’s first mobile maker space. TMC (Think, Make, Create) Labs is a 6' x 12' trailer housing hands-on, interactive learning resources in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and the arts.



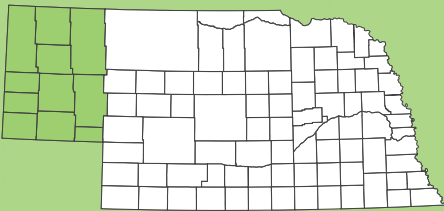
Through TMC Labs, students in the Kearney Community Learning Center (KCLC) can access maker spaces during afterschool and summer programs. The lab facilities provide KCLC students with interactive learning resources on topics including electronics, textiles, arts and robotics. The mobile makerspace is equipped with rollout carts, tables and a canopy—so students can “make” and be creative indoors or outdoors.

Beyond School Bells works with nine other communities across the state to improve afterschool and summer learning policies, while helping individual programs enhance quality and access.



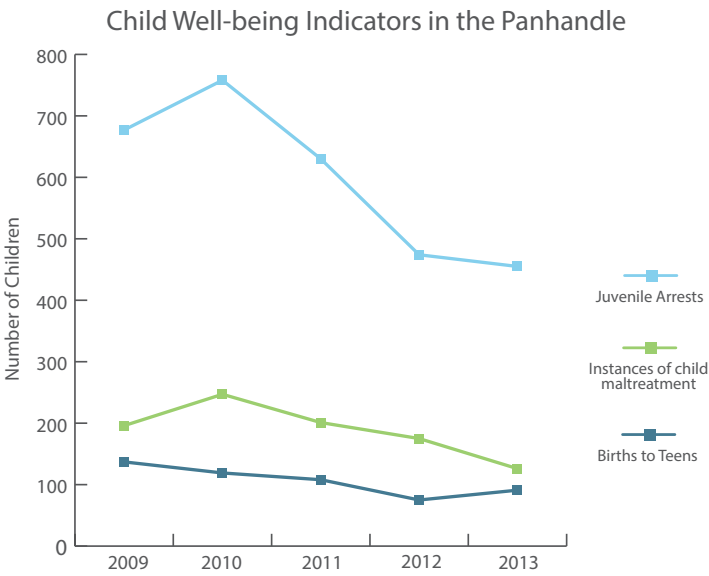
THE PANHANDLE

Over the last 15 years, strong collaboration in the Panhandle has provided an ongoing model for working together to create positive change for children. Adding Sixpence Early Learning programs to the region has made a significant impact for at-risk babies and toddlers. To learn more about the Panhandle’s success, watch a video at bit.ly/panhandle.



Supporting an 11-county prevention system

In the Panhandle, both the population and resources are sparse, but the needs of vulnerable families are great. Nebraska Children began working with Panhandle stakeholders when we were formed in 1997. Since then, we have helped the 11-county area coordinate a reliable system of resources to provide preventive services and help keep families from having to enter the child welfare system. And together, over the years, we’ve continued to work together to improve opportunities for Panhandle families and children.

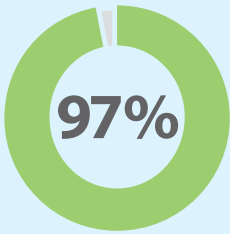


In the Panhandle counties (Sioux, Dawes, Sheridan, Box Butte, Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Garden, Banner, Kimball, Cheyenne and Deuel), instances of child maltreatment, juvenile arrests and births to teens continue to decline.

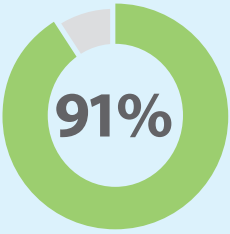
(Sources: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; Nebraska 2009–2013 Vital Statistics reports; Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, Adult/Juvenile Versus County)

STATEWIDE SIXPENCE SUCCESS:

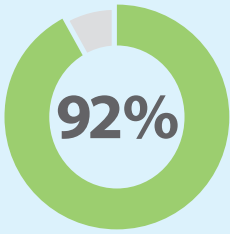
(Source: Sixpence Annual Report 2014–2015, prepared by University of Nebraska Medical Center, Munroe–Meyer Institute)



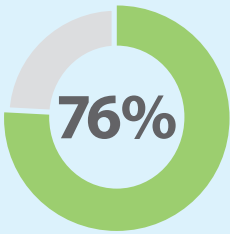
of Sixpence families are low-income



of Sixpence participants met or exceeded physical development goals



of Sixpence participants met or exceeded cognitive development goals



of Sixpence parents were rated as “highly skilled” in building relationships with their child by the spring semester

Helping at-risk babies and toddlers thrive

Sixpence Early Learning Program supports more than 60 at-risk infants, toddlers and their families through home-visiting parent engagement programs in Scottsbluff and Garden County, and an early education center in Alliance.

Enriching educational experiences

Nebraska Children’s Beyond School Bells initiative supports afterschool and summer programming in Chadron and Sidney. These programs bring arts, science, business and community service experiences into the schools each afternoon. Children receive homework help, engage in sports and recreation, and eat healthy snacks. The result is safety and enrichment for children who otherwise have nowhere to go after school.

Nurturing a youth-driven system of care

With support from Nebraska Children, the Panhandle has developed an Older Youth System of Care. This system provides central access referrals and coordinated services to young people who have aged out of foster care or are otherwise disconnected from a home and family. The local Project Everlast Youth Council has played a critical role in giving youth a voice in the development of services. The Project Everlast Youth Council has also had the opportunity to advocate for change to state legislators, judges and other state policymakers.

VULNERABLE FAMILIES BUILDING STABLE LIVES

Chelsea, Brent and Rosalee



Chelsea and Brent welcomed Rosalee into the world when they were just 16 years old. Thanks to the Sixpence Early Learning Program, they have overcome the challenges of early parenthood, and their little girl is exceeding developmental expectations. These determined young parents meet regularly with a parent educator who is teaching them to be Rosalee’s most effective first teachers. Chelsea will soon receive her high school diploma. Brett completed graduation and now works full time to support his family. View the full story at bit.ly/rosalee

“Without Sixpence, these families would fall through the cracks. I think that Sixpence gives Brent and Chelsea the idea that they are great parents.”
—Sixpence Educator

CAMP CATCH-UP

From Omaha to Scottsbluff, kids who have been separated from their brothers and sisters and sent to different foster families are getting a chance to reconnect and strengthen their relationships. Camp Catch-Up is a fun three-day summer camp where siblings can reunite and just be kids.

As we say at Camp Catch-Up: Everything's Better Together.



The need for reuniting siblings

When a child is removed from home due to abuse or neglect, the hardest part is often separation from siblings. There is a shortage of foster parents who can take multiple children, so brothers and sisters are often split up. That means scared, traumatized children lose a connection with those who best understand them and the things they've been through. Maintaining connections between siblings is critical to a foster child's long-term mental well-being, including preserving a sense of permanency and stability through childhood and well beyond.

Why camp?

The idea for Camp Catch-Up came from the original Statewide Project Everlast Youth Council. The young people shared stories of being separated from the people they loved most. They passionately advocated for a way to reunite brothers and sisters in a safe, fun way that would provide a much-needed break from the stress of their often chaotic lives. Nebraska Children runs three to four camps each year in different areas of the state. Campers are transported by bus, and the entire experience is free to all children thanks to public-private support.

The Camp Catch-Up experience

Campers are welcomed with cheers and clapping from an enthusiastic volunteer staff. Once they've found their siblings, it's off to their cabins. When campers walk through the door, they each find their very own duffel bag, blanket, pillow, journal, watch, cinch sack and camp T-shirts—a fun surprise that helps children feel good about the weekend and gives them the tools they need to enjoy camp and be on time.

Throughout the weekend, campers hike, zip line, climb, craft, play, swim, kayak and more. The last night of camp, the brothers and sisters receive plenty of positive reinforcement at a camp-wide talent show. And of course there are plenty of tasty meals and unlimited snacks to help campers relax as they spend quality time with their families.

The most important part of Camp Catch-Up is this: Everything the children do is in the company of the brothers and sisters they've been missing. It's a life-changing experience for campers and staff alike.

WHAT CAMPERS SAY:

“Thank you guys for five awesome years of camp, **getting to spend time with my siblings**. You guys are always nice and helpful. I hope to see you guys next summer, not as a camper, but as a staff member. Thank you again!”



“My favorite part of camp was seeing my family **conquer their fears** on the zip line!”

“Camp is important to me because it's a **getaway from reality** and I get to freeze time and spend time with my sisters.”



“Camp is important to me because it's one of the only times in the year I **get to see my siblings**.”

“This camp has **changed so many lives for the better**.”

Donors

Cornerstone Partners

These special partners provide much more than just financial support. They also share their leadership, expertise and ongoing guidance to help Nebraska Children fulfill its mission.

- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Buffett Early Childhood Fund
- Robert B. Daugherty Foundation
- Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative
- Holland Foundation
- The Sherwood Foundation
- Social Innovation Fund
- Weitz Family Foundation
- William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation

\$100,000-\$499,999

Claire M. Hubbard Foundation
The Dorothy B. Davis Family Foundation
Lozier Foundation
Mammel Family Foundation
Raikes Foundation
Richard Brooke Foundation

\$50,000-\$99,999

Annie E. Casey Foundation
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative
The Noyce Foundation
World’s Foremost Bank

\$10,000-\$49,999

Amy L. Scott Family Foundation
Betti and Dick Robinson
Casey Family Programs
Cooper Foundation
Cooper Hoffman & Powell LLC
Dillon Foundation
Dixon Family Foundation
The Hawks Foundation
The Leland J. & Dorothy H. Olson Charitable Foundation
Lincoln Community Foundation
Linda and Tim Daugherty
Parker Family Foundation
Woods Charitable Fund

\$1,000-\$4,999

Alpha Delta
Amy Jones
Annette and Paul Smith
Arnie and Julie Robinson
Betty and Dennis Medinger
Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson and Oldfather
Collective for Youth
Community Services Fund
Cornerstone Printing & Imaging
Governor Dave Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem
The David Scott Foundation
Delta Air Lines Foundation
Dr. Doug and Cheryl Christensen
Duncan Family Trust
First National Bank
Fruit Loop Golf Tournament
Gloria and Roy Dinsdale
Hyland Software
Jayne Timmerman and Daniel Jaksich
Jeff Cole and Patrice McMahon
Jennifer and Steve Skala
Jodie and Bill Mackintosh
John and Dianne Scott
Judy Dierkhising
Julie Pearson
Kinder Porter Scott Family Foundation
Kyle McGowan
Lancaster County Human Services
Lillie and Max Larsen
Lincoln Rotary Club #14 Foundation
The Lund Company
M&M Foundation
Nebraska Alpha Delta Kappa
Nebraska Friends of Foster Children Foundation
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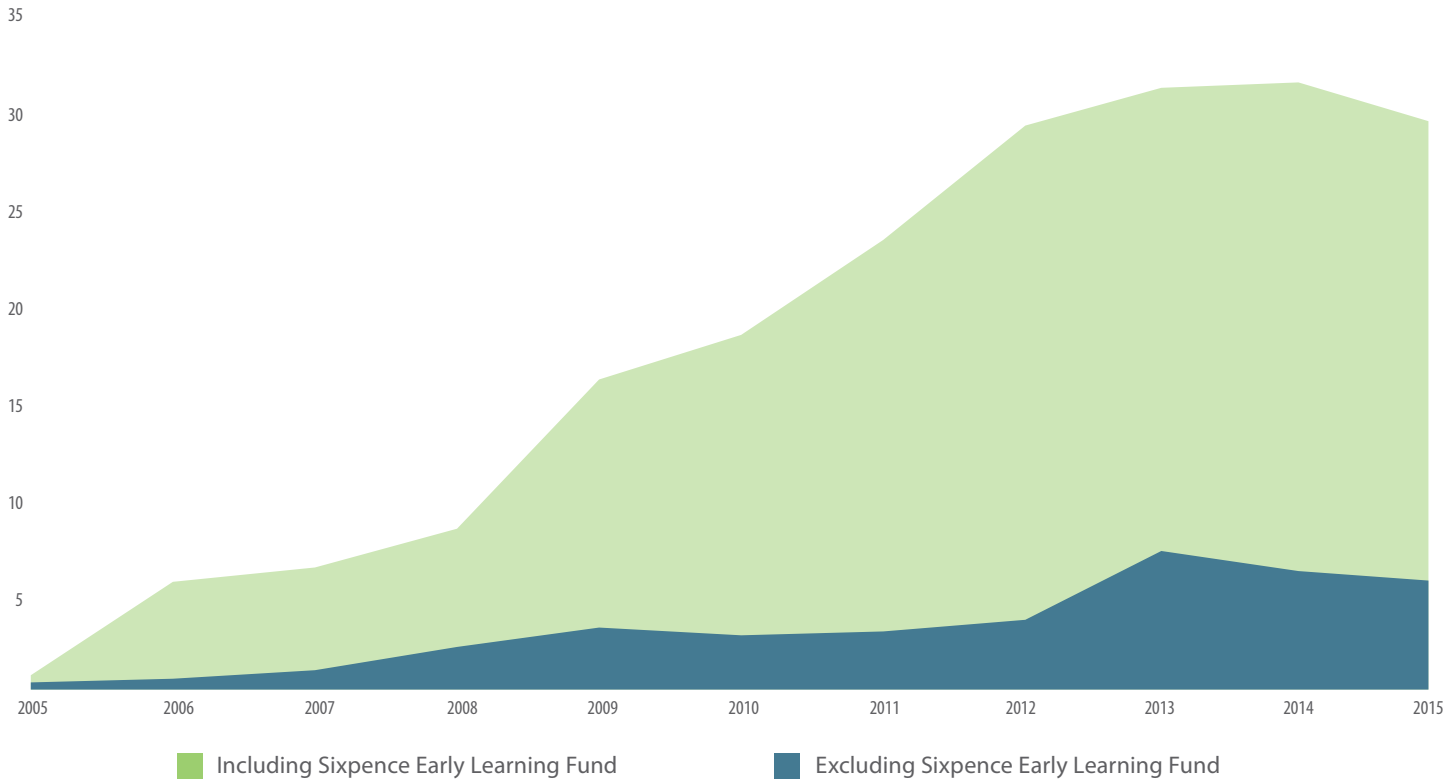


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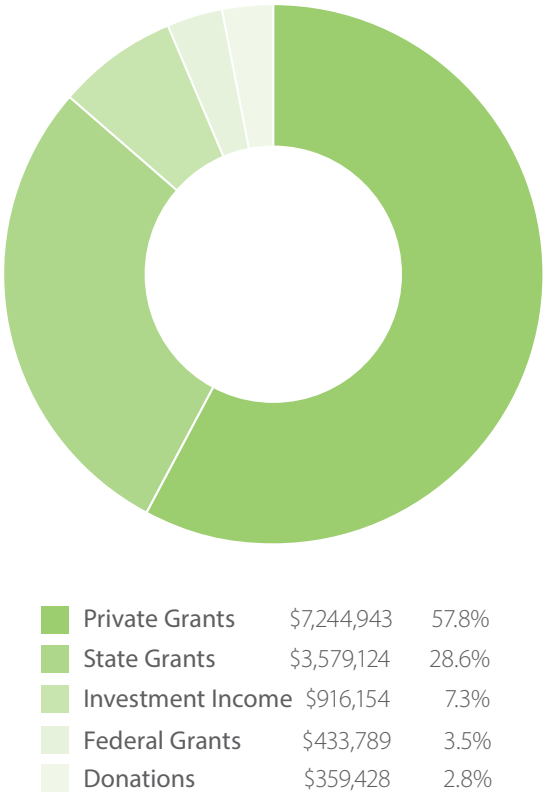
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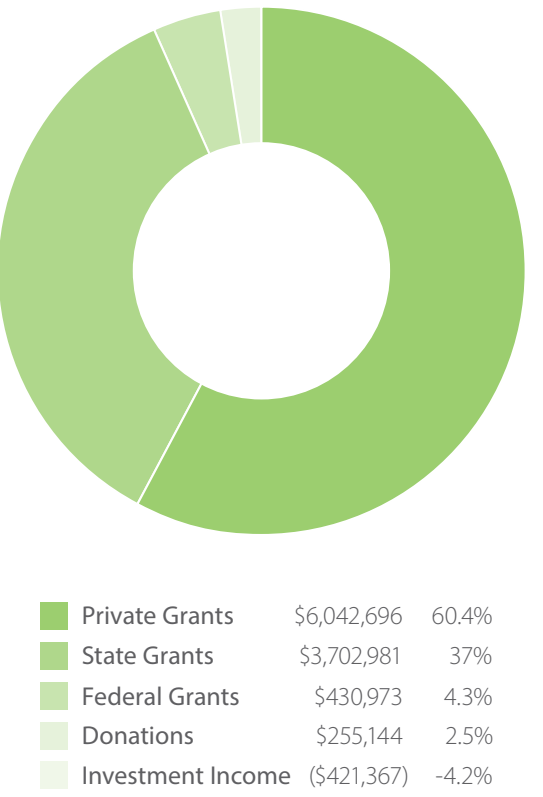
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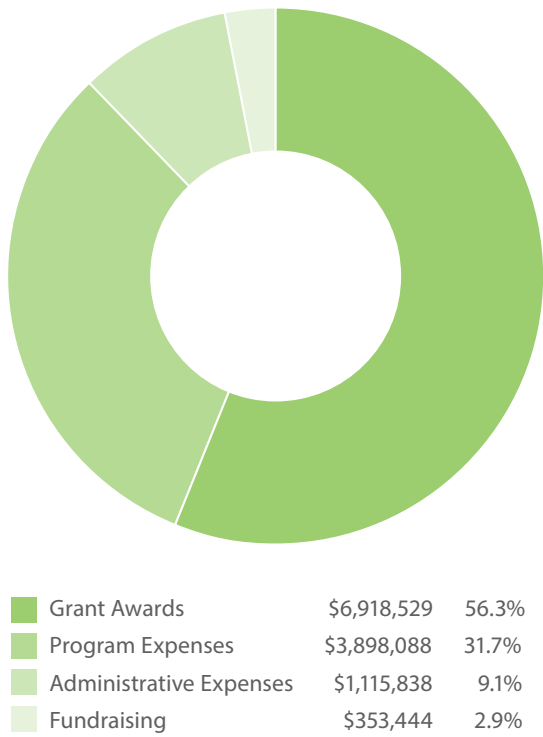
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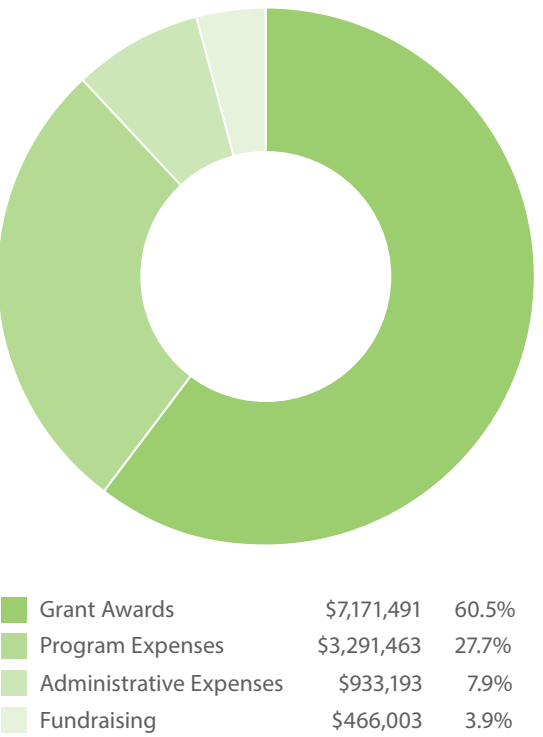
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WE'RE UNITED FOR CHILDREN... AND YOU CAN BE TOO!

JOIN US TODAY TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE FOR OUR
STATE'S YOUNGEST, MOST
VULNERABLE CITIZENS.

Do you believe every child in
Nebraska deserves safety, love and
opportunities to thrive? Then you're
one of us! There are plenty of ways to
get involved in the work of Nebraska
Children, and we'd be honored to
have you on our team.



Volunteer opportunities

Every summer, Nebraska Children needs an army of volunteers to staff Camp Catch-Up. As a camp staff member, you'll be assigned to a specific family. You will share in their happiness as they come together and enjoy the experience of being together at camp. According to past staffers, it is a three-day adventure that will change your life, as well as the lives of the children you serve. Visit CampCatchUp.org to find out more.

Nebraska Children is continually looking for mentors, door openers and birthday cake makers for older youth in our Project Everlast programs. Please contact Jessica Hilderbrand at jhilderbrand@nebraskachildren.org to get connected with the Project Everlast Council in your community.

Do you have an interesting skill, hobby or job you'd like to share in an afterschool program? Contact Jennifer Jones at jjones@nebraskachildren.org to connect with a local afterschool or summer learning program. We're always looking for caring adults in Nebraska's communities to share what they know.



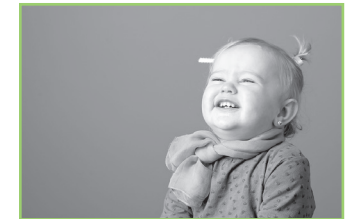
Give the gift of hope to Nebraska's kids

Uniting communities in Nebraska to benefit our vulnerable children is no small feat. It's long-term work that requires committed partners and sustained financial support. Won't you use your dollars to help us continue creating positive change for Nebraska's children?

Individual givers: You can make a one-time or monthly gift now at NebraskaChildren.org.

Corporate/Institutional Funders: Please contact Jennifer Thielen at jthielen@nebraskachildren.org or (402) 965-1711 to discuss your role in the important work of cultivating the good life for all Nebraska's children.

Planned giving: Contact your attorney or financial advisor to donate by bequest or life income arrangement.



Become a friend

The Friends of Nebraska Children is a group of dedicated volunteers who support the work of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation through volunteerism, fundraising and community awareness. Friends receive invitations to all Nebraska Children special events, a subscription to the *Spout* quarterly newsletter and notification of volunteer opportunities with Nebraska Children. Those choosing to serve on the Friends board will take an active role in the planning, coordination and execution of Friends events, awareness activities and service opportunities. For more information, please visit FriendsOfNebraskaChildren.org or contact Kareen Hickman at khickman@nebraskachildren.org.

TOGETHER, WE CAN DO SO MUCH MORE.

The future of our state—and our world—lies in the well-being of our children, as well as the families and educators who nurture them. It's up to all of us to work together and cultivate the good life for all of them.

Learn more about Nebraska Children and our partners, programs and mission to unite as many big-hearted Nebraskans as possible behind the cause of our state's precious kids.

Visit **NebraskaChildren.org** now.



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