Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

Annual Report 2009

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
is a nonprofit organization
that invests in, sparks and advances
community solutions
to create positive change for children.

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation believes every child deserves an equal opportunity to thrive and succeed. We work to bring people and resources together to create positive change.

Our passion to prevent problems before they start and our collaborative work ethic has guided our work for more than 12 years. Working with local, state and national partners, we have promoted the importance of providing opportunities and services to families that help give children the best start in their early years and continue to support them as they progress through school and life.

In this report, you will see examples of our human and capital investments, the power of community by our spark and the advancements of policy and practice through our efforts.

As we look ahead, we will continue to take on the challenges that put our children at risk of not reaching their full potential. We are committed to leveling the playing field for all children.

Mary Jo Pankoke

Mary Jo Pankoke, President

Investing

Children and families thrive in communities where quality programs and services are comprehensive, successful and sustainable. Nebraska Children and Families Foundation invested over $1.2 million while partnering with local, regional and statewide leaders to create positive change. We work with communities to identify needs and gaps in available services, help providers implement best practices and evaluate efforts to ensure positive results. Our human and financial investments include grants, consultation, training, technical assistance and evaluation.

In 2009, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation:

- Awarded 17 grants to support: parenting education for new parents; home visitation, education and connections to needed resources for families at risk; independent living services for foster youth; parent information centers in schools; and service learning projects.
- Conducted 51 face-to-face technical assistance visits with 11 Sixpence early learning fund grantee sites, as well as sponsored workshops, peer learning trips, and a networking day for early care providers, with the goal of the highest possible quality care for infants and toddlers.
- Worked with 4 communities to build sustainable collaborations. Facilitated workshops and networking to build capacity for 10 organizations in South Omaha to strengthen their ability to reduce child abuse and failure in school in their neighborhood.
- Awarded mini-grants to 15 local child abuse prevention councils to spread the "Rethink Your Reaction" message within their communities and regions. This campaign created by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation promotes safe and healthy family interaction by using iconic red stress ball characters to encourage parents to laugh and talk with their children and more importantly to ask for help when they need it.
- Provided need-based funds to 195 youth, who are in or have aged out of the Nebraska foster care system, to help with expenses associated with becoming an independent adult when other financial support was lacking or exhausted. Funds were used to help pay for housing, transportation, health care, daily living, education and job-related expenses.

Adams: YWCA of Adams County[2]

Box Butte: Alliance Public Schools – Alliance Early Childhood Program[1]; Box Butte County Family Focus Coalition

Buffalo: Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska[2]

Cass: Plattsmouth Public Schools – Plattsmouth Parents as Teachers[1]

Cherry: North Central Nebraska CAP Council[2]; North Central Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention

Custer: Broken Bow Public Schools – Custer County Sixpence Program[1]; Custer County Early Childhood Committee[2]

Dawes: Chadron Public Schools – Parent Information Resource Center; Crawford Public Schools – Parent Information Resource Center

Dawson: Lexington Public Schools – Parent Information Resource Center

Dixon: ESU #1[2]

Douglas: Camp Fire USA; Child Saving Institute - Bridges to Success; Family Housing Advisory Services; Latina Resource Center; The Latino Center of the Midlands; Lutheran Family Services; Metropolitan Child Advocacy Coalition[2]; Middle School Learning Initiative (King Science Center, Marrs Magnet, McMillan Magnet, Monroe Middle School, Morton Magnet, Norris Middle School); Midlands Latino Community Development Corporation; Munroe-Meyer Institute (UNMC); Nothing But Net Foundation; Omaha Public Schools – Parent Information Resource Center; Omaha Public Schools – Teen Parent Program[1]; Project Harmony[2]; Weed & Seed South – City of Omaha

Gage: Personal Safety Awareness Committee[2]

Garden: Garden County Public Schools – Parent Information Resource Center

Garfield: Garfield, Loop and Wheeler Children's Council, Inc.[2]

Hall: Association for Child Abuse Prevention[2]; Community Youth Council – Coalition for Children – City of Grand Island

Holt: The O'Neill Family Preservation Team[2]

Keith: Support With Action Team

Knox: Santee Public Schools – Growing Together[1]

Lancaster: Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters[2]; Lincoln Medical Education Partnership – Young Family's Program; Lincoln Public Schools – Parent Information Resource Center; Lincoln Public Schools – Parents and Teachers Together[1]; Lincoln Public Schools – Student Child Learning Centers[1]; Nebraska CASA Association; YWCA of Lincoln – Take a Break

Lincoln: Rape/Domestic Abuse Program[2]

Madison: Norfolk Child Abuse Prevention Council[2]

Nuckolls: Brodstone Memorial Hospital / Human Interagency Services – Good Beginning/Safe Start

Platte: Columbus Area Child Abuse Prevention Council[2]

Platte, Colfax, Boone, Nance: Columbus Community Hospital - Healthy Families Nebraska

Red Willow: Southwest Nebraska Child Advocacy Team[2]

Saline: Crete Public Schools – Crete Young Parent Program[1]

Scotts Bluff: Gering Public Schools – Parent Information Resource Center; Minatare Public Schools – Parent Information Resource Center; Scottsbluff Public Schools – Parent Information Resource Center

Sheridan: Gordon Rushville Public Schools – Parent Information Resource Center

Sherman: Loup City Public Schools – Loup City Birth-Three Endowment Program[1]

Thurston: Umo^{n}ho^{n} Nation Public Schools – Parent Information Resource Center; Umo^{n}ho^{n} Nation Public Schools – Shin'ga Zhin'ga Early Childhood Development Center[1]; Walthill Public Schools – Parent Information Resource Center; Walthill Public Schools Wazhinga Ti Zhinga[1]

York: York Public Schools – Family Foundations[1]

1. *Indicates technical assistance provided in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education. Fiscal service provided by the Nebraska Department of Education.*

2. *Indicates collaboration of Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Partnership, comprised of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board, and Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.*

Sparking

A single person or organization working alone cannot create meaningful and lasting change in preventing the problems that threaten children's well being. This is why Nebraska Children and Families Foundation sparks the power of community by bringing people together who can lend their knowledge, talents and resources to create comprehensive statewide networks of support for children and families at risk, as well as the agencies that serve them .

In 2009, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation:

- Established 3 new youth-led Nebraska Foster Youth Councils in Scottsbluff, North Platte and Grand Island. Councils in Norfolk, Lincoln and Omaha continued to grow and developed new partnerships to help youth in care and those who are transitioning to independent living.
- Provided expertise and support to a statewide network of over 600 professionals committed to quality afterschool programs. Worked with community groups in Hastings, Grand Island, Sidney and Omaha to develop sustainable high-quality programs so school age children have a safe, engaging place to spend out-of-school hours.
- Hosted a retreat for 15 local child abuse prevention councils to share national, state and local research and tools for effective prevention work. Purposeful collaborative time was spent on council operations and identifying opportunities for shared work in the coming year.
- Reached our goal of establishing 72 Parent Information Resource Center sites in high-need school districts across the state, providing resources and support to engage parents as partners in schools and as advocates for their children's educational needs.

Advancing

Policy decisions affecting the lives of children and families throughout Nebraska are made in meeting rooms of local community centers and on the floor of the state legislature. Nebraska Children and Families Foundation is an influential change agent in discussions that shape policy, ensuring our state's youngest and most vulnerable citizens are respected and responsibly represented.

In 2009, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation:

- Advanced legislative policy based on an early learning – birth to five focused agenda. We introduced critical legislation to increase access to quality subsidized child care (LB609), developed recommendations for the Child Care and Development Block Grant stimulus funds and testified against proposed cuts to early childhood programs.
- Hosted Nebraska's Drop-Out Summit in partnership with national partner, America's Promise. Over 200 people, including members of the State Board of Education and superintendents, along with school-community teams attended a day-long workshop to plan and coordinate better strategies to meet the needs of youth who are at risk of dropping out of high school.
- Conducted 31 presentations for youth workers, judges, partners, foster parents and other adults to promote how changes in 'systems' can improve the lives of youth in foster care. Policy and practice changes included: creating youth-informed independent living programming, lowering the number of educational transitions, and prioritizing time with siblings.
- Provided Outcome Accountability seminars designed to build capacity and provide proven principles and practices on documenting and evaluating improvements in child well being. Seminars were facilitated by the FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention and attended by over 60 service providers and state partners.

Donors

Thank you to all of our donors including those who wish to remain anonymous.

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[1] *From 6/09*

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Financials (unaudited)

Revenue

Private	$	2,390,495
State	$	1,131,507
Federal	$	1,331,942
Donations	$	202,433
Interest Income	$	19,623
	$	5,076,000

Expenses

Grants	$	1,229,401
Program	$	2,129,041
Administrative	$	555,973
Fundraising	$	250,515
	$	4,164,930

Surplus represents an increase in temporarily restricted funding for future program expenses

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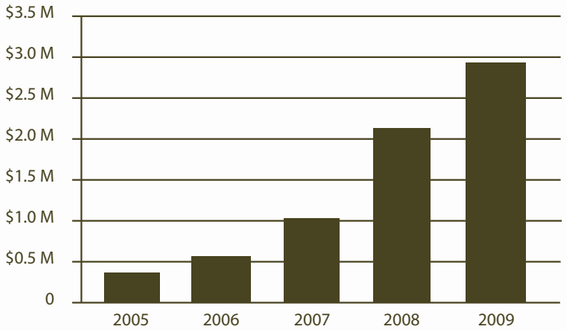
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