



CULTIVATING THE GOOD LIFE
FOR ALL OF OUR CHILDREN.

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nebraskachildren
AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION

OUR KIDS DESERVE *REAL CHANGE.*

The world is full of programs designed to treat the symptoms of failed systems. Everyone feels good about themselves... but nothing actually changes.

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation is different. We're about permanent fixes that address the source of the problems children and families face. Makes sense, doesn't it?

Give now at NebraskaChildren.org/goodlife.html

BIG SOLUTIONS NEED EVERYONE TO GET INVOLVED.

At Nebraska Children, we're working to ensure that every child in our state has the resources they need to reach their full potential. And that's a tall order.

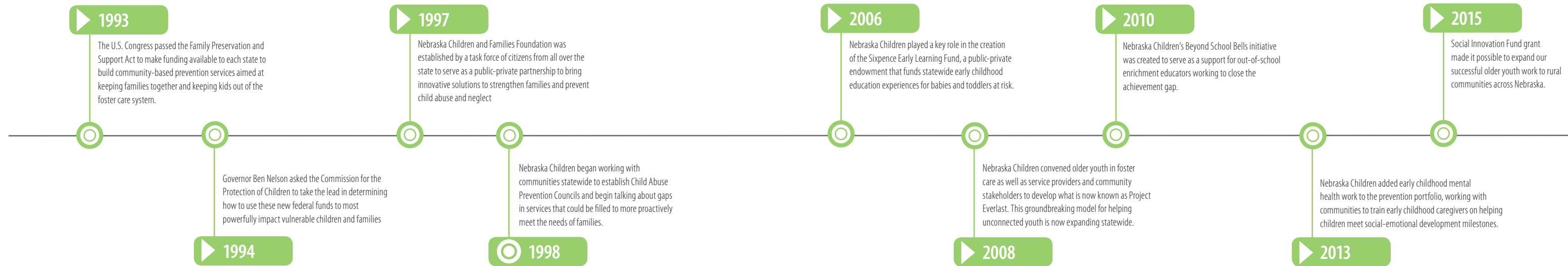
But we know from experience that when you rally all of a community's resources—schools, churches, government, social services, businesses and caring individuals—around the common goal of strengthening families and fortifying children from the start, amazing things can happen.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH FOR UNPRECEDENTED RESULTS.

If you're like us, you know that preventing a problem now is more effective and less expensive than fixing a disaster farther down the road. And that's how we work. Nebraska Children pulls entire communities together to better serve vulnerable families today, so their children will thrive in school, in life and in Nebraska's workforce tomorrow.



THE HISTORY OF NEBRASKA CHILDREN: A TIMELINE

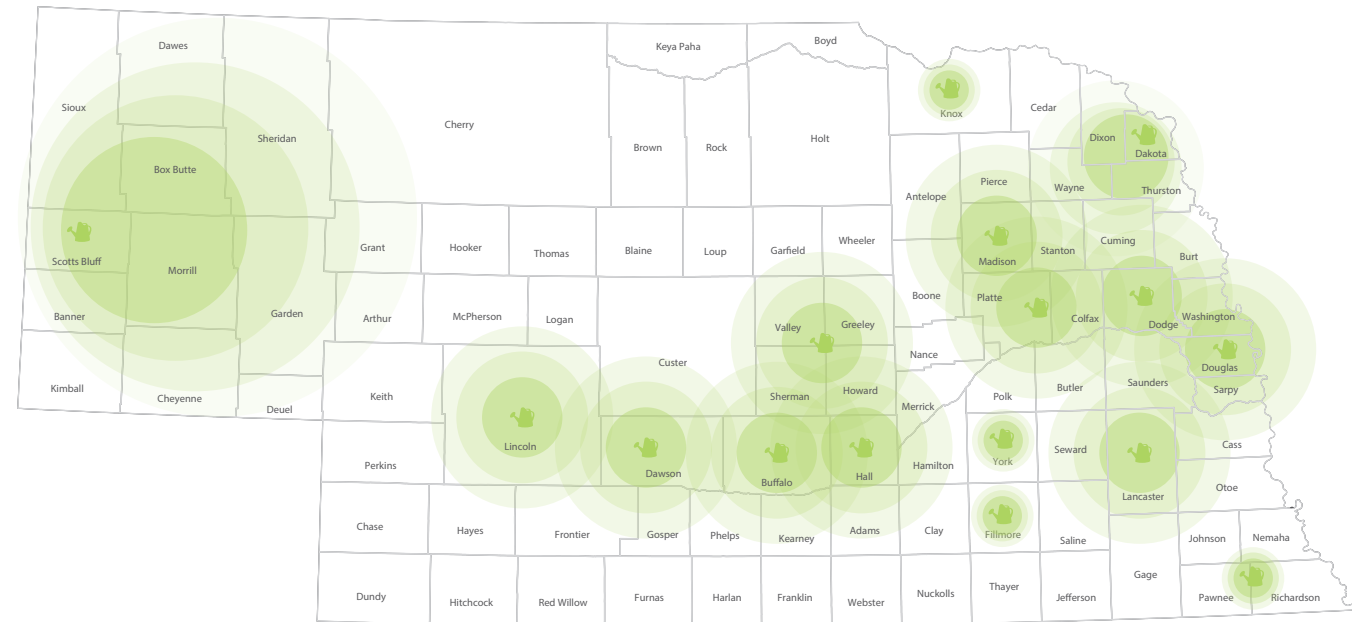


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

Nebraska Children's unique collaborative approach is designed to tackle the complex issues that put children and families at risk. Across the state, we partner with communities to help them improve their systems that serve children, shield families from risk and empower them to do the world's hardest job—raising strong, resilient kids.

The map to the right shows our current community collaborations. Each is prevention-focused and community-owned, with a focus on ensuring that the most vulnerable children get a fair shot at the good life. From Omaha to the Panhandle, we're using proven approaches to:

- Prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Teach teenage and low-income parents how to be their child's first and best teacher.
- Create early learning environments that prepare children to succeed in school and life.
- Eliminate the achievement gap for low-income students with afterschool and summer learning opportunities
- Help young people in foster care become productive, independent adults.



THE POWER OF FOCUSED COORDINATION.

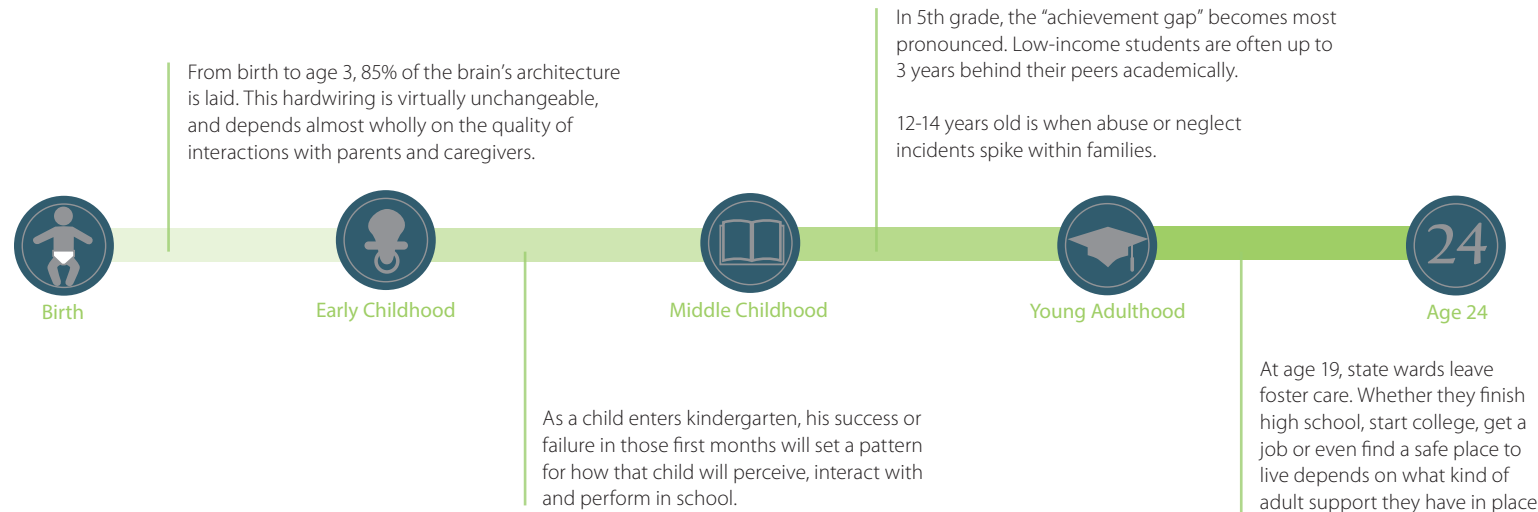
Nebraska Children brings the data to get community stakeholders reading from the same play book, the facilitation to guide everyone in the right direction, the proven practices to move the needle, the measurement tools to make sure everything is working, and the funding that makes sustained action possible.

The results—like the collaborative process—are transformative to Nebraska's communities:

- Fewer child abuse cases.
- Greater school success.
- More productive families.
- Brighter futures for Nebraska's children.

HITTING THE CRITICAL POINTS FROM CRADLE TO CAREER.

At each point in a child's life—from birth to age 24—there are particular moments of vulnerability and potential.



OUR PREVENTION PORTFOLIO

Each of our initiatives is part of a larger prevention portfolio. Initiatives can be plugged into each Community Prevention System to address specific issues along the cradle to career spectrum.

INITIATIVES

In the center of the circle, are age-specific initiatives that Nebraska Children developed to address specific areas where a community needs to see improvement.

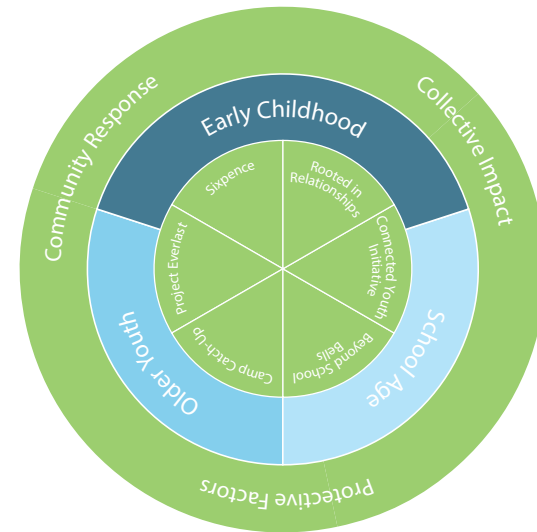
- **Early Childhood** – Sixpence Early Learning Programs and Rooted in Relationships address the needs of the youngest children, ensuring that parents and caregivers have the necessary knowledge to foster healthy development.

- **School Age** – Beyond School Bells works with school districts across the state to provide afterschool and summer learning opportunities that are proven to close the achievement gap between rich and poor. Camp Catch-Up reunites siblings from age 8-19 who have been separated by foster care. The goal is to nurture the critical connections between brothers and sisters, to create a sense of permanency in the lives of children who have experienced far too much upheaval and instability.
- **Older Youth** – The Connected Youth Initiative and Project Everlast work to harness the voice of “unconnected youth” ages 14-24—many of whom have aged out of the foster care system—and to help them access the services they need to transition to a stable, productive adulthood.

THE PRODUCTS

The outer ring represents the overall context of how these initiatives and practices are delivered:

- **The Process | Collective Impact** - A specific type of collaboration that ensures community ownership and maximizes existing resources.
- **The System | Community Response** - This model for the resulting Community Prevention System allows families to be served by community organizations without unnecessary involvement of the child welfare system.
- **The Outcome | Protective Factors** - The result of the initiatives, Evidence-Based Practices, Collective Impact process and Community Response model is an increase in Protective Factors, a nationally recognized predictor of family strength, health and stability.



PREVENTION IN ACTION

MELISSA'S STORY ▶

After Melissa's husband lost his job, it was only a matter of time before the family and their 6 children were about to lose their home. Fortunately, Melissa tapped the Community Prevention System in Fremont and accessed services to help meet her children's basic needs, ensure they were meeting all of their developmental milestones, and strengthen her family while she and her husband looked for work. Now, both Melissa and her husband have new jobs and have both been promoted to management. They're in a stable home, and the children are thriving.



AZAR'S STORY ▶

Azar was a bright young man who spent his teenage years in foster care. He was a high-school athlete and a good student, but he was quiet and didn't trust anyone. After aging out, Azar faced the prospect of homelessness and no career prospects. His connection with Project Everlast Omaha, a Nebraska Children initiative, helped connect him with caring adults and transitional resources to get him enrolled in college (with a triple major, no less) and serving as a mentor to other young people. Azar is on his way to a bright future, and now has people in his life he can trust!



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