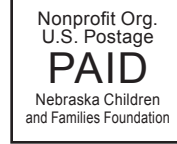




215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 200
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508



Donate your way.

*Every donation you make has an impact.
Now there are more ways than ever to give.*

1. Go to NebraskaChildren.org and select Donate to contribute online.
2. Call Jen Thielen at 402-476-9401 to set up a one-time or monthly gift.
3. Mail a donation to: 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 200, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
4. Talk to your estate planner about leaving a lasting legacy to Nebraska Children.



Nebraska Children is a proud member of Community Services Fund, a federation of nonprofit agencies improving the quality of life throughout Nebraska by preserving resources, expanding knowledge, encouraging creativity, and protecting rights. Learn more at www.CommunityServicesFund.org.



Nebraska Children and Family Foundation's sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent Charity Evaluator. www.charitynavigator.org

Board of Directors

Jaime Hemmerling, Chair, Lincoln
Sara Woods, Vice Chair, Omaha
Gaye Lynn Schaffart, Secretary, Omaha
Michael J. McQuillan, Treasurer, Ogallala
Dr. Doug Christensen, Past Chair, Lincoln

Brad Bauer, Grand Island
Liliana Bronner, Bellevue
Linda Daugherty, Omaha
Joyce Davis, Omaha
Connie Duncan, Lincoln
Tammy Eagle Bull, Lincoln
John W. Ewing, Jr., Omaha
Sally Ganem, Fremont
Dr. Max Larsen, Lincoln
Kyle McGowan, Crete
Todd Ogden, Lincoln
Sandy Parker, Omaha
Jessica Pate, Omaha
Dr. Helen H. Raikes, Ashland
Deyna Rouse, Omaha
Carol Russell, Omaha
Barb Schlothauer, Gering
Will Scott, Lincoln
Dr. Roger Wess, Chadron
Mike Wortman, Lincoln
Mark Zimmerer, Norfolk

Spout

Cultivating the good life for all of our children

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | November 2016



System of Care
What it means for
Nebraska families

Coming Together
Victor Rivas Rivers highlights a
successful Changemakers 2016

Liliana Bronner
Welcome addition to
Nebraska Children board

2ND ANNUAL

PERFECT POUR

A CRAFT COCKTAIL COMPETITION

BENEFITING NEBRASKA CHILDREN

PRESENTED BY FRIENDS OF NEBRASKA CHILDREN & NEBRASKA USBG

FEB. 25, 2017

7 P.M. | THE LIVING ROOM AT MASTERCRAFT

Join us for a 1950s, Cuban-themed evening celebrating fun, friendship and charity.

Prepare for a showdown between Omaha and Lincoln's brightest and most innovative bartenders! Local mixologists will prepare their best craft cocktails using Brugal rum. There will be live music, authentic period photography and an amazing opportunity to make a difference for Omaha's most vulnerable kids.



TO SPONSOR THE EVENT OR RESERVE YOUR TICKETS, VISIT WWW.PERFECTPOUR.ORG

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Mary Jo Pankoke

Dear Friends,

The days are getting shorter, and there's a chill in the air – fall is finally here, which means the holidays are fast approaching.

For many of us, holidays are times of togetherness, gifts, and full tables. For many others, though, the holiday celebrations and chilly weather can be harsh reminders of what's missing: a home base, a hot meal, a chance to spend time with loved ones.

With your help, Nebraska Children has been able to accomplish so much this year, from expanding our Connected Youth Initiative to implementing Sixpence Early Learning in more early childhood environments to advocating for more extended learning opportunities. But as 2016 comes to a close, I challenge you to help us make the holidays a little happier for young people in Nebraska by contributing to the Holiday Care Package Drive. You can learn more about the Drive and what items are needed on page 11.

Also in this issue is a recap of our Changemakers luncheon that took place in September. I was so encouraged to see more than 400 people gathered in support of our state's children, and the message delivered by Victor Rivas Rivers was a powerful one, highlighting the importance of active, involved communities serving as the proverbial "village" that helps raise strong children and families.

There's lots more to catch up on in this issue, and none of it would be possible without the help and support we get from YOU. Our partners and supporters are blessings that we're thankful for year-round, not just at the holidays.

It's been a great year, and I look forward to what we can accomplish together in 2017. Thank you, and warmest wishes for a beautiful winter.

Mary Jo

Mary Jo Pankoke
President and CEO



Our mission is to create positive change for Nebraska's children through community engagement.

CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| News to Know | 2 |
| System of Care | 3 |
| Changemakers Recap | 4-6 |
| Board Member Profile: Liliana Bronner | 7 |
| Friends of Nebraska Children | 8-9 |

STAY CONNECTED

- facebook.com/nebraskachildren
- Twitter: @NE_children

Investment Connection Nebraska

Nebraska Children was selected as 1 of 8 organizations to present at a unique funding event on September 21. Similar to “Shark Tank,” Investment Connection Nebraska brings together the banking industry and community services sectors for partnership and funding opportunities. Nebraska Children’s Jason Feldhaus presented the Nebraska Youth Economic Success (YES) framework, which would allow Nebraska Children to expand Opportunity Passport™ statewide and embed financial coaching into existing independent living services. Following the presentation, Investment Connection Nebraska will identify financial institutions interested in funding the proposal.

Legislative update

On August 8 and 9, Nebraska Children staff and a young person from Omaha had the opportunity to attend the kickoff of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative’s (JCYOI) Policy Council in Baltimore, Maryland. Alongside youth and representatives from six other states, they learned about bills in front of Congress that would impact youth with foster care experience, shared the work being done in other states, and identified policy priorities for JCYOI to consider. Issues discussed included expanding foster care, better supporting pregnant and parenting youth, easing access to Medicaid, and promoting tuition programs for alumni of foster care. Our staffers are excited to have Nebraska youth voices being heard.

Askable Adults Matter

On August 17, seven Nebraska Children Connected Youth Initiative staffers participated in Askable Adults Matter training provided by Planned Parenthood. The goal of the training is for youth-serving professionals, community members, and volunteers to become more approachable and knowledgeable in order to point youth in the right direction for sexual and reproductive health care. CYI staff members learned about how to recognize the need for “Askable Adults” to help youth make healthy decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and how to do so in a professional, ethical, and data-informed way. The training offered a chance to identify ways in which Nebraska Children staff can implement strategies in our communities to help young adults connect to the resources they need and receive appropriate support and services.

Report finds Nebraska still has room for growth

According to the “Investing in Possibilities: The 2016 Nebraska Children’s Budget” report from the Holland Children’s Institute, Nebraska’s spending on children’s health and early learning is down 4.6%, or \$12.7 million, from 2014. You can read more at <http://bit.ly/2eqYaot>.



New team member,
new initiative

System of Care explained

Earlier this year, Nebraska Children welcomed Nathan Busch to serve as point person for implementing the new System of Care. We had a conversation with Nathan to learn more about the Nebraska System of Care (NeSOC).

Can you explain the System of Care for those of us who aren’t sure what it entails?

As a trained (and recovering) attorney, I like to tell stories. So, here is one that can help explain NeSOC.

In 1904, the city of Baltimore caught on fire. Fire companies rushed in from as far away as Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., New York City, and Virginia. In many cases, firemen traveled with their own horse-drawn pumpers. When they arrived, they found their hose couplings did not fit the Baltimore hydrants. These frustrated firemen watched as 1,500 buildings burned, impacting 35,000 families. This fire led to standardized couplings across the United States. Now a firefighter can use a truck from San Diego to help fight a fire in Denver.

This is similar to the Nebraska System of Care. Right now, children and families receive behavioral health services from multiple sources (probation, education, behavioral health regions), funded through multiple sources, and with targeted multiple outcomes. The environment currently consists of many “hoses” that do not connect for families. Like the firefighters, professionals want to help, but sometimes regulations, policies, funding restrictions, etc., prevent service “hoses” from connecting. The implementation of NeSOC will

make sure children and families can more easily access a more diverse range of services.

Over time, communities diversified construction materials and developed strategies to prevent fires from starting or spreading. They improved upon methods for quick and effective response to address the threat of fire and avoid the trauma and expense of rebuilding a community. Likewise, families should be able to access behavioral health services and supports without waiting for a crisis. There must be quick and effective responses to avoid the trauma and expense of children being placed outside the home or losing custody of the child in order to obtain needed services. By looking closely at systems serving children and families, this initiative hopes to avoid the challenges of reuniting families when separation might have been prevented in the first place.

A System of Care connects the work of state agencies, nonprofits, local governments, behavioral health care providers, families, and patient advocates. It helps children and families function better at home, in school, and in the community.

What do you hope the NeSOC will accomplish?

With NeSOC, we hope to increase school attendance and performance, decrease the average age of first system contact, decrease the cost per youth receiving services, and increase the percentage of youth and young adults living in home settings. At the end of the day, we’re all about keeping families happy, healthy, and together.



Mary Jo Pankoke, Victor Rivas Rivers, and Changemakers Honorary Co-Chairs Connie and Todd Duncan

Keynote speaker Victor Rivas Rivers



Changemakers 2016



Emcee Jeremy Maskel

Celebrating a year of positive change

On September 12, more than 400 people gathered together at the Changemakers luncheon to celebrate victories, reflect on the fight to protect Nebraska's children, and renew their motivation to keep working for change. To say that it was inspiring would be an understatement!

The event began with a gathering Sunday evening at Omaha's Bike Union (www.thebikeunion.org), where keynote speaker Victor Rivas Rivers spent time with young people from Project Everlast Omaha. Victor spoke to nearly 20 young adults, sharing his story of growing up in an abusive environment but triumphing thanks to the power of his community. Each young person received an autographed copy of Victor's book, "A Private Family Matter," and had the opportunity to talk with him and ask questions while sharing some pizza.

Monday's events began with a small reception for Ruth and William Scott, who were awarded Nebraska Children's Grace Abbott Award. The Scotts are Nebraska natives who have committed countless hours and dollars to where they're needed most: with our state's children. Specifically, their Nebraska Children investments have included support for Community Well-Being communities, Project Everlast, Beyond School Bells, Connected Youth Initiative expansion, Sixpence Early Learning, and Early Childhood Services. Helping to present the award were a handful of speakers whose lives had been touched by the Scotts' generosity. Thank you again, William and Ruth!

Following the reception was the main event, which started with remarks from emcee Jeremy Maskel of KETV NewsWatch 7, honorary event chair Connie Duncan of the Duncan Family Foundation, and Nebraska Children President and CEO Mary Jo Pankoke. Then, Victor Rivas Rivers came onstage to speak to a captive audience.

His story was one of heartbreak and hope, of trial and triumph, and of how a strong "village" can be what saves a child from going down the wrong path. He spoke of growing up with a severely abusive father, of scars that affected not just his body but his soul, and of turning to gang life in his teen years to find a place to belong and an outlet for his anger. Victor's life could've easily gone too far down the wrong path, but thanks to some special



William and Ruth Scott, 2016 Grace Abbott Award honorees

"angels" around him, he went from gang member sophomore year to class president as a senior. His teachers, coaches, and other concerned adults were able to recognize that Victor needed help and they rose up to catch him before he slipped through the cracks. Victor now calls himself the child the village raised. Since then, he has dedicated his life to shining a light on domestic and child abuse, sharing the importance of community in lifting up those who are vulnerable and wrapping them in support.

continued on page 6

Victor also shared a story from the Masai tribe in Africa that gave us plenty of food for thought. The Masai tribe's traditional greeting is "Kasserian Ingera," which translates to "How are the children?" They ask this first because if all is well with the children, then so it goes for the rest of the tribe. What a powerful statement on the importance of caring for our young people.

Changemakers 2016 was an amazing experience for all involved. Hearing Victor Rivas Rivers speak was a great reminder of why we do what we do: to give all of Nebraska's children a chance to experience the Good Life.

Save the date for Changemakers 2017 - October 10.



Nebraska Children board members Mike Wortman, Sara Woods, and Carol Russell

TRIBUTES

Generous donations to Nebraska Children were made in tribute to or in memory of the following:

| DONOR | IN HONOR OF |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Sally Ganem | Kay and Jim Ganem |
| Helen Raikes | Ron Raikes |
| Kareen Hickman | Marian Chatel |
| Lisa Stewart Krutter | Forrest N. Krutter |
| Jessica Covi | Kareen Hickman |
| Sara Woods | Fran Carr |
| Jennifer Thielen | Everett Johnson |

Thank You to Our Generous Changemakers Sponsors

The Duncan Family Trust

Jodie Mackintosh



Doug Christensen



Dvorak & Donovan

Lincoln Financial Management

BKD, LLP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Spotlight

Liliana Bronner



Ms. Liliana Bronner is currently a Clinical Education Manager at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, in the Family Medicine Department. Here, she provides leadership, vision setting, and coordination of training for students, as well as managing the multi-professional primary care education project. She received her BS at the University of Florida, her Masters of Health Services Administration at Florida International University, and her MBA at UNO. Bronner is also a Certified Nursing Assistant, is fluent in Spanish and French, and has significant experience managing several sizeable federal grants. She is a prolifically published researcher on matters of family health and health care barriers facing minorities.

Why did you want to serve on the board of directors for Nebraska Children?

I wanted to serve on this board because I want to be involved in an organization that makes a positive impact in children's lives and their future.

What have you found to be the biggest challenges for children and families in the Omaha metro?

- Problems that:
- threaten the lives of children and families (child abuse, substance abuse, infant mortality)
 - create severe social harm, which, while not necessarily life-threatening, hurt children and endanger their health or welfare in serious and unacceptable ways (mental health, child abuse/neglect, foster care)
 - endanger economic productivity, which impair the ability of children to become productive members of society or cause current unnecessary social costs (early childhood education, childcare, adolescent pregnancy)

What role do you think the healthcare industry should have in improving outcomes for children and families?

As providers distribute services in the care cycle across locations, they must learn to tie together the patient's care across these sites. Integrating mechanisms, such as assigning a single physician team captain for each patient and adopting common scheduling and other protocols, help ensure that well-coordinated, multidisciplinary care is delivered in a cost-effective and convenient way.

What is one change that you would like to see for Nebraska kids in your lifetime?

I would like to see each and every child in Nebraska graduate high school and have a caring adult in their life (parent, family member, friend, or neighbor) that can help them get there. I think more could be done to give students the long-term support required to raise the graduation rate for real.

Happy Fall, supporters of Nebraska Children!

A turn toward cooler weather has all of our minds on the fact that the holidays will be here before we know it. To that end, the Friends Service Committee is continuing to coordinate donation drives for holiday gift packages for the young people of Project Everlast/Connected Youth Initiative. Several drives have already occurred over the summer, but more support is needed. If your book club, office, church group, or any other part of your network is interested in helping us provide much-needed items to the Project Everlast youth at the holidays, please contact Karen Hickman at khickman@nebraskachildren.org for more information.

We're also looking ahead to our annual meeting for our Friends members, which will be held at Crave in Midtown Crossing on November 18. This will be a great opportunity for us to share more about our work and to make our first financial gift to Nebraska Children. This will be a fantastic culmination to our first full year!

Finally, please make sure to mark your calendars for our second annual Perfect Pour event on February 25, 2017, at the Living Room at Mastercraft in Omaha. Just like last year, this amazing event will feature local mixologists' original concoctions, with this year's featured libation, Brugal rum. The unique cocktails will correspond with our pre-embargo Cuba theme, and the event will also feature gourmet Caribbean canapes, live music, a historical photograph auction, and a cigar tent. It's going to be a great time! We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Deyna Rouse



Executive Committee

- President – Deyna Rouse
- Vice President – Nick Thielen
- Secretary – Jamie Ryder
- Membership Chair – Jessica Covi
- Fundraising Co-Chair – Katie Triplett
- Fundraising Co-Chair – Alysia Radicia
- Service Chair – Katy Spratte
- Communications Chair – Melissa Carlberg

Board Members:

- Emily Anderson
- Brenda Beasley
- Dan Bolt
- Tina Dunham
- Binoy Fernandez
- Adam Gaines
- Amber Gard
- Melissa Glenn
- Ann Hadfield
- Sarah Hanify
- Kyle Hofeldt
- Sheena Helgenberger
- Kristin Lowrey
- Sarah Macdissi
- Jeremy Maskel
- L.J. McElravy
- Adam Morfield
- Amy Parks
- Jina Picarella
- Stephanie Sands

JOIN THE FRIENDS!

Membership in Friends is open to all those interested in partnering with Nebraska Children.
FriendsOfNebraskaChildren.org

Give warmth & comfort to someone who needs it this season.

The Friends of Nebraska Children are putting together care packages for unconnected young people, most of whom are currently in foster care or have recently aged out.

WANT TO HELP?

1. In Omaha, email OmahaFriends@nebraskachildren.org to discuss donating items for a care package.
2. For the rest of the state, contact Jessica Hilderbrand, jhilderbrand@nebraskachildren.org and she will put you in touch with your local community holiday care package organizer.
3. Amazon.com wish list: <http://amzn.to/2erdguv>
4. If you prefer to donate a cash gift, visit ChildrenMatterMost.org.

Holiday Care Package Wish List

** Please make sure all items are new and unused*

- Clothing
 - hats/gloves
 - socks
 - winter coats
- Household items
 - pots/ pans
 - kitchen utensils
 - plate/bowl sets
 - glass sets
 - silverware sets
 - towels
 - kitchen or bath
- Personal hygiene items
 - deodorant
 - soap/body wash
- Non-perishable food items
 - granola bars
 - soup
 - trail mix
 - fruit snacks
- Art supplies
 - sketchbooks
 - journals
- Gift cards
 - Walmart /Target
 - grocery stores
 - entertainment
 - restaurants
 - Babies "R" Us, Toys "R" Us, Carter's
- Baby items for young people with kids

