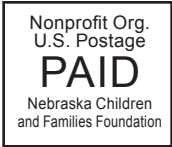




nebraskachildren
AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION

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 the address above.
- 4 Talk to your estate planner about leaving a lasting legacy to the foundation.

| Stay Connected |

 facebook.com/nebraskachildren

 Twitter: @NE_children

| Next Edition |

*The Power of
School-Community
Partnerships*

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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.



Community
Services Fund
of Nebraska

Spout

Drops of Change for Children

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | November 2015

Innovation in action

Expanding older youth systems
throughout rural Nebraska.



Changemakers Recap

A celebration of Nebraska's
children's champions.

Meet Jessica Pate

Profile of a new Nebraska
Children Board member.

Perfect Pour!

Our first-ever craft cocktail
fundraiser, presented by the Omaha
Friends of Nebraska Children.

Service Opportunities

The Omaha Friends of Nebraska
Children are up and running



SAVE THE DATE

PERFECT POUR

FEBRUARY 27, 2016
7:00 PM

THE PELLA
303 S 41st St

*A Craft Cocktail Competition
for Nebraska Children*

Register now at PerfectPour.org



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

The holiday season is fast approaching, and Nebraska Children is once again organizing care packages for youth without families or support systems.

Want to help? Here's how:

In Omaha, contact **Katy Spratte** at kfsprats@gmail.com. For the rest of the state, contact **Jessica Hilderbrand** at jhilderbrand@nebraskachildren.org or 402-476-9401 and she will put you in touch with your local community holiday care package organizer.

| Letter from the President |



Mary Jo Pankoke

Dear Friends,

Do you ever have those moments when something huge happens? You look around and say to yourself, "Wow. Everything is about to change."

That's what it's been like around the Nebraska Children office for the last several weeks. Nebraska Children was recently awarded a multi-million dollar Social Innovation Fund (SIF) grant to expand the work we've done with older youth—Project Everlast Omaha and Lincoln, plus the Social Supports for Older Youth in the Panhandle—to rural communities across the state.

Wow. Everything really is about to change.

SIF is recognizing what our Project Everlast youth already know: the model works and it will work across all kinds of communities. Funding from SIF is being matched by a variety of private Nebraska-based donors—and more match funds will be needed to make it all work.

It's amazing. And it's a reminder for all of us that all of the work done at Nebraska Children means nothing without communities. While we pull together all the research and data, develop models and measure them to make sure they work, the communities are the conduit by which children and families are served.

Without brave, collaborative communities that are committed to positive, permanent change, the work would never reach children and families.

This new influx of funding is going to mean amazing things for young people in our state. And I'd just like to take this moment to personally thank those working tirelessly in the communities to implement these proven models with fidelity, and make a lasting impact on Nebraska's children, youth and families.

Thank you, truly, for all that you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Jo".

Mary Jo Pankoke
President and CEO



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| News to Know |

Early Childhood

Rooted in Relationships

Cohort 1 communities (Dakota, Dawson and Saline Counties) are now in year 2 of implementation of the Pyramid Model and other activities to support social-emotional development in young children. During recent focus groups with child care providers, they were able to describe specific new strategies they are using in their programs as a result of coaching and training.

One favorite moment was when a provider said, "I was skeptical about these new strategies because I like to do things a certain way. I had recently moved classrooms and kept EVERYTHING the same. Change is not my thing. I decided to try the Pyramid strategies I learned at the trainings just to prove that they wouldn't work. I was so surprised to learn that they really did work!" An annual report will be released later this year documenting the impact of Rooted in Relationships.



"The Rainbow Fish shared scales left and right. And the more he gave away, the more delighted he became. When the water around him filled with glimmering scales, he at last felt at home among the other fish." The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister.

Cradle to Career

Bring Up Nebraska

With funding from the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund, Nebraska Children developed a comprehensive campaign aimed at raising awareness of protective factors, and the role we all play in raising strong, stable children. The campaign included radio, web, social media, events and branded items to be used by Child Abuse Prevention Councils across the state.



Early Childhood

Sixpence Early Learning Fund preparing to award new grants

On October 1, Sixpence released a request for proposal for its first-ever Child Care Partnership Grants. These innovative grants will fund collaborations between school districts and licensed child care providers. View the request for proposal and find out more at www.SingASongOfSixpence.org.

Middle Childhood

Beyond School Bells receives Ron Raikes Innovation for Opportunity Award

Beyond School Bells, a Nebraska Children collaboration, and its network of out-of-school learning programs was recently selected as the first recipient of the Ron Raikes Innovation for Opportunity Award. The award was given by Dr. Helen Raikes at a statewide Aksarben recognition event in Kearney on August 16 to honor her late husband's commitment to education.

Jeff Cole speaks at national conference

Nebraska Children's network lead for Beyond School Bells participated in a panel on Increasing Investment in Afterschool at the American Youth Policy Forum in Washington, D.C. on September 28. He was joined on the panel by representatives of afterschool networks from Connecticut and Florida.





Jessica Pate

Joining the Nebraska Children board this year, Jessica is excited about the opportunity to affect statewide change for Nebraska's most vulnerable children.

Jessica is a prolific and generous community volunteer, giving her time and talent to multiple organizations focused on youth development in the Omaha Metro. She currently serves on the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands board, the United Way of the Midlands (UWM) board and as chair of the UWM Women's Leadership Council. She previously served as a TeamMates mentor. She and her husband Dennis Pate, President/CEO of Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium, live in Omaha and have a son.

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

A: Nebraska Children has done a commendable job of addressing community needs through its Collective Impact model. Ownership of the challenge and the steps towards remedy are local. It's like Nebraska Children is the 'locavore' of the social service arena and this resonates with our citizenry. In addition, the depth of the research and analytics bench at Nebraska Children is notable. The thoughtful data collection and integrity of the analytical results have informed the community-based efforts in a way that coalesces these local groups: the facts are the facts.

Q: Why is it important that positive change for children be made through communities?

A: Politics aside, it does take a village. Using whatever imagery works for you—cogs, spokes, bubbles—we are all talking about the same thing: humans are complex beings requiring regular, healthy nourishment from multiple sources. If we have well-greased, well-

coordinated mechanisms supporting our children, we are, by default, doing the same for our communities.

Q: What do you think is the biggest challenge for children and families in the Omaha Metro?

A: First, I think jobs with living wages and economic access. If we want people to live independently, we have to pay them so they can. Second, I think we need to consider our 'Unconscious incompetence' in matters of race and its impact on how we function as a society. I think we can do better. By doing so I think we will find that we are all lifted.

Q: You work with other organizations that are seeking to help close the educational achievement gap. How do you think communities can partner with schools to help ensure that our children are getting all the resources they need to reach their full potential?

A: One of the big attractions for me to Nebraska Children was Beyond School Bells, their statewide public-private partnership that works to ensure high-quality out-of-school time experiences for our children. Children spend many more hours

out-of-school than they do in, yet our programs are often not in a position to maximize that time. While Beyond School Bells is a statewide initiative, I have been involved in a local Omaha program that might have broader appeal: It's the recently launched "Train to Gain for Student Success" partnership between the United Way of the Midlands Women's Leadership Council and the Collective for Youth (CFY). This program will address student achievement from the out-of-school-time vantage point. This unique program based on a foundation of continuous quality improvement, will provide on-going training, and ultimately train-the-trainer methodology, to front-line and supervisory staff to improve all aspects of program delivery, management and outcomes.

Q: What is one change that you'd like to see in your lifetime for the kids of Nebraska?

A: All children reading at grade level by 3rd grade! 🍷

Innovation at to help *unconnected* youth

*We've said it before:
If something works, you scale it up.*

The Social Innovation Fund agrees. That's why they recently awarded a major, multi-year grant to Nebraska Children so we can expand our successful model for serving older youth in need to rural communities all over the state.

This is about results.

Project Everlast in Omaha and the Older Youth System of Care in the Panhandle don't look exactly the same. But they have core programming components and infrastructure that have led to remarkable changes for young people aging out of foster care.

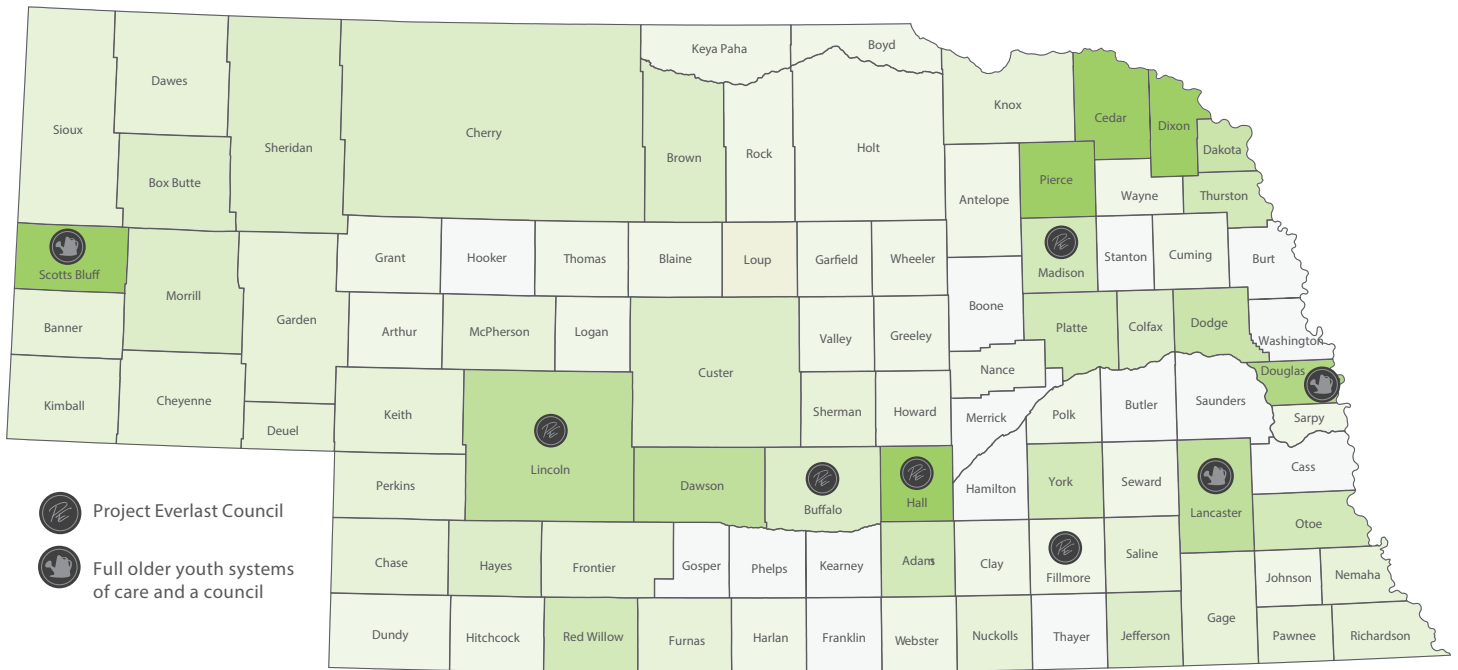
Now, with help from the Social Innovation Fund and a few highly committed private funders, we're ready to take those results further with the Connected Youth Initiative, and put a proven system to work for 250% more Nebraska youth.



work



EXPANDING ON WHAT WORKS



Currently, Nebraska Children has older youth systems in Lincoln, Omaha and the Panhandle. The federal grant funds from SIF and private match funds will pay for staff, planning and implementation costs associated with expansion to greater Nebraska. Nebraska Children has already set up “youth councils” in several communities across the state to help determine what youth most need.

Nebraska Children will award 7-10 Connected Youth Initiative sub-grants of \$100,00–150,000 per year for five years to communities wishing to build a Connected Youth

Initiative. Recipient communities will be required to supply a dollar-for-dollar cash match from public or private community funders. Applications will be available this fall.

By 2020, what will be achieved?

- 85% of Nebraska Counties will be served
- 250% increase in youth served
- Each community will “own” its initiative, leading to long-term sustainability

Connected YOUTH INITIATIVE

Matching young people in need
with resources for success

With help from the Project Everlast youth councils and existing community relationships, the new Connected Youth Initiative partners in rural Nebraska will be youth-driven. Thanks to prior experience and learning, Nebraska Children is in a position to advise on best practices for serving unconnected youth, including:

- Central access services to help young people navigate services
- Individual development accounts (IDAs) to encourage saving and teach financial literacy
- Transitional/voluntary case management services to provide a source of support for unconnected youth
- Alignment and maximization of existing community services to help youth transition towards self-reliance

The model for the new Connected Youth Initiative is a combination of Project Everlast and the Social Services Rural Homeless Youth federal demonstration grant. This model uses a collaborative leadership process to focus on the needs of unconnected youth by aligning current community efforts, developing additional resources, creating an evaluation process, and merging statewide actions into the plan.

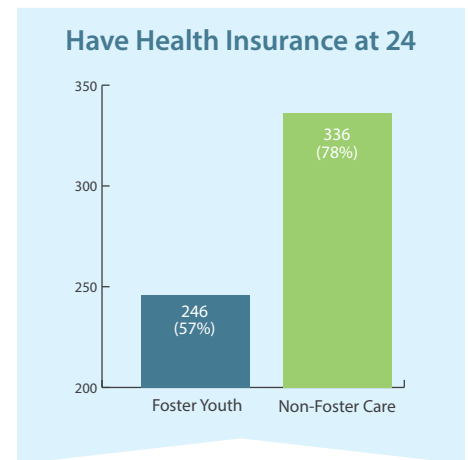
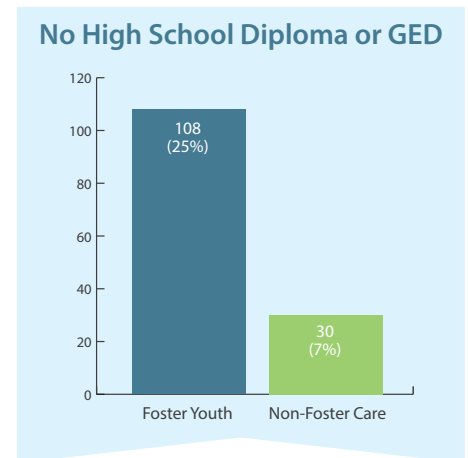
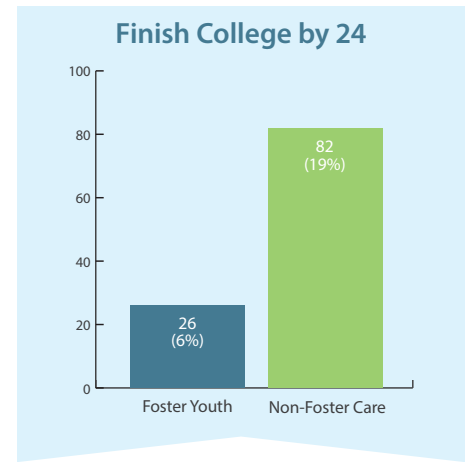
Who will be served?

The initiative will serve “unconnected youth” in rural Nebraska communities. Unconnected youth are defined as young people between 14-24 who are currently or have been in the Nebraska foster care system, have had contact with the child protective services, have had contact with the juvenile justice system (but are not on probation), or are homeless or near homeless.

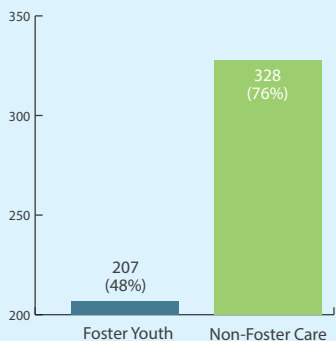
“The unconnected young people served by our older youth systems are faced with notoriously poor life outcomes,” said Jennifer Skala, Nebraska Children’s Senior Vice President of Community Impact, “Many of them will experience homelessness, develop chronic health problems, struggle with addiction, become parents too early or even become incarcerated as adults. These outcomes are not only negative for the young people experiencing them, but extremely expensive for Nebraska taxpayers.”

Without community support, unconnected youth are unlikely to reach their full potential. Take a look at the projected outcomes for the 431 foster youth ages 17+ in Greater Nebraska, compared to 431 of their peers not in the system:

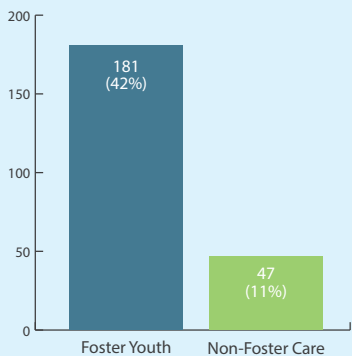
Who is eligible for sub-grants?



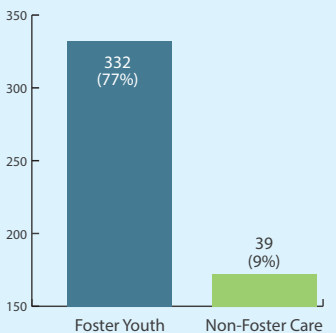
Employed at 24



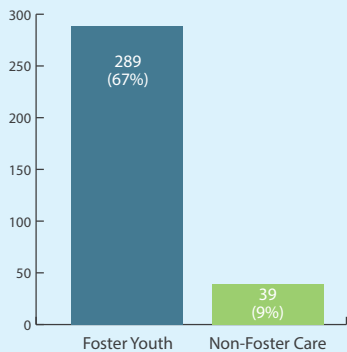
Arrested by 24



Have 1+ Pregnancies by 24



Receive Food Stamps



Several communities have submitted Letters of Intent to apply for Connected Youth Initiative sub-grants from Nebraska Children, and are currently working on their full proposals. Grantee communities will be cross-sector collaboratives focused on improving youth outcomes. These applicants must work to create older youth systems that focus on educational and career outcomes, and well-being factors such as:

- Daily needs
- Transportation
- Health (mental, physical and dental)
- Housing
- Permanency
- Financial stability

All of us at Nebraska Children are excited to see these critical networks of resources for older youth grow across the state. We're looking forward to selecting new grantee communities to partner with as we cultivate the good life for all of Nebraska's children. 🌱


LET'S TALK MONEY.

The Corporation for National and Community Service has awarded a Social Innovation Fund (SIF) grant to Nebraska Children. The grant will be used to expand a successful model to rural communities across the state to help unconnected youth become contributing, independent citizens. Nebraska Children will also provide grantees with intensive consulting and technical support.

\$6 million may be invested in rural Nebraska over the next 2 years, with the potential for another \$9 million in the following 3 years.

- \$2 million in federal funds (\$1 mm/year for 2 years), plus potential for another \$3 million (\$1 mm/year for the following 3 years)
- \$2 million in private match funds (\$1 million per year for 2 years) from The Sherwood Foundation and the William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation, plus potential for another \$3 million (\$1 million per year for the following 3 years)
- \$2 million in dollar-for-dollar match from grantee communities over the next 2 years.



Corporation for
NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE 

A celebration of givers and champions for children



2015 Grace Abbott Award winner, Gary Stangler, with Betty Medinger of Nebraska Children.

"You're either a giver or taker. There's no middle ground."

Leigh Anne Tuohy shared this insight with 475 riveted attendees at Changemakers 2015 last month. Over a 45-minute period, Leigh Anne shared with all of us her experience as the "Blind Side Mom," and why taking opportunities to give back will change you forever.

The Changemakers event started with an intimate VIP reception in the Sugarloaf Room of the La Vista Embassy Suites. Here, Kristin Williams of the Sherwood Foundation presented the 2015 Grace Abbott Award to her long-time friend and colleague, Gary Stangler, of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. After Gary's

gracious acceptance speech, the patrons moved to the ballroom for the main event.

What an event it was! Emceed by Jeremy Maskell, anchor of KETV News, Changemaker attendees heard the stories of local young people with foster care experience and are fighting to build a life they can be proud of.

Once a lasagna lunch had been served, Leigh Anne took the stage with the powerful message that every life has value, and that it's up to all of us to reach out and grab those that society has deemed valueless. She says her son, Michael, was one of those children. And reaching out to love him changed her family for the better forever. 🍷



◀ Mary Jo Pankoke (Nebraska Children CEO); John Ewing, Jr. (Nebraska Children Board of Directors); Dr. Doug Christensen (Nebraska Children Board Chairman); Sara Woods (Nebraska Children Board of Directors); Senator Joni Craighead; Jaime Hemmerling (Nebraska Children Board Vice Chair); and Leigh Anne Tuohy



nebraskachildren
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Changemakers

Opportunities to Serve

Nebraska Children is proud to introduce its first-ever volunteer group—the Omaha Friends of Nebraska Children. The group was recently founded by 22 Metro-area professionals, who are willing to dedicate their time and talent to our mission of creating positive change for Nebraska’s children through community engagement. Friends will support the work of Nebraska Children through volunteerism, fundraising and community awareness.

Executive Committee

President – Deyna Rouse
Vice President – Nick Thielen
Secretary – Jamie Ryder
Membership Chair – Jessica Covi
Fundraising Chair – Katie Triplett
Service Chair – Katy Spratte

Board Members:

Brenda Beasley
Melissa Carlberg
Tina Dunham
Adam Gaines
Amber Gard
Sarah Hanify
Jessica Kozel
Kristin Lowrey
L. J. Mcelravy
Catherine McAllister
Sarah Macdissi
Jeremy Maskel
Adam Morfeld
Alysia Radicia

A letter from the Friends president

Dear Friends,

I am excited to serve as President for the Friends of Nebraska Children Board and to be part of its launch in the Omaha community. Our work will focus on increasing the reach of Nebraska Children through fundraising and community awareness. We will also partner with Nebraska Children’s Project Everlast initiative to provide service opportunities throughout the year.

In 2015, we have focused our work on organizing and planning of Friends. We will launch our first official year in 2016—and I hope you will join me in supporting this amazing organization.

Sincerely,

Deyna Rouse



JOIN THE FRIENDS NOW!

Membership in Friends is open to all those interested in learning more and partnering with Nebraska Children.

Join now at www.FriendsOfNebraskaChildren.org