

reaching  
full  
potential  
2011



Nebraska Children  
AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION

Our mission is  
to create **positive change**  
for **children**  
through community.

We envision a  
**level playing field**  
where children can reach their  
**full potential.**

Dear Friend,

We started in 1997, a very different time socially and economically for most Americans. Though much has changed and continues to do so at a rapid pace, one thing remains constant:

Children throughout Nebraska need all of us working together to help them reach their full potential.

2011 was a year in which businesses sought ways to operate more efficiently while increasing their productivity and value. The same scenario was true for Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

Fortunately, our operating principles have always been centered on providing the greatest return on the investments we make in child well-being.

As the needs of children and families intensified, we expanded our model, uniting more partners to achieve common goals. In this report, you'll find examples of innovative partnerships that inspired positive outcomes and created new opportunities for families to thrive.

Even in challenging times, we've continued to help children reach their full potential. If you aren't involved in our work already as a donor, partner or volunteer, we hope this report will inspire you to make that connection.

Sincerely,



Mary Jo Pankoke, President



Teri Teutsch, Board Chair



*Mary Jo Pankoke*



*Teri Teutsch*

## NEBRASKA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION, A PARTNER IN PREVENTION

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation is a nonprofit organization that sparks and advances community solutions to create positive change for children. By bringing partners together from both public and private sectors, we work to prevent problems that threaten the well-being of children.

Pervasive societal problems such as poverty, abuse, neglect, toxic stress, mental and physical illness and isolation are widespread, affecting families in Nebraska and throughout the nation. Often, these problems are interwoven, affecting families and communities in complex ways.



## REACHING FULL POTENTIAL THROUGH PREVENTION

### Working Together to Change Lives

While there is no single solution to these problems, there is one proven approach—prevention. For every dollar invested in prevention efforts, we save at least \$7 on more costly interventions down the road.

Take a look at some of the ways we help create partnerships to prevent problems and ensure success for children throughout their lifespan. We call this proven approach collective impact—but our partners simply see it as working together to change lives.

Every outcome and story you see in this report is a result of collective impact. We never work alone, and these successes are owned by everyone who comes to the table to change lives, including our donors.

## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

### 3-2-1...

Children are more successful in school and in life when they've been nurtured from the start. To reach full potential, they need healthy relationships with the people who love and care for them, and consistent opportunities to learn and grow.

We now have the benefit of groundbreaking science, confirming the importance of those early years. Nebraska is at the forefront of translating this scientific research into action with programs in partnership with Sixpence Early Learning Fund, and sound public policy and advocacy from First Five Nebraska.



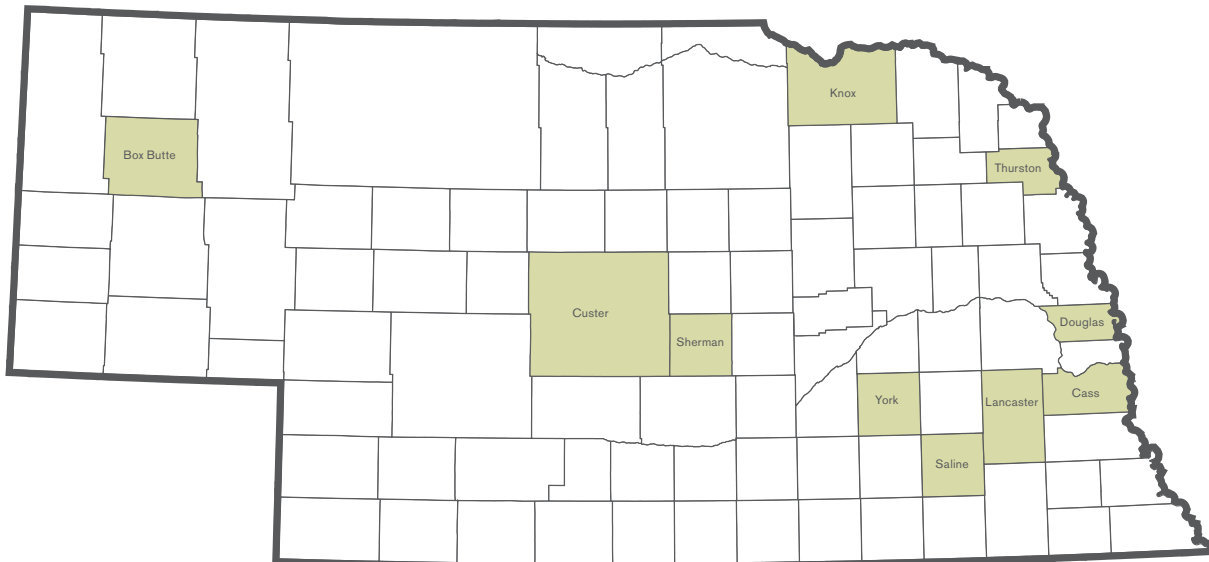
## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

### 3-2-1...

In 2011, Nebraska

- Helped new parents establish healthy relationships, build confidence, and promote language development in their young children.
- Improved home environments to better support children as they grow.
- Increased the quality of engagement and interactions between parents and children.
- Created new collaborations among state departments, the legislature, businesses and community leaders to highlight the first five years of life as important learning years.

### Sixpence Early Learning Fund



11 programs were funded across 11 school districts.

Programs adopted one or more of the following components

Center-based care (6).

Family engagement services (5).

Combination of components (center/family engagement) (1).

## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

### Safe and Happy Places

In Dakota county, people routinely cross the Missouri River and three states for work, school, and services. These unique geographic opportunities and challenges make collaboration essential—but difficult—to providing support to children in need.

Citizens and community leaders knew they needed to find a way to address growing concerns around child abuse and neglect, given the county's relatively high percentage of very young children.

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation worked with the community to help them establish a new partnership: a nonprofit that includes all of the schools in the county, along with many human service providers, child protective services, law enforcement, and city administration.

From 2000 to 2010, there have been notable increases in poverty in Dakota County, especially for families with children under 5. The rate of all families with children under 5 at or below poverty increased from **17.9%** in 2000 to **45.5%** in 2010.



## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

### Safe and Happy Places

Examples of early successes include:

- Measurable improvements in parent-child interactions within families that need help.
- Ability to focus community resources where the children are most at risk.
- Using an existing resource—the public library and its staff—to provide a resource for parents with children age 0-2 and as a safe place for young children to stay afterschool, before parents are home from work.



## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

### Big Discoveries, Out-of-School

How many of our nation's greatest innovations were started in a garage, basement, public library or dorm room? Just read about Steve Jobs (Apple), Jeff Bezos (Amazon), Bill Gates (Microsoft) and Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook). Innovation occurred in the most unlikely of settings—where hands-on learning outside the classroom environment lead to great ideas from inspired, engaged learners.

Nebraska communities realize the potential of fostering new discoveries in our hometowns. In 2011, the Nebraska Community Learning Center Network took a bold step in combining existing resources to create quality out-of-school environments that support those sparks of innovation from students across the learning and income spectrum.

The Network is a group of professionals and community volunteers that encourages partnerships between schools and communities to provide high-quality out-of-school programs that benefit youth, families and communities.

*The Network created Project Liftoff to expand high-quality Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning opportunities in out-of-school programs.*



## **STORIES FROM THE FIELD**

### **Big Discoveries, Out-of-School**

Combining resources from 4-H, NASA, the Nebraska Department of Education, the Noyce Foundation, and STEM educators statewide, the Network uses existing dollars to engage students with cutting-edge technologies, such as GPS and robotics.

The advances Nebraska students are discovering today are helping create the scientists of tomorrow, who will in turn develop more efficient ways to produce the food, fuel and fiber we rely on for our basic needs everyday.

Focusing students on learning during those few hours between the end of the school day, and the time parents come home from work, is making a huge difference in school achievement. The Network anticipates more local businesses and partners will become active participants in afterschool activities as they identify the potential to plant the seeds of innovation in their future workforce.

## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

### Soaring into Adulthood

The impact of helping thousands of Nebraska's children transition successfully from foster care to young adulthood is astounding, which is why programs like Project Everlast exist.

In a few short years, Project Everlast is already seeing more youth leave the foster care system with plans for the future that include:

- High school diplomas
- Plans for secondary education
- Specific plans to achieve career goals
- Housing and networks of support
- Resources to maintain good health and well-being

Doug Lenz, one of many partners in this effort, explains the success of this collaboration best in his letter.



*Camp Catch-Up provides the opportunity for siblings separated in foster care to spend time with each other in a fun, supportive environment.*

## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

### Soaring into Adulthood

“As an agency who has provided services to young adults transitioning from the foster care system for the past 15 years, we have seen many agencies and groups make claims that they had the answers to many of the challenges facing this population. However, these same agencies and groups rarely remained around long.

As a result, we were initially very skeptical when Nebraska Children and Families Foundation indicated that they had a goal of creating system-level changes designed to benefit young adults leaving foster care. We were fortunate to be involved in many of the early discussions and quickly learned that they were serious about their desire for change and demonstrated a strong commitment to hearing the voices of the young people regarding the changes necessary.

Since the advent of Project Everlast, we have seen a large increase in the quantity and quality of services available for young people leaving foster care. These changes are the direct result of Nebraska Children and Families Foundation’s efforts to secure both public and private funds to improve this important work.

Having worked directly with transition age youth for over 10 years, I can honestly say the opportunities for these young people have never been more numerous or goals more attainable than they are currently. This can be credited in a very large part to the Foundation and Project Everlast. We are extremely proud to be a small part of this very important work.”



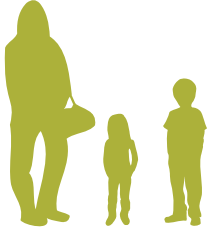
*Doug Lenz*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Lenz". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Doug" and last name "Lenz" clearly legible.

Doug Lenz  
Director, Central Plains Center for Services

## BY THE NUMBERS

In 2010-2011



**2,762**

families and children received services through our community investments.



**51%**

of the program services were provided to minorities.



**52%**

of parents who participated in family support programs demonstrated a gain in skills.



**100%**

of youth participating in independent living programs completed employment training, job apprenticeships or high school education/equivalency.



**100%**

of programs will be able to continue services following the conclusion of Nebraska Children and Families Foundation grant funding.

## COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

Our core values of prevention, equality and collaboration are reflected in the investments we make across the lifespan.

### Investment Categories

#### Collective Impact

Supports children across the lifespan.



#### Early Childhood (0-8)

Provide children with the best opportunities to thrive in school and in life, starting before age one.



#### Early Adolescence (9-13)

Creates opportunities out-of-school with strong focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)

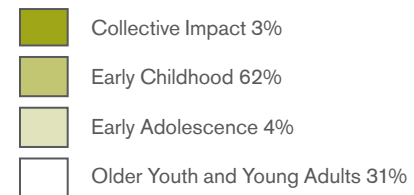
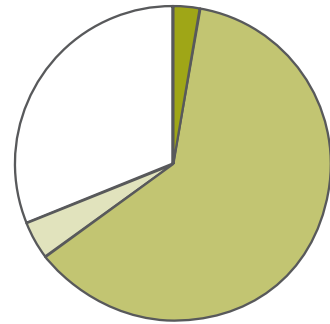


#### Older Youth and Young Adults (14-24)

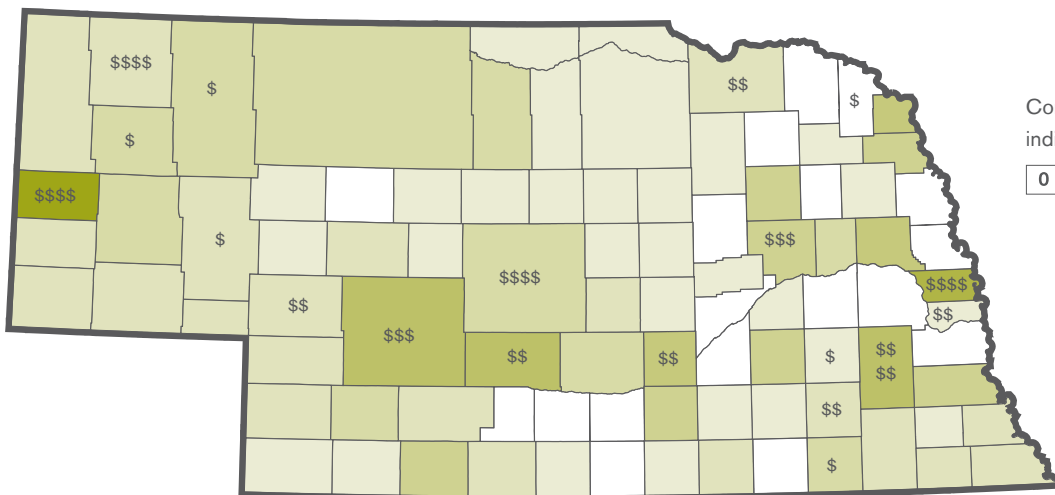
Helps at-risk youth, including youth in foster care, connect with supportive adults and communities to thrive as adults.



Our community investments are matched nearly 9 to 1 by public and private funders who are committed to Nebraska's future.



Operating from a framework of prevention, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation invests in children and families along their lifespan utilizing our collective impact approach for large-scale, quantifiable change.



In areas where children are most at-risk, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation helps a broad array of community partners work together to address complex issues.

## BECOME A PARTNER

Every giving opportunity starts with a conversation about creating positive changes in our local communities or throughout the state. Partnerships take many forms, including:

- Business leaders who want to transform declining local growth into opportunities through investments in education, workforce development and strong families in their communities
- Foundations, public agencies and nonprofits who can combine resources to improve home and school environments
- Policy makers who want to provide a voice to ensure Nebraska is the best place to grow up in America
- Donors who want their dollars to be used efficiently and effectively to create positive outcomes, and want to stay informed on issues impacting Nebraska kids
- Individuals who want to impact children throughout their lives versus a single moment

Start that conversation today. We would love to meet you, and discuss the ways you can make a lasting impression on the community and state you love.

Contact:

Wendy McCown

Vice President of Development

402.817.2002

[wmccown@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:wmccown@nebraskachildren.org)





## DONORS

Here is a list of those who made that bold step to shape their world through partnership in 2011.

### Corporations

Center on Children,  
Families and the Law  
Clinch Financial Group  
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### Foundations/Private Grants

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Irene Abernethy  
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Fredda M.P. Bartenbach, in honor of Irene Abernethy  
Loraine Baker, in honor of Dwight Green

## **Memorials**

Clifford Cheever, in memory of Vada Cheever  
Diane and Terry Schumacher, in memory of Arlis Quick  
Karen and Carl Brasee, in memory of Mary Ellen Rupp  
Donna Holbein, in memory of Beverlye Warnemunde

## **Memorials for Mary Catherine Zech**

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Dr. Helen Raikes  
Carol and Rick Russell  
Lisa Sand  
Ricarda Scully and Colin Mues  
Nancy and Bryan Shank  
Teri and Stan Teutsch  
Amy Welty  
Valerie and Edward Wittstruck

### **In Memory: Nebraska State Senator Pam Brown**

In 2011, our state lost an outstanding child advocate and friend, former Nebraska State Senator Pam Brown, who died of ovarian cancer at age 58. She requested that gifts be made in her memory to the Sixpence Early Learning Fund to provide essential care and education to Nebraska's very young children and their families. Thanks to the following donors who have helped continue Sen. Brown's legacy through your generosity.

### **Memorials for Senator Pam Brown**

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Senator Brad and Ann Ashford  
Paula Ashford  
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## UpPour 2011: Honoring Bill and Jean White

On a beautifully warm day in August, special friends and supporters gathered at the Riverside Country Club in Grand Island to honor Bill and Jean White as the 2011 Grace Abbott Award recipients at the third annual UpPour celebration.

Grand Island was the perfect setting for the award as the Abbott sisters, Grace and Edith, were Grand Island natives who became national advocates for protecting children from harm.

Both Bill and his late wife, Jean, dedicated their lives to improving their community and state. In addition to their work with Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, they were involved with the Red Cross, United Way, St. Francis Hospital Foundation, National Coalition of Juvenile Justice, their church and several other non-profits.

“They always said they felt they could accomplish more by focusing on the problem at hand rather than drawing attention to themselves.”

—Tim White, son of Bill and Jean White, 2011 Grace Abbott Award recipients





**Honorariums for Bill & Jean, in recognition  
of their 2011 Grace Abbott Award**

Carter and Diane Aikin

Linda McKiernan-Allen and Ronald J. Allen

Burt and Bobbie Gleason

Drs. Thomas and Martha Gleason

Senator Mike Gloor

Dean and Marilyn Meisinger

Dr. Stan Nabity and Mrs. Helen Nabity

Rene and Thomas Pesha

Tim, Shelley, Tyler and Bill White



## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

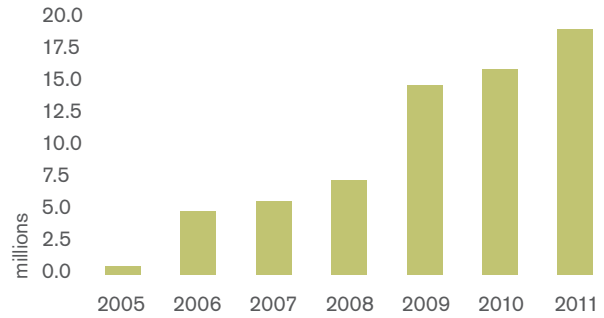
### Net Assets

Excluding Sixpence Early Learning Fund



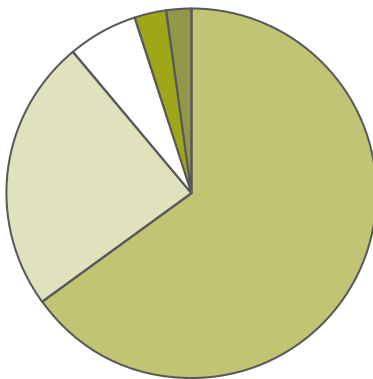
### Net Assets

Including Sixpence Early Learning Fund



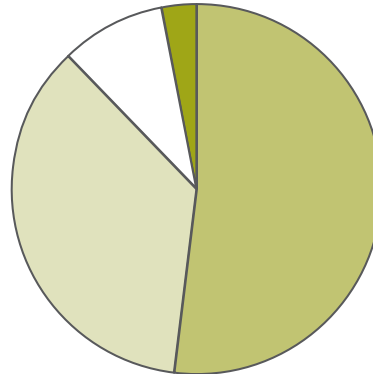
The Sixpence Early Learning Fund is a public-private partnership that is used primarily for grants to school districts to provide programs and services for infants and toddlers who are most at risk of school failure.

### Revenue Sources



- Private Grants 65%
- State Grants 24%
- Federal Grants 6%
- Donations 3%
- Interest Income 2%

### Functional Expenses



- Grant Awards 52%
- Program Expenses 36%
- Administrative Expenses 9%
- Fundraising 3%

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Founded in 1997, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation unites Nebraska communities, government agencies, and the private sector in the work of preserving families through an innovative system of grant-making, programs, technical assistance, research, policy analysis, advocacy, education and communication.

Contact Wendy McCown, Vice President of Development,  
402.817.2002 or [wmccown@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:wmccown@nebraskachildren.org)



**Nebraska Children**  
AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION

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