

HomeTalk

SPRING 2017

A magazine of the Nebraska
Children's Home Society



nebraska
children's home
SOCIETY

www.nchs.org



Elle, age 7

The following photos are by Justin Barnes Photography
Cover, pages 2,16

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Cover Creighton and Sutton agree there's no buddy like a brother!

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Dear Friends of the Nebraska Children's Home Society,

The first letter I wrote for HomeTalk was in January of 2007, six months after I began my work at Nebraska Children's Home Society. Today, I am writing my last letter for HomeTalk. I have announced my plans to retire at the end of September, 2017. My 10 years at the helm of NCHS have been gratifying and rewarding. Being part of an organization that is changing lives has energized me. During the past 10 years we have focused on creatively applying our expertise and expanding our reach to areas of need that fit our mission. There is no end point to our work. Positive outcomes for one child or one family are cause for celebration, but our work is cumulative. What is most amazing is that the work of the Children's Home has been cumulative for almost 125 years and never veered from the original vision of helping children grow and thrive in families—their biological families, foster families and adoptive families.



I look forward to cheering the Children's Home on as the organization continues its historical commitment to children and families, explores new opportunities and expands and enhances its impact on the lives of children, families and communities in Nebraska.

This issue of HomeTalk recognizes the financial support of our funders, including individual donors, businesses and foundations; offers snapshots of significant events and markers over the course of a year; and highlights a few of the services that make NCHS noteworthy for its excellence.

In my first HomeTalk letter I used a quote that has guided me in my work over the years and I believe it also communicates the importance of NCHS values and mission into the future: "Every Child born into the world is a new thought of God, an ever fresh and radiant possibility." (Kate Douglas Wiggin)

Another memorable observation from the same author also captures the essence of our mission: "If you make children happy now, you will make them happy twenty years hence by the memory of it." Kate Douglas Wiggin was an early proponent of early childhood education. She died in 1923, but her wisdom about the importance of childhood experiences will endure, just as the wisdom of the founders of NCHS will hold up well into the future. Thank you for your support as NCHS continues its tradition of providing happy memories for today's children by building and supporting families.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Authier".

Karen Authier, Chief Executive Officer, Nebraska Children's Home Society

**"Every Child born into the world is a new thought of God,
an ever fresh and radiant possibility."**

-Kate Douglas Wiggin



NCHS Assistant Teacher Angel Powell instructs her students on how to make the letter E at the Fontenelle Early Childhood Education Center.

Early Childhood Centers Enhance Service with Generous Grants

The Nebraska Children’s Home Society Early Childhood Education Program is buzzing with excitement, learning and discovery. One child picks up a board and starts lacing a string through holes to create a pattern. Another works to put each piece of a puzzle in the proper order, and a monkey smiles back at him upon completion. Across town a group of 6 young learners grab a chalk board and follow their teacher’s instruction to make the letter E. “Look, I did it!” one student exclaims.

Thanks to generosity of the Crèche Early Childhood Fund, the James M.Cox Foundation and Lincoln Financial Foundation teachers and students at NCHS are reaping the benefits of three recent grants.

Funding from the [Crèche Early Childhood Fund](#) has increased capacity at the NCHS Early Childhood Education Program by providing staff training and materials for approximately 100 children and their families. The grant sustains the high quality programming offered at two centers, one in North Omaha, an area marked by high poverty and limited family support resources, and one in southwest Omaha to support working families of children. The NCHS Early Childhood Education Program is accredited by the National Council on Accreditation, and is participating in Nebraska’s Step Up to Quality rating and improvement process.

“The Crèche grant helps increase children’s vocabularies as they are introduced to new words, reading out loud, love for books and print awareness,” NCHS Durham Early Childhood Director Angelique Jocson said.

The Nebraska Children’s Home Society has a long, rich history of partnering with James Cox and the [James M. Cox Foundation](#). Mr. Cox was dedicated to NCHS during his lifetime and the Foundation has honored that dedication by helping fulfill our mission of providing safe and loving care to children of all ages. This generosity has provided opportunities for foster and adopted children to attend summer camp, educational opportunities and materials, scholarships and field trips for children in our Early Childhood Education Program.

“Because of the Cox Foundation, our children and their families were afforded hands on experiences away from their everyday environments and classrooms,” said NCHS Fontenelle Early Childhood Director Tagan Newbill.

More than 50% of the children enrolled in the Early Childhood Education Program live in poverty.

In 2014, NCHS created a scholarship program to help the children of low-income parents who qualify for Title XX but experience barriers to attendance. NCHS is committed to providing high quality early childhood care and education that is affordable and accessible for all children.

[Lincoln Financial Foundation](#) has made this possible by providing funds to create scholarships for children and families in 68104, 68107, 68114, 68132, 68138 and 68154 zip codes. At both centers, 39% of enrolled children are African American, 17% are Biracial, 25% are Caucasian and 19% are Hispanic. The children are 58% female and 42% male. English is the primary language for the majority of children.

In FY 2015-16 NCHS extended the Scholarship Program to include low-income parents whose income exceeds Title XX eligibility criteria but is inadequate to provide for full tuition fees. USDA Income Eligibility Guidelines are utilized to determine scholarship eligibility and fees. A family qualifying for the “Free Food” subsidy may receive a scholarship not to exceed 50% of weekly childcare fees. A family qualifying for the “Reduced Food” subsidy may receive a scholarship not to exceed 35% of weekly childcare fees. The program allows these families to keep their child enrolled without disruption.

Parents also have the advantage of attending educational classes offered by NCHS at the Children & Family Center.

This includes but is not limited to parent education classes, the Raising Your Grandchildren program, the academic and professional development services offered through the Center for Support and Success and mental health services.

“Our grants are helpful in so many ways,” Jocson said. “The funding allows children to consistently attend school on a daily basis which is significant in promoting their physical, cognitive, social and emotional development.”



*The Helzer family from left; Danielle, Kylynn, Jonathan and Nate.
(Photo courtesy of Jordan Sochor Photography)*

By Danielle Helzer

At its core, adoption is grounded in loss.

My husband and I entered the world of foster-adopt with a ~~narrow~~ no frame of reference to prepare us. We only wanted to be parents.

After infertility and a change in plan, we thought foster-adopt would be the quickest path toward our desire. We knew foster care would be difficult, but we had no idea... no idea just how difficult it would be. There seems to be an overall lack of knowledge in the general public regarding foster care and foster-adopt. This can cause misunderstandings that may seem insignificant to those outside the world of foster-adopt, but to those living in this world, these misunderstandings can be isolating.

I've heard many foster-adopt parents begin sentences with, "If people only knew..."

6 Things To Know About Foster-Adoption

In an attempt to educate, I asked fellow foster-adoptive parents from Right Turn®, what they wish others knew about foster-adopt. Here are six themes that emerged:

1. Adopted children were first loved and wanted by another family; their biological family was simply not in a position to raise and parent their kids. Our adopted children were not “given up” the way one discards a sweater that has become stretched and faded. Our children were placed with us to become their forever family, and we said yes even though we were scared and unsure and may have had little information.
2. Our kids adopted from foster care are like refugees living in conflict zones, torn from their homes, adjusting to an unfamiliar life, wishing they were back home. Our kids may come to us unaccustomed to appropriate physical affection, full plates at mealtimes, freedom to play and boundaries. In many ways, our adopted kids are starting over no matter how old they may be.
3. Our kids are wise beyond their years while at the same time lacking age-appropriate skills. Older teens from foster care may be able to care for young kids and whip up a meal for everyone but may not understand that their actions have consequences. Likewise, 7-year-olds may be able to tell you where the closest gas station is but may not remember to brush their teeth each day. We have to help our kids with even basic skills like learning how to relax their minds and bodies and how to identify their emotions.
4. Our children likely won’t “get over” or “grow out of” their trauma. Their trauma is a part of who they are, and no matter how young they were when they came to us, their trauma will continue to manifest itself in new ways as they age. We will teach them how to cope and adjust. We will take them to therapists and work to educate their teachers and coaches about how trauma impacts kids’ brain development. And many times, we’ll be climbing an uphill battle as we try and convince people that our kid isn’t naughty, disrespectful, or that medication won’t solve all our issues.
5. Parenting an adopted child looks different than parenting biological children. Our kids’ behaviors can’t be fixed with a spanking or even a stone-cold mom stare. Their behaviors require us to make difficult choices, like allowing our 10-year-old to finish a tantrum in the middle of the condiment aisle at a crowded grocery store. We make parenting choices that aren’t intuitive and seem odd to others, and with nearly every decision we make, we question our judgement and effectiveness.
6. We need support. Parenting is tough; parenting kids from hard places is even harder. Support us when we make those strange parenting decisions. Understand that we will change our fundamental values, beliefs about the world, and our personalities will be altered as we struggle alongside our kids. Stick with us when we withdraw from relationships; it’s not you, it’s us... we’re busy putting out fires, trying to survive. In our gig parenting kids from tough places, we’ll be Atlas, carrying the weight of our kids’ world on our shoulders so life may be lighter for them. Give our aching backs a break and offer to carry that weight for a little while. We may not be able to give you all the details of what’s going on with our kids, and while we may initially resist the help, know that we will be grateful for your offer.

Before I became a parent to my two littles, I wish I would’ve known that parenting children adopted from foster care is different than parenting biological children.

At its core, adoption is grounded in loss. I think before I was in the thick of parenting my two kids, I knew of this difference, but I didn’t understand it. Now... three years in, I get it.

I understand that children adopted from foster care will grieve their biological families, and adoptive parents will grieve what could have been in their kids’ lives. If you know someone who is parenting kids adopted from foster care, would you consider these six things? Would you consider how growing your knowledge about trauma’s impact on kids could help this family? If you’re considering becoming a foster-adoptive parent yourself, don’t let this list scare you away. Every kid deserves a forever home. May the experience be scary for us so it doesn’t have to be scary for them. Let this list prepare you for what it is to come.

**This article was originally published in the Huffington Post. The Helzers were part of Nebraska Children’s Home Society’s infant adoption program and receive post adoption support from Right Turn, a collaboration between Lutheran Family Services and Nebraska Children’s Home Society.*

To learn more about Right Turn® call 1-888-667-2399 or visit www.RightTurnNe.org.



JUNE 10-12
NCHS's Sand in the City®
 Baxter Arena in Omaha was transformed into a sand-sculpture wonderland during the 13th annual event.



AUGUST 16
Weaving Families Together-Hastings
 Over 120 supporters gathered at the Colonial Gardens Event Center for speaker Luke Kliewer and silent auction in support of NCHS services in the tri-cities.



SEPTEMBER 18
Birth Mother Retreat
 Birth moms from across the state met for the weekend at the Leadership Conference Center in Aurora. Thanks to generous donors who allow NCHS to offer the retreat every other year at no cost to our birth mothers.

NOVEMBER 6
Thankful Hearts–North Platte
 A celebration of sweet indulgence was had by all during the dessert extravaganza, auction and program highlighting NCHS services at the Holiday Inn Express. Bart & Kim Schroll were honored as NCHS Volunteers of the Year.



2016

JULY 28
Night at the Ballpark-Lincoln
 Friends and families gathered at Haymarket Park to cheer on the Saltdogs. Kooper, son of Kraig & Shelly Tyser, represented NCHS and threw the first pitch!



AUGUST 26
Day of Caring
 Volunteers from Blue Cross & Blue Shield spent the day sprucing up the Durham Center during the United Way of the Midlands Day of Caring.



RYG honored
 The NCHS Raising Your Grandchildren program was honored with the Innovative Program Award by The Kim Foundation for carrying out innovative sustainable mental health programming.



OCTOBER 9
HomeGrown–Omaha
 BRANCH board members organized an evening of foods, drinks and an exhibit by Justin Barnes Photography featuring families served by NCHS at the Nebraska Brewing Company Tap Room.

NOVEMBER 11
Baird Holm Gratitude award
 NCHS accepted the Baird Holm LLP Gratitude Award for being a key partner in the community and making a positive impact on everyone NCHS serves.



NOVEMBER 18
Spirit of Advocacy Award
 The North Omaha Community Care Council honored NCHS with the 2016 Spirit of Advocacy Award.





DECEMBER 1
Give Where You live—Kearney

The NCHS Kearney staff hosted a chili feed and candy cane hunt during the 24-hour day of giving at Yanney Park.



DECEMBER 10
NCHS Candy Cane Hunt—Grand Island

Santa had presents for everyone who joined in the second annual Candy Cane Hunt at Grace Abbott Park in Grand Island.



JANUARY 4
Farewell Tonya Moore

After 11 years of creating and providing youth education services at the NCHS Children and Family Center in North Omaha, NCHS wished Tonya Moore all the best in her relocation to Texas.



FEBRUARY 17
Grand Island Open House

NCHS staff welcomed friends and supporters to their new office at 1028 N. Webb Road in Grand Island.

2017

DECEMBER 7
Project Elf

Over 1,400 children received gifts valued at over \$65,000 from over 25 community partners during the Project Elf gift drive benefiting children and families across the state.



DECEMBER 26
Little Red Paper Stocking

Hardee's sold over 7,180 paper stockings for a buck each at Omaha Metro locations during the Little Red Stocking campaign to support safe and loving care for children of all ages.



FEBRUARY 24
HomeGrown—Lincoln

Close to 100 friends and supporters joined in an evening of food, drinks and photography by Aly Schenk at the Venue in Lincoln, NE.



JANUARY 8
Norfolk Open House

NCHS staff celebrated their new space with community members at 1800 W. Pasewalk Avenue in Norfolk.



A Child-And Family-Focused Approach To Improving Permanency Outcomes Using Family Finding And The 3-5-7 Model

-By Kim Arkfeld, MSW –NCHS Permanency Services Supervisor

Family Finding, a model developed by Kevin Campbell, provides a process and techniques for identifying and engaging family members, or other adults who have a meaningful history with a child, with the goal of securing emotional and legal permanency for that child. The 3-5-7 Model, developed by Darla Henry, provides professionals as well as foster and adoptive parents with practice-based approaches to prepare children and youth for permanency if reunification with their biological family is not possible. Used in concert, Family Finding and the 3-5-7 Model are powerful tools to improve permanency outcomes for children and youth in the child welfare system. Nebraska Children's Home Society (NCHS) has paired the two models in its work to achieve

permanency for children who have experienced significant barriers to permanency and have had unstable placement histories.

Upon referral of children whose case plan is adoption, NCHS's permanency staff identify and recruit relatives or other adults with a history of a caring relationship with the child as resources to provide connections and legal permanency. In that role, we often work to connect children with family members who lost contact with them after they entered the child welfare system.

Although the Family Finding model provides valuable strategies that pave the way for permanency by reaching out to and engaging



potential adoptive or guardianship resources, pairing Family Finding with the 3-5-7 Model provides a structure for the child's healing to take place and empowers the child to be an active partner in planning for his or her own permanency. Grief and loss work is critical in order to prevent disrupted adoptions and guardianships, unstable placements, and over use of treatment facilities. The 3-5-7 framework guides children in their work to process and understand who they are, what happened to them, where they are going, and how they will get there and equips them for making a successful transition to permanency in another family. Telling their story frees them to achieve a sense of belonging.

The 3-5-7 workbook activities have proven to be invaluable in the work with the child, but the model also encourages staff to be flexible in going beyond the workbook to create opportunities for each child that are unique to the needs of that child. The following is an example of a creative solution that was constructed to offer a child the opportunity to move forward.

REGGIE, AGE 11

Reggie had been in care for 3 years when he was referred for permanency services. His parents' rights were terminated a year before the referral, and he was disrupting from a pre-adoptive home at the time of referral. A previous foster family agreed to accept Reggie for placement. He let us know that he continued to think about relatives with whom he had lost contact. While filming a video about Reggie's time in care as part of the Family Finding work, staff discovered that he had an older sister whom he had never met and a younger brother whom he had not seen for at least a year. He did not remember his father, who went to prison when Reggie was very young, but he continuously spoke very fondly of his mother.

Reggie's biological paternal relatives were located halfway across the country. An uncle disclosed that he had provided care for Reggie for a time until Reggie's mother picked him up and relocated to Nebraska. Staff traveled to the East Coast to meet with extended family members, who engaged in a process of creating plans for legal permanency for Reggie with his uncle. Although Reggie wanted to visit his uncle, he was not receptive to placement with him. Visits were successful and included attending a black-tie event with his uncle, complete with a tuxedo rental, and a visit for Christmas, but Reggie continued to be

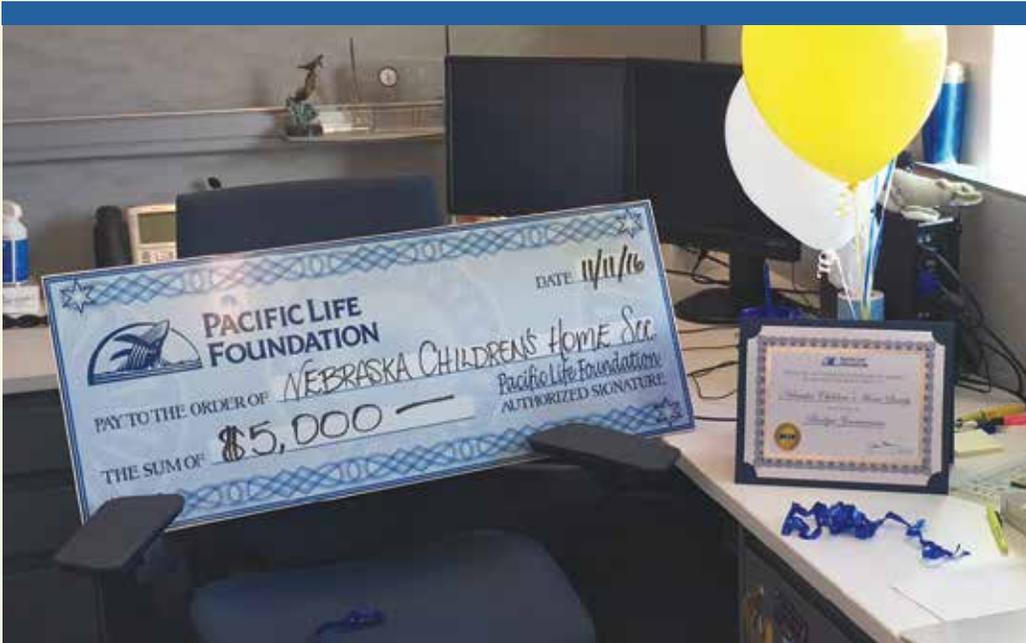
hesitant about any permanency plans. Staff used guided practice approaches from the 3-5-7 Model to help Reggie better verbalize his concerns about permanency. Reggie expressed fear that his mother would be mad at him if he moved and that he would never see her again. Staff were aware that he had run into her occasionally in town and obsessively watched for her from car windows.

Aware that Reggie needed to receive approval from his mother in order to move forward with a permanency plan, staff located her at a homeless shelter and updated her about Reggie's placement opportunity. She stated that she had always hoped that he could live with his paternal relatives because she knew they would take good care of him. Although meetings were scheduled with Reggie's mom on two occasions so that she could reassure him of her approval of the plan, she did not show up for those meetings. In the meantime, Reggie's brother and sister were located, and staff made arrangements to travel with him to visit his brother and sister. Reggie's mother communicated support of the travel plans by writing a letter to him, which included drawings, telling him about his first word, his first tooth, and many other personal and developmental milestones. She encouraged Reggie to be open to the idea of living with his paternal relatives, telling him that she knew they would take care of him and that she would know he was safe. Photos of Reggie's mother writing the letter were taken and printed to validate that it was indeed his mother who wrote the words he needed to hear. As he read the letter he smiled and said, "It's in her own writing. I'm ready to go."

The combined Family Finding and 3-5-7 work not only located Reggie's family and connected him with them, but also engaged him in processing and having input into decisions regarding a permanent placement in a manner that respected his history, previous connections, and family loyalties.

In summary, as we work with children, reaching out to family members and providing a structure for grief and loss work, meaningful results occur. When children begin to integrate their past experiences with a vision for their future, they often begin to do some work on their own between sessions. At that point we know that we have done our job in being a catalyst for change. We do this work with awareness that indentifying permanency options is critical but that true permanency also depends on preparation of children and their prospective parents for permanency.

Birth Grandmother Selected By Employer To Give \$5K To NCHS



Bridget was out of the office the day her employer announced that she was selected a winner of the Pacific Life Foundation employee contest. She submitted an entry on how a non-profit made an impact on her life. Nebraska Children's Home Society in turn was awarded \$5,000. Her story is as follows:

Our daughter was pregnant. The father was a casual acquaintance and made it very clear he wanted nothing to do with her or the baby. After several tearful weeks the subject of adoption came up. We researched different services and decided to talk to Nebraska Children's Home Society (NCHS). Our daughter started meeting with a counselor at NCHS (Bobbi) to discuss her pregnancy situation and future options. Through conversations with our daughter they recognized the need for additional counseling and assisted her in finding this help which ultimately gave her the strength to tell us about the pregnancy.

I am so very thankful for Bobbi. Never did she try to sway our daughter one way or another, to parent or to place the baby. There was constant support and discussion about options. Bobbi was quick to recognize the reasons our daughter was considering adoption. She was not driven by hate of the father but by wanting to give this baby everything, including a father. Bobbi recognized our daughter was the personality type that once she made a decision, she wanted to move forward on it quickly. Our daughter's plan was to have adoptive parents picked for her baby within a month of first talking with NCHS but Bobbi knew

better. Bobbi knew there were many, many things our daughter needed to consider about adoption before beginning to select parents. It was about four months before she even began looking at parent profiles and she told me "Bobbi is always right."

Our family thought we were already fairly familiar with adoption. My husband has two adopted sisters and my niece and nephew are adopted. How we were wrong. It is so different to be on the other side, to place a child for adoption. NCHS not only provided support for our daughter but for our entire family. My husband and I met with Bobbi as did our other children. Having Bobbi explain what to expect emotionally thru the adoption process was extremely valuable. We knew we would be sad. We all knew this would be the hardest thing our family ever did but we still underestimated. Bobbi warned us we would mourn as though we had experienced a death of a close loved one and we would go thru all stages of grief. Our daughter would go thru them in the most extreme way but each and every one of us would go through them. Knowing that would happen did not make the process any less painful but talking about it ahead of time with Bobbi and each other was so key to each of us recognizing what was happening.

My husband and I wanted to support our daughter and knew there was no clear right or wrong decision regarding placing the baby for adoption. Our daughter was not alone in this. She always knew our family would love and support her no matter what her decision and we



would love that baby no matter what. Our daughter has always been a very independent person, working thru school to graduate from college with no loans. Although she had graduated college she was working part-time jobs and she knew she would not be able to financially support herself and a child. It was a comfort to know I could call Bobbi with any questions. Many calls were made asking for advice about how to handle a particular topic of conversation regarding the adoption. Each time I was very glad I made the phone call.

NCHS focuses on what is best for the child. The adoptive parents are not charged for these adoption services. The adoptive families go through many screenings and reviews. NCHS recognizes how the child benefits from an open relationship between the birth and adoptive parents. This is a complicated relationship and they put years of experience to good use in fostering these relationships while recognizing each situation is unique. NCHS helped our daughter find an amazing home for our granddaughter. We have an extremely open adoption relationship with this family resulting from discussions involving both the birth and adoptive families with the guidance of NCHS. Since her birth we have seen our granddaughter many times including attending her baptism and her birthday party. We have a wonderful relationship with her family and a huge reason is the role NCHS plays in ensuring lines of communication stay open.

Relationships between birth and adoptive families are all unique just as pregnancy situations are unique. NCHS provides support for all parties and in ways that helps them to find comfort in the common trials and challenges each face. My daughter and I were invited to be part of a panel of birth parents (I was a guest grandparent) to talk with prospective adoptive parents. The panel included a lady who had placed her son 19 years ago and just told her family about her pregnancy this past year. NCHS recognizes the importance of lifetime support for all parties in the adoption process, birth parents, adoptive parents, and the children. At any given time something can trigger struggles in dealing with adoption and NCHS is there to provide support.

Thru tears our daughter has often asked "why is Bobbi always right?" I really cannot imagine what we would have done if Bobbi and NCHS had not been there to prepare us for the tough moments we did not expect and then hold our hand to help us through them. As the years pass our daughter and the rest of our family will have times when we struggle with the pain of this process but it is very reassuring to know Bobbi and NCHS will be there to help us get through it.

SAND IN THE CITY® 2016

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NCHS'S SAND IN THE CITY® 2016 AWARD WINNERS & SAND SCULPTURE

TITLES

1st- Kiewit Engineering, Can You Find Dory?

2nd-TSYS, Tea with the Hatter

3rd-Millard Rotary, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea

BEST DESIGNER –Douglas Shapland,
designer for TD Ameritrade, Love Birds

QUIVEY FUNDRAISING AWARD – Kiewit Building Group

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD-Creighton University,
Snoopy's Dream Galaxy

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR-RDG/Whiting-Turner

SAVE THE DATE

May 3—Go Big Give, Grand Island

May 3—North Platte Giving Day

May 18—Give to Lincoln

May 23—Norfolk Area Big Give

May 24—Omaha Gives

June 9-11—NCHS's Sand In the City®

August 10—Night at the Ballpark, Lincoln

August 12—Weaving Families Together,
Hastings

October 13—HomeGrown Omaha

Legacy Left Behind

Every member of our Children's Home extended family is unique and has their own special story. One of the most amazing stories involves the life of our recently departed friend, benefactor and adoptive grandfather, William "Bill" Leopard. (Pictured with his beloved grandchildren Sarah and Matthew circa 2003)

Bill was truly a one-of-a-kind gentleman of the world. He was born in Melrose, MN, and he grew up in that state. Not letting any grass grow under his feet, Bill got a job as office boy at the St. Cloud Daily Times the week after he graduated high school, unaware that this would be the beginning of a long and notable career in the field of journalism.

The years 1942-1945 were consumed by Bill's service specializing in communications and coding for the Army Air Corps during World War II. During that time he was able to carve out three important days to fly back to Minnesota in order to marry the love-of-his life, Mary Uhan. (Mary's picture adorns our education center, named in her honor, at our Durham office.)

Bill always had an incredible memory for detail and, even in his 90's, could not only name his tent mates and buddies during his time in the service, but recall their personalities and home states as well as every room and restaurant he and his new wife frequented in those very early years of their marriage. After his military career Bill returned home and began working for the Sioux Falls Argus-Leader newspaper, where he was eventually named President/Publisher in 1963, a position he held until retirement in 1977.

Bill Leopard was known for his gregarious nature, generosity, spirit, and giving his time and his good fortune. He served on several Boards and was also a patron of many causes including Nebraska Children's Home.



He gave to the Children's Home through gifts for appeals and events, like many of us do. Bill also was a long-time member of the NCHS Society Circle, a group whose members have notified NCHS that they have made planned gifts. Mr. Leopard made "perpetual gifts," via a Charitable Gift Annuity and a Bequest. These planned gifts generate interest in our endowment and continue to "invest" in Nebraska's children and families forever.

If you would like more information regarding planned gifts or joining the Children's Home Society Circle, please contact NCHS (402-451-0787, gnelson@nchs.org, or www.nchs.org)

William "Bill" Leopard was a blessing to his family, and his friends. They got to travel with him, played golf and tennis, and knew well of his devotion to family and especially to children. Now because of his generosity through planned gifts, NCHS's extended family will continue to benefit. Thank you, Bill.

Leopard, William H. "Bill" Aug 14, 1919 - Feb 26, 2017



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Alexa, 7 months, and her parents

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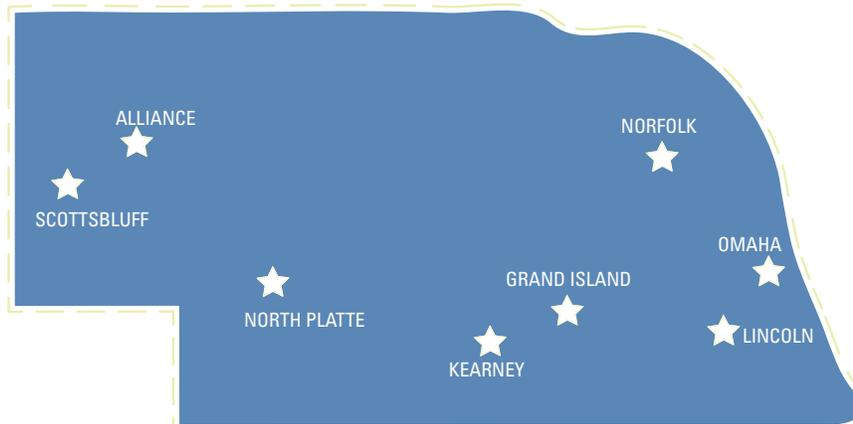
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