



2019 ANNUAL REPORT
Resources for Survivors
of Domestic Violence
and Sexual Assault


BrightHorizons

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters:

Welcome to our first ever annual report. If you are not familiar with the work that Bright Horizons does, we hope that this will enlighten you. If you have supported our efforts this past year, whether through volunteer time or financial support, we hope this report makes you proud of the accomplishments you have helped us to achieve!

In fiscal year 2018-2019 we made tremendous progress on our five-year strategic plan. Our goals are to increase our staff retention, increase the safety for our staff members, and to increase our outreach.

Throughout this report you will see that we continue to provide advocacy, shelter, and outreach across our 10-county service area. A total of 1,299 clients were served, which is up 5.3% over the previous year. A program that we expanded this past year is our transitional shelter program. This nontraditional service is truly offering a safety net for families affected by domestic violence. Bright Horizons is one of only two domestic violence programs in the state providing both emergency shelter and transitional shelter to assist families in building violence free homes.

As we look towards the future we are excited to continue to increase our outreach, especially to our youth and to continue to provide exceptional services to individuals affected by violence. We know that working with youth provides us the opportunity to positively impact our future generations to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault.

We realize that we cannot accomplish our goals without help from each of you. Whether it is collaborating with your agency to provide better services to the families that we assist, speaking to your church or community group to raise awareness of these issues, or hanging flyers in your businesses so victims know where to go for services, each of you serve an important role in helping us achieve our mission. We rely on our enthusiastic volunteers to provide 24-hour services, outreach, shelter upkeep, and office coverage. We truly appreciate your financial support to supplement and enhance our services. This next year, 8% or \$81,190 of our operational budget is not covered by grants. This means we must work together to raise these funds. There is absolutely no way we could continue to move forward without your support and contributions.

Thank you to those of you who have provided us support this past year. We look forward to continue to work together in the upcoming year. If you are just learning about Bright Horizons for the first time, please consider joining us as we work to end domestic violence and sexual assault in our communities.

Respectfully,

Linda Olson
Executive Director

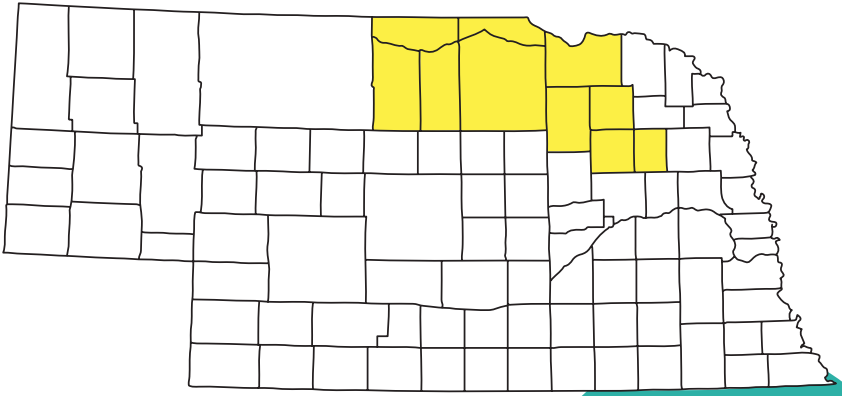
Amanda Nipp
Board Chair





OUR MISSION

Bright Horizons is dedicated to the elimination of domestic violence and sexual assault through empowerment, education, social action, and support services.



40 Years of Service

Providing Coverage In:

Antelope, Boyd,
Brown, Holt, Keya
Paha, Knox, Madison,
Pierce, Rock, and
Stanton Counties

ABOUT

For over 40 years, we have been empowering, supporting, and providing a safe place for survivors and their children.

Bright Horizons provides free and confidential services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking across 10 counties in Northeast Nebraska. We are dedicated to helping our clients live violence free and accomplish their independent goals.

With decades of meeting the critical needs of victims in Northeast Nebraska, Bright Horizons has a variety of vital services including, but not limited to, individual advocacy, peer led support groups, emergency and transitional shelter services, community education, outreach, and prevention, protection order assistance, criminal justice and legal advocacy, and a 24/7 crisis line.



"The people that work here are very helpful, understanding."



SERVICES

Individual Advocacy

Support Groups

Shelter Services

Community Outreach/
Prevention & Education

Protection Order Assistance

Criminal Justice &
Legal Advocacy

24/7 Crisis Line



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

INCARCERATED VICTIM ADVOCACY –

Incarcerated Victim Advocacy is a new addition to our agency. Bright Horizons was asked by Antelope County Sheriff Robert Moore to meet with inmates that have had past or present trauma in their lives. He recognized that this would be a great resource for inmates that are struggling in their lives. On March 7th, 2018, we began meeting every other week with the males and females that wanted to be helped. As word got around to the other inmates, we built a large clientele. By June 2018 we started to go every week and currently, we are at the Antelope County Jail every Thursday and Friday. During our time as the Incarcerated Victim's Advocate, we have met a total of 60 inmates with each session lasting 30 to 60 minutes. After an initial assessment to see what the inmate's needs are, we work on many targeted areas such as stress management, coping skills, setting boundaries, anger management, trauma based advocacy, domestic abuse, child abuse, and sexual assault. It's exciting that Bright Horizons has been able to add this service and we would like to extend our appreciation to the Antelope County Jail for giving this opportunity!



Tracy Baker

Incarcerated Victim's Advocate

Tracy really helped me in a lot of ways and I will for the rest of my life use those tools we've talked about. She was literally one of the only people in my life to actually care and handle my problems correctly. I thank your system and it truly works. Just keep doing the perfect job.

– Incarcerated Victim

NATIONAL CONFERENCE –

Our advocates Felicia and Yajaira had the amazing opportunity to attend the National Sexual Assault Conference located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania "Beyond the Breakthrough" and hosted by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape and National Sexual Violence Resource Center. The conference was a two and a half day, advocacy-based conference providing advanced training opportunities and information regarding sexual violence intervention and prevention. The first day they got to hear from Monika Johnson Hostler, the founding Managing Partner of RALIANCE, Tony West, the Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary at Uber, and Tina Tchen, former Chief of Staff to Michelle Obama. Together both advocates were able to attend 15 separate breakout sessions that they felt would benefit and bring ideas to Bright Horizons. They also were able to enjoy an evening out networking with 12 others from different agencies in Nebraska. We would like to thank the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence for providing us with this opportunity!



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD –

Lacy Kimes is a Norfolk native and is married to her husband Ryan, together they have 3 children (Rylie, James, & Addison). Lacy is a graduate of Wayne State College with a degree in Human Service Counseling. Lacy works for Bright Horizons as the Housing Supervisor. During her time at Bright Horizons she has been instrumental in many projects including the Bright Horizon’s Annual Fundraising Garage Sale at Saint John’s Lutheran Church and the expansion of housing opportunities with adding on Kris’s House of Grace their transitional housing facility since 2015. Lacy is also involved in many other local committees and organizations such as the Northeast Nebraska Regional Continuum of Care Committee, Mosaic Committee, and Our Savior Lutheran Church’s Christmas Gift Program. Lacy is also the Founder and Chairwoman of Project Homeless Connect Norfolk. Lacy’s role includes working and planning with local

businesses, medical facilities, Midtown Health Center, and various other assistance programs. Countless hours are spent working on all aspects of the project including fundraising, volunteer recruitment, promotional marketing, securing



a location, and ensuring transportation and food for those attending the event. When asked why she started Project Homeless Connect Norfolk Lacy was quoted saying, “We recognize the need, we know as human service providers, the rate of poverty in Norfolk and Northeast Nebraska rises every year. We know that, as a community, it’s up to us to try to do what is needed to help bring those numbers down.

MEET OUR NEW EMPLOYEE –

Hello! My Name is Awilmary Alvarado but everyone here calls me Wilma. I am the new Norfolk Criminal Justice Liaison. I am from Schuyler, Nebraska and graduated from Schuyler Central High School. I went to Wayne State College for 5 years and received my bachelor’s degree in Human Services Counseling and Criminal Justice. I recently just moved to Pierce, Nebraska and live with my puppy Brownie. In my free time I like to spend time with family, friends, and my dog.



TYSON OUTREACH –

Outreach began in 2012 at Tyson Fresh Meats thanks to Chaplin Randy Rodenberg, who invited our bilingual advocates to come out to the plant and provide advocacy and information to their employees. Our bilingual advocates have gone to Tyson approximately 43 times this year. From March 2018 to September 2019 Bright Horizons has provided information to 8,155 team members at Tyson Fresh Meats. In April 2018, we extended our outreach services to the HAM side at Tyson. Our

advocates distribute information related to domestic violence and sexual assault and updates regarding our services each month. A raffle prize is also set out to attract the crowds to the Bright Horizons booth.





VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

This year so far, 59 volunteers have donated a total of 9,326 hours to our agency. Our volunteers help with a wide variety of tasks such as clerical assistance, cleaning, organizing donations, helping with the children's group, and answering the crisis line. Volunteers are truly the backbone of our agency and without them we would not be able to provide the services that we do. Thank you to all our volunteers who go above and beyond each and every day!

"Great program, they helped with anything me and my children needed."

EVENTS

3RD ANNUAL PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT NORFOLK –

On June 21st, 2019 the 3rd Annual Project Homeless Connect Norfolk (PHCN) was held at Norfolk Senior High. 432 guests were served on that single day. Almost 40 different services providers were on-site, including Bright Horizons, to provide free immediate services to anybody in need. Services that day included medical, dental, vision, mental health, substance abuse, housing, employment, veterans services, immigration and legal services, a mobile food pantry, and many more. Almost 100 volunteers were also on-site to individually assist the guests while they received their services. Thanks to the Norfolk Rescue Mission, each guest and service provider were served a free hot meal, along with snacks throughout the day.

PHCN wouldn't be possible without our generous sponsors, such as New York Life, and Nucor, Vulcraft, Cold Finish, and the Detailing Center. Over \$25,000 was raised to hold the event, as well as allowing us to have additional mobile food pantry in 2019. Money raised from sponsorships also paid for financial assistance for guests, such as housing and utility costs, transportation needs, medical costs, birth certificates and cell phones. The PHCN committee has already began planning for the June 28th, 2020 event and we look forward to serving even more guests.



9TH ANNUAL BRIGHT HORIZONS GARAGE SALE –

On July 25th, 2019 St. John’s Lutheran Church in Norfolk held the 9th Annual Bright Horizons Garage Sale. \$2,277.88 was raised at the single-day sale, and all funds go towards helping victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in our area. This annual event is one that many in our community look forward to. The “Garage Sale

Gang” at St. John’s Lutheran Church spend many hours preparing for the sale and making it one that all will enjoy. We appreciate their unending support in helping us carry out our mission.



2019 WOMEN’S WELLNESS EVENT –

This year was our 12th Annual Women’s Wellness Event! It was held on September 25th at the O’Neill Community Center. 30 vendors filled the room with all the products and information they had. We had clothing, jewelry, makeup, décor, kitchen and food items, along with mental and physical health booths. New this year was having flu shots available at the event! While guests came to shop, they also had the option to do a wine tasting and snack on a mini taco bar. All in all, it was a good event and was enjoyed by many.



OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH –

Thank you to the following places for allowing us to display the purple ribbons and awareness signs for domestic violence awareness month! We'd like to thank Pierce, Stanton, Madison county court houses, Northeast Community College, and the Norfolk downtown businesses. Signs were also displayed at O'Neill main street businesses, Northeast Community College Extended Campus, Holt county court house, and along Highway 281 west of O'Neill. They were also set up along Ainsworth and Basset main streets. Thanks again to our communities for helping us raise awareness!



Downtown Norfolk



Pierce County Courthouse



Pierce County Courthouse



Madison County Courthouse



Downtown Norfolk



Northeast Community College

"Bright Horizons staff does an excellent job at providing a safe space. I feel that they truly care about our safety and they demonstrate it in many ways. They are helpful and the rides to places are very helpful."

STATISTICS/ DEMOGRAPHICS

Number of individuals served
– **1,299**

Number of crisis calls
– **4,632**

Number of shelter beds provided
– **7,678**

Number of shelter meals provided
– **23,034**

Number of adults sheltered
– **64**

Number of youth sheltered
– **76**

Number of incarcerated victims served
– **50**

Number of community presentations
– **71**

Number of individuals in the audience
– **1,852**



QUALITY OF SERVICES

Bright Horizons contracts with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to provide free and confidential services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in ten counties in rural Nebraska. This is a responsibility and honor that our staff members take very seriously. We are committed to providing the highest quality of services and work to make Bright Horizons the best program that it can be.

There are many different aspects of this quality assurance that we adhere to. We are a member program of the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence and we follow their program standards. We ensure that we have well trained staff members and that they have a clear vision from our Board of Directors on future goals of the agency. We ensure that our program is financially sound and following all grant contracts. We have an organizational structure that ensures that our services are available across all of our ten counties. Most importantly, we survey clients to ensure that we are providing quality services.

We use a survey developed nationally by the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) as a means for clients to anonymously report on our services. These surveys are distributed to all new clients, to clients exiting our shelters, and quarterly at support groups. Clients are also able to fill out the survey on line. Quarterly these survey results are tabulated and reviewed by all of the staff members at a staff meeting. Bright Horizons also tracks different outcomes from these surveys and reports on them to our different funders. Our goal is to have at least 90% of the clients report that after working with an advocate they now know more ways to plan for their safety and more community resources. This past fiscal year we distributed 274 surveys and had 262 returned. 94% of the respondents reported that they now knew more ways to plan for their safety and 93.4% knew more community resources.

Bright Horizons has offices in Norfolk, O'Neill and Ainsworth so that our services are conveniently available for everyone. Our crisis services are available 24 hours a day and we always have two staff members on call, one from the Norfolk area and one from our western counties. Bright Horizons has an active Board of Directors that represents a wide range of expertise and backgrounds from all across our service area. We are led by the Management Team that includes the Executive Director, Norfolk Program Director, O'Neill Program Director, and the Ainsworth Program Director.

Bright Horizons has a comprehensive audit each year by an outside auditing firm. This audit ensures that our funds have been spent in accordance to our grant contracts, that we are following our financial policies and industry best practices, and that there has been no mismanagement or fraud. This audit also reports on the financial stability of the agency. Our 2018-2019 fiscal year audit was just completed and, as in the past, no irregularities were found and no suggestions for improvements were noted.

All staff members are required to attend the Fundamentals of Advocacy



"They are all very helpful, kind and understanding, and work very hard to find the resources needed to help out. Great job, ladies. One of the best shelters I have been in and the location is very safe and secure."

training series sponsored by the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence. This training is over 40 hours of self-study, webinars, and in person trainings and all staff members are required to complete this during their first six months of employment. In addition, all staff members are required to complete 20 hours of continuing education each year. This ensures that our staff are knowledgeable and able to provide quality advocacy services.

Every five years, Bright Horizons completes a strategic planning session and develops long term goals for the agency. Our current plan was developed in April of 2018. This process brought together staff members, our Board of Directors, volunteers, and clients that had used our services in the past year. Each person brought a unique perspective to the process which allowed us to develop a comprehensive five-year plan. Each year the staff sets annual goals to keep us moving towards our long term goals.

As a member program of the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, Bright Horizons has a peer review completed every four to five years. The peer review process looks at program policies and services. The review is completed by a team of two members from the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence and two Executive Directors, or other staff members, from other domestic violence/sexual assault programs in Nebraska. Linda Olson, Executive Director, serves on the statewide Peer Review Team and assists with reviews of other programs. Bright Horizons just completed this process in April 2019 and has implemented all suggested policy changes.

By incorporating all of these different quality control aspects into our program, we feel that our clients are receiving the best possible advocacy and services. This is something that the Bright Horizons Board of Directors, staff members, and volunteers take pride in.





2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CONTACT BRIGHT HORIZONS

Whenever you are ready to talk, we are here to listen.

24/7 Crisis Line:
1-877-379-3798

Office Hours:
M-F, 8am – 4pm

Email:
executivedirector@brighthousene.org

www.brighthousene.org



Bright Horizons

Register now for **Amazon Smile** and **Target Circle** and support Bright Horizons while you shop.



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