

The logo features a stylized sunburst of yellow and orange rays above the text. The word "Bright" is in a teal color, "Horizons" is in purple, and "2020" is in a larger purple font. A thin teal horizontal line is positioned below "Horizons". The words "ANNUAL REPORT" are in a smaller teal font at the bottom.

Bright  
Horizons  
2020  
ANNUAL REPORT

A purple-tinted photograph of a woman with long dark hair, her eyes closed, blowing on a dandelion seed head. Her hand is visible, holding the stem, and she is wearing a ring on her finger. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting.

Resources for Survivors of  
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

## OUR MISSION

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



# 2020 ADDRESS

Dear Friends and Supporters,

There is no doubt that 2020 was a year of challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic changed the way that we all work, go to school, shop, and socialize. As challenging as this year was for everyone, imagine what it was like for victims of domestic violence.

Families under stress were isolated together, many times without family or outside support. Many families lost their jobs or had hours cut which greatly impacted their finances. Victims of domestic violence were not able to access counseling or support services.

The amount of stress that the virus and subsequent restrictions caused was palpable for all of us living it, but for those in domestic violence situations, it grew to epic proportions.

Despite facing the challenges and difficulties COVID-19 brought forth, Bright Horizons continued to provide shelter and services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. We are very proud of our staff members that were flexible and overcame each challenge, while putting their own health at risk.

Throughout last year we heard a lot about essential workers. The staff members at Bright Horizons have proven that they are essential, putting our clients first time and time again throughout the lock downs.

We implemented various safety measures in our shelters and in our offices to protect our clients and staff members. In addition, we were able to access extra funding to support survivors and their children.

While we don't want to work through another wave of this pandemic, we are thankful we were able to witness the leadership of our staff and board during this unprecedented time. We now know that we can pull together, adapt, and overcome some of the most unimaginable challenges.

And through it all, we knew that we had the support of you and our community. Your support is so important for our staff and the survivors that we serve. We truly could not provide the excellence and level of service that we do without it.

Thank you for standing by us throughout this last year.

Sincerely,

**Linda Olson**  
Executive Director



**Amanda Nipp**  
Board President





# ABOUT US

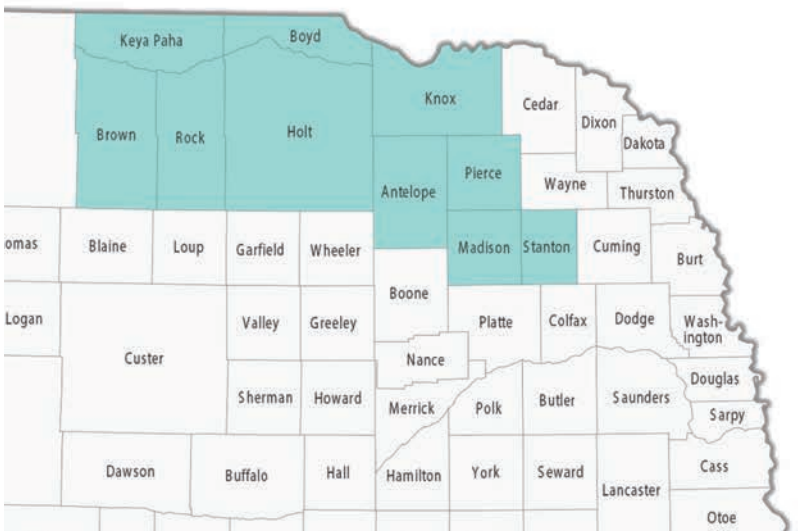
Bright Horizons has offered free and confidential services that center around supporting survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking for over 40 years.

Between three offices, our services cover a 10-county area in Northeast Nebraska dedicated to empowering and supporting survivors and their families.

Over the decades, we have continued to grow our services in order to better meet the needs of our clients including offering emergency and transitional shelter options.

## OUR SERVICES

- ▶ INDIVIDUAL ADVOCACY
- ▶ SUPPORT GROUPS
- ▶ SHELTER SERVICES
- ▶ PROTECTION ORDER ASSISTANCE
- ▶ CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LEGAL ADVOCACY
- ▶ COMMUNITY OUTREACH, PREVENTION & EDUCATION
- ▶ 24/7 CRISIS LINE



We provide services in Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Madison, Pierce, Rock and Stanton counties.

## PANDEMIC OR NOT

Despite the world-wide pandemic, our advocates have been working diligently in our communities to continue reaching as many victims of domestic violence or sexual assault as possible.

To ensure the safety of our staff and clients, we took several precautions such as increased disinfecting, temperature checks and wearing masks. In addition, we utilized grant funds to purchase disinfectant sprayers to use in our shelters between clients. We also installed plexiglass dividers in our company vehicles and in the shelter offices to help minimize exposure in areas that didn't allow for social distancing measures.

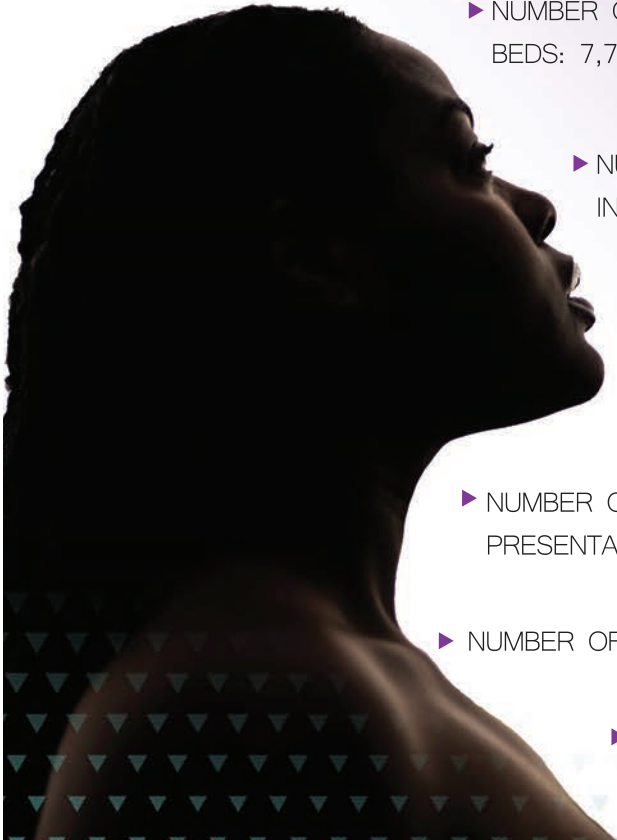
During the initial wave in the spring and the secondary one in the fall, staff moved to a rotating schedule with half on-location and half working from home each week in order to lessen the risk of having too many staff members out with COVID to properly run our agency.

These combined efforts have allowed us to continue business, not quite as usual, but we were able to continue working. Pandemic or not, Bright Horizons continued connecting with survivors.



# YEARLY STATS

- ▶ NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED: 1,080
- ▶ NUMBER OF CRISIS CALLS: 4,970
- ▶ NUMBER OF EMERGENCY SHELTER BEDS: 2,384
- ▶ NUMBER OF SHELTER MEALS: 7,152
- ▶ NUMBER OF ADULTS SERVED IN EMERGENCY SHELTER: 52
- ▶ NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED IN EMERGENCY SHELTER: 40
- ▶ NUMBER OF TRANSITIONAL SHELTER BEDS: 7,707
- ▶ NUMBER OF ADULTS SERVED IN TRANSITIONAL SHELTER: 14
- ▶ NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED IN TRANSITIONAL SHELTER: 17
- ▶ NUMBER OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH PRESENTATIONS: 43
- ▶ NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN AUDIENCE: 144
- ▶ NUMBER OF INCARCERATED VICTIMS SERVED: 40

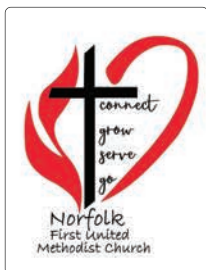


# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

We wouldn't be able to operate the way we do if not for partners in our communities. We presented plaques to a few of our biggest supporters in the fall. In Ainsworth, Brown County Hospital (at right) was the recipient, chosen for their generosity in providing us with much-needed space and resources to assist in serving survivors.



In O'Neill, Community Wardrobe & Thrift Shop was selected as the recipient (left) after years of support by letting survivors and families shop clothing and household items as well as promoting the well-being of survivors in the community.



In Norfolk, First United Methodist Church was the recipient of the award (at left). The church enabled our organization to open Kris' House of Grace and have been avid supporters of our agency through donations, volunteering and education. Due to COVID-19 they requested we drop the award off rather than meet with them.



We held an anti-bullying event in O'Neill with games and prizes. We discussed how bullying is harmful and what healthy friendships look like with the students in attendance.

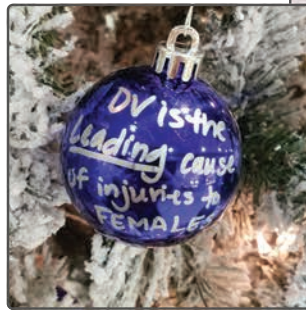
# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



A walk to end DV was hosted in honor of Norfolk resident Hailey Christiansen, who was shot and killed in July by her ex-boyfriend. Many of our staff and their families as well as other community members took part in the event.



We took part in the Fantasy Forest at the Sunset Plaza Mall in Norfolk. Our ornaments had statistics and information on them to help spread awareness for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.



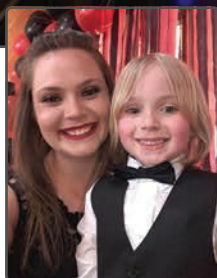
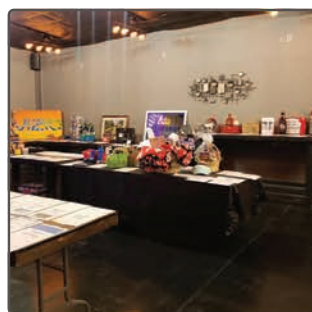
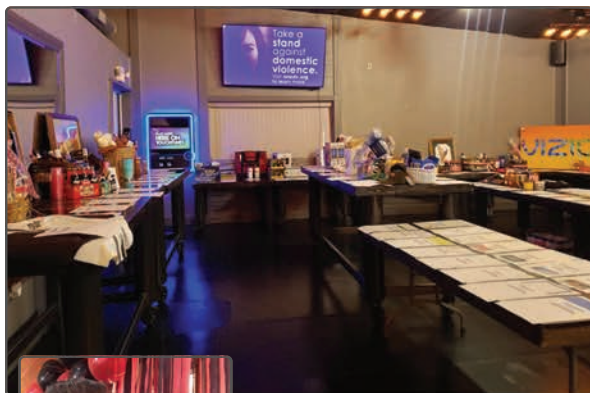
Despite the unprecedented times due to the virus, our Tyson Outreach efforts were able to continue. First with adjustments to PPE and when the plant barred outside visitors from the facility, we were able to set up individual grab bags to be handed out each month with the outreach materials inside them on topics such as human trafficking, stalking and being a survivor during the holidays. From August 2020 through January 2021, outreach had to be conducted in a unique manner, but we rose to the challenge!



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



We hosted a painting night at Handlebend in O'Neill in late October to help raise awareness for DV. The Village Flower Shoppe in Norfolk and O'Neill dedicated one of their 5-Buck Friday deals to spreading awareness for domestic violence by offering purple roses.



In early October, we partnered with The O Lounge in Norfolk for the "Raisin' for Hazen" benefit. Hazen's mother, Hailey Christiansen, was shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend in July of 2020. A silent auction, free will donation meal and Las Vegas vacation raffle were held to raise money for Hazen as well as awareness about the severity of domestic violence. The benefit raised just shy of \$15,000 with all proceeds going toward a college fund account for Hazen.

## OUR BOARD

We saw changes on our board in June with the resignation of three treasured board members. Lori Lee, Ben McBride and Stephanie Brundieck had all completed two, three year terms as volunteer board members prior to their resignation. Their contributions to our organization have been a blessing.

### **Current Board Members:**

Amanda Nipp (Pr)

Kelli Wacker (VP)

Allison Mason (Sec)

Stephanie Suckstorf (Tr)

Sara Twibell

Nancy Trimble

Cathy Wells

Bruce Okamoto

Heidi Goehmann

John Hobbs

*“At the end of the day it’s not about what you have or even what you’ve accomplished... it’s about who you’ve lifted up, who you’ve made better. It’s about what you’ve given back.”*

*– Denzel Washington*

# WE'RE HERE

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

**24/7 CRISIS LINE: 1-877-379-3798**

## OFFICES

### Norfolk

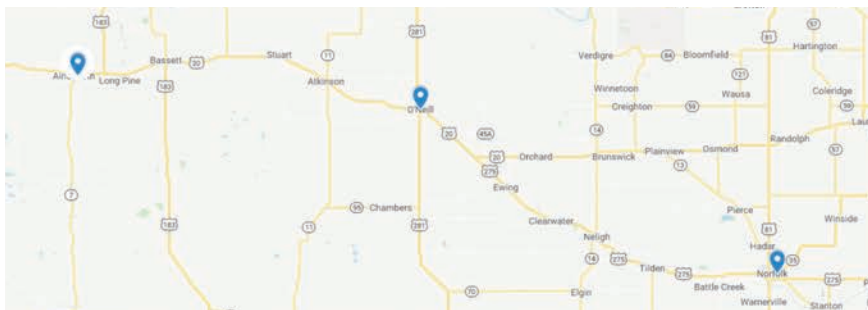
601 E. Norfolk Ave.  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
402-379-2026

### O'Neill

318 E. Douglas St.  
O'Neill, NE 68763  
402-336-1774

### Ainsworth

938 East Zero St.  
Ainsworth, NE 69210  
402-382-5676



## CONNECT WITH US

[www.brighthorizonsne.org](http://www.brighthorizonsne.org)



## HELP SUPPORT US





Like a flower in the desert  
I had to grow  
in the cruelest weather,  
holding on to every drop of rain  
just to stay alive.  
But it's not enough to survive,  
I want to bloom  
beneath the blazing sun,  
and show you all of the colors  
that live inside me,

I want you to see  
what I can become.

-Christy Ann Martine