

BRIGHT HORIZONS

2022 Annual Report

Resources for Survivors of Domestic
Violence and Sexual Assault, Inc.

601 E Norfolk Ave
Norfolk, NE 68701



Bright
Horizons
1-877-379-3798

Mission Statement

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

ABOUT US

Bright Horizons' help is now and always will be FREE and CONFIDENTIAL. We provide individual advocacy, shelter support, support groups, community education, criminal justice, and legal advocacy. We are here to help women, men, and children escape violence and abuse.

Yearly Stats

Fiscal year-July 1st, 2021- June 30th, 2022

Individuals served 1,223
Crisis calls 6,280
Emergency Shelter beds 3,610
Emergency Shelter meals 10,830
Adults in Emergency Shelter 66
Children in Emergency Shelter 57
Transitional Shelter beds 9,064
Adults in Transitional Shelter 13
Children in Transitional Shelter 36
Number of community presentations 87
Number of people in the audience 2,096

2022 Address

In April 2018, our staff, board members, volunteers, and several clients met for a strategic planning and goal setting activity. At that time, we set some lofty goals for the agency. These goals included retaining our staff and volunteers and reduce turnover, increase safety for our staff, expand our services to underserved populations, expand our services to incarcerated survivors, and to purchase a shelter in O'Neill. As we move towards 2023, it is time to think about developing a new strategic plan, and we are proud to say that we have accomplished all of the goals that were set in 2018. We have been able to reduce our staff turnover by bringing wages to a more competitive level and increasing benefits for staff. Even though COVID changed the American workforce in so many ways, we have been able to continue to provide shelter and services by pulling together as a team. We could not do this work without the amazing staff members we have.

Another goal was to increase safety for our staff. The importance of this became even more evident this spring when there was a serious safety threat. Our staff members handled everything calmly, professionally, and put our clients' safety above their own. Many times the public, and even our own staff, take this work for granted and forget that we are working in situations that can often turn life threatening. It takes a special person to do this work and we are so thankful for the eighteen people that have chosen to do this at Bright Horizons.

We discussed many ways to expand services to underserved populations and incarcerated survivors. We have expanded our outreach at Tyson Fresh Meats. We have materials in Spanish and are working to translate information into Karen. We continue our collaboration with the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and have increased outreach to the LGBTQ community. We have also improved our services in our rural counties and have seen a large increase over the past five years in the number of people served, especially out of our Ainsworth office.

When we set the goal to purchase a shelter in O'Neill, this seemed almost unattainable. Through our collaboration with the Sherwood Foundation, a generous donation from Healthy Blue, a very cooperative homeowner, the city of O'Neill, and the community, we have been able to purchase a home and renovate it to meet our needs. We are now able to offer shelter and safety to three families at the same time in a comfortable, homey environment.

These past five years have taught us to not only take care of the day-to-day crises but to look ahead, plan carefully, never give up, and dream big. This applies not only to Bright Horizons, but to the families we are privileged to work with daily.

We are so thankful for the many supporters who assist us in accomplishing our goals every year. The families Bright Horizons serves are the ones who benefit from your generosity and care. Thank you for helping us all to continue to dream big!

Respectfully,
Linda Olson
Executive Director

Kelli Wacker
Board President

Community Partner Awards 2022

Every year each office recognizes someone in the community as an outstanding community partner. This year the Norfolk office selected Healthy Blue. Healthy Blue donated \$50,000 to support our new shelter in O'Neill and general support for all offices. Ainsworth office recognized Andy Taylor, the Brown County Attorney.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Tyson Outreach

Bilingual Advocates have been going to Tyson Fresh Meats since 2012. Our advocates have reached approximately 1,795 team members so far this year. In April of 2018 our Bilingual Advocates were able to extend our outreach services to the ham side at Tyson. Our advocates provide different topics of helpful information to the team members. Each month we take different information out there, which has included material about mental health, substance abuse & domestic violence. Tyson team members are always appreciative of the information our advocates provide!



National Night Out

National Night Out is a nationwide event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support and participation in local anti-crime efforts, and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. Local families joined representatives from the Norfolk Police Division, Norfolk Fire Division and the Nebraska State Patrol to engage in an evening of games, food and a show of solidarity. The police division coordinated with dozens of businesses and nonprofit organizations in helping to bring the event to Norfolk for the second year following the pandemic-forced cancellation in 2020. Advocates have attended National Night Out for several years to bring awareness to anti bullying. While at National Night Out, it provides our advocates a chance to engage within the community and bring awareness to harassment, domestic violence and sexual assault.

Fire and EMS Symposium

In September, an advocate attended the Burt County Fire and EMS Symposium in Craig, Nebraska. We were on hand to provide information about domestic violence and sexual assault to over 20 Fire and EMS Responders. The Symposium also provided information on stroke assessment, postpartum care, bariatric lifting, and CPR. Those in attendance were Fire and EMS personnel from each Volunteer Fire and EMS Department within the Burt County area.

Ainsworth Back to School Bash

The Back to School Bash was a success! Ainsworth Advocates set up a booth at the event. We had a wheel for the children to spin and they won the prize it stopped on. Prizes included loaded backpacks, speakers, tumblers, stress balls, hacky sacks, pens, etc. All prizes had the Bright Horizons logo on them. It was a great way to promote our services and reach out. We were also asked several questions about our program and it was awesome to explain and talk about the services Bright Horizons provides.



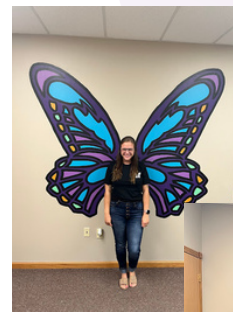
Norfolk Galentines Event

In February the Norfolk office hosted its first Galentines Event. The event was held at the District Event Room in downtown Norfolk. There were seven vendors present at the event selling various items. Attendees were able to browse the vendors, enjoy a cash bar, and enter to win door prizes. For it being the first year we had an amazing turn out and are hoping to find a bigger event space for next year!



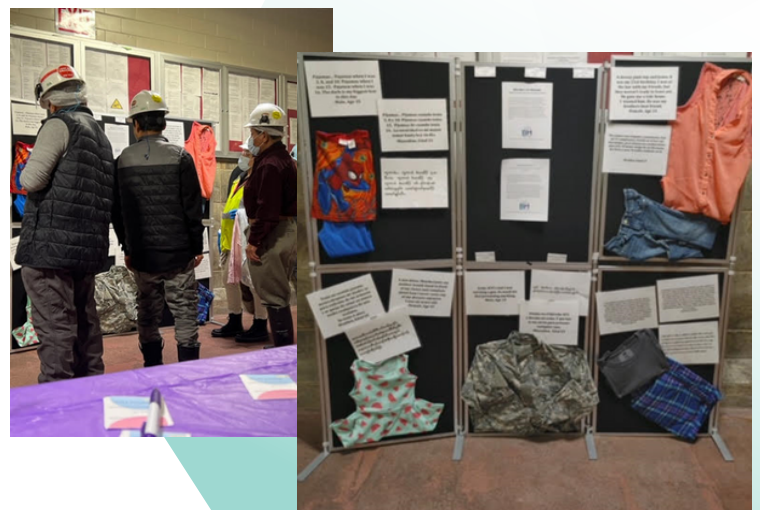
Mediums for Change Grant

In April the Youth & Campus Advocate applied for a grant through the Nebraska Coalition to Sexual and Domestic Violence. The purpose of this grant was to engage youth in creative and expressive outlets in connection with our movement to end violence. We were awarded \$1,075. Throughout the months of June and July we worked with The Zone Afterschool Program, and local artist Elley Coffin to design and paint a mural of a butterfly on a wall in the Norfolk office. The students then received a presentation about technology abuse and were awarded a themed t-shirt for their hard work!



"What were you wearing?"

This question is often asked of survivors of sexual assault. This question perpetuates victim-blaming and calling into question the actions of the victims rather than the perpetrators. Throughout April, Bright Horizons provided a powerful visual answer to the question "What were you wearing?" by showing that what a person is wearing has nothing to do with them being sexually assaulted. Throughout the month of April, we had a display with stories on them throughout our communities.



More Work completed at Norfolk Emergency Shelter



Recently Bright Horizons was blessed with a huge renovation of one of the bathrooms at our Emergency Shelter in Norfolk. Renewed Hope Christian Community and Archer Construction donated the materials and labor to do a much needed update to a bathroom. This project was originally set to take place in early 2020, and then the pandemic hit. But, it was worth the wait! Some of the work done in the bathroom included taking down the original plaster walls and putting up new drywall, replacing the shower surround and counter top with a beautiful onyx product, new flooring, paint and fixtures. This space is unrecognizable from its original form! Bright Horizons takes great pride in maintaining a beautiful safe space for the families that we serve. We are very blessed to have the continued support from groups such as Renewed Hope Christian Community. Their mission is to love others and offer hope, and they have done just that for the families in our shelter. One mom in our shelter quoted, "this is the nicest bathroom my children and I have ever used". Thank you Renewed Hope Christian Community and Archer Construction, for helping us to continue to offer hope to hundreds of survivors in our community!

New Emergency Shelter in O'Neill



This year has brought a truly amazing blessing to Bright Horizons and the families that we serve. With the help of a generous foundation grant our agency has been able to purchase a home to be used as a shelter in O'Neill. We began renovations in early February and were able to start serving families in August. The structure of this home will allow for multiple families to live under one roof safely and comfortably. The property offers a large two car garage, three large rooms and three bathrooms as well as a large yard. Our agency has an office on-site which allow us to better support our survivors while they are gaining their independence.

Project Homeless Connect

Project Homeless Connect Norfolk (PHCN) held their 6th Annual Day of Services event on October 7th, 2022 at Our Savior Lutheran Church. Forty service providers were on-site providing immediate services to anybody in need. 651 guests were served on this single day and they received services such as medical, dental, vision, mental health, and legal services. Haircuts, a hot meal, groceries, and toiletries were also provided for all of the guests. 80 volunteers donated their time, and nearly \$30,000 was raised to make the day a success. PHCN is a very unique event. Many similar events in the area bring resources together, but only offer information. PHCN focuses on access to immediate services all in one location. Upon entering PHCN each guest is paired with a Navigator. This is a trained volunteer who will take the guest through the entire event and help them receive the services that they need. Before leaving PHCN the guest will have a plan of action in place so they can continue to meet their goals. Free transportation to and from the event was sponsored once again by Ponca Express in Norfolk, and a new service this year was transporting guests to Madison County Courthouse to receive a Nebraska photo identification card. PHCN also had Faith Regional Health Services and Ricardo's Mexican Restaurant on-site with job applications and same-day interviews. The PHCN committee would like to thank all of the 2022 sponsors who financially supported this annual event. Without your generosity and support to end homelessness in our community, this day wouldn't be possible. We would also like to thank all of the volunteers who donated their time to help out at this huge event, and believing in the importance of helping our neighbors. Because of you, hundreds of people were given the hope they needed and now have brighter days in their future.

Family Violence Summit

We had our first ever Family Violence Summit at Northeast Community College in Norfolk. This is a collaboration between Northeast Community College, the Northeast Nebraska Child Advocacy Center and Bright Horizons. Our goal is to bring national level training to area professionals at an affordable cost.



SAVE THE DATE
April 5-6, 2023

Norfolk Big Give

On May 25, 2022, we had a live band at Black Cow Fat Big in Norfolk to celebrate the Norfolk Area Big Give. This was our largest year for donations made possible by generous community members and a \$50,000 donation from Healthy Blue!

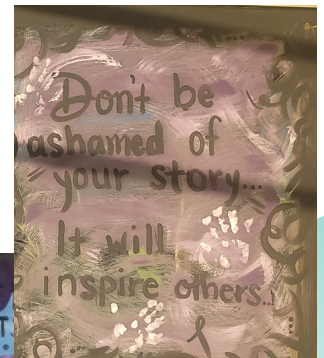


Ainsworth Office has been busy!

Galentine's Day- Inaugural Galentine's Day Sip & Shop was held in Ainsworth on February 13th. With over 25 vendors and 300 shoppers, it was a fantastic way to celebrate friendship!

Women's Health- Rangeland Rehab hosted a women's health event and invited Bright Horizons to set up a display to help promote women's health. Healthy relationships play a pivotal part in the overall health of a person.

Window Decorating- Area businesses participated in a window decorating contest to help spread awareness and the message of domestic violence prevention. Trick or Treat Street, all the ghosts, goblins, witches, and warlocks stopped by to pick up some candy and vote for their favorite window decoration.



Wish List

Paper Products

Laundry Soap (HE detergent)

Personal Hygiene Items

Non-perishable Food Items

Kitchenware

Bedding & Towels

Cleaning Supplies

Baby Supplies

Thank you to our supporters
and donors! We appreciate
your support!

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