

SERVING 50 COUNTIES IN
NORTHEAST AND NORTH
CENTRAL NEBRASKA
~ SINCE 1998 ~



2nd Edition 2020



May is National Foster Care Month

May is National Foster Care Month. A month set aside to acknowledge foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections. During National Foster Care Month, we renew our commitment to ensuring a bright future for the nearly 440,000 children and teens in foster care and we celebrate all those who make a meaningful difference in their lives.

Building Blocks would like to take this opportunity to Thank all our foster parents and respite providers for their hard work and dedication to children. We are truly blessed to have you as part of our team.

Come Celebrate With Us!

*Join us for an Open House in celebration of
National Foster Care Month
A light lunch and more information about foster care,
and how you can help, will be available!*

Friday May 15, 2020

*Grand Island Building Blocks Office
1300 S. Locust Street, Suite F
11:30am to 1:00pm*

“Lend a Hand”

George F. Holm Memorial Fund

“Lend a Hand” was created in 2018 by the Holm family to honor the legacy of George Frank Holm. Funds are available yearly to graduating foster youth in Nebraska’s Legislative District 40 (Boyd, Cedar, Dixon, Holt, Knox and Rock counties) as well as in Wayne County.

This memorial fund will bestow up to two awards of \$1,000.00 each year with the intention to aid in continuing the recipient’s education, whether through vocational schooling, college, or, as George often referred to regarding his own learning path, “the school of life.”

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a high school graduate or possess a GED under the age of 25 **OR** be on track to graduate high school or complete a GED program by the spring of current academic year.
2. Currently be in foster care or formerly have been in foster care in any of the above listed counties.
3. Provide a letter of recommendation from **at least** one teacher, mentor, or employer.
4. Provide most recent high school transcript at time of application or G.E.D. certificate.
5. Provide a typed response to **each** of the following prompts: **(in total no less than 2 pages, no more than 6 pages, in Times New Roman 12-point font, double spaced, one-inch margins):**
 - A) Describe a time you **took initiative** or acted through self-motivation to improve a situation as an individual or as part of a group and summarize what you learned from the experience.
 - B) Define what **success** looks like for you.
 - C) Outline your **academic, work, or life goals** and explain how funds from this scholarship will help you accomplish them.

The deadline for this year’s application is April 6th, 2020. Questions regarding application process may be directed to Building Blocks (402-336-4841) or e-mailed to Karen Holm (kgcleaners@yahoo.com). Completed application attached must be mailed to or dropped off at Building Blocks in O’Neill, Nebraska.

George F. Holm Memorial Fund
c/o Building Blocks
118 North 5th Street
O’Neill, NE 68763





Class
Of
2020

Graduation is an exciting time. It's both an ending and a beginning: it is warm memories of the past and big dreams for the future.

Building Blocks would like to congratulate all the 2020 graduates on all of their accomplishments.

Best of Luck!!!



The Building Blocks Foster Care Closet
is available for your foster child's clothing and accessory needs.

To fulfill your foster child's clothing needs, contact your Foster Care Specialist or Resource Development Specialist.

~ Offered free of charge ~

We are NOW offering seasonal clothing updates.

Adoptions



Krueger - 2/5/20



Brewster - 2/20/20



Mueller - 2/24/20



Cordero-Lopez - 2/26/20



Raasch - 2/26/20



Luebe - 2/26/2020



ROYAL FAMILY KIDS IS THE NATION'S LEADING NETWORK OF CAMPS, CLUBS AND MENTORS FOR CHILDREN OF ABUSE, ABANDONMENT AND NEGLECT

VISION

Every foster child, ages 6-12, experiences a life-changing Camp, Club and Mentor.

MISSION

Create life-changing moments for children of abuse.

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of Royal Family KIDS Camp is to give foster children ages 6 to 12 a week of positive memories and royal treatment in a Christian Camp environment.

STRATEGY

Launch and sustain Camps, Clubs and Mentors.

VALUES

*Treat People Royally
Keep Moving Forward
Make Moments Matter*

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED

Hiking, woodworking, ziplines, horseback riding, swimming, games, costumes, songs and skits, fishing, sports, inner-tubing and tea parties.

See more at:

<http://royalfamilykids.org/our-mission-statement/#sthash.xgjq98Lr.dpuf>

See more at: <http://rfk.org/locations/nebraska>

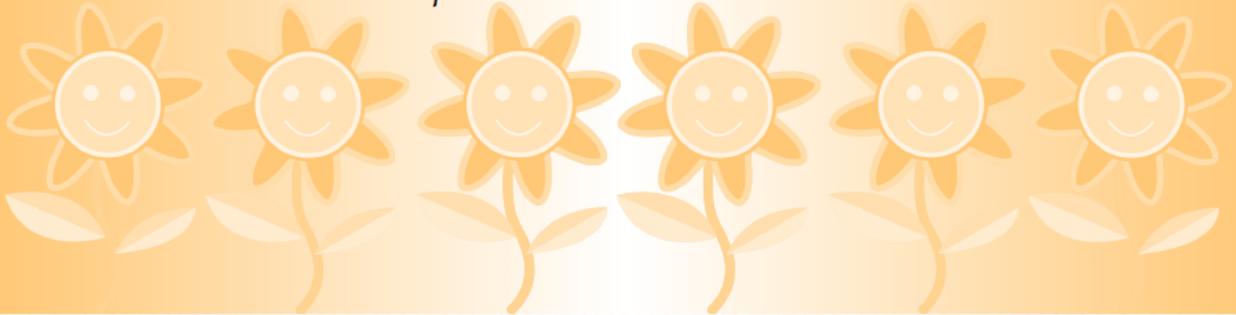


WANTED.....

Building Blocks is seeking additional foster homes to provide care for high needs children including teens, sibling groups, kids with severe behaviors and those exiting higher levels of care.

Building Blocks will help guide you through the process of becoming trained and licensed.

*To learn more about becoming a Building Blocks foster parent
please call: 402-336-4841.*



CAMP CATCH-UP

Siblings are our first friends in life.

So what better way to spend a summer weekend than hanging out with your siblings at Camp Catch-Up? Together, you can enjoy everything camp has to offer: canoeing, ropes courses, water activities, hiking, and more — and it's completely free!

Camp Rivercrest, Fremont, NE: May 28-May 31

Nebraska State 4-H Camp, Halsey, NE: June 25-28

Eastern NE 4-H Center, Gretna, NE: July 30-August 2

New to camp? Go online to apply at campcatchup.org.

Attend camp last year? Log into your campdoc.com account to update your information.

Questions?

Contact Mona Tarin at 402-613-6357 or mtarin@nebraskachildren.org



Camp Catch-Up
nebraskachildren

A Friendly Reminder . . .



DHHS regulations require that each foster parent get at least 12 clock hours of Department approved in-service training annually within the effective dates of his/her license. (DHHS Compliance Review Form).

Each Building Blocks location has a lending library as well as various self-directed study materials for your assistance. Our website also maintains a current and upcoming training schedule. For your convenience, your Resource & Licensing Specialist will be sending you a quarterly update of the number of hours remaining for the year.

RESOURCES

Nebraska Lifespan Respite Network: Respite care, planned or emergency, is the provision of short-term, temporary relief to those who are caring for family members with special needs. <https://nrrs.ne.gov/respitesearch/>

Friends of Foster Children: Foster parents and providers have the opportunity to apply for special grants for foster children. www.ne-friends.org

Project Everlast: Foster youth council; www.projecteverlast.org

Susan Buffet Scholarship: Scholarships for graduating youth. www.buffetscholarships.org

Right Turn: Good support site for Foster Parents. www.RightTurnNE.org

NFAPA Newsletter: The NFAPA Newsletter is a good resource for articles about foster care news, legislature, behaviors, and ideas for foster parents. www.NFAPA.org

EMK Press: Publishes a variety of books and helpful resources as your families evolve on the journey of parenting. www.emkpress.com

Foster Parent Insurance Information: Information on the process and contacts for Foster Parent Insurance and how to make a claim. www.das.ne.gov/risk/foster-parent.html

WIC: Women, Infants and Children subsidy program. ALL foster children are eligible for WIC because they are on Medicaid. http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/wic_index.aspx

Through the Eyes of the Child: Is a good website to find information about Court and Documents. www.throughtheeyes.org

ATTACH: Providing training to foster parents and professionals to promote healthy attachment and heal trauma. www.ATTACH.org

Support Groups

IN-PERSON SUPPORT GROUP

Columbus Support Group: Meets the second Tuesday of the month (except July and December). Childcare available. Contact Tammy Welker at: 402-989-2197. Peace Lutheran Church, 2720 28th St. 7:00-8:30 p.m.

ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP

FACES: Online Support Group: Every Tuesday 9:00-10:00 p.m. CT Contact Felicia at Felicia@nfapa.org to become a member of this closed group. Meets weekly to discuss issues foster parents are facing. Support only.

Social Media, Facebook, Confidentiality: Things You Need to Know. . .

As technology advances and becomes more accessible, so does the desire to share your joys and concerns on social media like Twitter and Facebook. Building Blocks would like to remind you that you cannot do so. It is a violation of confidentiality policies that you agreed to uphold as a foster parent for your licensure.

1-007 RELEASE OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND IDENTIFYING INFORMATION REGARDING WARDS.

No photographs or slides, electronic video, or other identifying information regarding a Department ward may be released for use on posters, in news stories, presentations, press releases, newsletters without the written consent of the child's worker and agreement of the parent, if parental rights are intact.

In deciding whether to give consent, the worker will consider:

- Legal status of parental rights;*
- The child's opinion and wishes;*
- Purpose and use of material;*
- Effect of use on child and family*

If a situation is questionable, consent shouldn't be given

If you have any questions on this policy, please contact your Resource & Licensing Specialist!

COVID-19: What You Need to Know

How it Spreads

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

- **The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.**
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
 - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
 - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Take steps to protect yourself

Clean your hands often

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact

- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick
- Put **distance between yourself and other people** if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Take steps to protect others

Stay home if you're sick

- **Stay home** if you are sick, except to get medical care. Learn what to do if you are sick.

Cover coughs and sneezes

- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Wear a facemask if you are sick

- **If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room. Learn what to do if you are sick.
- **If you are NOT sick:** You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.

Clean and disinfect

- **Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.** This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- **If surfaces are dirty, clean them:** Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

Cancellations

- Annual YMCA Easter Egg Hunt on April 4th
- HJSA Conference on April 16th & 17th
- NNJA Conference on May 6th, 7th, & 8th
- Inspire to Improve Conference October 17th

If you have questions about upcoming events call our office at: 402-336-4841.

Upcoming Trainings & Events

May

National Foster Care Month

May 10 – Mother's Day

May 12 – Columbus Support Group

May 15 – National Foster Care Month Open House – GI

May 18 – Board of Directors Meeting

May 25 – Memorial Day – Offices Closed

June

June 9 – Columbus Support Group

June 14 – Flag Day

June 20 – Summer Begins

June 21 – Father's Day

July

July 4 – Independence Day

July 14 – Columbus Support Group

July 27 – Board of Directors Meeting

August

August 11 – Columbus Support Group

*Don't forget to check out our website,
www.buildingblocksforkids.org for updated information on
events, resources, in-services and pre-service training.*

*Provide your e-mail addresses to Tonya Bauman at:
tonya@buildingblocksforkids.org
or 402-851-1097 for enrollment in our online training services.*

Building Blocks for Community Enrichment
118 North 5th Street
O'Neill, NE 68763

Return Service Requested

GENERAL INFORMATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
RICHARD FITCH, MD

VICE PRESIDENT
DARCY POESE

SECRETARY/TREASURER
TRACI OBER, CFO

DIRECTORS
COREY FISHER
SARAH HENDERSON
RUTH MATTHEWS-MOTT
ANN WOOD-HOLLEY
CODY HAVRANEK

OFFICES

118 N. 5TH STREET, O'NEILL
402-336-4841
FAX-402-336-4640

101 EAST WILSON AVENUE, NORFOLK
FAX-402-379-1056

1300 SOUTH LOCUST STE F, GRAND ISLAND
FAX-308-675-6966

CEO: JACQUELYN MEYER
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: RACHAEL KALLHOFF

1-800-689-0945 ~ ON-CALL 402-394-5736

WWW.BUILDINGBLOCKSFORKIDS.ORG



**Visit us on Facebook at: Building Blocks
for Community Enrichment.**