

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



1st Edition 2019



Building Blocks 2018 Annual Holiday Party

Over 300 children and adults attended the festivities at the Lifelong Learning Center on January 6th. The party featured a catered meal, entertainment by ventriloquist, The Amazing Arthur, glitter tattooing, games, gifts and visits with Frosty, clowns, and other characters!



Door Prize Winners

Megan & TJ Halsey, Angela & Chuck Credeur, Shelly Wortman, Chelse & Quintin Mueller, Eric & Jessica Rogat, Amy & Jarvis Guill, Jill & Brian Brewster, Randy & Misti Walnofer, Gale & Ryan Mehaffey, Patricia & Bruce LeComte, Kyle & Brandy Galvan, Jackie & Brian Wolfe, Bree & Robert Almgren, Doug & Jennifer Phipps, Will & Christine Findlay, Ben & Heather Larsen, Bud & Phyllis Cunningham, Mike & Janet Christiansen, Patti & Cleton Bretschneider, Sandy & Kevin Thorell, Asey Carr, Jenny & Rocky Moore, Ignaticio & Miriam Montenegro, April & John Schumacher, Charlette Bowen Kissi Afare, Matt & Renee Gronethal, Stacy & Leo Vandersnick, Mary Brugman, Laurie & Justin Koch, Michelle & Kyle Greene, Chris & Kristin Luebe, Mark & Teri Yover, and Lisa Brazee.



During the 2018 Holiday Season, J&J Sanitation donated 20 bicycles and 20 helmets to foster families and children served by Building Blocks for Community Enrichment of O'Neill. J&J Sanitation has been donating bicycles for more than 15 years to organizations where all of their sites are located.

Building Blocks for Community Enrichment wishes to thank all of the local business that have donated to their annual holiday party.

September was National Foster Parent Month

Building Blocks hosted fall festivals at Poppies Pumpkin Patch in rural Norfolk and Helgoth's Pumpkin in rural St. Libory in appreciation of National Foster Parent Month on September 29th.



Rep. Smith recognizes Charles Walker and Linda Shepard of Burwell as The 2018 Angels in Adoption honorees for their extraordinary contributions on behalf of children in need of loving families.

They have been part of Building Blocks Foster Care since 2013.



National Adoption Day 2018

On National Adoption Day, courts and communities in the United States come together to finalize thousands of adoptions of children from foster care. More than 300 events are held each year in November on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, in all 50 US states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to finalize the adoptions of children in foster care.

This year's adoption day was celebrated on Saturday, November 17, 2018.



Building Blocks won the 2018 People's Choice Award as part of the Nebraska State Fair's Hay Bale Contest. The photo was also featured on Willie Nelson Facebook Page.

The theme was "Harvest of Memories"

"There's No Place Like Space" was the theme for the 2018 Harvest of Harmony Parade. There were 87 float entries. Winners were chosen in Civic, School, Children and Business categories.

Building Blocks was the 2018 winner in the Civic Division and was the Grand Marshal's Choice.



SAVE THE DATE

“Inspired to Improve 2019”

2nd Annual Conference

Oct 19, 2019

8am-4:15pm

Lifelong Learning Center

701 E. Benjamin Ave.

Norfolk, NE 68701

Target Audience: Parents, Foster Parents, Educators, Community Service Providers, Caseworkers, Social Workers, Probation Officers, Coaches, anyone working with youth!!

Keynote: Derek Clark



Derek Clark's life is one of resilience and redemption. As a child he suffered unthinkable child abuse, abandonment and emotional distress before being turned over to the psychiatric hospital at age five. His 13 years in the San Francisco bay area foster care system reflected an early life of humiliation, aggression, emotional distress, overwhelming anxiety and being wrongfully labeled. Eventually, with the help of foster parents, a fantastic social worker and mentors, he defied the artificial limitations imposed upon him. Derek knows first-hand how to cope with adversity and overcoming hardship. His past has never held him back from accomplishing what he set his heart and mind to.

Derek is an inspiring motivational speaker/trainer. Recently, Derek has become a viral video sensation for his “Rapping Dad” videos which have had over 250 million social media views. You may keep up with his exciting journey by following him on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Motivational-Speaker-Derek-Clark-I-Will-Never-GiveUp/141735353526> or his viral video Rapping Dad page at www.Facebook.com/RappingDad



Watch our website for conference details:
www.buildingblocksforkids.org

Children's Literature Festival



Green Eggs and Ham

Saturday, March 16, 2019

9:00a.m. – 11:00a.m.

O'Neill Public Elementary School

Children ages 2-10

Schedule

9:00 – 9:30 - Green Eggs & Ham Breakfast

*****Breakfast will only be served from 9:00 – 9:30*****

9:00 – 10:15 - Clown Entertainment, Face Painting, Glitter Tattoos and Games

10:15 - 10:30 - Green Eggs & Ham Story

10:30 – 11:00 - Storytelling & Activities

Ticket Information

Green Eggs and Ham will be a Freewill Donation this year.

There will be no advanced ticket sales.

For more information call Rachael Kallhoff: 402-336-4841

Sponsored by Building Blocks for Community Enrichment

Sex-Trafficking: A Parent's Guide to Protecting Your Child

By Timothy Allen



Michelle's Tale

Michelle had always felt alone. She had been moved from foster home to foster home for years and never felt like she truly belonged. Her new home was no different. No one at the church her foster parents made her go to seemed to care about her, and she certainly couldn't talk to the people there about the way she was feeling. All she wanted was to be able to escape the system and take control of her own life. She had heard about other kids who escaped the foster care system; they just hopped on a bus and left town. With nothing but their own wits and common sense to survive, they were able to travel and follow their dreams wherever they may lead.

Michelle decided to run away one afternoon after finally saving up enough money for a bus ticket to the state capitol. She sent her foster parents a text to say she was studying with a friend after school, so she knew they wouldn't miss her until late that night — and by then she would be long gone. When she got to the bus station, an older girl started talking to her while they waited in the terminal. She told Michelle about how she made money modeling clothes, and it sounded so easy! The city she worked in was even further away than the capitol, which only increased the appeal in Michelle's eyes. Her new friend bought Michelle's ticket and sat next to her on the bus, chatting up a storm about new clothes, jewelry, shopping and all the independence that Michelle was

craving. Once they arrived at their destination, she introduced her friend, Jimmy, who looked Michelle up and down appraisingly. Michelle found herself anxiously hoping she won his approval. Jimmy nodded once and Michelle stepped into his car and the start of her new life.

Ryan's Story

Ryan, like most American 12-year-old boys, was a fan of playing video games online. From Minecraft to World of Warcraft, Ryan's cadre of online "friends" numbered more than a hundred. A hundred other young boys, and a few girls, who played the various games with him, connected by little more than their headphone and mic sets as they built new worlds and smashed others to digital smithereens.

Ryan's parents were aware of the Internet's potential dangers and had placed their home's only computer in the living room so they could 'monitor' Ryan's activity. They never heard anything suspicious. Besides, their son was a good kid with good grades who was home every evening to play with his online pals. Until one night when he didn't come home.

It wasn't until he returned home years later that Ryan's parents learned that he had been abducted by one of his online gaming "friends" who had arranged a meeting at a local park, injected him with a drug and quickly pulled him into a waiting car. Ryan then spent the next three years forcefully addicted to drugs and sold across dozens of U.S. markets as a sex slave.

Fictional Nonfiction

Both Michelle and Ryan are composites of real sex trafficking victims who were rescued and now share their stories. There are dozens of various ways that men *and* women abduct young boys and girls into the sex-trafficking industry in the United States every day. Many of these methods are very high-tech and rely on advanced psychological manipulation. Some sex trafficking occurs right under parents' noses as they are unaware of what their children are doing when they are inside or outside the home.

The numbers of sex-trafficked victims in the U.S. is increasing every year, despite growing efforts by groups to fight this crime. Many Americans remain unaware of the severity of the problem and the fact that, despite Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation, the slave trade is alive and thriving in this country.

Sex trafficking is not a third-world problem affecting other countries. **This is a serious and growing problem right in our backyards and happening on Main Street, U.S.A.**

January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Throughout 2018, in Nebraska, there were 22 calls to the DHHS Child Abuse Hotline with elements consistent with trafficking. The potential victims ranged in age from 13-21, with most being female.

May is National Foster Care Month

Join us for one of the following Open Houses in celebration of National Foster Care Month on Friday May 17, 2019:

South Sioux City—1312 Dakota Ave.—10:00am to 11:00am

Norfolk—101 East Wilson Ave.—10:00am to 11:00am

Grand Island—1300 S. Locust Street, Suite F—10:00am to 11:00am

O'Neill—118 N. 5th Street—10:00am to 11:00am

Register by 10:15am for a chance to win: cash prizes, gift cards, variety baskets and much more!

REFRESHMENTS ~ SNACKS ~ DOOR PRIZES



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).

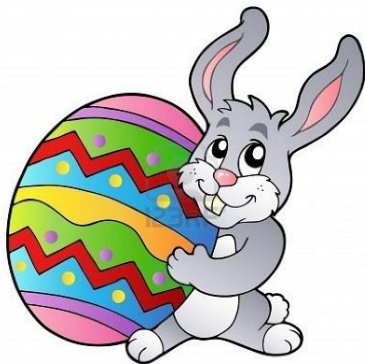
Each Building Blocks location has a lending library as well as various self-directed study materials for your assistance. Our website also maintains a current and upcoming training schedule. For your convenience, your Resource & Licensing Specialist will be sending you a quarterly update of the number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

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.



2019 Great Easter Egg Hunt

Norfolk YMCA

Saturday, April 13th @ 1 p.m.

Over 10,000 Eggs to Hunt
with prizes for all!



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, download a form from our website www.buildingblocksforkids.org and submit the completed form to your Foster Care Specialist or Resource Development Specialist.

~ Offered free of charge ~

We are NOW offering seasonal clothing updates.

“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 5th, 2019. 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**

WINTER WORD SEARCH



Created by
Sue Lindlauf
Grand Forks Herald
2010

W	E	A	T	H	E	R	W	G	S	F	P	S	F	M
O	H	J	V	O	L	J	O	N	J	V	H	N	J	J
K	F	R	A	C	S	M	E	O	K	O	L	O	M	G
D	R	H	B	P	T	T	D	P	V	B	P	W	W	N
I	E	L	J	Q	T	O	I	E	L	J	Q	F	O	I
W	E	P	N	I	W	K	L	I	P	N	S	L	K	T
S	Z	Q	M	W	Q	D	S	D	Q	M	F	A	D	A
N	I	A	K	S	B	I	U	W	A	K	F	K	I	K
A	N	S	L	I	D	E	I	S	S	L	U	E	W	S
M	G	W	J	C	D	L	L	A	W	J	M	D	S	W
W	W	X	I	D	S	N	O	W	X	I	R	B	U	X
O	C	C	U	F	D	D	P	C	C	U	A	D	D	C
N	V	D	O	M	G	G	N	I	D	D	E	L	S	D
S	B	E	P	I	C	C	R	E	T	N	I	W	C	E
F	S	L	I	P	P	E	R	Y	R	T	A	H	H	R

See how many of these words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Snow | 5. Shovel | 9. Slippery | 13. Scarf |
| 2. Snowman | 6. Cold | 10. Slide | 14. Hat |
| 3. Winter | 7. Freezing | 11. Sledding | 15. Earmuffs |
| 4. Weather | 8. Snowflake | 12. Skating | 16. Mittens |

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.

TRANSRACIAL SUPPORT GROUP

Parenting Across Color Lines: This group supports and strengthens racial identity in transracial families. Support only. Meets the fourth Monday of the month. Children welcome to attend with parents. Newman United Methodist Church, 2242 R Street, Lincoln. 6:15-8:00 pm Contact the NFAPA office to register for Family Events or any questions. 402-476-2273 For more information or to RSVP, contact Laurie Miller at Laurie@nfapa.org

Upcoming Trainings & Events

February

February 2nd - Groundhog Day

*February 12th - Columbus Support Group**

February 14th - Happy Valentine's Day

February 18th - President's Day

March

March 10th - Daylight Savings

*March 12th - Columbus Support Group**

March 16th - Green Eggs and Ham (details inside)

March 17th - Happy St. Patrick's Day

March 25th - Board of Directors Meeting

April

*April 9th - Columbus Support Group**

April 13th - The Great Easter Egg Hunt (details inside)

April 21st - Happy Easter

April 24th - Administrative Professionals Day



Visit us on Facebook at:
Building Blocks for Community Enrichment

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

Return Service Requested

For more information:

www.NFAPA.org www.FFTA.org www.nebraskachildren.org www.ATTACH.org
www.fostercare.org

Building Blocks for Community Enrichment

Staff

Executive Director—Jacquelyn E. Meyer
Program Director—Rachael Kallhoff
Financial Officer—Traci Ober
Training Specialist—Tonya Bauman
FCS Supervisor—Cristy Brooks
Randi Seitz
Placement & Recruiting Specialist—Cody Van Winkle
Foster Care Specialists— Julie Knust
Mayra Vasquez
Ali Torres
Haley Koopman
Lauren Elsasser
Teresa Beiermann
FCS & RD Specialist—Beth Geer
Jordan Hanner
Resource & Licensing Supervisor—Bob Thomas
Resource & Licensing Specialists— Jaime Krings
Laura Vogel

Board of Directors

President—Amy Shane
Vice President—Patsy Hurlbert
Directors—Corey Fischer
Sarah Henderson
Darcy Poese
Richard Fitch, M.D.
Ruth Matthews-Mott

Offices:

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