

Project Homeless Connect

By: Lacy Kimes; Norfolk Housing Supervisor, Project Homeless Connect Coordinator

Norfolk and surrounding community agencies are in the beginning stages of planning Norfolk's first Project Homeless Connect to be held in the summer of 2017. The idea of Norfolk having a Project Homeless Connect came to the table at a local meeting a couple of years ago. The service providers recognized the rising level of poverty in Northeast Nebraska and felt the need to do something about it. Currently there are four different yearly Project Homeless Connects in Nebraska; Grand Island, Hastings, Lincoln and Omaha. The community of Norfolk seemed like a logical site to hold one of these events. Project Homeless Connect began over ten years ago in San Francisco, California after their mayor recognized the city's level of poverty and homelessness. Since the first event took place, there is now at least one Project Homeless Connect in each state across the country. This one-day, one-stop event offers multiple free on-site services to those in need, with the goal of each person walking away with a plan to get out of homelessness or near homelessness. Such services could include medical care, dental care, showers, haircuts, on-site job and housing interviews, a hot meal, car repairs, and much more. Project Homeless Connect can't be done without money and volunteers. The committee has estimated that about \$20,000 is needed to run Norfolk's first Project Homeless Connect, and about 100 volunteers are needed that day. I have received many questions such as, "why does Norfolk need a Project Homeless Connect?" The reality is homelessness can take many forms, not just sleeping on a park bench like many think. Being homeless may also be sleeping in a tent in our local park, couch surfing from house to house, or staying at our local homeless shelter. Many individuals may have a home to sleep at night, but it's not safe. They live in an abusive home, drugs are being used or sold out of their home, the living conditions are unhealthy, or they can't afford their rent and they are on the verge of eviction. This is also why many people don't realize the high level of homeless and near homeless individuals there are around us. Project Homeless Connect can provide life-changing services. As a community we can provide homeless and near homeless individuals with resources. But, it's also about them making the connections; the connections that they need all in one location to get themselves out of an unsafe situation for good. If you think you would like to volunteer at Norfolk's Project Homeless Connect please contact me, and I can help you find a spot on our team. Or, if you don't wish to volunteer your time, but would like to donate to the project, we are accepting monetary donations too.

Project Homeless Connect...a community response to a community problem.

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 Detective Ben McBride
 Stephanie Brundieck
 Gena Jones
 Sara Twibell
 Stephanie Suckstorf
 Kelli Lowe, Emeritus Status
 Bill Price, United Way Liaison

Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Suzi Chipps! Suzi has been a volunteer at Bright Horizons for the past 3 years! Suzi is originally from the Mississippi/Louisiana area and moved to Nebraska when she married her husband Mike. Together they have 3 children (a daughter and two sons) and one son who passed away in 2005. Her grandchildren bring her the most joy in life. They range from ages 3 years old to 21 years old. "They are truly special gifts," she says. Her hobbies include word searches, journaling, and spending time with family. Suzi has always been interested in some kind of volunteer work. "I decided on Bright Horizons because I wanted to make someone's day a little brighter and give them hope during their darkest hour. A traumatic event in my own childhood prompted a deep desire to help those who are hurting. It's all about making a difference," she stated. Suzi helps with a variety of things including office assistance, answering phones, organizing donations and much more!



We are so thankful for all the work you do! Thank you Suzi!

"Believe in yourself and all that you are. Know that there is something inside you that is greater than any obstacle."

- Christian D. Larson

Brandon Maly - Retiring from Bright Horizons Board

By: Linda Olson; Executive Director

Bright Horizons would like to thank Brandon Maly for his six years of service on our Board of Directors. Brandon began serving in June 2010 and served two, three-year terms. He brought a wealth of financial expertise and accounting experience to our agency. Brandon strengthened our Financial Policies and Procedures, which is so important in working with grants.

Brandon is an Accountant at Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

Bright Horizons' depends on the advice and expertise of our Board Members. Current Board Members include: President Ryan Parks, O'Neill; VP/Treasurer Amanda Nipp, Wausa; Secretary Dr. Wende Heckert, Norfolk; Jenny Bender, Norfolk; Chaplain Randy Rodenborg, Pierce; Lori Lee, Norfolk; Detective Ben McBride, Norfolk; Stephanie Brundieck, Norfolk; Trooper Gena Jones, Ainsworth; Sara Twibell, Orchard; and Stephanie Suckstorf, Norfolk.



Annual Garage Sale

By: Lacy Kimes; Norfolk Housing Supervisor

The 6th Annual Bright Horizons Multi-Family Garage Sale was held on July 8th at St. John's Lutheran Church in Norfolk and, once again, it was a huge success. This year the sale raised over \$2,000! What started as a small gesture and vision to help a local non-profit, has turned into an annual event that a lot of community members look forward to every year. What may seem as a simple garage sale is actually a year-long planning process for the small volunteer committee at St. John's Lutheran Church. This committee takes a lot of pride in this sale. The week of the sale alone, these volunteers spend over 100 hours preparing for and conducting the garage sale. St. John's Lutheran Church also wants to help raise more awareness of domestic violence and the need that our community has for Bright Horizons. The more people we can bring through the church's doors to the sale, the more awareness we can spread. Lori Olson, Sale Coordinator, stated, "I was very pleased with the variety of items that we had at the sale. There was something for everyone. Every year we never know what is going to be the hot item, or if we're even going to have enough items to put on the sale; every year is so different. And each year I'm overwhelmed by the amount of support that we get from the community." Thank you to St. John's Lutheran Church for allowing us to use the Fellowship Hall, and continuing to be a huge supporter of Bright Horizons year after year. Their generosity and support is endless. Thank you for believing in Bright Horizons and our mission!



Color for a Cause

By: Emily Elsbury; O'Neill Outreach Coordinator

This year Bright Horizons had decided to try something new and exciting, not only for our organization, but to get the community involved! Bright Horizons partnered with six other organizations in the O'Neill area to put together a Color Run for the surrounding community members to take part in. The partnering organizations were: NorthStar, Holt County TeamMates, O'Neill Youth Rotary, Heartland Counseling, The Holt County Animal Shelter, and The O'Neill Chamber of Commerce. All proceeds from the event will go towards those organizations. Color for a Cause was an untimed 5K walk/run held on July 16th. The 5K walk/run began at 8:30am on the Holt County Court House lawn. The event was extremely family friendly and an exciting experience for all ages! There were six "color stations" and each organization threw a neon colored powder at runners and walkers as they went by! Each participant received a small packet of colored powder and when everyone was finished there was a finale to throw their powder in the air together! "This event was a great way to spread awareness for all organizations who had partnered with Bright Horizons. We are so humbled to have the support of the community to be able to make Color for a Cause happen" stated Emily Elsbury, Bright Horizons Outreach Advocate, who Chaired the event planning committee. There was a total of 90 participants who ran or walked in the event!



Family Fit n' Fun Festival

By: Cheri Carlson; Norfolk Shelter Part-Time Advocate

The Family Fit n' Fun Festival was held on July 30, 2016 at the Ag Complex in Norfolk Nebraska. This event encouraged families to stay active while at the same time having fun! Bright Horizons was one of the many vendors participating in this event. Bright Horizons helpers were Cheri Carlson an advocate for Bright Horizons and Selena Rodriguez a volunteer for Bright Horizons. Our "fit n' fun" activity included jump roping and hula hooping and for a nice cold tasty treat we offered participants ice pops. One of the participants had over 52 jumps! All the children did a wonderful job in jump roping and hula hooping! We are so glad we were able to be a part of this event and connect to the community and families in this way. We look forward to next years Family Fit n' Fun Festival!



National Night Out

By: Emily Putters; Norfolk Outreach Coordinator

National Night Out was held August 2nd at Central Park in Norfolk. Bright Horizons, along with many other social service agencies and law enforcement got together to create a fun filled atmosphere for kids. Lindsay and Emily (pictured) manned the booth. We had yard games and prizes the kids could win as they stopped by our booth. Despite the heat, it was a really fun night getting to know some of the kids in our community. The purpose behind National Night Out is to give children in the community an opportunity to meet law enforcement and other helping agencies. By providing a fun and positive environment, it's easy for kids to be able to relate to law enforcement and other helping agencies and that they can reach out to us if they ever need help! This has turned into an annual event in Norfolk. We look forward to next years National Night Out!



Back the Blue

By: Christy Lee; Norfolk Program Director

As I watched the news the morning after the targeted attack on law enforcement in Dallas I grew more and more determined that we needed to do something in support of Law Enforcement. I went to work that day to share my thoughts and brainstorm with coworkers. We felt strongly that whatever we did, we wanted it to be 100% in support of Law Enforcement, not outreach or fundraising on behalf of Bright Horizons. And this is how the idea of "Back The Blue" t-shirts were started! Our second goal was to be able to offer the shirts for an affordable price. Custom Sports here in Norfolk worked great with us and we are able to sell the shirts for only \$10! Any money that may be left over after Bright Horizons pays for the shirts will go back into honoring Law Enforcement in some way. The shirts have gone over AMAZINGLY!! We've already sold around 280! I believe this speaks volumes in regard to the strong integrity of individuals, families and businesses in our communities. Please join us in honoring the men and women who put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities safe. We currently have shirts on hand, no waiting! Available sizes are as follows: Adult-small, medium, large, Xlarge and XXlarge. Youth sizes-small, medium and large. Call 402-379-2026 to reserve your shirts or stop in at any of our offices!



2016 Technology Summit

By: Emily Putters; Norfolk Outreach Coordinator

Our staff Amanda and Emily got the amazing opportunity to attend the 2016 Technology Summit hosted by the National Network To End Domestic Violence in San Francisco, CA! After sight seeing and tasting fresh sea food, they may have left their hearts in San Francisco, but they took some very valuable knowledge home! The training was held July 25th - July 27th. It included 3 days of learning how to be safe online and how to use privacy and security when using technology. Day one consisted of learning about phones and location, online data and images, and the launch of the new *Tech Safety App* by the National Network to End Domestic Violence. The second day we heard Jess Davidson, author of *My Rapist Might Not Know He's A Rapist*, speak about being a survivor in the age of online comments. She shared her story of coming out as a rape survivor in a viral story on the front page of Huffington Post and the online harassment that ensued. Then we heard from some of California's lead cyber crime investigators share real life examples of stalking, domestic violence, and human trafficking cases they've investigated, testified in, and obtained convictions in. The last day we had representatives from Google, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Uber share their expert knowledge in online safety. Over all this training had a lot of valuable information and will be very useful when advocating for our clients!



Working with Burmese Victims

By: Celeste Guzman & Zenaida Zarate; Norfolk Bilingual Advocates

Doing outreach at Tyson every month we have come across a different culture that we did not know much about. Besides working with the Hispanic population we have been working with the Karen (pronounced Ka-REN) and Burmese. The Karen are an ethnic group from the mountainous border regions of Burma and Thailand. The Burmese are members of the largest ethnic group of Burma (Myanmar) in Southeast Asia. Approximately 5,500 Karen live in Nebraska with an additional 300 refugees from other ethnic groups in Burma. Because of fast growing populations in the U.S., Nebraska has a large population in the cities of Omaha, Lincoln, Crete, Nebraska City, Grand Island, Norfolk and Dakota City. According to the Grand Island Independent more than 60 percent of Nebraska's refugee population are from Burma. It is difficult for women in the Burmese community to speak or reach out for help over domestic violence because they are led to believe that it is a family matter, and that it is inappropriate to speak up about it. For us trying to get the information across is a difficult task because we have to depend on an interpreter to talk to them. While working on building a relationship with their culture Zenaida and Celeste went to the local Norfolk Asian Store here in Norfolk. The store owners stated, "It will be a good thing for the Asian community to know what services Bright Horizons provides and that they are here to help victims of domestic violence."



Holt County After School Program

By: *Shelby Schmitt; O’Neill Criminal Justice Liaison*

In previous years, Bright Horizons’ O’Neill office hosted an after school program called BRAVO (Bullying Recognition and Anti-Violence Organization). We are starting a program back up that will be very similar, but will have a different name – and slightly different activities. We are gathering a group of high-school aged kids that want change in their communities and schools. We are looking for kids that have respect, honor, and courage for themselves, their community and their friends. This group is going to be focused on the prevention of bullying and any kind of violence. Eventually the goal is to be able to build our group to the point that they feel comfortable educating and empowering their peers on what bullying and violence is, why it isn’t okay, and what to do about it.

Bright Horizon’s advocate Shelby Schmitt and officer Rachel Kohlman with the O’Neill PD spoke to the O’Neill Public Jr/Sr High-School on the afternoon of their first day of school. Officer Kohlman is a well known face in the community and talked about the importance of this group and what it means. On top of that, she introduced Shelby for those who weren’t aware of who she was as well as the fact that there will be free pizza at the first meeting! Because who doesn’t like a free meal?!

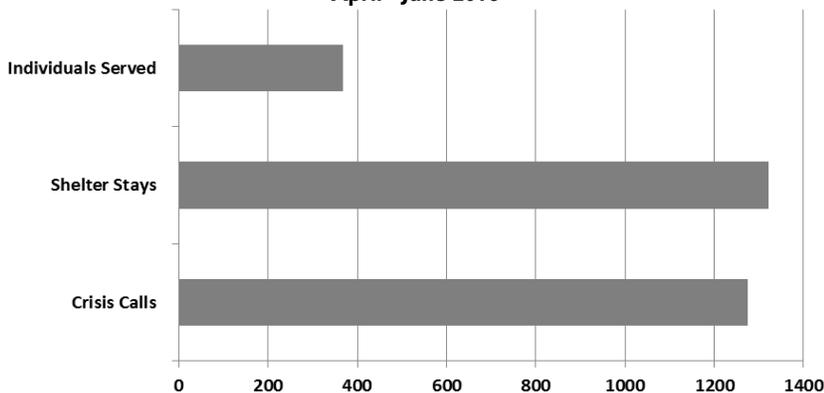
The kick off for the first meeting is going to be Monday the 29th of August from 7-8pm. We welcome all those who are in grades 9-12. If you or someone you know is below the age range, please contact the O’Neill Bright Horizon’s office. After that, we will meet weekly or bi-weekly depending on the availability of the group members. We look forward to meeting everyone and helping our community grow and prosper while staying healthy and violence free. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Shelby Schmitt at: 402.336.1774 OR Jaquie Wilson at: 402.336.2406

Education Available

Bright Horizons offers education on bullying, dating violence, healthy relationships, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault. We offer education for all ages, including schools, youth groups, and other organizations. If you are interested in having a speaker, please call the Norfolk, O’Neill, or Ainsworth office.

Client Services Provided

April - June 2016



NOTE:

These numbers are unduplicated. This means if we worked with a victim 6 times in one month, we only count him/her ONE time for that month.

Last Quarter Supporters of Bright Horizons

Addie Hatfield	Ivan Bellar	Peg Grey	Christ the Servant Lutheran Church—Norfolk
Amanda Tax	Jan McGrath	Peggy Maw	City of Osmond
Amber Parks	Jean McIntosh	Rachel Linquist	Earl May—Norfolk
Amy Pinkston	Jeannie Crumly	Rosemary Frey	Immanuel Lutheran School 6th Grade Class—Osmond
Ann Austin	Jeannie Starkel	Rosemary Patras	Norfolk Catholic School
Anahi Perez	Jennifer Troester	Ruth Harder	Renewed Hope
Barbara Reyes	Jessica Wessel	Sandy Cover	St. John's Ladies Aid
Betty Chmiel	Joni Moore	Scott & Lori Kunz	St. Francis Quilters—Randolph
Bev Hartz	Joyce Gasebom	Shelby Wiebelhaus	St. Mary's Altar Society—Butte
Cammie Cuhel	Judy Eggerling	Staci Ellermeier	St. Mary's Church—Osmond
Carol Dubsky	Judy Hagan	Stella Landauery	St. Mary's Episcopal Church—Basset
Caroline Holz	Judy Wilson	Susan Schneider	St. Michael Episcopal Church—O'Neill
Charolette Eastland	Karen Laursen	Therese Sullivan	Stop N Shop Consignment
Cheryl Schmidt	Katheryn Dexter	Tina Zacarias	Today's Homemaker's—Stanton
Cindy Flaherty	Kathy Ahlstedt	Vershaun Hamilton	UCC-UMC Children's Mission Fund—Creighton
Cindy Kersch	Kay Mudloff	Vicki Erickson	United Methodist Church—Tilden
Connie Kiepk	Linda Engel	Vicki Frasch	United Methodist Women—Meadow Grove
Corlene Beller	Lisa Bilstein	Wanda Kallhoff	
Deb Cerny	Marg Winder	Wanda Kracl	
Dianne Fredrick	Marie Smalley	Century Club—Tilden	
Donna Asmus	Marilyn Palmer		
Dorothy Fletcher	Marilyn Williams		
Elaine Holmes	Mark Dyer		
Emil Adamson	Mary Waslegger		
Erika Hansen	Michelle Zwingman		
Erin McCabe	Nancy Kratz		
Eunice McClellan	Nancy Tiefenthaler		
Gayle Adams	Nancy Vesely		
Grace Coleman	Nicole Darnell		
Hannah Feusse	Orlin & Carol Olson		

Thank You

Bright Horizons Shelter Wish List

Paper Good Supplies
 Cleaning Supplies
 Air Fresheners
 Disinfectant Wipes/Spray
 Dish/Laundry Soap
 Fabric Softener
 Trash Bags— All sizes
 Light Bulbs 40-60 Watt
 Hand Soap
 Food Items
 Bottled Water
 Zip-Lock Bags/Tupperware



Bedding (Twin & Full)
 Storage Totes
 Ice Melt
 Coffee, Filters, & Creamer
 Gift Cards (Grocery, Gas, etc.)
 Baby Care Items
 Disposable Diapers
 Baby Wipes
 Baby Formula
 Hygiene Products
 Over The Counter Medications
 First Aid Supplies

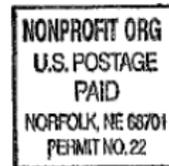
Bright Horizons
Resources for Survivors of Domestic
Violence and Sexual Assault

Norfolk Office
305 N. 4th
Norfolk, NE 68701
(402) 379-2026

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

Ainsworth Office
938 East Zero St
PO Box 313
Ainsworth, NE 69210
(402) 382-5676

Crisis Line
1-877-379-3798



www.brighthousene.org

If you no longer want to be on Bright Horizons' newsletter mailing list, please contact Emily at 402-379-2026 or at emily@brighthousene.org

**Ask Us About Becoming a
Volunteer!**

Bright Horizons Services

- 24 Hour Crisis Line
 - Community Education
 - Individual Advocacy
 - Criminal Justice & Legal Advocacy
 - Emergency Shelter
 - Support Group
-

24 Hour Crisis Line 1-877-379-3798

**Providing services to Antelope, Boyd, Holt, Knox, Madison, Pierce,
Stanton, Brown, Rock, and Keya Paha counties.**

Upcoming Events:

Save the Date!

See our flyers!

Diaper Drive—Throughout the month of September!

Candlelight Vigil in Norfolk—October 12th

Patch Health Fair September 16th—17th

#PurpleWeek—October 17th—21st

Women's Wellness Event—September 29th

Tom Tremblay Training—October 20th

Candlelight Vigil in O'Neill—October 21st

Don't forget to sign up to get the newsletter electronically by emailing emily@brighthousene.org!

Also find us online and on Facebook!