



3rd Quarterly Newsletter 2015

Resources for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Kris' House of Grace

By: Linda Olson; Executive Director

Bright Horizons is excited to announce that we will be opening a transitional housing program, Kris' House of Grace, in Norfolk this fall. This is made possible through a working agreement with the First United Methodist Church of Norfolk.

Kris' House of Grace will be a transitional shelter where families that are transitioning from either Bright Horizons' emergency shelter or the Women's Empowering Life Line's residential program will be able to live for up to a year while they stabilize their lives. This will be an opportunity for families to establish employment, save money for housing and utility deposits, and find safe and affordable long term housing. "We see Kris' House of Grace as an opportunity to really make a difference in the lives of families in northeast Nebraska. We are very grateful to the First United Methodist Church for entering into this partnership with our agency," stated Linda Olson, Executive Director of Bright Horizons.

Lacy Kimes, Bright Horizons' Housing Supervisor, will oversee the implementation and guide the program. "This is an opportunity to transition families out of our emergency shelter more quickly and to give them a promising new beginning. This will also free up beds in our emergency shelter which is important because we have been consistently full and each week we have to tell women that we do not have room for them and their children. This will allow us to provide that emergency shelter and services to more victims in our service area," stated Kimes.

"Partnering with others in our community for a larger purpose is key to our ministries as a church," said, Pastor Dustin Petz of First United Methodist Church. "We are excited to be in relationship with Bright Horizons and to see how we might help bring new hope to those families that come through our shared ministries."

Karen Warner, member of the First United Methodist Church, is organizing a "shower" to assist Bright Horizons in furnishing the home. This is a cause that is very close to Steve and Karen Warner's hearts. Their daughter, Kris, lost her life to domestic violence in 1995 and since then Steve and Karen have worked to serve families affected by violence.

Kris' House of Grace was named for Warner's daughter Kris and also for Grace Gould. Grace's family, Dr. and Mrs. Allen Burkhardt, donated the home to the First United Methodist Church to be used for philanthropic purposes.

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Dr. Wende Heckert, Secretary
Jenny Bender
Abbie Widhalm
Chaplain Randy Rodenborg
Lori Lee
Detective Ben McBride
Stephanie Burndieck
Gena Jones
Kelli Lowe, Emeritus Status
Bill Price, United Way Liaison

Volunteer Spotlight

Kris Harvey has been a crisis line volunteer and great supporter of Bright Horizons since 2012. Kris was born and raised in O'Neill. Kris and her husband, John, have 3 children. Michael is active in the Navy, Anthony works with a construction company in Omaha, and Kaylee is a senior at St. Mary's High School in O'Neill. She is an active member at St. Patrick's Catholic Church and booster member of St. Mary's Booster club. Kris also volunteers for Holt County TeamMates as a board member and a mentor. Kris says, "To me it is fulfilling to be able to make a difference in a child's life and encourage them to be the best they can and give back of themselves in return." We are proud to have Kris advocating for our clients. Bright Horizons staff would like to give Kris a big shout out for all that she does for her community. Keep up the great work!



To live with purpose. To say the courageous thing. To celebrate the simple gift. To follow your dreams. This is a happy life.

-Wayland Henry

Volunteer & Crisis Line Training

If you have ever been interested in volunteering for an advocate program check this out. We will be covering all the basics of advocacy and handling crisis line calls. For more information about our services please check out the website at

www.brighthorizonsne.org

Bright Horizons in O'Neill

WHEN: September 14th, 21st, & 28th, 2015 From 5:00 to 7:00pm.

WHERE: Bright Horizons 318 E Douglas Street O'Neill NE

Please RSVP or ask questions by calling 402.336.1774

Recap of Events

NECC Fall Orientation Expo

By Emily Putters; Norfolk Volunteer Coordinator

Sunday August 23rd, the 2017 class at Northeast Community College filed into the Cox Activities Center Gymnasium to be welcomed into the new school year. Multiple businesses and organizations in the Norfolk area awaited the crowd. The orientation expo was a great opportunity for Bright Horizons to meet the students and introduce them to our organization. We provided information on our services, volunteer opportunities, and students had a chance to win our door prize. Information on healthy relationships and campus safety were also handed out as they passed by our booth. We would like to wish the class of 2017 a happy, safe, and healthy 15'16' school year!



Poker Run 2015

By Christy Abner; Norfolk Program Director

In 2014, Bright Horizons provided services to 1,212 individuals including 4,358 shelter beds, 12,099 meals, and answered 2,508 crisis calls. Without the support of our communities this would not be possible. Tony Anderson, for the 4th year has chosen to organize a Poker Run Fundraiser on behalf of our agency. A great deal of work goes in to the planning of a successful event and Tony donates a large amount of time in order for the run to go smoothly. The amount of support from those that rode, those that donated was absolutely amazing. Mother Nature even cooperated with great weather. Over a thousand dollars was raised which is our best year yet! Again, Bright Horizons is very grateful for the outstanding donations, participation and support.



National Night Out

By Mayra Mendoza' Bilingual Advocate

The National Night Out event on August 4th was a fun event for children with lots of activities for them to do. We estimated about 100 children and adults were in attendance. The event was originally planned to be outdoors at Central Park in Norfolk but due to the weather it was moved indoors and was held at the Madison Auditorium instead. Amanda Veit, our criminal justice liaison, and myself were at the event where we set up a booth and children could play Plinko to win prizes. The prizes consisted of school supplies such as rulers, erasers, headphones, USB cards, etc., and we also handed out information/brochures with topics such as "hands are not for hurting", etc. It was nice to see all the different business and agencies all come together to provide information and give children a chance to have fun right before the start of a new school year and get familiar with the services we each provide.



Amanda and Mayra

Fit n' Fun

By Amanda Veit; Norfolk Criminal Justice Liaison

Bright Horizons participated in the Fit N' Fun Family Festival Saturday August 1st. The Fit N' Fun was made up of many different agencies/businesses which had different types of activities for kids to do. Bright Horizons' booth was "Hands Are Not For Hurting," the kids put their hands in paint and then put their hand print on a board after they said what they could use their hands for instead, such as drawing, holding, helping, waving, etc. This was an interactive activity to get the kids thinking about the kind things they can do rather than hurting.



Amanda Veit and Brandy Starman—Crisis Line volunteer

Mission Fulfilled Through Annual Garage Sale

By Lacy Kimes; Norfolk Housing Supervisor

The 5th Annual Bright Horizons Multi-Family Garage Sale was held on June 26th and proved to be the agency's largest sale yet. \$2,600 was raised on this single day thanks to the community and to St. John's Lutheran Church of Norfolk that puts on the sale every year. 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 to many as a simple garage sale, is actually a year-long planning process for the small committee at St. John's Lutheran Church. The committee takes the time to focus on what worked well the prior year, and what could be changed or improved the next year to make the sale even better. As part of this committee, it is my job to look at advertising to see what we can do to get the word out to the community about the sale, and how we can draw the largest number of people. I truly feel that because of the great reputation that this sale has, local businesses have stayed on board with us and trying to keep the tradition going. These businesses support us by either donating advertising, hanging our flyer in their window, donating items to the sale, or simply spreading the word to family and friends.

The St. John's Lutheran Church Garage Sale Committee takes a lot of pride in this sale. The week of the sale alone, this committee spends at least 30 hours preparing for and conducting the garage sale. No donated item is left untouched and every piece has its spot on the table. The committee feels that organization is key to the success of this sale, and the volunteers put their heads together to really think through what could make the sale better each year.

Raising money for our agency isn't the only goal for this annual 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. Many shoppers ask where the money is going and what it is that Bright Horizons does. Some take brochures, some take business cards, and others just listen. The more people we can bring through the church's doors to the sale, the more awareness we can spread.

St. John's Lutheran Church also keeps their own mission in mind in hopes of reaching others. Matthew 19: 21 says "... sell what you have and give to the poor...and come, follow me." Pastor Justin Wiese, Associate Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church states, "That's what we do here at St. John's". Lori Olson, Sale Coordinator, also states, "The generosity from the members of our congregation and the surrounding communities was amazing. I loved seeing the support from other towns. Everyone's generosity was overwhelming. We were so excited when we saw that final total of what we were able to give to Bright Horizons and fulfilling our church's mission: Loving God....Loving People....Reaching Out!"



Left to right back row: Carol Severa, Sonya Olson, Danny Olson, Lori Olson, Karen Widhalm.

Left to right front row: Brooke Olson, Lacy Kimes, Jeann Granstra

Law Enforcement Training Center Opportunities

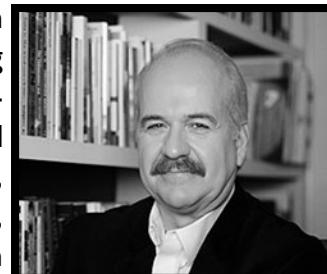
By Katie Williamson; O'Neill Criminal Justice Liaison

"It's the Training Center Police, open up" is not a typical Thursday in an advocate's life. However, Kristy Beard, Ainsworth Program Director, and myself found ourselves spending our day as victims of domestic violence in July. We were able to train law enforcement attendees alongside other advocates, guardsmen, and officers on the dos and don'ts of domestic violence situations. After a case scenario was played out, we were able to walk through the process of what the officers did correctly, could improve on, and should never do again. Suggestions were given, similar scenarios were discussed, and questions were answered. It is and was a privilege to be able to travel to Grand Island to assist in training officers. I truly believe having an officer understand the importance of domestic violence and sexual assault prevention makes our jobs so much easier as well as making the life of victims safer.



Kristy and Katie

Bright Horizons is excited to announce that Mark Wynn will be coming to our service area to host a training. This training will include the following topics: Domestic/Sexual Violence Intervention, Effective Investigation, and Community Collaboration and Response. Mr. Wynn is a national trainer to police executives, patrol officers, training officers, prosecutors, judges, legislators, social service providers, healthcare professionals and victim advocates in all fifty states for over thirty years. He is also a survivor, enabling him to teach both effectively and passionately. In short, Mark is devoted to ending family violence as a police officer, detective, educator, program supervisor and now consultant and advisor. The Training will be held December 3rd, 2015 in O'Neill. More details to follow.



Mark Wynn

**Wynn Consulting
Domestic and Sexual Violence
Prevention Training
and Consulting**

SAVE THE DATE

Women's Wellness Event—September 17th, 2015 (see flyer!)

Diaper Drive—Throughout September (see flyer!)

Dueling Pianos—October 15th, 2015 (see flyer!)

Project Helping Hands Resource Fair— October 17th, 2015

Mark Wynn Training—Dec 3rd, 2015

Adopt A Family—Throughout December



8th Annual Women's Wellness Event

By Katie Williamson; O'Neill Criminal Justice Liaison

Ladies, we invite you to a night out on September 17th from 5:30pm-8:30pm. The venue will be located at the O'Neill Community Center where approximately 45+ vendors will be set up with the opportunity to win a door prize from each booth. There will also be raffle tickets sold to win a complete car detailing from J & L Collision in O'Neill. The detailing is valued at \$150.00 and you do not need to be present in order to win. During the night, Bright Horizons will welcome two guest speakers to present on domestic violence, ways to give back to your community, and self-defense. Bright Horizons is very excited to be able to use this event to prepare for domestic violence awareness month which begins October 1st. The 8th Annual Women's Wellness Event is a free will donation event that we hope to see you at! Please call the O'Neill office if you would like to have a booth, want to purchase raffle tickets, or have any questions about the night. See our flyer for more details!

Diaper Drive 2015

By Jamie Drahota; Fiscal Manager

It's that time of year again for our annual diaper drive. Over the past four years our service area has helped donate 16,301 diapers! Your donations are greatly appreciated, and have helped many children who have been affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. We could not help others in need without your support and generosity. We, at Bright Horizons, are grateful for all who participate.

The locations for drop sites are:

St. John's Lutheran Church, Norfolk

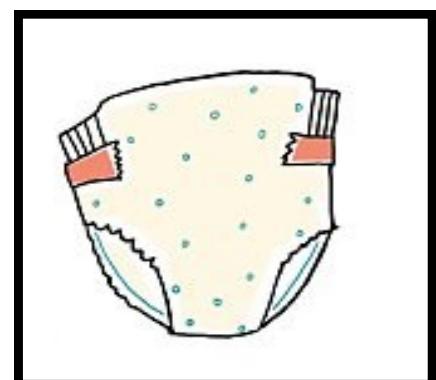
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Norfolk

Christ the Servant, Norfolk

St. Peter's Catholic Church, Stanton

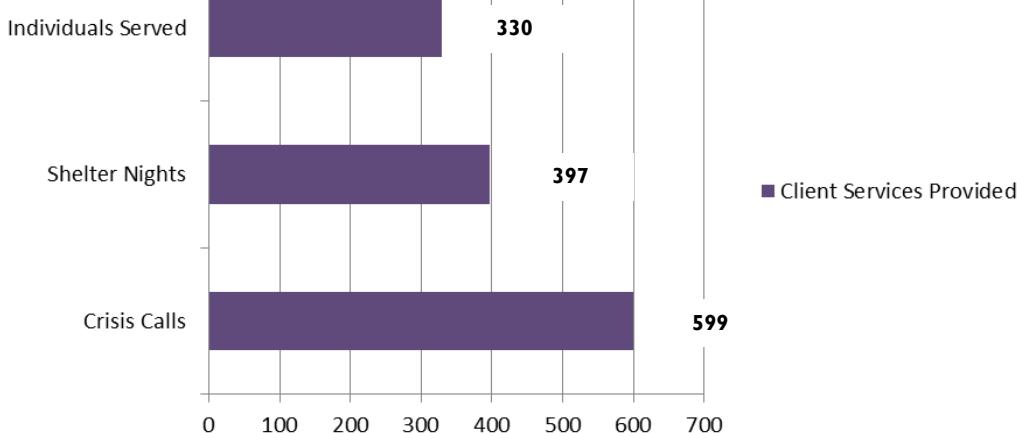
All Bright Horizons locations (Norfolk, O'Neill, and Ainsworth)

See our flyer for more details!



Client Services Provided

April—June 2015



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.

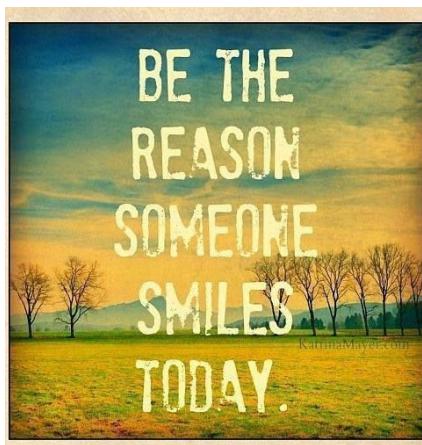
Last Quarter Supporters of Bright Horizons

Alicia Waterman	Laurie Millard	Shayla Dieter	Heartland Counseling
Ann Weichman	Leora Stolle	Sheryl Cole	Holiday Inn
Bernice Tooker	Lindy Woita	Tammy Tunink	Nebraska Troop Support
Beth Klein	Lois Roeder	The Family of Beth Tielke	Norfolk Area Shopper
Beverly Wragge	Lori Kunz	Trent & Tiffani Shoemaker	Norfolk High School National Honor Society
Brandon Kounovsky	Lori McGhee	Vicki Schindler	Norfolk Transmission
Celia Homemakers	Lori Whitney	*Elwin Babl Memorial	O'Neill Eagles Auxiliary 3644
Cheryl Baumann	Lloyd & Linda Petersen	Alan & Marian Wecker	Piecemakers Quilt Guild
Darold & Merri Schneider	Luanne Carter	Betty Albrecht	St. Mary's Altar Society Sacred Heart Parish
Dean & Carol Kruse	Lynsey Herian	Darlene Schaaf	St. John, St. Peter, & St. Paul Holy Trinity Church
Deb & Francis Kaup	Lynn Sobotka	Dean & Luann Gorgen	The Verdigré Carousel Thrift Shop
Dianne Fredrick	Marcella Schildmeyer	Dolores Rector	Tri-County Bank
Dr. Robert & Helen Cox	Mark Pfeifer	Jeff & Mary Jo Peterson	Trinity Episcopal Church
Emily Poessnecker	Marian Roberg	Orlin & Carol Olson	Trinity United Methodist Mission Team—Madison
Greg & Sandra Dostal	Mary Bronzynski	Russ & Linda Asher	Verizon
Helen Kunz	Mary Ehrenfried	Scott & Diane Osborne	
Helen Olson	Miechelle Davis	Tim & Vicki Olson	
Jennifer Bowland	Mickey Braun	Toni Schneider	
Jim Miller	Mrs. Jackson	Bright Horizons' Employees	
Jodi Howitt	Nicole Sedlacek	Bethany Church	
John Krallmann through Thrivent Financial Choice	Patricia Cummins	Earl May	
Jonna Kohle	Patricia Moeller	Elgin Bargain Box	
Karen Sloane	Richard & Patty Hering	Farm Credit Services	
Katie Williamson	Richard Uhing	First Congregation UCC	
Kathy Vandersnick	Robert Fisher	First Presbyterian Church	
Kim Neesen	Roxanne O'Neill	First United Methodist Church	
Lauren Hoefer	Shaleena Pease	Grant Elementary School	
	Shari Brosz	Head Start	

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 68702
(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.brighthorizonsne.org

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

Women's Wellness Event—September 17th

Diaper Drive—Throughout September

Dueling Pianos—October 15th

Project Helping Hands Resource Fair—October 17th

See Flyers for more details!

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

Also find us online and on Facebook!

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