



BRIGHT HORIZONS



4th Quarter 2014

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Amanda Wallace, O'Neill Program Director

Each year Bright Horizons' staff uses new and old ways to bring awareness to the issue of Domestic Violence. October is when we concentrate our efforts, but we try all year to be aware that we can provide education on the issue all year. Our board president wrote a touching letter to the editor calling for men to end violence against women. You can find a link to this on our website www.brighthorizonsne.org. You may see our Clothesline Project and Silent Witnesses in various places, throughout our 10 county service area. Most recently we have turned to our social media sites, Facebook and Twitter to get the word out. Any time, any way that we can speak out against violence we will use that opportunity. Please remember that many times women can be victims of intimate partner violence and never have been struck physically. Many times an abuser will isolate, control and demean the victim to the point that they are no longer able to view what is happening as abuse. The truth is each day, 3 women die because of domestic violence. One is too many!!! We are asking for your help. Here are a few easy ways that you can help end violence.

- Cultivate a respectful attitude toward women. Talk to your friends and neighbors when they belittle women.
- Learn about domestic violence centers and services in your community. Refer people in need.
- Find us or your local program's website, Facebook or Twitter and share or comment on their status.
- Support domestic violence program's fundraisers and events.
- Volunteer at Bright Horizons or your local domestic violence center.
- Be an up-stander-speak out when you witness violence. Don't be afraid to call police.
- Stop victim blaming by asking questions like "Why doesn't she just leave?" "Or "Couldn't she have just called the cops?"

In this issue:

Volunteer Spotlight	2
BRAVO Update	2
Recap of Events	3
Diaper Drive	4
Women's Wellness	4
Dueling Pianos	5
You Are Enough	5
Meet Our New Staff!	6
Recognition of Donors	7
Upcoming Events	8

Board of Directors

Ryan Parks, President
 Brandon Maly, VP/Treasurer
 Dr. Wende Heckert, Secretary
 Janet Johnson
 Melanie Lueders
 Jenny Bender
 Abbie Widhalm
 Chaplain Randy Rodenberg
 Lori Lee
 Detective Ben McBride
 Kelli Lowe, Emeritus Status
 Bill Price, United Way Liaison

Awareness Months and Events

By Emily Putters, Norfolk Volunteer Coordinator

November	January
General Outreach	Stalking Awareness Month
December	
Adopt-A-Family Project— See Flyer!	

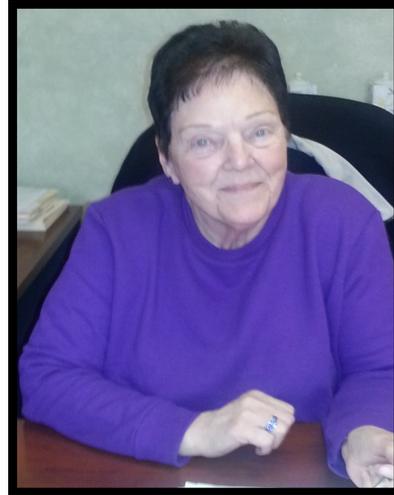


Volunteer Spotlight

Experience Works

By Amanda Wallace; O'Neill Program Director

In late August the O'Neill office was blessed with a new experience works volunteer. Irene Brotsky has started to work part time helping the O'Neill staff keep the office under control. Originally a South Dakota native, Irene has lived in the Irish Capitol of Nebraska for 22 years. Irene has 6 children, 4 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. We are very thankful to have her helping us in the office. Great Job Irene!



*“Almost every successful person begins with two beliefs:
the future can be better than the present, and
I have the power to make it so.” ~ David Brooks*

BRAVO Update

By Amanda Wallace, O'Neill Program Director

As 2014 winds down BRAVO is just gearing up. BRAVO (Bullying Recognition and Anti-Violence organization) is a group of teens from O'Neill Public High School and St. Mary's high school. Over the past few years BRAVO has done less school presentations, and much more community activities. We are currently working on a new presentation to take to area schools. The presentation will be a broader base of teen issues ranging from suicidal ideation, self-harm, risky behaviors, teen dating violence and bullying issues. BRAVO hopes to become a social network –media stop to combat teen issues by providing resources. Soon we will begin uploading content to our YouTube channel. With the help of our GLOW fundraiser we were able to purchase the camera our group was in need of. As if the above mentioned wasn't enough, we are also preparing for Trunk or Treat, Christmas Closet, Adopt a Family, Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in February and Mike Smith presentations. We pride ourselves on always being a resource for youth. If you or someone you know needs help, e-mail anonymously at BRAVO@brighhorizonsne.org.

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 (402)379-2026 or (402)336-1774.



Recap of Events



The Clothesline Project

By *Jamie Drahota, Advocate/Bookkeeper*

The clothesline was hung on display during October. This project is a visual display that bears witness to the violence against women. During the public display, a clothesline is hung with shirts. Each shirt is decorated to represent a particular women’s experience, by the survivor herself or by someone who cares about her.

We would like to thank the places the clothesline project was displayed at. The following places had our project hung the whole month of October. “THANK YOU!”

- Pierce County Courthouse
- Northeast Community College Student Center
- Norfolk Public Library
- Faith Regional Health Services
- Madison Public Library
- Stanton Public Library
- Heckert Health Center LLC
- West Holt Medical Services in Atkinson

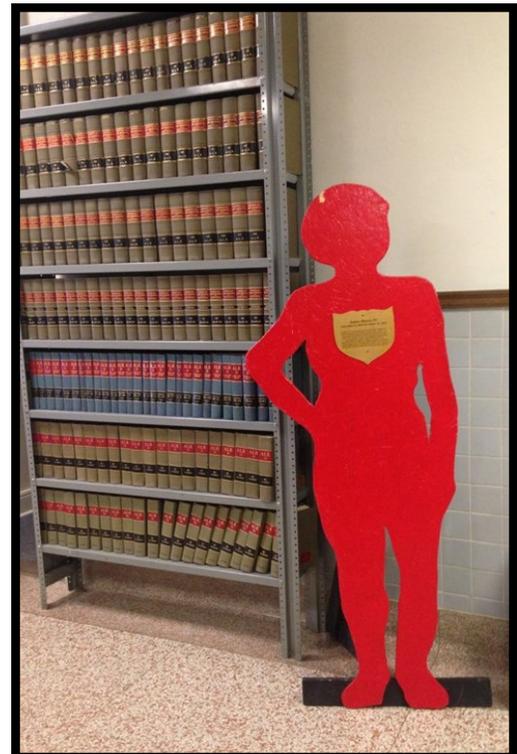


The Silent Witness Project

By *Katie Williamson, O’Neill Criminal Justice Liaison*

It was in 1990 when a small group of women became overly upset about the growing number of women who were murdered by their partners in Minnesota. The small group of women joined together with several other women’s organizations to form the Arts Action Against Domestic Violence group. The women felt that they needed to do something drastic to bring attention to the escalating domestic violence in their state. They did just that through creating 26 wooden life sized female painted figures that were red. Each wooden figure represented a woman who was murdered by her intimate partner in 1990. On the front of each figure was a victim’s story engraved on a golden plaque. The displays were so eye-opening that the Silent Witnesses eventually became a national movement.

During the month of October, Bright Horizons displayed Silent Witnesses in the Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Holt, and Rock County Courthouses, the St. Peter’s Catholic Church, Norfolk, and the United Methodist Church, Norfolk. These witnesses bear stories of women who were either born and raised in one of Bright Horizons service areas or lived in one of our service areas at some point in time. If your organization, work, or school has any interest in displaying Silent Witnesses, please contact either the Ainsworth, O’Neill, or Norfolk office for more information.



Diaper Drive 2014

By Lacy Kimes, Norfolk Shelter Manager

The leaves are changing, the weather is getting crisp and kids are back in school. And for Bright Horizons that means holding our annual Diaper Drive. Area churches and businesses volunteered to participate as a drop-site for our annual drive. Their dedication to this annual event made it possible for our agency to bring in over 2,771 diapers! We are always excited to have new supporters of our agency, and this year Pope John Jr. Right-to-Life group took part in the drive. This Elgin based group alone raised 1,256 diapers!

The Bright Horizons' Annual Diaper Drive is such an important outreach event that we have for the agency and it meets that needs of so many victims in our 10-county service area. Diapers and baby supplies is a major necessity for any parent and a costly one at that. Many of the victims that we serve struggle to meet this need on a daily basis. And unfortunately, there are very few resources out there that can assist with baby supplies, such as diapers. Last quarter Bright Horizons served 90 children and unfortunately, this number continues to rise. The Diaper Drive, along with private donations throughout the year, makes it possible for Bright Horizons to provide these families with the essential supplies they need for the well-being of their children. It is because of the support of our community that we are able to provide this service, while other agencies have to turn people away.

Bright Horizons would like to thank you for your diaper donations and will graciously accept diaper donations and other baby supplies throughout the year. A huge thank you to Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Norfolk; Our Savior Lutheran Church; Norfolk, St. John's Lutheran Church, Norfolk; United Methodist Church, Norfolk; Integrated Life Choices, Norfolk; St. Peter's Catholic Church, Stanton; Congregational United Church of Christ, Neligh; Park Congregational United Church of Christ, Elgin; and Elgin Pope John School. If your group is interested in holding a challenge or drive, please feel free to contact our office and share your ideas with our staff. We thank you for the continued support that the community provides to Bright Horizons and the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

7th Annual Women's Wellness Event

By Katie Williamson, O'Neill Criminal Justice Liaison

The 7th Annual Women's Wellness Event in O'Neill has come and gone. It was a blast getting to know the vendors, see the guests enjoying the night, and watching everything fall into place. The Women's Wellness Event is an annual event hosted by Bright Horizons and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. It is a night full of appetizers, shopping, and guest speakers held at the O'Neill Community Center. This year approximately 200 people attended with 50 vendors also displaying their services and/or items.

A special thank you goes out to Amy Seger, Officer Rachel Kohlman, Nicole Sedlacek, and Dr. Trent Shoemaker for speaking and also to all of those that attended and made the night a huge success! We look forward to seeing you all again next year!



2nd Annual Dueling Pianos Event

By Christy Abner, Norfolk Program Director

Bright Horizons is entirely funded through grants and private donations, so fundraising is essential in order to continue providing services to the many clients throughout our 10 county service area.

This is the second year that we have sponsored dueling pianos. Our evening started at 6:30 with social hour and silent auction. The silent auction had an impressive 33 items or baskets donated by local businesses and individuals! The items ranged in price from \$40 to \$450 so there was something for everyone. We wrapped up the auction at 8:00 and 176 Keys spent the next two hours entertaining and involving the crowd with popular rocking music. You couldn't help but have fun!

A big thank you to those individuals, business and agencies that supported Bright Horizons and this event by donating an auction item, purchasing tickets, buying a table, or volunteering your time. It would not have been possible without those of you who believe in our agency and our mission to eliminate domestic violence and sexual assault.

We hope to see you at next years event!



You Are Enough

By Amanda Veit; Norfolk Criminal Justice Liaison

Norfolk Public Schools has received the 21st Century Learning Grant to provide after school activities for 5th-8th grade students. The Aftershock program engaged students in fun, active clubs to give students the opportunity to learn practical ways they can use their education, as well as, engage in activities that are not offered as regular after-school activities. Clubs ran from 3:20—5:15, with study time until 6:00.

The After School Program (Aftershock) at the Norfolk Junior High School started its' first year ever beginning August through October 2014. Chance Buss, the Aftershock Project Director, partnered with Bright Horizons to do a series of prevention education sessions with the 5th– 8th graders. The name of Bright Horizons club was called “You Are Enough.” They participated in many different activities dealing with healthy relationships, bullying, flirting vs. harassment, strengths and weaknesses, domestic violence, and stalking, as well as many others. About 5 boys and 4 girls attended this quarter and we hope the numbers grow as more youth learn about these issues. It was a great opportunity for the youth to express themselves and their emotions that they have about these topics and how to deal with the stress that comes with it. The club was also a great way for the kids to see others like them, that are going through similar experiences as well. Bright Horizons plans on continuing the “You Are Enough” group in the upcoming years to help kids dealing with these issues.

Sign up forms will be available during schedule pick up. If you are interested in volunteering, or would like more information, please contact the Project Director, Chance Buss at 402-644-2569 or by email at chancebuss@npsne.org.

Meet Our New Staff!

By Mayra Mendoza, Bilingual Advocate and Kristy Beard, Ainsworth Program Director

Meet Mayra!

Hello! My name is Mayra Mendoza and I'm excited to join the Bright Horizons' team as the new Bilingual Advocate. Although it's only been a couple of months since I've started my new job, lots of exciting things have happened, I had the chance to attend the NECC PATCH Health fair and the Dueling Pianos Fundraising Event, and I will say it was a fun evening but most importantly an excellent way to raise funds to continue helping victims of domestic violence/sexual assault. Thanks to all who attended and donated to this great cause.

My office is located at the Norfolk shelter, but I also help translate for our other locations in O'Neill and Ainsworth. I cannot emphasize enough the fact that volunteers are a huge part of our daily operations, if you are bilingual and want to help, don't hesitate to give us a call and sign up to be a volunteer.

My role as an advocate is very important and it is very gratifying knowing that I can use my bilingual skills to help provide information and resources to our Spanish speaking community. I'm planning on doing more outreach within the community in the near future. I facilitate the Spanish Support Group every Monday from 4:30 to 5:30pm.

Meet Kristy!

With the expansion of services in Brown, Rock and Keya Paha counties, I would like to introduce myself as the new Ainsworth Program Director. My first day in the Ainsworth office was September 22, and I am very excited to be working for Bright Horizons, and getting the Bright Horizons' name out! I have been busy participating in trainings, webinars and I helped at the Women's Wellness Event and Dueling Pianos! I am planning on getting involved in different community organizations in Brown, Rock and Keya Paha Counties to help get the Bright Horizons' name out to our new area! I had a booth set up at the Rock County Hospital Vendor Fair in October and received positive feedback!

I am currently in the planning stages of implementing CRT meetings for our new area and will be sending out invites when dates and times are scheduled.

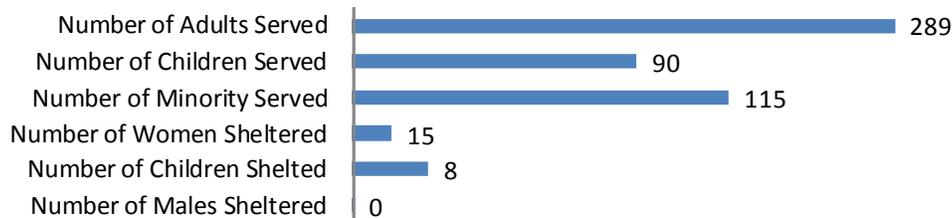
The Ainsworth office is currently looking for volunteers. Volunteers can help in a variety of different ways; some examples are: being a Crisis Line Advocate, Office Assistant, Court Watch, Translator, Outreach Assistant, and Donations Organizer. Please contact the Ainsworth office for more information.

The Ainsworth office is located in the Brown County Hospital's Specialty Clinic at 938 E. Zero Street in Ainsworth. The phone number is 402-382-5676 and if I am not in the office all calls are forwarded to the O'Neill office to ensure that we never miss a phone call! If you are in the area please stop by and say "HI!"



Fourth Quarter Client Services for (2014)

July - September



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.

Not listed in this chart are the following:

- 1) Crisis Line Calls = 711
- 2) Shelter nights provided = 691

Last Quarter Supporters of Bright Horizons

Abbie Widhalm	Jayne Prince	Steve & Karen Warner	North Central District Health Department
Amanda Chavez	Jeanne Fendrich	Tracee Larson	Northeast Nebraska Child Advocacy Center
Amanda Kauth	Jeanne Sinclair	Trish Peterson	Papa Murphy's
Amanda Millander-Mace	Jenny Bender	Tonia Seretta	Pizza Hut
Benson	Jan Hoffman	Vicky Johnson	Premier Senior Marketing
Bill Borer	Janice Vosler	Applebee's Neighborhood Grill	Ricardo's
Brandon & Devon Maly	Jill Shaffer	Arby's	Rick's Auto Repair
Brooke Olson	Jolene Lichty	Burger King	Runza
Carol Ries	Jodi Howitt	Cato	Subway
Charlene Ickes	Karen LeMunyan	Chambers Community Center	St. John's Lutheran Ladies Aid
Christy Abner	Kate Alstead	Country Clippers Barber- Beauty	St. Mary's Alter Society
Christy Deseive	Kelli Lowe	Covidien	The Granary
Coleen Thiele	LaRae Worden	Digital Dreams Photography	The Meadows
Connie Molvig	Louis Brtek	Elegance Head To Toe Day Spa Salon	The Willows
David & Linda Olson	Lydia Sigler	Elkhorn Valley Bank & Trust	Times Square Event Center
Dawn Smith	Marilyn Rabe	Evergreen Assisted Living	Tyson Fresh Meats
Deb Freese	Marcella VonSoggern	First Christian Church Ladies	Visible Changes
Delight Becker	Michael & Suzi Chipps	Franc's Salon & Spa	Vulcraft
Dian Edwards	Mick Thornton	Good Life Counseling & Support	Wetzel & Truex Jewelers, Inc
Dodi Jessen	Nancy Holm	Hair Studio	WJAG, KEXL, & KQKX Radio
Donna Froehlich	Nancy Moss	Heckert Health Center	94 Rock
Donna Vice	Natalie Owen	Heritage Financial Services	
Geneen Strong	Pam & Jim Roether	Horses Unlimited 4-H Club	
Glen & Kim Waddle	Pat Kennedy	Jimmy John's	
Glifford Tomkins	Robert Matschullat	Kime's Financial Services	
Gina Clyde	Ruby Dobias	Legal Aid of Nebraska	
Greg & Lori Hansen	Samantha Lindahl	Marathon Press	
Heidi Atkinson	Scott & Laurie Kunz	McDonald's	
Helen Kunz	Shelly Grosserode	Midwest Bank	
Irene Brotsky	Sherri Prim		

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 Containers
 Storage Totes
 Ice Melt
 Coffee, Filters, & Creamer
 Pillows, Blankets, Twin & Queen Sheets
 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
P.O.Box 1904
Norfolk, NE 68702
(402) 379-2026

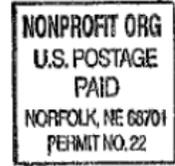
O'Neill Office
318 E. Douglas St.
O'Neill, NE 68763
(402) 336-1774

Ainsworth Office
938 E Zero St.
P.O. 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

Call Norfolk at 402-379-3798, O'Neill at 402-336-1774 or Ainsworth at 402-382-5676, or our 24 Hour Crisis Line 1-877-379-3798

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Boyd, Holt CRT Meeting— TBA

Madison CRT Meeting— Jan. 8th at Bright Horizons in Norfolk

Antelope, Pierce, & Knox CRT Meeting— Dec. 9th at NENCAP in Creighton 12:00 p.m.

Adopt-A-Family— See Flyer!

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

Also find us online and on Facebook!