

# BRIGHT HORIZONS

3rd Quarter 2011

## Bright Horizon's is 35!

By Linda Olson, Executive Director

Bright Horizons began serving victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in 1976 with one woman, Sharyn Nore, opening her home in the Norfolk area. As time went by she realized that there was a lot more that could be done to help victims. She worked to establish a non-profit corporation and, on January 26, 1978, the "Norfolk Task Force on Domestic Violence" and its Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Secretary of State of Nebraska and covered Antelope, Boyd, Holt, Knox, Madison, Pierce, and Stanton counties. The officers were Sharyn Nore, Bonnie Wachter, and Mary Weber.

The need for shelter and services continued to grow at a steady pace. On January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1991 a five bedroom, three bathroom home was purchased for emergency shelter and office space. In August of 1992, the agency applied for and received approval to change the name to "Bright Horizons Resources for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault" or, in short, Bright Horizons.

In 1995, Bright Horizons recognized the need for a satellite office in O'Neill. The O'Neill Family Preservation Team was instrumental in finding donated office space and a shelter location.

Today, Bright Horizons continues to cover the original seven county service area. We now have a 12 member staff and a business office and shelter in both Norfolk and O'Neill. "As we look back over the last 35 years the growth and development of our program has been amazing. I am proud to say that we continue to focus on our original mission of serving victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and that will not change" stated Linda Olson, Executive Director.



1980's



1990's



2000's



2011

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### Board of Directors

- Deb Milligan, President
- Kelli Lowe, V.P.
- Mary Gibson, Secretary
- Michelle Schlecht, Treasurer
- Glen Waddle
- Steve Hecker
- Pastor Wayne Owens
- Brandon Maly
- Jayne Prince
- Ryan Parks
- Paula Pflueger, United Way Liaison

## Outstanding Supporters

By Jennifer Arens, Norfolk Criminal Justice Liaison

We at Bright Horizons are very conscious of our many supporters. In honor of our supporters, we have decided to recognize a few of them quarterly for their continued support, cooperation and invaluable contributions to our agency. For this quarter, our staff has nominated **Steve Hecker – Norfolk Police Department,**



**Bloomfield Girl Scouts, Brad Stallbaumer – Stallbaumer Construction, Cozad, NE; Faith, Hope, and Love Church - Creighton, and St. Mary's Altar Society - Spencer.** Each of the nominees will receive a Certificate of Appreciation for them to display. Congratulations to our wonderful supporters and THANK YOU for your desire to help Bright Horizons!

# Welcome New Staff Members

By Christy Abner, Norfolk Program Director



Bright Horizons has hired four new staff members that we are pleased to introduce and to have as part of our team. In our O'Neill office Sara Twibell joins us as a full time Outreach Coordinator. Sara graduated in May with a Bachelors of Business in Family Studies and minor in Social Work. Sonya Sandoval is based in Norfolk as our Bilingual Advocate. Sonya is a certified interpreter and translator. Lacy Kimes is our Norfolk Shelter Manager; Lacy has a Bachelor of Science in Human Service Counseling and brings valuable experience to the agency. I am Christy Abner, the new Norfolk Program Director. I was a part of the O'Neill staff from 1997 through 2001 and then served on the Bright Horizons Board for several years after that. I am very excited to be returning to the agency. I believe that we have an exceptional staff that is committed to providing the highest quality of services.



Picture was taken at the June 2011 Staff Retreat.  
Front Row, left to right: Audrea, Jen, Lacy, Sara, & Andrea.  
Back Row, left to right: Christy, Gina, Jamie, Linda, Amanda, Sonya, & Sammy

## Summer Internship

By Stephanie Skillett, Intern from Wayne State College

Hi! My name is Stephanie Skillett and over the summer I had the amazing opportunity to intern at Bright Horizons. I was able to learn and experience events as if I were an employee of the agency. I was also able to interact with clients and help them better their lives. Bright Horizons taught me many things over this summer. I learned how to interact with people on both an individual

***I met some amazing people and some brave souls***

level and group level. I had the opportunity to help facilitate the "GIRLS Camp" for both age groups, and I was able to work one-on-one with clients. Bright Horizons introduced me to the legal world of social work. Coming into the internship I had no idea what to expect from the legal view. I now know that there are many technicalities and details that go into the legal process. Interning at Bright Horizons helped me become more organized. Not only did I become more organized from the countless hours in the

donation room, but also from working with our domestic violence data system which taught me what specifics were needed from the intakes.

I feel like I gained confidence and self esteem interning at Bright Horizons. Going into the internship I wasn't confident with working with individuals one-on-one, but as time went on my skills progressively got better. My self-esteem and self-confidence sky rocketed during this internship. I was able to depict the skills I was best at and make them stronger. I was also able to notice things that I could work on, and I tried to work on them. This was overall an outstanding experience. I met some amazing people and some brave souls. Doing this internship only made me more confident in the choice I made with my degree. I was meant to help individuals in times of need, and I'm glad that Bright Horizons helped me realize that more. I want to thank Bright Horizons for making this a positive experience for me, and I want them to know how forever grateful I am for allowing me the opportunity to work with them! Thank you! :)

# Watch for Our October Events

By Audrea, Norfolk Volunteer Coordinator

In recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the staff at Bright Horizons would like to invite you to all of our events, trainings, and awareness projects in Norfolk and O'Neill. Statistics show that 1 in 3 women are victims of domestic violence at some point in their lifetime. Chances are someone you know and love is, has been, or will be, a domestic violence victim. October presents many opportunities to get better educated about the issue, what resources are available, and to support our work in ending domestic violence. Whether you stop by and see our Clothesline Project display or you attend our

volunteer training to help us on crisis line, any involvement or support from you is appreciated!

Also, in honor of our 35th anniversary, we are hosting the "In My Daughter's Name" performance in both O'Neill and Norfolk in lieu of our annual Candle Light Vigils. This powerful performance was written in memory of a young woman and her tragic story of domestic violence. More information on this performance, as well as the rest of our upcoming events, can be found on the enclosed inserts! Contact us if you have any questions at 336-1774 in O'Neill or at 379-2026 in Norfolk.

## Find Us on the Web!

Thanks to John Holtgrew with Powerband Graphics LLC who designed our new site and to many staff members who wrote articles, our website has a new and improved look! Please go to the site listed below and explore the many topics we now offer online. While you are exploring, take time to notice some new and exciting features such as the improved safety with the "Leave Site Quickly" button; the ease of following our projects, events, and news through blogs and Facebook; the simple way to sign up for the Electronic Newsletter; and the convenience of donating online. You can also become our fan on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

[www.brighthorizonsne.org](http://www.brighthorizonsne.org)

## Volunteer Spotlight

By Audrea, Norfolk Volunteer Coordinator

This quarter's spotlighted volunteer has been with us since May of last year and has developed exponentially since then. Sammy started on May 4, 2010 as an intern through NECC. She worked at Bright Horizons as an office assistant and advocate for the entire summer, and then continued volunteering in partnership with the AmeriCorps while also going to school. Sammy is such a hard worker, intelligent, laid back, and fun to have around the office with her spunky personality. She is now an advocate at shelter where she amazes us everyday with her natural talent and maturity when working with clients and difficult situations.

Sammy is truly an inspiration to anyone who is looking for an internship or to simply volunteer. Starting as a short term intern, Sammy worked her way into a position at Bright Horizons! She is a great living example of the benefits of volunteering and how it can benefit the volunteer as well as those who receive our services. So far in her 15 months at Bright Horizons, Sammy has put in more than 1,000 hours. Keep in mind this is also while going to school full time! She's amazing...we know! Our sincere appreciation and kudos go to Sammy our beloved co-worker and volunteer. Thanks for just being you!



# G.I.R.L.S. Camp

By Jennifer Arens, Norfolk Criminal Justice Liaison

In June Jen, Gina, and Steph, staff members at Bright Horizons, Allison and Deven, teens from our H.E.R.O.S. group, conducted a summer day camp for young local girls at the Lifelong Learning Center at Northeast Community College. "GIRLS Camp" was the decided name for the day and stands for Growth, Independence, Respect, Leadership and Self Esteem. The first group, ages 8-12 had 25 girls in attendance and the second group, ages 13-16 had 15 girls in attendance. Each day was focused on discovering who each girl is as an individual and being proud of who she is and what she believes in. There were many crafts, activities and discussions regarding healthy body image, bullying, gossiping and cliques, to name a few.

Jasmine Fuelberth was the featured speaker for both groups. Jasmine is a model who was born and raised in Norfolk and is a student at Norfolk Senior High School. At the age of nine, she attended an event at Divots where talent scouts came and were looking for singers, actors and models. She was selected and since then has become an employed model with Elite Model Management based out of Miami. She has been featured on numerous ads, in multiple magazines and has a dream of acting. She came to the group to tell them to follow their dreams and believe in your talents and abilities as anything is possible. The girls in attendance were very impressed and had many questions for Jasmine after she was finished speaking. She was very forthcoming regarding how she balances work with school, friends, and other activities. After meeting Jasmine, she is truly an amazing girl and has a wonderful career and life ahead of her because of her maturity already at the young age of 14. She is a wonderful role model for young girls!



## 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.**

# My Experience as an AmeriCorps Member

By Sammy, Norfolk Shelter Advocate

I first came across Bright Horizons-Resources for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault through the Summer Youth (WIA) program at Workforce Development. I was fresh out of high school lucky to have graduated with my class. I just couldn't seem to forget about my not so happy childhood and preteen years. I got involved with people who had troubled pasts and who felt and acted the same as I did which only led to more heart ache and trouble. I put myself in a lot of sticky situations and eventually dug myself into a pretty deep pit. At this point I decided I needed to wake up and do something with my life. I was not sure exactly what I would do, but I had a hunch that my purpose in life was to help others. I had thought about being in the medical field but deep down I knew I wanted to be able to relate to the group of people I would be working with in some way.

I had been working with Kim Neesen at Nebraska Department of Labor for months and finally one day I came into her office feeling pretty frustrated and told her how things were going. I asked if there was anything I could do about my situation. It was at this time that Kim told me about the WIA program. The program is a second chance for youth to turn their lives around while making a difference in the lives of others. As a part of the WIA program we would choose an organization to work for during the summer while going to a weekly class on job skills. I chose to work for Bright Horizons. As a WIA member, I was given a few basic advocacy training opportunities. With this training I was able to have a small amount of client contact. I was taken aback working with clients as I came to realize many of these individuals were facing a lot of the same struggles I was just getting out of. Working with these clients, I learned a lot about myself and developed a whole new perspective on life in general. At the end of the summer and the end of the WIA program, I knew I was not ready to move on from Bright Horizons. I had this feeling that my experience had barely begun.

As the WIA program was nearing its end, my supervisors at Bright Horizons, Gina Clyde and Linda Olson, asked me if I would like to be an AmeriCorps member. I accepted the offer! As an AmeriCorps member, I was required to accumulate 1700 hours of service for Bright Horizons within a year. I was allowed a living allowance throughout my term of service as well as an education award upon completion of service hours. I have had the blessing of many trainings including a variety of webinars as well as national and local trainings. As my term of service as an AmeriCorps volunteer comes to an end, I plan to sign up for a second year of AmeriCorps service or work as a part time shelter advocate while attending classes at Northeast Community College. Whatever position I end up in, I am grateful to be a part of such a great organization.

The AmeriCorps program has been an amazing opportunity in so many ways. I have gained confidence, leaderships skills, learned to look to God in all situations, experienced the joy of helping to empower survivors of abuse, and the list could go on and on. I have learned through experience that I cannot save the world or turn anyone's life around for them. I can be a make an impact on survivor's situations by being there for him or her and pointing them in the right direction while striving to be a good example in the process.



## Newsletter by



By Audrea, Norfolk Volunteer Coordinator

Have you received a call from our staff asking you for your email address? We are working on calling all our supporters who receive our paper newsletter to ask them to switch to an email version. Due to budget cuts, we need to cut back significantly on the number of newsletters being mailed out. We mail about 800 newsletters out every 3 months to our supports in our area, across the state, and even to some supporters out of state.

If you have not received a phone call from our staff recently about switching your newsletter from hard copy to email copy, please give us a call or send us an email to [bhaudrea@telebeep.com](mailto:bhaudrea@telebeep.com). We appreciate your support!

# 2011 National Victims of Crime Conference

By Amanda Wallace, O'Neill Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

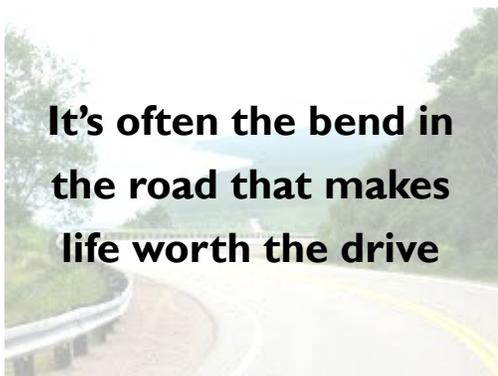
June 20<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> I and 4 other Bright Horizons staff members attended the 2011 National Conference hosted by the National Center for Victims of Crime. Two of my favorite workshops were "Teen Dating Violence and Prevention through Peer Education", and "Trekking through Tech: Victim Service Technology Policies". The teen dating workshop highlighted dynamics of teen dating violence and how to develop and maintain peer groups. This was very interesting to me as I sponsor a peer group of 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders at O'Neill high school called BPG (bully prevention group). At the conclusion of this session many of the attendees, including myself, signed up to network via an e-mail group to help with new ideas for each of the programs peer groups. There are many different states represented in this group, and I am excited to be in collaboration with them.



Pictured here Samantha (Shelter Advocate) Gina Clyde (former Program Director) Jamie Drahota (Bookkeeper, Advocate) Andrea Johnson (Criminal Justice Liaison) Amanda Wallace (Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator)

The breakout session about technology and stalking was eye opening, to say the least. I was aware that victims could be tracked in numerous ways but not to the extent that I learned about in this session. It is very accessible on the internet to learn how to stalk someone, whether it be from implanting GPS devices on phones or in vehicles to downloading software onto a computer that a stalker can use to track what the victim views on their computer. There is also a web site that a perpetrator can visit to change the phone number that appears when making a call to the victim. The use of technology to stalk is serious and will continue to become more advanced. We as advocates need to be aware of these abilities so that we can educate our victims to help keep them safe.

The conference was great and I greatly appreciated the opportunity to visit our nation's capitol. I learned valuable information to enhance our services so that we can better provide for our clients that seek assistance from our agency.



**It's often the bend in the road that makes life worth the drive**

Gina Clyde (left) presented at the National Victims of Crime Conference on Promising Practices in Underserved Teen Victims Outreach and her accomplishments with H.E.R.O.S. Lisa Brito Greene (right) also presented with Gina on this topic.



## Bright Horizons Shelter Wish List

Paper Supplies

Baby Lotion/Shampoo/Body Wash

Cleaning Supplies

Trash Bags of all sizes

Light bulbs ~ 60 watt

Disposable Diapers

Hair Brushes and Combs

Dish & Laundry Soap, Fabric Softener

Water Softener Salt & Ice Melt

Zip-Loc Bags ~ all sizes

Tupperware to Store Leftover Food

Baby Wipes & Formula

Totes for storage

Journals for writing

Flashlights

Baby Pack-N-Play

Pillows

Label Maker

48" White Blinds for Office (set of 2)

30" White Blinds for Kitchen (set of 2)

Curtain Rods for Bedrooms

Handheld Vacuum Cleaner for Steps

Hand Soap

Groceries for Shelter: *Margarine, Cooking Oil, Cooking Spray, and Pancake Syrup*

# Last Quarter Supporters of Bright Horizons

Gert Slack	Pat Wolfe	Sherri Prim	Erin Whitesel
Margaret Straka	Abby Moffett	Rose Mary Rutten	Monica Jensen
Dennis Linton-Hendrick	Verg Froehlich	Pat Otto	Megan Moenning
Amy Shane	Barb Reeves	Teresea Horrock	Dodi Jessen
Charles and Arlene Cravens	Cindy Ganskow	Rod Roman	Marjorie Winder
Wendy Kelly	Lisa Anderson	Kathy Soline	Marilyn Woodard
Coleen Thiele	Dee Woodruff	Pat Schmit	Kathy Uecker
Angie Dory	Eva Glass	Martin & Carolyn Simon	Joe Malinowski
Mary Woslager	Jennifer Efta	Jenny Geyer	Kathy Naranjo
Bonnie Linton-Hendrick	Michelle Kroeger	Andrea Rodriguez	Marilyn Jensen
America Young	Judy Eggerling	Phyllis Hale	Betsy Broekemeier
Micky Braun	Donna Vice	Alice Castenda	Jolene Smith
Kalynn Perez	Harriet Studebaker	Marty Borer	Melodee Drenkow
Connie Gildersleeve	Deb Stewart	Lisa Mitchell	Rose Marshall
Tami Jeffrey	Anne Frisinger	Dave Rodekohr	Stephen O'Neill
Tammy Ducker	Ed Greer	Diane Drews	St. Peter Lutheran Church-Bassett
Kathryn Whitten	Lynn Milander	Jenelda Dittrich	St. John's Lutheran Church-Atkinson
Rick and Sue Stolcpart	Jackie Rea	Karen Wagner	Women of the ELCA-Atkinson
Nadine Baxter	Dave Ptak	Tom Wiese	Faith Hope and Love Church-Creighton
Michelle Bearinger	Barb Polt & Connie Schuelz	Dave Stock	St. Mary's Altar Society-Spencer
Angie Tyrell	Margy Ehrentred	Penny Shriver	Rural Northwest Deanery
Marlene Von Seggern	Red Bransitter	Becky Kerkman	Niobrara Lutheran Ladies Quilt Group
Barb Shoemaker	Christine Eisenhauer	Dawn Reedy	Humphrey St. Francis Church Group
Evelyn Paxton	Connie Otto	Jan Widhellum	Salvation Army
Bob Hendricks	Janet Tilson	Linda Unzicker	Madison Senior Center
Karen Rotherham	Joyce Sobotka	Ivanne Jewls	First Christian Church Women's Ministry
Darlene Walls	Laurie Pfeifer	Sherry Johnson	Grace Community Church
Deb Kaup	Megan Hahner	Jan Selders	Norfolk Police Department
Andy and Linda Goebel	Cay Mort	LaVada Stanton	Midway Motel
Pat Karl	Karen Duncan	Carol Pubskey	Premier Senior Marketing
Steve Humburg	Joni Moore	Val Wessel	Plainview VFW
Marilyn Jensen	Joanie Brown	Mark & Melissa Pfeifer	Christ the Savior Lutheran Church
Mary Ritz	Micole Freudenburg	Pam Clark	St. Paul's Church
Sally Nelson	Angie Shroeder	Nita Meyer	In memory of Eugene C. Stortvedt
Sherry Gray	Phyllis Altstadt	Cathy Saline	In honor of Karen and Steve Warner's 50th Anniversary
Vi Leaplei	Jean Slater	Kim Wadington	
Jean Schacher	Jean & Judy Weishapl	Donna Andrews	
Stephanie McDonald	Byron Ballyntine	Jane Warnke	
Larissa Lauck	Kathy Mack	Joy Circle	



## Donate Cans

Bright Horizons recently set up an account with Norfolk Transmission at 1001 S. 13<sup>th</sup> St in Norfolk. You can bring in your aluminum cans to Norfolk Transmission for recycling and indicate that you would like the proceeds to go to Bright Horizons. This is a very easy way to donate to our cause and to get those trash bags full of cans out of your garage! Win-Win!!!

**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



Crisis Line  
1-877-379-3798  
[www.brighthorizonsne.org](http://www.brighthorizonsne.org)

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If you no longer want to be on Bright Horizons' newsletter mailing list, please contact Audrea at 402-379-2026 or at [bhaudrea@telebeep.com](mailto:bhaudrea@telebeep.com)

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**Ask Us About Becoming a  
Volunteer!**

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## BRIGHT HORIZONS SERVICES

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

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**Call 402-379-3798 or 402-336-1774 or 24 Hour Crisis Line 1-877-379-3798**  
**Providing services to Antelope, Boyd, Holt, Knox, Madison, Pierce, and**  
**Stanton counties.**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**PATCH Health Fair September 16th and 17th at Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk**

**Volunteer Advocacy Training**  
{please see enclosed flyer or call Audrea (402) 379-2026 or Amanda (402) 336-1774 for more details}

**Boyd-Holt CRT Meeting Aug 19 at Holt Co. Courthouse at Noon**

**Madison CRT Meeting—Oct 25th in Norfolk at Lifelong Learning Center at Noon**

**Pierce-Knox CRT Meeting— Oct 27th in Plainview at Plainview Area Health Systems at Noon**

**“In My Daughter’s Name” Production—October 12th and 13th (see enclosed flyer for more details)**

**Don't forget to sign up to get the newsletter electronically by emailing [bhaudrea@telebeep.com](mailto:bhaudrea@telebeep.com)!**