



PROJECT
Harmony



2011 ANNUAL REPORT

one child. one place. one time.

one with courage.



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Dear Friends,

In 2011, Project Harmony was the beneficiary of continued support and interest of this generous community allowing us to offer expanded services to our young clients, more extensive case coordination and increased training opportunities for our child protection partners and the public. Many of you responded with overwhelming support to the Growing Harmony for Children Capital Campaign, which in 2012, will culminate in a grand opening of our expanded facility. This facility will allow for increased partnerships, services and resources for abused children, making Project Harmony one of the largest Child Advocacy Centers in the country. Even with this growth, the professionals at Project Harmony remain focused on the one child - each one of the more than 2200 during 2011 - who comes through our door to find help and healing. **One Child, One Place, One Time** remains at the core of our program.

Once again, more than half of these children were under the age of six and sexual abuse continues to be the most frequent type of abuse evaluated. In the past year, Project Harmony also provided investigative and medical services for children who witnessed violence (domestic violence, homicides) as well as those who endured physical abuse and/or neglect. With your help, these young victims continue to receive only the best from Project Harmony staff and the collective partners responding to all forms of child abuse. Each child and his/her family have a very unique story. However, the common element in each of these stories is another "one" - the **One With Courage** took the steps necessary to make that child's story heard.

In 2011, the National Children's Alliance launched the "One With Courage" campaign centered around the courage it takes to talk about child sexual abuse—the courage it takes child victims to come forward and talk about their abuse and the courage it takes adults to talk about the issue, learn the signs and report abuse when it's suspected.

Child sexual abuse is a crime of secrecy which, tragically, permeates within our society because it is difficult to talk about. Talking openly about this issue combats the secrecy that enables it and helps to eradicate child sexual abuse from our communities.

We expect tremendous courage on the part of young victims to make disclosures about their abuse, and as adults we can do no less in responding to them and reporting this to ensure justice and healing.

The **One With Courage** campaign aims to educate the public about the signs of sexual abuse, dispel generally accepted "myths" about this issue and provide communities with specific steps they can take to make a difference in a child's life. Take a few minutes now to familiarize yourself with the training opportunities outlined on page four of this report. Become informed and inspired to take action against child sexual abuse, whether it be starting a dialogue about this issue, equipping yourself with the knowledge needed to recognize the signs of abuse or volunteering here at Project Harmony.

Your involvement and your courage make a very real difference in the life of every one of the children we serve.

Sincerely,

Gene Klein, Executive Director

Leo Knowles, Board President

Project Harmony 2011 Annual Statistics

SERVICES PROVIDED 2011

Forensic Interviews Conducted	1228
Child Abuse Medical Exams Conducted	1264
Advocacy Service Contacts Provided to Victims	3712
Triage Center	721
Total Service Contacts	6925
Unduplicated Children Served	2230

Counties Served

Douglas	1336	60%
Sarpy	435	19%
Iowa Counties	342	15%
Cass County	58	3%
Dodge	33	1%
Washington	10	1%
Other States	16	1%
Total Counties	2230	100%

Ages of Children Served

0 to 6	1201	54%
7 to 10	624	28%
11 to 15	306	14%
16 +	99	4%
TOTAL	2230	100%

Gender

Female	1436	64%
Male	794	36%
TOTAL	2230	100%

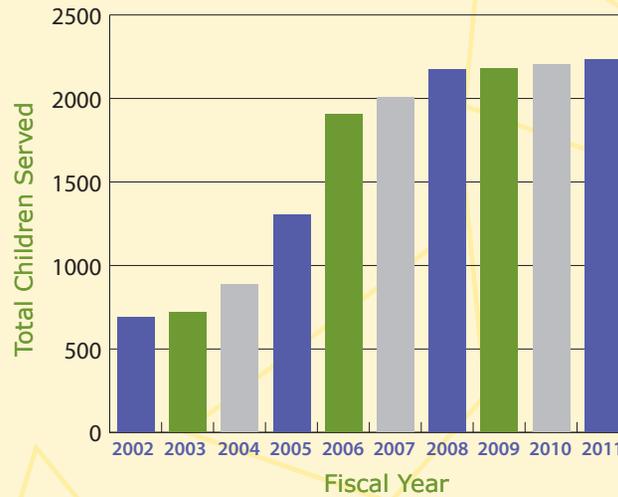
Type of Abuse

Sexual	1301	58%
Neglect	640	29%
Physical	201	9%
Sexual and Physical	76	3%
Pornography	12	1%
TOTAL	2230	100%

Relationship to Alleged Perpetrator

Other Family Member	605	27%
Parent's Boyfriend/Girlfriend	474	21%
Father	303	13%
Family Friend/Acquaintance	481	22%
Mother	132	6%
Unknown/Not identifiable	98	4%
Step Father/Mother	137	6%
TOTAL	2230	100%

Children Served



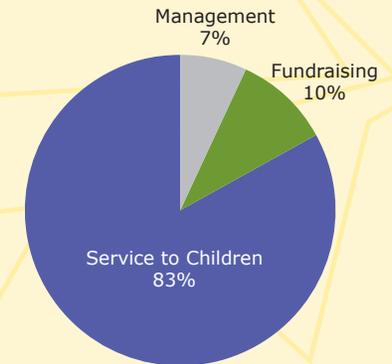
2011 Revenue and Expense (Unaudited)

Revenue Sources	2011 Operating	2010-2011 Capital Campaign
Contributions and Donations	274,393	711,733
Contributed Services	8,500	
Foundations and Grants	259,500	11,881,542
Special Events	363,232	
Government Contracts	860,091	
Professional Fees	288,473	
Other Earned Income	332,265	12,593,275
TOTAL INCOME	2,386,454	

Expense

Programs:		
Interviews	332,233	
Referral and Coordination	536,744	
Medical	544,099	
Training and Education	523,966	
2011 Program Support	51,275	
Total Program Expense	1,988,317	
Support Services:		
Fundraising and Special Events	231,250	
Management	166,887	
Total Support Expense	398,137	
Capital and Designated Improvements		9,593,275
Endowment Designations		3,000,000
TOTAL EXPENSE	2,386,454	12,593,275

Where the Funds Were Spent



Capital Campaign

Income

Pledges and Gifts Received	10,949,331
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Expense

Facility Purchase	4,492,798
Property Taxes	119,210
Professional Fees	207,540
Renovations	432,384
Furniture and Equipment	308,376
2011-2012 Renovations and Equipment	4,000,000
2012-Restricted Endowment	3,000,000
Total	12,560,308
Balance to be Raised	1,610,977

Every year we do more. Yet, there's so much more we can do when we are the **one with courage**

In 2011, Project Harmony entered its 15th year of advocacy for abused and neglected children. An achievement for our community to be sure – with more than 2,230 children evaluated, nearly 3,712 advocacy service contracts provided to victims and a total of 5,468 professionals trained throughout the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area, 16 Iowa counties and the State of Nebraska.



This year, the number we are focused on is ONE – when each one of us becomes the One With Courage, we are able to address child abuse and neglect in a way no one else can – by giving abused children a voice. We know that no child can be served if their voice is not heard, if their story is not told.

As the One with Courage Child Advocacy Center in this region, Project Harmony joins a national initiative of the National Children's Alliance that is centered on the courage it takes to talk about child sexual abuse and the unique role children's advocacy centers play. One with Courage goes beyond our four walls – giving everyone the ability to be the one to know when a child is being abused or neglected, the one who knows what to do about it and the one to do something about it – to allow that child to tell their truths, and make sure they only need to do it once.

Become the One

How do you know? What can you do? It's all much clearer when you become the One with Courage to:

- ★ Listen and respond – When nine-year-old Jackie told her teacher that her mother's boyfriend had been sexually assaulting her, she and her three-year-old brother, James, were removed from their home and interviewed at Project Harmony. A medical examination found that Jackie not only was sexually abused, but had also contracted a sexually transmitted disease. James was found to have serious health issues including being malnourished and underweight. Both children were treated for head lice, were showered and provided clean clothes. Neither child had been to a physician or medical provider for two years.

The children's protective placement and follow up care were coordinated through collaborative partners, while Project Harmony's Family Advocates continued to monitor the children's well-being.

- ★ Honor your instincts – Will's school nurse called Project Harmony, suspicious of the bruises she observed on his arms and legs. Although the child consistently claimed that he had fallen or scuffled with a friend, she could not square these explanations with his demeanor. When he came to Project Harmony, the seven-year-old told his story of repeated abuse by his parents, was heard and placed in protective custody.
- ★ Keep the child at the center of your concern – Neighbors were concerned for the very small, unkempt children that were always hungry and seldom dressed warmly in the cool autumn air. A spokesman called the DHHS child abuse hotline located at Project Harmony to report their concerns and an investigation was initiated. No evidence of intentional maltreatment was found but community services and parenting support were provided to the family. Any further report will initiate an agency response to provide protective support for these children.
- ★ Never underestimate the power of one person – Courage comes in all sizes. Jessica, age 10, saw her stepfather sexually abusing her 18-month-old sister at bath time and told her mother. Jessica's mother reported it to local law enforcement. Jessica, her mother and sister came to Project Harmony together. Though Jessica had never been able to divulge her own persistent sexual abuse by her stepfather before this time, she simply had to prevent the same abuse of her baby sister.

You have the power to be the One with Courage. And in Nebraska, we are all mandated to act on “any reasonable cause to believe that a child or an incompetent person has been subject to . . . abuse/neglect” and to report to law enforcement or the Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline on behalf of that person.

In Nebraska call:

**Nebraska Health & Human Services
Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline
1-800-652-1999**

**In Iowa call:
1-800-362-2178**

From vision to voice

In 1992, the Nebraska Legislative Bill 1184, directed each county to develop a single investigatory and assessment protocol for state, county and local officials to use in responding to child abuse and neglect. The Omaha community went a step further – creating an integrated response system AND developing a single child friendly location where all professionals would come together to serve each child, where the child would tell his or her story only once. They envisioned a system with joint accountability where no child would fall through the cracks. Project Harmony opened its doors in 1996.

From one, many

While we encourage the One with Courage, we recognize the many who partner with us. Today, Project Harmony staff work shoulder to shoulder with investigators of the Omaha Police

Department’s Child Victim Unit, Child & Family Service Specialists of the State of Nebraska and Child Saving Institute staff in the Triage Center. In 2012, Project Harmony partnerships will expand to include treatment through Lutheran Family Service, as well as training and research in collaboration with the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

One child.
One place.
One time.

This philosophy is at the core of all we do at Project Harmony. Our services lead to healing for victims, including:

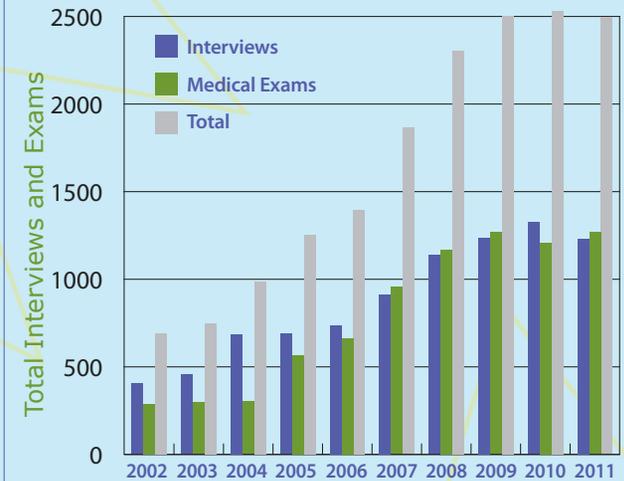
Forensic Interviews – When requested by law enforcement or Child & Family Service Specialists, a forensic interviewer conducts a recorded forensic interview with the child. This reduces the number of times the child must tell their story – and the need to relive the experience again and again.

Medical Examinations – Our medical and nursing staff provides physical and sexual abuse assessments and comprehensive physical exams for alleged victims.

Referrals and Advocacy – Once a child’s needs are assessed, he/she and the non-offending family are referred to the appropriate therapy, support groups and other resources. Over 3,700 advocacy service contacts were provided to victims in 2011.

Case Staffings – A multidisciplinary team of representatives from law enforcement, Child & Family Service Specialists, the medical, legal and educational communities, Project Harmony staff, mental health and others regularly review cases to make sure children do not fall through the cracks.

**Forensic Interviews and Medical Exams
Conducted at Project Harmony**



**Speaking of Children ★
March 2, 2011**

Keynote Speaker: Andrew Bridge
*Fulbright Scholar, Harvard Law Graduate, Author,
Children's Rights Advocate, Former Foster Child*

Honorary Chairs: Lynne and John Boyer

Event Chairs: Donna Erker and Ann Tjaden



2011 Speaking of Children Keynote Speaker Andrew Bridge with Gene Klein and Event Co-chairs Ann Tjaden and Donna Erker and Honorary Co-chairs Lynne and John Boyer

After being taken from his loving but mentally ill mother when he was seven years old, Andrew Bridge was entrenched in the California foster care system. From a personal viewpoint Bridge told the audience it is paramount that foster children understand that their biological parents love them “sometimes more than (they) can take care of them.” A quiet speaker with a powerful message, Andrew Bridge’s gentle demeanor is a true testimony of the unforgettable sorrow he experienced as a child and the sadness he has for children in the foster care system today. Many professionals in the audience left inspired to help change the way children removed from their homes are treated.

Kids First Honorees:

Kathy Bigsby Moore

Founding Executive Director 1987-2010
Voices for Children Nebraska

Bob Owens

Child and Family Service Specialist,
Abuse and Neglect Hotline
Nebraska Department of Health and
Human Services

Mary Bennett-Schulte

Manager of Social Work & Interpreting Services
Children’s Hospital & Medical Center

Dan McGinn

Assistant Pottawattamie County Attorney
Pottawattamie County Iowa

**Prairie Life Fitness Project Harmony
Golf Invitational ★ June 14, 2011**

Co-Chairs: Dean Rasmussen, Jim Jansen, Diane Sorensen



In memory of Kate Jackson Kestel – Mother, wife, sister, daughter, founding member of Project Harmony Service League, health professional and uncompromising Creighton Bluejays Fan.

Invitational Co-chairs Dean Rasmussen and Jim Jansen commended Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsors, many of whom have participated for

every one of the tournament’s 16 years, for the critical role they have filled in making Project Harmony’s help available for the children of eastern Nebraska and southwestern Iowa that have suffered from abuse and neglect. Rasmussen, Jansen and Invitational founder Diane Sorensen presented a \$125,000 check to executive director Gene Klein, bringing total Invitational proceeds to more than \$2 million. Volunteers assisting in the 2011 Invitational came from Hyatt Reservation Center, Target, the Project Harmony Service League and local schools.

**Halfway to St. Patrick’s Day
Celebration! ★ September 16, 2011**

Event Co-Chairs: Christine Benson and Luke Klinker, Nikki and Brody Deren, Gina and Mike McDevitt



Halfway to St. Patrick’s Day Celebration Co-Chairs Christine Benson, Nicki Deren, Gina McDevitt, Luke Klinker, Brody Deren and Mike McDevitt

The Project Harmony Service League hosted its eighth annual “Halfway to St. Patrick’s Day” Celebration! at the Omaha Firefighters’ Union Hall on September 16th. More than 500 tickets were sold for the event. The casual party started with Irish music and continued with dancing to Finest Hour. Attendees dined on corned

beef and brats provided by Omaha Steaks and prepared by Anthony's Catering along with the traditional cabbage and potatoes. \$67,000 was raised to help victims of child abuse.

2011 Third Party Events:

Hops for Harmony ★ June 4, 2011
Sponsored by Papillion Lions Club

Harmony in Art ★ March 26, 2011
Sponsored by Old Market Artists Gallery

Project Harmony Poker Run ★
July 30, 2011
Co-chaired by Diane and Terry Sorensen,
Sandy Prochaska and Luke Cochran



4th Annual Pre-Sturgis Poker Run Chairs Diane and Terry Sorensen, Luke Cochran and Sandy Prochaska

Cuddle Up Tea ★
November 19, 2011
Hosted by Mary Finley,
Kelly Fleming and
Valerie Harwood



Mary Finley, Kelly Fleming and Valerie Harwood with new Cuddle Up Tea friends

Community Initiatives:

- Alegent Health
- Bergan Mercy Medical Center
Pre-Anesthesia Clinic
- Altrusa
- Assistance League
- Girl Scout Troops
- Project Linus
- St. Patrick's Church Outreach
Schools, Churches
- Nebraska Methodist Health System



Highlights of the Year:

Project Harmony Service Director Colleen Roth and Deputy Douglas County Attorney Nicole Goaley presented together at the National Children's Alliance Leadership Conference on June 7th in Washington, D.C. on "Expanding the Purpose of the Multi-Disciplinary Team." Gene Klein presented at the same conference on non-profit leadership and partnered in the fall with Douglas County Attorney Don Kleine, at the



Colleen Roth, Nicole Goaley and Gene Klein at the NCA Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

National District Attorney's Conference speaking on Child Abuse Investigations. In March, Deb Anderson and Gene Klein co-presented at the National Child Advocacy Center's Conference in Huntsville Alabama sharing several strategies law enforcement, Child Protective Services and Child Advocacy Center administrators can use to engage resistant partners and extend investigation and treatment services beyond sexual abuse to address emerging trends in child maltreatment.

Project Harmony thanks all whose gifts have supported and sustained our program over the past year.

2010/2011 Project Harmony Capital Campaign

Growing Harmony for Children

Lead Gifts

Henry A. Davis

Robert B. Daugherty Charitable Foundation
Holland Foundation
The Lozier Foundation
Suzanne and Walter Scott Foundation

Peter Kiewit Foundation
A Friend of Project Harmony

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Weitz Family Foundation

The Phillip and Terri Schragger Foundation

Slosburg Family Charitable Trust on behalf of Martha and David Slosburg

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Basham Charitable Fund*



Tye McDougal with his father, TJ

April Anderson Bell and Dedrick Bell
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John R. O'Connor
William and Jean O'Connor*
William and Harriet Otis
Pinnacle Bancorp, Inc.
Presbyterian Church of the Cross
Dean and Jessie Rasmussen
Ilka Ray
Anne Raynor



Chad and Stacy Horsham enjoying a good time at Halfway to St. Patty's

John and Maureen Raynor
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Dina and Cory Whiteaker
Tyrone and Cathy L. Williams

Annual Funds

Organizations, Corporations and Foundations

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 Creighton University Medical Center
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 Creighton University Medical Center
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 Diversified Solutions
 DMSi Software
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 Grandmother's
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 Morrissey Engineering, Inc.
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 Nebraska Methodist Health
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 Omaha Exchange Club
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 Pilot Lights
 Pinnacle Bank
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 Premier Cleaning Services
 Presbyterian Church of the Cross
 Pre-Sturgis Poker Run
 RCI Roofing Supply Group
 RDG Schutte Wilscam Birge, Inc.
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 River Road Lodge
 Rotella's Italian Bakery
 St. Patrick Church
 Double Nickel
 St. Pius X Church
 Youth Ministry Team
 St. Wenceslaus Catholic School
 Salty Dog Inc.
 The Scouler Foundation



Participating in the ground breaking ceremony (l to r) Dean Rasmussen, Barry DeJong, Henry Davis, Gene Klein, Leo Knowles, Rhonda Hawks, Jim Jansen and Don Kleine

Security National Bank
 Shamrock Development, Inc.
 Simmonds Family Foundation*
 Sonny Gerber Auto Sales
 Southwest Gables Apartments
 Sun Valley Lanes
 The Richard and Laura Schragger
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 Sokolof/Javitch Family Foundation
 The William and Ruth Scott
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 Word of Hope Lutheran Church
 * Indicates funds received through
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2011 Poker Run

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**John
Lehotyak,
1943-2011**

While serving as Omaha Police Department's Youth Services supervisor, Lt. John Lehotyak helped establish the multi-disciplinary approach to child abuse using an investigative team approach. John ensured that each sworn investigator involved in conducting child abuse investigations and interviews of child victims was trained and certified in the dynamics of child abuse/sexual abuse, risk assessment and techniques in legally sound and age appropriate interviews. John Lehotyak, a guiding force in the development and realization of the Project Harmony Child Advocacy Center, is remembered as one of Project Harmony's Founding Fathers.

In memory of John Lehotyak
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Taylor Podraza
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In memory of Richard Stern
Judi and David Finkle



Diane Sorensen volunteers at yet another event

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Project Harmony
Child Protection Center
11949 Q Street
Omaha, NE 68137



**To report child abuse
please call**
1-800-652-1999 in NE
1-800-362-2178 in IA

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