



**ONE  
CHILD.  
ONE  
VOICE.  
ONE  
VISION.**  
BE SOMEONE.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017





A special thanks to our young models whose photos help us honor the confidentiality of our clients.

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# From Our Executive Director

## **Dear Friends,**

In 2017, Project Harmony served more than 5,000 children from the Omaha metro and southwest Iowa areas through early intervention and response services. Child abuse is a fact in our community, discriminating against no one and impacting thousands of lives each year. Because of Project Harmony's coordination of care between agencies such as departments of health and human services, law enforcement, Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Lutheran Family Services, Child Saving Institute, as well as many other partnerships — these children are able to go from crisis to courage.

It should come as no surprise, with tremendous growth experienced over the last 20+ years, we are not the same small agency we once were. However, it has been important for us (as an agency) to not lose sight of the traits that make us Project Harmony. Over the last year, we have worked together to define our culture and to ensure strategic planning and leadership are in line with the culture identified:

### **We Are All Project Harmony**

Project Harmony exists because of a unique collaboration of community partners who are dedicated to ending child abuse and neglect. Our strength lies in our people, their ideas, their differences, and their diverse talents and perspectives.

### **We Bring Our Best Every Day**

Project Harmony is comprised of experts, problem solvers and visionaries dedicated to promoting creativity and innovation. We are dedicated to fostering a learning environment, where all members of the collaborative process can flourish.

### **When It Comes to Children, We Don't Compromise**

Children come first in all we do. Our vision reimagines the system to make it work best for all involved, especially the child.

As we look ahead, it is clear there will be continued growth and expansion. Not only will Project Harmony's reach increase, but so will the number of children who are able to use their voice without fear so healing can begin. Project Harmony has expanded our advocacy and mental health services to children and families impacted by child abuse and neglect. We offer on-site caregiver and child support groups (both in English and Spanish), provide accompaniment to court, and make connections to community resources and informal support networks.



Almost two years ago, Project Harmony took ownership of two buildings to the east of where Project Harmony currently resides. Renovation in the first building was completed in June of 2017. This new space allows us to focus specifically on mental health treatment where our teams can expand upon preventative care as well as respond to crisis situations.

The move of Connections and Lutheran Family Services to the new building has allowed for an expanded partnership with the Omaha Police Department. OPD's Domestic Violence Unit relocated to Project Harmony last June. Statistics show that 3.3 million children witness domestic violence in their homes each year. We anticipate more interviews, advocacy, medical exams and mental health services will occur for cases in which children are involved in domestic violence.

We have seen first-hand the progress that has been made in increasing awareness about abuse, but it has also illuminated that the need for prevention now is greater than ever. Over the past few months, we have seen a ripple effect of what happens when celebrities, athletes and government officials come forward in the media. Campaigns such as #MeToo are intended to open our eyes to what is happening around us (and the tendency of society to cover it up at the expense of children). These allegations, as they unfold, are the reality of families, communities and admired institutions everywhere — including the Omaha metro area. As more and more survivors courageously come forward, the need for response and preventative services is greater than ever, and Project Harmony appreciates your continued support and generosity to help us serve them in the most timely, sensitive and healing way possible.

*Thank you,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene Klein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Gene Klein**

Executive Director





## MAKING A DIFFERENCE **ONE CHILD AT A TIME**

Project Harmony is boldly focused on ending the cycle of child abuse and neglect in our community. Together, we strive to help every child who walks through our doors find the courage to use their voice.



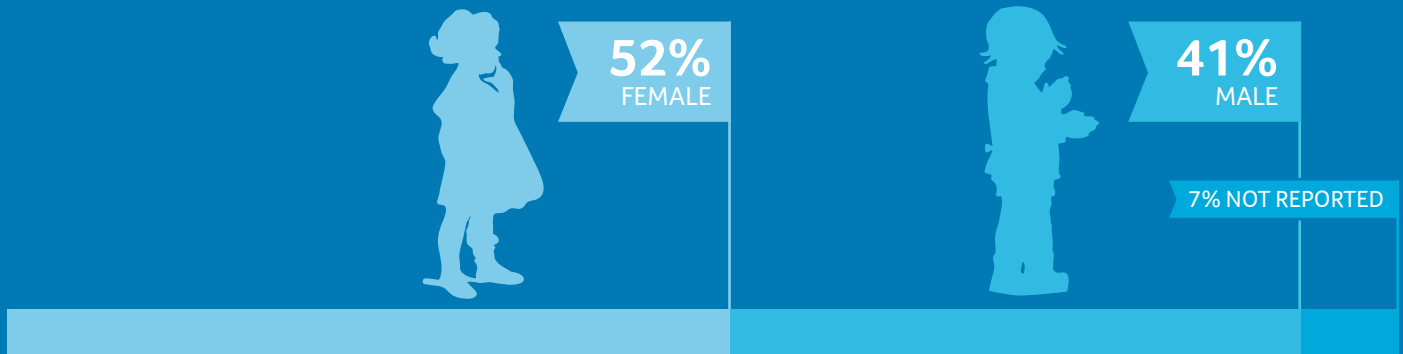
Total Children Served:

5,271

This includes preventative  
and response services.

## AGENCY-WIDE STATISTICS

### GENDER OF CHILD



### ETHNICITY OF CHILD

Caucasian .....	50%
African-American .....	21%
Hispanic .....	16%
Bi-Racial .....	4%
Native American .....	3%
Other .....	2%
Multi-Racial .....	2%
Asian .....	1%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander .....	1%

### NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

**AS OF DECEMBER 2016:**  
64 full-time and  
part-time employees

64

**AS OF DECEMBER 2017:**  
75 full-time and  
part-time employees

75

### AGES OF CHILDREN SERVED



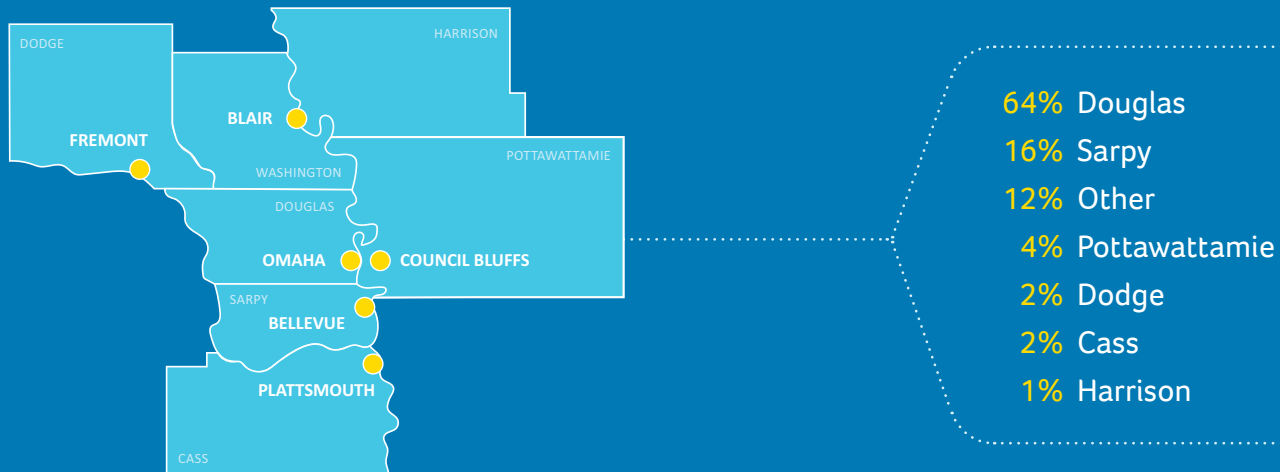


## EARLY INTERVENTION & RESPONSE SERVICES

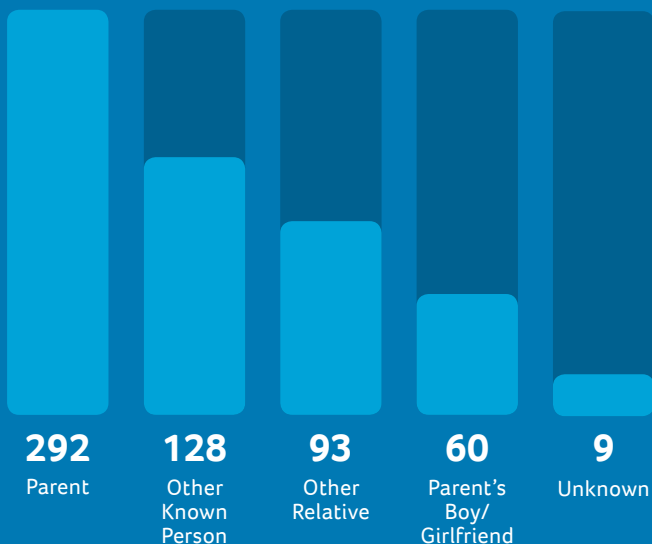


## CHILDREN'S SERVICES FINDINGS

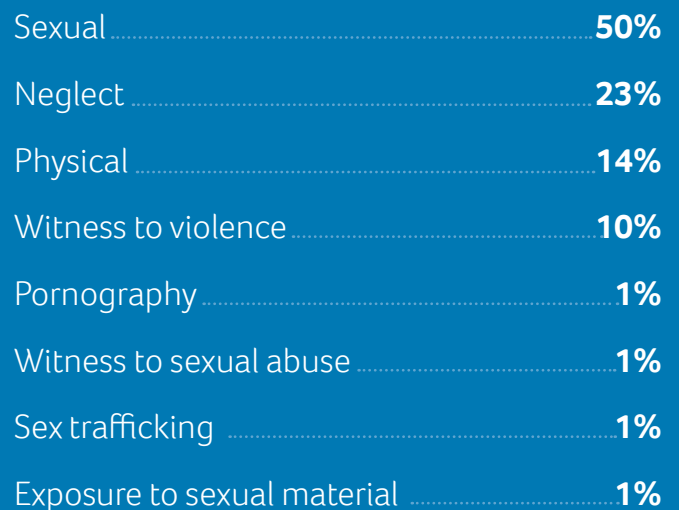
### PEOPLE SERVED BY COUNTY



### CHILD'S RELATIONSHIP TO ALLEGED PERPETRATOR



### TYPE OF ABUSE





## A YEAR IN REVIEW **FINANCIALS**

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



## 2017 OPERATIONS

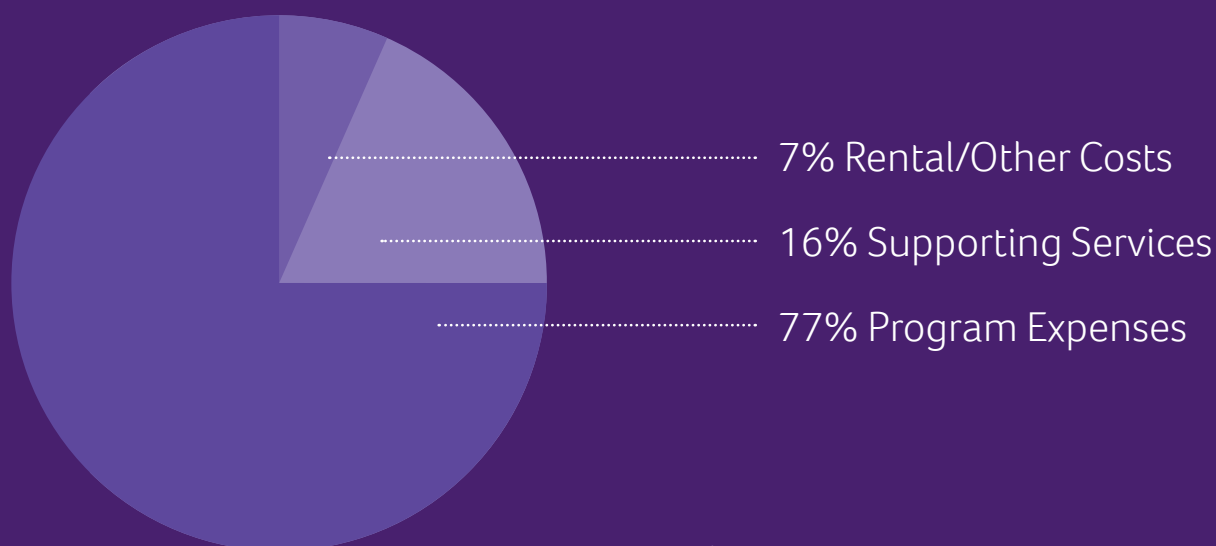
### REVENUE IN DOLLARS

Grants and Contributions.....	<b>6,071,329</b>
Special Events.....	<b>682,966</b>
Government Contracts.....	<b>1,432,951</b>
Rent Revenue.....	<b>458,370</b>
Medical Claim Payments.....	<b>266,157</b>
Training Revenue.....	<b>53,018</b>
Investment Income.....	<b>772,146</b>
In-Kind Contributions.....	<b>117,688</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b> .....	<b>\$9,854,625</b>

### EXPENSES IN DOLLARS

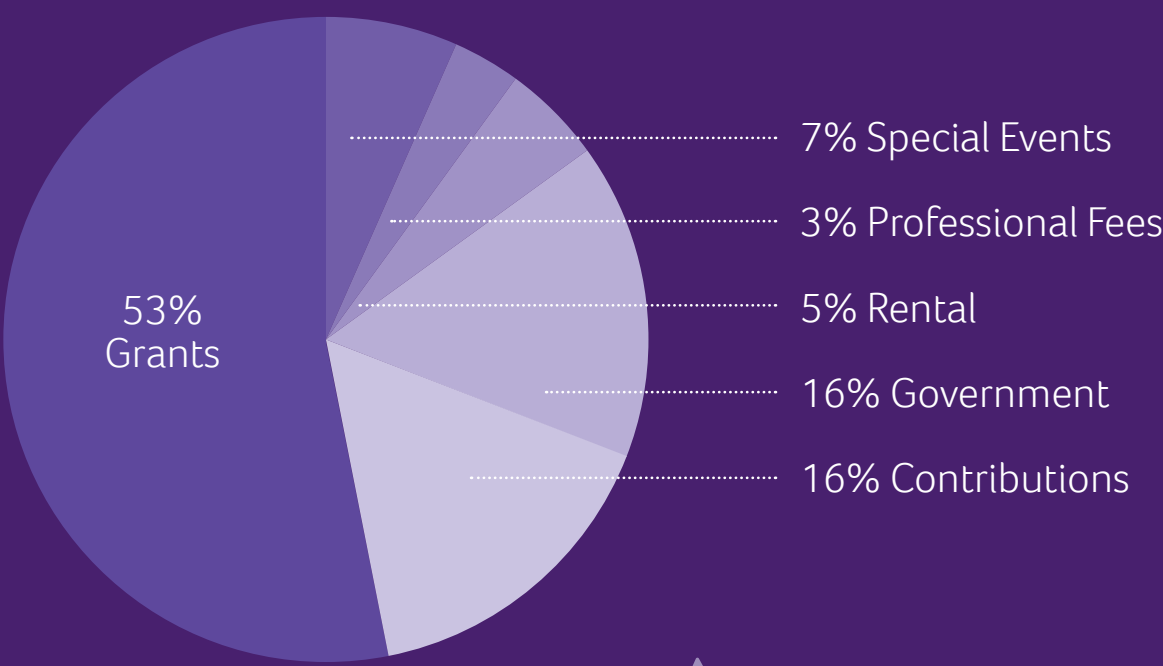
Forensic Interviews.....	<b>564,150</b>
Coordination.....	<b>572,885</b>
Medical.....	<b>731,006</b>
Training.....	<b>527,666</b>
Advocacy.....	<b>1,004,741</b>
Mental Health.....	<b>517,917</b>
Connections.....	<b>2,972,039</b>
Supporting Services	
Management.....	<b>665,956</b>
Fundraising.....	<b>735,849</b>
Rental/Other Costs.....	<b>638,505</b>
Board Designated Sustaining Fund.....	<b>500,000</b>
Designated for Future Operations.....	<b>423,911</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> .....	<b>\$9,854,625</b>

### 2017 EXPENSES





# 2017 REVENUE BY SOURCE







“

I appreciated the comfort and care of the staff as well as how the staff paid attention to all the facts of our situation.

- Project Harmony Client


”





## A GREAT TEAM **AT WORK**

Project Harmony's multidisciplinary team of law enforcement, social services, medical and referral professionals work together to protect children each and every day. From medical evaluations and forensic interviews, to crisis counseling and advocacy services, this collaborative approach is reimagining how the Omaha community responds to child abuse.



“ Everyone was so kind and helpful. I never felt like we were a burden. Everyone has our best interests at hand.

- Project Harmony Client ”

## DEVELOPMENT/OPERATIONS

Measuring Project Harmony's community impact is essential to understanding our progress toward ending the cycle of child abuse and neglect. With that in mind, Project Harmony implemented a **new client management system** in 2017, allowing us and our partners to collect more comprehensive data to inform and tailor our services moving forward.

Our greatest resources are the staff members that bring their best to Project Harmony every day to help children and families navigate complex and difficult situations. In 2017, the Project Harmony Leadership Team created a **multifaceted professional development program** centered around a healthy culture that emphasizes collaboration and putting children first.

“ I am proud to work for this organization and believe that we are making a difference in the lives of children and families. ”

- Project Harmony Employee



## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Midway through 2017, the Domestic Violence Unit of the Omaha Police Department moved into the Project Harmony building. They stepped up to be an active partner with us, and renewed their focus on the needs of child witnesses. We saw a dramatic impact as our number of **child witness interviews tripled** from the previous year to 293 interviews.

Project Harmony also obtained VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) funding in 2017 for **three additional advocates** (totaling six) to serve the increasing numbers of children and families we serve.

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES MENTAL HEALTH & ADVOCACY

Project Harmony **added four therapists** in 2017, enhancing our ability to serve more clients and extending our support to siblings, parents and caregivers. By focusing on the entire family, our therapists have the chance to communicate easily and coordinate treatment goals, allowing everyone to heal and move forward.

## TRIAGE CENTER

Project Harmony partners with Child Saving Institute to provide a welcoming center for children in immediate need of alternative family placement. The Project Harmony Triage Center **comforted 422 children** (894 visits) in 2017, providing each with a light meal, clothing and other items as needed.

Eighty percent of Family Permanency Specialists **rated Triage Center services as either excellent or good** on the biannual Satisfaction Survey.

“The environment is welcoming and appropriate for children going through such a difficult time. The staff is outstanding!”

- Project Harmony Client

2017 brought on the **first caregiver support group** within Children's Services, focused on serving Spanish-speaking families. A partnership and collaboration with Completely KIDS, the organization focused on families who have experienced sexual abuse, and saw great success — serving 28 families in our community.

### Project Harmony relaunched NebraskaMentalHealth.com in 2017.

NebraskaMentalHealth.com provides centralized access to local and regional mental health information in a single location. The goal of the site is to expand knowledge about mental health terminology and help connect those in need with those who can help. All Nebraska providers are encouraged to visit the site and create a profile – connecting with those looking for care.



“

This is by far the best place I have ever worked. We have worked really hard on creating a positive and accountable culture, and I understand my role in influencing this work environment.

- Project Harmony Employee

”



## CONNECTIONS

We reshaped the Connections program in 2017 to better address the needs of the community. In turn, Connections added 23 Omaha Public Schools and opened services to all Bellevue elementary and middle schools. The program **now serves four major school districts** in the Omaha metro area.

Connections also created a specialty workgroup with the goal of **better serving the immigrant and refugee populations**. Building strong partnerships with other organizations doing similar work in the Omaha community, the workgroup delivered

many outcomes in 2017, including the creation of a four-part training series for providers of immigrants and refugees.

Early in the development of the Connections program, we realized to keep up with referrals, we needed to find ways to serve children in groups. With that in mind, Connections **expanded its group offerings in 2017** to include expressive arts therapy and CBITS (Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools), both serving to better help kids cope with traumatic events.

### Percentage of Referrals:

- **54%** – Omaha Public Schools
- **15%** – Millard Public Schools
- **13%** – Papillion La Vista Community Schools
- **6%** – Bellevue Public Schools
- **13%** – Other (includes family, Nelson Mandela, LCCNO, etc.)

### Most common grade being referred by district

- Omaha Public Schools – **4th Grade**
- Millard Public Schools – **7th Grade**
- Papillion La Vista Community Schools – **2nd Grade**
- Bellevue Public School – **4th & 7th Grades**

## CASE COORDINATION

In 2017, Project Harmony's partner agencies PromiseShip and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services **instituted a policy** where all expectant mothers with open Child Protective Services cases will be staffed at our Impact from Infancy Team. Case professionals have found these staffings to be helpful, preventing removals by having an agreed upon action plan.

Project Harmony also combined the Non-Court and the Douglas County Treatment teams, resulting in two treatment teams specializing in medically fragile and developmentally disabled children and youth missing from care. Part of a collaboration with the Juvenile Assessment Center, Douglas County Attorney's Office and Omaha Police Department, Project Harmony **helps track missing youth** and ensures that our response is coordinated across systems.

“ Everyone was kind and patient with making sure that I understood what was going on and provided information for additional services. ”

- Project Harmony Client

## TRAINING

Project Harmony trained 3,026 people in trauma and trauma-informed care as part of the **Trauma Matters Omaha** initiative over the course of 2017. Area elementary and middle schools have shown a great interest in this topic, leading to trauma trainings in 24 schools.

The training team **took collaboration to new heights in 2017**. We worked with Creighton University's nursing program to train 116 nursing students in empathy and partnered with 64 professionals — in a variety of fields such as law enforcement, advocacy, substance

abuse treatment, juvenile court law, domestic violence and child welfare — to help enhance our training offerings with new perspectives. During 2017 alone, we were able to spend 563 hours training 10,036 participants.

“ The mission of Project Harmony combined with the fact that it values people and a work-life balance make it a wonderful place to work. ”

- Project Harmony Employee





## EMPOWERING **THE COMMUNITY**

The cycle of abuse does not have to continue. There is hope. Slowly but surely, we're flipping the script — and throughout 2017, we had many highlights and reasons to celebrate.



“

The staff was very supportive and helpful. I feel pretty good about the experience, and I am glad that they gave my daughter support and the services she needed afterwards.

- Project Harmony Client

”



## SPEAKING OF CHILDREN

Many thanks to all who attended our 2017 Speaking of Children Luncheon & Conference. We had a terrific turn out and a great response to the education received. Each of you impacts the lives of children in unique and special ways — thank you for your continued compassion and generosity.

A very special thank you to Children's Hospital & Medical Center and the United States Attorney's Office – District of Nebraska for your partnership. Project Harmony would like to thank all our 2017 sponsors along with the Honorary Chairs, Carol and Gary Perkins, Event Co-Chairs, Deb Bogard and Susan McMannama, and committee members and in-kind donors. Without your support, this event could not have happened.

### Kids First Award Honorees:

- Molly Keane, Douglas County Attorney's Office
- Tom Incontro, Guardian Ad Litem
- Sgt. Marlene Novotny, Omaha Police Department



Keynote speaker, John O'Leary, shared his personal story of survival and how one attitude, one action and one person can change the world.



More than 1,100 people attended the 2017 Speaking of Children event.

## PROJECT BE SOMEONE

More than 1,500 people across the nation have pledged to be someone in the life of a child since we kicked off **Project Be Someone** at the 2017 Speaking of Children Luncheon & Conference. This successful campaign continues to grow, including national recognition for **Be Someone Day** on July 21.



*Executive Director Gene Klein places a sticker on the Project Be Someone board, pledging to advocate for children.*



*Pictured: Leo Knowles, Amy Chisholm, Jim Jansen and Diane Sorensen.*

## GOLF INVITATIONAL

The 22nd Annual Project Harmony Golf Invitational raised \$100,000 — proceeds which help sustain our programs all year long. Thanks to your generosity, Project Harmony has the support to provide vital investigative and medical services needed to protect our children. Held at Indian Creek Golf Course, 200 golfers and over 75 volunteers each year have helped make the invitational a tradition of great golf for a great cause.

## HALFWAY TO ST. PATRICK'S DAY

The 13th Annual Halfway to St. Patrick's Day event, hosted by the Project Harmony Service League at Champions Run, raised \$80,000 for child abuse services. Live music from eNVy filled the inside pavilion while guests enjoyed an evening of traditional Irish food, drink and frivolity.



*Event Chairs Left to Right: Chad & Stacy Horsham, Leigh & Brett Lindstrom, Emily & Steve Dugger, and Tracy & Todd Logan.*





## ANYONE CAN **BE SOMEONE**

Every child deserves to grow up safe, happy and healthy. We couldn't make this a reality without the support of leaders paving the way to help protect and advocate for our children.



## FROM OUR BOARD CHAIRMAN



It has been a privilege to serve Project Harmony as board chair. I am joined on the board by a dedicated group of community leaders providing guidance for the organization. We are fortunate to have excellent agency leadership in our dedicated professionals that carry out the difficult and important work at Project Harmony.

Thanks to the incredible partnership of public institutions, private organizations, nonprofit groups and the community, Project Harmony is a true collaboration with everyone working for one goal — to protect our children and strengthen our families.

As the number of children and families we serve continues to increase, your support is even more important today.

From our incredible volunteers to our generous donors, we are grateful for the tremendous community support. Thank you for joining with us in our mission/goal to end child abuse and neglect in our community.

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diny Landen".

**Diny Landen**  
Board Chairman

“ We are an organization of very dedicated professionals who take their jobs seriously and want to do the best for the children and families that we serve.

- Project Harmony Employee ”

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### CHAIRMAN

Diny Landen  
*Vantage Communications*

### VICE-CHAIRMAN

Leo Knowles  
*McGrath North*

### SECRETARY

Jim Jansen  
*Creighton University*

### TREASURER

Mike Walter  
*Mike Walter & Associates*

Mike Brown  
*Children's Hospital &  
Medical Center*  
*Past Chairman*

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*Farm Credit Services of America*

Ken Ferrarini  
*RBC Wealth Management*

Bob Frederick  
*Pinnacle Bank, Retired*

Carol L. Gutchewsky, LISW  
*Iowa Department of  
Human Services*

Gene Haynes  
*Omaha North High  
Magnet School*

Don Kleine  
*Douglas County Attorney  
At-Large*

Mike Mackintosh  
*American Title, Inc.*

Janie Fitzgibbons Mikuls, M.D.  
*Children's Physicians*

Erin Owen  
*University of Nebraska  
at Omaha*  
*Office of University  
Communications*  
*At-Large*

Bruce Rasmussen  
*Creighton University  
Athletic Department*

Charles Venditte  
*Deputy State Sheriff  
Douglas County Attorney's Office*

Matt Wilber  
*Pottawattamie  
County Attorney*

Yvonne Pflug  
*Kiewit*  
*Project Harmony*  
*Service League*  
*ex. Officio President*

“ From where we were at a little over 20 years ago to now, it's a tremendous difference. The level of talent and professionalism of all involved – collaborating together – allows us to move cases forward easier. Which, in turn, has helped bring justice to a lot more families. ”  
- Don Kleine, Douglas County Attorney

## PROJECT HARMONY SERVICE LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### PRESIDENT

Yvonne Pflug

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Ben Knowles

### SECRETARY

Tyler Block

### TREASURER

Helmut Brugman

### EVENTS CHAIR

Susan McMannama

### MEMBERSHIP CHAIRS

Patty Jansen and Joe Menaugh

### BOARD MEMBERS

Deb Bogard  
Debbie Boler  
Karen Brouillette  
Marge Di Lorenzo

Matt Dinsdale  
Laura Enenbach  
Judi Finkle  
Henry German  
Stacy Horsham  
Kelly Houghton  
Amy Johnson  
Chris Kestel  
Carol Ketcham  
Kate Knowles  
Micayla Lee  
Joani Mullin  
Amanda Pontow  
Dan Preusser  
Shelley Siemers  
Joy Watanabe  
Abby Wenninghoff  
Cathy Williams

“ We know prevention and early intervention is crucial to supporting children and families, and building a trauma-resilient community. Project Harmony's Connections program is an extremely valuable link, bringing children and families excellent mental health services before they could be at risk of intervention from child welfare or the juvenile justice system. ”  
- Erin Owen, University of Nebraska  
Omaha Executive Director of  
Communications and Assistant  
to the Chancellor





# TOGETHER, WE CAN **END** **CHILD ABUSE.**

Anyone has the power to be someone who makes our community a safe place for all children. In 2017, your support touched the lives of 5,271 children, setting them on a new course toward healing and hope.

**Please consider helping us make an even greater impact in 2018 through a donation today.**

**[projectharmony.com/donate](http://projectharmony.com/donate)**





Child Advocacy Center

11949 Q Street Omaha, NE 68137  
402.595.1326  
[info@projectharmony.com](mailto:info@projectharmony.com)

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*If you suspect a child has been abused or neglected, call:*  
**NEBRASKA:** 1.800.652.1999 (CPS Hotline) or local law enforcement  
**IOWA:** 1.800.362.2178 (DHS Hotline) or local law enforcement

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