



# Together, we can **end child abuse.**

.....★.....  
We're boldly focused  
on ending the cycle of  
child abuse and neglect  
in our community.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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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,

**As we reflect on the last year, I first want to share how grateful we are to you for the impact you have created at Project Harmony. For those 5,783 children served in 2018, who are not able to directly say thank you — please find this letter as their thanks to you!**

Project Harmony was just an idea in the mid-1990s with the goal to improve the response to child abuse. It is hard to believe over these years we have served nearly 40,000 children. With your involvement and investment, these children now have access to the support and resources they need to move on to a new path of healing.

What is exciting about Project Harmony's year was the Board's continued commitment in our mission to not just respond but to put an "end to child abuse and neglect." That seemed to be an overwhelming concept when it was introduced, and yet as I look at the last few years, we are serving an increasing percentage of children in a preventative fashion. In fact, over 30 percent of the families served in 2018 were responded to in a proactive and preventative effort with our Connections and Training services. This is how we will get ahead of the challenge and minimize the impact that trauma can have on children and families.

Last year, a record number of children made an outcry of abuse at Project Harmony. These children are our community's most vulnerable — disclosing physical, sexual and emotional abuse. They are small infants, toddlers, school-aged children and teens. For many, they have held on to their pain in silence, and your support allows them to step forward. They come to us hesitant, scared and uncertain, and leave with their eyes set on the first glimpse of hope. Their caregivers who accompany them are just as impacted, and their healing becomes paramount in how a child moves forward.

I am proud of the growth and accomplishments we have experienced over the last 22 years, and we could not have come as far as we have without this community's generous support. Today, Project Harmony is one of the largest child advocacy centers (CACs) in the country — not because of an overwhelming volume of abuse,



but due to the level of collaboration that comes together on one campus. Other leaders across the nation travel to Omaha to tour Project Harmony, to learn and replicate this model as a best practice community response. We are proud of our National Children's Advocacy Center Network and the more than 850 centers in the nation who have committed to this model.

Child abuse is a community-wide issue, requiring each of us to help protect and advocate on behalf of all children. Together, we can end child abuse. But to do this, we all have to have a stake in it. You are part of the solution. On behalf of each and every one of the children who found the courage to use their voice without fear, thank you for your continued interest, encouragement and support.

Sincerely,

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

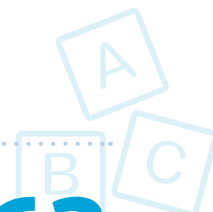
Project Harmony is boldly focused on ending the cycle of child abuse and neglect in our community. Together, we strive to help every child who walks through our doors find the courage to use their voice.



# 5,783

## Total Children Served

This includes preventative and response services.



# 763

## Children Served Through Our Triage Center

At the Triage Center, children are greeted by professionals and provided with a light meal, clothing, a medical exam and a backpack with pajamas and hygiene items until a caregiver is secured.



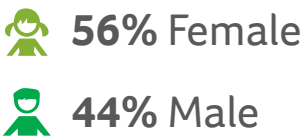
“

I was able to speak about my situation and felt that they cared and wanted to help me.

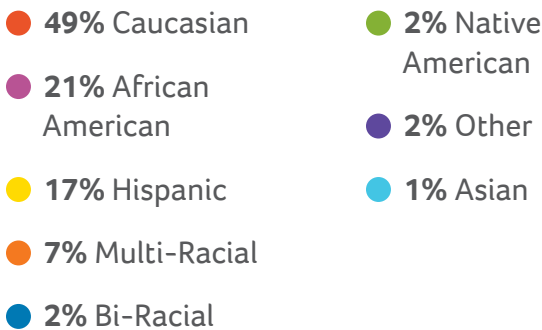
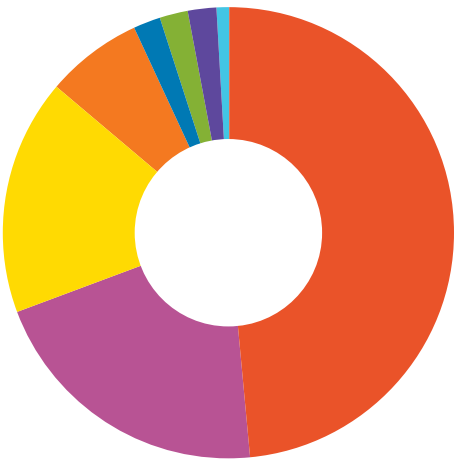


# Agency-Wide Statistics

## Gender of Child



## Ethnicity of Child



## Number of Employees

As of December 2018



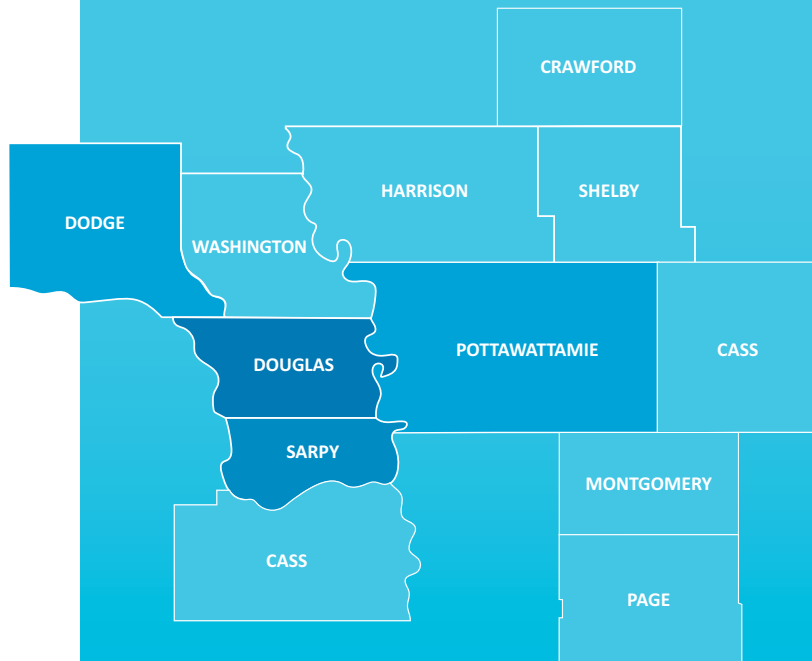
## Ages of Children Served



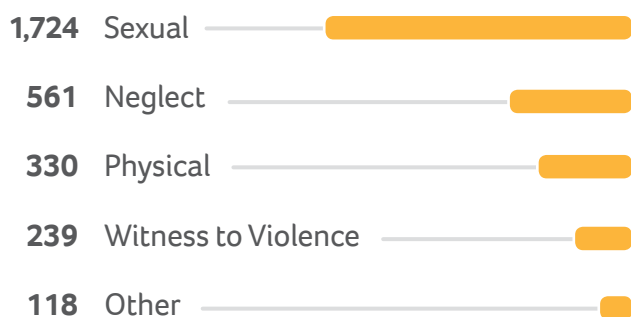
## Children's Response Services

### People Served by County\*

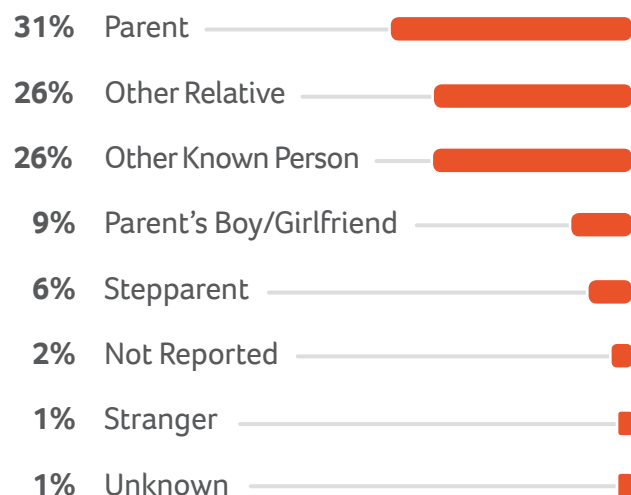
66%	Douglas	1%	Shelby
14%	Sarpy	1%	Washington
5%	Pottawattamie	1%	Crawford
4%	Dodge	1%	Montgomery
1%	Cass (NE)	1%	Page
1%	Cass (IA)	6%	Other
1%	Harrison		



### Number of Intakes by Type of Abuse



### Child's Relationship to Alleged Perpetrator\*



\*In some cases, the percentage may add up to over 100%, as there may be more than one perpetrator.

## Early Intervention & Response Services



**15,021**

TRAINING SEATS FILLED



**9,288**

ADVOCACY SESSIONS PROVIDED



**2,229**

MENTAL HEALTH SESSIONS PROVIDED



**2,090**

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED



**1,743**

CONNECTIONS REFERRALS



**1,052**

CHILD ABUSE EXAMS CONDUCTED



**763**

TRIAGE CENTER (UNIQUE VISITORS)

# 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.



## Children's Services

### Making a difference, one child at a time.

Project Harmony is boldly focused on ending the cycle of abuse and neglect in our community. Together, we strive to help every child who walks through our doors find the courage to share what they have experienced or witnessed.

Project Harmony has been working collaboratively with the Omaha Police Department (OPD) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to serve children and families impacted by child abuse and neglect since our doors opened.

This past year, we expanded services to missing youth, children at risk of sex trafficking and children with sexual behavior problems.

### Missing Youth Services

#### OFFERING NEW HOPE TO CHILDREN IN CRISIS.

Project Harmony's Missing Youth Services (MYS) program started in September 2018, and in the first four months, we contacted 270 youth's families, 71 of whom were 13 years of age or under. Our goal is to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system, decrease runaway behavior, improve school attendance, and improve child and family functioning.



270

FAMILIES CONTACTED  
IN THE FIRST  
FOUR MONTHS



71

OF THE YOUTH  
WERE 13 YEARS  
OF AGE OR UNDER



## Mental Health

### PROVIDING EVIDENCE-BASED THERAPIES TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Project Harmony's Mental Health team began a partnership with Creighton University School of Medicine to provide rotations to Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Fellows. These fellows provide training and psychiatric consultation in all program areas at Project Harmony.



**2,229** MENTAL HEALTH SESSIONS PROVIDED

## Medical

### ENSURING THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN.

Project Harmony's Medical team provided training on medical aspects of child abuse to parent support groups, university students, law enforcement agencies, and primary care physicians and their office staff. Because primary care physicians are key referral sources to Project Harmony for examinations related to abuse or neglect of children, we focused on training more than 50 local primary care offices on how to respond to child abuse concerns, medical considerations with abused children and how to refer children to Project Harmony.

## Case Coordination

### COLLABORATING WITH ALL PARTIES IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM, WE CAN BETTER PROTECT CHILDREN.

Case Coordination added a Missing Youth Services Treatment Team in 2018 to address the needs of runaway and missing youth.

Impact from Infancy, the program to improve the outcomes of infants and young children, expanded into two courtrooms and was a sponsor of the 2nd Annual Nebraska Young Child Institute held June 26-27, 2018, in Kearney, Neb. The Nebraska Young Child Institute is a statewide conference for multidisciplinary professionals to connect on issues to improve the outcomes of young children. Three case coordinators presented on topics involving best practices for children ages birth to five involved in the child welfare system.



**1,052**  
CHILD ABUSE  
MEDICAL EXAMS  
CONDUCTED



**359**  
CASES STAFFED AT  
A MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
TEAM MEETING IN 2018



I had heard nothing but good about Project Harmony before coming, and so far, it has lived up to it.

## Forensic Interviews

**IN 2018, PROJECT HARMONY CONDUCTED 2,090 FORENSIC INTERVIEWS – AVERAGING SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 174 PER MONTH.**

Forensic interviews lessen the number of times a child has to share what has happened to them, which helps limit any additional trauma. Forensic interviewers have specialized training and ask non-leading, developmentally appropriate questions in order to obtain detailed information about an event(s) the child experienced or witnessed.

## Family Advocacy

**IN 2018, PROJECT HARMONY PROVIDED 9,288 ADVOCACY SESSIONS.**

When a child discloses abuse or neglect, or is a witness to a traumatic event, it is a highly stressful and overwhelming situation for the family. Our advocates play a key role in helping to support the child and caregiver(s) throughout the investigation and court processes.

**FORENSIC INTERVIEWING AND FAMILY ADVOCACY STILL REMAIN TO BE CORE SERVICES PROVIDED AT PROJECT HARMONY.**



**2,090**

**FORENSIC  
INTERVIEWS**



**9,288**

**ADVOCACY  
SESSIONS**

“ I wasn’t sure what to expect, but everyone was awesome made my girls feel welcome and comfortable. ”

## Training Institute

**Dedicated to our core values of collaboration, innovation and integrity.**

The Project Harmony Training Institute provides over 400 trainings each year for educators, child welfare, medical, law enforcement and mental health professionals as well as the larger community. In 2018, we filled 15,021 seats – a 43 percent increase compared to 2017. The team presented at several conferences and trained locally, regionally and nationally.

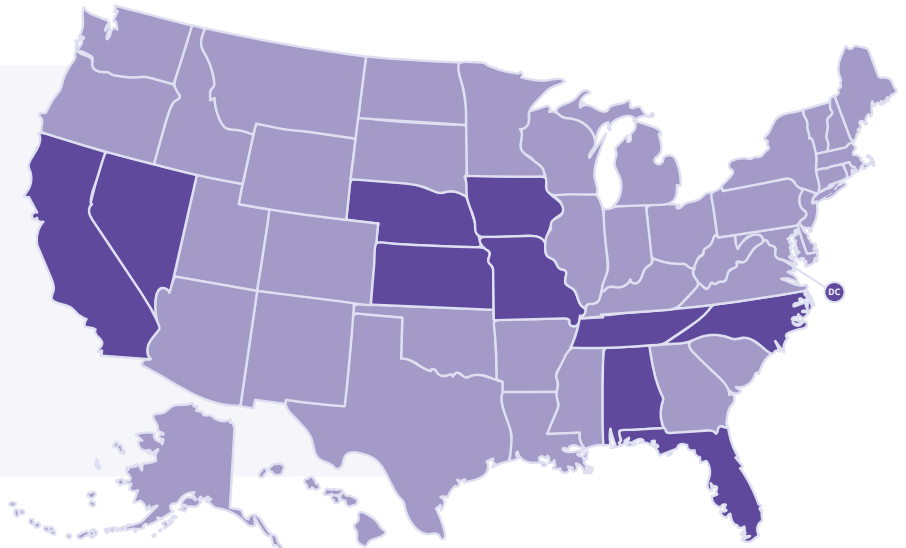
Topics ranged from preventing child sexual abuse to engaging families with empathy to understanding how trauma impacts children and families.



**15,021** **TRAINING  
SEATS FILLED**

### TO-DATE, WE HAVE TRAINED IN THE FOLLOWING STATES:

- Alabama
- California
- Florida
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- North Carolina
- Tennessee
- Washington, DC





“

We were so impressed  
with the staff at Project  
Harmony! They were so  
helpful, kind and caring.



# Operations

## Information Technology

### STREAMLINING OUR PROCESSES TO BEST SERVE THE NEEDS OF EVERY CHILD.

On Oct. 30, 2018, Project Harmony was the first to implement a cloud-based video management solution developed exclusively for child advocacy centers (CACs). VidaNyx CAC Edition is providing technology innovation that supports victims of childhood sexual assault and abuse – developed by VidaNyx LLC, incubated by Giving Tech Labs and inspired by Project Harmony.

Through research and meetings with Project Harmony, Giving Tech Labs discovered the operational challenges in handling access to forensic interviews, tracking the chain of custody, running a smooth operation and ensuring long-term archiving potential to best serve the needs of children, law enforcement, the justice system, evidence-based therapy and ultimately the liability of the child advocacy center.

## Data & Research

### TACKLING CHILD ABUSE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY AS A TEAM.

Project Harmony expanded efforts in data and research by hiring a data and quality manager to provide data trend analysis concentrated on identifying agency opportunities and long-term program improvements.

To stay in tune with technological advancements, Project Harmony also hired an IT manager to implement systems such as Efforts to Outcomes™, a comprehensive system that provides the infrastructure to effectively share information and track progress needed to drive decisions, maximize resources and improve upon our service offerings.

“ The VidaNyx technology is so needed. We are grateful for the innovation and partnership from Giving Tech Labs to provide resources and expertise to solve a critical problem faced by child advocacy centers in safeguarding the outcry and disclosure of abuse of our nation’s children. ”

– Gene Klein

*Project Harmony Executive Director*

“

What I appreciate the most is that they made sure that everyone involved was okay, and offered us counseling.



# Connections

Connecting children and families to preventative and early intervention mental health and social services.

In 2018, the number of Omaha-area students and families served by Connections increased to over 1,400. Connections staff worked with over 130 schools in four major school districts (Omaha Public, Millard, Papillion-La Vista, and Bellevue) to ensure that the students most in need received the mental health services they deserved.

Connections worked with the Project Harmony Training Institute to bring in nationally recognized trainers to offer Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS) training to area therapists. Connections also collaborated with area agencies and the Project Harmony Training Institute to present a training series aimed at educating those who work with immigrants and refugees in a mental health setting.

Connections staff presented at a number of conferences in 2018 about the Connections model and the importance of collaborating.



**1,743**  
Referrals

THIS IS A 14%  
INCREASE OVER 2017.

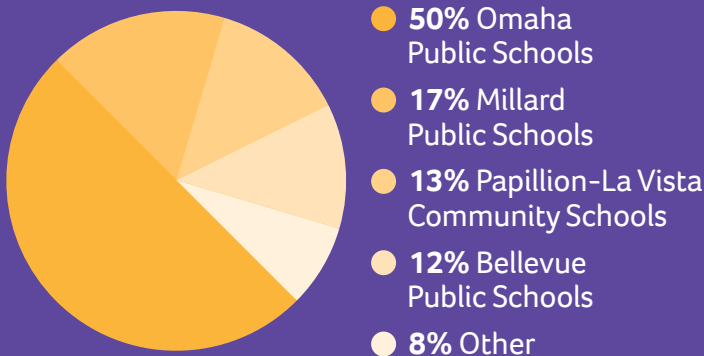


**149**  
Schools

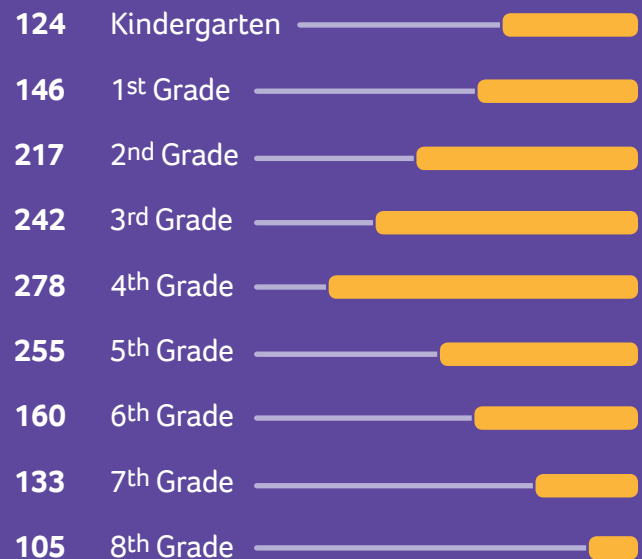
HAD ACCESS TO  
CONNECTIONS SERVICES  
& 131 SCHOOLS MADE  
CONNECTIONS REFERRALS.

“ This is a good program for all children who might need help expressing their feelings. ”

## Percentage of Referrals



## Referrals by Grade



# 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 2018, we had many highlights and reasons to celebrate.



## 2,000+

**People Across the Country Have Taken the Pledge to Be Someone**

10 seconds is not a lot of time, but it's enough time to be someone in the life of a child. Every second counts.

## 1,200+

**Speaking of Children Luncheon & Conference Participants Each Year**

Project Harmony's signature event engages everyone in the community to learn about and join in our efforts to end child abuse and neglect.





“

Everyone was very knowledgeable, responsive and empathetic. Thank you all for your help!



## Speaking of Children

### Many thanks to all who attended our 2018 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 2018 sponsors along with the Honorary Chairs, Elizabeth and Mike Cassling, Event Chairs, Lori Belford, Cathy McNamara, and Janet Nichting, along with all our committee members and in-kind donors. Without your support, this event could not have happened.

#### KIDS FIRST AWARD HONOREES:

- **Ryan Roskey** – Detective, Bellevue Police Department
- **Mary Jo Pankoke** – President and CEO, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
- **Betsy Funk**, LCSW, LIMHP, MPA, REAT – Mental Health Practitioner, Omaha Therapy and Arts Collaborative
- **Jean Bohnker** – Director of Early Childhood and Family Support, FAMILY, Inc.



*Keynote speaker, Derek Clark, shared his personal story of survival and the power of attitude in coping with adversity and overcoming abuse.*



*Pictured: Jim Jansen, Leo Knowles, Diny Landen and Gene Klein.*



## Golf Invitational

### The 23rd Annual Project Harmony Golf Invitational raised \$111,500.

The proceeds 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 helped make the invitational a tradition of great golf for a great cause.





## Halfway to St. Patrick's Day

The 14th annual event raised over \$106,000 for child abuse services.

Many thanks to all who attended the annual Halfway to St. Patrick's Day event, hosted by the Project Harmony Service League at Champions Run. Live music from the Confidentials filled the inside of the pavilion while guests enjoyed an evening of traditional Irish food, drink and frivolity. Back by popular demand was the specialty Irish whiskey tasting and the Journey across Ireland – games and prizes related to the counties of the Emerald Isle.



*Pictured: Avery Schmidt, Amy Chisholm, Kelly Houghton, Angela Roeber and Regan Fahey Muhs.*



## Be Someone Wall

Join the movement and make your commitment today!

We are proud to acknowledge **our donors of \$250 or more** on Project Harmony's Be Someone wall. Donor names are updated, from the previous calendar year, on National Be Someone Day, recognized on July 21.

**BY SUPPORTING PROJECT HARMONY, YOU ARE HELPING:**

- Provide a place where children can use their voice without fear
- Ensure hope, health and resilience for children and families in our community
- Spread awareness, generate learning and ultimately protect the most vulnerable among us



**392  
Donors**

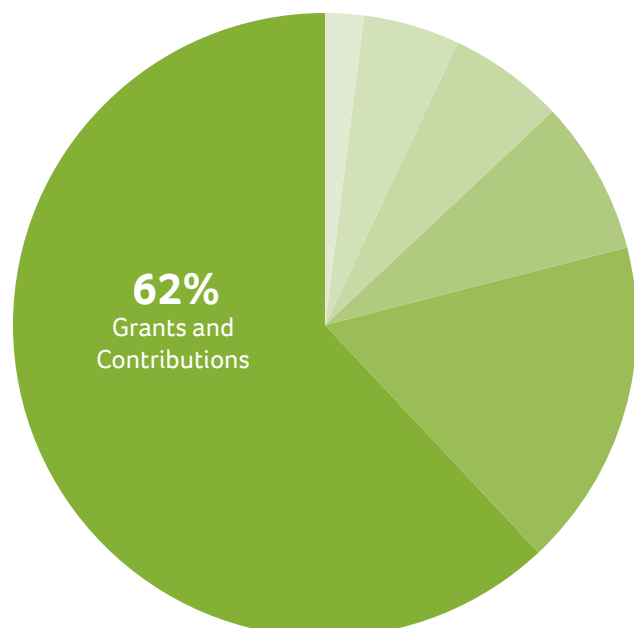
ARE NAMED ON  
THE BE SOMEONE  
WALL FROM 2017



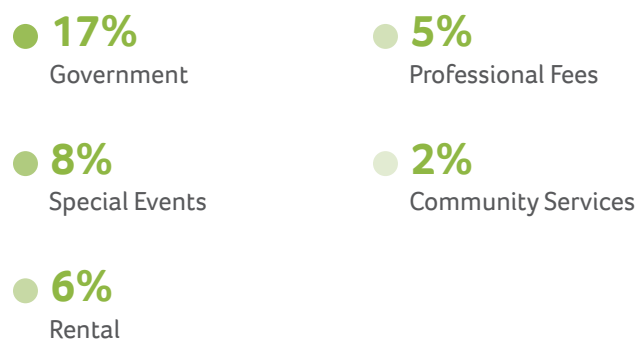
# A Year in Review Financials



Project Harmony is grateful to all whose gifts have supported and sustained our program over the past year. Every dollar helps us continue our mission to restore courage in every child who walks through our doors.



## 2018 Revenue By Source



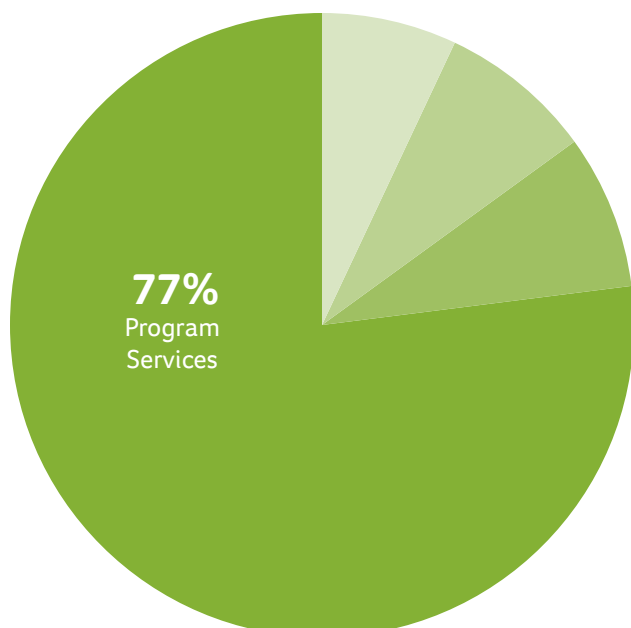
## Revenue in Dollars

Grants and Contributions	5,507,781
Special Events	761,417
Government Contracts	1,525,569
Rent Revenue	504,136
Medical Claim Payments	409,520
Training Revenue	73,250
Community Services	195,223
In-Kind Contributions	76,356
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$9,053,252</b>

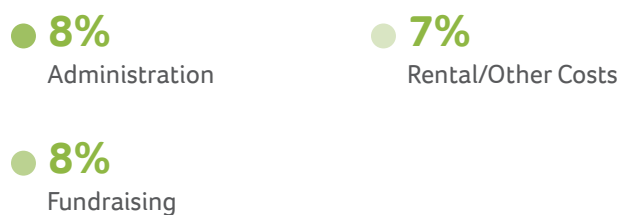
## Expenses in Dollars

Response Services	
Forensic Interviews	686,034
Coordination	659,714
Medical	758,169
Advocacy	953,238
Mental Health	584,257
Connections	2,712,134
Training Services	658,354
Community Services	181,818
Supporting Services	
Administration	714,000
Fundraising	720,691
Rental/Other Costs	635,166
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$9,263,575</b>

**EXPENSES OVER REVENUES (210,323)**



## 2018 Expenses



# 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

**In 2018, Project Harmony Child Advocacy Center continued to live the mission and core values of serving the most vulnerable in our community.**

This was accomplished by strengthening and expanding programs to offer improved services to the children and families we serve, educating more community members and professionals on recognizing and reporting child abuse, and establishing stronger partnerships, allowing us to coordinate and communicate most effectively – tackling child abuse as a team.

The life-changing work of Project Harmony would not be possible without the continued involvement of so many in our community. Whether you make a monetary donation, provide items from the wish list, attend an event, join the Service League, or take the pledge to Be Someone,

your support is critical in our mission to end child abuse and neglect in our community. On behalf of the Project Harmony Board of Directors, thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many children and their families.

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



Sincerely,

**Diny Landen**  
Vantage Communications



## Board of Directors

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Diny Landen  
*Vantage Communications*

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Buffett Early Childhood  
Institute*

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Mike Mackintosh  
*American Title, Inc.  
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Janie Fitzgibbons  
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Matt Wilber  
*Pottawattamie  
County Attorney*

Ben Knowles  
*Knowles Law Firm  
Project Harmony  
Service League  
ex. Officio President*

“ We all hope that kids will never experience child abuse or neglect, but are fortunate to have all of the dedicated employees at Project Harmony to make a horrible experience better when abuse does happen. ”  
– Mike Mackintosh  
*American Title, Inc.*

## Project Harmony Service League Board of Directors

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Ben Knowles

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Tyler Block

### SECRETARY

Susan McMannama

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Helmut Brugman

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Cathy Williams

# You are part of the solution.

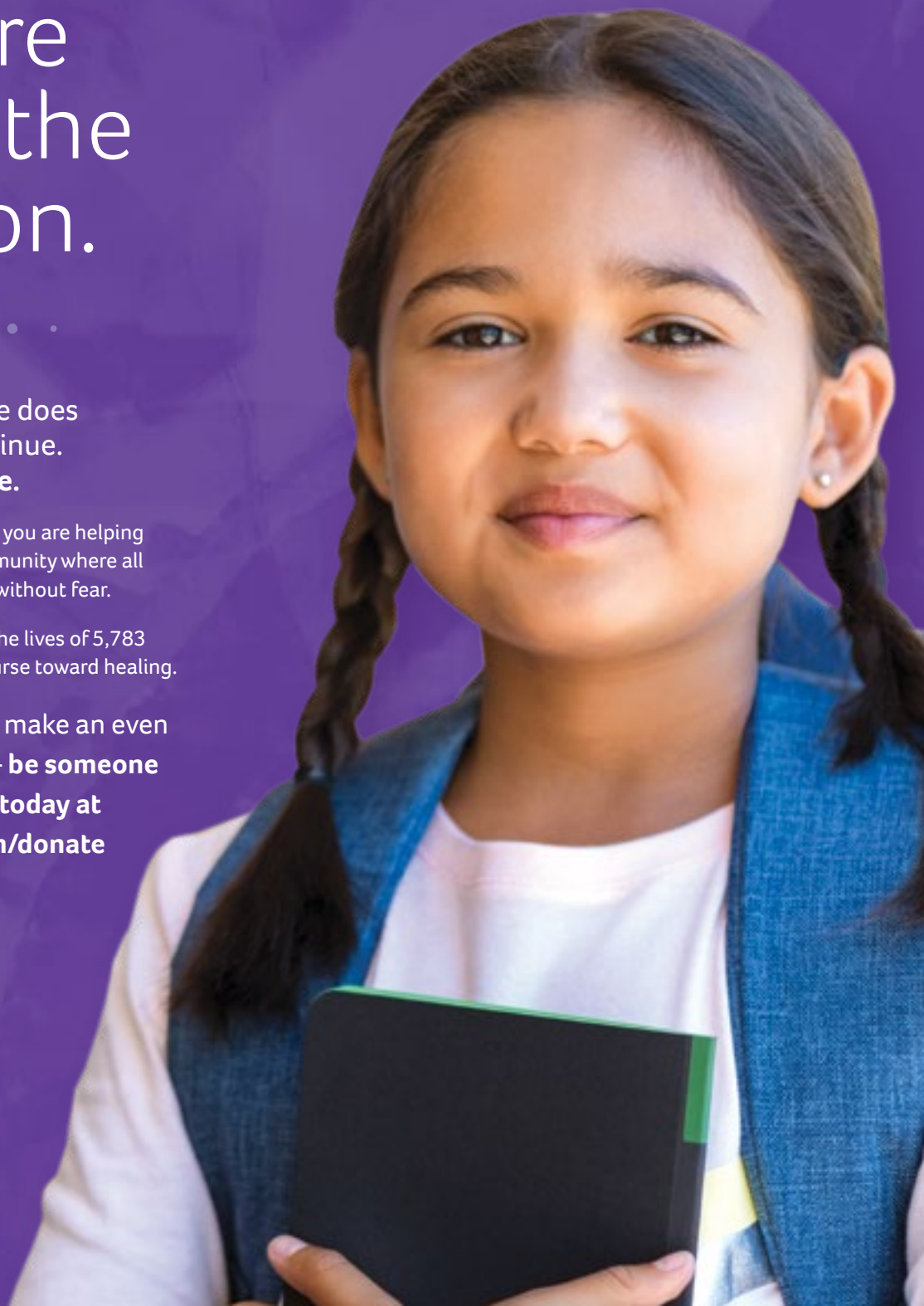


The cycle of abuse does  
not have to continue.  
**There is hope.**

By supporting Project Harmony, you are helping  
provide a safe place in our community where all  
children can use their voice without fear.

In 2018, your support touched the lives of 5,783  
children, setting them on a new course toward healing.

Please consider helping us make an even  
greater impact in 2019 — **be someone**  
**through a donation today at**  
**[projectharmony.com/donate](https://projectharmony.com/donate)**





.....

Anyone has the power to  
be someone who makes our  
community a safe place  
for all children.

.....







Child Advocacy Center

11949 Q St. Omaha, NE 68137

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

402.595.1326  
info@projectharmony.com  
projectharmony.com



.....  
*If you suspect a child has been abused or neglected, call:*

**NEBRASKA:** 1.800.652.1999 or local law enforcement

**IOWA:** 1.800.362.2178 or local law enforcement  
.....