













Together, we can end child abuse.

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Letter from Our Executive Director

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A Great Team at Work

Maddie's Story as told by her team:



Investigator Rachel Spurgeon

Forensic Interviewer lessie Serafica

Therapist Nicki Thamm

Prosecutor Phil Kleine



Woody's Story

Certified Therapy Animal Project Harmony's Heroic **Facility Dog**





Project Harmony Connections

Coordinator Jessica Trinidad

Social Worker Leah Sawyer Baker **Therapist** John Bergin

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Empowering the Community

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2019 Financials

Leadership

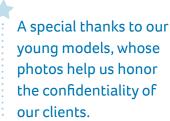
You are Part of the Solution













From Our Executive Director

Gene Klein

DEAR FRIENDS.

Thank you for making 2019 yet another remarkable year for Project Harmony.

I would like to take this opportunity to share how grateful we are to you for the impact you have created at Project Harmony and the lives you have influenced. Your support and generosity is indicative of the growth and expansion Project Harmony has had over the past 23 years as well as the possibilities of what can be as we look ahead to the next 20+ years. For the 5,981 children served in 2019, who are unable to directly say, "thank you" — please accept this letter as their thanks to you!

One of the exciting aspects about Project Harmony's year was our expanded efforts in data and research using data to identify agency opportunities to influence long-term program impacts. To stay in tune with technological advancements, we hired an IT Director 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.

This year we were also able to witness an idea that had been incubated at Project Harmony for a number of years come to life with the leadership of Seattle-based Giving Tech Labs. VidaNyx™ is now a new technology program developed by Giving Tech Labs, which allows for the safe and secure sharing of forensic interviews with critical team members while ensuring the child's privacy is maintained. VidaNyx™ is an independent software company headquartered in Omaha, providing the most advanced technology of its kind to support child advocacy centers and the children served, not just at Project Harmony, but at many centers across the nation.

Last year, Project Harmony also expanded service to missing youth children who are at risk of sex trafficking and children with sexual behavior problems. Our goal is to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system, decrease runaway behavior, improve school attendance and improve child and family functioning — ensuring the health, safety and well-being of all children.

As we look ahead to 2020, we will need to continue to adapt to the changing needs of our children and families. We will focus on reaching children in the most preventative manner possible while remaining a solid source of refuge for those who have been abused or neglected. With your continued involvement and investment, these children now have access to the support and resources they need to move on to a new path of healing.

Child abuse remains a community-wide issue, requiring each of us to help protect and advocate on behalf of all children. Throughout these next pages, we are going to highlight our collaborative approach to helping children and families heal — made possible by your continued interest, encouragement and support. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Executive Director





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5,981 Total Children Served

This includes preventative and response services.

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 community responds to child abuse.

Number of Employees

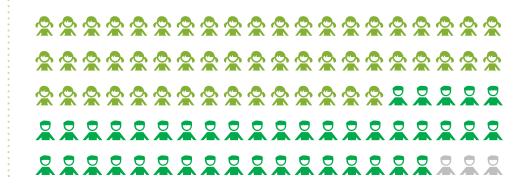


Ethnicity of Child

- 48% Caucasian
 - 21% African American
 - 18% Hispanic
 - 5% Multi-Racial
 - 4% Bi-Racial
 - 2% Asian
 - 1% Native American
 - 1% Other

Gender of Child

55% Female 2 42% Male 2 3% Not Reported



Ages of Children Served

Jan. 2019 — Dec. 2019













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.

We have asked an investigator, forensic interviewer, therapist and prosecutor to share one case example with you, to help you understand a child's experience at Project Harmony, and the collaborative way the team works together to investigate child abuse, support and treat children, and prosecute child abuse offenders.



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Investigator
Rachel Spurgeon
Sarpy County
Investigator

I have been employed with the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office for 20 years. For the past 10 years, I have worked as an investigator, spending the past four years assigned to crimes against children.

Sexual abuse cases against young victims are some of the most challenging cases investigators experience. Young victims are often scared and do not feel comfortable discussing what trauma may be taking place in their lives, particularly when their abuser is a family member or parent.

Often times these cases consume a significant amount of time having to be drawn out piece by piece as the child may not feel open to disclosing the sexual abuse. As an investigator, sometimes we do not possess experience or specialized training in talking to young children about the

severe abuse they are experiencing. We are grateful to partner with Project Harmony to assist us with physical and sexual abuse cases involving children. The forensic interviewers at Project Harmony are highly trained and experienced in child abuse matters, and we rely on the Project Harmony team to delicately obtain the difficult truths we need for a thorough investigation. This teamwork supports a child-friendly and trusting environment for the young victim, resulting in needed facts for a successful prosecution of the abuser.

A case that highlights one of the many successful collaborations with Project Harmony involved an early elementary aged female (Maddie) who was being sexually abused by her biological father. Maddie made the initial disclosure to her mother. I arranged for her to be interviewed by a forensic interviewer at Project Harmony. The girl made some disclosures to the interviewer and was clearly uncomfortable talking about the details of her abuse. I was able to collaborate with the Project Harmony team and formulate a plan for her to start therapy at Project Harmony in hopes that she would eventually develop the confidence to disclose the abuse she suffered, at which time an additional interview could be conducted.

As a result, she attended ongoing therapy at Project Harmony, progressing to the point that she could be interviewed again by a forensic interviewer. This resulted in additional details and facts being obtained. During her second interview, it was very clear to me that Project Harmony staff, the therapist and the forensic interviewer working together had gained her trust, allowing her to disclose what her father was doing to her. Her father was ultimately charged and pled quilty to sexually abusing her.

This is one of the many cases that I have worked that had a successful outcome because of the valuable resources that are available to law enforcement officers by partnering with Project Harmony.









Interviewer

Jessica Serafica

Project Harmony

Forensic Interviewer

Maddie was 5 years old when she came to Project Harmony for a forensic interview for sexual abuse allegations made against her dad. Maddie's mother saw her reach for her stepdad's private part and redirected Maddie, who then said her dad lets her do it all the time. Her mother reported this information and law enforcement requested the forensic interview.

At Project Harmony, Maddie disclosed that her dad shows his private part to her and that she was scared to talk about what happened. Because she expressed fear, the team suspected more happened, but Maddie wasn't ready to talk about it. The team referred Maddie to a Project Harmony therapist, Nicki Thamm, and Maddie began to open up about what happened to her. As Maddie progressed in therapy, Nicki was able to help prepare for a second forensic interview.

Three months later, Maddie had her second interview. Maddie was able to pick out the room she wanted to talk in during her second interview — empowering her and making her feel in control of the situation. In addition, Nicki made two construction paper hearts connected by a string to help Maddie feel safe during the interview. Maddie held on to one heart and Nicki held on to the other heart so they could be together during the interview without being in the same room. Throughout the interview, Maddie would tug on the string and Nicki would tug back — letting Maddie know she was right there. Maddie disclosed sexual abuse by her dad that started when she was three years old and included multiple forms of penetration. Maddie said in her interview, "I thought he was going to do this forever."



This is a 9% increase over the 2,090 sessions provided in 2018.



Therapist
Nicki Thamm
Project Harmony Director
of Mental Health

I have been with Project Harmony for five years and working with children and families impacted by trauma for 25 years.

Children who disclose abuse often exhibit trauma symptoms such as nervousness, fear, anger, confusion, avoidance, hypervigilance, guilt/blame, and nightmares. These, and other trauma triggers, are why they are referred for therapy.

Our treatment plan for Maddie focused on body safety and appropriate boundaries along with coping skills for feelings of sadness, worry and confusion.

I utilized a book, "The Invisible String," to address her grief and sadness about not seeing her dad. The overall message of the story is even if someone you care about is not around, your hearts are always connected by an invisible string. She wanted to read it almost every session.

Eventually, we used the book to help her feel safe during her second forensic interview. She wanted me in the room with her during the interview; I explained that although I could not be in the room, I would be right outside the door. We decided to create a string with two hearts, and we tested it out in the room so it would be long enough to reach outside the door. Once we did this, Maddie turned to me and said she was ready to talk to Jessie. After her second interview, Maddie shared she felt brave and happy.

As her therapy continued, I utilized Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), an evidence-based therapy model that allowed Maddie to address her experiences and symptoms. Through TF-CBT she wrote a trauma narrative, which helped make sense of what had happened and helped

her to understand the abuse was not her fault. Maddie was able to share her narrative with her mother, and her mother was able to support and validate her experience.





2,828

Mental Health Sessions ProvidedThis is a 21% increase over the 2,229 sessions



provided in 2018.

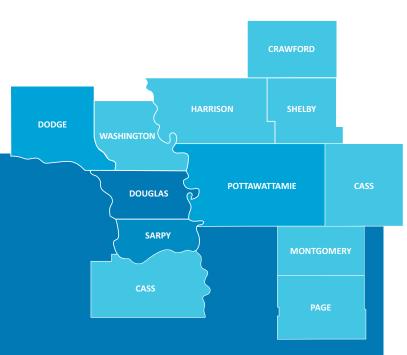
Prosecutor

Phil KleineSarpy County
Attorney

I have been with the Sarpy County Attorney's office for 10 years. Some of the challenges of prosecuting sexual assault crimes with young victims is the lack of evidence as well as the statement from the victim — asking the right questions, using appropriate language, memory until trial, tampering, etc. The benefit of working with a child advocacy center, such as Project Harmony, is a streamlined process.

In the end, Maddie's father received a 3-year sentence and 18 months of post supervised release, along with being listed on the Sex Offender Registry for 25 years.





Children's Response Services:



13,628 **ADVOCACY SESSIONS PROVIDED**



2,828 MÉNTAL HEALTH **SESSIONS PROVIDED**



2,301 FORENSIC INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED



1,518 MEDICAL EXAMS CONDUCTED



798 MISSING YOUTH SERVICES **NUMBER OF INTAKES**



559 MISSING YOUTH SERVICES **CLIENTS SERVED**



448 **MULTIDISCIPLINARY MEETINGS**

People Served by County*

65 %	Douglas	1%	Harrison
14%	Sarpy	1%	Washington
5%	Dodge	1%	Crawford
4%	Pottawattamie	1%	Montgomery
4%	Other	1%	Saunders
2%	Cass (NE)	.5%	Page
1%	Cass (IA)	.3%	Shelby

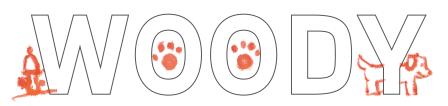
Number of Intakes by Type of Abuse

1,753	Sexual —
762	Neglect —
534	Physical —
312	Child on Child
189	Other —
171	Witness to Violence —
74	Runaway —

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

31%	Parent —
27%	Other Known Relative —
22%	Other Relative
8%	Parent's Boy/Girlfriend —
5%	Stepparent —
4%	No Known Offender —
2%	Stranger -
1%	Unknown —

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



Project Harmony's **Facility Dog**

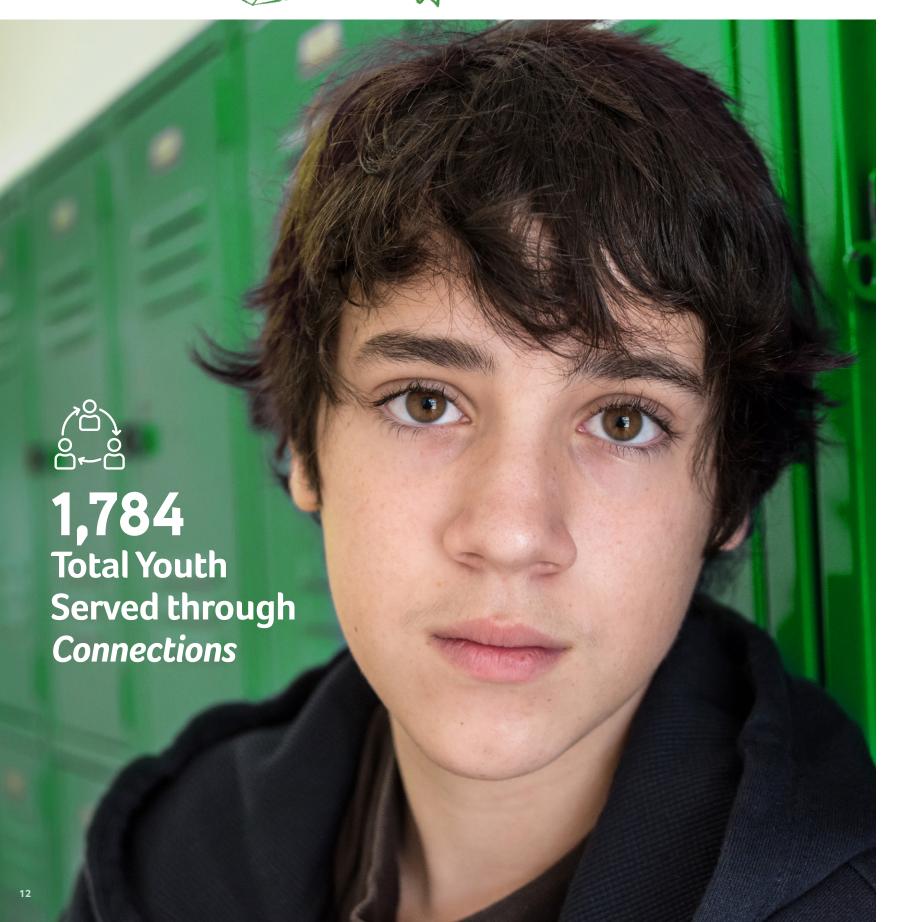
Have you heard of the book "Good Dogs, Great Listeners?"

Meet Woody, Project Harmony's resident facility dog. He is proof that good dogs do make great listeners. Woody works throughout the agency including forensic interviews, family advocacy, and mental health. Woody is a 3-year-old English Golden Retriever who came from Patriot Paws Service Dogs in Rockwall, Texas in September 2019.

Woody helps children feel safe and comfortable as they describe the abuse they have experienced or crime they have witnessed. He has assisted with over 60 forensic interviews and therapy sessions. He calms their fears and brings smiles to faces that may not have smiled in a long time. One of Woody's most valued qualities is the unconditional love and attention that he gives to the children with whom he interacts.

And, children love leaving notes for Woody too!







Connections is a school-based mental health program dedicated to ending child abuse and neglect by preventing it before it starts. Just as Project Harmony serves as a one-stop shop for child abuse and neglect, Connections serves as a one-stop shop for children's mental health needs. Here you will read about the collaboration between a school social worker, a Connections Mental Health Coordinator, and a community therapist serving an elementary school-aged boy named Henry.*



1,896

Connections Referrals

This is a 9% increase over the 1.743 referrals in 2018.

123 Schools

made referrals from across four school districts (Omaha Public Schools, Millard, Bellevue and Papillion-La Vista)



Social Worker

Leah Sawyer Baker School Social Worker at Bancroft Elementary

Hello, my name is Leah Baker and I am the school social worker at Bancroft Elementary. I am currently in my second school year at Bancroft and love my job very much.

Connections at Project Harmony has been very helpful in my work at Bancroft and has allowed our students to have access to high quality therapists in our community. Many of the families I work with do not have reliable transportation nor do they have work schedules that allow them to take their children to weekly therapy appointments. Connections is able to place therapists in schools to see students and it greatly reduces many of the barriers faced by our families. Connections can also help families get to therapy appointments in the community by helping families figure out transportation options and identifying therapists close to the family's home. Since Connections has all of these "connections," it saves time in trying to find resources for families.

Last year we had a student (Henry) who was really struggling with attendance and his overall attitude about school. Often he would not come into the building or once he was inside the building he would hide in the lockers, bathrooms, hallways, or even try to leave the building to go outside.

Henry had a chaotic and inconsistent home life and few positive adult role models he could talk to or learn from.

We immediately referred Henry to Connections.













Coordinator

Jessica Trinidad Project Harmony Mental Health Coordinator

My name is Jessica Trinidad and I am a Mental Health Coordinator with Connections. I have been with Connections for almost two years. My role is to accept referrals from schools and then reach out to families to identify their child's mental health needs or concerns.

I inform parents of ways Connections can help reduce barriers, such as offering in school therapy, gas cards, transportation, or financial assistance so that children can get to therapy. In the situation of Henry, the child's mother reported, "80% of the stress in her household came from Henry refusing to go to school." His mother wanted Henry to have better coping skills when it came to managing his stress and anxiety related to going to school. She also wanted him to find a hobby and not constantly worry about school. She reported she would know treatment was working when Henry had better mornings. I matched Henry with John Bergin as he works with children ages 6 to 12 years with anxiety and depression, accepts Medicaid, and enjoys working in schools.

Throughout Henry's case, we continued to support his family by ensuring his mother that Connections could reduce barriers, working to improve Henry's school attendance, and assuring both the family and school that Henry was making progress in therapy.



Therapist

John Bergin Connections Provider and Community Therapist

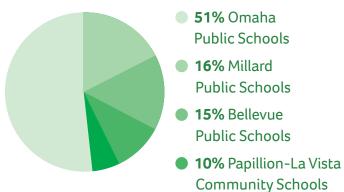
I am a Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner (LIMHP) and a Licensed Clinical Master Social Worker (LCSW). I first started working for Connections about five years ago, shortly after the Connections program started.

My therapy approach is to focus on children's strengths. When I sat down and talked with Henry, I quickly discovered he was very good at origami. I would give him pieces of paper and he would turn them into beautiful creatures. We used his talents to create a large mobile, and working with the school, we were able to hang it in the school library. By focusing on his strengths, he felt more a part of the school and his attendance greatly improved. This is a win/win situation: Henry increased his academic achievement and his mental health improved.

I enjoy working with the Connections program because I love the idea of doing preventive therapy. It really excites me to know that we are preventing a child from going to the hospital, entering the child welfare system, or the juvenile justice system. I feel like the Connections program helps children feel important and safe on a daily basis and I feel special to be a part of this program. I also appreciate all the training that Project Harmony provides to help keep me successful at my job.



Percentage of Connections Referrals by School District



7% Other

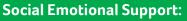
Impact Evaluation ►

Category One Consulting partnered with Connections at Project Harmony to conduct an impact evaluation designed to assess program outcomes.

Through the evaluation, parents' ratings indicated they feel better about their overall family functioning and they feel more equipped to handle challenges. Schools also saw significant improvements in test scores and an improvement in students' behavior and school performance.

Family Life — Scores improved significantly on two domains.

Source: Category One Consulting, Impact Evaluation Time 4 Results, November 2019.





Office Referrals — A significant drop in office referrals was recorded.



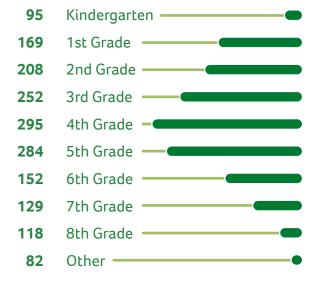
Test Scores — NWEA Math and Englist test scores improved significantly.





Increase in **Reading Scores**

Referrals by Grade





EMERING THE COMMUNICATION



The cycle of abuse does not have to continue.

There is hope. Slowly but surely, we're flipping the script — and throughout 2019, we had many highlights and reasons to celebrate.

Speaking of Children

Many thanks to all who attended the 12th Annual Speaking of Children Luncheon & Conference, which raised \$97,000.

We had a terrific turn out and a great response to the education received. Each of you contribute to the safety and wellbeing 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 2019 sponsors along with Honorary Chairs, Barbara and Wally Weitz, Event Chairs, Deanna Foley and Janie Hoch, along with all our committee members and in-kind donors. Without your support, this event could not have happened.

Kids First Award Honorees:

Dana Harrah — Sarpy County Sheriff's Office

Lakeisha Phelps — Nebraska Family Support Network

Talana (Lana) Sayre — Department of Health and Human Services

\$\frac{1}{300+}\$

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.

Left:

Keynote speaker, Sasha Joseph Neulinger, shared his personal story of sexual abuse and trauma. "Trauma is irreversible. How it shapes us is our choice."

Right:

Pictured left to right: Anna and David Goeschel, Beth and Matt Breunsbach, Erin and Joe Pogge, Julie and Rob Hockney

GolfInvitational

The 24th Annual Project Harmony Golf Invitational raised \$108,000.

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.



Pictured left to right: Jim Jansen, Ken Ferrarini, Diane Sorensen, Gene Klein

Halfway to St. Patrick's Day

The 15th annual event raised more than \$114,000.

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.







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

Be Someone Wall

Ten seconds is not a lot of time, but it's enough time to be someone in the life of a child. Every second counts. 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. In 2018, we added 100 more names to the wall as compared to the names displayed for 2017, and 30 more names will be added for 2019.

By supporting Project Harmony and these events, you are helping:

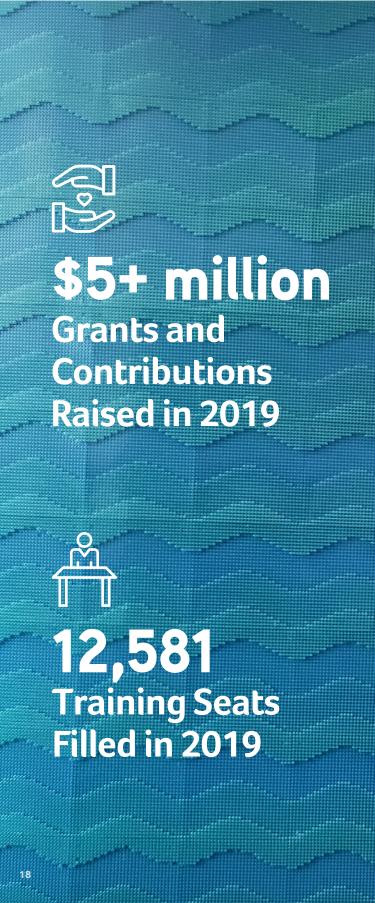
- Provide a place where children can use their voice without fear
- Ensure hope, health and resilience for children and families in our community
- Spread awareness, generate learning and ultimately protect the most vulnerable among us

You are helping children like 8-year-old Jaden°, who is no longer acting out in class, having reoccurring nightmares, or difficulty sleeping. It is because of your support, he can now go from crisis to courage.



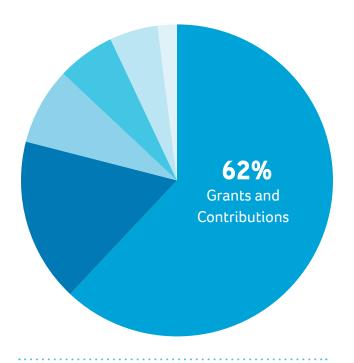
*Names have been changed for confidentiality purposes.





A Year in Review

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.



2019 Revenue By Source

• 17%
Government

5%Professional Fees

8%Special Events

2%Community
Services

• 6% Rental

Revenue in Dollars

Grants and Contributions	6,123,179
Special Events	876,419
Government Contracts	1,519,07
Rent Revenue	533,678
Medical Claim Payments	686,562
Training Revenue	114,072
Community Services	597,11
In-Kind Contributions	104,12
TOTAL INCOME	\$10,450,103

Expenses in Dollars

Response Services

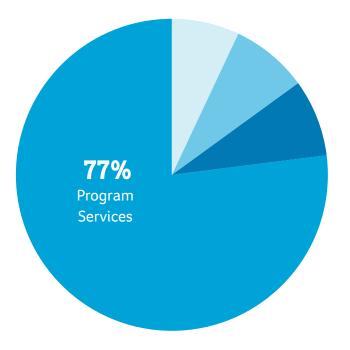
Response services	
» Forensic Interviews	796,869
» Coordination	640,744
» Medical	811,968
» Advocacy	1,058,274
Mental Health	662,213
Connections	3,097,358
Training Services	750,956
Community Services	580,945
Supporting Services	
» Administration	647,892
» Fundraising	872,882
» Rental/Other Costs	592,062
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10.512.163

TOTAL EXITENSES

(62,060)

EXPENSES OVER REVENUES





2019 Expenses

8%Administration

7%

Rental/Other Costs











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

Erin Owen

In the last ten years, the number of children served by Project Harmony has increased over 69 percent. And for every child seen at Project Harmony, there are nine more children suffering in silence. Project Harmony continues to expand critical services, and still, there is so much more to be done.

As a community, we can take great pride in knowing Project Harmony's nationally recognized, collaborative, child-focused approach works to protect and support the most vulnerable among us — restoring courage, facilitating healing, and strengthening families.

The life-changing work of Project Harmony would not be possible without the continued support from community members like you. Whether you make a monetary donation, provide items from our wish list, attend an event, join the Service League, or take the pledge to "Be Someone," your gift of time or treasure is important to continue the services children and their families so desperately need.

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.

Erin Owa

2019 Board of Directors

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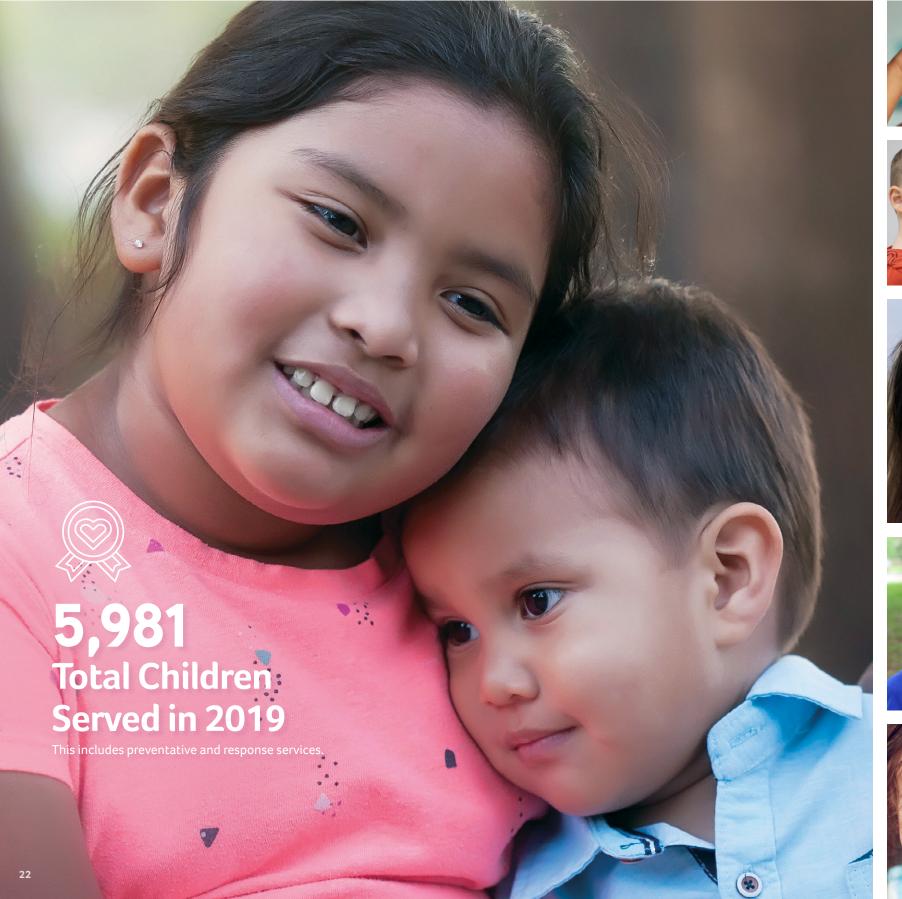
Steve Burnham Board Member

"We, as a community, cannot lose sight of the importance in preventing child abuse and neglect. The Omaha Metro Area is extremely fortunate to have a child advocacy center, such as Project Harmony. Their collaborative, child-focused approach is a model other communities not only work towards, but strive to replicate. Project Harmony is the go-to place for child abuse services — restoring courage, facilitating healing and empowering each of us to be someone in the life of a child.

I would like to personally offer my deepest respect and gratitude to the staff of Project Harmony, along with their partnering agencies, who work tirelessly to protect children and offer hope and healing to those who have experienced such trauma. I am proud to serve on the board and will continue to provide whatever support I can to assist in Project Harmony's mission of ending child abuse and neglect."



EBENSOMEONEY













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 2019, your support touched the lives of 5,981 children, setting them on a new course toward healing.





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

Please consider helping us make an even greater impact in 2020 — be someone through a donation today at:

ProjectHarmony.com/donate





Child Advocacy Center

11949 Q St. Omaha, NE 68137





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





