



Project
Harmony[®]

Child Advocacy Center

Here
through
it all.



This past year has been frightening and overwhelming, yet it also revealed the seemingly endless capacity for creativity, compassion and resilience.

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



We are here for children and families every day.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for allowing us to remain open, protecting the most vulnerable in our community.

This past year has been frightening and overwhelming, yet it also revealed the seemingly endless capacity for creativity, compassion and resilience. Our commitment to children and families did not waver throughout the pandemic and remains so now as we continue to move forward. Your support and generosity are indicative of our ability to remain open when many were closed. For the 4,541 children served in 2020, who are unable to directly say, “thank you,” please accept this letter as their thanks to you!

Last year, we learned that critical resources for children — like daycare, Head Start, after-school programs and, most importantly, school — not only play a role in the development and growth of children but are lifelines. Through innovation, these groups continued their outreach and connection to children, and as a result, became our first line of prevention and response to child trauma and abuse.

As children and families showed up at our doors, through their little masks, our team saw the trepidation and worry in their eyes. I am proud of their courage and trust in the professionals who work on this team. From law enforcement, child protective services, therapists, medical providers, forensic interviewers, advocates, family liaisons, trainers and you with your continued involvement

and investment — everyone can come together, working as one, to ensure that when each family leaves our doors, they have the resources and support they need on their path to healing.

Multiple agencies work together on one campus sharing critical information across all disciplines. This is the child advocacy model. This is Project Harmony.

We are restoring courage, facilitating healing and empowering the community to be someone in the life of a child.

Throughout these next pages, we highlight our collaborative and innovative approach to helping children and engaging families — made possible by your continued interest, encouragement and support. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene Klein". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gene Klein, LCSW
Executive Director

Here for Children

2020 AT A GLANCE

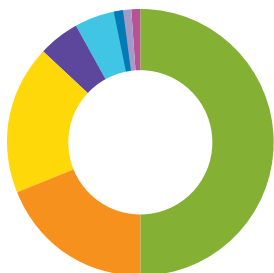
Boldly focused on building a safe and promising future for all children, Project Harmony's multidisciplinary team of law enforcement, social services, medical and referral professionals work together to protect children each and every day. From medical evaluations and forensic interviews, to professional trainings and advocacy services, Project Harmony has innovated a powerful, collaborative model for communities to come together to respond to, treat, prevent and ultimately end child abuse.



4,541

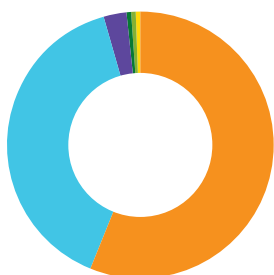
Total Children Served

This includes preventative
and response services.



Ethnicity of Children Served

50% Caucasian	5% Bi-Racial
19% African American	1% Native American
18% Hispanic	1% Asian
5% Multi-Racial	1% Other



Gender of Children Served

57% Female	<1% Non-binary
40% Male	<1% Non-identifying
3% Not Reported	<1% Transgender

Number of Employees

106

Full-Time

18

Part-Time


As of December 2020

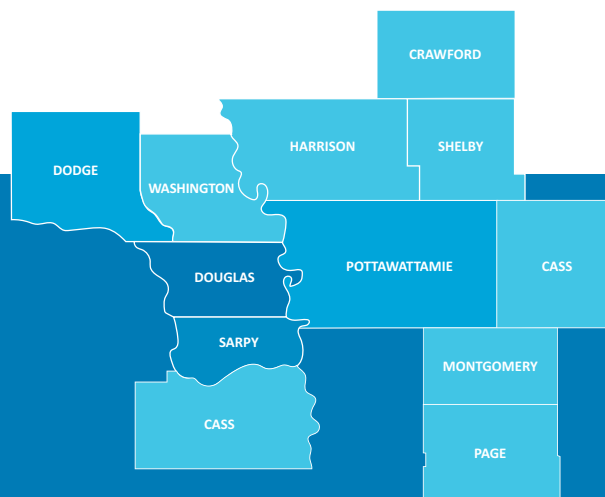
Age of Children Served

21%
0-6 Years

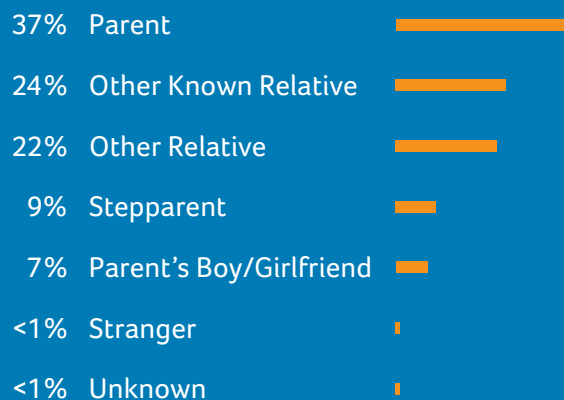
40%
7-12 Years

37%
13+ Years

Age not recorded: 2%



Child's Relationship to Alleged Perpetrator*



Intakes by Type of Abuse



People Served by County*

61.8%	Douglas	0.9%	Saunders
14.6%	Sarpy	0.8%	Crawford
6.5%	Pottawattamie	0.7%	Harrison
4.8%	Dodge	0.7%	Cass (IA)
4.7%	Other	0.4%	Page
2.7%	Cass (NE)	0.3%	Shelby
1.0%	Washington	0.3%	Montgomery

Children's Response Services

5,430

Advocacy Sessions
Provided

240

Youth Received
Mental Health Services

1,660

Forensic Interviews
Conducted

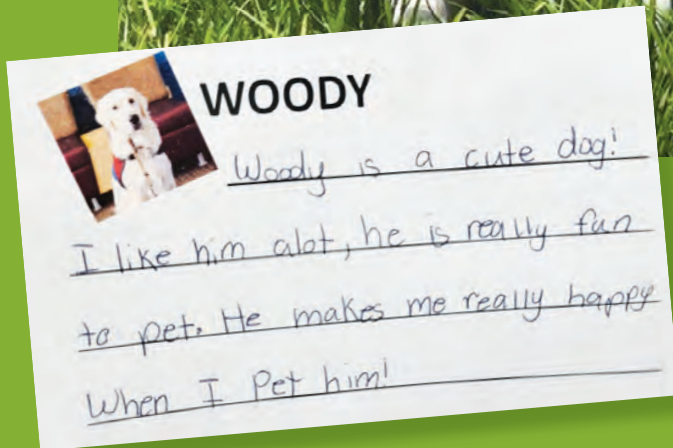
122

Missing Youth
Clients Served

1,005

Medical Exams
Conducted

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



Here to be a comforting friend

PROJECT HARMONY'S FACILITY DOG

Project Harmony's resident Facility Dog, Woody, works throughout the agency, helping with forensic interviews, family advocacy and mental health.

His therapeutic presence helps children feel safe and comfortable as they describe the abuse they have experienced or crime they have witnessed. Woody also helps children feel like they have a sense of control when they're able to feed him or give him a few commands, like sit or wave.

We see the power of Woody's work each day. For instance, a four-year-old child was worried and reluctant to talk about their abuse in the forensic interview room. Every time anxiety swelled, and the child wanted to leave the room, they were handed a treat to feed Woody. This kept the child engaged in the interview by providing something to focus on as they detailed difficult experiences.

Woody's calming presence not only assists clients — it helps staff, too. One of our employees was having a hard day, and Woody could sense it. As his handler was walking him down the hallway, Woody pulled toward the employee's office. He sat in front of her and provided comfort.

Our clients and staff alike love Woody, and we're happy to celebrate his second year on our team.

Woody's 2020 Appointments

- 119** Forensic Interviews
- 73** Mental Health Sessions
- 55** Advocacy Sessions
- 9** Medical Exams

Here for Professionals

TRAINING

The Project Harmony Training Institute pivoted within 30 days of working remotely and began training virtually. They converted the majority of training sessions to an online platform and made training available 24/7 — not only within the Omaha metro area but across the country. The team received consistent feedback that the online trainings were engaging and interactive.

Thank you for such an engaging training experience. I really enjoyed this training and the new perspective your team brought to *Trauma Informed Care*. I wasn't looking forward to the role-playing exercises in *Dealing with Discord* (who likes role playing?) BUT it was actually very helpful in demonstrating the Motivational Interviewing skills and how to implement them in realistic situations. I'm glad this was part of the training. Thank you again! I'm looking forward to more trainings with your team!

— Training attendee from Florida

Wow! I strongly recommend this training to my peers and others. The scenarios presented have given me so much to think about as I work with families.

— Training attendee from South Dakota

Great session, very enthusiastic!!

— Virtual training attendee from Georgia

I was dreading attending another long Zoom training, but this was great, and the time flew by.

— Virtual training attendee from Virginia



10,287

Training Seats Filled

This included live classroom, Zoom
and online webinar trainings.

Here for Youth and Families

PREVENTION PROGRAMS

On a mission to protect and support children, collaborate with professionals and engage the community to end child abuse and neglect, Project Harmony makes it a priority to reach beyond its front doors to ensure children and families are receiving the supports needed for a healthy and strong family unit. While the pandemic was incredibly stressful, the Project Harmony team continued to show up. They were creative, innovative and adaptive in their service delivery to meet families' needs to make a lasting and positive impact.

Connections

With schools closing in early spring, *Connections* at Project Harmony pivoted and partnered with other youth serving organizations. There was a need to provide a creative outlet for youth in response to feelings of loneliness, isolation, anxiety and depression.

Eric, age 15, wanted to overcome substance abuse.

Mila, age 13, was a refugee student who had experienced a lot of death and instability along with other family trauma. She was looking for an outlet to overcome her past challenges and integrate into a new society and culture.

As a result, two Expressive Arts groups were formed — providing the opportunity to connect with other youth, make friends and build confidence, as well as learn positive coping mechanisms.

“Our students and families asked for additional access to mental health resources,” said Abby Jackson, a leader of Beveridge Magnet’s after-school programs. “The partnership with Project Harmony allowed us to offer a critical service in a seamless manner during such unusual times.”

Both groups met virtually, and *Connections* arranged for all the needed art supplies and tablets to be delivered to the homes of participating students before the group began.

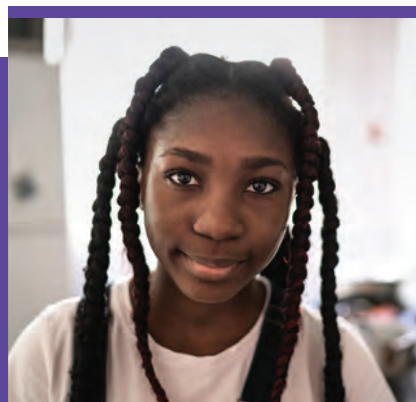
Artwork created by students in the two Expressive Arts groups





This is a great opportunity for me to materialize my emotions. I enjoy creating art from what I'm feeling. I highly enjoy art therapy.

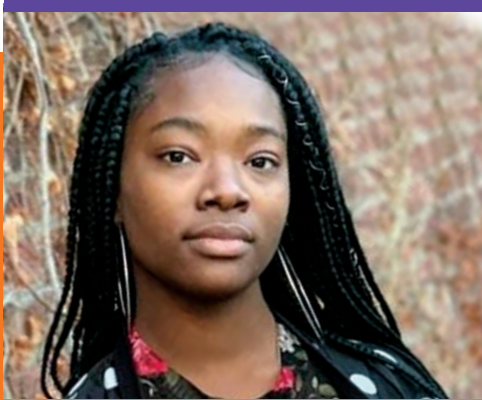
— Eric



I loved this experience. It was a great way to share my thoughts without having to say anything at all. I can better express my feelings through art more than I can through words.

— Mila





They had always been involved in their children's education, but they discovered something new in Parent University — a sense of belonging and friendship in a close community.

Parent University

In July 2020, the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties shifted management of its Parent University program to Project Harmony. Rooted in research from the Aspen Institute, Parent University is a comprehensive, two-generational family engagement program. It focuses on the whole family by simultaneously addressing the needs of children and adults.

One of our Parent University families celebrated an astounding example of student achievement. Shauntae Starks, Terrell Foster and their blended family of seven are proud to share that their daughter, Shyenne, was accepted to Brown University with a four-year full scholarship.

Shauntae and Terrell's family joined Parent University in 2015. In fact, they were among the original members when the Learning Community Center first opened.

While they attended parent classes, Shyenne's younger siblings jumped into early childhood activities. For every Parent University family, early learning is a focus area to build school readiness skills. By then, Shyenne was in middle school, so she occupied her time at the Center with homework. Shauntae says the experience was good for the entire family.

Their younger children are also on a high-achieving path. They love learning and school, too! Like most parents, Shauntae and Terrell have faced their share of challenges, but they never felt alone. That's why Shauntae encourages families in northeast Omaha to join Parent University and make the most of early learning and new opportunities.



At top: **Shyenne**; Above left: **Terrell**;
Above right: **Shauntae, Terrell and family**



Parent University: An Innovative Approach to Engaging Families

104

Families engaged
in programming

114

Participating
parents

493

Participating
children

Programs Provided:

- **Leadership courses**
Parenting for School Success, Forgiving What You Can't Forget, Next Chapter
- **School success courses**
Literacy, Vocabulary, Reading — Story Time
- **Parenting courses**
Circle of Security
- **Life skills and wellness courses**
ESL/GED, Financial Literacy, Getting Ahead

Age of Participating Children



Here for Olivia*

WHERE THE PIECES
COME TOGETHER



Above: **Kassandra Nolasco** and **Breanna Delp**, Missing Youth Services intake coordinators

This isn't just one story. And it isn't just one journey. It's where the pieces come together.

Omaha Police data indicates there are over 3,000 reports of missing juveniles under the age of 18, with 402 of the reports involving youth age 13 years and under at any given time. These children are most susceptible to sexual exploitation, sex trafficking and other victimization due to their young age and vulnerabilities.

Project Harmony's Missing Youth Services program assists in the identification, assessment, treatment and coordination of services to our community's non-system involved missing youth.

Olivia, age 15, had been seeing Katie Gallegos, a mental health therapist at Project Harmony, because of a long and complex trauma history with her mother, including domestic violence and drugs. Olivia was sexually abused in early childhood by a family friend, and her mother was battling physical and mental illness.

Before schools shut down due to COVID-19, Olivia befriended a group of girls who let her stay with them from time to time, eventually luring her into some uncomfortable situations that caused Olivia to not return home.

Olivia's mom reported her missing.

Omaha Police were able to locate her at school and brought her to Project Harmony.

Kassandra Nolasco and Breanna Delp, intake coordinators on the Missing Youth Services team, worked closely with Olivia's mother. Together, they created an informal plan that would allow Olivia to stay with another relative while both Olivia and her mother worked with Katie to resolve their conflict so Olivia could return home.

**Name has been changed for confidentiality purposes.*

Olivia regularly met with Katie, but five months later, she decided to run again.

Detectives working on an indictment of a sex trafficking ring discovered Olivia was one of the young girls involved. Establishing trust with Olivia was critical in getting her the help she needed.

Olivia was brought back to Project Harmony. Through a forensic interview, Olivia disclosed she had met an older man. She was fearful to go home because she thought she was pregnant. Olivia was offered a medical exam that confirmed it.

Olivia's case was reviewed by a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) consisting of DHHS, law enforcement, Juvenile County Attorney, area schools and other professionals with expertise working with youth, human trafficking, trauma, etc. to ensure information sharing, comprehensive treatment planning and identification of any service/resource needs or gaps.

Through team collaboration and the use of electronic tablets, Katie resumed working with Olivia to ensure her safety.

Telehealth wasn't something Project Harmony offered, let alone considered, prior to the pandemic. This is an example of a missing youth who may have been lured back by her friends if she did not have the opportunity to stay in contact with her therapist while the community was shut down. The relationship formed between Olivia and Katie was imperative to the healing process.



Katie Gallegos,
Project
Harmony
mental
health
therapist



Through a Peter Kiewit Foundation grant, Project Harmony was able to purchase 27 electronic tablets for families needing access to mental health therapy or advocacy support.

Here for the Community

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

What most thought was only going to last for a few weeks turned into many months. COVID-19 negatively impacted our events and other fundraising activities, specifically Speaking of Children and Hops for Harmony. The Project Harmony development team focused fundraising efforts on our Golf Invitational and Halfway to St. Patrick's Day event, engaging attendees in new and creative ways.

Golf Invitational

The 25th Annual Project Harmony Golf Invitational raised over \$80,000. Held at Indian Creek Golf Course, 120 golfers and over 35 volunteers helped make the Invitational a tradition of great golf for a great cause.



Above left: Golf Invitational Event Chairs, left to right: **Jim Jansen**, **Kevin Thompson**, Project Harmony Executive Director **Gene Klein** and **Ken Ferrarini**.
Above right: The Project Be Someone wall at Project Harmony.



Left to right: Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Event Emcee **Jeff Degan** with Channel 94.1, Event Chairs **Gustavo & Christie Oberto**, **Tiffany & Kevin Regan**, Comedian **Johnny Beehner**, and Project Harmony Executive Director **Gene Klein**

(Not pictured: Event Chairs Sarah & Brian Harr and Angie & Chris Welsh)

Halfway to St. Patrick's Day

The 16th annual event raised nearly \$140,000.

Many thanks to all who attended the annual Halfway to St. Patrick's Day event — hosted virtually by the Project Harmony Service League. Guests tuned in to enjoy an evening of laughter from comedian Johnny Beehner.

Be Someone Wall

2,600+ people across the country have taken the pledge to Be Someone.

Ten seconds is not a lot of time, but it is 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 annually on National Be Someone Day, recognized on July 21. In 2019, we added 30 names to the wall for a total of 520, and an additional 51 names were added in 2020 for a total of 571 supporters.

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

- 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

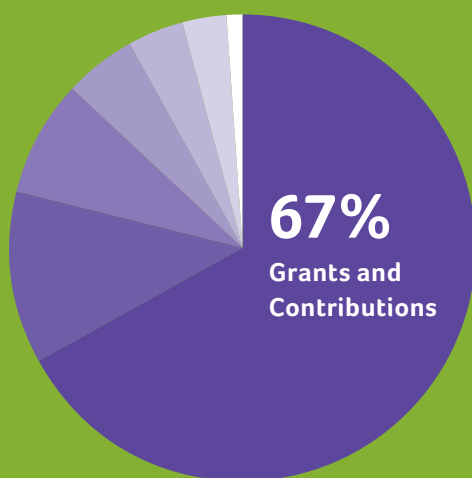
You are helping children like Olivia, who has been put on a path towards healing. Because of your support, she can now go from crisis to courage.

A Year in Review

2020 FINANCIALS

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

2020 Revenue by Source



■ **12%**
Government

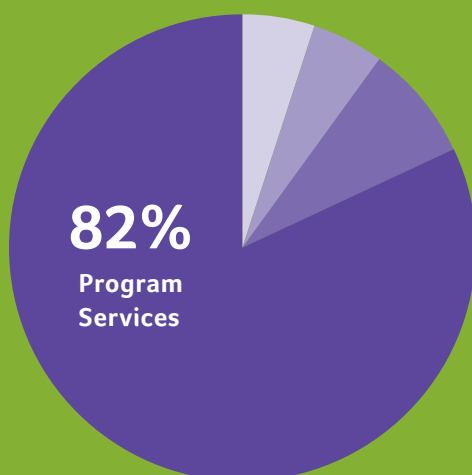
■ **4%**
Medical
Claims

■ **8%**
Community
Services

■ **3%**
Special
Events

■ **5%**
Rent Revenue

■ **1%**
Training
Fees



■ **8%**
Administration

■ **5%**
Rent Revenue/
Other Costs

■ **5%**
Fundraising

Revenue in Dollars

Grants and Contributions	8,439,605
Government Contracts	1,519,548
Special Events	370,213
Rent Revenue	676,850
Medical Claims	502,065
Training Fees	91,618
Community Services	1,040,418
TOTAL INCOME	\$12,641,317

Expenses in Dollars

Response Services

Forensic Interviews	835,829
Coordination	747,432
Medical	896,774
Advocacy	1,118,373
Mental Health	693,285

Prevention & Early Intervention Services

Connections	2,919,292
Training Services	885,525
Parent University	236,443
Community Services	1,845,988

Supporting Services

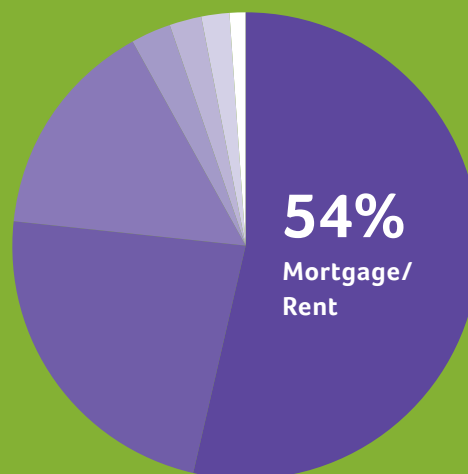
Administration	1,012,186
Fundraising	642,815
Rental	559,214

TOTAL EXPENSES \$12,393,156

REVENUES OVER EXPENSES \$248,161

Designated for Sustaining Fund

CARES Funding



Through the Coronavirus Relief Fund, the CARES Act provided payments to state, local and tribal governments navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Project Harmony, in partnership with Douglas County Community Response and Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative, received 600+ applications for assistance with rent/mortgages, utilities and food. With CARES funds, Project Harmony was able to assist over 1,000 people in the community.

■ **23%**
Food Access

■ **2%**
Urgent Housing

■ **15%**
Utilities

■ **2%**
Transportation

■ **3%**
Medical

■ **1%**
Phone/
Internet

Message from Our Board Chairman

ERIN OWEN



When a child is mistreated or abused in any way, there needs to be a caring and safe place for healing to begin. Project Harmony is that special place. After serving as chairman of the Board of Directors, I have witnessed first-hand what makes this organization a community treasure and a national model for service to children and families.

This past year, as we all learned how to navigate the challenges of the pandemic, Project Harmony not only maintained in-person services, but they also elevated and expanded assistance to people in need. Certainly, that is the mark of a truly high-functioning organization. The innovation and collaboration of Project Harmony is remarkable, which is important because the need for response and early intervention services is greater than ever.

Together, we can end child abuse. But to do this, we all have to have a stake in it. Thank you for being a part of the solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Owen". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Erin Owen

2020 Board of Directors

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University of Nebraska*

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Pottawattamie County Attorney

Helmut Brugman
*Koley Jessen
ex. Officio President*

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Dean Hollis Board Member

"I am always beyond amazed by the level of commitment, dedication and innovation from the people and agencies working with Project Harmony — particularly this last year. While everyone was dealing with our own personal stresses and uncertainties, the Project Harmony team showed up day in and day out, focusing on the tragic needs of the abused and neglected in our community.

To those of you constantly working on the front lines to protect the children in our

community, thank you! It is emotionally grueling and can be a thankless job at times, but please know your efforts are so important and so appreciated, and you are making a difference.

Child abuse is a community-wide issue, requiring a community-wide solution. With your help and unwavering support, Project Harmony can continue to be a leader among Child Advocacy Centers nationwide."



4,541

Total Children Served
in 2020

This includes preventative
and response services.

Here to Be Someone

YOU ARE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Every child deserves to grow up safe, happy and healthy.

We couldn't make this a reality without the support of leaders like you paving the way to help protect and advocate for our children.

In 2020, your support touched the lives of 4,541 children, setting them on a new course toward healing.

- ▶ **Please consider helping us make an even greater impact in 2021 — be someone through a donation today at ProjectHarmony.com/donate**
- ▶ **Meet your personal financial goals while making a difference for our future. Learn more at ProjectHarmonyLegacy.com**
- ▶ **Join our growing community of advocates by pledging to be someone at ProjectBeSomeone.org**





Child Advocacy Center

11949 Q St. Omaha, NE 68137



**We are here for
children and
families every day.**

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