

Autism Center of Nebraska, Inc. (ACN)

ACN began working with an 8 year old girl who had no expressive language and high levels of aggressive behavior. After only six weeks of three evening a week sessions, this young girl was able to use picture cards to tell staff when she needed to use the restroom, when she was hungry and thirsty, and when she wanted to play a game.

Once she was able to make her wants and needs known, the aggressive behavior diminished significantly. After another three weeks, the child used her voice and verbally made a request for the first time. Expressive and receptive language development is making it possible for her to continue to live happily and safely with her family, as the aggression continues to be reduced.

Hear Nebraska

When you mention Nebraska to people outside the state, what do they say? Does the response support the narrative that Nebraska is flat, boring, corny, old, backwards, nowhere?

The Nebraska we see is full of life, energy, creativity and passion. It's full of hardworking people who want to close their eyes sometimes and connect with something greater than themselves. But what really gets us excited is the creative energy in this state. It's the ability to surround oneself with brewers and chefs, developers and designers, songwriters and poets, farmers and carpenters who are all driven to create something original, something uniquely them. Here, people have to do it themselves. DIY is in this state's DNA.

That's what makes Hear Nebraska so crucial. Our people tell vivid stories about these people and disseminate them to the world. While 60% of our site's audience comes from Nebraska, 40% comes from outside the state. And 7% comes from outside the country.

We produce events that bring together people across disciplines, races, ages and sexes to experience something new and always something surprising. And we have our finger on the pulse of the young people deciding whether they should make a life somewhere else, or stay and make that life here.

Make-A-Wish Nebraska

Children are energized and encouraged by their wish. They can imagine, describe, plan, anticipate, and eventually rejoice in its fruition. Make-A-Wish encourages a child to envision a positive future and remain an active partner in treatment. One parent wrote these inspiring words about her daughter's wish:

“As a mom of a Wish Kid, I cannot tell you how much Make-A-Wish means to families. My daughter was diagnosed with cancer when she was 2 ó. After 10 months of surgeries, radiation, and chemo, she was able to go on her Make-A-Wish trip to Disney World. For that week, she was a happy, carefree 3-year-old. No doctors, no needles, no

“ouchies”. Just a “normal” child. It brought tears to my eyes to watch her have the time of her life. She had private meetings with the Princesses as well as private time with Barney, who hugged her non-stop. Make-A-Wish made sure that she was treated as a true princess. At the time, we had no way of knowing that she would be soon having an emergency surgery that would remove 18 inches of her intestine. During her recovery, we often talked about her wish. She would say, “Tell me the story again of when the princesses all hugged me.” It is only with your help that Make-A-Wish can grant these types of life-changing moments for children.”

The Nature Conservancy in Nebraska

Your donations help to support one of the most biologically diverse and beautiful places in Nebraska – the Niobrara Valley Preserve (NVP).

The Preserve is a keystone of a 30-mile segment of the Niobrara River that biologists call the biological crossroads of the Great Plains. Six ecosystems converge there. More than 600 plant species and 85 butterfly species have been documented on the NVP. 268 species of birds have been reported, making it one of Nebraska’s most bird-rich regions. This land, with its unique stands of aspen and birch, is known for its prairie grasses and species adapted to those grasses.

Visitors to the Preserve enjoy a nature trail. Two bison herds help manage acres of prairie that stretch as far as the eye can see. While the Preserve is operated as a working ranch, donations help the Conservancy host groups of students and researchers and meet our management goals so that this special place reflects Nebraska’s natural heritage – forever.

Nebraska Sports Council

"I got my start in the Cornhusker State Games when I was 8 years old and that was my first introduction into competitive athletics and I've loved it ever since all the way up to the Olympics. I would encourage everyone to get involved whether your an Athlete...young or old...recreational or competitive or a Volunteer or a Sponsor and support the Nebraska Sports Council" ~Olympic Gold Medalist, Curtis Tomasevicz

Tabitha

Gerald is a strong, independent man who is struggling to remain in his home. He lost his wife after 68 years of marriage and now faces his own battle with cancer. After several months of receiving Tabitha Meals on Wheels, Gerald called to cancel his meals, saying he no longer needed them.

A few weeks later, Gerald called Susie, the Tabitha Meals on Wheels coordinator to request just one meal for the week. As Susie talked to Gerald, she discovered he was losing weight and feeling ill. In tears, Gerald told Susie he had stopped the meals because he could not afford to pay the \$5.75 daily cost of the meal. Through the support of Tabitha's generous donors like YOU, Susie was able to tell Gerald we could continue

providing for his needs and help him through this difficult time.

Gerald now receives a hot, nutritious meal delivered to him each day by the hands of a loving volunteer. The meals allow him to keep up his strength, and the volunteer offers him a friendly smile and daily check-in to ensure he's safe. It's because of supporters like YOU that Tabitha is able to make it possible for Gerald and hundreds more like him throughout our community.

University of Nebraska Foundation

Amy Hellman grew up in Alliance, Neb. Her father worked as a janitor at the post office. Her mother taught kindergarten. Amy watched her mother battle breast cancer. Seeing the medical professionals in action inspired her dream to become a doctor one day. She worked hard and did well in school.

She is Dr. Amy Hellman now. But the hurdle once seemed too high.

“It’s because of the generous support of donors I was able to pursue my dream.”

She is grateful for the quality education she received as an undergraduate at UNK and then in medical school at UNMC. She is grateful to be back at UNMC now and leading her own clinic that is taking care of the needs of patients with Huntington’s disease.

Huntington’s disease is an inherited disorder that causes gradual degeneration of the brain. It leads to involuntary movements, psychiatric symptoms and dementia. In this nation, just 39 clinics are considered “Centers of Excellence” for Huntington’s Disease.

Dr. Hellman’s is one.

“When you donate to these scholarship funds, you are providing students like me the opportunity to pursue our dreams. But your generosity spreads so much farther than that. With your help, we are able to gain the skills and knowledge we need to give back to Nebraska, to our community, and to make our home a better place.”