RESILIENCE.

The ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.

Always moving forward despite changes or setbacks. That’s what the kids, families and staff do each day at CEDARS.

This past year brought the world at large an abundance of change with the spread of COVID-19.

We adapted to those changes at CEDARS by quickly introducing new health and safety measures. Once we adjusted, we continued on in pursuit of achieving safety, stability and enduring family relationships for kids in our care. No setback or change could stop us from our mission.

This past year we saw change, adjusted and came out on top.
A NOTE FROM CEDARS
PRESIDENT & CEO JIM BLUE

The kids and families at CEDARS have always been resilient. They often come to CEDARS at their lowest points, seeking help to overcome abuse, neglect, homelessness and other adverse experiences. Many of them have endured circumstances that damage the hopes of innocent children. These kids and families turn to CEDARS as a refuge from the complexities and traumas that their realities hold.

This past year, CEDARS kids and families have been pushed like never before. As we all have been. COVID-19 has impacted nearly every aspect of our lives, and the fight for racial equality hit an emotional boiling point. From distancing ourselves from loved ones and colleagues to putting a pause on some of life’s milestones, this past year has been challenging. The safety and health of our family and friends have become a constant concern. These worries are an added burden for the kids and families that come to CEDARS who are already facing so much adversity.

I’ve witnessed in the past year that it is our caring staff, the unwavering support of community members like you, and the inner strength every kid possesses that makes CEDARS incredibly resilient. When COVID-19 hit, CEDARS staff never wavered in their efforts to support kids and families. They rapidly adapted to new and evolving community guidelines to ensure the safety of the kids in our care. Foster parents continued to open their doors for kids who needed them. Our community of supporters, partners, board of directors and board of trustees never lost sight of our mission.

Most importantly, the kids in our care adapted to these new challenges, focusing on the brighter possibilities of what tomorrow could bring.

Now more than ever, I want to thank you for your support. Despite the tribulations that we’ve all endured over the past year, you have still made kids a priority. Even in the darkest of times, you know the spark that each child and family can hold, which ignites a better future for us all.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING KIDS FIND THEIR INNER RESILIENCE.

James R. Blue
President and CEO
HELPING THE RESILIENT

We have a variety of services that help kids and families find their inner resilience.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH UNABLE TO LIVE AT HOME

For the kids in our community who are not able to live at home due to neglect, abuse, homelessness and other family crises, CEDARS provides a safe place to stay. We have a variety of living arrangements that offer hope and support to facilitate a successful transition to a more permanent living situation.

FAMILIES IN NEED OF RESOURCES, SUPPORT AND EDUCATION

For families who need additional guidance, CEDARS provides resources and services that focus on maintaining healthy connections. Some of our services are for helping the family as a whole while others are specifically for kids. For services concentrated on kids, CEDARS offers early and ongoing developmental opportunities in nationally accredited classrooms.

YOUTH INTERVENTION

For kids who are involved with the youth justice system or are at high risk of becoming involved, CEDARS provides positive development programs. These programs focus on preventing future law violations and preparing kids for a successful life in the community. In these programs, kids receive support in the areas of education, employment, fundamental living skills, crisis intervention and building healthy relationships.
As the night dwindled down, the ding of Chloe’s cell phone caught her attention. She glanced at the phone, and her eyes filled with joy as she realized who had reached out to her on social media. Chloe showed the screen to her mom Trina, whose eyes began to beam with a similar glee.

Nine years prior, Trina had become a CEDARS foster parent to two brothers. Trina and Chloe developed a strong bond with the boys during their stay and had always hoped for a chance to reconnect with them. Nine years later—to the day—their hopes had come true.

Cody, the older of the two boys, was now 13 and had reached out to Chloe to share some of his favorite memories of living with her family. He had thought about Chloe and her family often and had hopes of reconnecting with them.

Trina and Chloe learned that Cody had been adopted by another family. Unfortunately, he was separated from his younger brother in the process, but Cody’s resilience was leading him to succeed in his new home.

Although his stay with Trina and Chloe was temporary, the impact that their family made on Cody was strong enough to last years. He had left a significant impression on Trina’s family too.

Foster care can be a challenging situation for both foster families and kids, but CEDARS staff walk alongside these families every step of the way.

Trina now knows that her impact on Cody’s life expanded far greater than she ever realized. She serves as a reminder of the influence someone can have on a kid’s life.

Whether you are a donor, a foster parent, a staff member or a community partner, your actions are powerful enough to make a lasting impact on a child.
THE PAST

In 1947, Reverend Charles and Alberta Danner showed resilience when they decided to welcome a child into their home who otherwise had nowhere to go. After taking in the first child, the couple continued to open up their doors to more and more kids. Soon enough, the number of kids welcomed had outgrown their home. The Lincoln community saw the work the Danners were doing and decided to support them in purchasing a new property.

That property became CEDARS Home for Children, named after the cedar trees surrounding the land. As years passed, CEDARS Home for Children became the pioneering and dynamic organization that CEDARS is today. The services provided have changed, but the mission of helping kids and families has lasted nearly 75 years.
CEDARS remains resilient by continuously adapting and evolving to protect the health, safety and respect of employees and kids in our care. We expanded our emergency shelter and opened up additional childcare spots for first responders’ families to overcome the hardships brought on by the pandemic. Throughout this past year, CEDARS has helped nearly 2,000 kids and families achieve safety and stability. No service we offer looks the same for every individual who visits CEDARS; we continue to tailor our efforts to each person that steps foot through our doors. It’s this individualized and wrap-around approach that allows us to quickly and effectively adapt to the changing world around us, so we can ensure that the kids and families in our community are cared for.

THE PRESENT

THIS YEAR CEDARS...

Served 1,850 kids and families.

Provided 89,633 nights of care to kids in our community.

Helped 91 PERCENT of kids who stayed in our emergency shelter move on to a stable home.

CEDARS has helped nearly 2,000 kids and families achieve safety and stability. No service we offer looks the same for every individual who visits CEDARS; we continue to tailor our efforts to each person that steps foot through our doors. It’s this individualized and wrap-around approach that allows us to quickly and effectively adapt to the changing world around us, so we can ensure that the kids and families in our community are cared for.
A STORY OF RESILIENCE

SAFETY FOR STELLA

Stella wasn’t safe at home. An argument with her father turned violent, and emergency custody was granted to her mother who also had a history of being abusive towards Stella. When Stella’s mother rekindled a relationship with a man who had hurt Stella in the past, Stella knew she needed and deserved to finally feel safe. That’s when she found CEDARS.

When Stella first came to CEDARS Emergency Shelter, she had a tough time adjusting to her new environment, but she credits the staff for making it feel like home. During her stay, Stella maintained her attendance and grades in school, remained employed at her job and found her own attorney, which eventually led to Stella earning emancipation from her parents. She credits the staff for always making her feel safe, supported and loved, going on to add that CEDARS “made all of the chaos going on during that time just a little bit less chaotic.”

Recently, Stella was accepted into the CEDARS Bridges to Transitional Living Program so she can gain the resources and skills needed to be successful in her young adult life. She will graduate high school soon and continue her education to earn a degree in criminal justice. Her goal is to help women and children one day who have stories like her own. Most importantly, Stella now has a safe place to call home for the first time in her life.

“I get my resilience from everything that has happened to me. Everything in my life—good and bad—has pushed me harder. I push harder for myself, for my sister, for the ones who believe in me and for those who doubted me. I know what I want in life and where I want to go. I figured my life out and had to grow up before a lot of people do. All the little and big things add up. Every time you experience something that is not necessarily good, you can either embrace it or run from it, and from my experience, the best thing you can do is keep pushing. Otherwise, you’ll always be stuck.”
CEDARS has been committed to serving our community’s most vulnerable kids and families for nearly 75 years, and we’re committed to that mission so long as we are needed.

To better prepare for the future, we have launched The Heart of CEDARS, a $3.5 million expansion to add more than 3,800 square feet of space to CEDARS Emergency Shelter and make other essential campus updates to improve outcomes for the kids and families we serve. The Heart of CEDARS expansion includes constructing a new kitchen, dining room, activity space and recreation area for the kids staying at CEDARS. It will also create a dedicated program entrance to help kids feel comfortable when coming to CEDARS, as well as a training and collaboration hub for staff, foster families and community partners to come together around their shared passion for helping kids.

Just as the kitchen is the heart of the home, this expansion will serve as The Heart of CEDARS, creating a space that demonstrates to kids how much we value and care for them as individuals.
Our CIRCLE OF LIFE donors are committed to CEDARS mission. They have a planned gift to ensure that CEDARS will always be there to help kids in crisis. Their commitment helps our families, kids and staff be resilient.

Irene Andersen
Michael & Jean Bailey
James & Susanne Blue
Reed & Joyce Bowby
Gale & Becky Breed
Mr. Richard S. Brejffus
Mr. Dale N. Brinkman
Deb Brown
Steve & Tricia Burt
Andrew Campbell
June Campbell
Kathy & Dick Campbell
Robert & Candace Campbell
Mrs. Birdean L. Christoffersen
Debra J. Davis
Rebecca Dittrich
Dean & Beth Dumluer
Mrs. R. Nell Falbo
Gerry & Deane Finnegan
Connie & Jack Geist
Jani & David Gentry
Earl F. Godfrey
John Goldrich &
Shelly Hurst-Goldrich
Roger & Sharon Graff
Miss Rose M. Gripp
Randy & Sheri Haas
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Hannon
Mrs. Donna Hansen
Herbert L. Harger
Barb Heckman
Jerry Holtorf & Linda Bargen
Mr. Roger J. Holzman
Becky & Paul Huebner
Dallas & Tish Jones
Miss Janet Jones
Lyle & Doris Jones
Leslie & Tom Kess
Don & Paula Kucera
John & Sheila Kuchta
Vonnie Kuijvenhoven
Mrs. Virginia Kunc
Meagan & John Liesveld
Mr. William L. Loeb Jr.
Jim & Georgianne Mastera
Mr. Robert H. Matzke
Wynn & Sheila Melhaff
Anthony & Carmen Messineo
Paul Miano
Janice & Mick Mickle
Barb Miller
Kristine & Scott Morton
Drs. Matthias & Cordelia Okoye
Miss Jane C. Packer
Becky Perrett
Ms. Janine I. Petersen
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Dr. and Mrs. Richard L. Powell
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Tina & Jeff Rhode
Mr. Waymon M. Roberts, Jr.
Cindy & Dan Rudolph
Mrs. Leona Simanek
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Dean Stockfeld
Mr. Donald L. Stripling
Mr. & Mrs. David J. Szabat
Kent & Sara Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Tittler
Mr. Michael Tuft
Ms. Angela K. Vaccaro
Mary & Rose Villani
Chris & Michelle Wagner
Jan Wahl
Vera & Doris Waldschmidt
Ms. Diann Weller
Cindy & Jeff Yost
Jan Zoucha
Dan Till served his community by caring for people. Dr. Till worked as a pathologist and was a respected chief of staff at a local hospital. He insisted we all call him “Dan.” “Dr. Till” was just too formal.

Upon retirement, Dan became known as a master bridge player. He also became known for his philanthropy, supporting of several important causes.

Dan cared a great deal about giving kids who have experienced trauma the tools to heal. It was this shared passion which drew him to CEDARS. Dan firmly believed in each young person’s innate ability to recover and rebound if given the appropriate care and support.

Today, Dan’s legacy is helping kids at CEDARS find hope and begin to heal from catastrophic events such as abuse and violence. Caring staff who are specially trained in trauma recovery welcome kids day and night. In fact last year alone, CEDARS provided 88,633 nights of safe care for children and youth unable to stay at home.

Dan’s concern for kids, his humble compassion and gentle demeanor will make a lasting difference for many lifetimes to come. We are incredibly pleased that Dan Till invested his lifetime of hard work and careful savings into making the world a safer place for kids.
An additional thanks to our partners and contributors for their support in caring for kids and families.

City of Lincoln
Community Health Endowment of Lincoln
Lancaster County Human Services
Lincoln Community Foundation
Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department
Lincoln Public Schools
Nebraska Children & Families Foundation
Nebraska Crime Commission
Nebraska Department of Education
Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
Nebraska Office of Juvenile Probation
Sixpence
St. Francis Ministries
United Way of Lincoln & Lancaster County
US Department of Health & Human Services
US Department of Housing & Urban Development
## ASSETS & LIABILITIES

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
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<td>Total Net Assets</td>
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<td>Contributions &amp; Support</td>
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<td>Total Revenues</td>
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## PROGRAM SERVICES

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<td>Family Resources &amp; Education</td>
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<td>Management &amp; General</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$12,084,339</td>
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## CEDARS Financial Highlights
Fiscal Year End June 30, 2020

- Services for kids: 88%
- Administrative & fundraising: 12%

## CEDARS Youth Services Highlights
Fiscal Year End June 30, 2020

- Service revenue: 67%
- Grant revenue: 24%
- Contributions & support: 13%
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Rev. Larry Moffet
Melissa Newton, Chair
CEDARS has been supporting kids and families for over 70 years. The mission of helping kids in crisis has been upheld throughout the existence of the organization.

CEDARS is accredited through the Council on Accreditation and the National Association for the Education of Young Children. CEDARS is a Charity Navigator Four Star Charity, a Top-Rated Charity with CharityWatch.org, a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity and a Platinum Seal of Transparency holder from GuideStar.

In the last fiscal year, CEDARS consolidated agencies spent 88% of all expenditures on services for kids. Percentages are based on the formula set forth by the Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance, whose standard recommends at least 65% of an organization’s total expenses be spent on program activities.

1,850 kids and families served.
88,633 nights of care provided.

A non-profit 501(C)(3) organization.

A safe place that helps KIDS find their inner RESILIENCE.