Dear Stakeholders,

MENTOR Nebraska has had an exceptionally exciting year of growth as we expanded our geographic region to include all of Nebraska – and we rebranded our name to reflect that change. Additionally, our board and partner program CEOs spent a year creating an updated vision and strategic plan for MENTOR Nebraska.

Also noteworthy last year, MENTOR Nebraska helped Omaha Public Schools implement a new mentoring model, called “Success Mentors,” in 24 schools. As a result of our work, we were able to increase the number of youth served with mentors by 170% in North Omaha schools. We also launched the Success Mentors program in 11 Grand Island schools. This program will provide formal mentors for hundreds of youth who have missed 10 or more school days.

We are thrilled to share that because of MENTOR Nebraska’s initiative and leadership, Nebraska now has new legislation to support state employees with flex time so they can mentor during the workday. We had bi-partisan support from Nebraska’s state senators and from Governor Rickets. Additionally, in June 2019, Congressman Don Bacon’s office worked with our team to co-introduce a bill to request funding support specifically for the mentoring of foster youth. MENTOR Nebraska was the lead agency in this effort to engage Congressman Bacon.

Finally, we just discovered yet another national research article written about our Youth Initiated Mentoring model! We are very proud that this new model of mentoring has received national recognition for its inclusiveness.

Warm regards,

Deborah Neary
Executive Director

Chris Rodgers
Board President

VISION
MENTOR Nebraska’s vision is for every young person to have the supportive relationships they need to grow and develop into thriving, productive, and engaged adults.

MISSION
MENTOR Nebraska fuels the quality and quantity of mentoring relationships, strengthens collaboration, and advocates for mentoring.
WE BELIEVE BUILDING HIGH QUALITY MENTORING PROGRAMS BUT FAILING TO ADVOCATE FOR MENTORING POLICY IS LIKE KNITTING A SWEATER, ONLY TO WATCH IT UNRAVEL ON THE OTHER END. THERE ARE CURRENTLY LIMITATIONS ON STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT MENTORING PROGRAMS. IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT TRUE SYSTEMIC CHANGE, THERE MUST BE A LARGER PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN THE SECTOR.

ADVOCATING ON THE STATE LEVEL

- As a result of MENTOR Nebraska’s initiative and leadership in 2019, Nebraska now has legislation that allows Nebraska state employees flex time to mentor.

ADVOCATING ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- Working with our peers from across the country, we were able to advocate for and win passage of the Child Protection Improvement Act to allow universal FBI fingerprint background checks to be available to all youth-serving organizations.

WE ARE CHAMPIONS FOR YOUTH

MENTOR Nebraska has consistently sought to bring innovation to the mentoring sector by helping to establish new models of mentoring that reach audiences in unique and supportive ways. MENTOR Nebraska wants to help mentoring programs embrace new research and look for alternative ways to offer programming that creates a supportive environment for all youth.

SUPPORTING CHRONICALLY ABSENT YOUTH THROUGH SUCCESS MENTORS

- We introduced a new evidenced-based mentoring model, called Success Mentors, which is being used to support more than 850 chronically absent youth in Omaha Public Schools and Grand Island Public Schools. Success Mentors will be implemented in every OPS elementary school within two years.

MATCHING JUVENILE JUSTICE YOUTH THROUGH YOUTH INITIATED MENTORING

- In 2014, we were the first in the country to initiate a new mentoring model, called Youth Initiated Mentoring (YIM), to support juvenile justice youth. National researchers and evaluators have called our model “game changing” for supporting juvenile justice youth.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

There are still stakeholders who believe MENTOR Nebraska is in existence to serve mentoring programs. MENTOR Nebraska has always believed we are in existence to better serve young people and the community. We accomplish this by making mentoring programs stronger, not by being advocates for the status quo.

LEADING IN THE NATIONAL MENTORING SECTOR

- MENTOR Nebraska was highlighted in a recent publication for our innovative work to increase the diversity of our mentors in Nebraska.

WE ARE CHANGE AGENTS

To become a mentee in most traditional mentoring models, a parent must call the mentoring program and advocate for the young person. As a result, the young people who already have “naturally occurring” caring adults are the youth getting mentors. This method of recruiting mentees leads to the underrepresentation of many audiences.

MENTOR Nebraska’s work and data collection efforts focus on serving specific audiences in the community who historically have not been well served by formal mentoring programs. While every young person could benefit from the support of a mentor, limited resources are available. Because of this, we must focus on directing support towards those in most urgent need of a mentor. MENTOR Nebraska has spotlighted our data and nudged the mentoring sector to ensure we are serving youth who need mentoring the most. Our work has brought about the following changes:

250% The percent of juvenile justice youth being served with mentors has increased 250% in the last five years

150%  The percent of youth in North Omaha schools being served with mentors increased by 150% in the last two years

300% The number of refugee youth being served in Omaha has increased by 300% in the last year

WE UNIFY VOICES TO STRENGTHEN THE MENTORING FIELD

We believe building high quality mentoring programs but failing to advocate for mentoring policy is like knitting a sweater, only to watch it unravel on the other end. There are currently limitations on state and federal funding available to support mentoring programs. In order to bring about true systemic change, there must be a larger public investment in the sector.

ADVOCATING ON THE STATE LEVEL

- As a result of MENTOR Nebraska’s initiative and leadership in 2019, Nebraska now has legislation that allows Nebraska state employees flex time to mentor.

ADVOCATING ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- Working with our peers from across the country, we were able to advocate for and win passage of the Child Protection Improvement Act to allow universal FBI fingerprint background checks to be available to all youth-serving organizations.
TRAINING
TRAINED 900+ INDIVIDUALS DURING 65 TRAININGS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
PROVIDED 1,975 HOURS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING TO PROGRAMS

MENTORING PARTNERS
COLLABORATED WITH 16 TIER I PARTNER PROGRAMS

VILLAGE ZONE & REFUGEE MENTORING
SERVED 1,158 YOUTH FROM NORTH OMAHA SINCE 2017

SUCCESS MENTORS
LAUNCHED SUCCESS MENTORS PROGRAM IN 36 SCHOOLS TO SERVE 850 YOUTH

YOUTH INITIATED MENTORING
MENTORS VOLUNTEERED 450 HOURS WITH JUVENILE JUSTICE YOUTH
MEMBERS

TIER I PARTNER MEMBERS

Partner Members have demonstrated they are utilizing research-based mentoring practices in their programs. They participate in statewide data collection efforts and complete the National Quality Mentoring System (NQMS). Partner Members receive the highest level of benefits including no-cost background checks for all mentors, no-cost data collection and case management system, no-cost access to statewide recruitment activities, and opportunities for funding support.

100 BLACK MEN OF OMAHA – Young Men Mentoring Institute (Omaha)
ACE MENTOR PROGRAM (Omaha)
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF CENTRAL NEBRASKA (Grand Island)
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS LINCOLN (Lincoln)
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE MIDLANDS (Omaha)
BIG PALS LITTLE PALS (Columbus)
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS - Mentoring Program (North Platte)
GIRLS INC. OF OMAHA – Pathfinders (Omaha)
GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS – Success Mentors (Grand Island)
KIDS CAN COMMUNITY CENTER – Mentoring Program (Omaha)
OLLIE WEBB CENTER, INC. – Just Friends (Omaha)
OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – Success Mentors (Omaha)
PARTNERSHIP 4 KIDS – Group Mentoring Program (Omaha)
RELEASE INC. – Mentoring Program (Omaha)
THE BIKE UNION – Mentoring Project (Omaha)
YOUTH EMERGENCY SERVICES – Mentoring Program (Omaha)

TIER II FRIEND MEMBERS

Friend Members are youth-serving programs working with volunteers to foster positive adult/youth relationships. These members can participate in our no-cost training and technical assistance opportunities, and are also listed in the national database search-engine for mentoring programs.

100 Black Men Pathways to Success – Omaha
402 Arts Collective – Omaha
4-H Youth Mentoring Program – Statewide
ANDY Foundation - Omaha
Athlete2Athlete - Lincoln
Banister's Leadership Academy - Omaha
Befriend Mentoring Program - Norfolk
Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands - Omaha
Boys Town - Omaha
CASA (21 offices)
Catholic Charities Mentoring Moms - Omaha
Center for Holistic Development Grandfriends - Omaha
College of St. Mary - Omaha
Completely Kids – Omaha
Connected Youth Initiative - Statewide
Creighton TRIO - Omaha
Crossroads Mentoring Program - Omaha
Omaha Metro Young Life - Omaha
Edmonson Youth Outreach - Omaha
Foster Grandparents – Beatrice, Chadron, Gering, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, Omaha
FYI Center Positive Action Mentoring - Fairbury
Girl Scouts Nebraska - Statewide
Girls Inc. – Lincoln
Global Leadership Mentoring Program - Omaha
Heart Ministry Center - Omaha
Hogan’s Junior Golf Heroes - Omaha
Jesuit Academy - Omaha
Johnny Rodgers Youth Foundation - Omaha
Junior Achievement - Lincoln, Omaha
Kent Bellows at Joslyn Art Museum - Omaha
Keys Foundation - Omaha
Koinonia House of Worship - Omaha
La Casa Del Pueblo - Omaha
LAMP (Latino Achievement Mentoring) - Lincoln
Latino Center of the Midlands - Omaha
Lyons School District - Lyons
Lincoln Public Schools – Success Mentors
MAYS - Omaha
Midwest Trailblazers - Omaha
Mosaic - Omaha
Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility - Omaha
Nebraska Juvenile Justice Institute - Lincoln
Nebraska Probation
NGL Academy - Bellevue
North Platte School District - North Platte
NorthSTAR Mentoring Program - Omaha
Omaha Girls Rock - Omaha
Omaha North High School - Omaha
Omaha South High Magnet Mentoring Program - Omaha
Omaha Talons - Omaha
Panhandle Partnership - Scottsbluff
Partnership 4 Hope - Omaha
Partnership 4 Kids - Goal Buddies
PlayMakers - Omaha
Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare - Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington counties
Sacred Heart School Cues Program - Omaha
Salvation Army - Statewide
SAME Student Mentoring Program - Omaha
SENCA Head Start Youth Mentoring - Humboldt
South Omaha Community Cares Council - Omaha
SPARK Positivity - Omaha
Special Olympics Project Unify - Statewide
St. Luke’s Teen Center - Omaha
T.R.A.C. Life - Omaha
TeamMates - 100+ chapters
The Bay - Lincoln
The First Tee - Omaha
The Zone - Norfolk
Treadstone - Omaha
Upward Bound - Statewide
Urban League - Omaha
You Go Girl - Omaha
Youth for Christ - Omaha
YouTurn - Omaha
The Innovative Mentoring software funded by MENTOR Nebraska has been a game-changer for our program and staff. We are now able to easily find, update, and sort information in seconds. This used to take hours or was impossible to isolate and report accurately. Overall, the Innovative Mentoring system is thoughtful, user-friendly, and clearly designed and updated with real mentoring programs in mind. Girls Inc. of Omaha is very grateful to have this program!

LAURA BONNETT
GIRLS INC. OF OMAHA

The Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring was a very informative and eye-opening training. I found the trainers excellent! They answered all questions asked and delivered the course in an interesting format. I left the training feeling confident that all areas were covered brilliantly.

MARQUIS “KEYS” BARNES
THE KEYS FOUNDATION

Community Connections Mentoring recently finished the National Quality Mentoring System process in partnership with MENTOR Nebraska. The NQMS was an easy tool that guided us through our existing practices and helped us review areas for program improvement. We were able to celebrate the areas in which we are excelling in the operation and management of our mentoring program. MENTOR Nebraska’s staff worked with us to develop an action plan and has connected us with resources and training opportunities to make meaningful change in our community.

ANGELA HIPP
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

INVESTMENTS

$689,756
Total Expenses

$679,810
Total Income

$286,306
Net Assets

HOW INVESTMENTS ARE ALLOCATED

9% Statewide Programming & Mentoring
2% Advocacy
8% Refugee Mentoring (Lincoln & Omaha)
6% Annual Mentoring Summit
17% Operations
8% Fundraising
4% Background Checks
5% Training & Technical Assistance
2% Data Collection
11% Youth Initiated Mentoring
15% Village Zone & Success Mentors

CHARITABLE INVESTMENT

• Loss of control
• Feelings of_weight
• Confrontation
• Loneliness
• Sensory overload

LAURA BONNETT
GIRLS INC. OF OMAHA

MARQUIS “KEYS” BARNES
THE KEYS FOUNDATION

ANGELA HIPP
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
DONORS $20,000+
Dept. of Health & Human Services
Douglas County, Community-Based Aid
Holland Foundation
Peter Kiewit Foundation
The Lozier Foundation
The Sherwood Foundation
Weitz Family Foundation
William and Ruth Scott Foundation

DONORS $1,000 - $19,999
American National Bank
Annette & Paul Smith Charitable Fund
Baird Holm LLP
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands
City of Omaha
First National Bank of Omaha
Lori Forsythe
Greater Omaha Chamber
HDR
Julie & Dave Hefflinger
Heider Family Foundation
Home Instead
Kutak Rock
Mammel Foundation
Michael McMeekin
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
Metro Community College Foundation
Metropolitan Utilities District
Mutual of Omaha
Betty & Owen Neary
Nebraska State Education Association
Northern Trust
Omaha Community Foundation
Omaha Public Power District
Omaha Rotary
Parsen Foundation
Raikes Foundation
TC Energy
The Starbucks Foundation
Michael Yanney

DONORS UP TO $999
Karima Al-Absy
Mary Ambrose
Whitney Baker
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Cynthia Misterek

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Fawn Taylor
Susan Thomas
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University of Nebraska Foundation
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Beverly Woodroom
Fun-Plex
KETV NewsWatch 7
PARTNERS IN CHANGE

2019 MENTORING AWARDS

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR
The Empowerment Network

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
Greater Omaha Chamber

MENTOR OF THE YEAR
Vicki Muli, Girls Inc. Of Omaha

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TEAM

STAFF
Deborah Neary
Executive Director
Whitney Baker
Associate Director
Melissa Mayo
Senior Director of Programming

Karima Al-Absy
Educational Consultant
Marisa Casillas
Training and Program Manager
Susan Mayberger
Educational Consultant
Teresa Riesberg
Marketing & External Affairs Manager

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Douglas County Board of Commissioners
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Dani McCawley, SilverStone Group
Juan Padilla, Omaha Community Foundation
Kari Potts, Valmont Industries
Carol Russell, Community Volunteer
Richard Spellman, Cline Williams
Matt Wallen, Dept. of Health and Human Services
Jay Warren-Teamer, Mutual of Omaha

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John Ewing, Past Board Vice President
Julie Hefflinger, Past Board President

Daniel Padilla, Past Board President
Ashley Robinson, Past Board President
Mike Yanney, Founder