AUTISM CENTER OF NEBRASKA
9012 Q Street • Omaha, Nebraska 68127-3549 • 402-315-1000 • ACNomaha.org

November, 2023

2023 ANNUAL APPEAL

Dear Friends & Family,

As we move toward the holiday season, my thoughts turn to family. My happiest moments are those surrounded by children and grandchildren. That's one version of family. But another version of family — equally important — is the family we have developed here at the Autism Center of Nebraska.

150 employees, 150 persons supported, countless family members, donors, and colleagues. What makes us family? That sense of shared purpose. Shared experiences. Shared laughter. Shared tears. At ACN, we sit with the family who doesn't know where to turn. We celebrate the individual who has been hired for his first job. We laugh with the individual who tells her first joke and connects with others on a personal level for the first time.

What makes us family? That sense of strong focus on the True North. **At ACN, we do the right thing.** Each step of the way, we ask ourselves "What's the next right thing?" That means we continue to provide care and support despite no reimbursement from the State. That means we provide **staffing ratios often far exceeding what is required by the State.** That means we put the needs of the individual above considerations driven by budgets and funding streams.

That means we count on the support of our larger family. **Because of you,** we are able to provide staffing 24/7 during an individual's hospitalization. **Because of you,** we are able to work with an individual 1:1 in his home to reduce his sensory difficulties. **Because of you,** we've been able to hold fast to our ideals in ensuring that our approach will be focused on gentle teaching and small, careful steps toward greater independence. **Because of you,** this family continues to grow and thrive.

ACN is Family. And together, we embrace our vocation where, to paraphrase Frederick Buechner, our deep gladness meets the world's deep need.

I'm so happy and proud to have you as a member of the ACN Family. And during this time of reflection upon family, and the many blessings we each enjoy, won't you join me in making a gift to the Autism Center of Nebraska?

All the best,

Leslie Bishop Hartung
President and CEO

About Autism Center of Nebraska

ACN provides services and supports for individuals of all ages who have autism or other developmental disabilities. Some of the services we provide are: Residential Services, Vocational and Day Services, Community Inclusion, Transition Services, Employment Services, and Respite Services.

We serve adults, children, adolescents, and toddlers. We support parents and families.

Mission

The Autism Center of Nebraska's Mission is to support and enhance the quality of life for persons with autism and other developmental disabilities and their families.

Core Values

The ACN Core Values embrace the worth of persons receiving services, their families, and the staff who support them:

Value • Respect • Choice • Growth

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Your gift at any level can help ACN change lives and impact the community! While ACN encourages monthly giving, as it is most helpful in the delivery of mission through our 365-day, 24/7 operations, we appreciate and acknowledge all gifts at every level.

Monthly Giving

- Your monthly gift of **$25** can help us buy seeds and bedding for the Community Garden throughout the growing season
- Your monthly gift of **$50** can help us purchase personal hygiene products for a group home of three (3) individuals for each month
- Your monthly gift of **$100** can buy sheets and towels for a person in a group home who does not have the ability to pay for their own materials, an ongoing month-to-month need
- Your monthly gift of **$250** can provide six (6) new mattresses per year for ACN group homes

One-Time Gifts

- Your one-time gift of **$600** provides two (2) months of art supplies for the onsite creation of sellable goods by ACN's clients in The Art Garden
- Your one-time gift of **$1,000** provides patio furniture and a grill for group home residents to enjoy the outdoors
- Your one-time gift of **$2,500** covers the utility bill in ACN's main headquarters for 1 month of operations
- Your one-time gift of **$2,750** can help purchase a washer and dryer for two (2) group homes
- Your one-time gift of **$5,000** allows one month of rent for the rural service hubs of Blair, Fremont & York

Thank you for considering a gift to ACN!

ACN AUTISM CENTER OF NEBRASKA

Feel free to use the enclosed reply card or you may donate online at: **AutismCenterOfNebraska.org**