



WILLARD
COMMUNITY
CENTER

2021 Annual Report

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**WE HELP AREA RESIDENTS GROW, CONNECT, AND
CONTRIBUTE TO OUR COMMUNITY.**

CHILD CARE - DURING A PANDEMIC

- Programs -

Early Childhood Programs: Preschool, Pre-k

School-Age Programs: Roper Elementary Before and After School Program, Lakeview Elementary Community Learning Center (CLC), Non-School Day Programming, and Summer Programming.

The statistics reflect the number of children enrolled for the fiscal year, January to December 2021. The Covid pandemic continued to be a challenge during the 2020-21 school year. The children went back to in-person learning when school started in August 2020, but it was easy to see firsthand that many children were behind in meeting their academic achievements and milestones to start the new year. Lincoln Public Schools continued in-person classes throughout the year even when the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Dial showed an upward spiral and was in the high red category in January. The children and staff continued to wear masks, sanitize everything after each use, and practiced social distancing. The year was full of challenges as staff and children would report individual exposures to Covid-19, leaving us scrambling to maintain child care licensing ratios to cover staff hours.

None of the programs were at capacity, and finding enough staff to work the required hours was almost impossible. Administrative staff worked in all the programs to cover when needed. All regulations and requirements set by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department were practiced. Because of this, none of the programs had to close due to the participants' exposure. Parents were not allowed into the sites and remained outside to drop off and pick up their children; this became the most complicated rule to follow, as visits for daily communication were always welcomed.

Willard remained an essential service to families as parents started returning to work after working remotely or not at all. Our doors were kept open, keeping children and staff safe and providing educational enrichment and homework help to our at-risk children.

Our programs and revenue started to recover, but not having full enrollments still caused a loss of program service fees compared to pre-covid revenues. Program Service fees for Jan-Dec of each year were: 2019 (before the pandemic) \$609,773; 2020 - \$409,262; and 2021- \$588,257. In 2020, 33% lower than before the pandemic, and for 2021, still \$21,516 or 4% below.



VOLUNTEERS WORKED IN THE PROGRAMS



VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVED



FULL TIME ADMINISTRATIVE & PROGRAM STAFF FOR ALL PROGRAMS



PART TIME PROGRAM STAFF FOR ALL PROGRAMS



TOTAL FTE'S FOR ALL PROGRAMS



TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED AT WILLARD COMMUNITY CENTER JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER 2021

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS



- Preschool Program -

Taught by Candi Stege, the preschool is located on the Willard Community Center's first floor. The decision was to combine the preschool and Pre-K children at the Willard site due to low enrollment at pre-k caused by the pandemic. We ceased our license to operate our pre-k at 1030 West "Q" Street at the end of Summer 2020. The children that moved to the Willard Preschool were too young to start kindergarten. Combining the two sites meant that we had 3-4-5-year-olds together. Parents were slow in enrolling their children in a large group setting as this age group was not eligible to be vaccinated. In August, Candi resigned as the preschool teacher and started working for LPS Nutrition Services. We struggled to hire a new full-time teacher for the program, so Candi returned to work as the afternoon teacher and did all the curriculum planning after her work hours at LPS. Due to her loyalty and dedication to the preschool program, we maintained our Level 4 Step Up to Quality rating.

The combined total in preschool was 28 children, ages 3-5 years old, and included January to May 2021, Summer 2021, and August to December 2021.

- Pre-k Program -

This program is located at 1030 West "Q" Street and was closed from August 2020 until we reopened in August 2021 for the 2021-22 school year. Our enrollments for all child care programs were still low, but we decided to reopen. Since we had to cease operations last year, we had to relicense this site and get it ready to go again before school started. Thanks to a grant of \$7,000 from the Community Health Endowment, we had some support to get the program up and running again. This year our pre-k teacher, Kim Deveaux, worked part-time in the morning from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Although we tried, we could not hire another part-time teacher for the afternoons. Our program director, Sarah Reinke, filled in every day to cover the hours. We had ten children, ages 3-4, enrolled by December.

- Lincoln Littles -

Four children used funding from Lincoln Little's tuition assistance from January 2021 through April 2021. Three children continued to utilize Lincoln Littles until August 2021. In August, two children went to Kindergarten, leaving one still using the funding through December 2021. The total amount used for tuition scholarships in 2021 was \$10,893.90.

- Curriculum & Assessment -

Willard Community Center's head teaching staff incorporate a letter of the week and weekly themes into their lesson plans. In addition to theme planning, the teachers also reference 'The Creative Curriculum' and 'All About Preschool' for additional studies and learning strategies. Each early childhood environment is set up to include interest areas such as blocks, dramatic play, art, library, science, a sensory table, music and movement, and table activities targeting fine motor, math, and writing. The daily schedule provides opportunities for children to choose areas they enjoy and spend time in each center every day. There are a balance of active and quiet play and large and small group experiences. Teacher-directed learning experiences occur in small groups. Willard Community Center uses the ASQ-3 Ages and Stages assessment tool to assess five developmental areas; communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem-solving & personal-social. The ASQ is completed within the first 90 days of enrollment and again in the spring before transitioning into their next level of education.



SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS



- Roper Elementary Before and After School Program -

Held at Roper Elementary School (2323 S. Coddington Avenue), this program ran from 6:30 am to the school day and resumed after school until 6:00 pm. For 26 years, this program has offered a healthy snack after school and various activities, ranging from daily scheduled events to large group games and daily, structured homework time. The children that participate in this program can grow up with us. Parents enroll their children in kindergarten and will stay with us through 5th grade.

Roper Site Supervisor - Nate Wolf - January to May 2021, and Lauren Bowman started in August 2021.

- Lakeview Community Learning Center (CLC) -

For 18 years, our state-licensed child care program at Lakeview Elementary School (300 Capitol Beach Boulevard) has been available from 6:30 am until 9:00 am, which is the beginning of the school day, and again after school from 3:38 until 6:00 pm. Under the leadership of School Community Coordinator Gina Benne, the Lakeview Community Learning Center offered snacks, educational and enrichment centers, clubs, computers, recreational activities, homework time, and offered discounted rates for qualified families. The Nebraska 21st Century Community Learning Center Initiative and United Way support this program. The purpose of our CLC is to create an extended learning opportunity during non-school hours to provide students with academic enrichment opportunities and additional activities designed to complement their regular educational program.

The newest statistics from School Year 2020 to 2021 - 21st Century CLC Data Snapshot includes 209 students at Lakeview who attended the CLC 30 + days from 2020 to 21. Of those students, 78% were F/R Lunch, 22% ELL, 47% were racially & ethnically diverse, and 21% verified for Special Ed. Teacher ratings of performance regarding grade-level show 31% above grade level for reading, 14% for writing, 17% for math, and 12 % for science.

- Non-School Day Programming -

Held at Willard Community Center, 1245 S. Folsom Street, an all-day program was available for Roper and Lakeview CLC students. The kids enjoyed morning and afternoon snacks and fun planned, educationally enriching activities during the day. The Center was open from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm.

- Summer Program -

Running for 12 weeks, from May 25th to August 11th, the program was open Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. The children were in groups determined by the grade they completed, Kindergarten through 8th grade. The children went swimming twice a week and on a field trip once a week. Children had to wear masks inside, in the vans, and on field trips. Covid safety precautions were followed, even at the swimming pool. The summer days were packed with educationally enriched games and activities related to a weekly theme. Through a grant with the Lincoln Lancaster County Keno Prevention Fund for \$3,500, children were taught the six pillars of the Character Counts curriculum through lessons every week. Character Counts teaches trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. The children had a well-rounded and enjoyable summer.

ADULT PROGRAMS & BUILDING USAGE

- Adult Program -

An average attendance of eleven senior citizens came to Willard every Monday and Wednesday morning for licensed Bingo. They played 13 games of Bingo, 10-point pitch, and other games at break time. The Bingo group is a combination of friends who have known each other for many years and found new friendships by coming to Willard for socialization and a cup of coffee. Bingo proves to be the social highlight of their week. It is a way for the seniors to feel connected and viable in our community.

An unduplicated count of 27 adults that are either part of the bingo group receive food produce bags through Aging Partners or come for the monthly pot-lucks.

A pot-luck lunch is held every month, and they are encouraged to bring friends. The main dish, set-up, and decorations for the pot-luck theme are provided and prepared by Liz Scott and Mary Sneller. These ladies are retired Willard Preschool teachers that want to give back to the community by making every pot-luck special.

This group is growing, and with the support of the Nebraska Presbyterian Grant, we will be adding some new activities for this age group very soon.



- Building Usage -

Willard Community Center sees many groups and families who utilize the building for a meeting or gathering space throughout the year. The following groups used our space:

Boy Scouts Troop 55

Cub Scouts Pack 55

Girl Scouts Troop #28402

Lincoln Fresh Food Truck - used the parking lot every other week during the growing season.

Nebraska Sword Fighters Guild

ROSS (Republic of South Sudan) Leadership Academy

The regular weekly members of the Adult Program, Boy, Cub, and Girl Scouts, average 88 participants per week. The facility is available to rent for multiple-week sessions or one-time uses, such as Nebraska Swordfighters Group, Ross Leadership Group, Equatoria South Sudanese Group, and various family gatherings. Between January and December 2021, 18 different groups met. The group size ranged from 20 to 50 people, not included in the weekly average above.

Due to the pandemic, in 2021, there were only nine-building rentals for family gatherings, social groups, and neighborhood events. Pre-Covid, in 2019, there were 26 rentals during the year.

EARLY CHILDHOOD & SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAM STATISTICS

512

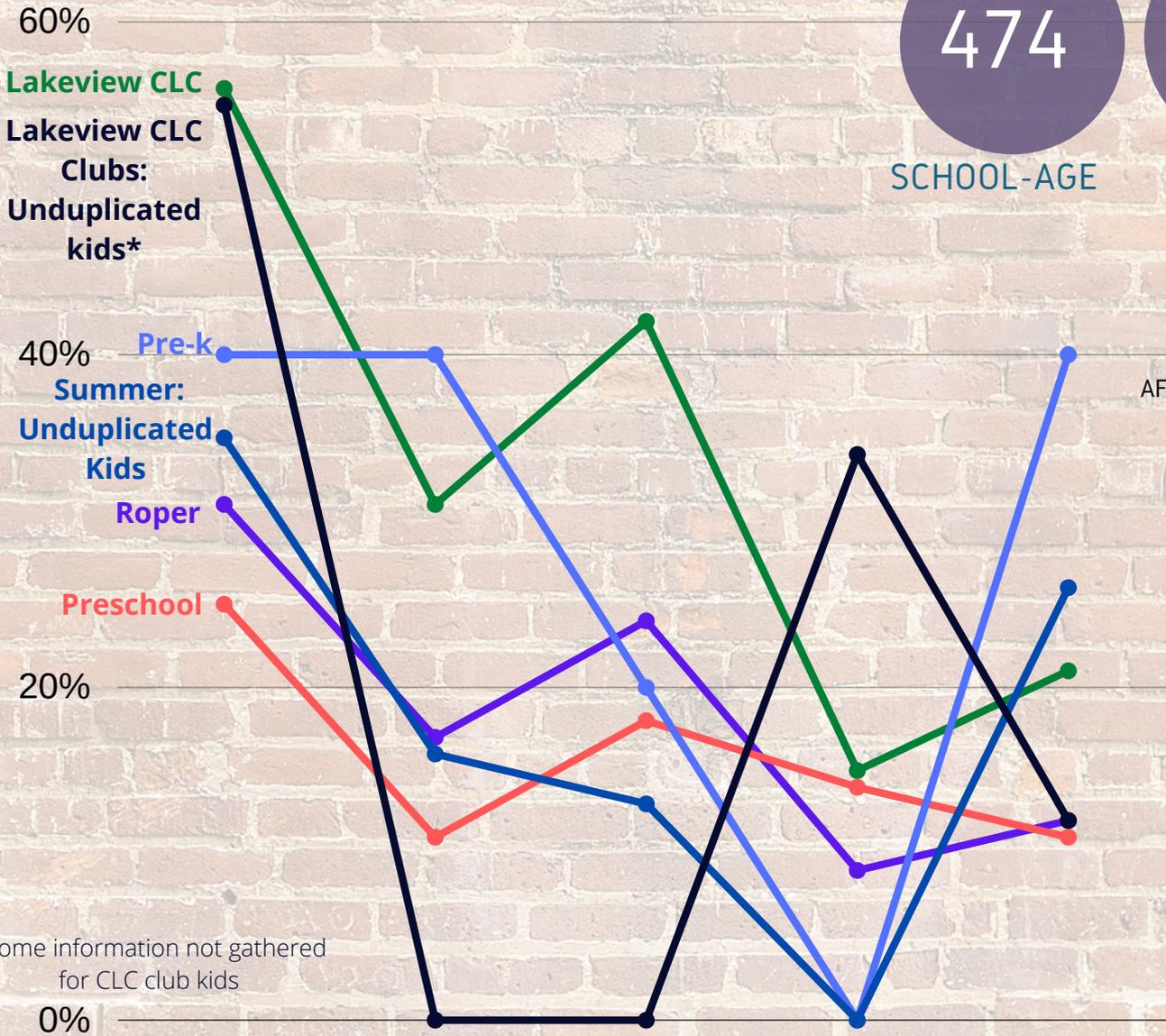
TOTAL KIDS IN ALL FIVE PROGRAMS

474

SCHOOL-AGE

38

EARLY CHILDHOOD



39

AFRICAN AMERICAN

13

ASIAN

286

CAUCASIAN

58

HISPANIC

20

MIDDLE EASTERN

83

MULTIPLE ETHNICITIES

7

NATIVE AMERICAN

6

OTHER (NOT SPECIFIED)

*Some information not gathered for CLC club kids

Free/Reduced Lunch
 Receive Child Care Subsidy
 Single Parent Family
 English Language Learner
 Special Educational Services

FUNDRAISERS

- Strive to Thrive -

The UNL Business Class chose Willard to receive their semester fundraiser. As of April 15th, they raised \$456.00. This was an excellent opportunity to get the word out about Willard's programs, and the additional funds were very welcome.

- Give to Lincoln Day -

Held on May 25th, brought over \$7.6 million for Lincoln Non-Profits. Willard received \$5,052. This year, due to Covid, money was used for general operating expenses.

- The Kenny and Pam Gardner "It Was Fun" Golf Tournament -

The 17th annual event was held on October 3rd. Last year, we could not have an in-person event, so it was great to see our regular golfers and friends out on the course again. The golfers, raffle, silent auction, and Tournament and Hole-in-One Sponsors all helped bring in \$13,000. All proceeds from the tournament go directly toward our child care programs for scholarships. We had 112 golfers, 8 Tournament Sponsors, 11 Hole-in-One sponsors, and 45 different individuals and businesses who donated prizes to support this tournament.



- Annual Donor Letter Campaign -

Encouraged 14 donors to send in an end-of-the-year donation to Willard. We received \$2,975 for general operating support. A big thank you goes out to these wonderful people who are past donors or program participants, neighbors, and friends of Willard Community Center.

GRANTORS

State & Federal Grants

- Incentive to Reopen Grant through the Department of Health and Human Services - \$6,000
\$3,000 was awarded to both Roper and Lakeview sites to support reopening after the pandemic.

- Incentive to Reopen Grant- Cares Act-

Department of Health and Human Services in coordination with The Nebraska Children and Family
Foundation - \$16,500

The early childhood program at Willard, Roper, and the Lakeview CLC program was awarded \$5,500 for
stabilization funding.

- Lincoln Lancaster County Human Services - Keno Prevention Fund - \$3,500

Funding provided academic and health-centered curriculum sessions at Lakeview, Roper, and Summer
Programs. The Character Counts curriculum was used weekly during the summer.

Nebraska 21st Century Community Learning Center Initiative

\$28,548 was received for the Lakeview CLC program for salary expenses for the School Community
Coordinator, academic and enrichment club instructors, family engagement, and program supplies.

\$3,730 was received to help two students receive summer scholarships.

An additional \$9,969 was contracted in October to use to increase the salary of the School Community
Coordinator.

Private & Local Funders

- Acklie Charitable Foundation - \$25,000

Funded general operating expenses.

- Community Health Endowment - \$7,000

Awarded to help reopen the Pre-k program after being closed for a year due to COVID.

Cooper Foundation - \$10,000

Recognized a need for Non-Profits to get support for general operations while experiencing the
challenges of Covid-19.

GRANTORS

Private & Local Funders Cont'd

- Dillon Foundation - \$10,000

Donated for general operating. This contribution made a significant impact on keeping our doors open and programs operating.

- Farm Credit Services of America - \$750

Funded in cooperation with Community Crops for the Community Garden for garden supplies and plants.

- Lincoln Littles, through the Lincoln Community Foundation - \$26,749.32

Received \$8,500 for new early childhood scholarship funds.

Allowed us to carry over unused funds of \$18,249.32 from the previous year.

- Miriam Moeller Charitable Trust - \$26,500

Funded after-school homework programs at Roper and Lakeview CLC, summer programming, and staff wage support.

- Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation - \$20,000

Awarded the adult program to help with general operating expenses and increase enrollment, programs, and services.

- Olsson Foundation - \$2,500

Awarded for the Lakeview CLC to help make up the difference in loss from what is received from state subsidy payments compared to the actual program service fee. Ms. Lori Cerveny and Mr. Jeff McPeak presented the check to Willard's CLC Coordinator, Gina Benne, and toured the program.

- Olsson Family Foundation - \$1,840

Supplemented the grant for seventeen Chromebooks and paid the set-up fee.

- Rotary Club #14 - \$1,400

Funded for seventeen Chromebooks. Chromebooks will be used for non-school and summer programming and be available for community outreach and classes.

- United Way - \$17,000

\$12,000 in support of the Lakeview CLC.

\$5,000 for Early Childhood; Preschool & Pre-k programs.

IMPACT STATEMENT

Written by Janelle Soderling

April 2022

A Reflection on 40 Years of Growth and Service

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of Willard Community Center's accomplishments and the impact we have made on the individuals and families we have served throughout the history of this neighborhood and my 40-year career.

Willard Community Center is located in the former Willard Elementary School, which served the West A area from 1918 to 1968. This working-class neighborhood developed around the railroad yards, dating back to 1887. Coddington Avenue bound the neighborhood to the west, South Street to the south, Salt Creek to the east, and the railyards to the north. After the school's closure, the district deeded the building to the city, and from 1973 to 1979 the building was used intermittently as a site for various activities. Willard Community Center was opened in 1980 by the West "A" Neighborhood Association and the City of Lincoln to provide recreational activities for the youth and families in the neighborhood in response to a rise in vandalism and crime.

According to a 1978 survey conducted by the Lincoln Office of Neighborhood Assistance, the West "A" Neighborhood was almost entirely single-family residential. Over 85% of the 1,100 dwelling units were owner-occupied. This survey indicated that approximately 15% of the population was age sixty or older. There was no library, swimming pool, or health or human service-related resources available in the area.

The West "A" population tripled in size from 1970 to 1978, from 647 residents in 1970, 1,106 in 1975, to 2,223 residents in 1978. The median family income in 1970 was \$9,615 and in 1978 was \$9,840, indicating a low-moderate income area.

Over time Willard's outreach expanded to include the surrounding areas of Park Middle School, Lakeview Elementary, and Roper Elementary school districts, as well as the West "A" Neighborhood where Willard sits. The current area of Lincoln served by Willard, considered to include approximately 12,000 residents, remains one of the more economically challenged areas of the city. According to Lincoln Vital Signs and Place Matters, five of the six census tracts served primarily by Willard have experienced a significant rise in poverty. In these areas, poverty levels range between 11% and 32%, in two census tracts the poverty increases from 2008 to 2018 were an alarming 304% and 315%. Many households' per capita income falls well below the U.S. poverty threshold of \$25,465. The National Institute of Health finds that many of the risk factors for children flow directly from the consequences of poverty. As stated in the latest "Place Matters, 4.0-2021" report from the Community Health Endowment of Lincoln, "Poverty is often considered the "cause of causes" and the most powerful predictor of disease and premature death." Additional US Census data shows that in our service population of 12,058, 11% of these residents do not have a high school diploma, 11% live below the poverty level, and 4% are unemployed. We also have 4,534 households that speak a language other than English.

Throughout our history, Willard has strived to impact our youth through Early Childhood Development Programs, Before and After School, and Summer Programs to provide educational enrichment and support so that they can succeed in school and life and break the poverty cycle. We also maintain programs for adults to keep them socially engaged and contributing to our community. These programs include licensed Bingo, exercise and hobby groups, polling station, church and neighborhood group meetings, and monthly pot-luck lunches. We have always been a hub of activities for all ages where everyone is welcome. Our served population is racially, economically, and culturally diverse but we are not devoted to one specific culture (such as African American, Latino, Asian, or Middle Eastern). We serve them all.

In 1983 Willard started an After School Program that consisted of 40 children. They registered for either drop-in or daily participation with an average daily attendance of 15 kids per day. In the Fall of 1984 the After School Program registered 45 children with an average daily attendance of 33. Children attending Lakeview and Yankee Hill Elementary Schools were bused to Willard after school for child care, while children from Park and Saratoga Schools were transported by their parents. The cost was \$10.00 per month per child and a \$.50 drop-in fee.

IMPACT STATEMENT

In 1984 Willard started a Summer Child Care Program. Parks and Recreation provided care in the park from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Willard provided care the rest of the day until 6:00 p.m. 129 children registered with an average daily attendance of 33 children.

In August, Willard provided full-time care when the Parks and Recreation Program ended.

In 1987 the Willard Board explored the possibility of a new building or additions to the old building as our programs continued to grow. The Board asked UNL to help with the research and a feasibility study. The neighborhoods we served increased steadily after the completion of the K & L Bypass in 1987, allowing easy access to downtown. Another development in 1999 that also increased access to our area was the “A” street bridge over the 3rd Street railroad tracks. This project came about due to the increased rail traffic along 3rd Street (over 40 trains per day), the mile-long train lengths, increased noise and traffic delays, and concerns about access to the surrounding residents and businesses.

After 27 years of discussions, planning, and finally purchasing the building from the City of Lincoln in 2013, our campaign committee received its first donation in 2014. We began our Capital Campaign to raise \$1.4 million to renovate and expand the Willard building. We were able to start renovations in 2017 and ended in 2018 when the original building was 100 years old. For the first time, Willard was now completely accessible for people with mobility disabilities and had larger meeting rooms for programs, services, and family and business rentals. We see more businesses coming to the area, and plans are in the works for more non-profits to provide more resources for the neighborhood.

After our successful capital campaign to renovate our historic building, we were on the road to fulfilling our mission to function as the hub for an underserved community in Lincoln. In 2019 all of our programs were at full capacity, reporting our highest numbers. We were on our way to bringing in more services to the community when the Covid-19 pandemic hit us. Lincoln Public Schools and businesses throughout the city closed. Willard would have had to close too if it weren't for the support of grants from our local, State, and Federal funders. Willard remained open providing child care for essential workers, but we closed the building for public use. Low enrollment, a lack of staff, and the expense to meet new regulations to address the pandemic took every resource we had. Through all this we were able to survive and continue to be there to meet the needs of our families. Today we are slowly rebounding and can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

In 2021 we were back in full swing and operating Before and After School Programs at Roper and Lakeview Elementary Schools. At Lakeview, we are the Lead Agency for their Community Learning Center and have been a partner in the 21st Century Community Center Initiative since 2003. Early Childhood Development Programs include Preschool and Pre-K Programs at the Willard Building and 1030 West “Q” Street (east of Lakeview School). We also provide an all-day Summer Program, M-F, that offers care for the entire summer.

From January to December, we served 512 children at four different sites. Of those children, 39% receive Free/Reduced lunch and are considered low income. All of our programs are licensed through the Department of Health and Human Services. Our Preschool and Pre-K Programs are accredited through the Step Up to Quality Standards. Enrollments are increasing as we enter year three of what is hopefully an ending pandemic. Measurements of effectiveness are formal and informal, but all are a product of educational partnerships. Our programs' heart is the desire to help “level the playing field” for children who might have fewer opportunities early in life than others.

Willard is the common gathering place for Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Bingo, Ross (Republic of South Sudan) Leadership Academy, Nebraska Swordfighters, hobby and exercise groups, and neighborhood, church, business, and family gatherings. This proves that we are an anchoring presence in this community and are needed to provide space for these groups at little or no cost. Throughout our history, we have had many exciting and worthy groups utilize our space, including the Ukrainian School, Northeast Family Academy of Rock, Health Stations, and Food Distributions, just to name a few.

IMPACT STATEMENT

Willard Community Center, Mourning Hope Grief Center, and City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation, with the help and support of the Community Health Endowment, began work, in 2017, on a non-profit campus concept. Parks and Recreation moved their playground to the west and sold the land to Mourning Hope to build a large 12,000 square foot building across our parking lot to the south. Lutheran Family Services was able to rent space from Mourning Hope and coordinate services, activities, and gatherings for our community and Campus partners.

Together we held a coat and food drive that was very well received. We have also added Community Crops and Boy Scouts to our partnership by developing a Community Garden, Blessing Box, and Little Free Library on Willard property. Together we held a Party in the Park in July for the whole community. Today, our non-profit campus is a reality with partners: Willard Community Center, Mourning Hope Grief Center, City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation, Lutheran Family Services, Community Crops, and Boy Scouts.

We continuously try to meet the needs of this community and currently partner with the agencies listed above along with the following agencies: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Lincoln and Lancaster County Health Department, Lincoln Food Bank - Fresh Food Truck, Lincoln Public Schools, Aging Partners, Lincoln Littles Early Childhood Education Initiative, Nebraska Early Childhood Education Professionals (NECEP), United Way, Lincoln Community Learning Centers, VITA Tax Assistance, and many local funders (listed in our "Grants Received" section).

Technology has played the most prominent role in our advancements at Willard Community Center. We have gone from pencil and paper to record enrollments and data, to laptops that can be transported anywhere. Staff work hours can be recorded through a free phone app. The children in our programs have access to Chromebooks to help with educational enrichment. Quickbooks keep track of parent payments and business money transactions. A software program called Brightwheel is used to handle all billing, payments, communication with parents and staff, end-of-the-year tax statement amounts, and much more. Along with technology comes the purchase of Cyber Security Insurance. Who would have ever thought we would need something like that?

The employees that have and continue to work at Willard are some of the best in Lincoln. Out of 48 staff in 2021, we had 12 long-time dedicated staff, some full-time and some part-time, that have served 120 cumulative years working for Willard. Their experience, passion, and loyalty to Willard and our mission are of the highest degree.

My favorite impact that we have made is the staff growing up at Willard. We currently have five staff members (but in the past had as many as ten), who were participants in our childcare programs and then came to work for us when they were at least age 16. We have also had staff that continues to live in the neighborhood and have families of their own enroll their children in our programs.

Our Board of Directors is equally impressive and passionate. Our current board members have accumulated 64 years of leading Willard to the jewel it is today. These outstanding individuals have bravely led us through a total renovation and addition to our building, a pandemic that has lasted for over two years, multiple fundraisers, and the growing pains of a non-profit trying to stay financially stable.

We are so fortunate to have strong and supportive relationships with the businesses in the area. The most extended relationships are with Lincoln Industries, Ray's Lawn and Home Care, Lester Electrical, Stephens and Smith Construction, and Cheever Construction.

I want to thank everyone who has been a part of this journey. It has been my honor to serve this community over the past 40 years. I have witnessed many incredible changes that will forever make this little-known part of Lincoln a worthy destination. Our Non-Profit Campus will be a place that everyone will use as an example to show how collaboration and hard work can make a dream come true. I know that under the new leadership of Sarah Reinke, Willard Community Center will be one of the most respected little non-profits in Lincoln.

THANK YOU TO

- Allo Communications -

It was announced that 77 non-profits in Lincoln and Lancaster County would receive free internet for ten years. Willard was one of the 77 non-profits. It will save us about \$3,000 a year. 2021 was our second year of free service.

- Boy Scout Troop 55 & Cub Scout Pack 55 -

Replaced the decaying food pantry on the south side of the building with a new "Blessing Box." Larry Lumm built the new "Blessing Box," and Roger Rezac helped install it. They also made a new box for a "Little Library." The new Blessing Box is fantastic! It is large and holds food and other essentials such as diapers, feminine products, band-aids, toothbrushes, gloves, etc. The Scout families and other individuals and community groups will be helping to furnish items for the Blessing Box. Terry Stentz, Cornhusker Council Boy Scouts of America Unit Commissioner for Troop and Pack 55, donated \$600 to help with Blessing Box building expenses. The outpouring of generosity and food has been incredible.

The groups also planted a White Oak tree in the front entrance to Willard. Terry Stentz donated the tree and fertilizer, and the Scouts did the planting. It will be a great addition to our parking lot entrance. The Scouts have been a blessing to us this year and have helped us with several projects.

- Cheever Construction -

Found a contractor and paid for half of the construction costs to add a graded and poured swale/sidewalk on the west side of the building from the parking lot to the preschool playground to keep the rainwater draining away from the building. Thanks again to Terry Stentz, Willard board member, and Doug Klute with Cheever Construction for keeping the facility in tip-top condition.

- Ms. Irene Delozier -

shared her great taste in wine and donated nine bottles for our Annual Golf Tournament. Ms. Delozier also did a company match of \$500 from Filament Essential Services.

- Edward Jones Financial and Investment Services -

Donated \$100 to be used for our summer program.

- Filament Essential Services -

Dan Kunzman donated five windowsill planters full of plants for the third-floor game room.

- Former Board Member -

Wished to remain anonymous, brought in a check for \$2,400 to support families that were struggling this year with childcare expenses. The money helped 12 families.

- Mr. Aaron Gardner -

Donated \$500 for gift cards for families in need for Christmas. Five families were selected and given a \$100 gift card to Walmart to purchase food, clothing, Christmas gifts, or possibly car repair.

- The Family of Ms. Margie Jensen -

Requested that memorials be sent to Willard Community Center after her passing on September 28. Margie's memorial totaled \$945. Ms. Soderling, daughter of Ms. Jensen, suggested that Willard use a portion of the memorial to plant a tree on the west lawn in Ms. Jensen's honor. A White Oak tree was purchased, and the Boy and Cub Scouts from Troop and Pack 55 came and helped plant the tree in November. Ms. Jensen enjoyed coming to Willard to play bingo, visiting with everyone at the potluck lunches, and seeing the little children in the preschool program.

- John Henry's Plumbing, Heating, and Air -

Donated to our summer child care programs. They gave us 50 passes to each of the following locations: Morrill Hall, Wildlife Safari, Prehistoric Putt, and swimming. One of John Henry's employees that presented this to us lives in the neighborhood and sees the children when he drives by every day. Three of their staff came to Willard for a tour of our program and presented the gifts.

THANK YOU TO

- Lester Electrical -

Donated dozens of pumpkins of all shapes, sizes, and colors that were extras from their employee giveaway. They are always thinking of us with donations like this. There were enough pumpkins that the children in one of the Lakeview CLC after-school clubs could paint a face on a pumpkin and take it home. Every preschool and pre-k child also got to pick one out and take it home.

- Lincoln Fresh Food Truck -

The first visit was July 13 and came every other Tuesday from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Covid protocols were still in place, so they handed out pre-packaged fruits and vegetables to anyone that came and handed out a great assortment of produce.

- Lincoln Industries -

Volunteers helped lay down black rubber matting recycled from the old Schroder Park playground in the preschool playground area. Five volunteers, including Willard's board chair, Kassy Knudson, came and worked in the heat all afternoon on Friday, June 4. The children and staff have loved the rubber matting instead of the dirty bark chips. When the kids fall, they bounce back up and go on as if nothing happened. Lincoln Industries has always been eager to help when we call. What a fantastic group of volunteers.

- Lincoln Industries Community Connections Committee - Donated \$500 to Willard's programs.

- Lincoln Littles -

Provided \$100 in gift cards for Lakeshore Learning for our early childhood programs to purchase multicultural items.

- Dr. Linda Moody -

Director of Service-Learning, Lincoln VITA, and another volunteer came to Willard for a free Advance Child Care Tax Credit Clinic. We had 12 families ask questions and get help with this new information.

- Mr. Justin Pifanz -

Long-time Willard board member donated three Dell Vostro laptops for our administrative staff and gave additional support to our Annual Golf Tournament. Our board members see a need, and they provide and support the Center in many ways. Willard is very grateful for every one of our board members.

- Ray's Lawn and Home Care -

They have continued to take care of our lawn and snow removal, keeping the Willard grounds looking great year-round and doing it all free of charge.

- Ms. Janelle Soderling and Family -

Donated and planted a Sun Valley Maple tree in honor of her upcoming retirement. It is located next to a bench donated in remembrance of Russ Williams, the late husband of a long-time board member, Irene Delozier, to shade the sitting area and eventually part of the preschool playground.

- Mr. Terry Stentz -

Willard board member, volunteered to provide snacks for Willard staff. Working at UNL, he realizes that many of those students don't have the revenue or the time to stop and get something to eat before they come to work. He wanted to provide snacks for them to eat when they are hungry, making them better employees and more caring and nurturing child care providers.

- Stephens and Smith Construction Company -

Brought in 150 staff members for a company training on February 19. They rented three classrooms and rotated their employees through in-service training. They utilized our vans and transported their employees from Stephens and Smith to Willard and back. Mr. Brett Richert said that he received great feedback from his employees. Looking back, this was one of only three building rentals all year.

THANK YOU TO

- Mr. Josh Sterns -

Member of Boy Scout Troop 55, earned his Eagle Scout honor by helping to fundraise and build the community garden in cooperation with Community Crops. Boy Scout Troop 55 helped build the raised garden beds, set them in place, and filled them with soil. The community garden will be ready for planting in the Spring of 2022.

- Gwen Thorp -

Designated Willard to receive \$50 through a community giving day at her church. The funds were used to take the pre-k students on a field trip to the Roca Berry Farm Pumpkin Patch.

- Union Bank and Trust -

Gave a donation of \$100 to be used for summer field trip expenses.

- United Way -

Held its annual book drive and delivered books to every child at Willard on June 21. United Way wants the children to be excited about reading during the summer, and the kids have loved the books.

- United Way Day of Caring -

On Friday, September 10, Willard had nine volunteers from Black Hills Energy. They repainted the interior front stair railings with primer and paint. The rest of the crew replaced the dirt around the new sidewalk to be seeded before fall and did a brick landscape edging around the Limelight Hydrangeas, donated by the Soderling family. The whole west side of the building is coming together, and it looks incredible.

Thank you to all Willard and neighborhood families who have donated funds and gently used games, toys, clothing, books, and other items for our programs. Your generosity is overwhelming and much appreciated.

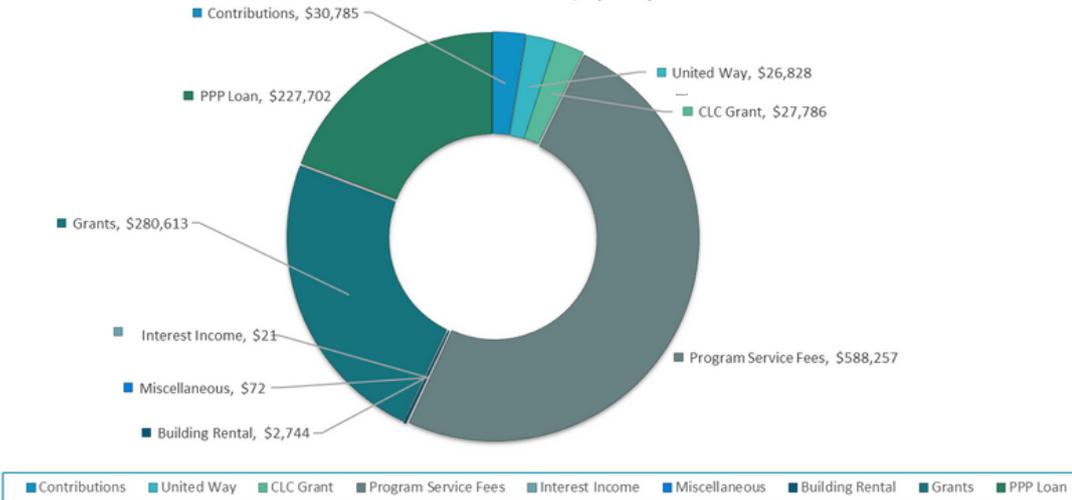


2021 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Prepared by Renee Hein

Revenue

Total Revenues \$1,184,809



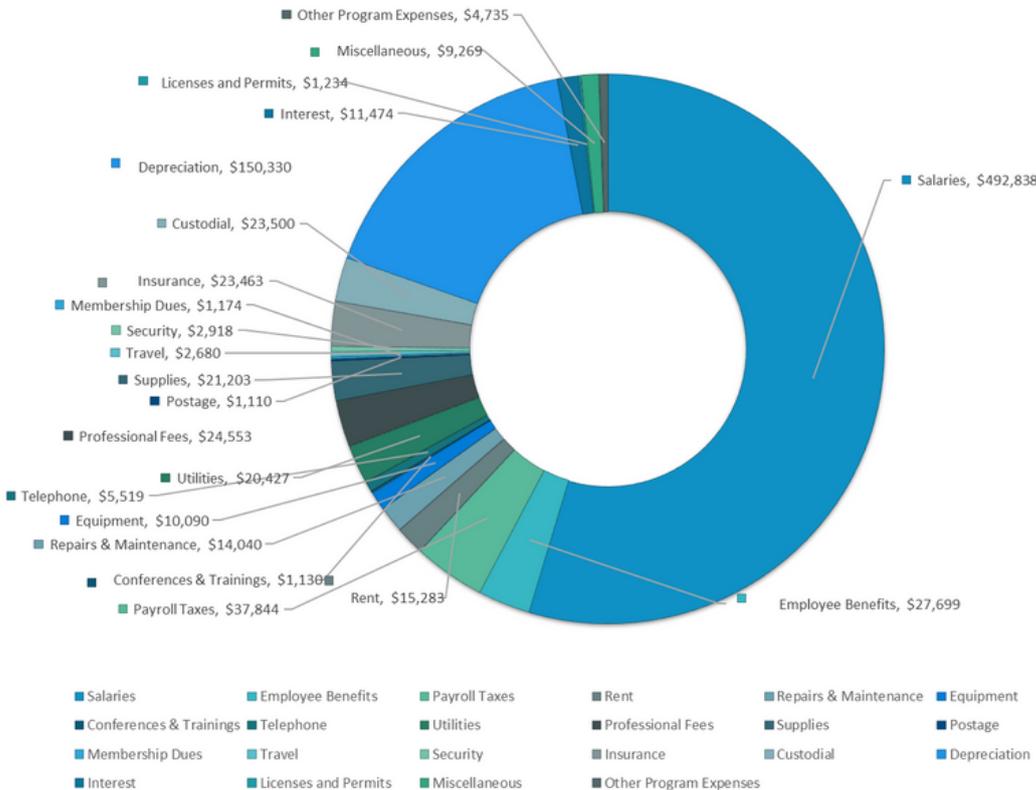
Revenue

Contributions \$30,785
 United Way \$26,828
 CLC Grant \$27,786
 Program Service Fees \$588,257
 Interest Income \$21
 Miscellaneous \$72
 Building Rentals \$2,744
 Grants \$280,613
 PPP Loan \$227,702

Total Revenues \$1,184,809

Expense

Total Expenses \$902,512



Expenses

Salaries \$492,838
 Employee Benefits \$27,699
 Payroll Taxes \$37,844
 Rent \$15,283
 Repairs and Maintenance \$14,040
 Equipment \$10,090
 Conferences and Training \$1,130
 Telephone \$5,519
 Utilities \$20,427
 Professional Fees \$24,553
 Supplies \$21,203
 Postage \$1,110
 Membership Dues \$1,174
 Travel \$2,680
 Security \$2,918
 Insurance \$23,463
 Custodial \$23,500
 Depreciation \$150,330
 Interest \$11,474
 Licenses and Permits \$1,234
 Miscellaneous \$9,269
 Other Program Expenses \$4,735

Total Expenses \$902,512

Change in Net Assets \$282,297