

Flora Finds Fun and Fellowship

After her husband of more than 50 years died in 2008, Flora was feeling lonely and depressed. She went to her primary care physician, and he suggested that she go “join some senior club” to help get her out of her funk.

With help from her sons, daughters, and grandchildren, Flora started coming to the Heartland Family Service Generations Center, which provides recreational, social, and nutritional programming for seniors 55 and over.

“It’s fabulous,” Flora says. “I was so impressed. It’s beautiful. I just love this place.”

On most days, Flora (*far right*) enjoys playing cards with some of the other regulars at the Generations Center — Shirley, Alice (*left in photo*), Connie, and Charlene — who have now become her friends.

She also partakes in the low-cost lunch and transportation pick-up and drop-off.

“I don’t drive,” Flora says. “And if I stay at home, I get too down-hearted. It’s quiet just by myself. I have no one to talk to. Over here I do.”

In addition to playing cards, daily programming includes watching TV, reading, surfing on Internet-accessible computers, and “shopping” off the free clothing donation rack.

The seniors also play bingo twice a week and enjoy monthly musical entertainment by the Merrymakers, arts and crafts with WhyArts? visiting instructors, and themed parties geared toward a season or holiday.

“We’re like a bunch of sisters here and brothers,” Flora says. “We’re just like a family here, and I like that. I like family.”

“I think it makes me live a little longer, too, to be together.”



Learn more about the Generations Center at <http://bit.ly/HFSgenerationscenter>



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Comedy Night

More than 165 guests laughed their way to raising nearly \$34,000 at the 12th annual Heartland Family Service Jefferson House Comedy Night on Saturday, Aug. 13 at the Fremont Golf Club.

The evening began with a silent auction and dinner. Co-chairs Jeff Hoffman and Jo Fritz then introduced a short video about the Jefferson House before handing out the inaugural Spirit of Jefferson House Award to Ken and Alice McElhose. The couple were honored for exceptional contributions to the Jefferson House, having both served on the Jefferson House Advisory Board and as co-chairs of the capital campaign that raised \$1 million for house renovations.

Things then got rowdy with the dessert dash, featured comedian Kris Covi, and live auction. The evening ended with Jefferson House resident Tanner sharing his story. The 17-year-old had struggled with drugs, theft, robbery and depression, attempting suicide more than 10 times before coming to the Jefferson House.

“The staff at the J-House took their time, never gave up,” Tanner said. “They saw me as what I could become and not what I’ve been.”

- **Fundraising Total:** \$33,547
- **Proceeds Benefit:** **Jefferson House** and **Fremont In-Home Services**

 View additional Comedy Night photos at [Facebook.com/HeartlandFamilyService](https://www.facebook.com/HeartlandFamilyService)



From left: Development Coordinator Nicole Tromler, Jefferson House Program Director Chris Sewall, co-chairs Jo Fritz and Jeff Hoffman, Chief Development Officer Donna Dostal, and President and CEO John Jeanetta.



Jeff Hoffman (left) presents the inaugural Spirit of Jefferson House Award to longtime supporters Ken and Alice McElhose.



Jefferson House youth painted flower pots that were used as event centerpieces.



Jefferson House pet Meelo has fun at the photo booth with (left to right) Joey Bergmanis, Tanner, and Chris Sewall.



Featured comedian Kris Covi performs his act during the Jefferson House Comedy Night.

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Miss Heartland Scholarship Pageant

Three girls were crowned at the second annual Heartland Family Service **Ruth K. Solomon Girls Center** Miss Heartland Scholarship Pageant at Omaha North High School on Thursday, July 28.

The 19 contestants ages 5 to 18 showcased their skills in six scoring categories: Miss Professionalism, Miss Fit, Miss Elegance, Miss Public Speaker, Miss Scholastic and Miss Talented.

Miracle Davis, a 13-year-old who attends Alice Buffet Magnet Middle School sang Adele's "Hello" for her talent to win the Teen Miss Heartland title and a \$1,000 college scholarship. Davis also was voted Most Valuable Princess by the other contestants and won the People's Choice Award.

Junior Miss Heartland winner Taylor Bogard, a 12-year-old who attends Alfonza W. Davis Middle School, sported her Apollo Track Club uniform during the fitness category. Hailee Jones-Wallace, an 8-year-old who attends Holy Name School, danced her way to the Little Miss Heartland title with a routine to "No Scrubs" by TLC.



From left: Teen Miss Heartland Miracle Davis, Little Miss Heartland Hailee Jones-Wallace, and Junior Miss Heartland Taylor Bogard are crowned.



Members of the Ruth K. Solomon Girls Center's groups for ages 5-6 and 7-8 perform a dance to Beyonce's "Move Your Body" during the pageant.

 View additional 2016 Miss Heartland photos at [Facebook.com/HeartlandFamilyService](https://www.facebook.com/HeartlandFamilyService)



Agency Updates

- The Heartland Family Service **Assertive Community Treatment** program added a new facet to its services for adults living with serious mental illnesses called InSHAPE. The goal of InSHAPE is to improve the physical health and quality of life, reduce the risk of preventable diseases, and enhance the life expectancy of individuals living with serious mental illnesses. In late August, staff and some of the 25 clients participating in InSHAPE celebrated milestones at Big Lake Park in Council Bluffs with a healthy eating activity, group walk around the lake (*top right*), and presentation of certificates.
- Employees from Lockton Companies were hard at work this summer in Heartland Family Service programs. Volunteers helped clean up Fontenelle Park with **Nebraska Family Works** staff and clients (*bottom right*), complete landscape updates at **Safe Haven** domestic violence shelter, paint the Central Office employee breakroom, and provide companionship for seniors at our **Generations Center**. Thank you, Lockton Companies, for your continued support of our programs!



For comments or suggestions, contact Media@HeartlandFamilyService.org

[HeartlandFamilyService.org](https://www.HeartlandFamilyService.org)





Dear Friends:

Our 140th anniversary year is coming to a close on October 27, when we were organized in 1875 in the “parlors of First Methodist Church.” Our first office, known as Omaha City Mission and located at 1421 Douglas Street, was described as follows in agency history recorded in 1905:

Situated in the center of the vilest slums of this city, surrounded on every side by degradation, poverty and crime in all its hideous phases, almost hidden from public view by a high board fence, stands an unpretentious frame building known to habitués and frequenters of the slums as the Omaha City Mission.

So much has changed in the last 140 years for our community, our agency, and our views on poverty. And while many of the issues we were originally created to address remain, our efforts to treat the root causes of these social problems have become more precise and better informed. Look for exciting new initiatives this year as we continue to move the dial on creating sustained change. And know, these successes would not be possible without you.

Sincerely,

John H. Jeanetta, MBA, MSW
President and CEO



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Supporter Spotlight with Donna Dostal,
Chief Development Officer

Because of supporters like you, our community’s most vulnerable children and families find the help, hope, and support they need to move forward in their lives. You are the champion they need to move past their personal trauma toward a feeling of wholeness and family ... toward a feeling of home! You make all the difference. And many of you choose to make that difference through sponsorship and/or attendance at one of our events. Take a minute and tell us what your favorite event is and why in this quarter’s survey!

This Quarter’s Survey

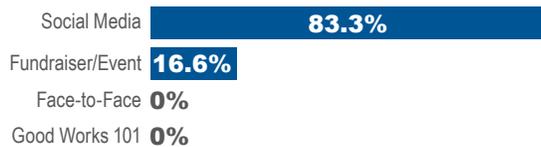
Question: What is your favorite Heartland Family Service event?

Please take a quick survey by visiting our blog at HeartlandFamilyService.org/blog. Your input is so valuable to us!

Last Quarter’s Survey Results

Question: What method do you most use in sharing the message of HF’s with family and friends?

Results: Percentage of respondents who chose each category.



Give Today!
Simply text
“HFS” to 72727



UPCOMING EVENTS

Salute to Families

November 17, 2016 @ 6 p.m.
Happy Hollow
Omaha, NE

“Carnival of Love” Gala

February 11, 2017 @ 6 p.m.
Embassy Suites
LaVista, NE

Omaha Gives!

May 24, 2017
Various locations
Omaha, NE

Good Works 101

Monthly Dates
Call for info
(402) 552-7475



For more information about our upcoming events, check out our Calendar page at HeartlandFamilyService.org or contact us at Events@HeartlandFamilyService.org

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Wish Lists