

COMMUNITY HEALTH CHARITIES OF NEBRASKA SUMMER CONNECTION

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CHC-NE WELCOMES 19TH FAMILY MEMBER



Community Health Charities of Nebraska (CHC-NE) has announced that the Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska (BIA-NE) is the newest charity to join the statewide fundraising federation. With this addition, there are now 19 member charities that provide support for those with chronic health issues across the state of Nebraska, effective July 1, 2016.

“The CHC-NE Board of Directors is very pleased to extend membership to the Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska,” said Craig Sall, State Board Chair. “Through education, outreach and family support, public awareness and advocacy, the Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska is making a difference for those in our state affected by brain injury. We look forward to helping them fulfill their mission.”

BIA-NE is committed to creating a better future for all Nebraskans with brain injuries and is the only non-profit exclusively dedicated to brain injury in the state. BIA-NE is serving the brain injury population by working to secure and develop community-based services and provide support groups and access to pertinent information, medical resources and service referrals. The organization also helps educate professionals who work with children and adults with brain injury.

“We are honored to become members of Community Health Charities of Nebraska. CHC-NE is a leader and innovator in raising awareness and critical funds for those living in Nebraska with a chronic illness, and we are proud to list alongside their trusted brand of charities,” said Peggy Reisher, Executive Director.



WEST CENTRAL NEBRASKA CHAIR HONORED

“On March 13, 2015, I met Jerry, and I knew that day that I had met someone that would change my life in such a positive way,” said Kari Hooker-Leep, West Central Regional Director. “Fast forward through so many speaking engagements across the state, hours spent together in a car talking about his love for Sandy, commitment to his family, the drive he had for his career in law enforcement and a true passion for the mission of ALS Association, and through the year I know he felt the same for the mission of Community Health Charities of Nebraska, as well.”

Jerry shared his and Sandy’s story, or “our journey,” as he calls it, so openly and with such love. When Jerry would speak of Sandy, he gave us all a look into the life of ALS and how it affects not only the person battling the disease but also their family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. “Our journey” began in 2010 after hearing the diagnosis of ALS Lou Gehrig’s disease. Facing this, Jerry and Sandy put things in perspective quickly. At the top of the list was to spend time with their children, grandchildren, family and friends.

This horrible disease never weakened their faith; rather, it made it stronger. They knew the key to this journey was making it with God’s love and forgiveness. It’s with this strength that Jerry learned to be an amazing caregiver, learning how to understand what Sandy needed, even when it came down to choosing the perfect capri pant outfit.

With the help of the ALS Association, Mid-America Chapter, Sandy was given so many needed items to make her more comfortable. The most significant one was the eye-tracking interface computer program. Sandy was given the ability to communicate with Jerry, family and friends through Facebook, email and in person, through a speaking program. This allowed her to continue to say, I love you and thank you and tell people what she needed. It gave her some quality of life.

Jerry gave back to thousands by sharing his personal story, his and Sandy’s journey. CHC-NE honored Jerry for being the 2015-2016 Chairperson for the West Central Region of Community Health Charities of Nebraska by donating books to the Trinity Lutheran School Library. “We want to continue to honor the memory of Sandy with these books donated in their names to the Trinity Lutheran School library,” said Hooker-Leep.

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Partnership Campaign for Health

Save the Date!

Final results of the 2015-2016 Partnership Campaign for Health will be announced at the CHC-NE Annual Meeting on Aug. 25, 2016, at the Omaha Country Club.

Here is what is going on at CHC-NE across the state.

Omaha – United Way Midlands Partnership

The 2015 United Way of the Midlands campaign is in its last push. CHC-NE will again receive a percentage of the campaign proceeds. Campaign co-chairs, Dana Bradford, Waitt Brands, Inc., and his wife Danielle are providing great leadership. Also, a big thank you to Douglas Oldaker, Security National Bank, for being the CHC Representative on the campaign cabinet this year.

We remain optimistic about donations to this year's campaign. Numerous large and small companies are meeting or exceeding their goals. Thank you to everyone who ran a campaign in their company, who coordinated or was part of a coordinating committee at their company and who donated to the campaign in their workplace!

Thank you to all of those who participated in Omaha Gives! this year.



Lincoln – United Way Lincoln Partnership

The partnership campaign between CHC-NE in Lincoln and United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County provided another successful year. The 2015 campaign received total donations of more than \$7 million.

A special thank you to our 2015 Campaign Co-Chairs Bill Mueller and Kim Robak, both of Mueller Robak LLC. Both have served on the CHC-NE Lincoln Leadership Council for many years.

Connie and Todd Duncan will be the Co-Chairs for the 2016 Campaign. The goal was set at the May 17 Cabinet Meeting and will be approved by the United Way Board of Directors.

West Central Nebraska

The CHC-NE West Central region has completed the 2015-16 campaign season. Jerry Schenck of Grand Island led efforts, raising more than \$160,000 for CHC-NE's 19 member charities.

Thanks to our donors, we raised almost \$1,000 in this year's Go Big Give! Event. Thanks to all who donated during this special 24-hour giving day event!



Eastern Nebraska

We would like to congratulate the 2015 Most Valuable Players: Cargill, Blair: to be announced; Central Community College, Columbus: Anonymous, GOLD; City of Columbus: Joseph Mangiamelli, GOLD and David Foster, SILVER; Corbion, Blair: SILVER Corporate Award, SILVER Per Capita Employee Giving Award and Mark Boger, SILVER; Evonik, Blair: John Bersane, GOLD; Fremont Area Association of RETIRED School Professionals: Ruth Register, GOLD; Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce: PLATINUM Per Capita Employee Giving Award; Fremont Health: Patrick Booth, GOLD, Dr. John Hogue, GOLD, Ruth Anderson, SILVER, Donna Bushlow, SILVER and Bill Vobejda Jr., SILVER; Fremont Public Schools: Beth Radtke, GOLD and Myron Sikora, SILVER; Getzchman Heating & Cooling: BRONZE Per Capita Employee Giving Award, Gunner Guenette, SILVER and Tom Schaer, SILVER; Midwest Livestock, Beatrice: Barrie Luers, SILVER; Nebraska Public Power District's STATEWIDE campaign: Traci Bender, GOLD, John McClure, GOLD, Patrick Pope, GOLD, Robin Curry, SILVER and Alan Weaver, SILVER; Valmont, West Point: Robert Paulsen, GOLD, Margarita Trujillo, GOLD and Jesus Urquidez, SILVER.

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

The Chair for the Heart of the Midlands CFC (all federal employees except Lincoln) and the goal will be announced at a later date.

The Lincoln and Lancaster County CFC chair is Evelyn Martin, USCIS, and the goal is \$300,000 with a 100% ask.

BRAD ANDERSON RECEIVES CHC-NE SPEAKER AWARD



Five years ago, in 2010, Brad and LuAnne Anderson were looking for answers about the minor memory issues and moodiness LuAnne had been experiencing for the last year and a half. The doctor came back into the room and said "I'm so sorry, this is a terrible diagnosis." At the age of 55, LuAnne was diagnosed with semantic dementia. In 2014, less than four years later, her behavior changed dramatically, becoming extremely difficult and unsafe. After a month in acute senior mental health care and another month in assisted living, Brad and his family were forced to place her in long-term care in a skilled nursing facility in Omaha that specializes in difficult behavior. She has not been home since.

Brad has become an Ambassador and Advocate for the Alzheimer's Association, speaking to local and national groups and members of Congress, and most recently he was asked to speak at the Annual Alzheimer's Association Advocacy Forum in Washington, D.C. Brad has spoken to 38 United Way/Community Health Charities campaigns since 2012, with 21 speeches in the 2015 campaign. Brad's message is so powerful that he is the United Way/CHC Campaign's most requested speaker. Brad takes every opportunity to speak about the terrible effects of dementia on his family and how dollars help families like his.

In recognition for his outstanding contributions to the United Way/CHC Campaign, Brad was honored with the 2015 Community Health Charities Lincoln Speaker of the Year award. Brad will also be the speaker at the CHC-NE Annual Meeting in August.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR NEBRASKA FAMILIES BY SUPPORTING THE CHC-NE CAMPAIGN!



Give. Give through a workplace giving campaign or through direct mail solicitation this year. We appreciate your past support!

Connect. We're connecting you to the health charities you care about: 100% of donor-directed dollars go to our charity partners. We are now 19 member charities!

Help. You can make a difference for Nebraskans who are affected by a chronic health issue.

