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**The Nebraska Children's Home Society: One hundred years of  
caring**

**Reznicek, Robert Lee, Ed.D.**

**The University of Nebraska - Lincoln, 1994**

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**THE NEBRASKA CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY:  
ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF CARING**

by

**Robert L. Reznicek**

**A DISSERTATION**

**Presented to the Faculty of**

**The Graduate College in the University of Nebraska**

**In Partial Fulfillment of Requirements**

**For the Degree of Doctor of Education**

**Major: Interdepartmental Area of Administration, Curriculum,  
and Instruction**

**Under the Supervision of Professor Frederick C. Wendel**

**Lincoln, Nebraska**

**November, 1994**

DISSERTATION TITLE

THE NEBRASKA CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY:

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF CARING

BY

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THE NEBRASKA CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY:

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF CARING

Robert L. Reznicek, Ed.D.

University of Nebraska, 1995

Advisor: Frederick C. Wendel

The attitude toward child care agencies in the United States was significantly changed during the second half of the nineteenth century. A review of the social and child welfare climate during the latter stage of the nineteenth century is a requisite for obtaining a deeper understanding of how and why new child care agencies were founded.

In the last decade of the nineteenth century, growing concerns about the care being provided to children led agencies and child care providers to provide relief to these children and their families. One of the trends was the establishment of institutions for children and the placement of children in adoption and foster care. The state of Nebraska, during the nineteenth century, did not have adoption agencies that would provide private placement for either foster children or children who were wards of the state. The Nebraska Children's Home Society was created to address the concerns and issues facing family and child care in Nebraska during the late nineteenth century.

The purpose of this dissertation was to trace the historic evolution of the Nebraska Children's Home Society from the Society's beginning through its first 100 years of development. The study was restricted to the historical, administrative, leadership, and financial issues of the Children's Home Society. After data were collected and reviewed, a schema was developed consisting of time

periods and topics within each respective period. The time periods evolved around critical events and developments of the Children's Home Society. Special emphasis was given to administrative, leadership, and financial issues faced by the Children's Home Society throughout the Society's growth. Significant local and state events as well as trends were also noted.



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Bob Reznicek

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## Introduction

### Social and Child Welfare Climate

The attitude toward child care agencies in the United States was significantly changed during the second half of the nineteenth century. A review of the social and child welfare climate during the latter stages of the nineteenth century is a requisite for obtaining a deeper understanding of how and why new child care agencies were founded.

Describing the socioeconomic status of clients of family agencies prior to the beginning of the twentieth century presented a difficult challenge. Because the statistical data available are not wholly reliable, due to changes in the methods of keeping statistics and ambiguous use of terms, the data available are narrative rather than statistical in nature (Cloward & Epstein, 1965). Raynor (1980) implied family agency research tended to address the relative importance of heredity and environment, the development and adjustment of adopted children, and the isolation of factors that were important in predicting success or failure in adoption. Evidence is nevertheless strong that agencies during the last half of the nineteenth century were focused almost exclusively on giving service to the poorer socioeconomic classes (Rich, 1956). Rich further postulated family agencies in the United States had their origins in the charitable organization societies that evolved throughout America in the late 1800s.

Patten (1968) reported that since the eighteenth century several conditions have created problems for children in need of care. Those problems include (a) socio-economic ones such as famine, economic depression, epidemic disease, and

war; (b) family problems which encompass the separation of parents, parental ill-health, and parental neglect; and (c) personal problems which include juvenile delinquency, children in need of supervision, emotional disturbance, unwed mothers, mental deficiency, and physical disability.

The illusion of America being a prosperous land led to the flow of immigration in the late 1800s. Bernard (1972) stated the increase in immigration was a contributing factor in the crisis of child care during the last half of the nineteenth century. Bernard believed the influx of families and children led to thousands of orphans, half-orphans, and destitute children being cared for through the notorious vendue system. Under the vendue system, dependent children, as well as pauper adults, were placed on auction blocks and low bidders received contracts for their care. In the late nineteenth century, the public did not object to children as young as seven years of age working ten to twelve hours per day, six days a week, in factories and cotton mills. Many of these children had come from undesirable backgrounds or had led very deprived lives (Raynor, 1980). Raynor further implied many of these children from undesirable backgrounds (e.g., drunkenness, criminality, or mental illness) were then able to take advantage of the available working opportunities to become productive members of society.

The child care agencies of New York City may have had one of the most intense challenges in child care (Bernard, 1972). The city leaders of New York City sensed a moral obligation to address citizens' role in protecting and caring for children. Bernard reported, prior to 1886, administrators of early orphanages and child care agencies were not required to provide medical examinations by qualified

physicians prior to admitting children. Beginning in 1886, New York state law required all children to receive a physical examination and vaccination from a qualified physician upon admittance to social welfare agencies, such as orphanages. During the late 1880s and early 1890s, child care practices changed as society demanded improved child care. In a sociological study, Patten (1968) examined the role of almshouses as they related to the care of children. Almshouses were public institutions that predominately cared for the poor, crippled, mentally defective, and mentally disturbed. Even though almshouses were primarily intended for adults, children were housed in them. Patten believed children were often neglected and abused in almshouses.

Supporters of orphanages and other child care agencies wanted to provide opportunities for children in educational, religious, and moral training. By 1890, educational services had become a standard requirement of orphanages and foster care agencies (Bernard, 1972). Although many child welfare leaders supported foster care over institutional care, foster care would not gain credibility until the twentieth century. Bernard viewed the last two decades of the nineteenth century as a period when states began to recognize children as citizens or at least as potential citizens (Teague, 1989). Teague reported initial child care regulations addressed little more than accommodating children from broken families or children of the destitute. Reformers capitalized on the compassion toward the children of the times to further their goal of placement in family homes. Social and child welfare issues became prevalent in all areas of the country in the last two decades of the nineteenth century. Child care problems may have been limited to metropolitan areas, but as

the twentieth century began, the problems spread to all geographical locations of the United States. In the late 1800s, family structure did not always include two parents. Families and children faced single parenthood due to death, marital breakups, long-term illness, and birth out of wedlock (Bernard, 1972).

#### Effects of Migration

Holt's (1992) examination of the westward migration during the late 1800s led him to believe the migration of the nation's poor from urban tenements to rural America is misunderstood. Holt theorized that economic and social structures of the late nineteenth century were certainly factors, but just as important were society's changing view of its responsibility of the child care system, the treatment of the poor, the economic impact of both the Industrial Revolution and western settlement, and the benevolent impulses within the structure of government. Holt further believed many factors contributed to the migration of the poor. Holt believed migration was due to (a) the poor attempting to improve their living conditions, (b) parents providing a better environment for children, and (c) women attempting to locate better working conditions.

During the westward migration and settlement, the need for laborers and work hands increased. By the late 1800s, the practice of indenturing became common place in western regions (Patten, 1968). Even though a large portion of the workers were male, there was a need for females who were often indentured as washerwomen and kitchen girls (Holt, 1992). The practice of indenturing and apprenticing children was an improvement over the system of the almshouse. According to Patten (1968), apprentices, and sometimes indentured children,

learned a trade which might serve them in adult life. The treatment given children depended almost entirely on the kindness and benevolence of employers. Some employers were known to treat their apprentices and indentured children as though they were their own (Patten, 1968).

In the last decade of the nineteenth century, growing concerns about the indenturing and apprenticing of children led agencies and child care providers to provide relief to distressed persons and families. Patten (1968) noted two trends during this period. One trend was directed from the establishment of institutions for children and toward placement of children in adoption and foster care. The other trend, almost counter to the first trend, was found in the continued establishment of workhouses and trade schools. New workhouses not only provided lodging and material care, but provided elementary education and training similar to what today would be referred to as vocational schools.

#### Development of Agencies

Agencies developed at an increasing rate to provide assistance to families who had problems with child care (Cloward & Epstein, 1965). Whereas many early institutions and agencies provided only temporary solutions and placement, adoption and foster care agencies provided permanent placement. The state of Nebraska, during the nineteenth century, did not have adoption agencies that provided private placement for either foster children or children who were wards of the state. The Nebraska Children's Home Society was created to address the concerns and issues facing family and child care in Nebraska during the late nineteenth century.

### The Purpose

The purpose of this dissertation was to trace the historic evolution of the Nebraska Children's Home Society from the Home's beginning through its first 100 years of development. The study placed the history of the Nebraska Children's Home Society in the state and local context of the times. Special emphasis was given to administrative, leadership, and financial issues faced by the Children's Home Society throughout the Society's growth.

### Scope and Limitations

Only the historical period, 1893 through 1993, was examined for the Nebraska Children's Home Society. The study was restricted to the historical, administrative, leadership, and financial issues of the Children's Home Society. Documents found in the Nebraska Children's Home Society's Executive Minutes Books; the Society's publications, Children's Home Advocate, The Advocate and Nebraska's Children; personal interviews and communication with individuals connected with the Society, documents in the Douglas County Historical Society and State Historical Society archives; and other library documents, sources, and archives were cited and utilized to the fullest extent. The history reported included the administrative, leadership, and financial events that were pertinent to the development of the Nebraska Children's Home Society.

### Methodology

After collecting and reviewing the data, a schema was developed consisting of time periods and topics within each respective period. The schema allowed for both a chronological and thematic approach to the history of the Nebraska Children's



Home Society. The time periods were developed based upon critical events and developments of the Children's Home Society. The thematic topics clustered around the issues of administrative, leadership, and financial issues. General historic events such as construction, change in significant personnel, and outstanding events not in the previously stated issues were included. Significant local and state events as well as trends were also noted.

## The Beginning

### Rev. and Mrs. Quivey

Rev. and Mrs. Elmer P. Quivey arrived in Omaha in February of 1892 for the purpose of determining if there was a need in the state of Nebraska for a child protection and placement organization. Rev. Quivey was an ordained minister of the Congregational Church. Rev. Quivey had given up his pastoral responsibilities some years earlier so he could devote his energies to social service. While Rev. Quivey served as chaplain at the Iowa State Penitentiary at Fort Madison, Iowa, he became convinced there would be less delinquency if boys, rather than being placed in reform schools, could receive care in private homes.

Rev. Quivey became affiliated with the National Children's Home Society. The National Society was a federation of twenty-six state societies and the largest child placement organization in the world. The Quiveys had learned from 60 to 100 children were housed in Omaha in child care facilities such as "The Homes of the Friendless" and that two other groups were taking tentative steps toward organizing child help facilities. After finding suitable living quarters, the Quiveys began to make friends and finally enlisted several of the influential people of the city and state to pursue their goal of developing a Children's Home Society in Nebraska.

### Initial Meetings

On August 10, 1893, Rev. Quivey called a meeting at the Y. M. C. A. Hall in Omaha for the purpose of forming an affiliate of the National Children's Home Society that would be known as the Nebraska Children's Home Society. The

meeting was presided over by a Reverend Hoover who was the President of the National Executive Committee. Also present at the initial meeting were eight clergymen, two judges, one layman, and one woman (Executive Minutes Book, 1893). The committee adopted a constitution (see Appendix A), elected 20 trustees, and appointed a committee to write Articles of Incorporation. On September 11, 1893, the Children's Home Society met for a second time. Rev. Quivey was chosen to be State superintendent for the Society and Judge Samuel Maxwell of Omaha was chosen to be the first President of the Society (see Appendix B). Judge Maxwell was a descendent from one of the wealthiest families of the eastern United States and was a strong leader for the Republican Party within the state of Nebraska. Judge Maxwell was a practicing attorney who was elected to serve on the Supreme Court of Nebraska. While serving on the Supreme Court, Judge Maxwell was elected to serve as Chief Justice of the Court (Morton, 1907). The Articles of Incorporation (see Appendix C) were passed at this meeting, and other committee positions were either appointed or elected (Executive Minutes Book, 1893). The Nebraska Children's Home Society was founded on the belief the Home would be a non-sectarian agency for the care and placement of neglected, orphaned, or unwanted children (Satterfield, 1960). The original home was located in the Quivey's personal home on 3010 Woolworth Avenue in Omaha.

The first annual meeting of the Nebraska Children's Home Society was held on May 2, 1894, as required by its written constitution. Minutes from the annual meeting reported that 90 local society boards had been organized across the state of Nebraska. Within these local boards there were more than 600 men and women

who were intimately connected with the work of the Children's Home (Executive Minutes Book, 1894). The data in Table 1 were presented by Rev. Quivey at the meeting.

Table 1

Nebraska Children's Home Society Child Placement Status in 1893

Child Placement Data	Statistical Information
Number of children received and registered for the first time	43
Number of children placed first time	41
Number of children returned for replacement	3
Number of children replaced	2
Number of children on hand	3
Average expense per child not including replacement	\$47.90

A unanimous decision was made during the annual meeting that the Children's Home Society would not favor a tax, for the years 1894 and 1895, to be applied toward the operation of the Home due to financial pressures upon the citizens of Nebraska and the drought that prevailed in Nebraska. A report issued at the annual meeting showed pledges amounting to over \$20,000.00 had been received in spite of poor economic conditions. However, only \$1,798.93 of the

pledge monies were eventually collected (Executive Minutes Book, 1894). Even though the Children's Home Society was an auxiliary of the national organization, the Home continued to assert its independence from the national group. Various bills were rejected at the meeting including an assessment of \$37.00 to help defray the expenses of a booth at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The \$37.00 debt was refused on the grounds the Exposition was nearly concluded at the time the Nebraska Children's Home Society was formed.

At the initial annual meeting, salaries for Rev. Quivey, as State superintendent, and the four district superintendents were established. Rev. Quivey's salary was set at \$1500.00 per year and the district superintendents' salaries were to be \$1000.00 annually. To receive their salaries, the district superintendents were expected to accept and place children and to collect all public contributions. Commissions of at least \$30.00 per month were guaranteed to the district superintendents if 50% of the collections were realized. Mrs. E. P. Quivey was approved for employment as one of the four district superintendents and assigned to the Beatrice region. The other district superintendents and their assignments were (a) Rev. D. W. Comstock for the Omaha region, (b) Rev. J. E. Storm for the Lincoln region, and (c) Miss C. Hughes for the Grand Island region.

On June 4, 1895, the Children's Home Society conducted its first state convention. The convention was held in Omaha at the First Presbyterian Church then located on the corner of Seventeenth and Dodge Streets. The focus of the convention was to spread the mission of the Children's Home Society and offer appreciation for people associated with the Children's Home. Special

commendations were offered to Rev. and Mrs. Quivey for their great labor, self-sacrifice, and persistence in assisting the development of the Children's Home.

At the conclusion of the convention, a recommendation was made to appoint General Charles F. Manderson of Omaha as president of the Children's Home Society. General Manderson thus became the second president of the Children's Home Society succeeding Judge Samuel Maxwell. General Manderson was considered one of the most distinguished and gallant men that ever graced the city of Omaha. General Manderson had fought in the Civil War and, upon conclusion of the war, he became a partner in an Omaha law firm. Beginning in 1883, General Manderson served for twelve years in the United States Senate where he was regarded as one of the most influential and popular leaders of the Senate (Sorenson, 1923). General Manderson served only two years in the position of president of Executive Board of the Children's Home Society. Manderson was replaced in 1897 by Rev. T. J. McKay, minister of the All Saints Episcopalian Church in Omaha.

#### The Advocate

An amendment to the Executive Minutes Book (1896) reflected the absence of the annual meeting minutes from May, 1896. The amendment stated the minutes were lost in transit through the mail, and since the secretary was not present at the meeting no formal minutes were available for publication. Excerpts from Rev. Quivey's State Superintendent's report stated Mrs. Quivey became ill on January 1, 1896 and was bedridden for nearly four months. Rev. Quivey reported commencement of the bi-monthly publication, The Homeless Children's Advocate,

also referred to as The Advocate. The first edition of The Advocate (1896) reported 176 children had been registered and received at the Children's Home and all except three or four of the children had been placed in private homes. The Advocate also reported a treasury balance of \$213.76 at the end of the fiscal year for the Children's Home Society.

On May 19, 1897, the Third Annual Convention of the Nebraska Children's Home Society was held in Fremont at the First Methodist Episcopal Church. Table 2 refers to the annual report Rev. Quivey presented at the convention (Executive Minutes Book, 1897).

On June 9, 1897, L. D. Holmes, an attorney who was senior partner in three Omaha law firms, was chosen to succeed Dr. McKay as president of the Children's Home Society. Mr. Holmes served as president for two years. Two constitutional revisions for the Children's Home Society were offered and approved at the meeting. The revisions pertained to Articles III and IV of the Children's Home Society Constitution (see Appendix D).

#### The Dodds Case

September of 1897 brought forth one of the first major conflicts to the Executive Board of the Children's Home Society. A married couple, originally of Grand Island but then living in Milford, requested, through their attorney, the return of custody for their four children. The married couple had placed the children in the hands of the Children's Home Society wanting the Home to find suitable homes for the children. The Executive Board in this case, referred to as the Dodds Case, did not reach a final decision until the following day. The parent's

Table 2

Nebraska Children's Home Society Child Placement in 1896

Child Placement Information	Statistical Information
Number of children received and recorded	116
Number of children placed the first time	114
Number of children replaced the first time	21
Number of children replaced the second time	9
Number of children replaced the third time	2
Number of children replaced, failed second time	2
Number of children needing homes	6
Number of children on hand	2
Number of local boards	175
Number of members of local boards	1400
Number of life members	900
Balance on hand in treasury as of May 1, 1897	\$737.19

request for custody was denied based on the following conclusions:

1. The parents were not financially able to properly care for the children in question.
2. The children were given into the care of the Society by the voluntary actions of the parents.



3. The children were not well cared for.
4. It is not, therefore, deemed expedient either for the good of the children, the parents, and humanity, in general, that the children should be returned to the parents. (Executive Minutes Book, 1897)

The decision, in the Dodds Case, led to the resignation of Mr. C. N. Dawson, a trustee of the Children's Home Society and former secretary of the Executive Board. Records of the Society reflected Mr. Dawson's unhappiness with the Executive Board's decision in the Dodds case. The Board's decision brought about Mr. Dawson's resignation. On September 15, 1898, the Executive Board ordered that all court and attorney fees be paid in regard to the Dodds Case dating back to September, 1897. At the same meeting, the Executive Board decided that Rev. Quivey's expense account for the preceding year be submitted to the auditing committee and, thereafter, the monthly expense account of Rev. Quivey must be audited with all other accounts of the Children's Home Society (Executive Minutes Book, 1898).

#### Financial Report

On September 17, 1899, in his annual report as State Superintendent, Rev. Quivey made several statements concerning the status of the Society during the fiscal years of 1897 and 1898, disclosing the Society had not been as successful as he had anticipated during that period. Rev. Quivey believed the insufficient number of district superintendents in the western part of the state hindered the progress of the Society in that region. Rev. Quivey reported seven other institutions and child care agencies from within the boundaries of Nebraska and four child care agencies

from outside the state were now competing for monetary funds for the placement of homeless children. Therefore, the number of children that had been placed and the fees collected were not what Rev. Quivey had projected. Rev. Quivey stated that 447 children had been received, placed, and re-placed during the years of 1897 and 1898 (Executive Minutes Book, 1899). Rev. Quivey reported the Society had over 2000 life memberships, over 5000 partial life memberships, and about 100 patron memberships on the Society's records (see Appendix A).

At the 1899 annual meeting, Rev. Quivey made special mention concerning the publication of the Society's bi-monthly publication, The Advocate. The Advocate, since its origination in 1896, had grown from a sixteen-column paper with a circulation of about 2000 to a twenty-four column paper in 1899 with a circulation of 7300 with anticipated readers exceeding 20,000. Rev. Quivey reported two children had died in their adoptive placement homes during 1897 and 1898. One death was by accident and the other death from a disease. No wrongdoing in the childrens' death was proven since findings concluded both children had received proper care and everything that could be done for the children had been attempted. In the previous five years of the Society only one death had occurred in an adoptive placement. In the 1899 report, Rev. Quivey thanked the railroads of Nebraska for their assistance in the placement of adoptive children. This special recognition was for the Union Pacific Railroad's supportive work in transporting the wards of the Society and the casemanagers of the Society. At the conclusion of the meeting, Rev. Stephen Phelps, minister and professor of the Presbyterian Seminary in Omaha, was appointed to succeed Mr. L. D. Holmes as

president of the Executive Board of the Children's Home Society. Rev. Phelps served as president from 1899 to 1900.

### Chapter Summary

#### Administrative

During the first seven years of existence, the Nebraska Children's Home Society had five different presidents of the Executive Board. Rev. E. P. Quivey served as state superintendent during that same time period. The records reflected a willingness of individuals to serve but not for lengthy periods of time.

#### Leadership

The leadership of the Society closely correlated with the administrative service of the Executive Committee. The early leaders were prominent citizens of Omaha, who often had decorated pasts. Judges, a general, an attorney, and clergy served as Presidents of the Society. The leaders assisted in the philosophical shaping of the Society by their influence on the Constitution and Articles of Incorporation.

The early leadership appeared to be both strong and aggressive as the Society set and established policies. The leaders consciously developed budgets and set salaries. Fiscal concerns and the goal of long term survival of the Society were key issues dealt with by these leaders. Rev. Quivey's commitment was a strong asset as the Society evolved.

The Executive Board remained focused on the Society's goals to provide quality child care and placement. The Executive Board's decision in the Dodds Case magnified the mission of the Society and effected future policy development.

**Financial**

Cost consciousness and financial stability were early objectives of the Society. The leadership of the Society closely scrutinized the expenditures of the organization. Mention of commissions and auditing of accounts exhibited a financial awareness of the early administration and leaders.

## The Turn of the Century

### Philosophical Change

The twentieth century began for the Children's Home Society with a special Executive Board meeting. The focus of the January 12, 1900, meeting was to review a proposition from the Indiana Children's Home Society requesting a transfer of 10 to 15 children to the Nebraska Children's Home Society. The Indiana Society would reimburse the Nebraska Society \$10.00 per child to help defray the expenses of placing the children. The Nebraska Society's Executive Board accepted the proposal to assist in the placement of the children. The decision to cooperate with the Indiana Children's Home Society was the first contact the Nebraska Society had with another agency that was part of the National Children's Home Society since the Nebraska division was founded in 1893 (Executive Minutes Book, 1900).

In a January 26, 1900, report, Rev. Quivey requested the Executive Board of the Children's Home Society to take action on the following items:

1. The Society shall go to court to secure control of children, who are in homes of bad reputation, or where the children are being improperly treated.
2. The Society shall send any of its children to a Reform School whenever it seems impossible to keep the children in good homes on account of improper conduct.
3. The Society shall place girls from 14 to 18 years of age in homes where the

girls will receive wages, provided no homes can be found where the girls can remain on account of their bad conduct, or from the fact of being incorrigible. (Executive Minutes Book, 1900)

In response to Rev. Quivey's request, the Executive Board decided political ramifications would make it unwise for the Society to go to court to secure children who were in improper homes or who were being improperly treated. The Executive Board offered the opinion not to send any of the Society's children to Reform Schools but first attempt to place the children in private homes even if the homes were considered as second class recommendations. The Executive Board reminded both Rev. Quivey and themselves that the main focus of the Society is "quality rather than quantity" when either accepting or placing children (Executive Minutes Book, 1900).

In 1900, Dr. W. O. Henry, an Omaha physician, was appointed President of the Executive Board of the Children's Home Society. Dr. Henry became the first president of the Society to serve for more than three years. Dr. Henry held his position until 1907.

A change of attitude toward enlarging the size of the Executive Board and selecting men from different parts of the state who had influence in their local communities was discussed by the Executive Board on March 1, 1901. At the conclusion of the meeting, an official call was made for a proposal to amend the constitution to include more trustees and have the trustees be from different parts of the state. The constitutional amendment was to be presented at the next annual convention.

The first decade of the twentieth century produced philosophical changes for the Children's Home Society. Since the inception of the Nebraska Children's Home Society, Rev. Quivey had always accepted and placed children regardless of a child's physical or mental well-being. Rev. Quivey never refused to accept a child if the child suffered from any type of disability. In retrospect, Rev. Quivey was considered a leader in the placement of handicapped children. Rev. Quivey insisted each adoptive child be aware of the fact the child was adopted. Rev. Quivey strongly believed each child's needs would be met by placement in private homes rather than in an institutional setting. On February 19, 1902, Rev. Quivey submitted a request to the Executive Board from Rev. F. E. Sala of Ewing and Mr. W. H. Reynolds of Chadron regarding a plan that included the terms and conditions the Children's Home Society would have to accept to take care of the homeless children of the Odd Fellows Organization of the state of Nebraska. The Odd Fellows Organization suggested a sum of \$20,000 might be available to the Children's Home Society if the Home chose to pursue the work (Executive Minutes Book, 1902). The Executive Minutes Book indicated no record of a decision on the Odd Fellows Organization proposal.

Until 1903, the Nebraska Children's Home Society had graciously accepted and placed children from other states' agencies. However, in 1903 the decision was reached by the Executive Board to formulate policy to accept children no longer from outside the State of Nebraska (Executive Minutes Book, 1903). The Executive Board's decision was based on the belief service should be a priority to the children of Nebraska. Because the Children's Home had sufficient challenges

placing children within the state of Nebraska, no out-of-state placements would be accepted in the future.

The Advocate (1903) reported during the fiscal year for 1902 that 81 children were received and all were placed. At the close of the year 1903, more than 600 hundred children had been placed or replaced by the Nebraska Children's Home Society since the Home's beginning in 1893.

#### Relationship with the Juvenile Court

During the first decade of the twentieth century, the Juvenile Court of the State of Nebraska was established. During Rev. Quivey's tenure as State Superintendent for the Nebraska Children's Home, the relationship between the Juvenile Court and the Executive Board was not ideal. Rev. Quivey did not agree with the Juvenile Court's insistence to allow relatives of adopted children to know the exact location of all wards of the Society and to have visiting rights. The Children's Home Society formulated the position that the intent of the Society was not to file the necessary certificates as required by law or to abide by the legislation as set forth by the Juvenile Court of Nebraska (Executive Minutes Book, 1905). Several times Rev. Quivey was arrested because of his refusal to disclose the location of the Society's wards. On one occasion, to avoid a court summons, Rev. Quivey was forced to spend two weeks in Council Bluffs, Iowa. However, throughout the turmoil with the Juvenile Court, Rev. Quivey was always able to avoid serving a jail term.

#### Receiving Home Addressed

During the first ten years of existence, the Children's Home Society did not



have a permanent receiving home site. Meetings were held in various locations throughout the city of Omaha and the State of Nebraska. Many of the Executive Board Meetings were held at the Y.M.C.A. of Omaha. The Children's Home Society did locate offices in the Brown Block in Omaha. However, in 1906 Mr. Thomas H. Matters of Harvard made a proposal to donate \$5000.00, plus a promise from Mr. Matters to raise an equal amount, for the purpose of securing land and building a permanent receiving home for the Children's Home Society in Omaha (Executive Minutes Book, 1906). The Executive Board rejected the offer on the grounds that the only proper place to raise a healthy, normal child was in a private home and not a receiving home.

During the May 16, 1906, annual convention Rev. Quivey reconfirmed the Children's Home motto, "Nebraska homes for Nebraska's homeless children." Table 3 refers to the Children's Home twelfth annual report which Rev. Quivey presented at the convention (The Advocate, 1906). The Advocate (1906) also referred to a revised set of questions that would be asked of applicants seeking children from the Children's Home (see Appendix E).

The Advocate (1907) reported during the fall of 1906, while ten children were at the Home, one of the children came down with diphtheria and the Home was quarantined until April of 1907. The quarantine lasted until the spring of 1907 because the diphtheria case was followed by cases of whooping cough and chicken pox.

From 1908 to 1911, Rev. T. J. McKay served as president of the Children's Home Society. Rev. McKay became the first individual to be elected to two

Table 3

Nebraska Children's Home Society Twelfth Annual Report on Child Placement  
Status as of April 30, 1906

Child Placement Data	Statistical Information
Number of wards of state received by the home	827
Number of adoptions	451
Number of children deaths while in the home's care	2
Number of children deaths after being placed	29
Number of run aways	18
Number of children who became of age	29
Number of children returned to relatives	75
Number of district superintendents	7
Number of local boards	700

separate terms as president of the Society. Rev. McKay originally had served as president during 1897.

On May 20, 1908, Rev. Quivey presented the Executive Board of the Children's Home with his Fifteenth Annual Report. Table 4 refers to the data Rev. Quivey made available to the Executive Board to portray some of the child placement information that was available.

The Executive Board, in 1909, increased the salaries of the State

Table 4

Nebraska Children's Home Society Fifteenth Annual Report on Child Placement  
Status as of May 20, 1908

Child Placement Data	Statistical Information
Number of wards of state received by the home	937
Number of adoptions	553
Number of children returned to relatives	69
Number of children deaths while in the home's care	15
Number of run aways	20
Number of children who became of age	45

Superintendent and the District Superintendents for the first time since the Society came into existence. Rev. Quivey, as State Superintendent, initially received a salary of \$1500.00 per year. In 1909, Rev. Quivey's annual salary was increased to \$1800.00. In 1911 Rev. Quivey received another salary increase to make his annual salary \$2000.00. The District Superintendents had originally received annual salaries of \$1000.00 but, in 1909, the District Superintendent's salaries were increased to \$1200.00 (Executive Minutes Book, 1909).

The Advocate (1911) reported excerpts from Rev. Quivey's annual report in which Rev. Quivey made first mention that his tenure as State Superintendent of the Children's Home may be coming to an end. Rev. Quivey stated:

I am very mindful of the fact that the time is drawing near, and will soon come, when the superintendency of this work should go to some younger man with greater ability, added to the young and progressive blood and ideas of the twentieth century. This will bring greater results, both in the standing of the Society and to a greater number of homeless children. (p. 7)

The Advocate reported the Executive Board took no action on Rev. Quivey's statement.

Mr. F. L. Haller, president of the Lininger Implement Company of Omaha, was elected as the eighth president of the Children's Home in 1912. Mr. Haller held the position of President for one year. Mr. Haller was succeeded, as president of the Children's Home Society, in 1913 by Mr. Alfred C. Kennedy of Omaha. Mr. Kennedy was secretary and treasurer of his father's real estate, rental, and insurance company and he held the Children's Home presidential position until 1921. Mr. Kennedy's term of office was the longest presidential term until the late 1930s and early 1940s.

During the 1912 Nebraska State Legislative session, interest was shown by the legislature to review the possibility of placing the Children's Home under their direction. However, The Advocate (1912) reported the Executive Board of the Children's Home had no intention of becoming a state run organization as long as abundant funds were available to manage the Children's Home. Even though financial donations and contributions lagged during the depression of the early 1900s, the Home pursued endowments of modest proportions to assist in the daily management of the Home.

Annual Reports

During the Twentieth Annual State Meeting of the Nebraska Children's Home Society, the Executive Board passed a resolution bestowing the Society's highest honor on Rev. and Mrs. Quivey for their 20 years of loving and devoted service to the Society and the homeless children of the State of Nebraska (Executive Minutes Book, 1913). At the Twentieth Annual Meeting, Rev. Quivey presented the Executive Board with the Children's Home Twenty Year Report. Table 5 refers to the historical information of 20 years that was made available to the Executive Board at the Annual State Convention.

Table 5

Nebraska Children's Home Society Twentieth Annual Report on Child Placement  
Status as of May 1, 1913

Child Placement Data	Statistical Information
Total number of children legally received	1200
Total number of adoptions	734
Number of children returned to relatives	85
Number of children deaths after being placed	21
Number of run aways	30
Total number of children cared for during the twenty year period	5099
Number of cases investigated and conditions improved	3899

The Advocate (1915) reported the Children's Home Society restructured their districts during 1915. The Children's Home Society found the necessity to create an Omaha district. In turn, the Fremont district, which was one of the Society's original districts, was merged with the Omaha District. Rev. A.E. Lehmann, an Omaha Presbyterian minister, was placed in charge of the newly founded Omaha district. The Advocate further reported the war (i.e., World War I) had placed a damper on the good financial times the Children's Home had been enjoying. However, two significant bequests during the latter months of 1915 greatly assisted the financial position of the Home during the needed times.

The Twenty-Second Annual Convention of Nebraska Children's Home Society was held on May 19, 1915. The Advocate (1915) reported Mr. F. L. Haller of Omaha, a previous Executive Board President of the Children's Home Society, served again as president due to a serious illness to Mr. Alfred C. Kennedy. Rev. Quivey, in his annual report, presented the Executive Board with the Twenty-Two Year Status Report for the Children's Home Society. Table 6 refers to the data Rev. Quivey made available to the Executive Board.

#### Executive Board Members Die

During July of 1915, Mr. Alfred C. Kennedy, after a long illness, passed away at the age of 46 and was officially succeeded as president of the Executive Board of the Home by Mr. F. L. Haller. Mr. Haller, thus became the second individual to serve as president of the board on two different occasions. Mr. Haller's first term as president of the board was in 1912.

In November of 1915, additional bad news came upon the Home. Mr. John

Table 6

Nebraska Children's Home Society Twenty-Second Annual Report on Child  
Placement Status as of May 19, 1915

Child Placement Data	Statistical Information
Number of children received	1305
Number of adoptions	770
Number of cases investigated and conditions improved	4058
Number of children cared for during the twenty-two year period	5436

Dale, dean of Omaha insurance men and one of the best known layman for the Methodist Church in Nebraska, died (The Advocate, 1915). Mr. Dale, age 85, had been serving as Vice-President of the Executive Board. Mr. Dale had been associated with the Children's Home since the Society's inception and had served on the Executive Board on several occasions. In 1916, the Home lost another member of the Executive Board, when Mr. Clarence S. Paine, age 48, died of pneumonia. Mr. Paine was the secretary of the executive board, plus he also served as historian for the Children's Home Society. Death, once again, effected the organizational make-up of the Children's Home Society with the passing of Rev. R. B. Hall. Rev. Hall had been the district superintendent for the Neligh district. With Rev. Hall's passing, the Children's Home Society had now seen four prominent officers pass away during two years.

### Political Philosophy Change

For most of the Children's Home's existence, the Home did not get directly involved in the politics of the state of Nebraska. However, during 1916, the Children's Home changed their position and actively supported Mr. Charles A. Goss of Omaha as Supreme Judge of the State of Nebraska. The Executive Board believed Mr. Goss would be fair in any cases that involved the Children's Home Society. Mr. Goss had served on the Home's Executive Board, and at the time of his Supreme Judge appointment, he was serving as the attorney for the Children's Home Society (The Advocate, 1916).

In 1918, the Children's Home Executive Board also went on record as supporting Mr. Ross L. Hammond for the office of United States Senator. Mr. Hammond was serving as vice-president of the Executive Board at the time of his announcement to run for the United State Senate.

### Resignation Rejected

Dr. Quivey, during 1918, offered his resignation as State Superintendent of the Nebraska Children's Home Society (Executive Minutes Book, 1918). Dr. Quivey presented his resignation on the basis that he and his wife, both having reached the age of seventy, could no longer endure the severe cold weather of a Nebraska winter and must move to a warmer climate. The Executive Board refused to accept Dr. Quivey's resignation but the Board did grant the Quiveys vacation time for the months of January, February, and March.

The Executive Board, upon Rev. Quivey's request, employed Rev. R. B. Ralls as Assistant State Superintendent of the Children's Home Society. On the



advice of Rev. Quivey's doctor, Rev. Quivey had been advised to spend the winter in warmer climate environments (The Advocate, 1919).

#### Executive Board Continues to Undergo Changes

In 1918, Mr. Joseph W. Thomas, an Omaha banker, who had been serving as the Children's Home Society treasurer, died at the age of 68. Mr. Thomas' death meant that since 1915 the four highest ranking officers of the Society's Executive Board had passed away. The restructuring and composition of the Executive Board would take on a new appearance as the 1920s approached. Rev. T. J. McKay, a past president of the Society's Executive Board died in 1920 at the age of 76. Since Rev. McKay's term as president of the Board, he had been serving on the Society's Executive Council.

#### Rev. Quivey Resigns

On July 1, 1920, Rev. Quivey officially submitted his resignation from the position of State Superintendent of the Nebraska Children's Home Society. Rev. Quivey had attempted to resign in 1918 but the Executive Board denied that request and worked out an agreement that included a winter vacation in a warmer climate. However, beginning in 1918, the Executive Board employed Rev. R. B. Ralls as Assistant State Superintendent. Upon acceptance of Rev. Quivey's resignation, the Executive Board bestowed the title of State Superintendent upon Rev. Ralls. The Advocate (1920) reported Rev. Quivey left the Children's Home Society on a positive relationship with the Executive Board. Due to health concerns, Rev. Quivey did not have many other options to pursue, so, with great regret, the Quiveys opted to move to California. Rev. and Mrs. Quivey moved to Hollywood

where they lived until Rev. Quivey died in 1927.

### Changes Continue

As the composition of the Executive Board changed, the philosophy of new members differed from the philosophy of previous members. The Executive Minutes Book (1921) reported the Board decided to take a more active stance with pending state legislation. Even though the Board was unsure of what new legislation may be added during the upcoming legislative session, the Board members decided they must remain active in pursuing the best interests of the Children's Home Society.

The Advocate (1921) further reported the Children's Home Society would begin offering Income Bonds that would pay from 6% to 8% to the purchaser. The bonds would be dedicated to benefiting the Society and the children for whom the Home sheltered and cared.

In 1922 more sad news came to the Home with the death of Mr. F. L. Haller. Mr. Haller had previously served as president of the Executive Board and most recently had been vice-president of the Executive Board.

In 1922, Mr. Charles Goss of Omaha, a Nebraska Supreme Court Justice, became the president of the Executive Board for the Society.

### New Receiving Home Proposed

The Executive Board made the decision to oversee the building and development of a new receiving home (The Advocate, 1922). The Board decided to solicit initial plans to build this permanent structure. The Board set a goal not to spend more than \$40,000.00 for the facility. The Executive Minutes Book (1922)

stated the Board strongly emphasized their current philosophy and past policy, "The new residence will not be a permanent home for any child; it will not be an orphanage." The Board also decided to purchase three lots on Fontenelle Boulevard, just south of Pratt Street, at a price not to exceed \$3000.00. On September 3, 1922, at a special Executive Board meeting, the purchase of the lots became official and the Board proceeded with building plans (Executive Minutes Book, 1922). The official address of the new receiving home was 3549 Fontenelle Boulevard.

At the October 13, 1922 meeting, Mr. Goss resigned as president of the Executive Board. Dr. W. Milroy, an Omaha physician, was appointed as the new President of the Board. However, Mr. Goss was granted a seat on the Executive Board (Executive Minutes Book, 1922).

Northwestern Bell Telephone Company donated the complete services of Mr. Frank Builta, assistant to the president of Northwestern Bell, to supervise all fund raising activities for the new receiving home (Executive Minutes Book, 1922).

The Executive Minutes Book (1923) reported a special meeting was held to discuss the plans that were drawn by the T. H. Maenner Company of Omaha. The T. H. Maenner Company had been authorized to submit the original building plans to the Executive Board for consideration. The Executive Board approved the T. H. Maenner Company's building plans and the Board then chose five local companies that the Board wished to bid on the project. The five companies selected were the T. H. Maenner Company, Vaughn Construction Company, Peter Kiewit and Sons, Walter Peterson, and James Black Masonry and Construction Company. On March

3, 1923 the Board contracted the services of the Morris Jacobs Publicity Company to serve as the publicity firm for the marketing of the receiving home (Executive Minutes Book, 1923).

The five bids, received from the companies who were requested to bid on the receiving home, were opened on May 5, 1923. Table 7 refers to those bids.

Table 7

Receiving Home Construction Bids as Submitted to the Nebraska Children's Home Society on May 5, 1923

Company	Proposed Bid
Peter Kiewit and Sons	\$ 39,540.00
Vaughn Construction	\$ 36,000.00
Walter Peterson	\$ 39,858.00
T. H. Maenner Company	\$ 39,000.00
James Black Masonry and Construction Company	\$ 42,300.00

After careful consideration, the Executive Board rejected all bids since each bid was submitted with different specifications and stipulations. The Board hoped the initial bid could be held to about \$35,000.00. On May 26, 1923, the Executive Board met to decide on the revised bids. However, only the T. H. Maenner Company resubmitted a bid. The Maenner Company's bid would include all specifications except electric light fixtures, no garage, and no shades. The Maenner

Company's new bid proposal was \$36,900.00. The Executive Board accepted the T. H. Maenner Company's bid and the company was granted the rights to build the receiving home (Executive Minutes Book, 1923). The Maenner Company was later directed to submit a bid for the finishing of the third floor of the receiving home. The Maenner Company's bid of \$5300.00 was accepted to complete the third floor (Executive Minutes Book, 1924). The Executive Board (1923) also gave approval for Superintendent Ralls to attempt to purchase three lots directly east of the Home for as close to \$3000.00 as possible. The Board set the initial capacity of the Receiving Home at 40 children.

#### Status Update

During the 1924 Annual Convention, Superintendent Ralls gave the status report for the first 31 years of the Children's Home. Superintendent Ralls reported the Home had looked after 12,028 children during the Home's existence (Executive Minutes Book, 1924).

#### Future Affiliations

In 1924, the Executive Board made two significant proposals to organizations outside of the Children's Home Society (Executive Minutes Book, 1924). The Executive Board went on record to offer the Society's new Receiving Home to become the monthly meeting place for the Lion's Club of Omaha. The relationship with the Lions Club would be long lasting and beneficial to the Society. Since 1924, many board members and trustees of the Children's Home Society have been members of the Lion's Club. This same year the Executive Board requested to the Superintendent of Schools for the Omaha Public Schools that the school district

should provide the Children's Home with the proper school equipment and a teacher so the Home could assist in educating the children who were staying at the Home. The Home also sought approval to be included in the city's Community Chest organization. However, the Home's involvement in the Community Chest is both sketchy and controversial. Eventually, the Home's involvement in the Community Chest may have led to the resignation of Superintendent Ralls.

#### New Developments

At the February 9, 1925, Executive Board Meeting, the Board re-elected Superintendent Ralls to a three year contract at \$4000.00 for the first year (Executive Minutes Book, 1925). The Board also decided to purchase a car for Superintendent Ralls if the cost did not exceed \$500.00.

The Executive Board gave approval to Superintendent Ralls to begin the development of a permanent endowment fund of \$500,000.00 (Executive Minutes Book, 1925).

In 1925, the Home's attitude toward the Community Chest began to change. The Community Chest requested a review of the Home's records to make sure the Home was a deserving organization (Executive Minutes Book, 1925). During the October 12, 1925, Executive Board Meeting, an altercation took place (Executive Minutes Book, 1925). The minutes and available records for the Society are shrouded in mystery in regard to this altercation. At the meeting, the Home withdrew from the Community Chest and requested the dismissal of Superintendent Ralls. In turn, Superintendent Ralls resigned, effective within 90 days. Following Superintendent Ralls' resignation, the Executive Board decided to offer the State

Superintendency to George Sheafe, Ph. D. Dr. Sheafe was currently the State Superintendent of the Children's Home Society of the State of Washington. The Board offered Dr. Sheafe a contract of \$4000.00 annually. At a special October 16, 1925, meeting, Ex-Superintendent Ralls requested immediate severance from the Home and the Board so granted his request. The Board also decided to make full settlement with Rev. Ralls on the purchase of his home, therefore, severing all ties with Rev. Ralls.

At the April 12, 1926, Executive Board Meeting, the Board decided to re-evaluate the Board's involvement with the existing conditions of the Children's Home Society (Executive Minutes Book, 1926). The Board voted to redefine board members' roles for the Society (see Appendix F).

The stability of the Society's administration continued to go through transition during the latter part of 1926 and the early months of 1927 (Executive Minutes Book, 1926). At the November 19, 1926, board meeting, the Executive Board exercised a clause in State Superintendent Dr. Sheafe's contract requesting severance of Dr. Sheafe's ties with the Children's Home within 90 days. The Executive Minutes Book (1927) reported Dr. Sheafe submitted his resignation as State Superintendent on January 10, 1927. The Board unanimously accepted Dr. Sheafe's resignation. The reason for the resignation was associated with a difference of opinion between Dr. Sheafe and the Executive Board on the matters of child placing.

To fill the position of State Superintendent, the Executive Board promoted Mr. H. Hugh Fletcher to State Superintendent on February 14, 1927 at a salary of

\$250.00 per month (Executive Minutes Book, 1927). Due to Dr. Sheafe's short tenure as State Superintendent, coupled with the financial situation of the times, the Executive Board was able to use a cost cutting measure with the hiring of Mr. Fletcher. Mr. Fletcher would serve as State Superintendent until 1933. Mr. Fletcher's tenure would be the second longest in terms of years of service to that time (see Appendix G).

#### Changes Continue

During 1925, Dr. W. F. Milroy, president of the Children's Home Society Executive Board, retired from his position. Dr. Milroy would remain on the Executive Board to offer counsel and advice. Dr. Milroy was succeeded by Dr. H. C. Whitcomb. Dr. Whitcomb had served on the Executive Board for eight years prior to becoming President. Dr. Whitcomb was pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Omaha. The Calvary Baptist Church was the largest Baptist Church in Nebraska at that time.

The Executive Board made two decisions in 1927 that directly effected the composition of the Board. The Executive Minutes Book (1927) stated how the Board agreed to increase the membership to 30 individuals. The Board also voted to increase the membership of the Executive Committee to 11, two of whom were to be women. The Board further decided to eliminate the State Superintendent from membership on the Executive Board of the Home.

Sadness also ascended upon the Home when word was received that Rev. Elmer P. Quivey passed away in Hollywood, California, on June 6, 1927.

The Advocate (1927) presented an information fact sheet that addressed



several of the typically asked questions about the Children's Home Society history and operation (see Appendix H). The questions were a compilation of facts and questions that are most often asked about the history and operation of the Children's Home Society.

### Chapter Summary

#### Administrative

Included among the presidents of the Executive Board during this time period, were a physician and private businessmen. Two ministers were also included but the businessmen served the longest terms.

Rev. E. P. Quivey made mention, during the early part of the this period, about "stepping down." In fact, the Executive Board twice denied his resignations. The Board was fearful they would not be able to replace Rev. Quivey with another individual of his stature and ability. The Board relented by offering the Quiveys a winter vacation in a warmer climate. With Rev. Quivey's recommendation, the Executive Board employed Rev. R. B. Ralls as Assistant State Superintendent. Rev. Ralls eventually was hired to succeed Rev. Quivey.

Rev. Ralls and his successor, Dr. George Sheafe, had short tenures of office. Both men had philosophical conflicts with the Executive Board which led to their removal from office.

Administratively, the Executive Board went through numerous changes as death took many members. In fact, the four highest ranking members of the Executive Board died between 1915 and 1918. With the addition of new personnel, the Board's philosophy continued to change.

### Leadership

No matter who was on the Executive Board, the members continued to adhere to the Society's philosophy of "quality not quantity" in relation to the placement of children. The new leadership began to offer amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws that added additional trustees, restructured the Society's districts so Omaha would be a separate district, and agreed to focus on in-state placement for the children.

During this period, the Society's leadership had several conflicts with the Juvenile Courts and the Nebraska Legislature. These agencies wanted more control in regard to child placements and the Society did not want to relinquish those rights.

The latter part of this period brought a philosophical change in which the Executive Board supported past members for the Supreme Court and the United State Senate. The Board wished to seek more involvement in legislative issues. In 1926, the Board also restructured to include more members, two of whom were to be women.

### Financial

High and low economic activity were included in the time period. Early in the period salaries were increased, while later in the period contributions to the Society were down due to the depression. World War I had an impact on contributions for the Society. In 1915, two significant bequests added to the financial stability of the Society. The Executive Board also discussed the sale of bonds and the creation of an endowment.

During this period, the Executive Board initially rejected an offer to build a

permanent Receiving Home. Eventually, the Board granted approval to build a Receiving Home. Through the use of sound and conservative fiscal advice, the Executive Board saw the Receiving Home construction project completed.

## The Great Depression and the Nebraska Children's Home Society

### The Depression Impacts the Home

The Nebraska Children's Home Society was significantly effected by the Great Depression of the late 1920s and early 1930s. The Executive Minutes Book reflect the decline of donations, the taking out of loans, the renewal of loans, the sale of securities, and eventually the use of funds from the Society's endowment. The first mention of financial hardship occurred in 1927 (Executive Minutes Book, 1927) when the Executive Board borrowed the sum of \$5000.00 from the Omaha Loan and Building Association for the payment of current obligations. The Board further resolved to take out a mortgage upon Lots 10, 11, and 12 in Hackett's Addition, as a security to the lender. On November 1, 1925, the Board gave approval for the sale of Lot Nine of Hackett's Addition for the amount of \$5500.00 to assist the cash flow of the Home.

The Nebraska Children's Home Society Executive Board once again changed their position toward the Community Chest organization of Omaha. For the 1930 calendar year, the Board requested an amount of \$6000.00 from the Community Chest (Executive Minutes Book, 1929). Even with the projected contribution from the Community Chest, the Executive Board borrowed \$3000.00 for the specific purpose of paying accounts that were due. The Board decided not to borrow the funds for over a 120-day period.

### Administrative Changes

In 1930, Dr. H. C. Whitcomb retired as president of the Executive Board.

Dr. Whitcomb was succeeded by Dr. Max Emmert of Omaha. Dr. Emmert was the president of the medical staff of the Evangelical Covenant Hospital. Dr. Emmert would serve as president of Board from 1930 to 1935.

Until 1931, membership on the Executive Board of the Nebraska Children's Home Society had always been on a one-year basis. For the most part, members remained on the Board until they chose to resign, were asked to resign, or died. The Executive Minutes Book (1931) reflected a change in philosophy in regard to the membership and terms of service on the Executive Board. A by-law change was made in which three tiers of membership pertained to the Board beginning in 1931. One third of the Board members would have their terms expire in 1931, another third would have their terms expire in 1932, and the final third would have their terms expire in 1933. Beginning in 1934, Board members were elected in such a manner in which they served terms of three years, with one third of the members having their terms come due every three years.

#### Financial Woes Continue

Financial concerns of the Society continued into the 1930s. In need of cash flow to pay accounts that were due, the Executive Board voted to approve a loan of \$2500.00 from the First National Bank of Omaha (Executive Minutes Book, 1931). In acceptance of the loan, the Executive Board pledged the securities of the Nebraska Children's Home Society as collateral. The Board later took out another loan in the amount of \$3000.00, under the same security conditions.

Dr. Max Emmert, president of the Executive Board, in his year-end report appealed to the people associated with the Children's Home Society to be generous

during the coming year. Dr. Emmert expressed concern about the financial stability of the Home. Dr. Emmert spoke of 1932 as being a “test” year for the Home. Dr. Emmert stressed all employees and contributors would have to increase their efforts for the Society to meet this financial “test” (The Advocate, 1931). The Depression continued to have an impact upon the Home in 1932. The Advocate (1932) addressed the seriousness of the financial situation for the Home. Dr. Emmert informed the Society’s constituents the Executive Board would cut all overhead and general expenses until the Executive Board did not know what else to cut. The Board believed the responsibility was getting so heavy that anyone associated with the Home would need to help.

The Executive Minutes Book (1932 & 1933) further discussed matters in which the Board attempted to curtail expenses so more money would be available for general operating expenses. The minutes often referred to the Executive Board reducing insurance coverage, taking out loans, and selling securities.

#### Financial Situation Worsens

At the May 11, 1932, Executive Board Meeting (Executive Minutes Book, 1933), the Board decided to take three approaches to cut expenses further because the financial situation of the Home continued to deteriorate. The areas most directly effected by the cuts were:

1. Lowering of salaries. The minutes reflect salary reductions for several individuals. Most noticeable were the salary reductions for a) State Superintendent Fletcher by \$25.00 per month, b) caseworker Doris Hudson by \$20.00 per month, and c) financial officer Ethel Ketchum by \$20.00 per month.

2. Suggested to close the Receiving Home for general institutional care and to place as many, as possible, of the children now in the Receiving Home, either in free homes or return them to their relatives. By doing so, the Home could eliminate two workers.
3. The downtown office of the Home, located in the Electrical Building, was to be discontinued and moved to the Receiving Home as soon as space was available at the Home.

By closing the Receiving Home from general institutional care and discontinuance of the downtown office, the Executive Board estimated a financial savings of \$350.00 per month. In addition, the reductions in salaries would provided a cost savings of \$146.00 per month. The total cuts reflected a monthly savings of \$496.00 for the Home.

#### A Plea for Help

The 40th Anniversary of the Nebraska Children's Home Society was in 1933. The Advocate (1933) reported the grave financial situation of the Home. The Advocate addressed several of the cost cutting measures that were previously taken. In the report, the Executive Board was extremely proud of the fact that the Home continued to function with the record of not refusing any child who should rightfully come to the Home during these financially trying times. At the same, the Board again pleaded for all of the Home's loyal supporters and contributors to keep the Home in mind with donations.

The Advocate published its last issue dated December 1933. Executive Minutes Book implied publication may have ceased due to financial necessities. In

1938, a new publication, named Nebraska's Children replaced The Advocate.

#### The Fire

A final blow to the problems that beset the Nebraska Children's Home Society during the Depression was a disastrous fire which occurred on December 19, 1933 (The Advocate, 1933). The fire was discovered during the day, which was to be the last day of school prior to vacation. The fire took nearly two hours to control. The fire caused extensive damage to the roof of the Receiving Home and the entire building was left water-soaked. Fortunately, the office files were carried out and saved.

The people of Omaha and friends of the Nebraska Children's Home Society were quick to volunteer assistance. Arrangements were made, by the evening of December 19, to house the children in private homes for the holiday season and until renovation could be completed. More than 2000 letters and packages arrived to assist the Home in providing relief for both the children and the Home. The Advocate (1933) further reported no records were destroyed and no serious injuries were sustained by any of the children. Renovations took place quickly and the Home was able to return to operation during 1934.

#### Chapter Summary

##### Administrative

The Executive Board's decision to have members elected to terms, on a rotating basis, over a three year period was the administrative highlight of this time period.



### Leadership

During this period, the primary goal of the Society's leadership fiscally was to survive the Depression and the ensuing trying times.

### Financial

The financial stability of the Society was severely tested during this period. The records reported declining contributions, loans, and the use of endowments to survive fiscally. The Great Depression impacted the Society to the extent that land lots owned by the Society were sold and the Home, itself, was put up as collateral.

To meet financial obligations, the Executive Board cut salaries, eliminated staff, closed a downtown office, and ceased publication of The Advocate. A final blow, a fire in 1933, greatly tested the Society.

The Nebraska Children's Home Society Recovers Following the Depression  
Optimism Surrounds the Home

The year 1934 started on a more optimistic note than the previous several years. Determination was made that the fire of December 19, 1933, started in the southeast attic, known as the linen attic, at about 1:15 p.m. The main damage was isolated to the roof, however, the entire building did become water soaked and sustained some damage. The cost of the damage to the Receiving Home was covered by insurance. The insurance company made an adjustment on January 4, 1934, and the Executive Board was pleased with the settlement. The approved claim was for \$5060.24 on the building and \$1336.95 on the furniture and contents for a total settlement of \$6397.19 (Executive Minutes Book, 1934). The Executive Board was unable to receive full settlement from the insurance company prior to March 4, 1934, as the insurance company exercised its right to a 60-day waiting period.

The Home Reorganizes

The financial situation of the Society was in better condition than it had been in several years. One of the primary reasons the Society gained in financial stability, following the Depression, was the Home's reorganization that took place during 1933 through 1935 (Executive Minutes Book, 1935). The Executive Board passed a new set of by-laws and amended Article IV of the Articles of Incorporation of the Society at the January 11, 1935, meeting (Appendix D). In the Board's Annual Report, dated January 16, 1935, the report stated that the Society had been

completely reorganized in recent years. New standards had been introduced in accordance with the requirements of both the State and National Departments of Public Welfare (Executive Minutes Book, 1935). Due to these reorganization and structural changes, the Executive Board believed the financial condition of the Home was vastly improved over the previous six years.

The financial improvement of the Home was reflected in the Executive Board's approval to purchase a new automobile for the workers' use. Purchase of a new Ford was approved at the March 11, 1935, meeting at a cost of \$522.90 plus interest, at a rate of six percent, for a one-year period (Executive Minutes Book, 1935). The Board also approved \$20.95 for the cost of a heater in the car.

#### Fletcher Resigns

The Executive Board received a surprise on June 10, 1935, when State Superintendent Mr. W. Hugh Fletcher submitted his resignation due to poor health (Executive Minutes Book, 1935). Mr. Fletcher's resignation was effective June 30, 1935.

The Executive Board agreed to offer a contract to Mr. Randall C. Biart to become the new State Superintendent for the Nebraska Children's Home Society effective January 1, 1936. Mr. Biart's salary was set at \$175.00 per month. In addition to Mr. Biart's employment, the president of the Executive Board also changed in 1935. Mr. A. D. Barber of Omaha was selected as president of the Board in late 1935. Mr. Barber was the manager of the Graybar Electric Company of Omaha. Mr. Barber assumed the role of president of the Executive Board until 1937.

On January 7, 1936 the Executive Board officially employed Mr. Biart under the title of Executive Director (Executive Minutes Book, 1936). The title of Executive Director would be bestowed on the director of the Children's Home Society through the present.

#### Public Relations Efforts

During 1936 a large scale effort was made to upgrade the publicity and public relations efforts of the Nebraska Children's Home Society. Approximately 400 news releases were mailed to numerous city and county publishers. A series of eight true stories were presented over radio station WAAW in Omaha. WAAW radio presented the Home's stories at no charge. The stories were part of a Sunday program for parents with children's problems (Executive Minutes Book, 1937). A feature story, with photos, was also published in Nebraska Farmer magazine.

In a public relation's campaign, the Lions Club of Omaha continued its gracious assistance and support of the Children's Home Society by painting the basement of the Home and equipping the basement with a workbench, tools, and ping-pong table.

#### New Executive Board President

Mr. Axel T. Hansen, secretary-treasurer of the Atlas Lumber Company of Omaha, was nominated to be president of the Executive Board in 1937. Mr. Hansen accepted the position and served in this capacity from 1937 to 1947. Mr. Hansen's tenure as president of the Executive Board was the longest of any of the presidents of the Children's Home Society.

### The Home Continues to Recover

The annual report of the Children's Home Society in 1938 continued to stress improvement of the Home both in childrens' cases and financial growth. The Executive Minutes Book (1938) reflected the trend of adoption cases over the past eight years. In 1929, the Society received 107 cases, 77 in 1930, 45 in 1931, 55 in 1932, 26 in 1933, 26 in 1934, 20 in 1935, 123 in 1936, and 145 in 1937. The increase in cases dramatically continued into the early part of 1938 as 155 new cases were filed. Mr. A. T. Hansen, president of the Executive Board, in his annual report of 1938, reported at the close of 1937 all bills of the Children's Home Society had been paid, all financial obligations had been met, and a comfortable balance of funds remained on hand in the treasury.

### Publicity Efforts Continue

The Society continued efforts to reach the populace of Nebraska. The purpose of the public relation's efforts was to have the message of the Society heard statewide and to continue to seek financial contributions for the Society. In 1938, the Society had a series of radio programs, based on case histories, broadcast over radio stations in Omaha, Fremont, and Grand Island. A mailing project was also restarted in 1938. Previously, in 1933, the Society had suspended publication of The Advocate due to financial considerations. In 1938, a new magazine, Nebraska's Children, was published, replacing the previous Advocate. The first issue of Nebraska's Children was mailed as part of the annual Christmas Appeal Drive and 27,000 copies were mailed (Executive Minutes Book, 1938). The Executive Board agreed to have the new magazine published four times per year.

Additionally, in 1938, a 30-minute film, depicting the work of the Nebraska Children's Home Society, was created. The film, which was produced at the cost of \$65.99, was shown at various meetings across the state and was used extensively by caseworkers, district superintendents, and field workers associated with the Children's Home Society.

#### Annual Report Continues to Show Financial Improvement

Mr. A. T. Hansen, in his annual report for 1939, continued to reiterate the improvement of the financial conditions of the Home. Mr. Hansen reported, that as in the previous year, all bills had been paid. Mr. Hansen further reported the entire mortgage indebtedness on the Home and all indebtedness for borrowed money at the bank had been paid off. In addition, Mr. Hansen stated the Society had on hand a small cash balance in the bank to begin 1939 (Executive Minutes Book, 1939).

#### Romance at the Home

Mrs. William Mines, matron for the Home, had been granted a divorce in July, 1939, with a six-month period of court intervening before the final decree could be granted. In the meantime, the Home had hired a new houseman, Mr. Tom Pollard. According to the Executive Minutes Book (1939), matron Mines "fell head over heels in love" for the houseman. The Executive Board believed this would cause a distressing situation so the Board gave Mr. Pollard the opportunity to secure other employment. Mr. Pollard was able to obtain a job working at a gas station and he and matron Mines planned to get married as soon as her final divorce decree was granted. Both Mother Mines and Mr. Pollard would vacate their positions at the Home in September, 1939.

#### Additional By-Law Changes

Mr. John T. Dysart, attorney for the Children's Home Society, suggested changes in the By-Laws to the Executive Board on January 17, 1940 (see Appendix J). Mr. Dysart's recommendations broadened the role of the Executive Committee because the changes enhanced the Board's involvement in personnel and the investment of funds (Executive Minutes Book, 1940).

#### Lions Club's Efforts Continue

As had been the case for several previous years, the Lions Club of Omaha continued efforts to support the Society. During the summer months, the Lions Club maintained the grounds and lawn surrounding the Receiving Home. In addition, the Lions Club for many years sponsored the annual Christmas Party for all children in the Home's care during the Christmas season.

#### World War II and the Impact on the Home

World War II seemed to have little importance or impact upon the Nebraska Children's Home Society. Very little mention is given to the war in either the Executive Minutes Book or Nebraska Children's magazine. The minutes of the Executive Board, on occasion, offered resolutions that the cars belonging to the Society must be used only for business purposes and not for personal use. The rationale the Executive Board offered was because of the rubber shortage and the rationing of tires and gasoline during the war years. Executive President, Mr. A. T. Hansen, made reference to his son, Lieutenant Kermit Hansen, who was serving in the war as well as other wards of the Home. Otherwise, the war went unobserved at the Home.

### Status Quo

For the most part, the first part of the 1940s was uneventful for the Society. The Executive Minutes Book addressed basic business matters and business seemed to go on as usual.

### Chapter Summary

#### Administrative

The Executive Board took an active role in reorganizing the administrative structure of the Society. Major revisions were made to the Society's By-Laws. The restructuring and reorganization greatly improved the financial condition of the Society. The Executive Board took a more active approach in marketing the Home through public relation's avenues.

#### Leadership

Mr. W. Hugh Fletcher's surprise resignation presented the opportunity for Mr. Randall C. Biart to be employed as Executive Director of the Society. Mr. Biart's longevity and tenure as Executive Director brought a calming stability to the Society. In addition, Mr. Axel T. Hansen was elected as president of the Executive Board. Mr. Hansen served the longest period of time as president of the Executive Board.

#### Financial

Following the fire of December, 1933, the Society was able to recover financially due to adequate insurance payments.

The records reported financial improvement for the Society during this time. Mention is made of an automobile purchase, increase in cases, and publication of a



new magazine for the Society. As the 1930s progressed, annual reports continued to reflect financial improvement.

## The Home Enters the Next Fifty Years

### Real Estate and Bequest Involvement

The 50th anniversary of the Nebraska Children's Home Society was celebrated in 1943. As the Society's existence entered into a half century of service, the demands and service of the Society continued to escalate. An area in which the Executive Board continued to gain financial support was through wills and bequests. The Executive Minutes Book addressed, almost monthly, the process the Executive Board followed in the sale of land bequeathed to the Society. Bequeathed land and real estate assisted the financial condition of the Society and allowed the Home to continue to support growing numbers of children cases.

In 1945, the financial optimism of the Society continued. The Executive Minutes Book (1945) reflected the issuance of salary bonuses to many of the caseworkers and field workers. The bonuses ranged from 2% of a worker's salary to a one month bonus.

### Physical Addition Considered

Due to the growing number of children who needed care, increased worker caseloads, and the financial situation of the Home, the Executive Board began discussions on the possibility of an addition to the Receiving Home. The Board gave approval to have an architect develop tentative plans for an addition that would be built on the south side of the existing Receiving Home (Executive Minutes Book, 1945). The Board closely scrutinized the economic condition of the times and made reference on September 9, 1946, to delay construction plans for the time

being. On October 6, 1947, the Executive Board ultimately gave approval for the final plans to be developed and construction to begin on the addition. The primary purpose of the new addition was to house the casework staff. The new addition served that purpose, until 1966, when a new wing was added to the Receiving Home.

#### Food Concerns

Nebraska's Children and the Executive Minutes Book make numerous references to appeals for food items. Over the years, the Receiving Home received many provisions through the Home's "Mother Hubbard" appeal. One of the annual appeals for food brought in over 800 quarts of home canned fruit, vegetables, and jelly. A similar appeal, conducted by the Omaha Public Schools, resulted in approximately 400 jars and canned food items for the school district. The records reflected, on various occasions, when children are involved and food items are needed, people generally provided assistance.

In the mid-1940s, the Executive Board was concerned about the price of milk. On one occasion, Roberts Dairy raised the price of milk for the Receiving Home from 24 to 34 cents per gallon. The Board negotiated with the Dairy to lower the price to 30 cents per gallon. Once again, this was evidence that when children are involved, people try their best to support the cause.

#### Diversity of Children

The Executive Board, for the first time in written record, discussed the problem with accepting "colored" children (Executive Minutes Book, 1946). Previously the records never mentioned children of races, other than caucasian. In

1946, the members of the Board began to discuss how they would handle a rising need for the care of "colored" children. A sign caucasian children were generally cared for was all pictures used in any of the Society's monthly newsletters and magazines were always photos of caucasian children.

#### Community Chest Concerns

Over the years, the Nebraska Children's Home Society had been involved with the Community Chest organization of Omaha. Relationships between the two organizations were not always cordial. Eventually, the two organizations did reach some type of agreement in regard to financial distribution of contributions.

The Society basically received operating funds from two primary sources. The major source was through the Society's constant state-wide appeal for donations and solicitations. The second primary source was the appropriations received from the Community Chest. A reason the Society received funds from the Community Chest was because the Society provided needed child care services to the city of Omaha. In recent years, the Society believed the funds received from the Community Chest were not in proportion with the services the Society had been rendering to the city. The Society drafted a resolution and presented the resolution to the Community Chest that strongly requested the need for additional consideration and higher appropriations if the collaborative relationship was to continue to exist (Executive Minutes Book, 1946).

#### Hansen Retires From Board Presidency

After ten years of serving as president of the Executive Board, Mr. A. T. Hansen resigned. Mr. Hansen stated he would remain on the Executive Committee

but felt the time had come to step down. The Executive Committee nominated and selected as their new president, Mr. Kenneth G. Harvey of Omaha (Executive Minutes Book, 1948). Mr. Harvey was the president of the Douglas County Bank of Omaha. Mr. Harvey served as president of the Executive Board until 1952.

#### Business as Usual

The latter part of the 1940s and the early years of the 1950s brought limited changes or conflict to the Home. The Executive Minutes Book addressed routine business matters that did not deviate from normal Board procedures.

On several instances, the Executive Board made minor revisions to the By-Laws of the Society. The two revisions that had the most impact were related to the Executive Committee. One revision increased the size of the Executive Committee from 30 to 36 members. A second revision granted the Executive Committee the right to invest funds for the Society (Executive Minutes Book, 1945).

#### Lions Club Efforts Continue

In 1951, the Lions Club of Omaha once again provided the Home with a financial gift. The Club donated the amount of \$700.00 to assist with the modernization of the Home's kitchen. Due to a disagreement between the housemother and a contractor, the Executive Board deferred the project back to the House Committee to study the issue further. Eventually, the kitchen cabinets and sink were updated. A local company promised to donate a garbage disposal. A dishwasher machine was also requested. However, neither of these two appliances materialized for over 25 years.

Modern ideas began to surface at the Home. A gas furnace was installed in

1953 and air conditioning was suggested, however, the air conditioning project was temporarily delayed. The idea of purchasing a microfilm machine was discussed. The Board believed the use of microfilm would significantly reduce the purchase of additional files. The Board also delayed action on the purchase of the microfilm machine.

#### Peycke Becomes President of the Board

Tracy J. Peycke, of Omaha, was selected to become the new president of the Executive Board in 1953. Mr. Peycke was an attorney and vice-president and general counsel of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. Mr. Peycke succeeded Mr. Kenneth G. Harvey. Mr. Peycke served as president of the Executive Board from 1953 to 1962. His tenure would be the second longest in the history of the Society.

#### Out-State Office Opened

The first out-state office for the Nebraska Children's Home Society was opened in Scottsbluff in 1953. Miss Grace Glass, a former caseworker of the Society, was employed to be the manager of the office (Executive Minutes Book, 1953). Miss Glass was responsible for providing all casework services from the western border of the state east to North Platte. Mrs. Mabel Jones provided services from North Platte on to the eastern border of the state. In years to come, the Scottsbluff office would be relocated in North Platte.

#### Services for Unwed Mothers

The Executive Board, due to the increased rise in unwed mothers, decided to broaden the services in this regard. Miss Mary Alice Vernon was employed to

coordinate these services in 1955 (Nebraska's Children, 1955). In 1956, Miss Esther Olewine was hired to work with the young ladies in need of counsel and service.

#### Foreign Children Placement

The Society had been receiving numerous requests for adopting foreign children. The Executive Board requested Mr. Biart, executive director, to investigate the possibilities with agencies in the eastern part of the United States.

#### Executive Board Action

From 1953 to 1958 the Executive Minutes Book, for the most part, reflected general business matters. The Board continued to address the physical and maintenance needs of the Home. Mention is made, on several occasions, about the purchasing of small appliances and approval for general maintenance around the Home.

One of the Executive Board Meetings addressed the Board's concern over the column of Mary Lane in the Omaha World-Herald. Miss Lane wrote a daily column named "Advice to the Lovelom." The Board, acting upon advice from other sources, heard Miss Lane was making adoptive placements in connection with her column. A Board member was chosen to speak to the publisher of the World-Herald and made protest on behalf of the Society. Further mention is not reflected in the minutes of the Executive Board.

At a 1958 meeting, Mr. Biart and the Board were concerned about the decline in adoption cases. Mr. Biart stated three possible reasons for the lower number of cases. Those reasons included (a) a drop in the birth rate, (b) increased

activities by other agencies, and (c) growing use of private placements.

The Executive Minutes Book (1958) reflected a positive sign in relation to the salaries of the employees of the Society. For 1959, Executive Director Biart's salary was set at \$8600.00. When Mr. Biart was hired in 1936, his initial salary had been \$2100.00. The Board believed the salary reflected a sign of trust, credibility, and stability on behalf of Mr. Biart. The Board also increased caseworker salaries to be included in a range from \$3900.00 to \$6500.00.

### Chapter Summary

#### Administrative

Stability marked this period of the Society's administration. Mr. Randall C. Biart continued as executive director. When Mr. Axel T. Hansen stepped down as president of the Executive Board, he was followed by two men who also gave a long term commitment to the Society.

Due to an increased, state-wide need for services, the Society opened an office in Scottsbluff to meet the organization's needs.

#### Leadership

This period was marked by the stability of leadership offered by the executive director, Mr. Randall C. Biart, and Executive Board presidents, Mr. Axel T. Hansen, Mr. Kenneth G. Harvey, and Mr. Tracy J. Peycke. The longevity for each of these individual's terms reflected the Executive Board's confidence and trust in their leadership.

#### Financial

The financial condition of the Society continued to improve during the



period. The Society gained sizeable financial opportunity through wills and bequests. The financial optimism was reflected through the salary increases and bonuses offered to employees.

The Executive Board remained concerned about the Society's involvement with the Community Chest organization of Omaha. Over the course of time, the Board had not been totally satisfied with the Community Chest's appropriations to the Society.

On a positive vein, the Lions Club and Children's Home Society continued to have a good relationship. Throughout the history of the Home, the Lions Club had been a valuable ally.

## Changes and Prosperity Continue at the Home

### Children of Different Races are Requested

In the mid 1950s, the Nebraska Children's Home Society began to receive increasing requests for children of different races or from foreign countries. The Executive Minutes Book (1959) addressed adoption inquiries that had been made for "colored" children. The minutes reflected the need for colored children did not appear to be as great as other agencies have stated. The Society took under advisement the requests for colored children.

The April 12, 1960, Executive Minutes Book stated a highlight of the Society was the placement of a three-and-one-half-year old "colored" boy who had been with the Society since birth. Nebraska's Children (1961) issued a plea to its readers by stating, although the number of Negro babies placed for adoption had increased, the number of applications had not increased in proportion to the need. The quarterly publication reported that the Society badly needed assistance in placing Negro children.

Nebraska's Children (1962) further reported, in 1961, 18 children of different races had been placed for adoption. Of the 18 children, eight were Negroes and 10 were Indian, Mexican, or racial mixtures.

### Psychiatrist Joins Staff

Beginning in 1958 the Executive Board researched the possibility of a psychiatrist joining the staff of the Children's Home. The Executive Board believed, due to the increase in the various needs of children, the addition of a

psychiatrist would be warranted. In 1959, Dr. Cleaver, a young doctor who was entering the field of psychiatry, was hired on a trial basis (Executive Minutes Book, 1959).

### Prosperity Abounds

The financial stability of the Children's Home Society continued to improve during the 1960s. The Executive Minutes Book mentioned sizeable increases in salaries for the Executive Director and caseworkers.

To reward the dedication of employees of the Society, the Executive Board voted to initiate a type of retirement plan that would be applicable to all employees of the Society who had put in at least ten years of service (Executive Minutes Book, 1961).

In 1960, a Mother's Club organization was started. The Mother's Club was an organization that was formed by mothers who had been adopted through the Nebraska Children's Home Society. The primary focus of the Mother's Club was that of being a fund raising organization for the Children's Home.

For recognition of 25 years of service as Executive Director of the Nebraska Children's Home Society, Mr. Randall C. Biart was honored at a dinner and presented with a silver tray for his dedication and years of service (Executive Minutes Book, 1961). At the meeting, Mr. Biart stated, during 1960, the Society had reached an all-time high of 107 adoptions.

The Children's Home Society continued in an optimistic mode in relation to adoption. Nebraska's Children (1962) addressed the fact there no longer seemed to be as long a waiting list that discouraged prospective adoptive parents. The

quarterly magazine, in a review of the last 20 adoption cases for the Society, showed the wait ranged from two months to 10 months with 80% of the placements being made in less than six months. The adoption review stated placements included not only babies but children in their early teens.

#### Mr. Harris Van Oort Joins the Society

The Executive Minutes Book (1962) stated the employment of Mr. Harris Van Oort. The executive director, Mr. Randall C. Biart, reported Mr. Van Oort would be employed at a salary of \$7800.00. Mr. Biart informed the Board he wanted to train Mr. Van Oort in administrative duties as well as in casework supervision. Mr. Biart stated Mr. Van Oort was "our kind of folks" and would be a real asset to the Society. Mr. Van Oort did become executive director upon Mr. Biart's retirement on January 1, 1973. Mr. Van Oort was still serving the Society as executive director at the time of the Society's centennial year.

#### All-Time High

1962 produced an all time high for adoptions at the Children's Home Society. The Executive Minutes Book (1963) stated, in 1962, 129 children had been placed for adoption. Of the 129 children, 30 were non-white.

#### Mr. Dudley O. Aller Become President

At the Annual Meeting held on April 16, 1963, Mr. Dudley O. Aller of Omaha was elected as president of the Executive Board to succeed Mr. Tracy J. Peycke. Mr. Aller was a retired partner of an Omaha grain business and had served on the Executive Committee for the previous 15 years (Executive Minutes Book, 1963).

### Relationships Continue

The Community Chest of Omaha and the Nebraska Children's Home Society had an "off again, on again" relationship throughout the Society's history. The relationship took a positive turn in 1963 and 1964 when the Community Chest provided funds that equalled 10% of the Society's income for those years. In 1965, when the Community Chest increased its contribution to the Society to \$24,000.00 and requested an account of how funds were distributed, the Executive Board once again questioned the need to be specific on fund distribution to the Community Chest organization.

The Lions Club and Nebraska Children's Home Society had always had a close working relationship. The relationship between the Society and the Lions Club was publicly recognized in 1964 when Mr. Randall C. Biart was honored by the Lions Club. Mr. Biart received the Lions Club's Annual Public Service Award (Nebraska's Children, 1964). Mr. Biart was a member of the Lions Club of Omaha and only once previously had the Lions Club honored one of its own members. The initial recognition was bestowed on Mr. Fred Hill, of Omaha, a longtime member of the Executive Board of the Nebraska Children's Home Society.

The May 12, 1964, Executive Minutes Book discussed their executive director's age. Mr. Randall C. Biart had reached the age of 67 and had been serving the Society for a period of 28 years. The Board believed Mr. Harris Van Oort, who had been employed by the Society for just over a year, should assume more of Mr. Biart's responsibilities. Mr. Biart stated he wanted to reassign some

of Mr. Van Oort duties so he could work more directly with the executive director and become the director of casework services. The Board also requested Mr. Van Oort to begin attending the meeting of the Executive Board so the Board could become more familiar with Mr. Van Oort (Executive Minutes Book, 1964).

#### Another All-Time High

The pace of adoptions continued to escalate at the Society. In 1964, the Society reached another all-time high in adoptive placements. For the year, 155 adoptive placements had transpired (Nebraska's Children, 1965). The all-time high was broken in 1965 when 168 adoptive placements took place. The record was reset in 1967 when 204 adoptions were granted.

#### The Home Seeks Another Facility Addition

In 1965 the Executive Board granted approval for an addition to the Receiving Home. The addition would be approximately 29 feet by 46 feet. The Board believed the addition was necessary due to the growing programs of their state-wide agency. The Board gave approval to authorize a general contract not to exceed \$45,000.00. The Board further realized the need to furnish the new addition, add floor coverings, and landscape the property. The Board estimated the total cost to be approximately \$55,000.00 but they hoped to keep the cost under \$50,000.00 (Nebraska's Children, 1965).

#### Mr. William J. Baird Succeeds Mr. Aller

In 1966, Mr. William J. Baird, an Omaha attorney, was elected as president of the Executive Board. Mr. Baird succeeded Mr. Dudley Aller who had served as president the previous three years.

The Executive Minutes Book (1968) reported the hiring of Mr. Robert Kilby to serve as public relations director for the Nebraska Children's Home Society. The Board believed a full-time employee was necessitated due to the increased need for marketing and publicity of the Children's Home Society. Mr. Kilby served in this position until 1991. The Executive Minutes Book also reflected numerous citations for sympathy and gratitude as past members of the Executive Committee passed away.

Mr. Baird began to discuss the matter of the Society's 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee that would take place in September, 1968.

#### Chapter Summary

##### Administrative

Stability was still the standard during this time period. Mr. Randall C. Biart continued as executive director. In 1962, a transition of administrative duties began with the employment of Mr. Harris Van Oort. Mr. Van Oort was employed as a casework supervisor who also had administrative duties. Mr. Biart was to train Mr. Van Oort to someday take over the reins as executive director.

##### Leadership

Beginning with Mr. Dudley O. Aller's tenure as president of the Executive Board, in 1963, a new trend began in relation to the term of office for the president. With Mr. Aller's term, a sequence of presidents would evolve in which no one served longer than a four-year term. In fact, most succeeding presidents had terms of office of three years. This new rotation appeared to benefit the Society and keep officers more focused during their tenure as president.

Financial

Prosperity continued throughout this period. In the early to mid 1960s, the Society reached its peak years in adoptions. Adoptions reached approximately 200 per year by the mid 1960s. A Mother's Club, organized by females who had been adopted through the Society, was established. The primary purpose of the Mother's Club was to provide fund raising activities for the Society.

This period was also marked by the Society's continuing relationships with both the Lions Club of Omaha and the Community Chest organization. The Lions Club continued to provide valuable services to the Receiving Home. As a reward for years of faithful relationship, the Lions Club honored Mr. Randall C. Biart with the Lions Club Annual Public Service Award in 1964.

The Community Chest organization and the Nebraska Children's Home had an "off again, on again" relationship for several years. In 1965, the Community Chest increased its contribution to the Society to a high of \$24,000.00. A concern was raised when the Community Chest questioned the Executive Board on how that money would be allocated. Once again, the potential for a "rocky" encounter was set.



## 75 Years and Still Going Strong

### Diamond Jubilee Celebration

September 1968 brought the observance of the Society's 75th Anniversary. Since the Society was originally created during the month of September, the Executive Board decided to hold most of the events during that month. Most of the main activities in regard to the anniversary were held at the Society's headquarters, 3549 Fontenelle Boulevard. The theme for the anniversary celebration was not the Society itself, but the hundreds and thousands of individuals who had either assisted with the Nebraska Children's Home Society or who had adopted or cared for children through the Society (Nebraska's Children, 1968). The Executive Board believed much had been accomplished during the first 75 years of the Society's existence. The Board agreed to continue to build a program that would meet the changing needs of society. The Board appropriately called the Diamond Jubilee Celebration, "A Milestone in Progress."

### Mr. D. Merrill Edgerly Becomes President

At the 76th Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Children's Home Society, Mr. D. Merrill Edgerly became the new president of the Executive Board. Mr. Edgerly was the president of Ebco Safety Services of Omaha and had served on the Board for the previous 17 years (Nebraska's Children, 1969).

In 1969, the Society developed a new information sheet that contained questions most frequently asked about the Nebraska Children's Home Society (see

Appendix K.) The questions replaced an original set that had been developed in 1927.

#### Prosperity Continues

The Society continued to serve the needs of many children. In 1968, the Society reached another all-time high with 225 adoptions.

In addition, the Executive Board was gracious in salary increases for the coming year. Mr. Randall C. Biart, executive director, had his salary raised to \$12,900.00 per year. Mr. Harris Van Oort, director of casework services, had his salary raised to \$11,500.00 per year. Other salaries ranged from \$5480.00 to \$9240.00 (Executive Minutes Book, 1969).

The relationship between the Nebraska Children's Home Society and the Community Chest organization took a new turn during 1969. For years the Community Chest had been a leading financial contributor to the Society. In return, the Community Chest had always sought itemized accounting for its contributions and the contributions of others. The Society had been reluctant to provide such information to the Community Chest. In 1969, the Society decided to sever ties with the Community Chest. One of the major reasons was because the Community Chest's contributions had decreased to less than 7% of the Society's operating expenses (Nebraska's Children, 1969).

#### Van Oort Promoted and Biart Makes Plans to Retire

On September 1, 1970, Mr. Harris Van Oort, who had served as supervisor of casework services, was promoted by the Executive Board. The Board promoted Mr. Van Oort to the newly created position of assistant executive director. This

move was in conjunction with an announcement that Mr. Randall C. Biart, the present executive director of the Society, would begin semi-retirement in 1971. On January 1, 1971, Mr. Biart assumed the role of executive consultant at a salary of \$600.00 per month. On that same date, Mr. Van Oort became the new executive director of the Nebraska Children's Home Society (Executive Minutes Book, 1970).

Upon Mr. Biart's retirement from the position of executive director, the Society had become the largest child placement agency in Nebraska. Mr. Biart had originally become associated with the Society in 1936 and had faithfully served the Society for 35 years.

#### Rasmussen Becomes President

Mr. Charles A. Rasmussen, of Omaha, was elected as president of the Executive Board, in 1972, to succeed Mr. D. Merrill Edgerly. Mr. Rasmussen was a senior vice-president of the Western Securities Company. The election of Mr. Rasmussen continued the trend of having the president of the Board serve for no more than three consecutive years. This trend began when Mr. Dudley O. Aller was president in 1963 and has continued through 1994.

#### Lions Club Tribute

In 1972 a service award was created by the Society. The award was named the Annual Randall C. Biart Award and was to be presented to individuals or an organization that provided exceptional service to the Nebraska Children's Home Society. The initial award was presented to the Lions Club of Omaha for the organization's 50 years of service to the Society.

### Purchase of Property and Other Improvements

As suitable investments, the Executive Board decided to purchase the two home properties immediately south of the Receiving Home. The properties, in turn, would be rented with the profit going to the Society.

The Executive Minutes Book discussed many routine matters which the Board addressed during the first several years of the 1970s. Considerable discussion transpired in regard to general home improvements and care and replacement of appliances. Otherwise, the minutes made little or no mention about other major topics or items.

### Saddened Hearts

With saddened hearts, the Executive Board received the news that past executive director, Mr. Randall C. Biart, passed away in 1973. Mr. Biart had faithfully served the Nebraska Children's Home Society for 35 years.

Unfortunately, the 1960s and 1970s brought the untimely passing of many other Executive Board members. Both the Executive Minutes Book and Nebraska's Children mentioned the deaths of several past presidents and board members.

### 80 Years of Service

Nebraska's Children (1974) mentioned the 80th Anniversary of the Nebraska Children's Home Society. As of 1973 the Society remained the only state-wide, private, and non-sectarian child welfare agency in the nation that did not receive government grants or tax money or was funded by United Community Services. Additionally, the Society had no set charges or fees for any services.

The quarterly publication further mentioned the nation's struggle with fuel shortages and rising inflation. The Society had previously survived difficult times and depressions. In fact, the Society has had much practice at "tightening the belt" and surviving difficult times.

#### New Executive Board President

Mr. Arthur W. Pinkerton, of Omaha, was elected as the new president of the Executive Board in 1975. Mr. Pinkerton was vice-president of the insurance company, Alexander and Alexander. Prior to his present position, he had served as president of Pinkerton, Madden, Burford, Inc. As had been the trend for the past four presidents, Mr. Pinkerton would serve only three years as president. The same was true for his predecessor, Mr. Charles Rasmussen.

#### Services in the 1970s

During the 1970s, there was a gradual shift in casework procedures for the Society. Adoption, foster care, and services to unwed mothers remained important. A greater stress was placed on services to teenagers and to post-adoptive counseling with families.

The Receiving Home was no longer a facility for only school age children awaiting adoption. The Home evolved into an emergency shelter for troubled teenagers. The youths were referred by juvenile courts, county welfare administrations, mental health agencies, and various other agencies. The Home did not become a run-away house, and youths were only accepted by referral.

In the 1970s, there was a gradual phasing out of the field personnel. The field personnel had been stationed in the various Society districts throughout the

state since the early 1900s. The phasing out transpired mainly by attrition. The primary focus of the field personnel had been to seek donations and solicit contributions. With the phasing out of the field personnel, all solicitation was then done by mail, and the mail department had become a year-round business. In addition to Nebraska's Children, which was sent to 36,000 homes, there were three major appeals for contributions mailed each year. Of the appeals, by far the largest was the Christmas Appeal. The Christmas Appeal and the "Little Red Stocking" were sent to approximately 480,000 individuals. These two appeals were done by a commercial mailing service. The other appeals were mailed to individuals who received the quarterly magazine. Of the other appeals, the Easter Appeal campaign was the largest.

The number of adoptions the Society granted during the 1970s had stabilized around the 100 mark. During the late 1950s and through most of the 1960s, the Society had placed between 150 and 225 children per year. The Executive Minutes Book (1978) stated reasons why the number of adoptions had substantially declined. The Board believed the decline was principally due to the following three reasons:

1. The increasing use of the pill and other contraceptive devices among teenagers.
2. Abortion.
3. Less social stigma attached to illegitimacy, thereby allowing unwed mothers to keep their children instead of relinquishing them for adoption.

### Home is Saddened by the Loss of A. B. Olson

The Nebraska Children's Home Society was saddened in 1968 by the death of Mr. August B. Olson. Mr. Olson a long time Omaha realtor, had been associated with the Society for 61 years. Mr. Olson's relationship was the longest tenure of any of past or present Executive Board members.

Also, in 1978 the 85th Anniversary of the Children's Home Society was celebrated. Mention is made of the anniversary in Nebraska's Children, however, no other celebrations or activities were planned in conjunction with the anniversary year.

Mr. Henry Roose, of Omaha, was elected in 1978 to serve as president of the Executive Board. Mr. Roose was a vice-president of the U. S. National Bank of Omaha. The Executive Minutes Book (1979) reported Mr. Roose presented information in regard to bequests left to the Nebraska Children's Home Society. Table 8 refers to the data Mr. Roose made available to the Executive Board.

### Chapter Summary

#### Administrative

The strong administrative leadership of the Nebraska Children's Home Society continued. Mr. Harris Van Oort had been promoted to the position of assistant to the executive director. This move was in conjunction with the announcement that Mr. Randall C. Biart would retire. Mr. Biart had faithfully served the Society for 35 years. When Mr. Biart stepped down as executive director in 1971, Mr. Van Oort was promoted to the position of executive director. Mr. Biart remained with the Society as executive consultant until 1973. Mr. Biart's

Table 8

Bequests Received to the Nebraska Children's Home Society from 1970 through 1979

Year	Bequests Made
1970	\$ 19,105.55
1971	\$ 54,460.62
1972	\$ 114,514.18
1973	\$ 67,844.00
1974 (6 months only)	\$ 71,822.25
1974-75	\$ 129,662.52
1975-76	\$ 182,685.97
1977-78	\$ 151,490.94
1978-79 (11 months only)	\$ 280,398.32

administrative skills and leadership had provided the Society with the needed guidance and focus over the past years. Mr. Van Oort would continue to serve the Society through the Centennial Year, 1993, and into the future.

Leadership

The presidents of the Executive Board continued to change every three to four years during this time. One constant was the Executive Board's vision. The Executive Board continued to seek the necessary physical improvements to the



### Receiving Home.

The Board, concerned with the declining number of children available for adoption, sought ways in which to serve the needs of children. Adoption, foster care, and services to unwed mothers remained important. Greater stress was placed on services to teenagers and post-adoptive counseling with families. The Receiving Home was no longer a facility for just school-age children awaiting adoption, but the Home had evolved into an Emergency Shelter for troubled teenagers. The Receiving Home did not become a run-away house since youths were only accepted by referral.

### Financial

For the most part, financial prosperity continued at the Society during this time period. By 1968, the Society reached an all-time high of 225 adoptions for a single year. Two major appeals continued through the quarterly magazine, Nebraska's Children. The largest of the two appeals was the Christmas Appeal, and in conjunction with the "Little Red Stocking" Appeal, was sent to over 480,000 people. The other major appeal was the Easter Appeal.

The relationship between the Society and the Community Chest took a new turn in 1969. For years, the Community Chest had been a leading financial contributor to the Nebraska Children's Home Society. In return, the Community Chest had always sought itemized accounting for its financial contributions. The Society had been reluctant to provide such information. In 1969 the Society decided to sever ties with the Community Chest organization.

## The Children's Home Society Enters the 1980s

### Out-State Office Locations Expanded

To meet the continuing needs for the people of the state of Nebraska, the Nebraska Children's Home Society decided to open an additional casework office in Lincoln (Nebraska's Children, 1980). At the time of the opening of the Lincoln office, the Children's Home Society had a total of six offices state-wide. The location of those offices were Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, Alliance, and Chadron. The Chadron office was to be closed during 1981. Additionally, the Executive Minutes Book (1980) reported approval had been granted to open an office in Norfolk during 1981.

### Mr. John P. Ford Becomes President

Mr. John P. Ford, an Omaha attorney associated with the firm Schmidt, Ford, Mooney, and Fredrick, succeeded Mr. Henry R. Roose as president of the Executive Board in 1981. Mr. Ford served as president of the Board from 1981 to 1984. With Mr. Ford's tenure, the trend continued that the president of the Executive Board served only terms of three to four years.

### New Tax Law and Contributions

The Economic Recovery Tax Bill was passed by the United States Congress in 1981. The Children's Home Society immediately began to market the positive effects the bill could have upon the Society (Nebraska's Children, 1981). Under the new tax bill, charitable deductions would generate a higher tax savings for individuals, therefore, making contributions highly advantageous to individual

taxpayers. The Children's Home Society continued to publicize the tax bill and the bill's ramifications in their quarterly publication.

#### Societal Change

The administrators and the members of the Executive Board of the Society continued to be concerned about a growing shift in the thinking and philosophy of unwed mothers. Over the past several years, unwed mothers appeared to be shying away from adoption options. New trends appeared to be for mothers wishing to raise their children as single mothers or to have the mother's relatives care for the children (Executive Minutes Book, 1981). Another reason, according to a caseworker report, stated the legalization of abortions may have also contributed to the reduced number of children available for adoption. The Executive Board believed their membership needed to be made aware of these trends since the numbers of adoptions could drastically decline with such a philosophical shift.

#### Physical Improvements to the Receiving Home

Continued improvements were recommended by the Executive Board for the Receiving Home. In 1981, approval was granted for the installation of air conditioning for the main, second, and third floors. Additionally, carpeting was approved for numerous sections of the Home. However, the Board did limit the anticipated expenditures to no more than \$25,000.00 (Executive Minutes Book, 1981).

Unfortunately, the initial improvements were only the beginning of extensive renovation needed at the Receiving Home. For several months, the Executive Minutes Book reported the need for physical improvements to the Home.

Improvements were needed for not only carpeting and air conditioning but for the heating system and plumbing. In fact, the plumbing situation concerned the Board the most. After granting approval for expenditures to not exceed \$25,000.00 earlier in the year, the Board was faced with a new estimate of approximately \$60,000.00. The Executive Board voted to pursue a grant from the Kiewit Foundation of Omaha to cover half of the anticipated cost. The Children's Home Society would pay for the other half of the expenses (Executive Minutes Book, 1981).

By September, 1982, the Executive Board was brought up-to-date that the renovation projects would cost approximately \$71,900.00. The Board sought pleas through their quarterly mailings to assist in the payment of the projects. Over time, more than 50% of the expenses were covered by contributions. The final cost of the renovation project was approximately \$78,400.00.

The 1982-83 projected operating budget was expected to exceed one million dollars for the first time. This operating budget did not include any of the renovation project costs. Over the course of 90 years, the Nebraska Children's Home Society budget had started from meager financial beginnings and had turned into a million dollar organization.

As always, the Executive Board was concerned about the financial condition of the Children's Home Society. During the 1980s the Executive Minutes Book and Nebraska's Children continually addressed ways in which individuals could contribute to the Society. The most prevalent ways in which the Society solicited contributions were through tax deductible contributions, estate planning, wills, cash contributions, and charitable gift annuities. The Executive Minutes Book, during

that time, numerous mentioned gifts and bequests that were presented to the Society.

The Children's Home Society had become a prominent fixture in adoption services across the state of Nebraska. Estimations showed approximately 1500 couples contacted the Home each year from 1983 through 1985 checking on the possibility of adoption. By the same token, only about 100 children were available for adoption each of those years from the Children's Home.

The staff of the Children's Home Society continued to grow in number during the first 90 years of existence. By the early 1980s, there were 13 caseworkers who staffed the six state-wide offices, seven full-time clerical workers, the kitchen and house staff, the public relations director, and the executive director.

Major improvements continued around the Receiving Home in 1984. The Executive Board approved improvements to the south parking lot. The estimated cost of the project was \$51,500.00. The Executive Board, once again, asked the Kiewit Foundation for funds to match half the cost of the project (Executive Minutes Book, 1984). The total cost of the parking lot project would eventually total \$58,834.00. The Society received funds totalling \$25,000.00 from the Kiewit Foundation to assist with the project.

#### Mother's Club

Nebraska's Children (1985) reported the 25th Anniversary of the Mother's Club was celebrated in 1985. The Mother's Club was an organization that was formed by mothers who had been adopted through the Nebraska Children's Home

Society. The organization continued to grow and by 1985 there were three chapters of the organization. In the early years, the primary focus of the Mother's Club was that of being a fund raising organization for the Children's Home. However, the Club took on another very important role, that of being a support group for parenting.

As recognition of their 25th Anniversary, the members of the Mother's Club, completely refurnished and redraped, at the Club's expense, the living room of the Receiving Home. The Mother's Club also repainted and redecorated the entry hall to the Home.

#### Business As Usual

The remainder of the 1980s appeared to be "business as usual" for the Children's Home Society. The Executive Minutes Book and Nebraska's Children mentioned basic business matters. Finances and contributions were discussed on a regular basis, with nothing major during the time. The Board continued to solicit contributions through various means to assist in keeping the Society on stable financial grounds.

For the most part, the number of adoptions stabilized at approximately 100 to 125 per year. The number of adoptions had decreased slightly from the late 1960s when adoptions ran as high as 225 per year. The options available to mothers who once sought adoption had effected the home over the past several years. The number now seemed to stabilize. The number of couples seeking adoption had also decreased from a high of 1500 per year in the early to mid 1980s to about 1200 per year in the late 1980s.

The Executive Minutes Book (1987) reported two break-ins had occurred at the Receiving Home during December 1986 and January 1987.. Damage occurred to several windows and doors. Theft of a microwave oven and a new television set were reported. The Executive Board voted to hire a professional security company to assist the Society.

#### Legislative Concerns

Legislative Bills 301 and 719, which were submitted to the State Legislature in 1987, brought concern to the Executive Board. Legislative Bill 301, if passed, would provide opportunities for birth parents and adoptive parents to exchange pictures and information about the adopted child. At the time, the bill was mainly directed at State Agencies. Despite the Society's opposition, LB 301 was passed as a carryover bill in 1988. Legislative Bill 719, if passed, would have created a Nebraska Parentage Act and a Nebraska Adoption Act. LB 719 was defeated in the spring of 1987. The Executive Board believed the introducers of these bills had good intentions but believed compliance with the two bills was directed more toward state agencies than toward private agencies (Executive Minutes Book, 1987).

#### Celebrity Twins

In 1987, a caseworker reported on the rejoining of twin brothers who had been separately placed by the Nebraska Children's Home Society over 70 years ago (Executive Minutes Book, 1987). The brothers had been living in California and had resided only about 50 miles apart. The families had made contact and were now vacationing in Minnesota. During May the twins planned to come to Omaha to

visit at the Society.

#### Harold Hultman Retires

Mr. Harold Hultman, president of the Executive Board since 1985, submitted his resignation on November 11, 1987. Mr. Hultman was retiring from his Omaha business and planned to spend his retirement in the state of Arkansas. Mr. Hultman was a vice-president for Piper, Jaffray, and Hopwood, Inc.

At the December 9, 1987 Executive Board Meeting, the president's gavel was passed to First Vice-President Mr. Vern L. Hill. Mr. Hill was presently retired but he had been previously employed as an environmental engineer for the Leo A. Daly Company of Omaha. Mr. Hill served as president of the Executive Board from 1987 to 1990. The trend for length of the president of the Executive Board continued to run in the three to four year time frame. This trend began in 1963 and has continued to this day.

#### Another Out-State Office Opens

During 1989, the Nebraska Children's Home Society opened their seventh office. The newest office was opened in Kearney. The Kearney office was originally staffed on a part-time basis (Executive Minutes Book, 1989). The most recent out-state office was opened in Scottsbluff in 1992.

#### Society Saddened By the Loss of Four Past Presidents

The Nebraska Children's Home Society was saddened on four separate occasions in the early 1990s. In 1990 the untimely deaths of two past-presidents of the Executive Board stunned the Society. Mr. D. Merrill Edgerly and Mr. Charles A. Rasmussen both died during 1990. Mr. Edgerly and Mr. Rasmussen were



associated with the Society for long periods of time.

The Society would be saddened again in 1992 and 1993, when two other past-presidents, Mr. John P. Ford and Mr. Dudley O. Aller, passed away.

#### Mr. Mort C. Sheffloe Succeeds Mr. Vern L. Hill

Mr. Mort C. Sheffloe was nominated as president of the Executive Board to succeed Mr. Vern L. Hill. Mr. Sheffloe, a retired Omahan, had worked as a manager of the Bell Telephone Company and in communications with Armaco Oil. Mr. Sheffloe became president of the Board in 1991. Mr. Sheffloe continued to serve as President of the Board through the Centennial Year, 1993.

#### New Development Director

Beginning in 1990, Mr. Robert Kilby, public relations director, contemplated retirement. Plans were made to secure a replacement for Mr. Kilby prior to his retirement. Mr. Kilby had served as Public Relations Director since 1963. In 1991, Mr. Timothy R. Neal was hired to succeed Mr. Kilby. With Mr. Neal's appointment, his position title was changed to that of Development Director.

#### Centennial Year Plans Begin

In the summer of 1991, the initial plans for the celebration of the Nebraska Children's Home Society Centennial Celebration began. A planning committee was appointed by the Executive Board and plans began to evolve over the next months as 1993, the Centennial year, approached.

The Centennial Planning Committee recommended to the Executive Board that some internal and external refurbishing and refinishing needed to be done to the Receiving Home prior to the Centennial celebrations. A proposed budget for the

project was set at \$100,000.00. The Executive Board applied to the Kiewit Foundation of Omaha to provide matching funds for half the cost of the project. The Executive Minutes Book (1992) reported the Kiewit Foundation approved the amount of \$50,000.00 for the Centennial refurbishing project, if the Society could raise the other half of the funds.

### Chapter Summary

#### Administrative

Mr. Harris Van Oort continued as executive director during period. Including the tenure of his predecessor, Mr. Randall C. Biart, these two men served as executive director for over 57 years, with Mr. Harris' tenure still intact.

#### Leadership

This time was once again noted for strong and visionary leadership. The Executive Board continued to make the necessary physical improvements to the Receiving Home. Out-state offices were also opened on a need basis. At one time, the Society had seven state-wide offices.

The Executive Board took a proactive approach in relation to certain legislative bills. The Board wanted to maintain control over the rights of the children in which they cared. Although many of the bills effected State agencies, the Executive Board showed their state-wide influence with the Legislature by keeping close account of the progress of specific bills.

In 1991, the Executive Board began to make plans for the Centennial Year Celebration that would be held in 1993. Long range planning committees were formed to address the Centennial Year needs.

Mr. Timothy R. Neal was hired by the Society in 1991 to succeed Mr. Robert Kilby who had retired. Mr. Kilby, who had associated with the Society since 1963, had served as public relations director. Mr. Neal was employed under the title of development director.

#### Financial

With new physical improvements being needed at the Receiving Home, the Executive Board sought funds from the Kiewit Foundation of Omaha to match monies for renovation projects. Through state-wide contribution drives and matching funds from the Kiewit Foundations, major improvements were made to the Receiving Home.

A Mother's Club, composed of mothers who had been adopted through the Nebraska Children's Home Society, also provided financial and moral support to the Society. The Mother's Club 25th Anniversary was held in 1985.

The Board continued to solicit donations as in the past. One concern of the Board was the declining number of children available for adoption. In the 1980s the number of adoptions decreased to between 100 and 125 children per year. The low number of children available for adoption was compounded by the number of couples seeking adoption as an option. By the mid 1980s approximately 1500 couples per year had inquired into the adoption process.

## 1993 - The Centennial Year

### Plans Continue

With the coming of 1993, the Centennial Celebration plans were in full motion. The Executive Minutes Book and Nebraska's Children were dominated by discussion and details for the various activities that were to take place during the centennial year of the Nebraska Children's Home Society.

### Number of Adoptions Over the Years

The Nebraska Children's Home Society archives and records were researched to tabulate the number of adoption placements that had been made over the Centennial year period. Due to language discrepancies, different methods of reporting cases, and the timeliness of some reports, accurate data were not always available. Estimations place the number of adoptions, for the 100-year period, at approximately 7636 children. Table 9 displays the 100-year adoption placement information.

### The Celebration Begins

The Centennial Celebration was kicked off with a salad luncheon and fashion show in Omaha. The event was sponsored by the Mother's Clubs of Omaha. The fundraising event took place on May 15 and was attended by 225 people. This event also kicked off the formation of an Auxiliary Guild organization for the Nebraska Children's Home Society.

A series of six, state-wide banquets were conducted during 1993. The initial banquet was held in Omaha on May 20. Banquets were held at Grand Island

Table 9

Number of Adoption Placements for the Nebraska Children's Home Society  
from 1893 to 1993

Years Inclusive	Total Number of Adoptions
1893 to 1915	770
1916 to 1934	722
1935 to 1945	433
1946 to 1955	970
1955 to 1970	2160
1971 to 1980	1246
1981 to 1990	1070
1991 to 1993	265
Total	7636

on June 4, North Platte on July 9, Scottsbluff on July 10, Norfolk on August 6, and Lincoln on August 20. The Executive Minutes Book reported each of the banquets was well attended.

One of the common denominators of the banquets was the presence of Dr. Robert Manley. Dr. Manley is the past Director of Economic Development for the State of Nebraska and is a noted historian. During each of the banquets, Dr. Manley portrayed the Children's Home Society founder, Rev. E. P. Quivey.

Through his presentation, Dr. Manley took those in attendance back to 1893 and discussed the problems and challenges that faced Rev. Quivey and the Society.

The Centennial Year Celebrations culminated on October 3 when an Open House was held at the Receiving Home in Omaha. The Open House was attended by approximately 1000 people. The Open House gave many individuals the opportunity to reminisce about their pasts and the integral part the Children's Home Society has rendered on their lives.

As the Centennial Year came to a close, all associated with the Children's Home Society pondered the future as the Society moved into its second century of existence.

### Summary

Rev. and Mrs. E. P. Quivey arrived in Omaha, NE, in February, 1892, for the purpose of determining if there was a need in Nebraska for a child protection organization. Rev. Quivey was an ordained minister of the Congregational Church but had given up pastoral duties some years earlier to devote himself to social service. During one period, while Rev. Quivey served as chaplain at the Iowa State Penitentiary at Fort Madison, he became convinced there would be less delinquency if boys, rather than being placed in a penitentiary setting or reform schools, could have care arranged in private homes.

Rev. Quivey then became affiliated with the National Children's Home Society. The national society was a federation of 26 state societies and the largest child placing organization in the world.

Upon arriving in Nebraska, the Quiveys discovered from 60 to 100 children were housed in "The Homes of the Friendless" and two other groups were taking tentative steps toward organizing child help facilities. After finding suitable living quarters, the Quiveys began to make friends and eventually enlisted several of the more influential people of the city and state.

On August 10, 1893, Rev. Quivey called a meeting at the Y.M.C.A. Hall for the purpose of forming an affiliate of the National Children's Home Society, to be known as the Nebraska Children's Home Society. The meeting was presided over by Rev. Hoover, president of the National Executive Committee, and included eight clergymen, two judges, one layman, and one woman. At the meeting a

constitution was adopted, 20 trustees were elected, and a committee was named to write articles of incorporation.

To become a member of the Nebraska Children's Home Society, dues were set at \$1.00 per year. A lifetime member paid \$25.00 in a single payment or \$5.00 per year for a period of five years. A patron member paid a one time fee of \$50.00 and a benefactor paid \$100.00.

By the time of the first Annual Meeting in 1894, there had been over \$20,000.00 pledged towards the Society. The actual amount received was \$1,798.93. After expenditures of \$1,711.89, there was a cash balance of \$87.04.

Rev. Quivey immediately began traveling around the state of Nebraska. By the time the first Annual Meeting was held on May 2, 1894, the Society had already appointed 90 local boards, composed of over 600 adults from the state. Four district managers were employed by the Society. Mrs. Quivey was the first district manager for the Beatrice district. Mrs. Quivey maintained her position until her retirement. In the first year, the Society placed 43 children for adoption.

Although the Nebraska Children's Home Society was an auxiliary of the national organization, very early during the Society's existence, the Society began to exert its independence from the national office. Various financial bills which the national office submitted to the Society were turned down. For example, an assessment of \$37.00 to help defray the expenses for a booth at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago was refused on the grounds the Fair was nearly over at the time the Nebraska Children's Home Society was formed. In 1894 no money was sent to the national office because of a drouth and depression in Nebraska.



From the very beginning the Society was very fortunate in being able to attract board members who were not only of the highest caliber but also were leading citizens of the state of Nebraska. Among the well known in Omaha, prior to 1900, were General Charles M. Manderson, Rev. T. J. McKay, Dr. W. O. Henry, A. C. Kennedy, Frank Haller, and Dr. W. F. Milroy. L. F. Crofoot was the first legal counsel for the Society and he was succeeded by H. H. Baldrige.

Mr. J. W. Thomas became the first treasurer of the Society and held that position until his death. Mr. Thomas was succeeded by his son, Mr. Fred W. Thomas. The latter served as treasurer and trustee of the Executive Board for over 50 years.

The main responsibility of the district superintendents for the Society was to solicit funds. The district superintendents also accepted and placed children. The district superintendents received an initial salary of \$1000.00 per year. Rev. Quivey's initial yearly salary was set at \$1500.00.

By 1908 there were seven district superintendents, and each was responsible for five to 15 counties. All travel was done by railroad. At one of the Annual Meetings, the Society passed a resolution thanking the railroads for the help they provided in transporting wards of the Society.

The local boards were of great importance in the early years of the Society. Not only were the board members to be on alert for cases of child neglect and to accept complaints, but, as there were no home studies done, placements were made solely upon the board member's recommendations. Local board members also had the responsibility to observe the children in the foster homes. Board members did

not have to become involved if removal of the child from the foster home was deemed necessary.

The Society set a simple and basic procedure to assist couples in securing a child from the Children's Home. The applicants were asked to complete a very simple form, the applicant's names were sent to the local board, and, if approved, a child was placed in the home for a trial period of three months.

By 1908, there were over 800 local boards. The Society had a local board in almost every town from North Platte to Omaha and on all of the main lines and branch lines of the various railroads throughout the state. Local board members often came on Fridays bringing several children to a town and staying in various homes for the weekend. The children attended church services, the district superintendents told of the work of the Society, took a free will offering, and let the people see the children. Perhaps some of the children were left at the town, in some of the homes who wanted to have children for the three month trial period.

In 1896, the Homeless Children's Advocate, later referred to as The Advocate was initiated. This publication was a bi-monthly publication. The Advocate was a newsy magazine. The publication included some national news from the national office but, in addition, contained annual reports, lists of all donors, poems, human interest stories, obituaries, health reports of various staff members, and advertisements.

In addition to the funds collected by the district superintendents, legacies and income bonds were a source of revenue for the Society in the early years. Every donation was listed in a ledger and the book was audited every month. In

contrast to the careful record keeping and auditing of financial accounts, case records for the children had a very low priority.

Rev. Quivey was proactive and ahead of the times in many of his attitudes and philosophy. Rev. Quivey never refused to accept a child because of any disability. Rev. Quivey was also insistent that each adoptee be made aware of the fact he or she was adopted. Rev. Quivey was very firm in his belief that children's needs could best be met by placement in private homes rather than in an institutional setting.

In 1906, an individual made an offer of \$5000.00, plus a promise to raise an equal amount by subscription, for the purpose of building a receiving home for the Society. Rev. Quivey rejected this initial offer, as well as subsequent offers. A receiving home was not built for the Society until after Rev. Quivey retired.

The Juvenile Court of Nebraska was established during Rev. Quivey's tenure. Rev. Quivey's relationship with the court was not always the best because of the court's insistence that relatives know the location of all wards of the Society and the relatives should also have visiting rights to the wards. Several times Rev. Quivey was arrested because of his refusal to disclose the whereabouts of the Society's wards. On one occasion, to avoid a court summons, Rev. Quivey was forced to spend two weeks in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Rev. Quivey transacted necessary Society business during that two week period by meeting staff members on the Douglas Street Bridge. Rev. Quivey was always able to avoid a jail term.

World War I came and passed without having much effect on the Society. The September, 1918, issue of The Advocate did carry a cover picture of a Service

flag with 19 stars, presumably representing former wards now in the Armed Forces.

In 1918, Rev. Quivey offered his resignation, saying that he and his wife, both having reached the age of 70, could no longer endure the severe cold of a Nebraska winter and must move to a warmer climate. The Executive Board of the Society refused to accept his resignation but granted the Quiveys vacation time for the months of January, February, and March.

Rev. R. B. Ralls was employed as Assistant State Superintendent, and when, in 1921, Rev. Quivey did retire, Rev. Ralls was named State Superintendent for the Society. Rev. and Mrs. Quivey moved to Hollywood, California where they lived until he died in 1927.

On August 9, 1922, at a special meeting of the Executive Board, a unanimous decision was reached that the Society was in need of a permanent Receiving Home. The Board stressed this Receiving Home was not be considered as an orphan home. The Board decided to purchase three lots on Fontenelle Boulevard, just south of Pratt Street, for a price not to exceed \$3000.00.

The Lions Club of Omaha, which had provided invaluable service to the Society throughout the history of the Home, assumed the responsibility of raising, in Omaha, 50% of the projected costs and collected the \$20,000.00 in a three-day campaign. The remainder of the funds were obtained in a state-wide campaign.

The T. H. Maenner Company of Omaha was hired to draw the plans for the new building. After soliciting bids, on two separate occasions, the Executive Board approved the T. H. Maenner Company's bid to build the Receiving Home.

The Receiving Home was occupied on February 1, 1924. The next issue of The Advocate carried a plea for crates of eggs and canned fruits and vegetables. This original plea for eggs became known as the Easter Appeal, which has continued to this very day.

The Children's Home Society was involved with the Community Chest organization for many years. The Community Chest originated in 1923 and provided funds to non-profit organizations, such as the Society. Over the course of time, the Society and Community Chest would have both a positive and stressful relationship. Eventually, the two organizations would part ways.

An altercation, the reason of which is shrouded in mystery, resulted in the withdrawal of the Society from the Community Chest in 1925. The withdrawal resulted in the dismissal of state superintendent Rev. Ralls. Dr. George A. Sheafe, president of the Washington Children's Home Society, assumed the same position at the Nebraska Children's Home Society. In spite of his impressive credentials, Dr. Sheafe's tenure with the Society was brief. Dr. Sheafe resigned from his position in 1927. In turn, Dr. Sheafe was replaced by Mr. H. Hugh Fletcher.

The Great Depression had a huge impact upon the Society. The Executive Minutes Book reported contributions declined, loans needed to be secured, securities were sold, and funds were taken from the endowment. By 1933, the financial situation had grown worse so that three steps needed to be taken. First, the offices of the Society were moved from the Electric Building to the Receiving Home. Second, a general salary cut was given to all employees. Third, a recommendation was made that the Receiving Home be closed for general

institutional care and as many of the children as possible be placed, either in free homes or by being returned to their parents. Also, as a money saving measure, The Advocate was withdrawn from circulation.

A final blow to the trying times of the Depression came in 1933 when a fire occurred at the Receiving Home on December 19. The fire caused extensive damage to the roof of the Home and the entire building was water-soaked. The people of Omaha were quick to volunteer their assistance to the Society. Arrangements were made to house the children in private homes for the Holiday Season and until the renovation was completed.

The year 1934 started on a much more optimistic note. Cost of the damage of the Receiving Home was covered by insurance, and the Society was in better financial condition than it had been for some time. This financial stability was shown in 1935 when a new Ford automobile was purchased at a cost of \$522.90 plus interest of 6% for one year. An extra \$20.95 was approved for luxuries, such as a heater.

State Superintendent Fletcher submitted his resignation, due to poor health, in 1935. Mr. Randall C. Biart joined the Society on January 1, 1936 and was given the title of executive director. Mr. Biart's initial annual salary was set at \$175.00 per month.

In 1938, Nebraska's Children, a new quarterly publication was initiated by the Society. This publication replaced the previous, Advocate, which had been stopped during the Depression years. The first issue was part of the Christmas Appeal and approximately 27,000 copies were mailed.

A romantic encounter came to the home in 1939. The matron for the Home, Mrs. William Mines had recently been granted a divorce. Mr. Tom Pollard had been hired as the new houseman at about this same time. The matron "fell head over heels" in love with the houseman, causing a "distressing situation." Mr. Pollard was not dismissed but was given the opportunity to seek other employment. Both Mrs. Mines and Mr. Pollard planned to get married once Mrs. Mines divorce was officially granted. The couple both vacated their positions during September, 1939.

As in previous years, the Lions Club continued their positive relationship with the Society. The Lions Club annually sponsored a Christmas Party for all of the children at the Receiving Home at the time. Throughout the years, the Lions Club provided many substantial gifts to the Receiving Home.

World War II seemed to have little impact on the Society. The only mention in the Executive Minutes Book was a resolution that the cars belonging to the Society must be used only for business purposes due to the rubber shortage and rationing of tires and gasoline. Nebraska's Children (1945) carried a story about Lieutenant Kermit Hansen, son of Executive Board President Axel T. Hansen. Another issue ran a story about the former wards who were now in the Service. The quarterly publication also ran "thank you" for individuals who had given War Bonds to the Society during the war years.

In 1945, an addition was built to the south side of the Receiving Home. The newest addition housed the casework staff until 1966. In 1966, another addition was added to the Home.

The first out-state office was opened in Scottsbluff in 1953. This office was later moved to North Platte. Eventually, Scottsbluff would receive another office.

Modern ideas began to become evident in the Receiving Home in the 1950s. A gas furnace was installed in 1953. Plans were made to purchase a dishwasher and air conditioner but neither of these items materialized at that time. Microfilm was also suggested but to this day this process is not used by the Society.

Mr. Harris Van Oort joined the staff early in 1963 as casework supervisor. Additionally, Mr. Van Oort was to be trained in the administrative duties of the Society. Mr. Van Oort took over as executive director upon Mr. Biart's retirement on January 1, 1971.

During the 1970s there was a gradual shift in casework procedures. Adoption, foster care, and services to unwed mothers remained important. Greater stress was placed on services to teenagers and post-adoptive counseling with families. The Receiving Home was no longer a facility for only school age children awaiting adoption but the Home had also evolved into an Emergency Shelter for troubled teenagers. The troubled youths were often referred by the Juvenile Courts, County Welfare Administration, mental health institutions, and various other agencies. The Receiving Home did not become a "run-away house" since the youths were accepted only by referral.

The two major financial appeals, Christmas and Easter, continued throughout the years. By far the largest of the two, the Christmas Appeal, coordinated with the "Little Red Stocking" was sent to approximately 480,000



individuals. The Easter Appeal was sent to only the individuals who received the quarterly publication, Nebraska's Children.

Out-state offices continued to be a priority for the Society. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, offices were opened in Grand Island, Alliance, Chadron, Lincoln, and Norfolk. A Kearney office was opened in 1989.

Beginning in the 1960s a trend was begun in which the Society elected a new president of the Executive Board every three to four years. Prior to that time, the president of the Board often served for longer periods of time. The past several presidents of the Board generally served only three to four years in that capacity.

In 1981, the Executive Board gave approval for new renovation at the Receiving Home. Initial estimates were \$25,000.00. After further needs were identified and studies were conducted, the eventual cost of the newest additions and improvements was approximately \$78,400.00.

The Children's Home Society's budget in 1982-83, for the first time, exceeded one million dollars. The Executive Board continued to be concerned with the financial condition of the Society. Numerous citations, in the Executive Minutes Book, mentioned the manner in which the Society solicited contributions. The most prevalent ways in which the Society solicited funds were through tax deductible contributions, estate planning, wills, cash donations, and charitable gift annuities.

The Mother's Club of Omaha celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 1985. The Mother's Club was an organization that was formed by females who had been adopted through the Nebraska Children's Home Society. The organization

continued to grow and by 1985 there were three chapters of the organization. Initially the primary focus of the Mother's Club was that of fund raising. The Club took on another very important role, that of being a support group for parenting.

As the 1980s progressed, the number of children for adoption declined. During the peak years of the early 1960s, when 200 to 225 children were presented for adoption each year, only 100 to 125 children were available per year in the 1980s. Additionally, the number of couples seeking children for adoption continued to rise. By the mid 1980s, approximately 1500 couples inquired into adoption as an option. That number decreased to about 1200 per year in the late 1980s.

Legislative issues had always been a concern of the Society. Two legislative bills in 1987 brought special concern to the Executive Board. The two bills would have provided opportunities for the birth parents and adoptive parents to exchange pictures and information about the adopted child. A second bill would have granted the birth father more rights in the adoption process. Even though these bills primarily focused on State Agencies, the Society closely monitored the progress of the bills.

In 1987, a caseworker reported on the rejoining of twin brothers who had been separately placed by the Nebraska Children's Home Society over 70 years ago. The brothers had been living in California and had resided only about 50 miles apart. The families had made contact and were then vacationing in Minnesota. During May, the twins planned to come to Omaha to visit the Receiving Home.

In a span of three short years in the early 1990s, the Society was saddened by the deaths of four past-presidents of the Executive Board.

In 1991, Mr. Timothy R. Neal was employed by the Society. Mr. Neal succeeded Mr. Robert Kilby who had been the public relations director for the Society since 1963. Mr. Neal's position was changed to that of development director.

Plans began, in 1991, to celebrate the Centennial Year, 1993, for the Society. The Centennial Planning Committee recommended internal and external refurbishing and refinishing to the Receiving Home. A proposed budget was set at \$100,000.00. The Kiewit Foundation approved the amount of \$50,000.00 for the Centennial refurbishing project if the Society could raise the other half of the funds.

The Centennial Year Celebration took place in 1993 with a variety of events. The celebration was kicked off with a salad luncheon and fashion show in Omaha in May. This event also commenced the formation of an Auxiliary Guild organization for the Nebraska Children's Home Society.

A series of six, state-wide banquets were conducted during 1993. One of the common denominators of the banquets was the presence of Dr. Robert Manley. Dr. Manley is the past Director of Economic Development for the state of Nebraska and is a noted historian. During each of the banquets, Dr. Manley portrayed the Children's Home Society founder, Rev. E. P. Quivey.

The Centennial Year Celebrations culminated on October 3, 1993 when an Open House was held at the Receiving Home in Omaha. The Open House was attended by approximately 1000 people. The Open House gave many individuals

the opportunity to reminisce about their pasts and the effect the Children's Home Society has had on their lives.

From 1893 through 1993, the Nebraska Children's Home Society had provided care for 13,624 children. The care for these children ranged from that of adoptive placements, foster care, or emergency shelter care. Of the 13,624 children cared for by the Society, 7,636 of the children culminated in adoptive placements.

As the Centennial Year came to a close, all associated with the Nebraska Children's Home Society looked to the future and to, hopefully, the next 100 years.

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Appendix A

Nebraska Children's Home Society Constitution

August 10, 1893

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. Name.

Section 1. The name of this society shall be the Nebraska Children's Home Society.

ARTICLE II. Object.

Section 1. The object of this Society shall be to secure, or assist in securing, homes for the homeless, dependent, or destitute children, and to receive control and dispose of such children by placing them in suitable homes.

ARTICLE III. Officers.

Section 1. The officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Board of Trustees, Executive Board, State and District Superintendents.

ARTICLE IV. Memberships.

Section 1. Any person may become and remain a member of this Society by the payment of one dollar or more annually to the Treasurer of this Society.

Section 2. Any person may become a life member by paying twenty five dollars (\$25.00) in a single payment or in five annual payments of five dollars (\$5.00) each.

Section 3. Any person may become a patron by the payment of fifty dollars (\$50.00) in a single payment or five annual payments of ten dollars (\$10.00) each.

Section 4. Any person may become a benefactor by the payment of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) in a single payment or five annual payments of twenty dollars (\$20.00) each.

Section 5. Patrons and benefactors shall have all the rights and privileges of life members.

#### ARTICLE V. Amendment.

Section 1. This constitution may be revised, amended, or abolished by the Board of Trustees at any meeting called for the purpose of considering the Constitution and of which due notice has been given to all of the trustees.

#### BY-LAWS

##### ARTICLE I. Quorum.

Section 1. A majority of the members of the respective Boards shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of ordinary business.

##### ARTICLE II. Duties of Officers.

Section 1. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall perform the duties encumbend upon such officers in similar societies.

Section 2. The Board of Trustees shall have the general control of all business of the Society. They shall elect the Superintendent. At the first meeting after their election they shall elect from their own number an Executive Board of not less than five. They shall receive and pass upon the annual reports of the Secretary, Treasure, State and District Superintendent and shall outline the general policy and method of work year by year.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall fix the salary of the District Superintendents and upon the recommendation of the State Superintendent, appoint such District Superintendents the necessity of the work may require. They shall transact such business of the Society as it not made the duty of Board of Trustees. They shall make a complete report of their proceedings to the Trustees at the annual meeting or whenever the work of the Society demands it.

Section 4. The duties of the State Superintendent are such as are prescribed by the parent Society.

Section 5. The District Superintendents shall perform such duties as are prescribed by the parent society except that the reports referred to in Section 6 and 9 of "Duties of District Superintendents" shall read "weekly" instead of "monthly."

#### ARTICLE III. Funds.

Section 1. All monies collected for the Society shall be paid into the treasury of the same except the (50%) fifty percent of receipts allowed on salary and personal expenses of the District Superintendent may incur under the special direction of the State Superintendent; and the exceptional funds shall be accounted for in the weekly report of the District Superintendents; and receipts for the items must accompany the reports [sic].

Section 2. The salary of the State Superintendent shall be paid out of any and all funds in treasury.

Section 3. No money shall be paid out of the treasury except upon the written order of the Executive Board signed by its secretary.

**ARTICLE IV. Meetings.**

Section 1. The annual meeting of this Society shall be held on the first Wednesday of May of each year at two o'clock P.M.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall meet on the first Wednesday of each month at two o'clock P.M.

Section 3. Special meetings of the Board of Trustees or of the Executive Board may be held at any time upon the written request of a majority of their respective members.

Section 4. Cushing's Manual shall be used in governing the Society.

## Appendix B

## Presidents of the Executive Board of the Nebraska Children's Home Society

<u>President</u>	<u>Years Served</u>
Judge Samuel Maxwell	1892-1894
General Charles F. Manderson	1895-1896
Rev. T. J. McKay	1897
L. B. Holmes	1897-1898
Dr. Stephen Phelps	1899-1900
Dr. W. O. Henry	1900-1907
Rev. T. J. McKay	1908-1911
F. L. Haller	1912
Alfred C. Kennedy	1913-1915
F. L. Haller	1915-1921
Charles A. Goss	1922-1924
Dr. W. F. Milroy	1924-1927
Dr. H. C. Whitcomb	1927-1930
Dr. Max Emmert	1930-1935
A. D. Barber	1935-1937
Axel T. Hansen	1937-1947
Kenneth G. Harvey	1948-1952
Tracy J. Peycke	1953-1963
Dudley O. Aller	1963-1966
William J. Baird	1966-1968

<u>President</u>	<u>Years Served</u>
D. Merrill Edgerly	1969-1971
Charles A. Rasmussen	1972-1974
Arthur W. Pinkerton	1975-1977
Henry R. Roose	1978-1980
John P. Ford	1981-1984
Harold Hultman	1985-1987
Vern L. Hill	1987-1990
Mort C. Sheffloe	1991-1993

Appendix C  
Articles of Agreement for the Incorporation of the  
Nebraska Children's Home Society  
September 11, 1893

ARTICLE I.

Know all men by these present that we, Samuel Maxwell of Omaha, Nebraska; W. P. Hellings of Omaha, Nebraska; H. J. Davis of Omaha, Nebraska; John Williams of Omaha, Nebraska; G. S. Benawa of Omaha, Nebraska; T. E. Cramlet of Omaha, Nebraska; G. W. Crofts of Beatrice, Nebraska; Mrs. H. T. Davis of Columbus, Nebraska; Mrs. Alonzo Height of Columbus, Nebraska; Mrs. J. B. Jardine of Omaha, Nebraska; J. B. Leedome of Columbus, Nebraska; P. W. Howe of Lincoln, Nebraska; J. B. Maxfield of Omaha, Nebraska; L. P. Ludden of Lincoln, Nebraska; C. J. Ernst of Lincoln, Nebraska; C. A. Bentley of Lincoln, Nebraska; A. W. Henry of Lincoln, Nebraska; James Whitehead of Broken Bow, Nebraska; and E. P. Quivey of Omaha, Nebraska do hereby associate ourselves for the purpose of forming and becoming a body corporate under the laws of the State of Nebraska providing for the incorporation of Charitable Societies, and for the purpose to adopt these Articles of Agreement.

ARTICLE II.

The name of this corporation shall be "The Nebraska Children's Home Society." Its principal office for the transaction of business shall be located in the city of Omaha in the state of Nebraska. The corporation shall continue for the period of thirty years.

**ARTICLE III.**

The object for which the corporation is organized is to secure, or assist in the securing of homes for the homeless, dependent and destitute children, and to receive, control, and dispose of such children by placing them in suitable homes.

**ARTICLE IV.**

The affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Trustees which shall consist of ten members. There shall be an annual meeting of the members of the corporation on the first Wednesday of May of each year, at which meeting the Board of Trustees shall be elected. Such Trustees shall hold office for one year or until their successors are elected. There shall be chosen by the Board of Trustees the following officers: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a State Superintendent all of which except the Secretary and Treasurer shall be chosen from the members of the Board of Trustees.

**ARTICLE V.**

The incorporators, herein before names and whose names are hereto subscribed shall be members of this corporation. Any other person may become, and remain members of this corporation by the payment of one dollar (\$1.00) or more annually to said corporation, so long as such annual payments shall be continued. Any person may become a life member by the payment of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) in a single payment or by five annual payments of (\$5.00) five dollars each. Any person may become a patron by the payment of (\$50.00) fifty dollars in a single payment, or five annual payments of (\$10.00) each. Any person may become a benefactor by the payment of (\$100.00) one hundred dollars in a single payment or



by five annual payments of (\$20.00) twenty dollars each. Patron and benefactors shall be life members.

#### ARTICLE VI.

At the annual meeting or special meetings of the corporation members may be represented by proxy appointed in writing. Until the first annual meeting the following shall be appointed trustees: Samuel Maxwell; W. P. Hellings; H. J. Davis; John Williams; G. W. Crofts; T. E. Cramlet; J. B. Jardine; P. W. Howe; C. J. Ernst; and J. B. Maxwell. Until the meeting of the trustees and the regular election of officers the following shall be the officers: President - Samuel Maxwell; Vice-President - W. P. Hellings; Secretary - L. P. Ludden; Treasurer - G. S. Benewa; State Superintendent - E. P. Quivey. Any vacancy in the office of the trustees or in any of the elective officers may be filled by the Board of Trustees.

#### ARTICLE VII.

If deemed necessary the Board of Trustees may adopt a seal.

#### ARTICLE VIII.

This corporation shall be auxiliary to and shall work in harmony with "The National Children's Home Society" a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Illinois. It shall make reports quarterly to the said National Children's Home Society or oftener if required, showing in detail all of the business transactions by it; and its methods of work shall in general be the same as those pursued by the said National Society to which this is auxiliary.

#### ARTICLE IX.

For the purpose of carrying out the objects of this corporation and for the

transaction of the business of the corporation the Trustees may adopt By-Laws which they may change at their pleasure.

**ARTICLE X.**

These articles may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present or represented by proxy at such meeting.

Appendix D

Amendments to the Constitution of the Nebraska Children's Home Society

June 9, 1897

ARTICLES AMENDED

ARTICLE III. Officers.

Section 1. The officers of this society shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Board of Trustees, Executive Board of 15 Members, State and District Superintendents.

ARTICLE IV. Membership.

Section 1. Any person may become an associate member of this Society by the payment of one dollar (\$1.00) or more annually to the Treasurer of this Society, but shall have no vote.

Appendix E  
Questions Asked of Applicants  
May, 1906

1. Do you desire to apply for one of our wards to become a member of your family?
2. If so, are you disposed to give the child a place in the bosom of your family as a son or daughter?
3. Or do you want a servant merely?
4. If you want a servant merely, will you apply for one elsewhere?
5. If we give you a child will you give it a servant's place?
6. Will you eat in your dining room while it eats in the kitchen?
7. Will the child eat with your family as one of them?
8. Would you expect your own child to aid you as it grows up in your home?
9. Would you give your own son or daughter a servant's place and treatment because of service justly due you?
10. Can you receive the aid of your own child without reducing it to the place and treatment of a servant?
11. Do you wish to obtain one of our wards to occupy the place of a son or daughter?

Appendix F  
Restructuring Philosophy of the Executive Board of the  
Nebraska Children's Home Society

April 12, 1926

In the interest of a more efficient administration and in order that more personal attention may be given the work of the Society by the members of the Board, the Executive Committee of the Nebraska Children's Home Society, herewith moves to organize three distinct departments, to be known as the Receiving Home, the Welfare Work, and the Finance and Office Administration Departments. Three members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed to each department.

It shall be the duty of the members of each department to formulate the policy and program of work, in conjunction with those immediately in charge of the work represented; to consider criticisms and suggestions; and through personal study of the problems involved to seek to promote the interests of the Society in the largest way.

The General Superintendent of the Society shall be a member ex-officio of each department thus created.

Questions and matters of minor interest shall be considered and passed upon by their respective department; but all major matters of business affecting the Society as a whole, such as the adoption of important policies or the employment or discharge of individuals in the Society's service, shall come before the Executive Committee as a whole for final adjudication.

## Appendix G

State Superintendents and Executive Directors of the  
Nebraska Children's Home Society

<u>State Superintendents</u>	<u>Years Served</u>
Rev. Elmer P. Quivey	1893-1920
Rev. R. B. Ralls	1920-1925
Dr. George A. Sheafe	1925-1927
Mr. H. Hugh Fletcher	1927-1935
<u>Executive Directors</u>	<u>Years Served</u>
Mr. Randall C. Biart	1936-1971
Mr. Harris Van Oort	1971 - Present

## Appendix H

Some of the Typically Asked Questions of the Nebraska Children's Home Society  
1927

- The Nebraska Children's Home Society was regularly incorporated in Nebraska, November 27th, 1893.
- The Society is licensed by the State and makes a detailed, monthly report to the Welfare Department at Lincoln, Nebraska.
- We receive no funds from the State whatsoever. All money comes as a voluntary contribution.
- We take children from and place in every County in the State.
- We are non-sectarian, placing children in homes of the same religious belief as that from which they come as nearly as possible.
- We have received for placement more than three thousand children and have given aid and attention to several thousand more.
- We keep our babies in cooperating hospitals, the children below kindergarten age in boarding homes and children of school age at the Receiving Home. We can accommodate about forty-five children in the Home by crowding a little. We do not aim, however, to keep more than forty or forty-two there at one time.
- We can only take children that can be placed in foster homes as we have no place or equipment to give institutional care.
- Consent to adoption is not granted until six months after the child is placed.

- Every person who contributes as much as one dollar a year is a member of the Society.
- Our books are audited annually and are open to any interested person.
- Receipts for donations are made out in triplicate, one to be given to the donor, the District Superintendent keeping one, and the third one is sent to the office to be checked by the auditors.
- The governing body is a board of thirty trustees elected at the annual meeting on the second Wednesday of May each year.
- The Board of Trustees elect an Executive Committee of eleven members who supervise the work.



## Appendix I

## New By-Laws of the Nebraska Children's Home Society

January 11, 1935

## BY-LAWS

## ARTICLE I

## ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS.

## TRUSTEES

- Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees for the election of Officers and Executive Committee of the Society shall be held at the close of the Annual Meeting of the members of the Society, which, as now provided by the Articles of Incorporation, shall be held on the Third Wednesday in January of each year, at which time, said Trustees shall elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer for the Society, and also elect from its members, an Executive Committee consisting of thirteen members, three of whom shall be the President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Elect of the Society, all of whom shall hold their office for one year and until their successor is elected. The President, Vice-President, and Secretary so elected for the Society shall also be and act as President, Vice-President, and Secretary, respectively, of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee.
- Section 2. At each Annual Meeting of the Society, the Officers shall submit a written report of the progress of the Society during the past year, which report shall be made a part of the permanent records of the Society.

- Section 3. At each Annual Meeting of the Trustees, the Executive Committee shall submit a detailed report of the business of the Society for the preceding year, including a statement of the assets and liabilities.
- Section 4. Special meetings of the Trustees may be called at any time by order of the President, and must be called upon request of one-third of the membership of said Board, provided written notice of said meeting shall be given each member of said Board ten days prior to the date thereof.
- Section 5. The Secretary shall cause notice in writing to be given to each member of the Board of Trustees of said Annual Meeting, and all special meetings, ten days prior to the date thereof.
- Section 6. In the choice of Officers and election of Executive Committee, and other matters, each Trustee shall be entitled to one vote.
- Section 7. Five Trustees present in person at an Annual or special meeting shall constitute a quorum to transact business.
- Section 8. Any vacancy in the number of Trustees, or any of the Officers or Executive Committee, elected by the Trustees, shall be filled by the Executive Committee until the next Annual Meeting of the Trustees.
- Section 9. The number of Trustees of the Society shall be thirty, one-third of whom shall be elected each year for a three year term. There shall also be elected for the unexpired term, a sufficient number to fill any vacancies that may have occurred in the membership of the Trustees.

## ARTICLE II

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Section 1. The Executive Committee shall each year convene immediately after the Annual Meeting of the Trustees for the purpose of Organization, and discussion of plans for the coming year's business.
- Section 2. Five members of the Executive Committee, present in person, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- Section 3. Regular meetings of said Executive Committee, until changed as herein provided, shall be held on the first Friday after the fourth day of each month, but the date of holding such meetings may be changed at any regular meeting by resolution duly adopted and made of record. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President, and must be called by him upon request of two-thirds of the membership of said Committee, but three day's written notice must be given of all special meetings.
- Section 4. The Executive Committee shall have general business supervision of the Society, including the hiring of the State Superintendent and other employees of the Society, investing of its funds, etc.

## ARTICLE III

### DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS.

- Section 1. **PRESIDENT:** It shall be the duty of the President to preside at the Annual Meeting of the Society and at all meetings of the Trustees and Executive Committee, and to have a general oversight of the business,

subject to the direction of the Executive Committee, and perform such duties as may be required of him by the By-Laws.

Section 2. **VICE-PRESIDENT:** The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the event of the absence or inability of the President to act.

Section 3. **SECRETARY:** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Society, Trustees, and Executive Committee, and cause notice of meetings to be given as required by the By-Laws.

Section 4. **TREASURER:** It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep a record of the financial affairs of the Society, safeguard its money, deposit its funds, issue checks and perform such duties as may be required of him by the Executive Committee and shall submit an annual audit prepared by a Certified Public Accountant, approved by the Executive Committee.

Amendment to the Articles of Agreement for the Incorporation of the  
Nebraska Children's Home Society

January 11, 1935

**ARTICLE IV.**

The affairs of the corporation shall be managed by a Board of Trustees which shall consist of thirty members, one-third of whom shall be elected each year for a term of three years and until their successors are elected. There shall also be elected a sufficient additional number to fill the vacancies, if any, in the unexpired term of such Trustees. The Annual Meeting of the members of the Corporation shall be held on the third Wednesday of January of each year, at which meeting, Trustees

shall be elected as above provided. The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be held immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Corporation, and at such meeting there shall be chosen by the Board of Trustees the following officers of the Corporation: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, all of which, except the Treasurer, shall be chosen from among the members of the Board of Trustees, and he may be a member. The Trustees may also by By-Law provide for and elect an Executive Committee whose duties and powers shall be such as provided by such By-Law. Any vacancy occurring in the number of the Trustees, Officers, or Executive Committee, may be filled until the next annual election thereafter in such manner as the Trustees may, by By-Law, provide.

**Appendix J****By-Law Changes of the Nebraska Children's Home Society****January 17, 1940****BY-LAWS****ARTICLE II**

**Section 4. The Executive Committee shall have general business supervision of the Society including hiring of the Executive Directors and other employees of the Society and the investing of its funds; and when the Board of Trustees are not convened in business session said Executive Committee shall have power to do any and all things that the Board of Trustees might do at a Regular or Special meeting except sell or mortgage real estate belongings to said Society, or fill any vacancy in the number of Trustees, Officers, or Executive Committee for a term other than that provided by Section 8 of Article I of these By-Laws.**

Appendix K  
Questions Frequently Asked About the Society  
1969

**Who Operates the Society?**

The Society is a non-denominational and non-sectarian private Agency: We are not affiliated with any particular Church group. The Society has a Board of Trustees who voluntarily give of their time and talents to direct the policies and program of the Society.

**How is the Society Supported?**

We are supported by the many wonderful people of the State of Nebraska who truly care about the welfare of children and care enough to be willing to share financially. Our financial support is from donations and contributions.

**What does the Society do?**

We are the largest private child welfare agency in the State. The Society has a program for unwed mothers, places children of all ages for adoption, provides temporary foster or group care for children, and gives special supervision for teenagers who are under the custody of the Courts.

**Are Mothers Required to Relinquish their Child?**

No. This is strictly the mother's decision and we merely provide counsel to help her make the decision she thinks would be best in her particular situation.

**How much does it cost for an Unwed Mother to use the Society's Services?**

We do not have a fee for our services. We do expect the mother, or her family,

to help with medical costs if this is possible but service is never refused due to inability to pay.

**What Happens if a Girl Decides to Relinquish her Child for Adoption?**

The Society accepts full responsibility for the child, and after a brief period of observation, the child is placed with his new parents.

**Does the Society Only Place Infants for Adoption?**

No, we place children of all ages including teenagers.

**How do Older Children come under the Care of the Society?**

Older children are placed in the custody of the Society by the Court, County Welfare Departments, or Relatives.

**Where do the Children Live while under the Care of the Society?**

All infants and preschool age children live in foster homes until permanent plans are made. Some schoolage children also live in Foster Homes while others live at our Receiving Home.

**What is the Procedure for Adopting a Child?**

A couple should contact the Society asking for our pamphlet, which gives more details. The process is simple but the focus is always on the best interests of the child. All couples receive prompt and courteous consideration.

**Does the Society Place with Couples Outside Nebraska?**

No. The Society is licensed only to place children with couples who are residents of Nebraska.

**How much does it Cost to Adopt?**

Our Society does not have an adoption fee. However, since we are supported



by donations and contributions, we do expect couples who adopt to express their appreciation in a tangible manner, but no definite amount is indicated.

**Does the Society have Children Waiting to be Adopted?**

Generally not as we continue to have more couples wanting to adopt than we have children available. However, some times we do have children with special needs and special problems who need very special parents and in some of these cases, may need to wait until the right parents are available.

**Will Adoption be a Happy Experience?**

There is no guarantee that parenthood, whether it happens biologically or through adoption, will be a happy experience. It depends on the parents and their ability to completely accept a child as theirs - heart, mind, and soul.