

# Impact Report 2020/21

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# TEEN CENTER



**TOGETHER, A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

We promote opportunity for students through intentional after school programming that provides education, exposure, and mentorship.

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**TEEN CENTER**



**2020/21**



### Message from our Director

**Though there were moments that our physical space wasn't filled with students this year, our program never stopped.**

Our incredible staff anticipated and planned for all possible scenarios. Thus, when OPS went fully remote, we were able to pivot and adapt within days. Intentional and meaningful programming was provided both virtually and on demand. We got very acquainted with Zoom, delivered materials to student's doorsteps, provided increased emergency assistance and held more Family Nights than any other year. Students were excitedly requesting Driver's Education and were able to squeeze that in during the Spring. Additionally, many of our students were requesting additional mental health services and opportunities to connect during this time of quarantine. We were able to offer Talk About It Tuesdays for students to decompress and connect with their peers and staff, as well as a pilot program of Expressive Arts therapy through collaboration with Project Harmony. With close partnerships with OPS and Collective for Youth, we were confident and ready when it was time to return in person. Through the caution and anxiety, it was incredible to see our students again. As we look to the 2021-2022 school year, we prepare for year of health, creativity and innovation. Thank you for walking alongside us during this difficult year.

With gratitude,

**Abbey Jackson**  
Teen Center Director

## Board of Directors

**Deb Carlson**  
President & CEO, Nebraska  
Methodist College

**John Deardorff, *President***  
Retired, Peterson Brothers Insurance

**Becky Hand**  
Para-Professional, Burke High School

**Dana Henricksen, *Treasurer***  
Retired, Chief Financial Officer,  
Access Bank

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Director of Nutrition, Health and  
Wellness, ConAgra Brands

**Eadie Tsabari**  
Director of Congressional Learning,  
Beth El Synagogue

**Tam Webb**  
Events Manager, Omaha World Herald



## Collaborators

Burke High School  
Collective for Youth  
Nebraska Methodist College  
St. Luke United Methodist Church

## Funders

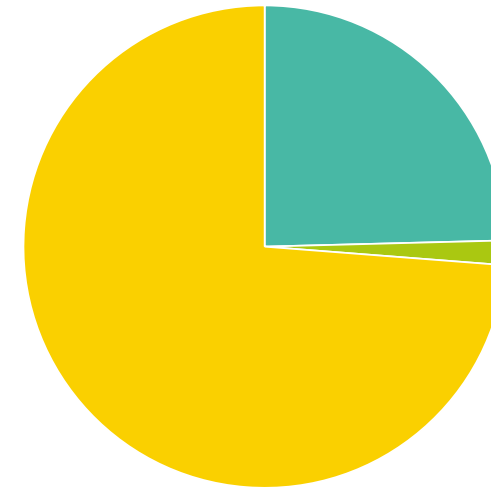
21st Century Community  
Learning Center Grant  
Hawks Foundation  
James C. Semerad Foundation  
Lozier Foundation  
Midwest Housing Equity Group  
Peter Kiewit Foundation  
Scott Family Foundation

## Teen Center Staff

**Julie Butler, *Administrative Assistant***  
**Melissa Hodges, *Intern***  
**Abbey Jackson, *Director***  
**JaLisa Sanford, *Assistant Director***

## Upward Bound Staff

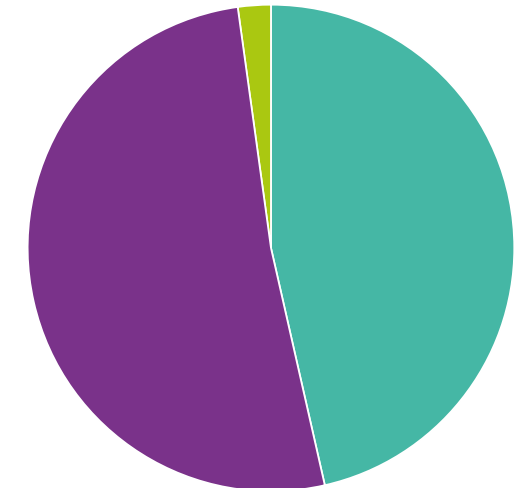
**Jackie Lee, *Director***  
**LaTina Rencher, *Assistant Director***  
**Tori Greenlee, *Project Coordinator***



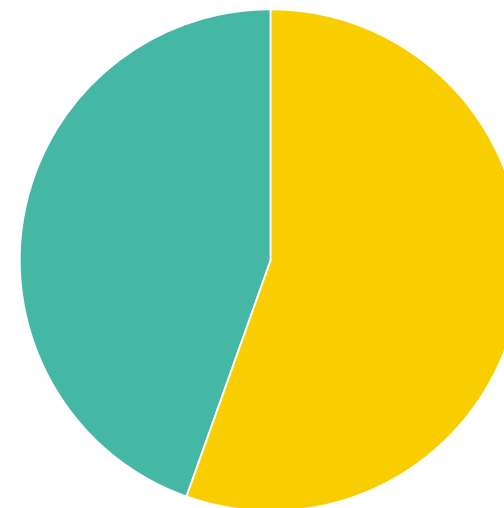
## 2020/21 Financials

Private Contributors \$75,016  
Program Services \$5,584  
Grants \$225,531  
Revenue: \$306,131

Burke High School: \$94,450\*  
Upward Bound \$85,000\*  
Food Bank of the Heartland \$4,032\*  
\*In-kind estimates



Management & General \$168,890  
Programming \$135,780  
Fundraising \$0  
Expenses: \$304,670





The work that the Teen Center does is transformative. I have had the privilege to see the impact the Teen Center has had on students over the years, and I hear frequently from students who graduated over 10 years ago who still credit their success to the foundation and relationships they built at the Teen Center. As a faculty member, I love partnering with the Teen Center because I know the positive impact they are having on young people in our community, and I want Nebraska Methodist College to be part of that amazing work.

Allison Kinney-Walker  
Nebraska Methodist College Faculty Member

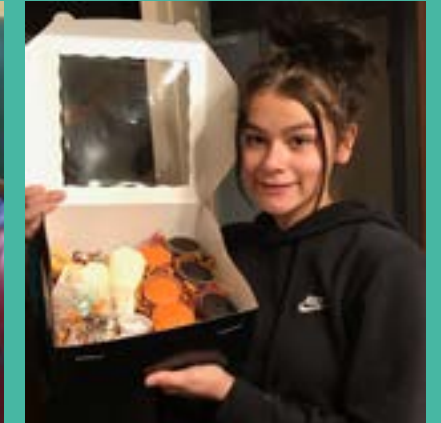
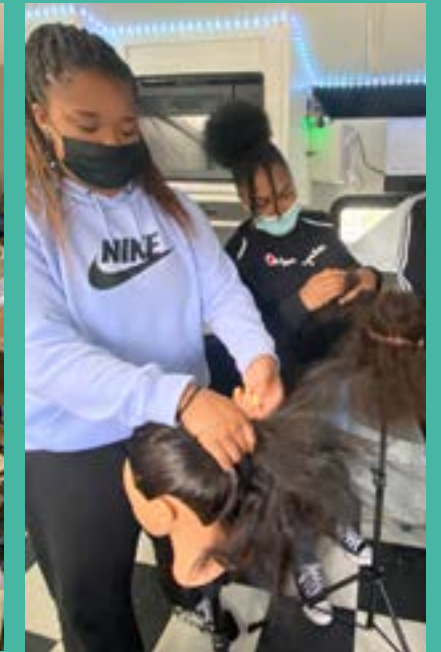
I have been out of high school since 2012 and my mentor from the Teen Center has stayed in contact. She is always here for my family and I whenever we need it. Words cannot even describe how much I appreciate the relationship, ongoing contact and continued support. She has such a pure heart – to know her is to love her.

Taylor Gresham  
Teen Center Alumni



# TEEN CENTER

In 2020, the Teen Center engaged in the **exciting process of rebranding and becoming their own 501C3.** In 2021, the Teen Center began operating as its own entity. This process was the next step in creating additional sustainability for the Teen Center and the church. The Teen Center will continue to be a mission affiliated with St. Luke UMC.



## Scholarship Winners:

### Amber Cluck

Clarkson, Radiography Technology and Medical Imaging

### Dalliya Conway

Nebraska Methodist College, Respiratory Therapy

### Paris Henderson

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Sociology and Ethnic Studies

### Nia Lyons

University of Nebraska-Omaha, Computer Science

### Ovie Omadevuae

University of Nebraska-Omaha, Engineering

### Sydney Roseby

Nebraska Methodist College, Nursing

### Quincy Snowden

University of Nebraska-Omaha, Business/Law

## Scholarships:

Ann and Oliver DeGray Memorial Scholarship

Dean Hughes Memorial Scholarship

Justin Estrada Memorial Scholarship

Lasting Legacy Scholarship

Phyllis Jeter Memorial Scholarship

Over \$18,000 of scholarships are distributed through the Teen Center annually

## Ann DeGray Spirit Award:

This award is given to underclassmen who encourage authentic relationships and interactions within the Teen Center community. One who lifts others up and treats them with respect while exhibiting a humble and compassionate spirit.

Assata Loftin (11)

James Upshaw (9)

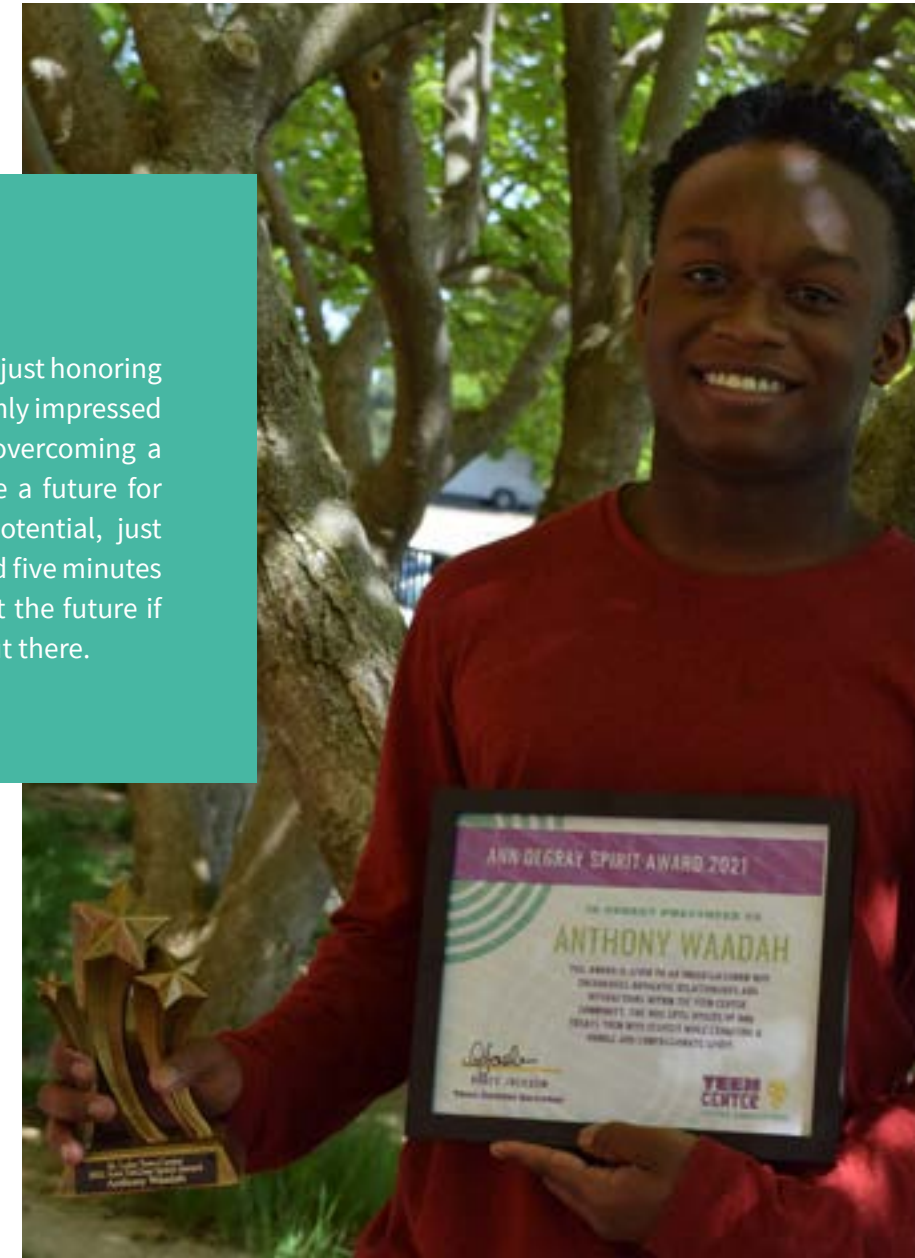
Amariah Wade (10)

Anthony Waadah (11)

## Why We Give:

There is more to why we give to Teen Center than just honoring my parents. Over the years, we have been uniformly impressed by how amazing and talented the kids were, overcoming a wide variety of obstacles as they work to make a future for themselves. These are kids with wonderful potential, just needing a little help to reach it. You cannot spend five minutes with any of those kids and not feel better about the future if there are smart and thoughtful kids like those out there.

- Mike Goodwille, son of Ann DeGray





Burke High School students are incredibly fortunate to be able to take advantage of the partnership with the St. Luke's Teen Center. It is difficult to adequately express all the benefits they reap. When I refer students to the Teen Center, I know they will be offered a safe and supportive environment to study, as well as fun, food, fellowship, and the chance to just be teenagers. Perhaps the most important thing students benefit from is the chance to form a relationship with caring adults. Teen Center staff go above and beyond to address needs and form relationships, and I sincerely believe, change the course of many students' lives. ”

Anne Beacom  
Burke High School Social Worker

## Facts and Stats

**46% of Teen Center students** come from a single parent home.

**72% of Teen Center students** are free or reduced lunch eligible.

**350 boxes of fresh foods were delivered** to students, families and alumni during the summer.

**5 students** participated in our pilot mental health service - Expressive Arts Program through Project Harmony.

**100% of our seniors** graduated high school, 80% are pursuing post-secondary education; 10% military and 10% employment.

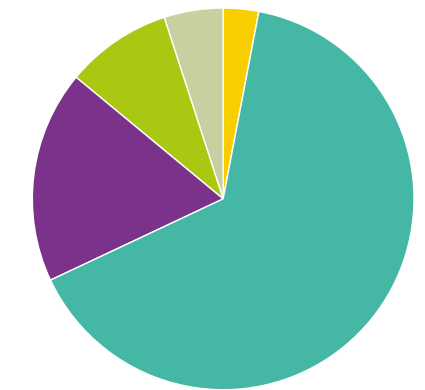
**Staff completed 85 hours** of Professional Development.

## Who We Serve

### She/Her/Hers



### He/Him/His



**65% Black**  
**9% White**  
**18% Hispanic**  
**5% Bi-racial**  
**3% Asian**



**Over 3500 meals were distributed** through the Food Bank for the Heartland to students.

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