

Impact Report 2025/26



TEEN CENTER



TOGETHER, A BRIGHTER FUTURE



We promote opportunity for students through intentional in-school, afterschool, and out-of-school programming that provides education, exposure, and mentorship.

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A Note from Our Director



DEAR FRIENDS OF TEEN CENTER,

As we reflect on the past year, first and foremost, I am thankful for our students – current, former and future – for exhibiting a sense of hope unmatched by most, for being brave and trying new things, for being resilient, and trusting us with hours upon hours of their lives. Our dedicated staff, diverse community partners, committed volunteers and generous donors allow us to ensure Teen Center continues to be a place of inclusion, opportunity and love.

In our 19th year of Teen Center, we celebrated our third located inside Burke High School. Our team is embedded in the culture and community of the school, adding critical support during school, after school and out of school. Among our accomplishments this year were increased program participation, expanded support services, new partnerships with local organizations, and one of our largest senior classes.

Most importantly, we witnessed remarkable growth in the young people we serve as they developed tenacity, strengthened relationships, and discovered new possibilities for their futures. As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding our programs, reaching more young people, and responding to the evolving needs of our community. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and confident that, together, we can continue creating a lasting difference in the lives of youth.

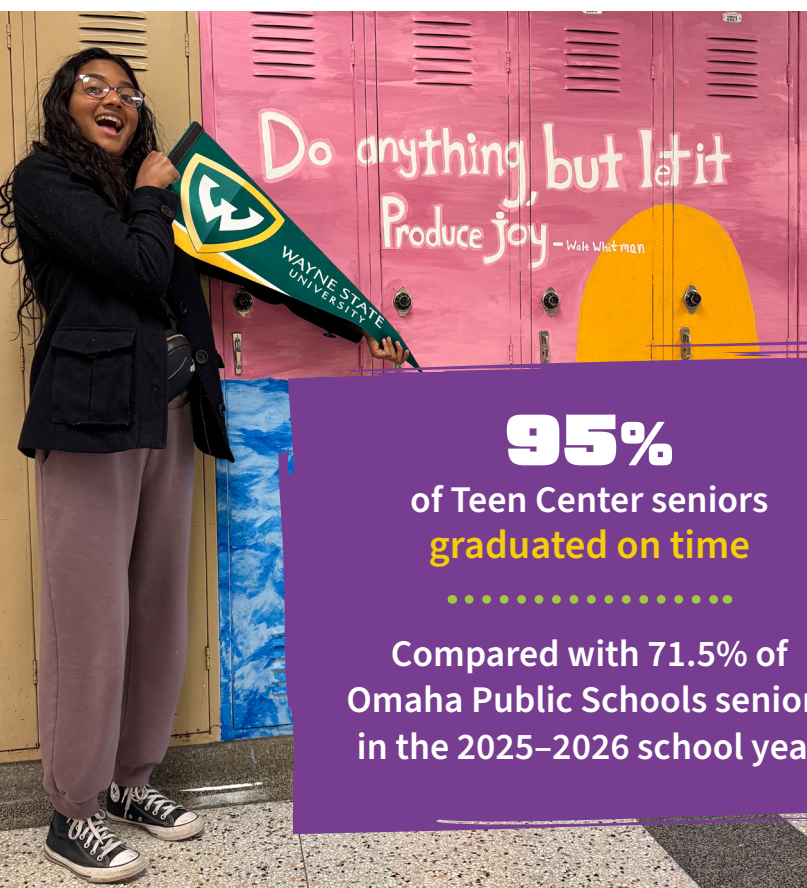
Thank you for your trust, partnership, and investment in our mission. We are proud of what we have accomplished together and look forward to another year of growth and impact.

With gratitude,

Abbey Jackson
Executive Director

**THIS IS A HOME,
NOT A PROGRAM.**

Jacori Lothridge,
Class of 2026



95%
of Teen Center seniors
graduated on time

.....
Compared with 71.5% of
Omaha Public Schools seniors
in the 2025–2026 school year

**From the
parents**



“

**THEY LOVE THEM
LIKE THEIR OWN**

Jason Lorthridge, Parent

99%

of Teen Center parents
believe the Teen Center
is a high-quality program



“

**YOU'RE SERIOUSLY THE BEST THING IN THE
WORLD. YOU LESSENNED THE BURDEN AND
WORRY FOR ME AT HOME, AT SCHOOL, AND
IN LIFE. AS A SINGLE MOM, I CAN'T BE
EVERYWHERE AND I'M ALWAYS FEELING LIKE
I'M FAILING. BUT THE TEEN CENTER WAS
LITERALLY MY OTHER HALF... MY PARTNER
IN LIFE... MY PARTNER IN MY CHILDREN'S
LIVES. I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT
ALL OF YOU. THANK YOU!** Josie Loza, Parent



Mental Health Fair

Supporting Student Well-Being

In partnership with HIYA, the Teen Center hosted the first annual Mental Health Fair at Burke High School. HIYA's CEO, Alejandra Wells, is a 2026 Burke graduate and former Teen Center member. HIYA empowers young people to speak up, be kind, and create a culture of positive mental health in their schools and communities.

SHARE Omaha

The Power of Community Partnerships

SHARE Omaha is a one-stop donation platform that amplifies the needs of local nonprofits and gives organizations of every size, cause, and budget the opportunity to be seen and supported. Teen Center got a visit and donation from corporate partners during Do Good Days.



New this Year

School Physicals

Cleared to Play

For more than 15 years, Nebraska Methodist College has partnered with the Teen Center to provide free sports physical clinics for Burke students. This year, more than 175 sports physicals were completed across five clinics, helping students participate in athletics and other extracurricular activities that build confidence, connection, leadership, and a sense of belonging.



Saving Grace

No Student Should Go Hungry

In response to growing concerns about food insecurity among Burke students, the Teen Center partnered with Saving Grace Food Rescue to provide meals, snacks, fresh produce, and beverages to Teen Center participants and the broader Burke community. Food deliveries supported Burke athletic teams needing pregame meals, as well as current students and alumni facing food insecurity. Thanks to the strength of the Teen Center and Burke networks, rescued food quickly reached those who needed it most. While the need remains significant, we are grateful for this partnership and look forward to continuing our collaboration to serve students and families.

Student Recognition



CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2026

Honoring graduates, scholarship recipients, and students who exemplify the spirit of the Teen Center.

The 2026 Teen Center Graduation celebrated one of the largest senior classes in the program history. Embry-Riddle to Saint Mary's (Canada) while others are preparing for careers as barbers, estheticians, and firefighters.

The Spirit Award is presented annually to underclassmen who embody the values of the Teen Center family. These students build authentic relationships, lift others up, treat everyone with respect, and lead with humility and compassion.

Each senior also received a personalized graduation gift basket, thoughtfully assembled with practical items and resources to support their next chapter.



Scholarship & Spirit Award Recipients

Dean Hughes Memorial Scholarship

Bella Muntz

DeGray Memorial Scholarship

Helder Citalan

Jacori Lorthridge

Spirit Award Winners:

Markhal Browne

Valentina Brunious-Russell

David Hawkes

6

Buffett Scholarships
earned by Teen Center
seniors in 2026

EVERY STUDENT BELONGS

Moving into Burke strengthened our impact, relationships, and created more opportunities for inclusion.



IMPACT

"The people who, without asking, gave me love and support"

As one student's coach and mentor, Julie was honored to attend the student's formal adoption ceremony—a powerful reminder that the impact of this work extends far beyond the school day.

INVOLVEMENT

"Support doesn't end when the school day does."

Meaningful connections between students and trusted adults provide encouragement, stability, and a sense of belonging that often continues well beyond graduation.

INCLUSION

"Students with disabilities are not simply welcomed—they are embraced as valued members of the community."

In collaboration with Burke's ACP Rockstars program, every student has opportunities to feel seen, valued and included through shared experiences.



ONE DAY. MANY MOMENTS. SUPPORT AT EVERY STEP.

Every school day looks different. Challenges can happen at any moment. Through it all, the Teen Center is there with support, resources, and opportunities that help students succeed.

7:30
AM

MISSED THE BUS

Sometimes the day starts with a setback.

7:45
AM

SKIPPED BREAKFAST

Hunger shouldn't stand in the way of learning.

7:50
AM

PICKED UP A MISSED MEAL BAG

Over 500 missed meal bags were packed this year, helping students who started the day without a meal.

9:30
AM

CONFLICT IN THE HALLWAY

Some students need a moment before they're ready to learn.

9:45
AM

TOOK A MOMENT TO RESET AT THE TEEN CENTER

Students reported an average mood and ability-to-cope rating of 2.19 when entering our in-school support space. Upon departure, that average increased to 3.28, reflecting a meaningful improvement in how students felt and their ability to cope.

11:00
AM

RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

Teen Center staff help students prepare for what's next. Six Buffett Scholarships were earned by Teen Center seniors in 2026.

3:30
PM

LET OFF SOME STEAM AT SKATEFEST

Programs like Skatefest give students a chance to be active, connect with friends, and recharge after school.

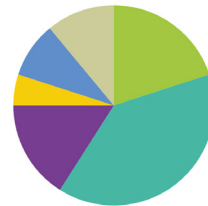
4:30
PM

PICKED UP PERIOD PRODUCTS & A MENTAL HEALTH BAG

Access to everyday essentials helps students feel supported long after they leave school.



OUR STUDENTS



39% Black

20% White

16% Hispanic

5% Asian

9% Two or More

11% Non-Identified

64% Female

36% Male

26% Seniors

22% Juniors

30% Sophomores

22% Freshmen

OUR IMPACT

Supporting Students
Throughout the School Day

601

Return-to-Learn Check-Ins

10 Minutes

Average Visit

46 Minutes

Average Extended Visit

52 Students

Served Daily

75%

Participated in Homework & Tutoring

4,620 Hours

of Homework & Tutoring

STRONGER TOGETHER

Community partners helped expand opportunities, meet essential needs, and create meaningful experiences for Teen Center students.

Community Partnerships



HEALTH DAY

Opening Doors to Healthcare Careers

In partnership with Nebraska Methodist College, students participated in a Health Exploration Day that introduced them to a variety of healthcare careers. Through six interactive stations, they gained hands-on experience while learning directly from healthcare professionals.

ACCESS PERIOD

Meeting Everyday Needs

"It was an honor and privilege to be the monthly connection between Access Period and the Teen Center... It's amazing what can happen when two passionate nonprofits come together around a shared mission."

— Shauna Daly, Volunteer

15,907 Period supplies Distributed

636 Periods covered

3,181 Worry-free days

FRIENDSGIVING

More Than a Meal

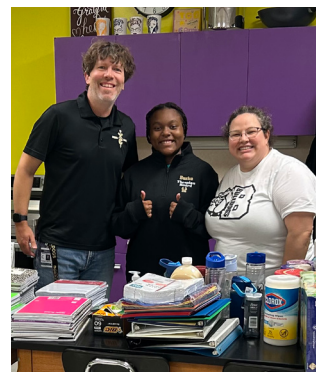
"Cooking is one of the few gifts that truly transcends generations... Food isn't just nourishment—it's legacy, love, and a reminder that people who came before us can still be present in every bite."

— Chef Tay Westberry

One shared meal can create lasting memories, strengthen relationships, and bring students together around the table.



Return to Learn helps students safely re-engage in school through individualized supports, including gradual return plans, academic accommodations, counseling, check-ins, and family-school collaboration. By reducing barriers and supporting well-being, the program can improve attendance, increase time engaged in learning, and directly support efforts to prevent and address chronic absenteeism.



Alumni Connection



YOU CAN ALWAYS COME HOME

Support doesn't end at graduation. The Teen Center remains a trusted resource, offering encouragement, connection, and a place to return.

It is a rare day when the Teen Center doesn't hear from an alumnus. Many return as volunteers, visitors, or simply to reconnect with the place they once called home. Our message remains the same: you can always come home.

To kick off the new year, alumni gathered for a Vision Board Party, reconnecting with one another while setting goals for growth, opportunity, and the future.

96%

of students believe the Teen Center has adults who care about them



LIFE WOULD BE A LOT HARDER WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE TEEN CENTER—SOMETIMES IT'S ANSWERING MY CALL, OTHER TIMES A GAS CARD. Teen Center Alumni

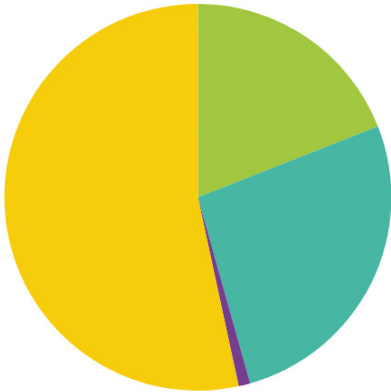


STAYING CONNECTED

130+ meaningful alumni connections were made this year, continuing the support that started at the Teen Center.

2025/26 Financials

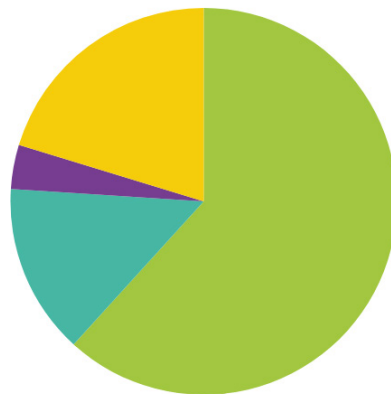
Financial Overview



Private Donations: \$67,641
Fundraising Dinner: \$94,603
Grants: \$189,745
Interest: \$3,448
Total: \$355,437

Expense

Program Management: \$234,184
Operations: \$76,946
Fundraising Dinner: \$13,986
Programming: \$54,092
Total: \$379,208



**Revenue currently exceeds expenses due to cash flow timing.*



Meet Our Staff



Abbey Jackson *The Adaptable Designer*

Abbey was hired as the Founding Director in 2007 and now serves as the Executive Director. Originally from Minnesota, Abbey attended Creighton University and fell in love with Omaha (and a teacher). With two elementary-age kids, life is filled with trips to the lake, board games, and youth sports, all while staying active and involved in the community. She has never tried coffee in her lifetime but loves a good fountain pop!



Julie Butler *The Insightful Collaborator*

Julie was the first-ever volunteer of the Teen Center when it opened in 2007. Life has taken Julie and her family across the great state of Nebraska. The Teen Center has always held a special place in her heart, so it was natural for her to return as staff. Julie is passionate about helping people and her work history reflects this. From working as a licensed massage therapist to working with CASA of Dawson County, her ease to connect and build relationships is phenomenal. Her second love, outside of her family, is houseplants! Julie loves sharing her knowledge of plants with others. Want a plant, just ask!



Kyla Channita *The Idealistic Supporter*

Kyla is no stranger to this program. She is a Burke and Teen Center alumna alongside her two oldest brothers, and now a younger sibling passing through. Kyla serves as the Program Assistant, doing anything from helping serve meals to convincing her students she is not a crazy cat lady (she is). Originally from California, she has been a Nebraska girly since 2005. Kyla has always had a passion for working with young adults and creating meaningful mentorships. She is a fur mom to her cat, Max and a big music enthusiast!

GROWING THROUGH LEADERSHIP

*Representing the Teen Center
on the national stage while
bringing new ideas home to
better serve students.*

Julie and Kyla attended the 2026 National Afterschool Alliance Conference in Washington, D.C., where they connected with youth development professionals from across the country. Because high school afterschool programs are relatively uncommon, they had the opportunity to share the Teen Center's unique approach while exchanging ideas and best practices. The experience was both rewarding and inspiring, bringing fresh perspectives back to the students and families we serve.



Robert Murphy *The Idealistic Supporter*

Robert has more than 25 years of experience serving nonprofit and faith-based organizations. His work has taken him around the world, including humanitarian efforts in China, Belarus, Nigeria, and Romania, while locally supporting Nebraska's foster care community, developing partnerships, and coaching Burke High School's cross country and track & field programs. A writer and digital media specialist, Robert is passionate about serving others and strengthening communities. He and his wife, Jana, have four sons and call Omaha home.



Becky Hand *The Idealistic Supporter*

Born in California to a civil rights pioneer, Becky learned early the importance of advocacy and intentional love. A mom to four Teen Center alumni, Becky has been immersed in and committed to the Teen Center for more than 10 years. She has served on the Teen Center Board of Directors and volunteered in more roles than can be counted. With more than 20 years of experience in child development and five years as a paraprofessional, Becky has provided compassionate care to everyone from toddlers to students with disabilities. Her guilty pleasures are cats, music, and ice cream.



A YEAR OF PURPOSE

When I joined the Teen Center a year ago, I had no idea one of the best years of my career was ahead of me. After more than 30 years in nonprofit work, I've never experienced a culture quite like the one Abbey and this team have built. Everyone is encouraged to do their best because when one person succeeds, the entire team succeeds.

That culture is felt throughout Burke High School. Students know the Teen Center is a place of belonging, hope, and support. It's why so many walk through our doors each day.

I'm grateful to build on the foundation created by those who came before me. At the Teen Center, students always come first, and that's what makes this place so special. As long as there's a need, we'll continue showing up to support and prepare students for whatever comes next. — Robert Murphy



AN EVENING OF IMPACT

The **9th Annual Legacy Gala** was a tremendous success, raising \$94,603 to support the Teen Center's mission and programs. The evening brought together community members, donors, alumni, and supporters to celebrate our shared commitment to helping students thrive and creating opportunities for their future.

2025 Legacy Dinner Event Chairs: James and Connie Carroll



Board of Directors

Kristi Reimers // President

Nutrition Research Fellow, Conagra Brands

Tam Webb // Vice President & Secretary

Retired, Omaha World Herald

Kirk Kellner // Treasurer

Retired, Wells Fargo

Jeff Dahms

Director of Customer Experience and Insights,
Physicians Mutual

John Deardorff

Retired, Peterson Brothers Insurance

Kendra Craven

Dean of Health Professions,
Nebraska Methodist College

Marshall Johnson

Senior Pastor,
St. Luke United Methodist Church

Community Partners

BMO

Burke High School

Collective for Youth

Furniture Project

Nebraska Methodist College

Planned Parenthood

Saving Grace Food Rescue

Skatefest

Toys for Tots

University of Nebraska Omaha

Youth Mart

Funders

**21st Century Community Learning
Center Grant**

Conagra Brands Foundation

Farm Credit Services of America

The Hawks Philanthropy

Heider Family Foundation

James C. Semerad Foundation

Lozier Foundation

Peter Kiewit Foundation

The Sherwood Foundation

Suzanne & Walter Scott Foundation

William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation



**TEEN CENTER WORKS TO MEET THE
EVOLVING NEEDS OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS BY IDENTIFYING AREAS WHERE
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT CAN REMOVE
BARRIERS TO SUCCESS FOR BURKE HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS.**

Michele Stodgill, Assistant Principal

98%

of students report
feeling welcome at
the Teen Center



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