

Our thanks to the following:

- **Judy Meter** – for chairing the 25th Anniversary Committee
- **David Schroeder** – for acting as Master of Ceremonies
- **John Seyfarth** – for the prelude and history Powerpoint presentations
- **JoAnn LeBaron** – for providing this lovely meal and everything she has done for the Board
- **Gloria Leiferman** – for her generous contribution to make this event possible
- **Dr. Ann Coyne** – for her on-going assistance.
- **Staff** – for their work to make this evening a success.
- **All of our volunteers, staff, and partners** – for their work to improve conditions for children.

A special thank you to Valentinos.

*Thank you for
Making a Difference for Children!*

*“The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.” –
DeAnn Hollis*

*A Celebration of
25 Years of Citizen Reviewers
Service to
Children in Foster Care*

Thank You for Putting Your Heart Into It



Hosted by the State Foster Care Review Board

**Friday, September 26, 2008
Fire Fighters Hall, Lincoln
6:00 P.M.**

A Celebration of Service to Children

4:30-6:00 p.m. **Social Hour**

Prelude – A photo gallery of citizen reviewers

6:00 **Welcome** – Senator Tom Hansen, North Platte
Hon. John Icenogle, Kearney

Dinner

6:20 **Welcome by Judy Meter, 25th Anniversary
Committee Chair, and Introduction of David
Schroeder, tonight’s Master of Ceremonies**

(David Schroeder serves on a local board as well as the State Board. If his voice sounds familiar, you may have heard him on KRVN radio, where he is a news reporter).

State Board Introductions –by Judy Meter

Georgina Scurfield, Lisa Borchardt, Rev. Dr. Larry Brown, Ron Albin, Gene Klein, Sarah Ann Lewis, Judy Meter, Mary Jo Pankoke, Alfredo Ramirez, Dr. Mario Scalora, David Schroeder

6:25 **Foster Care Review Board’s Accomplishments in 2007 and Current Initiatives of the Board** –
Presented by State Board Chair Georgina Scurfield and Vice-Chair Lisa Borchardt

Recent Years 2005-2008

The Board maximized its impact by increasing its presence in court, participating in the Through the Eyes of a Child initiative, and assisting with guardian ad litem guidelines.

The importance of citizen review to the courts –
Judge Douglas Johnson

Award presented to **Judge Douglas Johnson**

The Board collaborates with DHHS, participates in joint staffings, and is an important part of the Governor’s initiative to improve the foster care system.

Thank you to **James E. Gordon**

Thank you to **DHHS Director Todd Landry**
Thank you to **Chief Justice Mike Heavican**

The Future

9:00 **Final Remarks and Looking to the Future--**
Carol Stitt

The Board will continue to advocate for change to improve children’s lives. The Board will work to advocate for: additional placements to meet children’s needs, support for the front-line DHHS workers, and oversight for private contractors.

Budget Cuts 1999-2002

The Board lost 5 reviewers and 2 support staff, and thus “stood down” 15 boards, due to the economic conditions. The Board lost 2 more reviewers due to a reduction in federal fund eligibility.

Child Deaths Examined 2003-2004

The Board worked with Governor Johanns, HHS Director Ron Ross, and the Legislature to bring attention to problems in the CPS system and advocated for 120 more workers. The Board initially looked at 33 deaths, then analyzed 4,000 CPS responses.

Award presented to **John and Carmen Gottshalk** for their work to keep Nebraska aware of issues regarding children in foster care

Restraint Concerns Addressed 2003-2004

The Board worked with HHS to address issues identified in the overuse of restraints. State Board Chair Barb Heckman led the discussion.

A special thank-you presented to **Barb Heckman**

Project Permanency Initiated 2003-2004

The Board initiated Project Permanency in response to issues being identified with children’s placements.

6:30 Recognition of the Founders

Dr. Ann Coyne
JoAnn LeBaron
Kathy and Craig Moore
Penny Winfield

Observations of the Early Years - Founders

7:00 The Importance of Your Role From a Child’s Perspective –Glorianna Ferrin

7:15 The 1st Annual Dale and JoAnn LeBaron Award – Presented to JoAnn LeBaron by Judy Meter

7:25 Extraordinary Service Recognition - presented by Jim Gordon, Former State Board Chair, Jim Ganz, Former State Board Vice-Chair

Bruce Baker
Lauren Barnett-Botts
Linda Broderick
Margaret Connealy
Gloria Leiferman
Patti Magni
Bev Titkemeier
John Seyfarth
Linda Sims

7:35 **Recognition for Conducting Project Permanency Visits** - presented by David Schroeder

Carolyn McDonald
Bruce Baker
Margaret Bartle
Kay Lynn Goldner
Mary Lou Hegarty
Kathy Nolte
John Seyfarth
Joyce Stranglen
Betty Vaught

7:45 **Poem on Juvenile Court by Christine Costantakos**

7:50 **Length of Service Recognition** - presented by Sarah Ann Lewis

10 years of service

Marcia Anderson
Melodee Anderson
Linda Benjamin
Connie Bottger
Elizabeth Bourn
Nancy Brune
Linda Broderick
Evelyn Buethe
Patricia Candy

ASFA 1991-1995

The Board assisted with a conference on extreme abuse at Boys Town in 1993. This workshop laid the groundwork for changes to PL 96-272. The Board's data was used to challenge the federal focus on reunification due to the Board's mandate of best interests and data on failed reunification.

The Board's Executive Director was called upon to testify before Congress, and worked with a national coalition on changes to the family policy act. The federal Adoption and Safe Families Act was passed in 1997. The Nebraska Act was passed in 1998. ASFA put in place the aggravated circumstances provisions and required consideration of termination of parental rights at 15 of 22 months.

The Expansion of the Board 1996-1998

The Board participated in study of the review process that led to LB 642 (1996) sponsored by Senator Avery, which provided funding for an additional 22 boards, and named the Board as Nebraska's IVE review agency.

Helped Make It Happen Award - **Judge Jean Lovell**
Helped Make It Happen Award - **Karen Kilgarin**

Changes to Child Welfare System 1997-1998

The Board responded to changes in the child welfare system, such as the five-agency merger, contracting for services, and N-FOCUS (the HHS data system). The Board began working collaboratively with the Courts on obtaining information on children in foster care.

A History of the Foster Care Review Board

Citizen Review—A legislative perspective by
Senator Dave Landis

The Creation of the Board 1982-1991

The Board was created as a result of a number of concerns regarding children in foster in care. The Board's tracking system put in place with the assistance of Dr. Coyne. The initial review system put in place by Carol Stitt and Kathy Moore.

The Board played an important role bringing abuse allegations forward which led to the Legislative Franklin Investigation. As a result of the Legislative Committee's work protections were put in place.

Comments by **Senator Loren Schmit**

Legal Education 1985-1998

Worked with the Permanency Planning Task Force and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to create education programs for judges, GALs, and county attorneys.

Judicial Support award - **Judge Gerald Rouse**

Judy Combs
Donna DeFreece
Dorothy Dierman
Michelle Dreibelbis
Marcia Fouraker
Polly Goecke
JoAnn Graham
Patricia Hinrikus
Carolyn Hofferber
Pat Hoffman
Lola Hoover
Teresa Jacobs
Pamela Johnson
Kathleen Kaiser
Jeanine Kline
Bob Kohles
Sue Kohles
Sandra Kruback
Terry Larson
Earlynn Lawrence
Cathryn Linscott
Barbara Lockhart
Willa Lemburg
Jina McKinney
Christine Ott
Jennifer Peterson
Jeannie Pluhacek
Charlotte Schenken
Sallie Schnieders
Charlene Schuetz
John Seyfarth
Jean Tuttle
Rebecca Tvrdik
Greg Urbanek
Nanna Wieck

15 years of service

Mickey Dodson
Yvonne Downs
James Ganz, Jr.
Susan Gilmore
Nancy Griffith
Mary Jane Hinrichsen
Cathy Lindmier
Sally Lusk
Sandi O'Brien
Pam Root

20 years of service

Phyllis Brown
Eda Ree Eckblade
Kay Lynn Goldner
Gloria Leiferman
Alfredo Ramirez
Bev Titkemeier
Burrell Williams

25 years of service award

Myrna Schmid
Presented by Linda Cox

7:55 Recognition of Local Boards with 50 Years of Cumulative Service

Omaha Board IB10 has 73 years of cumulative service – recognized by Pauline Williams

The Norfolk Board has 54 years of cumulative service – recognized by Alfredo Ramirez

8:00 Staff Recognition – presented by Lisa Borchardt and Ron Albin

8:05 Recognition for Staff with Over 10 Years of Service – presented by Lisa Borchardt and Ron Albin

Linda Cox (16 years)
Heidi Ore (16 years)
Pauline Williams (over 15 years)
Tammy Oswald (over 12 years)
Jodi Borer (over 11 years)
Dawn Paulsen (over 10 years)
Stacey Sothman (over 10 years)

8:15 Recognition of Carol Stitt's 25 Years of Service to Children as Executive Director – presented by Judy Meter and Lynn Rex, Executive Director of the League of Municipalities

8:20 Special Friend Awards – presented by Dave Schroeder and Georgina Scurfield

DHHS Adoption Workers
Judge Elizabeth Crnkovich
Judge Linda Porter
Judge Kenneth Vampola
Leigh Esau
NFAPA
Susan Hale
Gary Lacey