

Unite. Grow. Lead.

2019-2020 Annual Report

COVID-19 cases





“Disruption doesn’t care about disclaimers.”

—JADE SIMMONS

Dear friends,

Disruption has been a constant for the past eight months and will continue for the foreseeable future. We all have a choice when faced with disruption: dwell on the reasons why we can’t succeed or look for the gifts hidden within it. At CRCC, we have chosen the latter to enhance and expand the work we do in supporting children and families with complex needs.

We could have used the disclaimer of, “We provide care for children in our centers, and COVID-19 has made that option disappear.” Instead, we asked how we could continue to serve our children and young adults outside of two centers. We could have used the disclaimer, “Schools have shut down, so we can’t support the learning of our children.” Instead, we asked how we could bring the learning to them. We could have used the disclaimer, “Therapy can’t be done if not face to face.” Instead, we said, “Watch us!”

As you will see in this report, CRCC has stepped up during this time of disruption to unite, grow and lead as an organization. We’ve discovered opportunities to serve more children and families in ways never imagined, and, with your support, we will continue this revolutionary work long after COVID-19 is in our rearview mirror.

Thank you for your ongoing support, partnership and prayers as we erase disclaimers and bring joy, hope and health to our community!

With gratitude,

Anne Constantino
CRCC President & CEO

Nearly 366,000 Nebraska kids face a new reality: school at home

Uniting Together

This past spring and summer, COVID-19 caused CRCC to face many new, unexpected challenges. We were suddenly left with no choice but to temporarily close our centers to protect our medically fragile children. While closed, our leadership team united to brainstorm new, innovative strategies to continue education and development for our clients and expand support to other families in the Omaha community.

Growing Impact

While our centers and partnering schools were closed, CRCC pivoted our current services and grew into new territories.

We launched a telehealth therapy program for our clients and other local children. The continuation of therapy services through telehealth helps families navigate new, at-home challenges and expands the client base we can reach.

Our Outpatient Behavioral Health Program also became completely virtual. The program provides services by our licensed mental health practitioners in Millard, Ralston, Papillion-La Vista and Bellevue School Districts, as well as the Omaha Public Schools Special Education Transition Age Program.

The impact has been significant. Talia, a 17-year-old student, presented symptoms of depression. The CRCC Therapy team and school social workers collaborated to create an accountability schedule. After six months, she was participating in e-learning, taking her medications on schedule and looking forward to graduation and a brighter future.

Additionally, our In-Home Nursing program helped keep kids with special needs connected to care. Under our Respite Care License from the State of Nebraska, we were able to allow our certified nurses into the homes of CRCC families who could no longer be at our centers. The nurses provided daily, crucial care for children with extensive medical, developmental and cognitive disabilities.

Matthew, a 13-year-old who regularly attends CRCC’s Day Health program before and after school, needs constant support to learn, so when schools closed in March, his parents were at a loss.

CRCC provided an in-home tutor to care for Matthew. “With CRCC’s help, Matthew was able to have a structured day and maintain his schoolwork while at home. CRCC’s support allowed my husband and I to remain employed and

created some much-needed normalcy in our lives,” said Heather, Matthew’s mother.

Leading Possibilities

While the world was on hold, we knew our children’s progress could not be halted. This led us to create the Learning Together at Home program, launched in partnership with KMTV 3 and Pinnacle Bank, to help children keep developing where they’re the healthiest: home.

The program features a guide packed with educational activity instructions for children birth through age eight, and our CRCC educators learned how to self-produce YouTube videos to lead families every step of the way. Each activity has tailored developmental outcomes for kids, such as critical thinking, patience, perseverance and more.



(Above) CRCC Northwest preschool teacher, Melissa Ury, and child follow along with a Learning Together at Home video. (Below) CRCC Northwest paraprofessional, Jelisa Parker, films a Learning Together at Home video.

Remote learning creates difficult circumstances for children with special needs

Uniting With Schools

This fall, we had to face a tough reality: our kids require more than remote learning to succeed. As more and more of our families needed to return to work, we reopened our centers with strict safety precautions in place. In preparation for the 2020-2021 school year, CRCC united with Omaha metro area school districts to fill the gaps that families would face.

Growing Guidance

CRCC is a proud member of the Nebraska Child Health and Education Alliance (NCHEA), a group of Omaha leaders who are advancing early childhood health and education public policy advocacy. CRCC worked closely with NCHEA member organizations, educators, health care providers and state agencies to develop guidance on COVID-19 classroom preparedness and infection control practices. Our expertise in providing care for children with complex medical needs uniquely informed this guidance.

We grew our partnership with Millard Public Schools to provide tutoring and Individual Education Plan (IEP) support. Further, we developed our Early Education program to include a special education teacher on staff, allowing CRCC to service the IEP in a combined effort with schools.

Currently, the Bellevue Public Schools district is unable to provide transportation to CRCC for before or after school care, so we took the initiative to deliver care to them. We created an on-site program for their children with special needs to ensure access to specialized care for all children, regardless of where they live in our community.

Leading Care

CRCC was recently added to the Nebraska Department of Education’s preferred providers list, a huge milestone for our organization. Initially, this pursuit was in response to our centers closing, but the long-term impact will help us increase the number of children we can serve through new, future programming. We can now partner with more schools in special education, early childhood education, occupational, physical and speech therapy, behavioral health therapy and 1:1 nursing care.

Our Therapy Department is providing leading care by joining forces with The Munroe Meyer Institute (MMI) to offer physical therapy, speech language and feeding therapy for our children. The MMI team enhances our commitment to one-stop support for our families by holistically addressing each child’s therapy needs. Complex needs require comprehensive talent, and by working with others in our community, we can achieve amazing things for our children that none of our organizations could do alone.



CRCC nurse, Lisa Russo, administers a tube feeding without disruption so the child can continue to be included in classroom activities.

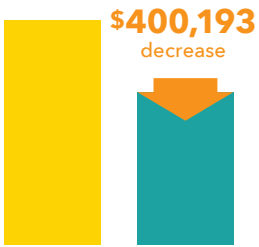
Our Year in Numbers

INCOME STATEMENT COMPARISON

■ March 1-June 30, 2019
■ March 1-June 30, 2020

Day Services

2019
\$1,259,326
2020
\$859,133



Rehab Therapy

2019
\$287,658
2020
\$70,684



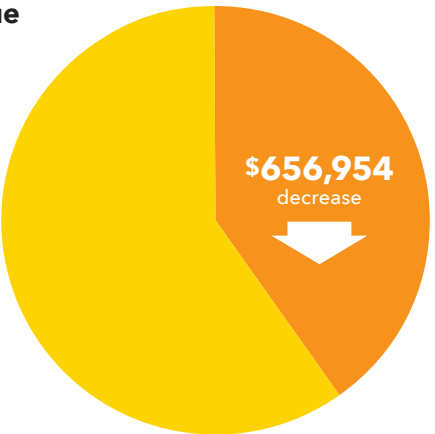
Behavioral Health

2019
\$92,216
2020
\$52,429

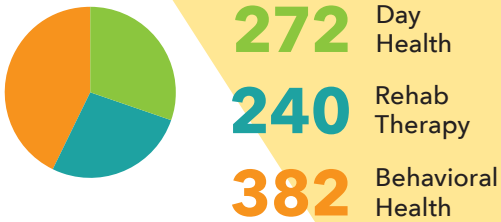


Total Revenue (Net decrease)

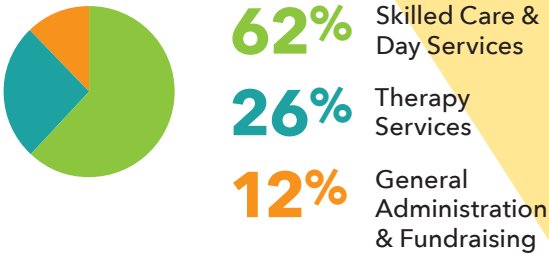
2019
\$1,639,200
2020
\$982,246



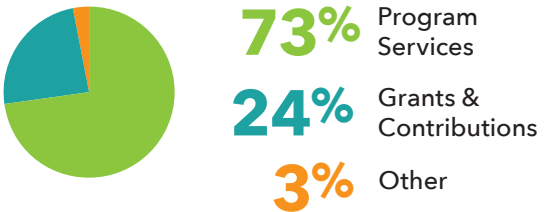
CHILDREN SERVED



EXPENSES



REVENUE & SUPPORT



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Bill allowing teachers to use ‘reasonable physical contact’ on students headed to floor

Uniting With Policy Makers

CRCC is continuously committed to amplifying the voices of our community’s children and families. In 2020, we united with Nebraska policy makers to lead several transformative proposals that maintain and improve child health and well-being.

Growing Protections

CRCC Priority Bills Signed into Law

LB 955, passed as part of LB 956, provides enhanced consumer and provider protections for those whose health services are covered by state-managed care companies.

LB 1100 passed as part of LB 1008 the fiscal year (FY) 2020-21 state budget bill. This bill called for provider rate increases for behavioral and mental health services in the Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance program. The bill also included funding to support services for those individuals of the priority one category currently on the Developmentally Disabled waiver waitlist.

Student Physical Restraint Bill Defeated

We were grateful to join CRCC families, community supporters and partner organizations in successful opposition of LB 147, a bill that would have increased the use of exclusionary discipline and physical restraint practices in schools while exempting teachers and other school officials from liability if a child were injured from physical intervention by an adult.

Medicaid Aged & Disabled Waiver

In 2018, the State of Nebraska implemented age-specific changes to the Medicaid Aged & Disabled (A&D) Waiver program. Nearly 20% of CRCC clients and families relied on the A&D waiver for access to medically necessary health services. Thanks to the work of key elected officials in the Legislature, the support of CRCC and other advocates, the State of Nebraska agreed to begin transitioning children who are no longer eligible for services under the A&D waiver to the Developmental Disabilities waiver. CRCC is committed to helping our children and families navigate the coming changes by offering client advocacy training.

Leading Change

CRCC works closely with Nebraska’s federal delegation to ensure that the concerns of those we serve are represented

in the halls of Congress. CRCC actively supports the following legislation during the 116th U.S. Congress.

National Suicide Hotline Designation Act

The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 would designate 9-8-8 as the new National Suicide Hotline number, instead of the current 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

Child Care is Essential Act

The Child Care is Essential Act establishes and provides \$50 billion in appropriations for the Child Care Stabilization Fund. This fund awards grants to childcare providers during and after the COVID-19 public health emergency.

We are continuing work with members of our federal delegation on other important initiatives, such as expanding access to high-speed internet to underserved students across our state and ensuring that childcare workers are properly trained and equipped to deliver essential services during the pandemic.



CRCC parent is greeted by Director of Education Brooke Studt while dropping her child off at our Southwest location.

Our Biggest Fans

Thank you to our generous supporters who share our vision of brighter days for children of diverse abilities. You are helping us face disruption with courage, determination and an eye toward the future.

Cathleen Amdor
David and Julie Anderson
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Omaha, NE 68134
402.496.1000

Southwest

5321 S 138th Street
Omaha, NE 68137
402.895.4000



crccomaha.org



CRCC occupational therapist, Amanda Whebbe, encourages a child during his therapy session.

**To face disruption,
we must unite.**

**To stay strong,
we must grow.**

**To take on the future,
we must lead.**

CRCC has united our talents to respond to the community's evolving needs, grown our offerings and led with one step ahead. When faced with adversity, we continue to rise above it.

CRCC is constantly seeking new ways to champion children's development, and, with your help, there's nothing we can't do.

Join us to unite, grow and lead, no matter what tomorrow holds.

crccomaha.org/donate

unite.
grow.
lead.

CRCC

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