



# KIDS CAN

COMMUNITY CENTER  
ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

**At Kids Can Community Center,  
our mission is to educate,  
engage, and inspire children  
through early childhood care  
and out of school experiences.**



## From the CEO

This past year has been full of contrasts -- moments of joy, new challenges, progress in some areas, and setbacks in others. What stands out most is why our work at Kids Can matters more than ever.

Every day, I see children come through our doors with curiosity and dreams for the future. I also see the barriers their families face -- the high cost of care, the shortage of providers, and the uncertainty around funding for afterschool programs. These are not abstract issues. They affect parents who are trying to work, teachers who give everything to their students, and kids who deserve the same opportunities as anyone else.

It would be easy to feel discouraged. But what I have also seen this year gives me hope. Our staff show up with care and commitment. Families place their trust in us. And our supporters, people like you, step up to make sure we can keep moving forward. That kind of steady belief reminds me that hope is not passive. It is something we practice together.

As Kids Can enters its 118th year, I am reminded that we have weathered tough times before. We have done so because this community has always chosen to stand with children and families.

Now we face another critical moment. Childcare and afterschool programs are not luxuries. They are essentials. While today we are on solid footing, decisions at the state and federal levels could quickly change that. We must stay alert, and we must stay united.

I ask you to continue with us in this work. Whether you are mentoring a child, speaking up for policy change, or simply choosing kindness, you are part of what makes this mission possible. Together, we can meet this moment with urgency and with hope.

With gratitude,



Robert Patterson  
Chief Executive Officer



# Early Childhood Education

Kids Can serves children ages 6-weeks to 5-years old in our Early Childhood Education program. In existence for nearly a century, our state-licensed program utilizes Creative Curriculum as the core teaching component.

We are an active participant in Step Up To Quality, a program through the Nebraska Department of Education and Health & Human Services that helps families identify early childhood providers who demonstrate a commitment to quality care. Kids Can was awarded a Step 5 status and is one of only seven centers in Omaha at this highest achievable level.

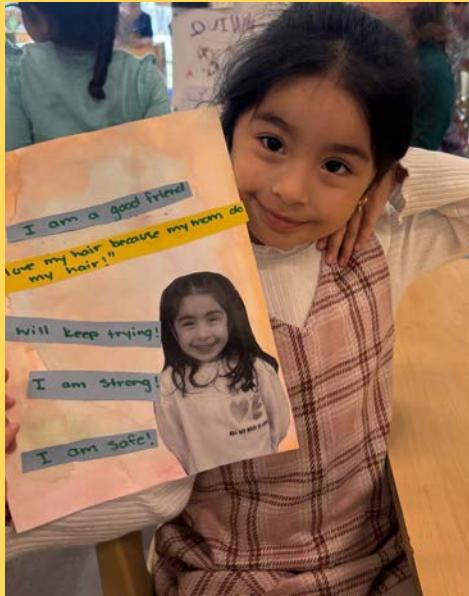


Nebraska Department of Education & Health & Human Services



In the 2024-25 school year, 112 children attended our early childhood program, open every weekday from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Using research-based curriculum and learning-through-play, we strive for all children to reach their potential.

Last year, 79% of students were physically ready, 89% were socially and emotionally ready, and 87% were academically ready for kindergarten.



# Out Of School Experiences

Kids Can served 1,610 children in our Out Of School programs in 2024-25, a 38% increase compared to the prior year. Our center site offers the widest variety of programs including before and after school with transportation provided to nearby schools, and full day programming when school is closed for holidays/in-service days. We also provide a full-day summer program at our center in South Omaha and Miller Park in North Omaha.



Kids Can partners with Collective For Youth and Nelson Mandela Schools to provide on-site after school programs at eight local schools: Benson West, Conestoga, Druid Hill, Gilder, Miller Park, Minne Lusa, Nelson Mandela, and Wakonda Elementary Schools.

Kids Can ensures all students have access to high-quality, innovative STEM learning opportunities. Our STEMsmart Academy expands the traditional STEM framework (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) to also encompass Strength, Music, Art, Reading, and Tutoring, creating a well-rounded curriculum designed to engage students across a broad range of interests.

Guided by our dedicated STEM Coordinator, this curriculum blends academic rigor with creativity and hands-on exploration.

Beyond academic enrichment, STEMsmart Academy is designed to foster social skills, nurture curiosity, and instill positive habits

and behaviors that prepare students for success in school and in life.



Last year, 75% of students reported developing a future-focused growth mindset, 79% reported positive peer relationships, and 80% reported experiencing support from a caring adult. These outcomes reflect meaningful growth from FY24 and stand out as strong within the broader Collective for Youth network.

# Mentoring At Kids Can

Our mentoring program is stronger than ever with over 30 dynamic duos of matches roaming the halls of Kids Can every week. Mentors and mentees chat, play, bake, laugh, create art, and experience science projects, all while forming lifelong friendships, modeling positive behaviors, and building confidence.

Matches meet at our main site after school, spending an hour of 1-on-1 time per week. This small time commitment can make a world of difference in the life of a child, instilling poise, sharing wisdom, and building trust. Next year, our mentoring program plans to expand to our school sites, allowing more kids to find that special match regardless of where they live or attend school.

To learn more about mentoring a child or to schedule a tour to see the program in action, contact Julie Madsen at [jmadsen@kidscan.org](mailto:jmadsen@kidscan.org).



# Can Do Awards

The Can Do Awards took place on May 7, 2025. The event honored four individuals who make a difference in our community:

Can Do Future: Dr. Katie Weitz, sponsored by Wells Fargo

Can Do Junior: Emilio Carabantes, sponsored by Bellevue University

Can Do Mentor: Brenda Leuck, sponsored by Union Pacific

Can Do More Here: Andrea Sims-Johnson, sponsored by American National Bank

Next year's event will be May 5, 2026. For more information about sponsorships, contact Mike Joyce at [mjoyce@kidscan.org](mailto:mjoyce@kidscan.org)



Photography by Debra Kaplan

# Kids Can by the Numbers

Last year, 1,722 children attended our Early Childhood and Out Of School programs. You can learn more about the demographics of our participants below:



## Annual Household Income:

Under \$30,000	52%
\$30,000 to \$59,999	34%
Over \$60,000	14%

## Center Subsidy/Private Pay

State Subsidies only	23%
Subsidies + Scholarship	7%
Private Pay + Scholarship	27%
Private Pay only	43%



## Age:

6-weeks to 5-years old	10%
6-years old to 13-years old	90%

## Ethnicity/Race:

Black/African American	52%
Latinx/Hispanic	23%
White/Caucasian	13%
Multiracial	9%
Asian	2%
Native American	1%



# Kids Can Financial Statements

Kids Can Community Center's 2024-25 audit was conducted by Bland & Associates. The full audit and Form 990 are available upon request. (Includes some funds for the capital campaign.)



## Statement of Activities 2024-25

### Operating Support and Revenue:

Earned Revenue	3,066,582
Foundation Support	1,984,821
Special Events	114,288
Investment Income	176,056
Contributions	27,163
Income Total	\$ 5,368,910

### Operating Expense:

Early Childhood Education	1,801,573
Out Of School Programs	2,967,886
Community Programs	49,189
Management and General	269,853
Fundraising	129,716
Expense Total	\$ 5,218,217

Depreciation Total	\$ 613,068
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## Statement of Financial Position 2024-25

### Assets:

Current Assets	4,861,311
Property & Equipment	9,418,430
Other assets	557,840
Assets Total	\$ 14,837,581

### Liabilities & Net Assets:

Current Liabilities	339,630
Net Assets w/o restrictions	13,877,620
Net Assets w/ restrictions	620,331
Liabilities/Net Assets Total	\$ 14,837,581



# 2024-25 Board of Directors

Thomas Behrendsen  
Jane Franklin  
Shannon Hite  
Jessica Hollister  
Brad Hove  
Sammi Kaiser  
Jaikrit Kandari  
Angie Kelso

Kristin Lund  
Gina Ponce  
Diana Prauner  
Marcos Rodriguez  
Yesenia Valenzuela  
Monica Wells  
Hannes Zetsche

## Advisory Council

Avi Atholi  
Cristina Castro-Matukewicz  
Nancy Edick  
Cesar Garcia  
Roger Garcia  
Jo Giles  
Laura Jana

Sarah Ann Kotchian  
Emiliano Llerda  
Mary Lopez  
Dianne Lozier  
Carol Russell  
Katie Weitz



Kids Can is proud to be at Platinum level on Candid/GuideStar, a Best Practice Partner through Nonprofit Association of the Midlands, and a Four-Star organization on Charity Navigator.



See Kids Can in action by following us on social media. Use @KidsCanOmaha on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn to see the impact your investment makes every day.



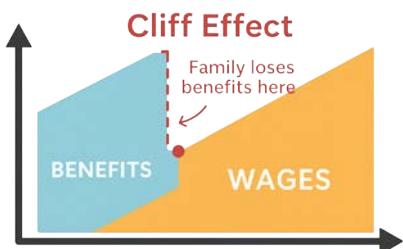
@KidsCanOmaha

# Looking Ahead - The New Cliff Effect

In Nebraska, a family of four would need to make a combined annual household income of less than \$59,478 (185% of the federal poverty rate) to be eligible for childcare subsidies. This means each parent could work full-time, but make no more than \$14.30/hour.

For many parents, it is nearly impossible to work full-time and qualify for childcare subsidies. Yet without subsidies, they cannot afford the rising costs of childcare.

You can help families stay afloat by donating to Kids Can so we can provide scholarships to families in need. You can also contact your elected officials to protect childcare for working families.



**The time to act is now. Our kids cannot wait.**

## You Can Make A Difference

We invite you to like us, follow us, and invite others to join us on our social media platforms. You can help others in our community learn about all we do to educate, engage, and inspire children.

**Volunteer:** Whether you make a commitment to mentor for a year or choose to read a story to our preschoolers, we couldn't accomplish our goals without your time and talent. We need volunteers like you!

**Donate:** Because of you, Kids Can is able to help many children in our community. Your donations help fund scholarships, materials, programs, and operations at all of our sites.



**Shop:** We have a variety of easy-to-donate programs such as wishlists at Amazon and Target or while you grocery shop:



**Kids Can Community Center**  
[www.KidsCan.org](http://www.KidsCan.org) 402.731.6988