

# WILLARD COMMUNITY CENTER



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2018 FISCAL YEAR**

# MISSION STATEMENT

*We help area residents grow, connect, and contribute to our community.*

## 2018 BOARD MEMBERS

Kassy Knudson, Board Chair

Justin Pflanz, Vice Chair

Michele Lueders, Secretary

Joey Mumaugh, Treasurer

Mitch Critel

Johanna Hannemann

Emily Phelps

Lyle Wheele

Irene Williams



# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

2018 will go down in my book as the most exciting year of my 36-year career at the Willard Community Center.

I never dreamed that I would work at Willard this long or still love my job after all of these years. The board members that I have gotten to know and the people that live in this neighborhood have become my friends. The dedicated board, capital campaign committee members and generous donors have shown me support and appreciation for the years of hard work it has taken to be where we are today.

It was a year of incredible events. Moving into the new building in May and hosting Open Houses for the donors and the neighborhood was very rewarding. Setting up the child care rooms and getting approved for licensing all before the start of the summer program was challenging. Walking into my own office, that I didn't have to share with anyone, was humbling. I want to thank the Willard Board of Directors and the Capital Campaign Committee for making this dream come true. They had no doubt that the money would be raised and the building would be renovated and expanded. I have learned so much about the generosity of this community and the dedication of our loyal supporters and friends of Willard.

Many of the Willard key staff are long time employees that have made this Community Center what it is today. The staff are devoted to improving the lives of our children and families by providing quality and affordable child care and other needed community services. The future for Willard is full of potential. There is so much that can be accomplished and so many that can be served. I hope as we continue to grow and expand that everyone will always feel welcome and a part of the Willard family.

*Janelle Soderling*

Janelle Soderling  
Executive Director





# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

The foundations, businesses, and individuals listed below have donated or pledged to the Willard Community Center Capital Campaign during 2018. We want to recognize these donors and thank them for helping us to envision a bright future for the Willard Community Center. We are very grateful to have had over 188 different donors give to this campaign since 2014. Donors that gave before 2018 were recognized in previous annual reports.

Hugo A. and Thelma Aspegren Charitable Trust

Black Hills Corporation Foundation

Firespring Foundation Givesource

Lincoln Community Foundation

Alison Mumaugh

Victor & Carol Penrosa

Kasey Robinson

Philip Rogers

Tyler & Sasha Rupert

Jennifer Shannon

Teton Investment LLC, Tom Smith

Beth Wheeler

Nancy Wulf

Laurie Yoakum

Christina Zink



# WILLARD'S PROGRAMS

**Preschool and Pre-K Programs** were combined this year while we were under construction. Located at 1030 West "Q" Street the children ages 3-5 were taught a curriculum that focused on letter and number recognition, shapes, colors, cognitive and fine motor skills, and language skills that help prepare them for kindergarten. Daily and weekly themes encouraged multi-cultural awareness and parent involvement. Embedded in the curriculum were activities that taught math, science, dramatic play, blocks, literacy and many other educational learning activities. Twenty-nine unduplicated children participated.

**Roper Elementary Before and After School Program** held at 2323 S. Coddington Street ran from 6:30 am to the start of the school day and resumed after school until 6:00 pm. This program offered a healthy snack after school and a wide variety of activities, ranging from daily scheduled events to large group games and homework time. This program included child care when school was not in session. The unduplicated count for this program was 155 children with 33 children on a waiting list.

**Lakeview Community Learning Center Before and After School Program** held at 300 Capitol Beach Blvd. ran from 6:30 am to the start of the school day and resumed after school until 6:00 pm. Willard is the lead agency for this CLC and received additional funding from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program. This grant supports academic enrichment opportunities as well as additional activities designed to complement the school's academic program. After school clubs were offered to all students in the school at no charge. The unduplicated number of children that participated in the CLC was 254.

**Summer Program** was the first program to be held in our newly remodeled building. The program ran from May 30th to August 8th and was open M-F from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. The children were placed in age appropriate groups (K-1st, 2nd-3rd and 4th-8th grades) and participated in weekly fun themed and educationally based activities. The children went swimming and on a field trip every week. A total of 147 children were enrolled for the summer.

**Adult Program** was the only one that moved with us to our rented space while we were under construction. The Senior Citizen Bingo Players never missed a beat and continued to come every Monday and Wednesday morning for bingo and pitch. To their dismay we were told that to license the building for 140 children during the day we would not be able to accommodate their twice a week bingo games during the summer and on non-school days. They graciously took the summer off and came back in the fall with some new members.



# FUNDRAISERS

## ***Kenny Gardner Golf Tournament***

The cold and rain didn't dampen the spirit of the 14th Annual Kenny Gardner Golf Tournament held on September 30th. We had a great turnout with 96 golfers and we cleared \$11,334. The proceeds helped to support the Willard child care programs by providing scholarships and by covering some program expenses. The golf committee worked very hard and had the most sponsors in the history of the tournament with seven; Hoy & Associates Construction, Inspro Insurance, Norland Pure, Priced Rite Auto, Roughriders Motorcycles Forever, Tab Performance and West Gate Bank. Numerous other businesses donated raffle prizes or monetary donations for the cause.

The Gardner Family continues Kenny's life moto of "It Was Fun" as they join friends and family on the golf course year after year to honor Kenny's memory and generous spirit.

## ***Chase the Sunset Poker Run***

Friday the 13th of July was the date of the 2nd Chase the Sunset Poker Run. A warm, summer, Friday evening to go for a ride and possibly win money or prizes was the attraction for most of the bikers. All they needed to do was draw a good card at one of the five stops along the designated route and beat everyone else with the best poker hand. However, thunder, lightning and the threat of bad weather kept many of the bikers at home. Friday the 13th and the weather may have scared some people but we still had a good turn-out and we made \$1,748. We want to thank our tournament sponsors Tab Performance and Roughriders Motorcycles Forever and also Lincoln Industries, Zipline Brewery, Frontier Harley Davidson, and Boathouse Bar and Grill for being the scheduled stops along the way back to Willard. We also want to thank Mary Ellen's Food Truck for being in our parking lot with a hot barbeque meal for the bikers when they returned.

## ***Give to Lincoln Day***

May 31st was such a wonderful day for Lincoln non-profits and the Willard Community Center. This year we requested the donated funds to go towards our capital campaign. The donors responded and we received \$2,526.

## ***Chipotle & Granite City Restaurant Fund Raisers***

Both of these fine establishments provided us with a Dine and Donate night. They donated a percentage of sales if the diners said they were with Willard Community Center. Together the amount raised was \$488.00.

## ***Walmart***

Willard wrote a grant and it was approved for \$500. It was used to purchase games and toys for the child care programs.



# THE NEW BUILDING

## Open House and Ribbon Cutting

The completion of the Willard Community Center renovation and expansion project was such a glorious occasion that the Capital Campaign Committee decided that we needed to have two Grand Opening events. The first was held on May 23rd to thank our donors for their generous support of our project. We served wine and beer along with snacks and gave tours of the building. A Ceremony was held and Board Chair - Kassy Knudson thanked everyone on behalf of the board, staff and the community, Committee Chair - Kathy LeBaron thanked the donors, and Mayor Buetler praised our success. The second Grand Opening was held on June 14th for the neighborhood. It was a blistering hot day but the neighbors showed up for hot dogs and chips, tours of the building and to see a demonstration of the Nebraska Sword Fighters. Lincoln Chamber of Commerce provided us with the ribbon and big scissors for the ribbon cutting ceremony to let everyone know Willard was back in business serving the community.

We want to thank the Capital Campaign Committee again for their valuable time meeting with donors, going through grants, positive attitudes and continuous support. We would like to recognize the committee members; Chair - Kathy LeBaron, Steve Bauer, Kim Hachiya, Katie Haszard, Candy Henning, Candiss Kleen, Kassy Knudson, Natalie Olson, Joyce Person, Lisa Smith, and Irene G. Williams.



## New Rental Space

Willard can now host family events, business meetings, or neighborhood gatherings in beautiful new rooms. We have an updated kitchen, new tables and chairs, and plenty of space for your next event. You can call or check our calendar on our website to see if the date you are interested in is available and then you can download the rental forms to fill out and send in. The fee is \$150.00 for a four-hour rental and \$30.00 for each additional hour. We had 12 event rentals, a craft fair, and other groups that met weekly utilize our new space.

# IMPACT STATEMENT

Willard Community Center reopened our doors to a newly renovated and expanded building in May of 2018. From June to August we provided a Summer Program for 150 Kindergarten through 8th grade children from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday -Friday. With our added square footage, we were able to have the children divided into age appropriate groups where they were involved in educationally enriched theme weeks, field trips, and swimming outings. The Lincoln Lancaster Health Department provided a free breakfast and lunch to every child through the Summer Nutrition Program. All the children were engaged in activities that included reading, math and science which minimized the summer retention loss of many children that do not have access to an education based summer program.

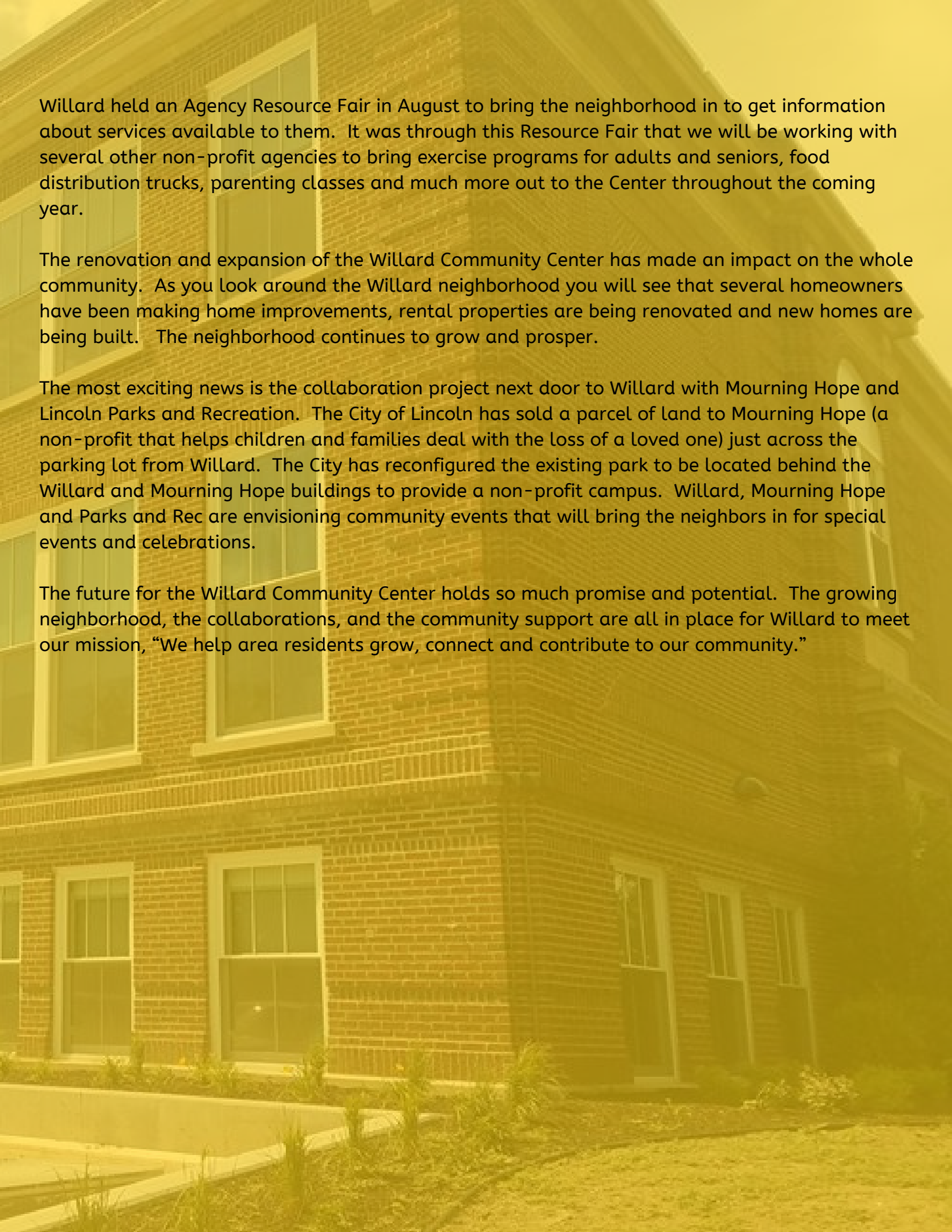
Throughout the design and construction phases of Willard we knew that we wanted to continue to provide early childhood education for children ages 3-5 years of age. Early childhood makes a positive impact on the lives of children and the community as a whole so we increased our license capacity to serve more children. Willard's Preschool and Pre-K programs, which are licensed through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, now have the capacity to serve 58 three through five year olds in two low income neighborhoods. The Preschool Program is located in the Willard building and the Pre-K Program is located just east of Lakeview Elementary at 1030 West "Q" St. The majority of our children live in the Roper and Lakeview Elementary School boundaries but we take children from all across Lincoln. We opened our new preschool rooms at the Center in August and knew that this would be a rebuilding year for us. We are consistently receiving inquiries from parents about how to register their child so we are estimating that our Preschool and Pre-K Programs will soon be near or at full capacity.

We continue to provide a Before and After School Program at Roper Elementary School and again this year we are at license capacity of 150 children with a waiting list. Willard is also the lead agency for the Lakeview Elementary Community Learning Center where we provide a Before and After School Program along with after school educational enrichment clubs that every Lakeview student is welcome to attend.

Willard has always been the neighborhood hub for activities. The Senior Citizens continue to come twice a week for licensed Bingo, card games and pot luck lunches. For many of them this is their only social outing during the week.

The Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Nebraska Sword Fighters, Metal Detectors, Bible Study for adults and children, Stephen Ministries group, and Bunco Group have all come back to take their place in our building. Families are reserving space for their family holidays and celebrations. Business groups are utilizing the building for their meetings.





Willard held an Agency Resource Fair in August to bring the neighborhood in to get information about services available to them. It was through this Resource Fair that we will be working with several other non-profit agencies to bring exercise programs for adults and seniors, food distribution trucks, parenting classes and much more out to the Center throughout the coming year.

The renovation and expansion of the Willard Community Center has made an impact on the whole community. As you look around the Willard neighborhood you will see that several homeowners have been making home improvements, rental properties are being renovated and new homes are being built. The neighborhood continues to grow and prosper.

The most exciting news is the collaboration project next door to Willard with Mourning Hope and Lincoln Parks and Recreation. The City of Lincoln has sold a parcel of land to Mourning Hope (a non-profit that helps children and families deal with the loss of a loved one) just across the parking lot from Willard. The City has reconfigured the existing park to be located behind the Willard and Mourning Hope buildings to provide a non-profit campus. Willard, Mourning Hope and Parks and Rec are envisioning community events that will bring the neighbors in for special events and celebrations.

The future for the Willard Community Center holds so much promise and potential. The growing neighborhood, the collaborations, and the community support are all in place for Willard to meet our mission, “We help area residents grow, connect and contribute to our community.”

# PROGRAM STATISTICS

## **Preschool and Pre-K Programs**

- 29 unduplicated children enrolled with 23 on a waiting list
- 12 males and 17 females
- Ages of children; age 3 – 6 children, age 4 – 20 children, age 5 – 3 children
- 29 were enrolled full time
- 23 children were on a waiting list
- 8 children received Title XX or considered Free/Reduced Lunch
- 6 children were ethnically diverse
- 4 children are from single parent homes
- 2 children were English Language Learners
- 10 children had siblings in another Willard program
- Funded by program service fees @ \$132 per week full time

## **Roper Elementary School Before and After School Programs**

- 155 unduplicated children with 33 on a waiting list
- 72 males and 83 females
- Ages of children; age 5 – 11, age 6 – 29, age 7 – 28, age 8 – 31, age 9 – 26, age 10 – 20, and age 11 – 10
- 33 children on a waiting list
- 42 children received Title XX
- 60 children received free and reduced lunch
- 46 children were ethnically diverse
- 3 children are English Language Learners
- 41 children come from single parent homes
- 7 children have special needs
- 3 children have siblings in another Willard Program
- Funded by monthly program service fees @ \$164 Before School only; \$230 After School only; \$286 Before and After School Programs

## **Lakeview Community Learning Center Before and After School Programs**

- 254 unduplicated children, with no waiting list – 136 males and 118 females
- Ages of children; age 4 – 1, age 5 – 34, age 6 – 36, age 7 – 51, age 8 – 39, age 9 – 43, age 10 – 47, and age 11 – 3
- 25 children received Title XX
- 139 children received free and reduced lunch
- 156 children were ethnically diverse
- 28 children are English Language Learners
- 122 children are from a single parent home
- 15 have special needs
- Funded by a grant from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program and monthly service fees @ \$145 Before School only; \$177 After School Only; \$212 for both Before and After School Programs; participation in only the Academic/enrichment after school clubs is free to any student at Lakeview Elementary

## Summer Program

- 147 total participants enrolled in the Summer Program for grade school age children and Preschool/Pre-K.

The statistics below reflect all 147 children in the Summer Program.

- 77 Females and 70 Males
- 42 received Title XX
- 60 received free and reduced lunches
- 47 are ethnically diverse – 12 African American, 3 Hispanic/Latino, 2 Middle Eastern, 2 Asian, 1 Native American and 27 Mixed ethnicities
- 46 are from single parent home
- 9 English Language Learners
- 5 children had special needs
- 7 children received full or partial scholarship to participate in the Summer Program at a total cost of \$9,660.00
- The statistics of the 33 unduplicated children that participated in the Summer Program are as follows: 19 males and 14 females; 6 received Title XX; 9 received free and reduced lunch; 10 are from single parent families; 1 had special needs; 1 was an English Language Learner and 9 children were ethnically diverse - 2 children are African American, 1 is Hispanic and 6 are mixed ethnicities.





### ***Memorials***

Memorials that come to the Willard Community Center are always a bittersweet surprise. It means that we have lost someone dear to Willard. This year we lost two such individuals; Russ Williams, husband to Irene Williams, passed away in July leaving Willard \$3,295 in memorials and Pam Gardner, wife of the late Kenny Gardner, passed away in November leaving us memorials totaling \$1,575. With these memorials we are planning to place a bench in the west lawn of Willard, plant a tree and other annuals and build some outdoor learning centers for the children.

We are hoping to honor these two special people with a memorial that will be enjoyed for years to come.

### ***Thank you to our Operational Grant Funders***

Willard was very fortunate to receive two operational grants this year. The Aspegren Charitable Trust awarded us \$25,000 for furniture, rugs, toys and supplies for the two new preschool rooms at Willard and also for the Pre-K Program. Lincoln Community Foundation awarded us \$10,000 to help with operations while we transitioned into our new building. Both of these funders deserve a huge thank you from all of us. Moving into the building and getting ready for new programs was a big undertaking. We would not have such bright and cheery rooms and a welcoming atmosphere without the funding support of Aspegren Charitable Trust and Lincoln Community Foundation.

### ***Thank you to United Way for Program Grants***

United Way has been a great partner, a community resource and a loyal supporter of the Willard Community Center for many years. The Lakeview Community Learning Center Before and After School Program has received funding from United Way under the Expanded Learning Strategy since 2017 and for the 2018-2020 funding cycle they will receive \$15,000 for each fiscal year. The Willard Preschool and Pre-K Programs were added to the list of United Way programs for the 2018-2020 funding cycle as we were approved under the Education Support Strategy to receive \$9,000 each fiscal year. In addition to our program funding we were also approved to receive \$15,253 during 2019 to help the Preschool and Pre-K Programs start Step One and Two of the Step Up To Quality Child Care accreditation process. This will be a major milestone for us as we work through the accreditation requirements. There will be assessments, trainings, coaching, reports, new curriculums and classroom supplies that will need to be purchased and thanks to United Way that will be covered. We will still have to work through steps 3-5 to be accredited but this will help us to market and expand our early childhood programs. Thank you United Way and all the donors who designate their United Way pledge to the Willard Community Center.

# THANK YOU'S

**BVH Architects and Cheever Construction** – It was because of your vision and hard work that we are in this beautiful building today. You overcame obstacles, you worked together like a well-oiled machine, and you made us feel like every question or concern we had was top priority. We enjoyed working with you and will recommend you for future work.

**West Gate Bank** – West Gate has two employees on our board of directors and also handles our accounts. When they had some extra office furniture that they no longer needed they thought of Willard. This really helped us to replace our old existing furniture with a new look for our new spaces. In March employee volunteers also came and helped to move furniture and supplies out of three storage units so work could start on our parking lot. Everything had to be carried up to third floor to be stored until the rest of the building could be completed by May. We could not have ever completed this task without the help of West Gate Bank and their continuous support.

**Boy Scout Troop 55** – The leaders and the boys in this troop are amazing. They are always there to help whenever they can but this year they went above and beyond our expectations. In March they helped us move out of the storage units in the mist and mud and hauled everything up to 3rd floor for later distribution throughout the building. In April the whole troop went to the Roper After School Program to demonstrate how to put up a tent, tie knots, and other camp-out survival skills. In May they helped us to thank the donors at two different open houses at our new building. In the fall they were back in the building for their regular meetings and are continuing to serve this community.

**Brownie Troop 20661** – This Brownie Troop saw a need and decided to help. With the assistance of their leaders and parents they built a Little Free Food Pantry and placed it in front of the Willard building in June. They filled it with food and continued to monitor its usefulness. They discovered that the food pantry was being visited daily by needy families in the neighborhood. The Willard child care children and many other neighborhood volunteers pitched in and donated food to the pantry all year. Hats off to this Brownie Troop for making an impact on the issue of hunger in our community.

**Cecilla Hernandez** – Cecilla wanted to teach the children in her daughter's Before and After School Program about the importance of eating healthy snacks. Her daughter attended the Willard Programs at Roper Elementary so on a non-school day in November she taught over 60 children how to make individual fruit pizza. Cecilla donated \$100 and received a matching gift from her employer, Foundation for Educational Services, which enabled us to purchase many kinds of fruit, cream cheese and graham crackers. The children learned about and tasted different kinds of fruit and how to make a snack all by themselves.

**Lincoln Industries** – We can't say thank you enough to this next door neighbor. Lincoln Industries is always calling and asking how and when can they come and help in some way. They have moved us out of and back into our new building and volunteered at our open houses. They replaced the old rope on our big flag pole so we could hang up a new flag. They stuffed golfer bags for the golf tournament. Many have served on our board of directors or on the capital campaign committee or have participated in our programs. We appreciate this company so much for their continuous support, friendship and loyalty.

# THANK YOU'S

**Chuck and Rogene Cihal** - We just want to give a big shout out to Chuck and Rogene for allowing us to rent their house on SW 9th Street while we were under construction. We took over their house for one year for our offices, bingo, staff and board meetings, and special events. It allowed us to be close to the construction site and still be in the neighborhood that we serve. You were the most gracious landlords and we could not have asked for a more perfect location.

**Car Seat Donation**- A new law was passed and all children up to the age of 8 must ride correctly secured in a federally-approved car seat or booster seat. At their annual Christmas party this group of friends collected a donation of \$850.00 for Willard to purchase car seats instead of buying gifts for each other. Thank you to the LeBaron, Henning, Hinrichs, Smith, Strand, Wright, and Haszard families.

**Roper Elementary School** - for accommodating the Willard Child Care Program for the summer and on non-school days while our building was being renovated. We know that having children at Roper all summer made more work for your staff and janitors but together we made it work. We would not have been able to have our Summer Program at all without your flexibility and cooperation.

**Ray's Lawn and Home Care** - We are blessed to have good neighbors like Ray's Lawn and Home Care. They have been so great to us for many years. They do all of our lawn care and mowing, snow removal, and landscaping at no charge. We feel very fortunate to have their continued loyalty and support.

**West "A" Neighborhood** - We want to thank the whole neighborhood for putting up with our construction project for a year. We know that parking was sometimes an issue along with the mess and noise of heavy construction. We hope that you are pleased with the outcome. You are all welcome to come to Willard to share our newly renovated spaces, participate in special events or just come up for a tour and to say hello at any time.

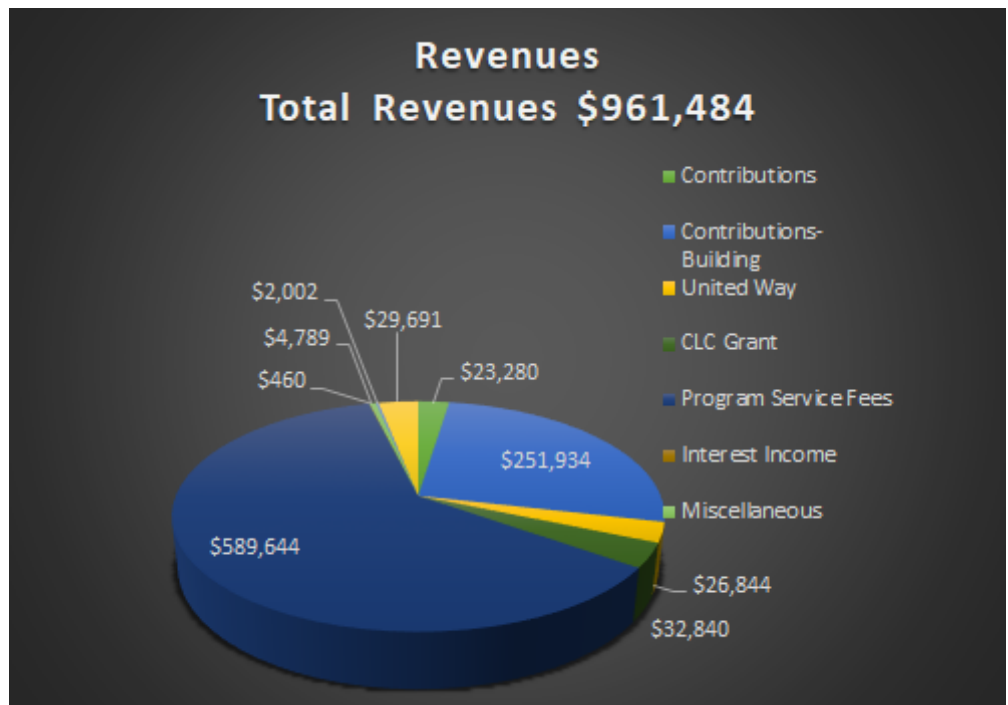
**Resource Pro** - for the donation of two Ping Pong tables, paddles, net, and balls for the gameroom. The kids have spent hours playing it every chance they get.





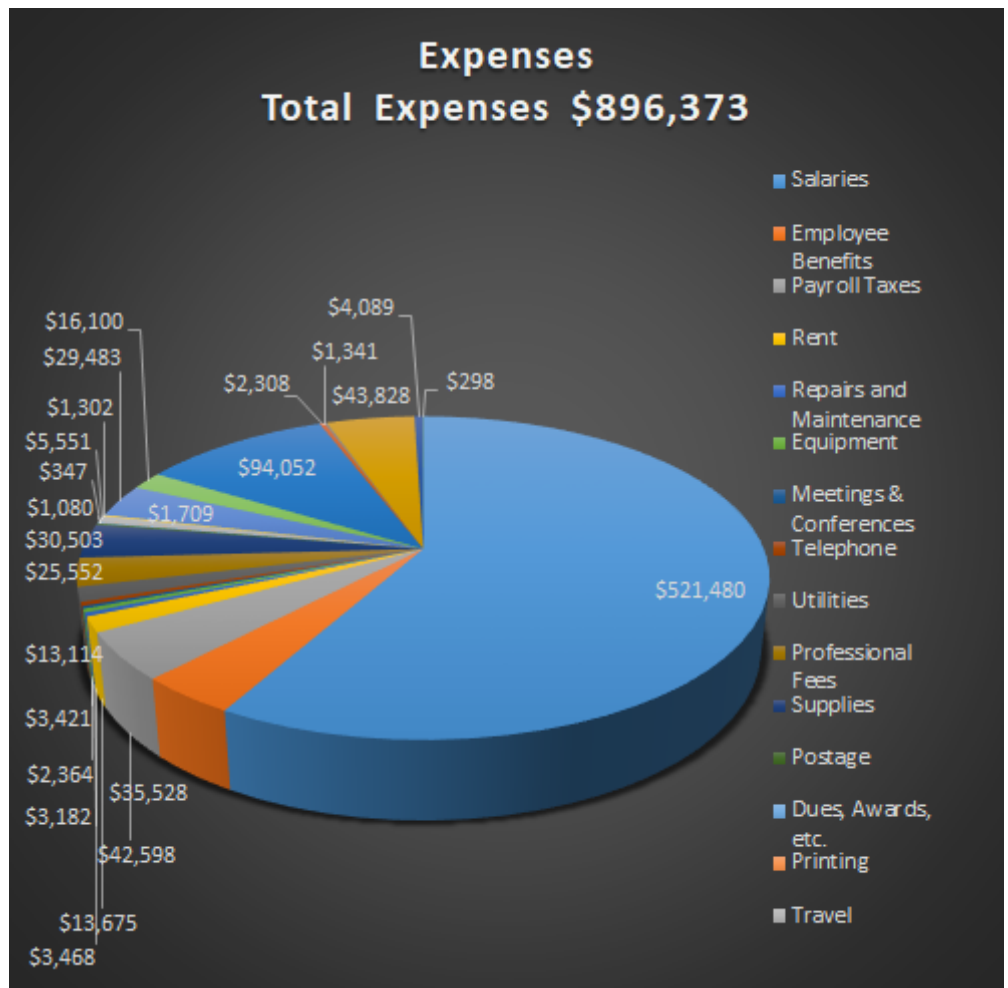
## Revenue

Contributions \$23,280  
 Contributions-Building \$251,934  
 United Way \$26,844  
 CLC Grant \$32,840  
 Program Service Fees \$589,644  
 Interest Income \$460  
 Miscellaneous \$4,789  
 Building Rental \$2,002  
 Private Grants \$29,691  
 Total Revenues \$961,484.00



## Expenses

Salaries \$521,480  
 Employee Benefits \$35,528  
 Payroll Taxes \$42,598  
 Rent \$13,675  
 Repairs and Maintenance \$3,468  
 Equipment \$3,182  
 Meetings & Conferences \$2,364  
 Telephone \$3,421  
 Utilities \$13,114  
 Professional Fees \$25,552  
 Supplies \$30,503  
 Postage \$1,709  
 Dues, Awards, etc. \$1,080  
 Printing \$347  
 Travel \$5,551  
 Security \$1,302  
 Insurance \$29,483  
 Custodial \$16,100  
 Depreciation \$94,052  
 Loss on Sale of Equipment \$2,308  
 Licenses and Permits \$1,341  
 Miscellaneous \$43,828  
 Other Program Expenses \$4,089  
 Advertising and Promotion \$298  
 Total Expenses \$896,373.00  
 Change in Net Assets \$65,111.00



# MISCELLANEOUS

## 2018 Staff Equivalent

Full Time Staff = 7

Part Time Staff = 34 (It takes 34 people to cover all the sites but we can have up to 60 people on our payroll because some of them might only work 10 – 12 hours a week.)

Total hours worked at WCC for January through December of 2018 was 42,126.

Total FTE's - 20.25

United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County - LIVE UNITED



Lincoln Community Learning Centers

