

OUR MISSION: To increase the availability of responsible mentoring relationships for at-risk youth in the Greater Omaha metropolitan area and to provide more scholarship opportunities so that these young people can become employable, productive citizens.

**one kid
at a time**

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Sharing time, expanding worlds

ALL OUR KIDS, INC.

connecting one kid at a time

A publication for supporters, partners, mentors, and all our kids

2007, Issue 2

SUMMER ACTIVITIES KEEP STUDENTS AND STAFF BUSY

When All Our Kids students head back to school later this month, many will be taking more than books, binders and backpacks. They will also return to their classrooms with lessons learned from several agency-sponsored summer programs and activities.



LifeSkills Training sessions kept thirty-nine sixth and seventh graders busy during the summer months. The students who participated in the sessions learned about healthy alternatives to using alcohol, tobacco, drugs, violence and other risky behaviors.

“The LifeSkills Training sessions are designed to help students develop the skills necessary to successfully handle challenging situations,” said Recruitment Coordinator Sarah Lamprecht. “We show them how to resist peer pressure and help them develop greater self-esteem and self-confidence. We also help them learn how to cope with anxiety and teach them about the consequences of substance abuse and other risky behaviors.” Students who attended all of the required sessions were awarded with a trip to the Amazing Pizza Machine.

More than a dozen All Our Kids students took part in a special Spanish workshop

offered in June. During the four-day workshop, they learned colors, numbers, greetings, time, the alphabet, and common Spanish expressions as well as cultural information.

“The students were excited to learn something about the culture of Spanish speaking countries. They enthusiastically participated in games using Spanish and craft projects that come from the Spanish culture,” said Program Assistant Phillip Burrell. “I hope the experience will help them decide whether or not Spanish is a language they would like to learn in high school.”

Students were also given an opportunity to express their creativity through a variety of art projects. Eight students participated in a three-day workshop at That Pottery Place – creating a mosaic picture frame, painting clay plates and tie-dying t-shirts.

In addition to the scheduled training sessions and workshops, sixth and seventh grade students were able to take part in “Summertime in the City” field trips. The seven outings focused on discovering career interests while visiting unique Omaha area destinations.

“The field trips were fun, interactive and educational. The students toured a local fire station and the Humane Society. They also participated in a cooking lesson at SupperThyme and visited Mahoney State Park,” said Program Manager Melissa Mayo. “We want the students to know that there are many different opportunities in Omaha and multiple career paths available to them. We hope the field trips helped them learn more about themselves as well as the really cool places to visit in our city.”

MEET THE STAFF AT ALL OUR KIDS

As the programs at All Our Kids expand, so does the agency's staff. With so many new people now on board, we thought this would be a good time to introduce them and put faces to the names that you may have seen on our website.

Julie Hefflinger



Julie Hefflinger is celebrating her tenth year with All Our Kids. As President, she manages the agency, raises the money

for the organization's operations budget and provides case management for the college students.

"I love working with the college students, because I was a first generation college student myself," she said. "I also like to create new special events. I have loved being a part of the ConAgra Foods Race for the Kids, which has been very successful since its creation in 2002."

A native of Pipestone, Minnesota, Julie came to Omaha to attend Creighton University. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and French and later earned a Master of Science Degree in Counseling and Guidance from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She was a Guidance Counselor, English and French teacher at Bellevue East High School for seven years, and worked as Development Director of the YWCA for three years before joining All Our Kids.

"I'm really excited about the future of our organization," she said. "We will officially join forces with the Winners Circle Schools program later this year, and together we will serve about 4,000 students from kindergarten through high school. Our agency will also play a role in the Building Bright Futures initiative to help more disadvantaged youth from our community to graduate from high school."

Julie and her husband, Dave, have three children – Mark, Joe and Anne. In her spare time, she likes to read great books, travel, play golf, work in her garden and watch the Food Network.

Jessica Miller



Jessica Miller began her career with All Our Kids as Program Assistant more than four years ago and now serves as a Program Manager. She currently oversees the implementation of the overall curriculum of the student monthly meetings, helps with the two major fundraising events, oversees the agency's budget, and manages the day to day financials.

"My favorite part of the job is working with the students and families. Every student is so unique and brings something special to our organization," she said. "I also love the fact that the organization is changing and growing so much – which means we will be able to serve more and more youth in our community."

Jessica was born and raised in nearby Neola, Iowa. She graduated from Northwest Missouri State University with a Bachelor's degree in Child and Family Studies and a minor in Psychology.

"I have worked with at-risk youth since I received my degree," she said. "I believe in this organization's mission and was attracted to the job by the diversity of students and families that it serves."

Jessica married her high school sweetheart, Justin. They have one son, four-year-old Kaden and are expecting a baby girl in November.

Jayna Berens



Jayna Berens is one of the newest members of the All Our Kids staff. On the job since mid-June, she said it didn't take long for her to realize that she had found something special.

"I was immediately attracted to the mission of All Our Kids. The staff members truly believe in the work that they do, and they really care about the students they serve," she said. "I wanted to be a part of that."

As the Bilingual Program Assistant, Jayna works with our Spanish-speaking families in South Omaha – coordinating and leading monthly mentor and student activities, assisting in case management and supporting improved communication.

"This job gives me an opportunity to work with two populations that I care very much about – the Hispanic population and the adolescent population," she said. "I hope I can

serve our students well and help them reach their goals. I know how important mentoring relationships can be for young people. I would love to see more people in the Omaha community offer their time as mentors with All Our Kids and see our wonderful volunteer group continue to grow."

A native of Sioux City, Iowa, Jayna graduated from Briar Cliff University with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and minors in Spanish, Psychology and Sociology. She is currently working on her Master's degree in Social Work at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In her spare time, she enjoys running, biking, playing soccer, gardening, camping, and boating.

Sarah Lamprecht



Sarah Lamprecht has been the Recruitment Coordinator at All Our Kids since December 2006 – a position that allows her to use her degree in marketing and fulfill her passion for human service.

"My favorite part of the job is working with people who want to make a difference," she said. "We have some of the greatest mentors who dedicate so much time to this program. It is so rewarding to see the relationships that develop between mentors and mentees."

Sarah is responsible for maintaining the mentoring program by recruiting community mentors. She also develops, implements, and manages the program criteria.

"I want the students to understand the importance of education and know that college IS an option for them," she said. "And I hope the mentors will find personal growth in the experience and learn to empower their student to be the best citizen possible."

A graduate of Midland Lutheran College, Sarah is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Public Administration – Non-Profit Management at the University of Nebraska Omaha. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, traveling, artistic performances and spending time with her family.

Tiffany Jones



The opportunity to impact the lives of young people is what brought Tiffany Jones to All Our Kids. A Program Assistant since March 2006, Tiffany helps coordinate and lead mentor-student meetings and activities.

"I secure transportation for students and arrange for classroom space. I also prepare

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meeting agendas, present the appropriate curriculum, prepare handouts and draft letters to students, parents and school administrators," she said.

Tiffany loves to interact with the students and says getting to know them is her favorite part of her job.

"I love to hear about their goals and their vision for the future," she said. "I believe we have tapped into something great and I enjoy helping these students prepare for their future endeavors."

Tiffany is a graduate of Papillion LaVista High School and the University of Nebraska Omaha, where she was a member of the 2001 NCAA Division II National Champion Softball Team.

Lori Lundholm



"I kind of have my hand in a lot of cookie jars." That's how Lori Lundholm describes her job at All Our Kids.

As Administrative Assistant, her responsibilities are many and include assisting with fundraising events and student activities, assisting with grant applications, creating mailings, and ordering supplies.

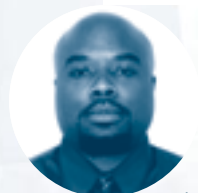
"I strive to make sure the All Our Kids office runs as smoothly as possible," she said. "I like to be involved in a lot of projects, because it gives me an opportunity to learn more about the functions of each area of the agency."

Lori is a graduate of Gross Catholic High School and the University of Nebraska Omaha. She joined the All Our Kids staff in November 2006.

"My favorite part of the job is the people I get to work with every day," she said. "Everyone has such a giving spirit and their own unique way of contributing to the agency. I truly believe organizations like All Our Kids have the power to make a difference in this world, and I feel so lucky to be a part of that."

Married for two years, Lori and her husband, Bob, enjoy traveling, fishing and spending time outdoors.

Phillip Burrell



Phillip Burrell soon will celebrate his one-year anniversary with All Our Kids. As a Program Assistant, he's been involved with a lot of activities over the past twelve months and

says interacting with the students is his favorite part of the job.

"The opportunity to have a positive impact on kids that are surrounded by negative influences is what attracted me to this job," he said. "It's great to be involved with the students – especially in a casual setting, because it allows me to have more fun with them."

Phillip's duties include coordinating and leading student/mentor meetings and activities; maintaining databases for students, mentors and school administrators; assisting in the development, implementation and monitoring of individual youth academic and personal growth plans; and contributing to the overall team effort.

A native Omahan, Phillip graduated from Central High School and the University of Nebraska Omaha with a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration. He is proud of the many contributions that All Our Kids continues to make in his home town.

"All Our Kids is growing rapidly and will soon be able to touch a larger population – someday becoming a household name. I think this program will eventually be in all of the elementary schools in Omaha, which will allow us to help more students."

Julie Reisbig



As Development Coordinator, Julie Reisbig is responsible for coordinating the agency's two big fundraisers – the VINNebraska Wine Event and the ConAgra Foods Race for the Kids.

"I enjoy watching the fundraisers come together, knowing that our hard work does pay off and that our program is benefiting from the funds that are raised," she said. "I also love being able to see the impact of our program first hand when I get to interact with the students."

Born and raised in Omaha, Reisbig graduated from Marian High School and Creighton University. She began her career at All Our Kids nearly two years ago and worked as the Development Assistant until she was promoted to Development Coordinator late last year. She believes that All Our Kids will continue to grow and broaden its reach to impact more students in the community.

"The positive relationships that are formed have a direct and lasting impact on our students' lives," she said.

Myriam Molina



Bilingual Program Coordinator Myriam Molina joined the All Our Kids staff just a few months ago.

"I primarily work in the South Omaha area," she said. "I plan meetings, assist with mailings and work with liaisons."

A native of Mexico City, Mexico, Molina has lived in Omaha for about nine years. She said she took the job with All Our Kids because she wanted to make a difference in the lives of young people.

"The impact in our community is huge," she said. "The staff does a great job, and we have exciting plans to expand our services into other areas of Omaha, such as the Hispanic community."

Myriam and her husband Andres have two daughters, five-year-old Alyssa and seven-year-old Sarah. In her spare time she likes to work out and swim with her daughters.

Melissa Mayo



Melissa Mayo has been with All Our Kids for more than four years – initially as Program Coordinator and currently as Program Manager.

"The students make this job interesting. They all have different personalities, interests and strengths – so it's fun to get to know each one of them," she said. "I like working with our team to dream up creative activities and fun field trips for our students."

Mayo believes the organization will continue to grow and serve more students. She said its impact in the community can be attributed to the students' success.

"Everything stems from the students' success," she said. "Their commitment to pursuing their dreams and achieving their academic goals not only has an impact in their lives – but in the lives of their families, peers and neighborhoods."

After graduating from Elkhorn High School, Mayo earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska Omaha. She has a two-year-old son, Kameron.