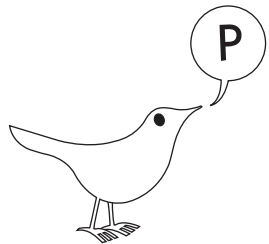


2008-2009 Sixpence Annual Report

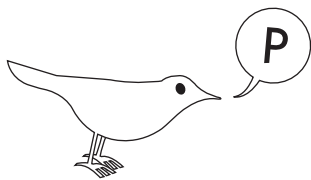
They taught me things about children that I didn't know because I am a first-time mother.

P is for **Parent**



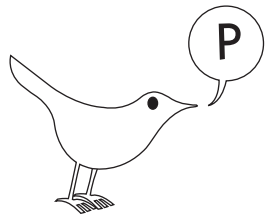
We get to interact one-on-one and they give us ideas about how we can become better parents.

P is for **Potential**



I want a better future for my child.

P is for **Possibility**



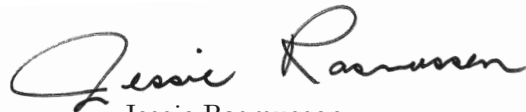
Dear Friend,

More than one-third of Nebraska's infants and toddlers – nearly 26,000 – are at risk of starting school behind their peers and never catching up. Their families lack the resources to consistently provide the critical, early experiences that we know prepare little ones to learn and grow.

Through the power of partnerships – between public and private funders, between the Nebraska Departments of Education and Health and Human Services, and between the state and local levels – Sixpence was created to put highly effective early care and learning opportunities within reach of our youngest and most vulnerable children.

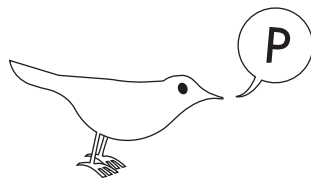
In 2008-2009, Sixpence granted over \$1.7 million to programs in 11 communities statewide. We've only just begun to sing a song of Sixpence and already shifted the odds in favor of hundreds of young lives toward a better opportunity for success.

Imagine the volume we'll reach in years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessie Rasmussen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jessie" and last name "Rasmussen" clearly distinguishable.

Jessie Rasmussen
Chair, Board of Trustees

P is for **Partnership**



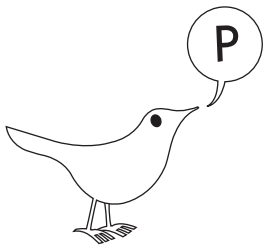
At the core of Sixpence lies the philosophy that the years from birth to three are the most critical to a child's future success. If we miss this window of time, we can't go back.

This philosophy translates high quality standards into measurable outcomes. By investing in rigorous evaluation of the Sixpence programs, the trustees ensure accountability and a wise use of the dollars with which they have been entrusted.

An additional commitment to excellence is the dedicated one-on-one support offered to grantees – all in an effort to promote greater accountability.

Sixpence itself is in its infancy. By matching a core philosophy with performance, Sixpence maximizes the return of Nebraska's investment in its youngest citizens.

P is for **Philosophy**



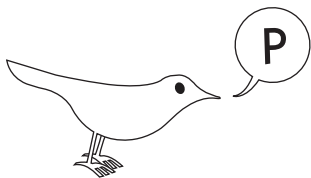
High quality early care and learning programs are proven to have lasting impact on children's lives. Improving quality and increasing access to quality services significantly closes the gap that puts an impoverished child an average of 18 months behind his more affluent peers by age four.

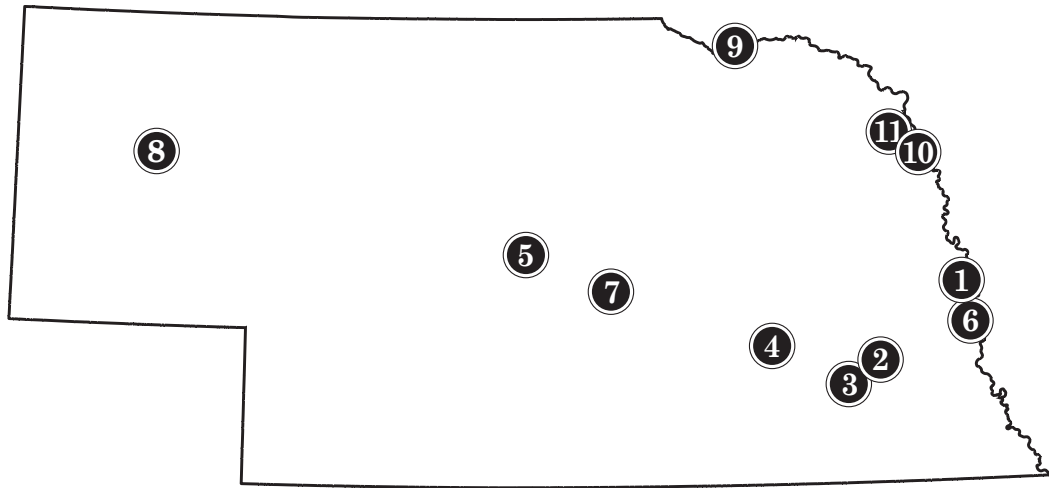
In its first year, Sixpence granted \$1.7 million to programs that served hundreds of children facing a range of economic, educational and societal risk factors. Sixpence based its funding upon careful evaluation of programs and services modeling the best practices in effective early care and learning.

In 2009, Sixpence provided assessments and technical advice to grantees so home visitation programs and center-based services were better equipped to shape and sustain safe, responsive and stimulating environments for children. First year results have already shown distinct improvements in the cognitive and emotional quality of parent-child interactions among participating families – a critical basis for future learning.

For Sixpence, this year was a high note, a successful beginning as a funder and partner in creating access to high quality early experiences for a growing number of children at risk in Nebraska.

P is for **Progress**





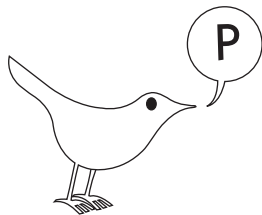
2008-2009

Sixpence Grantees

1. Omaha (2 grants)
2. Lincoln (2 grants)
3. Crete
4. York
5. Broken Bow
6. Plattsmouth
7. Loup City
8. Alliance
9. Santee
10. Umon' Hon Nation
11. Walthill

P is for **Place**

At Molly's house, words were used differently than in other homes. Unlike most four-year-olds, she did not hear playful rhymes or pretty melodies. There were not any bedtime nursery rhymes like "Hey Diddle Diddle." There were no innocent verses in which the dish ran away with the spoon. All she heard was repetitious, ugly, angry, scary noise. At Molly's house, words were used to harm.



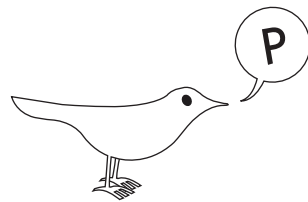
In October 2008, a family consultant in partnership with Sixpence began working with Molly and her family. Initially, Molly's mother spent most of the home visits in silence or in another room. It soon became apparent that Molly's environment was working against her development.

In addition to speech and language delays, Molly was having difficulty with basic motor skills. Poor vision in one eye led to trouble with her coordination, causing her to trip and run into objects. But in the next months, things slowly began to shift in Molly's favor.

Working closely with their family consultant, Molly's mom learned new ways to bond with her daughter. Molly's approaching blindness was halted through treatments from an eye specialist. Most importantly, Molly's mom left her abusive relationship with Molly's father.

Today, Molly lives in a safe, nurturing home. The change is big. Molly has moved from one-syllable sounds to words and phrases. Molly's mom guides and shows affection for Molly in a way that was nonexistent a year ago. Now, there is laughter and fun. They have built a foundation for future learning to help Molly reach new heights, so her potential is indeed "over the moon."

P is for **Purpose**



Sixpence is a collaboration of the Nebraska Department of Education, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and private investors.

Sixpence is governed by the Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment Fund Board of Trustees.

Nebraska Department of Education

Dr. Doug Christensen, Commissioner (2008)

Dr. Roger Breed, Commissioner (2009)

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Chris Peterson, Chief Executive Officer (2008)

Kerry Winterer, Chief Executive Officer (2009)

University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Dr. Helen Raikes, Professor of Child, Youth, and Family Studies

Buffett Early Childhood Fund

Jessie Rasmussen, Vice President

University of Nebraska–Omaha

Melvin Clancy, Director, Project Achieve

Head Start Child and Family Development Program, Inc.

Beth Schuler, Assistant Executive Director

P is for **People**

Public/Private Partnership

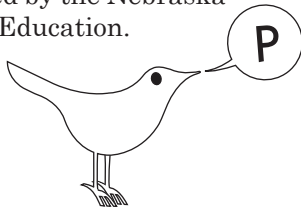


\$20 million from the private sector is combined with a \$40 million state investment. The earnings of this combined fund represent the grant awards that are distributed to community programs throughout the state. As of December 2009, \$14,255,000 of the \$20 M has been pledged by the private sector.

Sixpence Early Learning Fund



The Nebraska Early Childhood Education Endowment Fund Board of Trustees, representing both public and private interests, oversees the administration of the Sixpence early learning fund through Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, the private provider selected by the Nebraska Department of Education.



Statewide Competitive Grant



Grants are awarded to school districts in partnership with community-based programs who meet the quality standards defined by the Board of Trustees.

Grant recipients must match 100% of the total program costs through existing state and federal funds. Local public school and private contributions can be used to supply the match.

Children and Families Served



Grants are used to provide services to children birth to three and their families who face an array of risk factors.

These risk factors include premature birth and low child birth rate, teenage and single parenthood, low levels of parental education, low family income and homes where English is spoken as a second language.

Technical Assistance and Evaluation

To ensure accountability, dedicated one-on-one support is provided so high quality standards are maintained. Grantees work with an outside evaluator to measure outcomes using the most comprehensive tracking processes of their kind in the state.

Accountability is critical to Sixpence. Continued funding is contingent upon maintaining high standards and availability of grant funds.

P is for **Process**

Sixpence is an innovative public-private partnership seeking to raise the bar for highly effective early care and education for Nebraska's youngest and most vulnerable children.

Sixpence is administered by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 200, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508, 402.476.9401.

SingaSongofSixpence.org – a pocket full for life.



P is for **Pocket**

