



Raising achievement and closing the gaps for ALL students.

Tip-Off

December 8, 2020

Oh, Baby — It's Getting Cold Outside!

In this Time of Pandemic, Many Children Aren't Properly Clothed for Winter's Cold

The 'thank you' letters from NSEA members are always moving. Letters from those who are assisted by NSEA's Children's Fund are even more so.

For instance, student council members from a mid-sized high school sent a note of thanks after the Children's Fund answered a request for support of the school backpack supply program.

"The High School Student Council would like to thank you for supporting the Back 2 School Backpack Supply Project. We were able to provide supplies to over 200 students. This is made possible by your generous donation."

The truly touching part of the letter was the set of 14 personal signatures from the members of the student council.

Such testimonials indicate the ability of the NSEA Children's Fund to make a difference.

Every NSEA member knows of children in heartbreaking situations: children who wear thin jackets to school in cold weather because they have nothing else; students who get decent meals only when school is in session; students who can't see the front of the classroom because they need eyeglasses. Or, in the case of the request outlined in this letter, students in need of basic supplies with which to start the school year.

Teachers often use their own dollars to help in these situations, knowing they can't possibly help every child. For that reason, NSEA created the Children's Fund, and continues to work to raise money for that Fund.

Since 1994, donations to the Children's Fund have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars to help children in need. In the past two years alone, the Children's Fund has provided nearly \$100,000 in relief.

Contributions to the NSEA Children's Fund come from teachers and businesses and fund-raisers across the state — and it's important to note that every penny contributed goes to help children. NSEA picks up all the administrative expenses.

To receive funding to help a student, there is no red tape, no form for teachers to fill out.

Simply contact the NSEA at 1-800-742-0047 and ask for Sally Bodtke. Or e-mail her at: sally.bodtke@nsea.org



Negotiations Update

Are you aware of how our negotiations with OPS are going right now? If not, be sure to check out the videos of the negotiation's sessions. A link is emailed to you after each session, though the link stays the same from session to session. You will need your NSEA member number to log in (find it on the mailing label on your copy of the NSEA Voice or contact the office).

NGEN Event

NGEN Event – If you're within your first 7 years of teaching, join others new to the field for a free virtual cocktail class and more on January 14th at 5:30!



Mental Health Visits Covered by BCBS Plan in 2021-22

Member Cost Share Will be Eliminated

Along with the announcement last month of the Educators Health Alliance 2021-22 school year premium rates for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska (BCBSNE), was an important note regarding an enhancement for non-HSA PPO plans — a note that bears repeating with emphasis: Member cost sharing for visits to counselors and psychiatrists will be eliminated as of Sept. 1, 2021.

Sheri Jablonski, chair of the Educators Health Alliance Board of Directors that manages the BCBSNE health care plan used by most Nebraska school districts, explained further what that means: after Sept. 1, 2021, the plan will cover at 100 percent office visits and costs for visits with counselors and psychiatrists for individual, group, family and marriage counseling needs.

Jablonski, who is NSEA's associate executive director and comptroller, said the enhancement will be of great benefit to members.

"Particularly as we begin to come out of this pandemic situation, it will be a real value to have these services covered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield," she said.

The EHA is a non-profit corporation created to procure quality, affordable health care insurance for Nebraska education employees. The rates set by the EHA are for the BCBSNE plan used by more than 400 public school districts and affiliates in Nebraska. The plan is governed by a 12-member board representing the NSEA, the Nebraska Association of School Boards and the Nebraska Council of School Administrators.



NSEA Webinars

Upcoming sessions:

- Thursday, December 10, 2020 • 5:30 PM
NEA Member Benefits Overview
- Tuesday, January 12, 2021 • 6 PM
NEA Member Benefits Overview
- Thursday, January 14, 2021 • 5:00 PM
Charting the Course
- Thursday, January 28, 2021 • 5:30 PM
Women and Retirement

To register for the webinar and others that are being planned, please go to the following link.

<https://www.nsea.org/NewEdLearn>

Transfer Window/Process

The application for a transfer is now open and will close on January 18th, 2021. You should have received an email for Human Resource that laid out all the specifics to apply. **ALL CURRENT TEACHERS REGARDLESS OF TENURE STATUS** in the Omaha Public Schools are eligible to request a transfer with the following exceptions: Teachers currently on an HR approved plan of assistance, informal or formal, are not eligible to transfer. This applies at the time of application AND should a teacher be placed on a plan at any time during the transfer window before accepting an offer to another school.

The transfer window opens January 19th and closes on April 16, 2021.

If you have questions about the process you will need to contact HR.

Committee Corner

Our committees are up and running and need members to become active and serve. All committees are scheduled at 4:45 unless noted otherwise. Contact Lorrie Krejci at lorrie.krejci@nsea.org to get the Zoom link.



MEMBERSHIP Meeting
Tuesday, January 5
4:45pm

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 6
4:45pm

Comp and Benefits Meeting
Wednesday, January 13
4:45pm

Instructional Advocacy
Tuesday, January 19
4:45pm

Governance Meeting
Wednesday, January 20
4:45pm

EMAC Meeting
Thursday, January 21
4:45pm

Public Community Relations
Tuesday, January 26
4:45pm

PACE Meeting
Thursday, January 28
4:45pm

OEA Tip-Off

The OEA Tip-Off is a bi-monthly publication printed for members of the Omaha Education Association.

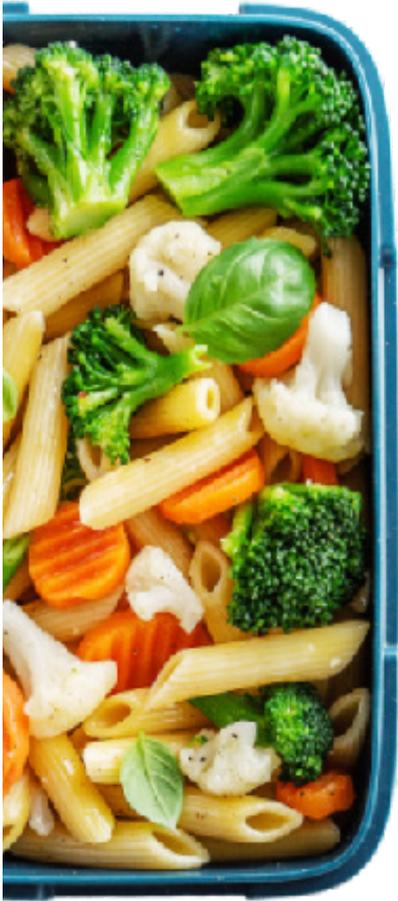
Direct Inquiries to:

Robert Miller
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402-346-0400

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Communications Specialist
sue.perkins@nsea.org

Visit us on the web at:
www.omahaoea.org

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF



This service provides emergency response to urgent community needs for food relief. No More Empty Pots offers immediate food support for anyone experiencing heightened food insecurity, or living under quarantine due to COVID-19.

Feeding Our Neighbors provides weekly deliveries of plant based, locally sourced, nutritious meals for the whole household. Meals are ready-to-eat in individual, microwavable and oven safe trays.

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO SIGN UP



Complete the registration form online at bit.ly/nmepfon



Call No More Empty Pots at 402.690.0888 to register over the phone

Need a translator? Text the above number to let us know!

DELIVERY INFORMATION

After you register, we will let you know when to expect your first meals. We offer contactless delivery to your home on Fridays and Saturdays or curbside pickup at 8501 N 30th St Fridays 8:00-10:00am and Saturdays 12:00-2:00pm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.nmepomaha.org, call 402.690.0888 or email Emily at communityharvest@nmepomaha.org.





COMMUNITY HARVEST

No More Empty Pots food distribution programs improve community food-related knowledge and self-sufficiency by providing healthy prepared meals, local produce through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's), and educational resources and activities. The program expands markets for local producers by purchasing local produce from farmers and reduces food waste by transforming gleaned and rescued food.

PACKAGED & PREPARED MEALS

Receive prepared, packaged meals that are nutritious, delicious, fast, easy and economical for individuals and families. The meals are plant-based and utilize local, seasonal produce. Volunteers, Culinary Workforce Training Program students and the No More Empty Pots food distribution team work together to prepare, package and distribute the meals.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a great way to get access to affordable local, seasonal, fresh and healthy raw produce. Each week, receive a share of what's available from local producers. Add this on to your prepared meal order or receive it as a stand alone service.

Register for prepared meals and/or a CSA box at bit.ly/chmeals

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS | EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF

This service provides emergency response to urgent community needs for food relief. No More Empty Pots partners with local producers, businesses, community organizations and volunteers to meet the demand with available resources. If you or someone you know is in need of immediate food support, complete the Feeding Our Neighbors registration form at bit.ly/nmepfon.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.nmepomaha.org, call 402.690.0888 or email Emily at communityharvest@nmepomaha.org.



Omaha Community Foundation
Good grows here.

