

# History of CEDARS



CEDARS



1947–CEDARS began with the dream of two caring, energetic individuals. Reverend Charles and Mrs. Alberta Danner acted on their dream by contacting police and juvenile authorities requesting that children in chaotic, unstable family situations be brought into their home. They started with one boy and before long, they had a new family of 22 children.



1949–CEDARS Home for Children incorporated, and the children moved their home to a farm on East Pioneers Blvd., purchased with the help of a number of community organizations.

1952–In short time this extended family outgrew the farmhouse and kicked off a “building fund drive” to raise money for a new CEDARS Home. Construction began early in 1953 and within a year, the children moved into their new three-story brick home.

1971–Fellow Lincoln resident James Arnot began pursuing his dream of giving homeless teenagers a safe refuge. He organized the Youth Service Bureau, under the umbrella of the YMCA, to focus on helping homeless, abused, and neglected teens. Eventually, Arnot formed Youth Service System (YSS), a non-profit agency designed to coordinate services and provide assistance to teens and their families.

1981–YSS had grown from just two office spaces and a \$66,000 grant, to a staff of 40 with a budget of \$395,777. They operated the Freeway Station Emergency Shelter and two residential group homes.

1983–YSS responded to another need in the community by opening a home for teen girls. As it does today, the girls home works with teen girls on life skills and independent living skills.

1988–Growth continued as Family Support Services was added to CEDARS Home.

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1993–Street Outreach Services (SOS) was developed. By literally placing staff on the streets, YSS was now able to connect with and help Lincoln’s homeless youth.



1995–A Crisis Nursery Emergency Shelter for children from birth through 6 years of age was opened.



1996–CEDARS celebrated 50 years of helping children in need and added the Foster Care program. YSS celebrated 25 years of helping teens. The two organizations merged together in service to children, youth and their families, forming CEDARS Youth Services.



1997–At the request of the Lincoln City and County Attorney Offices, Juvenile Diversion and Teen Court programs were added.



2000–CEDARS Bridges Transitional Living Program was put into action, renovations were made to the original CEDARS Home.



2001–CEDARS assumed management of Carol Yoakum ECDC.



2002–Construction began on CEDARS Northbridge Community Center in Lincoln. During this time, Crisis Nursery became one with CEDARS Home Emergency Shelter.



2004–CEDARS Northbridge Community Center opened offering services to Lincoln’s North 27th Street District, and giving a home to one of CEDARS ECDCs.



2005–CEDARS was awarded the first ever Better Business Bureau Integrity Award in the nonprofit category.



2010–CEDARS concluded a major capital fund drive to build a new shelter for youth ages 12-19. The shelter sits on the Pioneers property as a wing off the back of the original CEDARS Home. The historic shelter building was renovated to serve as home base for CEDARS Administrative Offices.

