

Grant money to improve Social Services training

By Catherine Blalock
Staff Reporter

Training employees for the Nebraska Department of Social Services will now be easier.

A \$4.01 million dollar federal grant has been awarded to the Department of Social Services and University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Center on Children, Families and the Law.

Federal restrictions require the whole grant be spent on training programs that assist workers in the Social Services area.

The renewable grant will be distributed over a three-year period and will be used to improve training programs for child protection workers and those trained to work with the entire family, Brian Wilcox, Director of the Center for Children, Families and the Law said.

Plans are already in motion to re-apply for the grant in 1998, he said.

"We have been trained in child development and to help people dealing with these fairly difficult situations," Wilcox said.

UNL has been training workers for about the last six years, he said. The grant will now pave the way for UNL to evaluate the types of training being used and change it to fit the needs of the community that social workers help, Wilcox said.

Research will be done to determine the skills needed to be a good social worker, he said.

"While child welfare services are under fire across the country, Nebraska's Department of Social Services is continually taking steps to

make their services both cutting edge and high quality," Wilcox said.

Kathie Ostermann, public information officer with the Nebraska Department of Social Services, said the department investigates all different calls dealing with children.

Each call is evaluated by a questionnaire developed to tell whether a child is in danger or not, she said.

A call about a child being kept up by their parents until 11:00 p.m. would not be investigated. But a call about children not being watched, or riding bicycles with no lights or reflectors around midnight would be investigated, she said.

Social Services receives calls from schools, other relatives, day-care providers and some children call themselves to report that they have been a victim of child abuse.

Out of the number of cases investigated for 1994, 1,362 were physical abuse, 2,871 were child neglect and 520 were sexual assaults. These numbers are down 4 percent from 1993 to 1994.

Children who are taken away from their families are put into a variety of protective places. From July 1, 1994 to June 30, 1995, 4,231 children were put in protective services.

The largest number were placed in foster care while others were placed with other family members, group homes and adoptive families.

Workers who work with children, families and all people involved in these situation needed to be trained well, Osterman said. The UNL center has helped a great deal with their knowledge of dealing with these situations, she said.



Tanna Kinnaman/DN

Painting miniature replicas of Lincoln buildings is a popular July Jamm activity for adults and children. From left are Ben Herbers, 8, Dave Herbers, Alex Russell, 4, and June Russell.

PAPER PRODUCTS PRICE BREAKS

SPIRAL NOTEBOOK	2/\$1.00
80 Count Single Subject	\$1.49 Value
FILLER PAPER	\$1.00
200 Count College Ruled	\$2.95 Value
PORTFOLIO	\$.22
Assorted Imprinted Colors	\$.39 Value
SPIRAL NOTEBOOK	\$.88
100 Count With Pocket	\$ 2.59 Value
LEGAL PAD	2/ \$1.00
Assorted Colors	\$ 1.19 Value

PRICES GOOD WHILE QUANTITIES LAST. SOME PRODUCTS NOT AVAILABLE AT BOTH STORES.



Lower Level
Nebraska Union

Garden Level
East Union

THURSDAY MADNESS



\$2 Long Island Iced Teas
every Thursday
11am-1am



20¢/ea Chicken Wings
Order all the wings you
can eat. (In orders of 10. In
lounge only.) All day! All night!

48th & O



Receive 10 oz
of Redken Shampoo

FREE

with a Women's Cut & Style for \$7⁰⁰

or

Perm, Cut & Style starting at \$27⁰⁰

College of Hair Design

11TH & M ST. • BARBERING • COSMETOLOGY • 474-4244

Expires September 30, 1995