

The mission of Heartland Family Service is to strengthen individuals, families, and communities through advocacy, education, counseling, and support services.



Dear Friends,

What would our community look like if everyone had the ability to bring their vision to life? What if everyone was equipped with the tools necessary to be successful in their life's journey? Thousands of people in our community, like **Melissa**, crave a path to well-being, but they rarely know how to voice their cries for help – until they connect with Heartland Family Service.

With the guidance and support of the caring professionals at **Heartland Family Service**, **Melissa** built a new life for herself and her children.

We help many people walk many paths. We are here to empower our clients with options when they have had none for too long. Our network of services, advocacy, and support share a common goal: helping to break cycles of barriers so everyone can.

Your belief in **Heartland Family Service** as a valuable community asset helped us do some great work. In fact, last year alone, nearly 153,000 men, women, and children in our community were helped by **Heartland Family Service**.

By lending your financial support and sharing your passion for the success of those who feel defeated, need guidance, or feel hopeless, you will help us create change.

Please send your donation today to strengthen services that are so urgently needed to help people change their lives. Your annual gift will ensure these life-affirming services are sustainable and easily accessible for children and families who truly need that extra support to be successful.

We cannot do what we do without you. We invite you to share our vision of a stronger community – because a world where everyone can needs everyone's unflinching support.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact **Chief Development Officer Marzia Shields** at (402) 552-7443 or [MShields@HeartlandFamilyService.org](mailto:MShields@HeartlandFamilyService.org).

Thank you for investing in us today to change tomorrow.

With Warm Regards,

John Jeanetta, President & CEO

Your generous donation will help create well-being, safety, and hope for children and families in need.

Please donate today at [HeartlandFamilyService.org](https://HeartlandFamilyService.org)



Housing, Safety, & Community Well-Being



Counseling & Prevention



Helping families in need, since 1875.

Strong communities.

So everyone can. HEARTLAND family service

2101 S. 42nd Street, Omaha, NE 68105



So everyone can. HEARTLAND family service



Thank you for considering  
an investment in Heartland  
Family Service. I hope  
you see from Melissa's  
story that your kind gift  
makes a huge difference  
for people in our community.

If you'd like to learn more  
about how you can help,  
call me at 402-552-7443.  
marzia

Please Donate Safely Online Today!  
[HeartlandFamilyService.org](https://HeartlandFamilyService.org)



**Marzia Puccioni Shields**  
Chief Development Officer  
MS Shields@HeartlandFamilyService.org  
(402) 552-7443

SCAN TO DONATE



# Melissa Can.

In her early teenage years, Melissa started hanging out with the wrong crowd, which resulted in her smoking marijuana and drinking. That turned into doing meth. She ended up in a group home, but that didn't last long.



Melissa ran away and eventually ended up in a girls youth rehabilitation center. After getting out, she attended college and got a full time job. Life changed at the age of 20 when Melissa reverted back to her old ways and stole a car. She was sentenced to a felony, ended up in jail and, upon her release, the cycle of drug use continued.

At age 34, Melissa had five children ages 19 months to age 11. She was living with the father of her two youngest children and over the next four years her situation turned out to be a vicious cycle of using drugs, sobriety, being evicted, and then homelessness.

Melissa's family had been helping her over the years but decided they would no longer provide that help. They did agree to care for her children while she waited to get into Heartland Family Service Family Works in Nebraska.

Family Works is a long-term residential substance abuse and mental health service in Iowa and Nebraska for women with children. It preserves and strengthens the mother-child attachment while providing housing, treatment, therapy, and support for both the mother and children.

Melissa was placed within a month and was given an apartment large enough for herself and her children.

Melissa says Family Works saved her life as she would not have gone to treatment without her children.

She says the best part was the support and hope given by staff as they wanted her sobriety as much as she did. Each service helped her in a specific way and all contributed to her success.

Her older children worked with a child and family therapist to overcome the trauma they experienced. That helped make their family whole again.

Melissa graduated from Family Works six months later. The father of her two youngest children found treatment and they were re-united.

She sought assistance through Family Works and Permanent Supportive Housing services to find a home for her family. Now, she is doing well and living independently with her children and boyfriend.

Melissa wants to stay connected with Family Works and eventually get a job to help advocate for others in similar situations. Now, Melissa Can.