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**JUNE 2025** 



# Congratulations, Graduates!

Celebrating our Class of 2025

# "I want to be a mentor, a role model - just like they were for me." - Carlos Reyes-Zuniga 2025 Omaha South Graduate

With pride and admiration, we celebrated 108 graduates from both high school and postsecondary programs at the UNO Scott Conference Center this May. Joined by families, friends, mentors, and community supporters, we recognized a class whose determination and grit brought them to this milestone moment. Their paths were not always easy—but through perseverance, hard work, and the guidance of those who believed in them, they made it.

These graduates are the living proof of our mission in action—the result of years of mentorship, academic support, and belief in their potential. Student speakers shared heartfelt reflections on their journeys, honoring those who helped shape their success and acknowledging how proud their younger selves would be. This class embodies what it means to dream big and stay the course—and we can't wait to see where they go next.

The celebration was more than a ceremony; it was a powerful reminder of what's possible when students are surrounded by a community that shows up, supports, and believes in them.

The Class of 2025 has left its mark-and their futures are only just beginning.

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108 remarkable graduates—rising leaders, future entrepreneurs, and changemakers—took their first step into their futures at our annual Graduation Celebration. The room overflowed with emotion as families, friends, and community members came together to honor a class defined by persistence, purpose, and heart.

Our students have poured themselves into their journeys, balancing academics, personal growth, and long-term dreams. Now, they're looking ahead with a commitment to lead and to give back. 2025 graduate Carlos said it best, "I want to be a mentor, a role model — just like they were for me." Their dedication to lifting others is a true testament to the impact of the P4K community.

These students are more than graduates—they are the outcome of the P4K mission in action.

They represent everything we stand for.

During the celebration, we were inspired by student speakers who reflected on their paths—sharing gratitude for those who believed in them and pride in how far they've come. It was a powerful reminder that our students are not only reaching milestones but also rewriting what success looks like for future generations.

This year, we were proud to award 11 scholarships to more than 60 high school graduates, providing financial support as they step into their postsecondary journey. Whether heading into a 2 or 4 year program, trade programs, or careers, these students are equipped with the confidence, skills, and resilience to take on whatever comes next.

As an organization, we are honored to be a contributing part of their stories. The Class of 2025 has inspired us with their strength and determination—and we can't wait to see the incredible impact they will make in the world.

# SWING 4 KIDS MONDAY JULY 28, 2025 TIBURON GOLF COURSE 10302 S. 168TH ST | OMAHA, NE 68136 For more information, contact Tam Webb at twebb@p4k.org. Register Today!

#### **CEO's Corner**

#### A Letter To You

Friends,

As we celebrated the incredible accomplishments of the Class of 2025, I was reminded of the strength and generosity of the community that surrounds our students. Your support - during moments of celebration and times of uncertainty, continues to fuel our mission and uplift the young people we serve.

This year also brought a significant challenge. Due to federal funding changes, our AmeriCorps program - an essential part of our postsecondary support system - received a devastating blow, gutting the program. AmeriCorps members played such critical roles as success coaches and mentors and they were trusted guides helping students navigate college, career, and life. Without this support, the future of our postsecondary program is at risk and services could be limited.

Despite this, our commitment to every student remains unwavering. We are determined to find new ways to ensure they continue to receive the programming, mentoring, and guidance they deserve—but we can't do it alone.

# Your continued support is more critical than ever.

Thank you for believing in our mission, in our students, and in what we can achieve together. Because of you, their next steps are still within reach.



**Debbie Denbeck** 

President/CEO

# What Is a Donor Advised Fund?



Looking for a smart, impactful way to give back? A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) might be the perfect solution. These giving accounts allow you to support causes you care about—like Omaha's youth—while maximizing tax benefits.

A Donor Advised Fund is a simple, flexible, and tax-efficient way to give to charitable organizations. You contribute cash, stocks, or other assets to a DAF and receive an immediate tax deduction. From there, you recommend grants from your fund over time to nonprofits of your choice—like Partnership 4 Kids. DAFs are especially useful for donors who want to:

- Make a large charitable contribution now and distribute the funds over time
- Simplify year-end giving
- Maximize the impact of appreciated assets
- Create a family legacy of giving

# Invest in Their Future, Today

When you give to P4K through a Donor Advised Fund, you're doing more than giving financially—you're investing in the resilience, talent, and future of the next generation. With P4K as your partner, you can be sure your gift is going directly toward creating lifelong success for our students.

To learn more about giving through your Donor Advised Fund, or to notify us of a grant recommendation, contact:

Cheryl Murray Kerst, Development Director at cmurray@p4k.org or 402-930-3082.

Together, we can build a stronger, brighter future for Omaha's youth.



# A Record-Breaking Night!

Over \$800,000 for Omaha Youth

On behalf of everyone at Partnership 4 Kids, we're proud to share that Hops & Grapes 2025 was our most successful event yet—raising more than \$800,000 to support the futures of Omaha's youth. This record-breaking achievement is a testament to the power of community and the shared belief that every young person deserves the opportunity to succeed.

The success of this year's event would not have been possible without the extraordinary leadership of our Event Chairs, Nicole and Derek Leathers, and our Honorary Chairs, Lori and David Scott.

Their vision, energy, and unwavering support brought momentum and meaning to every aspect of the evening. We are also deeply grateful to our Executive Leadership Team members for their continued guidance and to our incredible staff, whose tireless dedication and behind-the-scenes efforts made every detail come together seamlessly. We extend our heartfelt thanks to every donor, sponsor, attendee, and volunteer who helped make this night one to remember.

Your generosity directly impacts the students we serve—from kindergarten through college and beyond—by providing mentorship, academic support, goal-setting, and career readiness programming.

Because of you, more than 2,400 students in our community have the tools and encouragement they need to pursue the future they deserve.

Thank you for believing in our mission and helping us build a stronger, more equitable Omaha, one student at a time.





To view & download event photos, scan the QR code!



### **Goal Achievement Honors**

#### Celebrating Determination and Dedication

This spring, we proudly honored over 100 outstanding 5th and 6th grade students at our annual Goal Achievement Honors celebration! These students - representing five Omaha elementary schools - earned their spot by achieving at least 75% of their reading and life skill goals and maintaining strong attendance throughout the year.

Each honoree was called to the stage, shook the hands of P4K staff, board members and community supporters, and received a trophy for their achievements! Students were also hand selected from each school, by their fellow classmates to serve as honorary speakers, sharing how P4K has shaped their confidence, inspired their goals, and helped them prepare for what's next.

We also recognized several individuals and partners who go above and beyond to support our students:

- Star Mentor Advocate of the Year: FNBO (below, top left)
- Mentor of the Year: Zach Arter (below, top right)
- Peer Mentor of the Year: Leonna Blake (below, bottom left)
- Goal Buddy of the Year: Kendra Cain (not pictured)
- Book Buddy of the Year: Sue Mullin (below, bottom right)

Thank you to all who make this celebration possible. Together, we're building a community of confident, goal-driven future leaders.









# **Change Lives, Today!**



- Become a Mentor
- Be A Book or Goal Buddy

Scan the QR code or visit p4k.org/volunteer to learn more!

#### Donate. Empower. Repeat.

Become a monthly donor for as little as \$10 and help empower the next generation of leaders all year long.



Scan the QR Code to Donate!



#### **Partnership 4 Kids**

Long-term Support. Lifelong Success.

1004 Farnam Street Suite 200 Omaha, NE 68102

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@Partnership4Kids

Mr. Michael B. Yanney

Board Member Emeritus | Co-Founder

Partnership 4 Kids

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