



25 YEARS !

In the summer of 1981, PRAIRIE HILL Learning Center began as an environmental day camp for 3-9 year olds. The themes for these first sessions included nature study, art in nature, and Native American life. Learning opportunities continued into the fall utilizing the historic farmhouse. Each year more children joined the sessions and more space was needed.

A reconstructed oversized garage was remodeled and enlarged, adding passive solar energy and enabling the addition of two more learning environments, one for younger children and another for the older children.

As the children grew older, plans began for a third building that is an environmental education in itself. The earth-friendly design and construction features include photo voltaic solar generated electricity, rainwater collection, wind generated electrical power, and deep wall straw bale insulation. In keeping with Maria Montessori's view of hands-on education, another part of the PRAIRIE HILL tradition, many hands, young and old, have been involved in the raising of this building.

Who are these children? The future leaders of the world!

Amanda was just three years old when she started at PRAIRIE HILL. Next week she will be going to Honduras on a mission trip. Jessie is in her first year at UNL and JohnCarl is finishing his last year of law school in Minnesota. Jasmine is working in International Relations in Switzerland and Anna is working in a Montessori school in North Carolina. Carl is in graduate school and Mali is following a passion that got its start at PRAIRIE HILL—training horses.

PRAIRIE HILL Learning Center is here now for Zack because his grandparents supported the vision and served on the founding board, and Samantha's mom was one of those first children who continued after the summer session in 1981.

PRAIRIE HILL's mission for 25 years: to offer education in an atmosphere that promotes individual growth as well as caring for others and the Earth.



Founders, from L-R:

Lyn Dyck, Lynette Kohles, Jim Dyck, Judy Cada, and Jim Cada (not pictured: the late Roger Kohles).