

# The Unsung Heroes in Crisis: Investing in Leaders Who Serve Our Kids, Families, and Communities

Our country's most vulnerable populations rely on dedicated professionals in health and human services (HHS). From children with special needs to families in crisis and individuals battling mental health challenges, these organizations are the backbone of community wellbeing.

The pandemic further amplified this need, highlighting the critical role of health and human services in safeguarding individual and collective wellness. Yet, while these leaders tirelessly serve, their own leadership needs go unmet.

# Compounding the Challenge: Resource Deficits

Beyond a leadership skills gap, comparatively lower wages in the HHS sector make it even harder to attract and retain talent. Disproportionate pay scales without workforce development opportunities combine to create a critical imbalance – strong leadership is essential for effective service delivery, yet the lack of resources impede capacity development plans that produce exemplary leaders.

## **Brave Leadership: Igniting Change**

Called to action in response to this urgent need, Brave Leadership is an emerging 501(c)(3) nonprofit unlocking potential in health and human services through evidence-based programs, sparking solutions and optimizing outcomes that generate ripples of positive change.

### **Your Investment, Their Transformation**

Your investment to the Brave Leadership Fund held by Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa creates capacity to build operational infrastructure; hiring key personnel; launching a public fundraising campaign with a matching gift strategy; and developing impactful programming through strategic partnerships on regional, state, and national levels.

Your philanthropic investment is not just a donation; it fuels a transformative journey for health and human service organizations. By empowering these mission-driven leaders with skills and practices, you become an architect of change, building stronger organizations that improve the lives they touch.

#### **Crisis Within a Crisis**

- Only 21% of nonprofit leaders feel confident in their abilities.
- Nearly half lack access to the leadership development they need.
- Training tops the list of unfulfilled leadership needs.

These statistics, backed by data from the Center for Effective Philanthropy and the Concord Leadership Group, paint a stark picture: under-developed and under-resourced leaders struggling to serve our most vulnerable children, families, and communities.



"This journey has been so insightful and filled with mind-opening experiences. I will take these opportunities and learned lessons and apply them to all aspects of my life. Thanks to you, I have learned how to be myself, love me, and demonstrate who I am in a way that correlates with my values and beliefs. What we talked about will stick with me, and the future changes will be lifelong. Thank you does not express my gratitude!" - Nicole N.

"We learned that leadership applies to all aspects of our lives. We are now more curious and purposeful in our endeavors, and learned the importance of self-reflection. We're able to explore new ways to be our best selves, and learn from our peers daily." - Team RASE



