



# The Cutting EDGE



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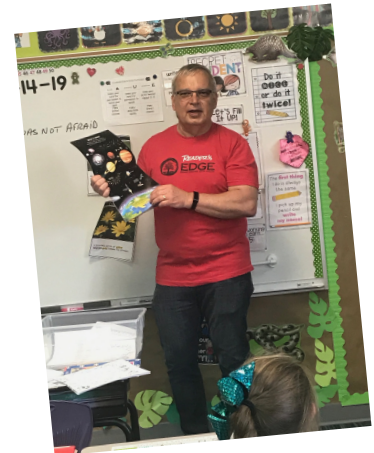
## 2018-19 REVIEW...WE JUST KEEP GROWING!

Much of the EDGE Nebraska City programming follows the cycle of the school year. During the 2018-19 school year our Reader's EDGE program expanded to include First Grade. Book Besties visited every Head Start Class and every NCPS Preschool, Kindergarten and First Grade Class 7 months out of the year. That's 98 classroom visits by community volunteers and over 1800 books distributed! Our young readers now have their own collection of books to keep reading all summer long. Access to books

helps students develop the necessary skills to stay on track academically and keeps their imagination and creativity active.

Our Book Bestie volunteers ended the year with a Pancake Celebration for all the readers and their families. Over 200 students and guests attended Pancake Night where they enjoyed pancakes, guest readers and each student got to pick out free NEW book to keep.

Thank you to all who generously gave their time and talents to make our second annual Pancake Night a huge success!



# 5

## 5 FOCUS AREAS

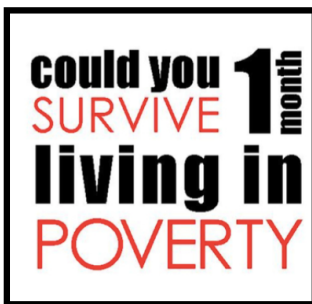
The Advisory Board of EDGE Nebraska City met this spring and worked on a "5 in 3" Plan. The Board selected 5 Areas that EDGE Nebraska City will *unapologetically* focus on for the next 3 years. This does not change our overriding mission of "working to reduce poverty rates in our community by 2036" but rather focuses the work to bring us closer to our goals.

The 5 Areas of focus are:

- OUTREACH
- LITERACY
- PROGRAM PROGRESSION
- RELATIONSHIP BUILDING
- ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

We look forward to working with our entire community while focusing on these areas. We continually look for ways to reach the larger community, build relationships and make our programs stronger.

We are always open to suggestions on how EDGE can work in Nebraska City. Reach out if you have ideas.



Could you do it? Could you survive for one month? EDGE Nebraska City will begin offering the Poverty Simulation exercise to Nebraska City businesses, schools, faith groups, civic groups and more in the Fall of 2019. The simulation involves participants taking on the roles of family members who are all facing a variety of challenging, but typical, circumstances.

This 3 hour simulation allows individuals to walk a month in the shoes of someone who is facing poverty and realize how complex and interconnected issues of poverty really are, for example;

- A single parent with limited resources and no transportation must find a way to get to work and get their child to day care.
- An elderly person must find a way to pay for utilities AND medication.
- A young adult must care for siblings while their parent is incarcerated.
- An elderly couple must raise their grandchildren while dealing with their growing health needs.

After the experience, individuals then have the opportunity to discuss what they have learned with their peers.

This experience will help you and your coworkers or maybe your church or maybe your neighborhood rethink the challenges that millions of low income individuals must face each and every day. Contact us if you would like to know more about how we can provide this program to your network.

***"I didn't realize how hard it was just to do everyday things"***

***"I had no idea how undereducated I was on this subject"***



**EDGE**  
ENGAGE. DISCOVER. GROW. EMBARK