

**STATE OF NEBRASKA**  
**DISTRICT 4J PROBATION OFFICE**

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Grady Porter  
Chief Deputy Probation Officer

As a Probation Officer in Eastern Nebraska I have been placing youth at Clarinda Academy since 2000. During the last ten years I have seen Clarinda grow yet maintain their initial mission to help youth that are struggling in life.

Clarinda Academy's program has had a great impact on many children from Eastern Nebraska. The program teaches them to value themselves, make better decisions, how to maintain appropriate behaviors and many other things. The program works with the youth to empower them to reach for higher goals and learn to respect themselves and the choices they make for their life.

The educational piece of the program at Clarinda is very good as well. They work well with the students at continuing their education whether it is to catch up time that they have missed in school or obtaining a GED.

The program at Clarinda Academy offers youth a chance to play intramural sports as well as high school league sports. The program also offers vocational training and off site work opportunities.

The staff members at Clarinda Academy are well versed in working with the youth they serve and obviously care about these youth. The facilities are well cared for and provide a secure "home away from home" for the youth placed at the Academy. As someone that has placed many children at Clarinda Academy I have been able to see first hand just how well the program works for the youth that take full advantage of all that is offered them by Clarinda Academy and will continue to utilize the Academy as a placement for youth in the future.

Heather L. Smith  
Nebraska State Probation