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**Blixt Locally Grown produces WINTER WITHOUT MAMA
to encourage community responsibility**

Short film illustrates childhood grief, trauma caused by pandemic

A new short film titled “Winter Without Mama” illustrating the difficulties families are facing during the current pandemic was released online today. Produced by Blixt Locally Grown, a Lincoln-based organization committed to improving the lives of children and families through the arts, in partnership with Bespoke Works, the film is told through the perspective of a child whose mother is a health care worker. It features Lincoln 17-year old, Josie Dobson, singing “Winter Without Mama,” a song from the Blixt produced original play “Puddin’ and the Grumble” by Becky Boesen and David von Kampen, with revised lyrics that express the child’s grief and trauma brought on by the pandemic.

The film is intended to serve two purposes. The first is to connect families with resources including Mourning Hope Grief Services locally and National Alliance for Grieving Children (NAGC) nationally. Both organizations have agreed to share the film and be a resource for families to call for grief services. Secondly, in partnership with Nebraska Community Foundation, the film will be made available to communities in the state to serve as a catalyst for discussion around community responsibility, impact and relief and response efforts in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Blixt’s mission is to grow goodness with the arts,” said Petra Wahlqvist, Blixt President and co-founder. “We are hopeful that beyond providing support to young people and healthcare providers, the video will make space for challenging conversations and unleash a desire for all of us to show community care.”

Partners making “Winter Without Mama” possible include Nebraska Community Foundation, Mourning Hope Grief Services, Lincoln Community Foundation, and NAGC. Alexander Jeffery and Paul Petersen of Bespoke Works and local filmmaker Sasha Sepahpur are creating the film components for the project and Tony Hillhouse recorded the track in his Walton studio.

Blixt Locally Grown has a rich history of producing works that address difficult issues like hunger (“Puddin’ and the Grumble” by Becky Boesen and David von Kampen in 2016, commissioned by

The Lied Center for Performing Arts) and grief (“Snowcatcher” by Becky Boesen in 2017-18, co-commissioned by the Midwest Theater, Scottsbluff, and the Lincoln Arts Council).

The premiere of “Winter Without Mama” will be available for circulation December 15, 2020 at no cost. Audiences can view the final production at [www. blixt.space](http://www.blixt.space) or through Blixt Locally Grown social media outlets.

About Blixt Locally Grown

BLIXT is a Nebraska-based arts organization that specializes in the development of new works, community building, and the stimulation of economic development through the integration of local arts and culture into all facets of life. Blixt collaborates with communities to lift up hometown opportunities, and champions creatives as vital contributors and leaders in vibrant rural spaces. www.blixt.space

About Bespoke Works

Bespoke Works weaves together stories with emphasis on character and relationships. Heart is the fabric and hope is the thread. www.bespokeworksllc.com