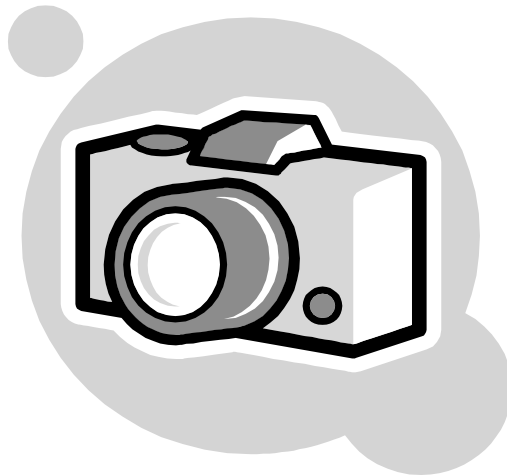


The 2006 State of Hunger for Lincoln and Lancaster County

A Snapshot



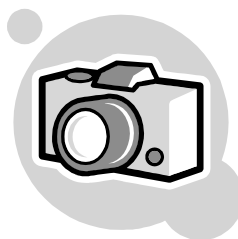
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*A collaborative effort of
Joint Budget Committee of Lincoln and Lancaster County,
United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County, and
the Food Bank of Lincoln*

The 2006 State of Hunger for Lincoln and Lancaster County *A Snapshot*

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***The entire report can be found at the Food Bank of Lincoln's website:
www.lincolnfoodbank.org***

The 2006 State of Hunger for Lincoln and Lancaster County *A Snapshot*

3,765,173 pounds of food—or roughly 2,941,542 meals. These numbers are a 2006 snapshot of the ongoing work of alleviating hunger in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Like most years, 2006 was a year when many things changed while others remained the same. Hunger relief efforts in Lincoln and Lancaster County evolved significantly in 2006.

In late 2005, Lincoln's largest emergency food provider, Lincoln Action Program, made the decision to step back from their hunger program in an effort to better focus on their mission. The task of providing food to thousands of people every week was transitioned into a collaborative effort of Lincoln Action Program, the Center for People in Need, and the Food Bank of Lincoln. Over the course of several months, CPIN and the Food Bank expanded a once-a-week mobile pantry, the Neighborhood FOOD program, to an operation that involves 22 to 24 stops per month, delivering truckloads of free food to Lincoln neighborhoods that need it most.

Neighborhood FOOD Program sites have included partnerships with F Street Recreation Center, Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, the Asian and Hispanic Centers, the Malone Community Center, and Oak Lake Evangelical Free Church. Several agencies—notably Good Neighbor Community Center, Mission Service Center, and Salvation Army—experienced dramatic increases in the number of clients and food needs at their agencies in 2006 due, at least in part, to the changing landscape.

In 2005 United Methodist Ministries of southeast Nebraska launched an initiative in which small-town parishes in their service area would sponsor food pantries. The only Lancaster County UMM pantry currently in operation opened in Panama in January of 2006. The Panama area sees deep poverty as large families struggle with issues of employment, transportation, and health. Attendance at food distributions rises steadily as word of the service spreads.

In April of 2006, America's Second Harvest, the Nation's Food Bank Network, released *Hunger in America 2006*. This report estimated that approximately 9,200 different people receive assistance in any given week through agencies and programs of the Food Bank of Lincoln. The study reported that the 182 programs in southeastern Nebraska served by the Food Bank of Lincoln provide food for a broad cross-section of households. Based on extensive interviews at feeding sites, we learned that the characteristics of households served include:

- 28% of the members of households served by the Food Bank of Lincoln are children under 18 years old.
- 9% of household members are infants and children under the age of 5 years.
- 16% of these people are elderly.
- About 80% of clients are white, 6% are black, 7% are Hispanic, and the rest are from other racial or ethnic groups.
- 38% of households include at least one employed adult.
- 67% had incomes below the official federal poverty level during the previous month.
- 12% are homeless.

Many clients of Food Bank agencies report having to choose between food and other necessities. For example:

- 36% of clients served by member agencies of the Food Bank of Lincoln report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities and heating fuel.
- 31% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage.
- 28% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care.

In 1991, the Lincoln Interfaith Council began gathering statistical data regarding the provision of food to hungry people. For several years, the Interfaith Council provided oversight of the Emergency Food Pantry system in Lancaster County and issued an annual statistical report. With the demise of that organization in 2006, it was determined that the tasks of pantry coordination and the gathering of statistics for a 2006 hunger report would fall to the Food Bank of Lincoln. In July of 2006, the Food Bank began this work with support of Joint Budget Committee of Lincoln and Lancaster County and United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County.

This report is an attempt at an overview of anti-hunger activity in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Gathering this information has proven to be a significant challenge. While many agencies across the county provided statistics for this report, a few food providers did not submit figures, so we estimated their numbers based on information they had previously reported to the Food Bank of Lincoln. In addition, some agencies did not have access to all types of information requested for the report, so some extrapolations were made. Sources are indicated in the section on page 13. In short, this report is not a complete study of hunger-relief programs in the county, but it's a snapshot of what happened in 2006 insofar as we could gather. It is our hope the report will provide the reader with at least some idea of the scope and challenges of this important, hard and gratifying work. Ideally we will be able to build on this information in future years to help identify needs and determine trends.

Who is hungry across the country?

A recent report from Food Research and Action Center, *Hunger and Food Insecurity in the United States*, says, "One of the most disturbing and extraordinary aspects of life in this very wealthy country is the persistence of hunger." The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported that in 2005:

- 35.1 million people lived in households considered to be food insecure.
- Of those 35.1 million, 22.7 million are adults (10.4% of all adults) and 12.4 million are children (16.9% of all children).
- The number of people in the worst-off households (previously called "food insecure with hunger" and now called "very low food security" households) rose in 2005 from 10.7 to 10.8 million.

Figures for the state of Nebraska

In the *State of the States 2006* as reported by FRAC (Food Research and Action Center), Nebraska's 2004 population was 1,703,069 people, 432,740 were under age 18. Additionally,

- 10.8% of the total population (or 183,514 people) were living in poverty.
- 12.6% of the state's children (or 54,525 children) lived in these households.

FRAC reports the following averages for 2001 through 2004:

- 73,000 (10.7%) households are considered to be food insecure.
- 25,000 (3.7%) households are considered to be food insecure with hunger.
- The number of households considered to be food insecure with hunger significantly increased by 0.7%—or about 5,000 households—between 2001 and 2004.
- Nebraska's free and reduced-price meal student participation rate ranks 45th in the nation.
- Nebraska ranks 25th nationwide in food stamp participation.

More state information can be found on FRAC's website: www.frac.org. In addition, Jennifer Hernandez of Nebraska Appleseed has published a report, *Not Just for Farmers: Nebraska and the 2007 Farm Bill*, which discusses the Food Stamp Program in greater detail. You can find this at http://neappleseed.org/docs/not_just_for_farmers.pdf. You will also find a wealth of additional information on poverty and justice issues at Nebraska Appleseed's home page, www.neappleseed.org.

Some observations on Lincoln/Lancaster County statistics

Figures from the US Census Bureau's *2005 American Community Survey* indicate that Lancaster County's population was 252,319 people. Estimates for 2005 show:

- 11.3% (28,512 people) were living below the poverty line.
- 15% of related children under 18 were below the poverty level.
- 8% of people 65 years old and over were below the poverty level.
- 7.7% of all families and 37% of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

With 89% of the County's population living in Lincoln, the city's statistics for 2005 were similar:

- 12.2% of Lincoln's population lived below the poverty level.
- 18% of the city's children under 18 lived in poverty.
- 7% of people 65 years old and over were below the poverty level.
- 8.3% of all families and 39% of single-mom households lived in poverty.

This school year (2006-2007), 27% of students enrolled in Lancaster County schools, both public and private, are enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program. In other words 12,256 students come from households whose incomes qualify them to participate in the free lunch program. Of these students, 8,263 attend Lincoln Public Schools. Within the Lincoln Public School system, 33% of students are enrolled in the free or reduced meal program.

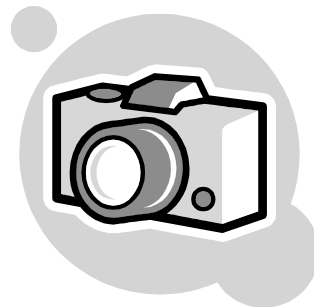
During the 2006-2007 school year, 91% of the kids at Clinton Elementary, 85% of the kids at Elliott, 83% of the kids at McPhee, and 81% of the kids at Everett qualify for free or reduced lunch. Eleven of Lincoln's 36 elementary schools have over 50% of their students participating in the free or reduced lunch program.

The homeless student population during the 2005-2006 school year was 497. Many teachers and administrators consider this number to represent the "tip of the iceberg," as many students are ashamed of their homeless status and conceal that fact from school officials.

Many of the clients of the hunger fighting agencies in Lincoln are single moms with children. According to a 2003 article in the *Lincoln Journal Star*, one in ten Lancaster County births in 1980 was to a single woman. Just two decades later in 2003, the number of births to single women had risen to one in four.

In the fall of 2006, the Center for People in Need conducted a survey of approximately 1,000 low-income people who attended Neighborhood FOOD Program sites in Lincoln. One area of the survey related to the major challenges faced by survey participants and their households. The top three challenges reported were 1) problems paying for utilities, 2) problems finding a job that pays enough to meet a family's basic needs, and 3) problems having enough food for the family. Regarding family food situations, 528 out of 995 survey respondents reported, "I do not have enough food for my family to last the whole month" and 241 people reported, "We skip meals because we do not have enough food."

Recently the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) came out with new terms regarding hunger and food insecurity in our country. The word "hunger" was purposefully stricken from the measurements. To be clear, there are hungry people in our community, more hungry people than we can tolerate. There are thousands of people at risk of hunger and malnutrition in southeast Nebraska alone. All of us must work together to eliminate this cruel condition. One of our report's goals is to begin to shine a light on this dark, real problem.



2006 statistics gathered from Lancaster County agencies

In preparing this report, we divided food and hunger entities into six different groups: pantries, emergency food providers, residential programs, soup kitchens, supplemental agencies, and government programs. In addition, we are providing statistics from the Food Bank of Lincoln and several other agencies that provide food and assistance to those in need.

Not all agencies reported all of the numbers we were looking for in the preparation of this report. Some of the numbers are estimated based on figures provided to the Food Bank by member agencies. (For a detailed listing of the data collected, see Lancaster County detail by group on page 13 of this report, which indicates data sources.) Many hunger relief organizations are staffed by volunteers and finding time for accurate tracking presents a difficult to insurmountable challenge. The figures in this report are not unduplicated as agencies usually do not have access to this information. But the numbers do reflect, at the very least, a significant part of what is being done in Lincoln and Lancaster County to feed hungry people.

Pantries

The pantries listed in this report prepare pantry boxes to be distributed through other agencies. Some pantries also distribute pantry boxes directly to families upon pastoral referral. A pantry box is generally defined as a 7-day food supply based on family size. The boxes are comprised of a combination of products from the USDA, the Food Bank of Lincoln, donations, and direct purchases. Occasionally the distributing agency adds perishable items such as bread or milk. The pantries in this category usually consist physically of one or more closets or storerooms in church basements or other properties. They are almost always staffed by volunteers.

For 2006, seven pantries reported the following:

- These agencies independently gathered 69,707 pounds of food.
- These agencies used 210,775 pounds of food from the Food Bank of Lincoln.
- These agencies purchased 59,996 pounds of food.
- The pantries directly distributed 40,788 pounds of food through pastoral referral.
- Combined, these agencies gathered and packaged 340,478 pounds of food. Using the recognized USDA measurement of a meal at 1.28 pounds, these agencies handled 265,998 meals. Most of these meals are included in the emergency food providers statistics directly below this section of the report.
- These pantries reported a total donation of 3,588 hours of volunteer time.

Reporting agencies: Eastridge Presbyterian Church, Lincoln Lutheran Metro Parish Food Pantry, Northeast Area Pantry, Southeast Community Pantry, Saint Paul United Methodist Church, St. Mark's Campus Pantry, and Westminster Presbyterian Pantry.

Emergency food providers

Emergency food providers are agencies that distribute pantry boxes as described above; they may also administer other food and non-food services. These agencies have direct contact with clients and range from community centers that hold large daily or weekly distributions to smaller agencies that provide food and household supplies to families in need, usually case-managed clients of the agency.

Some of these emergency providers distribute pantry boxes packed by agencies in the Pantry section above and others secure and distribute products they obtain on their own. Some emergency food providers distribute boxes from both sources and some complement the boxes with perishable products when they are available. Typically these agencies distribute a wider range of box sizes and contents than the boxes packed for them by the pantries listed above. These emergency food providers operate in many different ways; some of them have carved out special distribution niches such as boxes prepared for Muslim families or diabetics at the Good Neighbor Community Center or service to the Sudanese refugee community at First Evangelical Free Church.

For 2006, 32 agencies and programs in this group reported the following:

- These providers independently gathered 537,178 pounds of food.
- These agencies used 1,603,109 pounds of food from the Food Bank of Lincoln.
- These agencies purchased 75,049 pounds of food.
- All together these agencies distributed 2,357,982 pounds of food.
- Using the recognized USDA measurement of a meal at 1.28 pounds, these agencies distributed 1,842,173 meals worth of food.
- These providers served a total of 99,619 households in 2006.
- Emergency providers reported 26,822 hours of volunteer time for 2006.

Reporting agencies: The Arc of Lincoln, Carol Yoakum Family Resource Center, Catholic Social Services, Center for People in Need, Church on the Rock, CEDARS Youth Services Street Outreach, El Centro de Las Americas, Encouragement Unlimited, First Evangelical Free Church, Food Bank Backpack Program, Food Bank Housewarming Project, Friendship Home, Good Neighbor Community Center, Indian Center CSFP Program, Indian Center Pantry Program, Indian Center Perishable Distribution, Lincoln Action Program Perishable and USDA Program, Lincoln Action Program Pantry Boxes, Lincoln Medical Education Partnership, LIFE (Lincoln Information for the Elderly) Office, Mission Service Center, Nebraska AIDS Project, New Bethel Bibleway Apostolic Temple, Northeast Family Resource Center, Northern Lighthouse, President/Ambassador Apartments, Salvation Army Corps Community Center, St. Monica's Homes, St. Joseph and St. Patrick parishes of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference, United Methodist Ministries' Panama Pantry, and the Veterans Center.

Residential programs

Residential programs are agencies that house people and are responsible for preparing meals for those clients. The agencies serve a wide range of groups: developmentally and behaviorally disabled youth or adults, people in recovery from addiction, victims of domestic violence, and people coming out of incarceration. They range from single-unit homes such as the House for New Life or Women in Community Service to large operations such as Developmental Services of Nebraska, which has 25 program sites around Lincoln.

For 2006, 20 agencies and programs reported the following.

- These agencies served 474,585 meals.
- Using the recognized USDA measurement of a meal as 1.28 pounds, these agencies distributed 607,468 pounds of food.
- These agencies served 130,964 snacks.
- Residential programs reported a total donation of 11,683 hours of volunteer time.

Reporting agencies: Six CEDARS Youth Services programs, CenterPointe, Child Guidance Center, Christian Heritage Homes, Cornhusker Place, Developmental Services of Nebraska, Friendship Home, Fresh Start Home, House for New Life, Mosaic Homes, Oxford Houses, Partners in Recovery Yvonne House, St. Monica's Homes, Vital Services, and Women in Community Service.

Soup kitchens

These agencies provide meals on a daily or regular basis. The agencies range from large operations such as Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, which serves lunch and dinner 365 days a year and offers a range of other client services, to the seasonal food canteen administered by the Salvation Army of Lincoln, which is designed to complement hours of other providers.

For 2006 county soup kitchens reported the following:

- These agencies served 308,057 meals in 2006.
- Using the recognized USDA measurement of a meal, 1.28 pounds, these agencies distributed the equivalent of 394,313 pounds of food.
- Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach reported 1,825 hours of volunteer time for 2006.

Reporting agencies included Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, the Gathering Place, and Salvation Army's seasonal Food Canteen. Numbers for the People's City Mission kitchen were estimated based on figures reported by PCMK to the Food Bank of Lincoln.

Supplemental agencies

Supplemental agencies are organizations that provide occasional meals or snacks. These agencies are not the primary providers of food for clients. They include daycare operations that serve a majority of children from low-income families, other youth programs that provide after-school meals, and agencies that hold special events for low-income populations such as at-risk youth, the elderly, or developmentally disabled clients.

For 2006, 22 agencies reported the following:

- These agencies or programs served 284,861 meals.
- Using the recognized USDA measurement of a meal, 1.28 pounds, these agencies distributed 364,622 pounds of food.
- These agencies or programs served 98,954 snacks.
- Supplemental programs reported 40,795 hours of volunteer time for 2006.

Tabitha Health Care's Meals on Wheels Program is the primary food-provider in this group, having distributed 105,881 meals to 1,264 individuals in 2006. Tabitha reports a volunteer donation of 20,521 hours.

Reporting agencies: Agape Daycare, eight programs of CEDARS Youth Services, Child Advocacy Center, City Impact, F Street Recreation Center, Heartland Big Brothers/Sisters, Indian Center Senior Diner, Indian Center Youth Program, Lighthouse, Lincoln Council on Alcohol and Drugs, Nebraska AIDS Project, Oyate Tokeya, Salvation Army Youth Program, Tabitha Health Care—Meals on Wheels Program, and the YWCA.

Government programs

These programs are funded largely by the Federal Government. The United States Department of Agriculture, in partnership with state and local entities, is the largest hunger relief agency in Lincoln and Lancaster County—and across the United States.

The Food Stamp Program is largely considered to be the number one weapon in the battle against hunger.

- In 2006 16,273 people participated in the Food Stamp Program in Lancaster County.
- The dollar value of that food equaled \$17,500,830.69. The USDA estimates that for every \$5.00 of food stamps distributed, \$9.00 is generated for the community, meaning that Food Stamps' benefits far exceed their value to the families that receive them.

Through the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program, during a typical school day Lancaster County schools served an average:

- 7,896 free lunches.
- 2,156 reduced price lunches.
- 3,182 free breakfasts.
- 437 reduced price breakfasts.

All together, the county's schools served 2,392,355 meals to the children of low-income families during the school year.

The Summer Feeding Program in Lincoln is administered by the Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department.

- This program served 41,018 meals in the summer of 2006.

The Nebraska Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program (WIC) provides nutrition information and healthy food at no cost to help keep expectant mothers and their children under the age of five healthy and strong.

- The WIC Program administered by Family Service provided food vouchers to 4,564 individuals with a value of \$1,059,677.
- The WIC Program at the Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department provided vouchers to 6,062 individuals with a value of \$1,306,716.

The Food Bank of Lincoln

The Food Bank of Lincoln serves 16 counties in southeastern Nebraska, distributing food to nonprofit organizations that feed hungry people. Historically, however, the majority of service has been in and around the city of Lincoln. In 2006, 91% of pounds distributed by the Food Bank went to agencies and individuals in Lancaster County.

- In 2006, the Food Bank of Lincoln distributed 2,792,123 pounds of food to 182 agency programs and by direct service to hungry people.
- Using the recognized USDA measurement of a meal, 1.28 pounds, the Food Bank distributed meals at a pace of 5,976 meals per day.
- By the end of 2006, the Food Bank/LPS BackPack Program was distributing food-filled backpacks to 350 students and their families each Friday afternoon throughout the school year.
- Based on a national audit by America's Second Harvest, the value of the Food Bank's distributed pounds of food for 2006 was \$4,188,185.
- In partnership with Lincoln Public Schools, the Center for People in Need, St. Monica's Homes, Friendship Home and Fresh Start Home, the Food Bank of Lincoln provided 25% of its distributed pounds directly to clients in 2006.
- The Food Bank of Lincoln reported 12,760 hours of volunteer time for 2006.

Miscellaneous assistance programs

There are other agencies working throughout the county to help people in need with food and other essentials. Here are some of the major sources of assistance for families in the county:

- The American Red Cross provides vouchers in times of disasters. In 2006 the Red Cross distributed a week's worth of groceries or restaurant meals to 541 individuals.
- The Salvation Army provides food vouchers at Christmas to individuals and families. In 2006 Salvation Army provided Christmas Vouchers to 5,461 people in 1,767 households with a value of \$37,587.
- Kids Against Hunger is a new agency in Lincoln that produces a packaged rice-based product designed for global hunger relief. The Lincoln program began in September of 2006, and has produced 200,000 packages, with 30% of those packages being distributed locally.
- The SHARE Program offers reduced cost food packages in exchange for two hours of volunteer service. The Northeast SHARE program distributed 1,834 food packages in 2006: LMEP SHARE distributed 762 packages. Lincoln Center SHARE did not report, but it is the largest of the three Lincoln SHARE programs.
- Foodnet is a group of volunteers from churches and other non-profits around Lincoln who collect perishable items like fruit, vegetables, dairy, and bread from grocery stores and distribute them to needy families at a network of regular sites throughout Lincoln. Foodnet's website reports that they feed over 1,000 families each week and that their program utilizes over 400 volunteers to sustain their operations.



Conclusions. What does this all mean?

Compiling the numbers for this report made us curious about the major challenges facing feeding agencies in Lancaster County. We wondered what observations people working at these agencies had about circumstances that bring people to their doors, how they believe they can best serve those in need, and what they might be able to achieve with greater resources.

Funding, space, funding

We asked several veteran feeding program directors how many people they imagined they could feed with unlimited resources. No one we visited with believes they are fully meeting the community's current needs. The need for these agencies' services is expanding and changing and these folks are certain they could reach more needy people with greater resources. Though it's hard to calculate, several directors speculated that they could easily double the size of their programs in a fairly short period of time under less restricted conditions. The need is just that great.

So what's preventing these feeding programs from growing to their full potential? Of course the common theme was funding, which underlies almost every aspect of an agency. While time, personnel, and food—all of which would benefit from additional funding—were mentioned repeatedly, the single most pressing issue seemed to be space. Bricks and mortar take funding, but expansion at many of these sites is physically as well as economically impossible. For example, the Good Neighbor Community Center is serving more and more people each year but their current building is bulging at the seams and completely landlocked by streets and other buildings. The pantry at the Carol Yoakum Family Resource Center operates out of one conference room at the community center; they have very limited storage and barely enough space for clients to collect their bags and bundle up for the trek home with their groceries.

Some agencies are located at sites provided by another organization. Lincoln Lutheran Metro Parish Food Pantry and the Gathering Place operate out of houses owned by Christ Lutheran Church and Lincoln Action Program respectively. Physical expansion for these agencies would mean finding a new location, probably at a far greater cost. The mobile pantries operated jointly by the Center for People in Need and the Food Bank of Lincoln rely on the good graces of already-strapped agencies to have distribution sites protected from the elements. While the mobile pantries' presence benefits these agencies' clients, having them on site may mean that other programs have to be temporarily shelved to make room for the distribution activities.

The changing face of hunger

When asked what major factors bring people to Lincoln and Lancaster County's feeding agencies, without fail the program directors mentioned the steadily increasing working poor population. Where some years ago, soup lines and shelters were largely populated by homeless or near-homeless single men, feeding agencies now see a broad range of demographics: families of all sizes, elderly people and children, people with many types of physical and/or mental disabilities. Dayna Krannawitter of Carol Yoakum Family Resource Center says that as the cost of living outpaces middle income budgets, they are seeing an increasing number of families where one or more adults are employed. Many of the families' incomes fall outside of the USDA's poverty range, but other necessary expenses have depleted

their grocery budgets to the point where they cannot provide nutritious meals for their families on a regular basis.

Susanne Blue of Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach also stressed how their guest profile continues to broaden beyond the outmoded picture of the single homeless man. MTKO sees many families and working people who have had to make difficult choices to make ends meet--and still may be unsuccessful at that. Many of these people are not literally on the verge of starvation, but access to MTKO's meals means they will get more nutritious food than they would be able to afford at home. Even coming to the kitchen occasionally improves diets that lean heavily toward inexpensive starches rather than protein and vitamin-rich vegetables. For more on the nutritional aspects of food insecurity, go to www.lincolnfoodbank.org and read *Nutrition and Homelessness* by Matt Talbot dietician Janet Buck.

Blue says guests also come to Matt Talbot for the sense of community, an intangible but important factor in public health. Though people utilizing pantries and soup kitchens come from diverse backgrounds, they share many common issues such as unemployment, underemployment, physical or mental disabilities, advancing age, or struggles with addiction. Many feel isolated and disconnected from resources and the community. Time together at meals or waiting to get pantry boxes allows them to connect and share ideas.

Dale Larrew of Good Neighbor Community Center cites a growing number of children coming to the center for food: over half of their clients are under the age of 19. GNCC has also stepped up efforts to tailor their pantry boxes to more diverse populations based on ethnicity and health issues such as diabetes. The food that serves many American households is not always useful to many new immigrant groups who are unfamiliar with American prepared foods and may also have dietary restrictions based on their culture and religion. Good Neighbor is finding that a "one size fits all" philosophy is less appropriate all the time. Some of the food their clients might be able to access without the help of GNCC would be detrimental to people's health or contrary to their religious beliefs.

At the Gathering Place numbers of women and children rise in the second half of the month when Food Stamps are running out; at Matt Talbot attendance increases in the summer when children are out of school and don't have access to the free and reduced meals offered throughout the school year. Many of these families are ordinary working folks who blend into the general, affluent population so well they are almost invisible. Susanne Blue believes that MTKO's slightly lower numbers in the winter support the idea that many of their guests are not homeless, nor are they technically without food. But staying home from the soup kitchen in cold weather may mean that families are falling back on inexpensive food, which is usually less healthy than what agencies can provide.

Other observations.....

The commonality among all these hunger relief agencies is that they are feeding more and more people on increasingly tight budgets. Many agencies are at the threshold of outgrowing their current locations; even if they could access more food and greater numbers of volunteers, they wouldn't have anywhere to put them. Increased funding would enable them to address factors limiting their reach.

The historic feeding paradigms are less and less relevant to changing demographics of needy households. Lancaster County does have an ample population of homeless and near-homeless

people. But the picture is much more complex than that single image. Working families need help getting nutritious food to their children so they can thrive in school. Elderly people on fixed incomes blast through lifetimes of savings to cover growing medical bills and rising utility costs. People with disabilities—often not apparent to the casual observer—are not able to maintain steady employment, especially jobs that bring home enough money to actually support one or more people. People coming out of incarceration face almost insurmountable employment barriers and their situations are frequently made more difficult by battles with addiction issues. None of these people have chosen their circumstances; they are either trying unsuccessfully to climb out of poverty or they are simply unable to do so based on the hand they have been dealt in terms of mental capacity, physical ability, age, discrimination, or a combination of these factors.

The hunger-relief agencies of Lancaster County are performing large and small miracles daily with limited resources. Though it would be easy to become discouraged as community needs outpace what the agencies have to offer, these agencies forge ahead, adapting their programs as they can to meet changing needs. Increased cooperation among these agencies is probably the best hope for improving service to needy people. Because learning more about the details of the local hunger picture in Lancaster County helps all agencies function more effectively, we are very grateful to all the organizations who took the time to participate in this study. The more we know about what is being done, the sooner we can identify gaps in service and look for solutions.

This section of the hunger report is based on conversations between Jennifer Bauman of the Food Bank of Lincoln and the following agency representatives. We thank all of them.

- *Susanne Blue of Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach*
- *Michael Ryan of the Gathering Place*
- *Patti Flynn of Lincoln Lutheran Metro Parish Food Pantry*
- *Dale Larrew of Good Neighbor Community Center*
- *Dayna Krannawitter of the Carol Yoakum Family Resource Center*
- *Stephanie Russell of the Center for People in Need / Food Bank of Lincoln mobile pantries*



LANCASTER COUNTY DETAIL BY GROUP

PANTRIES							
	Pounds Donated	Pounds from Food Bank	Pounds Purchased	Total Pounds	Pounds Distributed through Pastoral Referrals	Households Served Directly	Volunteer Hours
Eastridge Presbyterian Church	9,334	75,385	-	84,719	2,247	117 *	1,360
Lincoln Lutheran Metro Parish	30,112	59,899	50,217	140,228	29,201	417 *	1,300
Northeast Area Pantry	14,686	9,709	-	24,395	n/a	n/a	240
Saint Paul United Methodist Church	5,823	46,779	5,283	57,885	146	2 *	n/a
Southeast Community Pantry	2,715	5,108	2,984	10,807	9,194	139	240
St Mark's Campus Pantry	2,072	4,200	-	6,272	-	-	n/a
Westminster Presbyterian Pantry	4,965	9,695	1,512	16,172	-	-	448
TOTALS	69,707	210,775	59,996	340,478	40,788	675	3,588

EMERGENCY FOOD PROVIDERS			
Agency	Pounds Distributed	Households Served	Volunteer Hours
ARC of Lincoln	1,321	300	724
Carol Yoakum Family Resource Center	77,684	2,289	800
Catholic Social Services	117,468	1,328	4,013
Center for People in Need	574,900	29,286	n/a
Church on the Rock *	6,316	420	n/a
CEDARS Street Outreach	2,084	360	n/a
El Centro de las Americas	3,003	150	n/a
Encouragement Unlimited *	4,405	60	n/a
First Evangelical Free Church *	1,801	90	n/a
Food Bank Backpack Program	59,774	5,100	n/a
Food Bank Housewarming Project	9,484	55	n/a
Food Net +	n/a	5,200	n/a
Friendship Home	13,200	240	n/a
Good Neighbor Community Center	232,781	5,810	20,129
Indian Center CSFP Program	337,924	9,454	n/a
Indian Center Pantry Program	24,300	374	n/a
Indian Center Perishables Distribution	67,989	4,680	n/a
LAP Pantry Boxes (through 9/1/06)	108,000	1,160	n/a
LAP Perishables/USDA (through 3/1/06) *	107,100	7,650	n/a
LIFE Office	900	30	n/a
Lincoln Medical Education Partnership	1,306	100	n/a
Mission Service Center **	360,947	18,873	n/a
Nebraska AIDS Project	2,422	41	126
New Bethel Bibleway Apostolic Temple	477	6	15
Northeast Family Resource Center	60,766	4,500	n/a
Northern Lighthouse	9,244	39	n/a
President/Ambassador Apartments	4,248	74	n/a
Salvation Army CCC	131,187	1,513	231
St Monica's Homes	1,925	16	n/a
St Vincent de Paul - St Joseph Parish	3,993	102	784
St Vincent de Paul - St Patrick Parish *	795	102	n/a
United Methodist Ministry Panama Pantry	28,312	182	n/a
VET Center	1,925	35	n/a
TOTALS	2,357,982	99,619	26,822

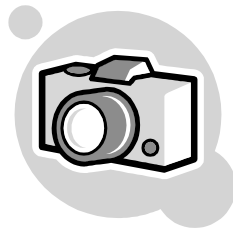
*	numbers estimated from information reported by agencies to the Food Bank of Lincoln
**	numbers estimated from information reported by agency to United Way
+	numbers estimated from information reported on agency's website

RESIDENTIAL				
	Meals Served	Pounds (1.28 # per meal)	Snacks Served	Volunteer Hours
CEDARS Boys Home	4,828	6,180	3,370	-
CEDARS Freeway Station	4,177	5,347	1,636	878
CEDARS Home Emergency	3,589	4,594	1,853	474
CEDARS TLC Home	5,129	6,565	1,354	681
CEDARS Transitional Living	-	-	420	42
CEDARS Turning Point	8,086	10,350	2,420	107
CenterPointe *	65,700	84,096	26,900	-
Child Guidance Center *	10,950	14,016	3,650	n/a
Christian Heritage Homes *	35,040	44,851	11,680	n/a
Cornhusker Place *	38,325	49,056	12,441	n/a
Developmental Services of Nebraska *	148,920	190,618	49,640	n/a
Fresh Start Home *	15,330	19,622	5,000	n/a
Friendship Home	48,477	62,051	-	5,861
House for New Life	9,000	11,520	2,000	3,640
Mosaic Homes	10,020	12,826	-	n/a
Oxford Houses *	16,425	21,024	-	n/a
Partners in Recovery Yvonne House*	6,570	8,410	-	n/a
St Monica's Homes	27,063	34,641	900	-
Vital Services *	8,196	10,491	4,780	-
Women In Community Service *	8,760	11,213	2,920	n/a
TOTALS	474,585	607,469	130,964	11,683

SOUP KITCHENS			
	Meals Served	Pounds (1.28 # per meal)	Volunteer Hours
Gathering Place	27,753	35,524	n/a
Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach	111,851	143,169	1,825
People's City Mission Kitchen *	167,900	214,912	n/a
Salvation Army Mobile Food Canteen	553	708	n/a
TOTALS	308,057	394,313	1,825

SUPPLEMENTAL				
	Meals Served	Pounds (1.28 # per meal)	Snacks Served	Volunteer Hours
Agape Daycare *	23,992	30,710	12,553	n/a
CEDARS Before & After Care	7,324	9,375	4,219	102
CEDARS Carol Yoakum	11,705	14,982	6,473	20
CEDARS Centennial Mall ECDC	27,857	35,657	14,463	310
CEDARS Downtown ECDC	12,376	15,841	6,486	400
CEDARS Life Skills Center	5,760	7,373	2,880	50
CEDARS Northbridge ECDC	25,403	32,516	13,319	475
CEDARS Northwood ECDC	9,159	11,724	5,035	984
CEDARS Street Outreach	-	-	960	20
Child Advocacy Center	-	-	1,080	1,140
City Impact	6,215	7,955	100	13,000
F Street Senior Center/After School Program	12,767	16,342	9,208	63
Heartland Big Brothers/Sisters	700	896	1,000	n/a
Indian Center Senior Diner	3,600	4,608	-	n/a
Indian Center Youth Program	228	292	14	n/a
Lighthouse	3,500	4,480	6,464	2,720
Lincoln Council on Alcohol and Drugs *	-	-	1,000	n/a
Nebraska AIDS Project	144	184	-	n/a
Oyate Tokeya	3,640	4,659	-	990
Salvation Army CC Youth Program*	8,750	11,200	-	n/a
Tabitha Health Care - Meals on Wheels	105,881	135,528	-	20,521
YWCA *	15,860	20,301	13,700	n/a
TOTALS	284,861	364,622	98,954	40,795

* numbers estimated from information reported by agencies to the Food Bank of Lincoln



The 2006 State of Hunger for Lincoln and Lancaster County was prepared by Lincoln Pantry Coordinator Beth Hartman, Food Bank of Lincoln Executive Director Scott Young, and Food Bank of Lincoln Agency Relations Director Jennifer Bauman.

The entire report can be found at the Food Bank of Lincoln's website: www.lincolnfoodbank.org

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