

feeding MATTERS

2018 Fall Newsletter

Program Helps Teen Parent Discover Her Purpose

“If your dreams don't scare you, they aren't big enough.”

That's Jaqueline's favorite quote. She has dreams. They're ambitious. She knows it. They're dreams that, for a lot of young women like her, seem impossible. Not to Jaqueline.

The avid reader and recent high school graduate wants to complete college courses, first at Southeast Community College where she's earned a Learn to Dream Scholarship and later at Nebraska Wesleyan University. She dreams of becoming a pharmacist. She wants to live in a five-bedroom home with her family. She wants to travel. Ultimately, she wants her family to feel secure. She admits to having a stubborn streak and she hopes to make it work in her favor.

These dreams scare Jaqueline just a bit. Sometimes she wonders how a fourth generation teen mom like her can make them come true. What scares her even more is what will happen if she doesn't dream big.

“I'm not going to be the typical teen mom statistic,” she said, referring to a CDC report that about 20 percent of teen moms have a second child within 24 months of their first baby. “I won't be that person. For my daughter and for me, I can't be that person.”

Before she got pregnant, Jaqueline was unfocused in



school. Her family had some pretty hard times. She moved around a lot when she was younger and has lived in five different states. She didn't really care about her grades or getting ahead. “I was an angry kid,” she said.

That changed when Jaqueline learned she was pregnant. “Once I knew I was pregnant, I passed every single class,” she said. She found a network of support to help her balance her restaurant job, motherhood and her education. She participated in the Student/Parent

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Double Your Child Hunger Donations in September

The Child Hunger Challenge is back, thanks to donors Craig and Ginger Gies. Once again, Craig and Ginger are matching all Child Hunger donations up to \$30,000 this September. For more information, visit www.lincolnfoodbank.org or contact John Mabry at jmabry@lincolnfoodbank.org.

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Fall Events

September

- 1: Hunger Action Month begins
- 12: Dine Out to Help Out
- 13: Annual Agency Gathering
- 14: Fruit on the Go!, a CHE partnership event
- 28: Lincoln CAN collection event

October

- 10: Food Fight! Kickoff event

November

- 1: Check Out Hunger & Holiday Food Drive begin
- 2: Food Fight! ends
- 9: Combat Hunger



A Letter From the Executive Director

This American classic, was penned in 1907 by Will Cobb and Gus Edwards. (We try to provide you with valuable information in this space!) This old tune may have brought us the age-old educational cliché, "Three Rs" in spite of the fact it's actually an "R" a "W" and an "A." The guess here is that good old Will and Gus could not have imagined the changes our schools have undergone since 1907. For the faculties and staffs in our schools, the evolution of our schools is remarkable, and the pace of change, coupled with increasing needs, can be daunting.

The partnerships formed with our 16 county service area's schools have transformed your Food Bank. During the 2017-2018 school year, we partnered with 41 Lincoln Public Schools, 5 Catholic schools in Lincoln, and schools in 28 rural communities. Together, through these key partnerships, we were able to distribute 952,879 pounds of food, which turned into approximately 794,024 meals.

With your help, we were able to serve over 5,000 families a month through our Child Hunger Programs, including the Backpack Program, our School Markets, the LPS Emergency Pantry and our Teen Moms voucher program.

We stretched ourselves and our partners by piloting new School Markets where previously we had Backpack Programs, and served far more kids and families more food, with savings that will enable us to expand our services to even more kids and families during the 2018-19 shiny new school year.

We thank you for your role in these accomplishments. We ask you to stay with us as we strive to put the Golden Rule into our kids' "School Days." We promise we will build on past successes. We have more kids and families to serve than ever, and more innovations on the horizon.

Thanks for helping us pursue our mission: To Alleviate Hunger in Southeast Nebraska.

A blue ink handwritten signature that reads "Scott Young".

Scott Young
Executive Director
Food Bank of Lincoln

*“School Days, School Days,
dear old Golden Rule
Days Readin' and 'ritin' an
'rithmetic, taught to the tune of
a hick'ry stick.”*



Rural Focus

Seward Volunteers' Leap of Faith Demonstrates Mission

About three years ago, the Food Bank was searching for a new community partner in Seward County. Rather quickly, the congregation of St. John Lutheran Church stepped up. Since taking the leap, a reliable and spirited group of 15 or so volunteers gathers monthly to assist Food Bank staff with set up, food distribution and clean up.



"We knew there was a real need [for food], particularly in our more rural areas," says Pat Ohlman, a congregant and site volunteer.

Deaconess Juanita Ebert serves as the site coordinator, recruiting and engaging the steadfast crew. Some congregants describe her as the "head leaper" because she was eager for the church to put the church's mission, "Proclaiming and practicing the love of Christ" into action. "We want our community to know this church is not focused only on its members, but the entire community," said Deaconess Ebert.

Each month St. John volunteers, clad in orange t-shirts they purchased themselves, greet clients with a smile and a friendly welcome. Hospitality abounds as the group goes beyond what is required to care for their guests. Resources are pooled, coupons are clipped, ads are scoured and grants applied for in order to expand offerings. Thanks to these efforts, items from paper towels to toothpaste are available to clients.

In the Food Bank world, orange is the color of hunger action; something the group didn't realize when they ordered their shirts. Coincidence? Perhaps. Divine intervention? Most assuredly ... because sometimes when you take a leap things just fall into place.



Child Hunger Programs Expanding in New School Year

The 2018-2019 school year brings with it positive changes for the Food Bank's Child Hunger Programs. This year, new Backpack Programs will begin at Adams, Don Sherrill, Humann, and Kahoa Elementary Schools, as well as new Food Market Programs at Irving, Mickle, and Pound Middle Schools.

Success realized from converting four elementary schools from Backpack Program models to Food Market Programs last school year, means we have confidence to switch two more elementary schools (McPhee and Riley) to a Food Market this year.

Jaqueline From the Cover

Program at Lincoln Public Schools, a program that provides childcare on site during the school day. It gave Jaqueline a place to be actively involved in caring for her daughter Jeannette while pursuing her own academic path.

Jaqueline admits it's hard to stay focused on her goals sometimes, but she's grateful when strangers show unexpected kindnesses. Like the kind that came from the Food Bank's Student Parent Voucher Program. "It was such an important resource for me," she said.

In addition to food, teen parents can purchase diapers, wipes or other essentials for themselves or their children. "Without that option, there are definitely times I'm not sure what I would have done."

"Even though Food Bank donors don't know me, and we'll likely never meet, it makes me feel a little less insecure... less stressed, about being able to afford the necessities," she said. "I appreciate their generosity. I know I have a purpose in the world. I'm determined to fulfill it."

Why We Give

Words from our Donors

Ed and Loretta Love



Retired music educators Ed and Loretta Love saw firsthand what it was like for students struggling with hunger. They saw it in the faces of children in their classrooms. "Knowing that kids are coming to school physically and mentally unprepared because of a lack of food is the main reason we support the Food Bank's Child Hunger Programs," said Ed.

Despite being retired, the couple stays plenty busy. Loretta serves as the Director of Music at Church of the Holy Trinity, and Ed frequently performs live jazz as part of the Ed Love Quartet. When they have time, the couple loves to travel. Experiencing new foods is a significant part of their adventures. "Food is an anchor. When we think back to trips we've taken or special times we've enjoyed, it's the food that often stirs the rest of our memories," said Loretta. "Food connects us to fond times, places and people we've met. That's the power of food. That's why it's important for us to help," she said.

"At this point, our goals are simple," said Ed. "We want to continue to make some good music and feed some kids."

Gordon and Norma Hardle



Not everyone has the same level of stability. Donors Norma and Gordon Hardle know that. It's one reason they firmly believe in helping others. "The basic life needs of people are shelter and food," said Gordon. "We are fortunate to have both, along with a little extra, which allows us the opportunity to help the Food Bank of Lincoln."

Gordon is an architect by training who currently works for Lincoln Public Schools as a construction manager. Norma is employed at Lincoln Industries. Most Fridays during the school year, she and several of her Lincoln Industries colleagues help distribute food-filled BackPacks at Hartley Elementary School.

While Norma's more vibrant personality sends kiddos off with food for the weekend and a smile, Gordon tends to be more reserved. Yet, the significance of the Child Hunger Programs is not at all lost on him. "I've seen first graders who are refugees in our school system who've been through more in their young lives than I'll ever have to endure in mine," he said.

"The Backpack Program is so important to both of us," Norma said. "Not only are we able to give back to the community we love so much, we also have the privilege of being part of contributing to the health and well-being of many children in our community."



HOURS

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

LOCATION

4840 Doris Bair Circle, Suite A
(next to Doris Bair softball complex)

MAILING ADDRESS

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