

feeding MATTERS

2019 Winter Newsletter



Partnership with Community Health Endowment will help boost access to healthy foods

The Community Health Endowment's (CHE's) Place Matters Community Mapping Project showed a strong relationship among poverty, childhood obesity, and access to healthy food. **The Healthy Food Access Project** will support providing healthier food to Lincoln's most vulnerable children and under-resourced neighborhoods.

The project, a collaboration between the Food Bank of Lincoln and the Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties, has three main project components:

- 1) A 5,000-square-foot commercial kitchen to be located at Community Action, 210 O Street, which will be used to prepare and distribute hot, healthy meals as well as serve as a place for food storage, processing and production.
- 2) Support of a Healthy Food Access Vehicle, which the Food Bank will use to distribute as much as 3,000 pounds of fresh produce weekly to eight sites in areas of high poverty and low access to healthy food.

- 3) Project coordination that will provide efficient coordination and scheduling of the kitchen and Healthy Food Access Vehicle.

Total CHE investment in the Healthy Food Access Project is \$971,993. The kitchen and the vehicle are expected to be in full use by late spring of 2019.

The Healthy Food Access Project builds on projects previously funded by CHE including the Nebraska Extension's Choose Healthy Here project, Community Crops' Veggie Van project, the Food Bank of Lincoln's Fresh Produce for School Food Markets project, a community garden at the Malone Community Center and an intergenerational community garden in northeast Lincoln.

Collaborations, like these, are crucial to the Food Bank's work and, more importantly, to the health and vitality our community.

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A Letter From the Executive Director

Those of us who work, or volunteer at the Food Bank are the fortunate recipients of hundreds of stories each year. Some of our stories fracture the hardest heart. Some challenge the softest heart. There are stories that provoke thought and stories that take up residence in your soul.

In October, Development Director John Mabry and I filled-in for volunteers at the Food Bank's LPS Emergency Pantry. A story presented herself that afternoon, a guest.

There are things I imagine about this guest and things I know about her.

I imagine this woman who would be about 40, sat in her car for five minutes before coming in. I imagine the very last thing she wanted to do on that fine Friday afternoon was go to a food charity.

She came in to the pantry and said about half abruptly: *"This is my first time ... what do you need me to do?"* It took courage to come in.

I imagine she began to relax when she saw others picking out food. I imagine she remained somewhat anxious during the whole human transaction. Who wouldn't?

She was dressed in what professional people wear at medical practices around town, some comfortable shoes, slacks and a moderately colorful smock/blouse.

We know from her registration she has four children in her home. I imagine she does not have a partner.

In our casual, quiet conversation she shared:

"I work full-time at a medical practice."

"All we have in our refrigerator is condiments."

"I've been skipping meals so my kids can eat."

And last but not least: *"I'm sooo hungry!"*

I imagine she opened something she got from the Pantry as soon as she got in her car. **This friend of the Food Bank needed something right then. Right there.**

Thanks for sharing in this work of providing 35 pounds of groceries to a family. Thanks for being thoughtful about what else our organization can and should be doing for this family, and thousands of others.

Thanks for being part of our story.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Young', written in a cursive style.

Scott Young
Executive Director
Food Bank of Lincoln

Great gift for Child Hunger Programs

An anonymous donor has made a generous commitment to the Food Bank's Child Hunger programs — a \$500,000 commitment over five years, starting with a \$100,000 gift in September. Imagine the good it's already doing as we work hard to meet the needs of more than 18,000 food-insecure children in our 16-county service area. The organization that quietly made this donation has our loud gratitude.



Food Bank programs growing, thanks to your support

Just as many parents and caregivers compare first and last-day-of-school photos, we know when we look back at the 2018-2019 school year we will see growth and changes in our Child Hunger programs as well.

Four elementary schools (Adams, Don Sherrill, Humann, and Kahoa) in the Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) system all participated in a Backpack program for the first time. Later this spring, Maxey Elementary School will also join our group of Backpack school sites. Three LPS locations (Irving, Mickle, and Pound) launched a School Food Market Program. In our rural service area, Wymore will host a School Food Market program.

Lincoln East and Yankee Hill both recently added on-site pantries, which will allow them to serve students on an as-needed basis.

Finally, McPhee and Riley — two locations that were previously hosting Backpack programs — converted to the School Food Market model. Later this semester, Culler Middle School will also convert to that model.

These new program changes give us the ability to distribute approximately 2,700 weekly Backpacks and serve more than 2,800 families at monthly School Food Markets. We appreciate our wonderful school and community partners who make these programs possible.

This kind of growth is only possible through tremendous support. On behalf of every student whose classroom achievements are enhanced, or whose performance in music and the arts is more focused, or whose achievements in athletics is more energized, thank you.

New Mobile Food Distributions and Partner Agencies added in 2019



As part of our Rural Mobile Food Distribution efforts, we've added a monthly visit in Cedar Bluffs to our schedule. We'll be at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 300 S. 2nd St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cedar Bluffs is located in Saunders County.

First-Plymouth, 2000 D St., will host a monthly mobile food distribution on the third Saturday of each month, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

On the fourth Monday of each month, North Pointe Community Church, 2224 Fletcher Ave., will host a distribution from 6 to 7 p.m.

Amazing things happen

because of friends like you.

Restaurant Recognition: The Garage Sports Bar & Grill 5551 S. 48th St.

When we opened The Garage, it was to be ran as a small town business. Being from a small town you just help each other. We are truly blessed with our clientele. We all should feel blessed. We have a roof over our heads and food to eat. We get involved with Food Bank promotions because they are good things to do, and goodness grows. We believe no one should go hungry.”

— Trish and Heinz Westphal, owners of The Garage

Meet Rural Ambassador: Gina Long

Gina Long has been a great friend of the Food Bank for many years, and she recently joined our team of Rural Ambassadors, along with her husband, Craig.

Gina handles accounting and purchasing for Auburn Public Schools and has been an instrumental member of the Auburn Backpack team. She and Craig also have a community garden that generates funds for area hunger projects.

“We feel strongly that no child should have to be hungry and worry where their next meal is coming from,” Gina said.

We are grateful for the Longs’ kindness and hard work. For more information about our Rural Ambassador team — helping us with hunger awareness throughout our 16 counties — please contact John Mabry at jmabry@lincolnfoodbank.org.



Save the Date

February

21: Lincoln High School Food Market Fundraiser
The Mill at Nebraska Innovation Campus; 5:30-7 p.m.

March

19: Empty Bowls tickets go on sale!

April

27: Backpack Extra Mile Walk
Lincoln East High School; 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Fundraising is not limited to LPS. Any Lincoln businesses can participate.
For more information, please contact Development Director John Mabry

May

11: Annual Stamp Out Hunger Postal Drive
28: Empty Bowls
Embassy Suites, 1040 P St. in Lincoln; 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
31: Give to Lincoln Day

June

14: 2nd annual Camp Feed the Need
(one-day camp for youths entering 6-8th grades)



MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

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

Food Bank of Lincoln
4840 Doris Bair Circle, Suite A
Lincoln, NE 68504

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