

# feeding MATTERS

2018 Spring Newsletter



**give**  
To Lincoln Day

*May 31, 2018*

Every year, you make Give to Lincoln Day a special day for the Food Bank and many other compassionate organizations in our city. You – our donors – have stepped up in a major way, and we hope you will do that again this year.

**There is a record match pool of \$400,000 this year, and Give to Lincoln donations are being accepted now through May 31.** Please visit [www.lincolnfoodbank.org](http://www.lincolnfoodbank.org) or [www.givetolincoln.com](http://www.givetolincoln.com) for more information and do not hesitate to contact development director John Mabry – [jmabry@lincolnfoodbank.org](mailto:jmabry@lincolnfoodbank.org) – with any questions.

*Thank you*

*We give to the Food Bank on Give to Lincoln Day because we believe that feeding hungry people is important. We hold that belief as persons of faith, as members of this prosperous community, and as educators. Healthy children and families are better for our community today and in the future, and the Food Bank is a vital organization in meeting this basic human need. Over ten million meals were served by the Food Bank last year, the need is great, and we're glad to be part of the effort that sets the tables for Lincoln's families.*

*–Marilyn Moore, Food Bank Board Chair, & husband Dave*



*Can Rick address his mental health if he can't alleviate his hunger?*

*If she's focused on her hunger problem, how can Maggie solve her story problems?*

*How does Beth focus on her job when she's distracted by her hunger?*

## Looking for a challenge? We have your match!

**May 14-29:** Food Bank Board Chair Marilyn Moore and her husband, Dave, will match all donations up to \$3,500.

**May 28-29:** Food Bank friends Kathy and Steve Dickey will match all donations up to \$2,000.

**May 29:** Surprise donation match to be announced at Empty Bowls.

**May 31:** A Food Bank board member will match all donations up to \$5,000 from Noon-Midnight.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018

Dr. Marilyn Moore, President  
Retired, Bryan College  
of Health Sciences

David Wilcox, Vice-President  
Retired, UBT

Molly Brummond, Past President  
University of Nebraska College of Law

Ron Jester, Treasurer  
Labenz & Associates LLC

Dr. Karla Lester, Secretary  
Children's Center for the  
Child & Community

Jolene Bartling  
Retired, Wal-Mart

Greg Yank  
Wells Fargo Bank

Kirstie Jeanette Engel  
Saint Paul United Methodist Church

Becky Gould  
Nebraska Appleseed

Curt Krueger  
Catholic Social Services

Dr. Vann Price  
North Star High School

Linda Robinson Rutz  
Community Volunteer

Michelle Suarez  
Prosper Lincoln

Kerry DeCory  
Community Volunteer

Bruce Wright  
Cline Williams Law Firm

## FOOD WASTE FAST FACTS

- 72 billion pounds of food is lost each year (not including waste at home)
- \$218 billion worth of food is thrown away each year
- 21% of landfill volume is food waste
- 21% of fresh water is used to produce food that is then discarded
- Feeding America currently rescues 2.8 billion pounds of food and provides it to people in need.



## A Letter From the Executive Director

My wife JoAnne and I were married in 1973 and started our life together in Laramie, Wyoming. In 1974 we headed east on I-80 in a \$40 Buick to a low-paying radio job in Omaha. JoAnne enrolled at UNO and we scuffled along for a few years, as our family, and our bills grew, and grew, and grew.

We spent several years in the 70's flat broke. We lived paycheck-to-paycheck. Some months we might have ended up 75-100 bucks to the good, other months, a hundred bucks or more in the red. Bounced checks, past due utilities notifications, expired license plates, and lots of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese for about 30 cents a box were all part of the Young family landscape. We did not have much, but we were never short on hope. We knew we would not spend our entire adult lives locked in that kind of stressful, economic struggle.

Our hope was rooted in our good fortune of having access to many of the 11 Essential Resources our Bridges Out of Poverty workshops cite as critically important; Social Capital/Support Systems, Relationships/Role Models, Motivation and Persistence, Mental/Cognitive Resources or the capability of dealing with daily life, and Physical and Emotional Health. Here in 2018, many of our neighbors don't have the same kind of abundant access we enjoyed.

*We lived paycheck-to-paycheck. Some months we might have ended up 75-100 bucks to the good, other months, a hundred bucks or more in the red.*

In this season of life, the Youngs are grateful for the luxury of affording things; a new washer and dryer, an out-of-the-blue car repair bill, property taxes, utilities, or a traffic ticket. (I turned left out of East Campus where it was clearly marked "Right Turn Only.") For too many Nebraska families, events such as these can send a paycheck-to-paycheck existence completely off the rails.

The Food Bank and its 142 agency and school partners are part of a larger safety net system, the foundation of which is the Federal Government. There will be conversations in the coming months and years selling this notion; "We need to let churches and charities handle these problems." Don't buy it. Your Food Bank, your church, your favorite charities, don't have the resources to provide an entire safety net for hundreds of thousands of people in Nebraska, and millions of people in America.

Together, in partnership with our elected officials on the federal and state levels, we must stay committed to doing our best to help keep the lives of young families, elders, veterans, addicts in rehab and the disabled, on the rails. Those of us who enjoy the luxury of affording things, must stay committed to those who don't.

Thank you for helping us alleviate hunger in Southeast Nebraska.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Young". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

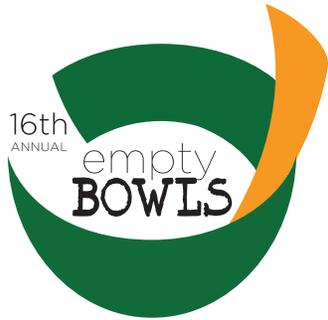
Scott Young  
Executive Director  
Food Bank of Lincoln

## Growing Our Programs

The 2017-2018 school year was a test run for some new ideas in the Food Bank of Lincoln's Child Hunger Programs. Working with our school partners, we converted four elementary school Backpack Programs into Food Market Programs. We also started brand new Backpack Programs at Fredstrom Elementary in Lincoln and Freeman Public Schools in Adams, as well as a Food Market Program at Lefler Middle School in Lincoln. Those changes and additions have allowed us to distribute over 2,900 backpacks per week and serve more than 2,300 individuals per month at Food Markets. Thank you to all of our school and community partners for their work and support to make our programs a success!



## Last Chance to Purchase Lincoln Empty Bowls Tickets!



**Tuesday, May 29 | 11 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**Embassy Suites Hotel, 1040 P St., Lincoln**

\$25 each, includes your choice of a handcrafted stoneware bowl from Down Under Pottery. Buy your tickets online at [www.LincolnFoodBank.org](http://www.LincolnFoodBank.org) or call (402) 466-8170, ext. 121.

## Rural Spotlight Beatrice Empty Bowls

The good folks of Beatrice gathered on Wednesday, April 11 at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Beatrice to enjoy a variety of soups and join as a community to address hunger and poverty in Beatrice and neighboring areas.

The Empty Bowls luncheon is the big, yearly fundraiser for the Beatrice Backpack Program which, each week, provides 100 Beatrice kids and their families with nutritious food to get them through the weekend. About 90 percent of annual Program funding is raised through ticket sales and sponsorships.

We're honored to serve 16 counties in Southeast Nebraska, including Gage County, and grateful for the many partnerships and donors in the community.



*Representing the collaborative partners from Beatrice and the Food Bank are, back row, from left: Kristy Thies, Peggy Johnson, Scott Young and Patty Kaufman, and front row, from left: Alynn Sampson and Jason Helgren.*

## Hot Summer Fun!

**May 29**

16th annual Empty Bowls

**May 31**

Give to Lincoln Day

**June 1**

Campbell's Grow and Share Program begins

**June 15**

Camp Feed the Need

**July 15**

Food Stock II

**August 16-18**

Capital City Ribfest



## Donor Spotlight Rhonda Seacrest

Rhonda recently made a \$50,000 donation to boost our child hunger programs and to help support the Backpack Extra Mile Walk on April 28. She has now contributed more than \$100,000 to help alleviate child hunger in Lincoln. We are so grateful. Thank you, Rhonda, for all you do for this community.

# Hunger Doesn't Take a Break

## Summer Food Service Program

The Food Bank of Lincoln will be participating in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in 2018 as a new sponsor in Lincoln. Working with the Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department, the Food Bank will sponsor 17 sites previously under the sponsorship of the Health Department. The SFSP provides free breakfasts and lunches during the summer which is a federally funded program. Please keep an eye on the Food Bank's website for more information about the SFSP and participating sites around Lincoln. The Food Bank is excited to begin this new endeavor aimed at increasing access to meals for low income students during the summer months.

The Food Bank will also continue to have a smaller Summer Backpack Program by working with community partners, child care centers, and partner organizations.



**Join us at the SFSP Kickoff Party!**  
 Friday, May 11, 6-8 p.m. | Peter Pan Park, 32nd & W Streets  
 in Lincoln | Games, fun, prizes and more!

## More Than Cake: A Mother's Day Story

During the final Food Market at Lincoln High School last school year, a Food Bank employee took notice of one particular teenage boy who seemed to be studying the options on the baked goods table.

She asked, "Is there something I can help you find?"

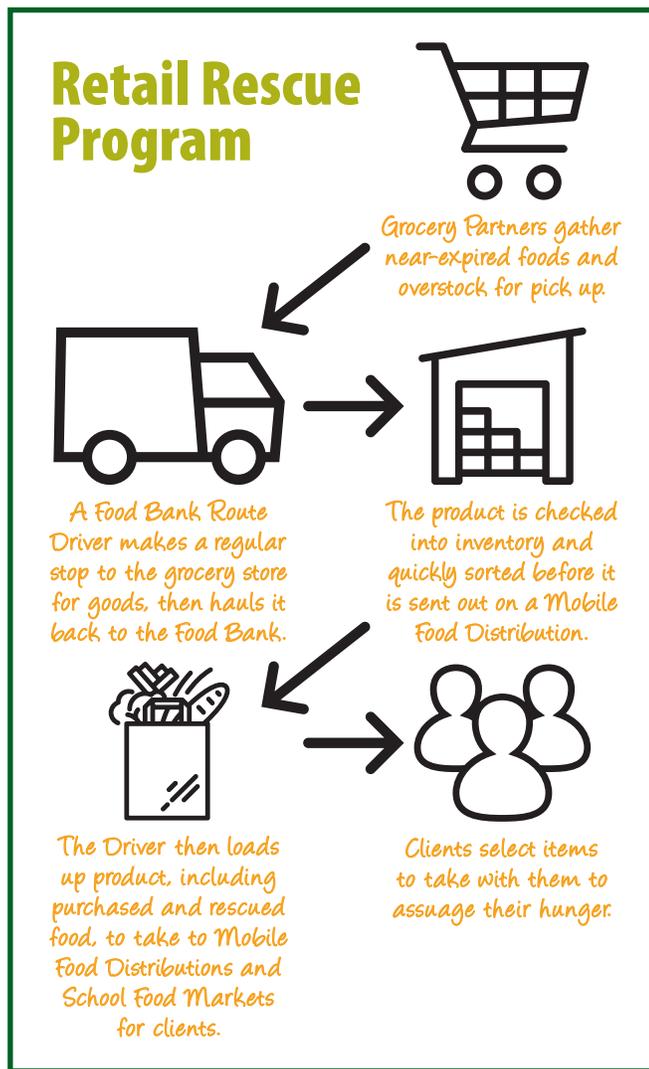
"Well...yes...maybe...Please? I'd like to find a cake for my Mom to give to her Sunday for Mother's Day," he replied.

The Food Bank employee was quite moved by this young man's tender consideration. After ensuring the student had staple items, like cereal, canned vegetables and fresh fruit, she pointed out a frosted sheet cake decorated with purple flowers.

The young man agreed it was a good choice.

He juggled the cake, the bag of food he was taking home to his family, his book bag and his bike. Although transporting it was somewhat awkward, it was evident it was worth the effort to him.

What a powerful reminder that what we distribute is more than food; more than fuel. Sometimes, what looks like food is really a heartfelt Mother's Day gift.



**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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