One of the benefits of producing an annual report such as this is the chance to reflect on the ups and downs of the previous year. The “ups” are apparent in our numbers. The “downs” are the folks we have not yet reached, or the stories we hear of hard lives and little hope. We continue to grow our services, while maintaining an innovative spirit, in hopes of finding new methods to reach new people that need our services. Our board and staff know we can do more, be more, serve more.

Our core values at the Food Bank are: Responsibility, Compassion, Collaboration, Diversity and Education. The annual report is primarily about responsibility, but all our values show up when we look back on any given year.

We are responsible for using donor dollars wisely. We are responsible for handling our food donors’ offerings safely. We are responsible for meeting and exceeding our communities’ expectations. Last and certainly not least, we are responsible for serving our neighbors, who are depending on the Food Bank and its agencies and school partners, with compassion and respect.

We are fortunate to be able to communicate with you about millions of pounds of food and millions of meals, millions of dollars being efficiently directed to feeding our neighbors, tens of millions of dollars’ worth of economic activity, hundreds of thousands of meals in our Youth and Family Programs or tens of thousands of volunteer hours.

When we look beyond all these impactful numbers, the core work of the Food Bank and its partners can best be found in a one-to-one transaction; one person handing another a meal, a food-filled backpack, a bag of fresh apples or oranges, or a frozen turkey for the holidays. One neighbor, caring about another.

Thank you for supporting your Food Bank in fulfilling our mission; to alleviate hunger in Southeast Nebraska.

Best regards,

Scott Young
Executive Director
Food Bank of Lincoln
Like many high school seniors, Riley, a Lincoln North Star graduate wrote an essay as part of a college scholarship application process. In one of hers, the young woman described what it was like for her to receive a food-filled backpack when she was an elementary student. "I can still remember getting a piece of paper to go after school and get my bag. I didn’t truly understand the importance of these bags; I was just excited for the pudding cups. I remember walking down [to the distribution at school] with many of my peers, and even sharing food with them (hoping that my mom wouldn’t find out and get mad)."

According to her high school counselor Curtis Thomas, Riley is a "bright, energetic, compassionate, generous, and genuinely well-rounded" young woman. These are more than adjectives. They are compliments Riley has earned by demonstrating resiliency through hardship.

Riley’s upbringing wasn’t easy. Her mother battled alcohol addiction, and as a result, there were many times when Riley—the oldest in her family—looked after her brothers. "Most nights I would make dinner, tuck my younger brothers into bed, and cry myself to sleep," Riley wrote.

Despite the hardships she and her family faced, Riley maintained above average grades. She was active in extracurricular clubs at school and even made time to volunteer at multiple community agencies outside of school time.

“Riley has had a difficult time in life due to circumstances beyond her control. However, she has kept a positive attitude and a strong will to succeed,” wrote Counselor Thomas.

At times, Riley had to make difficult decisions that ultimately would make her family stronger, but in the moment required Riley to be incredibly brave. Because of Riley’s determination—and thanks to support from caring school and community professionals—Riley’s mom got the help she needed. "My mom is four months sober, has a job, and is seeking help for mental and physical problems," Riley wrote. "There are many reasons for this change, and the Food Bank's BackPack Program is one of them."

As Riley’s mother continues to create stability for her family, Riley is determined to make the world a better place. She is attending college at Nebraska Wesleyan University pursuing a career in human services. She dreams of working in law enforcement and hopes her personal experiences will offer a different perspective. Furthermore, she wants to help address some of the underlying issues that can lead to poverty and crime.

Riley’s story is one of resilience. It’s one of reinvention. And above all, it’s one of hope. We are grateful to our donors and supporters who believe in new paths, and who help us build bridges out of poverty to possibility.

**Donor Testimonial:**

**Kindly contributed by Christi & Doc Chaves**

We support the Food Bank because we want everyone to be able to ask “what’s for dinner?”

Compare these questions: “What’s for dinner tonight?” and “Is there dinner tonight?” For those of us who regularly ask the first question, we must appreciate what a blessing this represents. Especially when thousands of our neighbors in Lancaster and surrounding counties are challenged with “Is there anything for dinner tonight, or tomorrow?” Helping relieve this daily food crisis is the Food Bank of Lincoln. We have come to appreciate the stewardship and resourcefulness the Food Bank applies to maximize every donation. We support the Food Bank because we want everyone to be able to ask “what’s for dinner?”

Christi and Doc Chaves

Bennet, Nebraska
Statement of Financial Position

**Assets**

**CURRENT ASSETS**
- Cash & cash equivalents: $966,255
- Certificates of deposit: $252,478
- Accounts receivable: $27,107
- Promises to give: $37,500
- Grants receivable: $110,593
- Inventory (donated & purchased): $857,012
- Inventory held for others: $83,358

**PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT, NET:** $923,634

**OTHER ASSETS**
- Pledges receivable, less current portion: $10,000
- Investments: $403,852

**Total current assets:** $3,297,708

**TOTAL ASSETS:** $4,231,342

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**Liabilities and Net Assets**

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**
- Accounts payable: $37,101
- Agency overpayment: $9,029
- Payroll taxes payable: $2,223
- Accrued wages: $44,052
- Accrued vacation: $36,290
- Inventory held for others: $83,358

**Total current liabilities:** $226,303

**NET ASSETS**
- Unrestricted
  - Undesignated: $2,574,995
  - Board designated: $521,346
- Temporarily restricted: $908,698

**TOTAL NET ASSETS:** $4,005,039

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:** $4,231,342

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**Statement of Activities**

**Revenue and Support**
- Value of contributed inventory: $12,016,311
- Unrestricted contributions: $2,041,459
- Restricted grants and contributions: $1,656,597
- In-kind goods and services: $92,247
- Governmental program support: $220,730
- Investment income: $27,393
- Agency cooperative purchasing and fees: $248,707
- Realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments: $108,015
- Miscellaneous: $21,202

**Total Revenue and Support:** $16,432,661

**Expenses**
- Program Services: $14,931,170
- Management & General: $353,070
- Fundraising: $647,083
- Total Expenses: $15,931,323

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**Food Source**
- Government: (13%)
- Food Bank Partners: (1%)
- Manufacturers: (36%)
- Food Drives & Misc.: (7%)
- Retail & Wholesale Food Donors: (31%)
- Purchased: (12%)

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**2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Total meals provided in 2017:** 10,324,475

**Total meals provided for hungry children:** 810,711

**Total Volunteer Hours:** 44,666

This is equivalent to $1,078,237.20 in savings, according to data from Independent Sector.*

*Source: https://www.nationalservice.gov/vcla/national
As part of Union Bank’s 100th anniversary, the privately owned, Nebraska bank made a $125,000 donation to support the BackPack Program. “Union Bank’s gift to the kids of our community means that 17,000 food-filled backpacks will support kids and their families as they learn, grow and thrive in our community,” said Scott Young, Executive Director of the Food Bank of Lincoln. “Union Bank is helping the dreams of our community’s families come true.”

UBT First Vice President Kevin Keller said, “The Food Bank does a remarkable job in their mission of alleviating hunger in Lincoln and Southeast Nebraska. One of their most impactful programs is the BackPack program. We believe supporting the BackPack program is one way we can invest in the lives of our children to give them hope for a bright future.”

While all students receive meals at school during the week, the BackPack Program provides an amazing service for families who might otherwise find themselves with empty cupboards on the weekends. For UBT employee and father Clark Gress, the experience felt personal. “I have two kids and one on the way, so helping kids is something that is truly important to me.”

Speaking about her BackPack Program volunteer experience, UBT employee Angie Loomer said, “If I can volunteer and do my part and help another individual in the community be the best they can be, then I want to be a part of that.”

Union Bank is celebrating its 100th anniversary throughout 2017 with special events, special product opportunities and community support. The Food Bank BackPack project is one of several signature community gifts in 2017.