

feeding MATTERS

2019 Spring Newsletter



What fuels your need to feed?

We know our donors all have reasons that fuel their need to feed. Your reasons, combined with our focus, make good things happen. Dara and Chris are not alone.

“My donation is in honor of my husband. Growing up, he lived in poverty. If I can help at all so another child doesn't feel that, I will.” – Dara

“When I was little, my daddy became ill — very ill — and he had to be hospitalized for several months. If it had not been for the Food Stamps my mother was able to get for me and my three sisters, I don't know what we would have done. My daddy got well and was able to go back to work, but I have never forgotten how much that assistance helped my family. I cannot thank your organization for all of the help and the peace of mind that you are providing. I am going to go to your Food Bank website and making my donation now.” – Chris

Recipients of your generosity share their stories, too.

*“I love the look on my son's face when he brings food home. Thank you so much.” – Adrian**

*“My four children and elderly mother have been displaced from the flood. Our funds are low with the relocation and so forth. I work full-time, and I've never reached out for assistance like this. I felt very ashamed to have to do so, but appreciate your warm message of support.” – Sarah**

Day in and day out, our need to feed is fueled by the desire to connect people to meals — to alleviate hunger here in Lincoln and across Southeast Nebraska. **Thank you for being part of this work. It happens because of you.**

*name changed to protect privacy

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A Letter From the Executive Director

Earlier this spring, communities, farmers, and ranchers suffered calamitous damage from blizzards and melting, swollen rivers, and ill-timed rains. The citizenry of Nebraska responded quickly with passion and a heightened sense of urgency.

Now in May, we have mostly moved on as new catastrophic news and events both man-made and natural have captured our fragile attention. Unfortunately, the struggles in Nebraska continue. Many of Nebraska's communities, farms, and ranches were locked in desperate struggles prior to the flooding.

Rising waters. Rising need.

Rather than new challenges, many of our neighbors are facing deepening well-worn challenges. Natural disasters like the great floods of 2019 introduce some unusual suspects to need previously "taken for granted" necessities like food, clean water, shelter. Over the long haul, we expect increased need in our sixteen counties, and across Nebraska. The people we serve needed our assistance prior to the flooding. Now we have even more people in need of the Food Bank's services, and the services of our colleagues at other charities.

Collectively we stepped up in March and April. We were inspired by stories of heroic acts across the state.

Now we are called to a quieter heroism. People and communities are still suffering. We can help. These acts of kindness may not be as loud. We may not get much credit for them. But the kindnesses we extend now are no less important than they were earlier this spring.

Thanks for quiet heroics. Thanks for helping the Food Bank with its mission, to alleviate hunger in Southeast Nebraska.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Young".

Scott Young
Executive Director
Food Bank of Lincoln

*Thanks for being
part of our story.*

Free Meals

for children this summer

Children need good nutrition all year long. When school is out during the summer months, many

children no longer have access to even one nutritious meal each day. For these children and their families, the final bell of the school year isn't always a thrilling sound.



This summer, our team is prepared to make summer a little more bearable for those kids. The Food Bank of Lincoln will manage 32 free Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sites in partnership with numerous community agencies. This is twice the number we managed last summer.

In addition to SFSP meals, our Child Hunger team coordinates Summer Food Markets and two types of Summer Backpack Program distributions. Last summer, we connected children and families to more than 62,000 meals. With twice the number of SFSP sites this summer, we will see a significant jump in the meals connected numbers.

Summer Meal Programs help to fill the gap. A lack of nutrition during the summer months may set up a cycle for poor performance once school begins. **Our goal is to ensure that children get nutritious food during the summer months so that they are ready to learn during the school year.**

Join us May 28 for the Annual Empty Bowls in Lincoln



The Food Bank of Lincoln's 17th annual Empty Bowls event will be held Tuesday, May 28, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Embassy Suites in downtown Lincoln. Tickets are \$25 each and available while supplies last at www.lincolnfoodbank.org or by phone, (402) 466-8170, ext. 121.

The signature event features 15 different soups prepared by some of Lincoln's finest restaurants as well as ConnectioN Point, this year's featured partner agency. Guests vote for their favorite soup and also take home a unique, handcrafted, stoneware bowl made by artists and students at Down Under Pottery, a local pottery studio.

Spotlight on Rural Activity : Auburn and Beatrice Empty Bowls events



County children in the program, and especially appreciated given the tough circumstances many folks are dealing with in that part of the state.

Our friends in Beatrice keep going strong with their annual Empty Bowls event, which took place on March 21. The goal is to support their community's Backpack Program, which includes 100 children in Beatrice. **In its 11th year, the event raised approximately \$38,000.**



Our Auburn Backpack Program friends put together one terrific Empty Bowls event on March 18. It was their inaugural event, but they executed it like they were old pros. **The event helped to raise money for the 90 Nemaha**

Give to Lincoln Day 2019 is here



Please consider a gift to the Food Bank of Lincoln for Give to Lincoln Day, which is set for Thursday, May 30. The event has raised millions for Lincoln's nonprofit organizations, including the Food Bank, and we are grateful to you and the Lincoln Community Foundation for making it such a success each year. Last year, 451 people supported the Food Bank on Give to Lincoln Day. We hope even more will join us this year.

Donations can be made online at www.givetolincoln.com starting on May 1. Gifts made between May 1 and May 30 will count toward the event and be eligible for the match fund.

Donations may also be made in person on May 30 by cash or check at one of these locations:

- **Food Bank of Lincoln**, 4840 Doris Bair Circle, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Lincoln Community Foundation**, 215 Centennial Mall South, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Tower Square**, 13th & P Streets, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **West Gate Bank**, 6003 Old Cheney Road, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Checks must be written to "Lincoln Community Foundation" with the nonprofit name specified in the memo line. Please note that checks received after May 30 will not be eligible.

If you have any questions, please contact John Mabry at jmabry@lincolnfoodbank.org or (402) 466-8170, ext. 110. Thank you.

Amazing things happen

because of friends like you.



Staff Spotlight: Meet Kati

Within moments of meeting Kati, you quickly sense her authenticity and passion for community. It's why she was an instant fit as the Food Bank's first paid Distribution Center Volunteer Coordinator

in 2016, and why she has propelled our volunteer engagement efforts.

Kati is the kind of person who rolls up her sleeves and gets to work, not in a way that directs activity so much as guides it. She works hard and always with an easy smile. There isn't a task presented to her that Kati won't tackle with a "Well, let's try it!" mentality. Those are key reasons Kati now finds herself in a new role with us.

This spring, Kati was promoted to a new role — for her and for the Food

Bank. Kati is our first-ever Healthy Food Access Coordinator. In this capacity, Kati will literally and figuratively navigate efforts for a healthier community. **She's the driver/operator of Lincoln Fresh, a produce truck that will distribute free and fresh fruits and vegetables in under-served areas of Lincoln.**

Lincoln Fresh is part of a Food Bank collaboration with Community Health Endowment of Lincoln and Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties.

“One of the best things about working at Food Bank of Lincoln is getting to see firsthand the daily commitment our community has to making sure our neighbors are fed.” – Kati

Day camp focuses on youth philanthropy

Camp Feed the Need is an opportunity for youths entering grades 6-8 to learn about food insecurity while empowering them to make a difference. **Camp takes place on Friday, June 14, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Food Bank, 4840 Doris Bair Circle, Ste. A.** The day will include food sorting, food insecurity scenarios, creative writing activities, and food experiment and demonstrations. Registration is limited to 15 campers. It includes a free lunch and camp T-shirt. **To participate, contact Sylvie at sylvie@lincolnfoodbank.org or (402) 466-8170, ext. 112.**

Front office volunteers needed

We are accepting applications for front reception volunteers for limited regular and occasional fill-in shifts. Morning shifts are 9 a.m. to Noon and afternoon shifts are 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. All front office volunteers participate in orientation and training on administrative tasks, such as phone and walk-in greeting,

filing, letter preparation, database maintenance, etc.

For additional details, please contact Jami Gordon at jgordon@lincolnfoodbank.org or (402) 466-8170, ext. 124.



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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