

The Feeding Frontline

2020 SPRING NEWSLETTER



MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

LINCOLNFOODBANK.ORG

Give to Lincoln Time is Here



In this year of COVID-19, we could really use your Give to Lincoln Day help. The Food Bank of Lincoln needs your support to help neighbors who have lost jobs. To help children who've lost access to free and reduced lunches at school. To help seniors and veterans who are struggling with all of it.

give
To Lincoln Day

Give to Lincoln Day is set for Thursday, May 28. Every dollar contributed translates to three meals for hungry neighbors. Since the beginning of

March, Southeast Nebraskans who would never have imagined facing food insecurity have accessed our services in greater numbers. As our region, our state, and our country strive to recover from this unprecedented challenge, our mission remains and our resolve to alleviate hunger in Southeast Nebraska has never been stronger. We are grateful to you and the Lincoln Community Foundation for standing with us.

Donations can be made online at givetolincoln.com starting on May 1. Gifts made between May 1 and May 28 will count toward the event and be eligible for the match fund.

Online gifts are preferred, but if you want to pay by check, please note that all checks must be payable 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. We're grateful for your compassion and generosity and all you do to help us alleviate hunger in Southeast Nebraska.

THE FOOD BANK MISSION

Alleviate hunger
in Southeast Nebraska.

OUR VISION

Nourishing our communities
to end hunger.



A Letter From the Executive Director

May invokes mom memories aplenty. We all have those memories, and we have all had moms. My mom, Betty, died in late 2017 and I think of her often. For many, mom memories include food. My fondest reflections of Betty frequently revolve around rich family gatherings that always included memorable meals.

At the Food Bank, other moms come to mind. During this time of difficult decision-making brought about by coronavirus issues, I have been thinking about a waitress I believe is a mom. She works at a favorite restaurant that JoAnne and I frequent. I believe I know her name but am not sure. She does not know mine.

I think of her now because she appears to be a consummate professional. She waits on us occasionally at this restaurant, where you would go for a nice meal. She is no-nonsense. She has worked for at least 5-6 years at this eatery and has probably made a decent living.

I am writing this in late March, and the restaurant's website reveals that, at least for today, they are closed. Is this woman a single mom? Is she concerned about an elderly parent? Will she be able to make her house payment or rent if the restaurant remains closed for an indeterminate period? What about a car payment or car repair bill? A medical emergency? I suspect any restaurant in town would hire her in a New York minute, but most of them aren't looking for wait staff right now.

This pandemic promises to impact those of us with stable lives some amount of inconvenience for months. For those who have had the make-a-decent-living rug suddenly pulled out from under them, everything could take a dark turn. Who do you know that has had to negotiate that unexpected turn? As we pull this newsletter together in late March, we anticipate a real spike in need that may last a long while.

Thanks for helping us alleviate hunger for this mom, and thousands of others.

Best regards,

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

Scott Young
Executive Director
Food Bank of Lincoln

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Schelert Gift Means 300,000 Meals for Friends in Need

Fred and Jenny Schelert have donated countless hours of volunteer time to the Food Bank of Lincoln, helping the regular Thursday morning crew with the sorting of donated food and the lifting of spirits just in their presence.

Recently, they made another major contribution to our work with a gift of \$100,000. That donation will provide 300,000 meals for Southeast Nebraska neighbors in need along with a whole lot of hope.

Fred and Jenny have battled together through many health challenges, most recently Fred's bout with cancer. They are fighters. They are also givers. Lincoln Literacy also received \$100,000 from the Schelerts. That is \$200,000 worth of shared good in the community as we have great admiration for our Lincoln Literacy friends.

Thank You, Fred and Jenny, for all of that goodness, and mainly for your friendship.





A Bright Light for Neighbors: A Message from the SNAP Outreach Inbox

"I just completed a SNAP application with a 55-year-old women in Otoe County. She is a senior caregiver. She has been following our Facebook page, which led her to our website. She attended drive-thru distributions in Otoe County. She also applied for SNAP after seeing a post on our Facebook.

She wanted to say thank you to the entire Food Bank. She said the Food Bank has been a bright light in this stressful week and she has secured enough food for a two week self-isolation at home.

Thank you to everyone!"

KATIE NUNGESSER
SNAP Indirect Service Manager

A Community Responds

The Food Bank of Lincoln is grateful to be part of a community that pulls together in tough times. Southeast Nebraskans really stepped up for hungry neighbors. Thank you!

"I am blessed to have plenty of food and family support and want to help those who don't in this terrible time."

JUDITH, LINCOLN

"With elderly being more susceptible to COVID-19, I would like to offer some help."

OMERA, LINCOLN

"To help during this crisis."

MARY KAY, WAHOO

"Want to help people who can't afford to stock up."

KATHRYN, LINCOLN

"In honor of those on the front lines serving others with compassion and courage."

ALISA, ALBUQUERQUE

"Working from home, weekly gas budget."

JASON & CATHY, LINCOLN

"Because more people are going to need help since many people are out of work due to the coronavirus."

KELLIE, LINCOLN

"We love supporting the Food Bank and all you do for people. Troubling times prompted this one."

KIM & JOE, LINCOLN

"I am concerned about children missing free lunch at school during this time."

KATHRYN, CORTLAND

"I hope this might help in the case of greater need due to COVID-19. God bless you for all your work!"

JESSICA, LINCOLN



Small Victories Make a Big Difference

Two years ago, when the Food Bank of Lincoln began a Monthly Food Distribution in York, a partnership was forged with York College Student Government to provide a volunteer force every first Friday at East Hill Church. Bryce Tyler, Residence Hall Director for McCloud/Thomas Hall North on the York College campus, volunteers at the distribution. For Tyler, a Lincoln native, it's more than a belief in service to campus and community. He has lived the experience of those he now is able to help. When he was 10 years old, his father left the family, and a week later, his mother lost her job.

"She went from having two really stable incomes to having no income with two kids to raise," said Tyler, who was raised in Lincoln. His family's story illustrates how thin the line is for many families between stability and food insecurity. From that point on, his mother was working multiple jobs, living paycheck to paycheck, and struggled to put food on the table. Tyler was a student at Lincoln High School when the Food Bank of Lincoln launched the first School Food Market in 2011.

"When the food market opened, I thought it was really cool that it's there for people who need that. But I really didn't see it as something that I could go to. I felt like I didn't want to intrude and take away food that other families would need."

But he did go to the market and went home with the first of many bags of groceries. It became his way of contributing to the family. "Every time I went, it was a sustainable amount of food that let us not feel like we were poor for a couple of days." Now, when he helps people at the East Hill Church distribution with their groceries, he knows how significant that help is.

"For people in need, they already have big problems in their lives. And those are sometimes lifelong problems that they're going to be dealing with. And so, to get by sometimes it's really just the little things ... like saying, here's some extra food for you to survive on for free. Here's somebody who's going to carry your stuff to your car for you and put it in your car, so you don't have to worry about it. **You've been struggling, you've been fighting, you've been grinding through this for so long, let us take care of today. I love that idea. I think that's really beautiful!**"



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 68504-1410

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