

The Feeding Frontline

2021 SPRING NEWSLETTER



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AMERICA

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COMING EARLY 2022
BUILD HUNGER SOLUTIONS WITH US | lincolnfoodbank.org



SINCLAIR | **hille**
architects

olsson



UBT Union Bank & Trust

Kidwell

FIVE NINES
REAL ESTATE GROUP

Raising Our Response to Hunger

Fundraising
Progress
\$7.9 million of
\$10 million

Construction of the new facility, located at 4201 NW 12th Street in Lincoln, Neb., is underway. This puts us one exciting step closer to making the new Food Bank headquarters a reality. BIC Construction, our builder partners for the campaign, began moving dirt in March and forming the foundation and footings in April. This month, we will celebrate breaking ground.



The new facility is nestled between the Lincoln Airport and the Highlands in northwest Lincoln. Its proximity to Interstate I-80 will make it easier to efficiently move food in and out of the Distribution Center and into the 16-counties we serve. Access to arterial roads in Lincoln will improve travel for our clients, partner agencies and community members visiting the site, while increasing visibility and awareness of the Food Bank's mission in the community.

Thanks to the generosity of community sponsors and donors, like you, at the time of print, \$7.9 million of the \$10 million needed have been raised for this campaign. We're asking for your help in raising the remaining \$2.1 million, because together, we will build hunger solutions. To learn more or to donate, visit lincolnfoodbank.org/raiseourresponse.

THE FOOD BANK MISSION

Alleviate hunger
in Southeast Nebraska.

OUR VISION

Nourishing our communities
to end hunger.

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A Letter From the President and CEO

"Tell me about a memorable teacher in your life."

That simple inquiry was part of a visit I had with former Food Bank Executive Director Scott Young. One of many unforgettable conversations we've shared over the last six years.

After I finished doting on a particularly influential educator, Scott said, "Isn't it something how a good teacher can change a person's whole life?"

It sure is.

For the past 19+ years, Scott grew this organization into a leading nonprofit determined to nourish neighbors and support communities across Southeast Nebraska. During his tenure, food distribution and fundraising doubled. By the end of June, which marks the end of our fiscal year, we will have connected neighbors to more than 12 million meals.

You — our donors and partners — allowed this organization to respond with courage, conviction and confidence during the height of the pandemic and beyond. It is also your shared optimism that is making it possible for us to imagine a space where we can do even more to create hunger solutions for Southeast Nebraska.

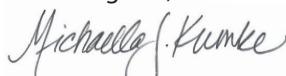
Later this month, we will raise the walls of a new Food Bank facility at 4201 NW 12th Street in Lincoln. With \$2.1 million to go, we are closing in on our \$10 million Raising Our Response to Hunger capital campaign goal. If you have already contributed to this campaign, thank you. If you are a person who lives for the thrill of a big finish, we invite you to make your gift as part of Give to Lincoln Day. See page three for details.

May also marks Teacher Appreciation Week and National Nurses Week, a time to salute educators and caregivers. Our work at the Food Bank is closely connected to both extraordinary groups of professionals. Your commitment to your work has made a lasting impression on all of us.

You have also made a lasting impression on us, Scott Young. Whether intentional or accidental, you have done exactly what the best teachers and caregivers do. You have challenged our thinking, nurtured our potential and grown our confidence. In the past nearly 20 years, you have changed hundreds of thousands of lives.

If that number seems too much to believe, I can say with absolute confidence you have changed mine. Thank you.

Best regards,



Michaella Kumke
President and CEO
Food Bank of Lincoln



"Michaella Kumke is a gifted leader who has the brains, heart and trustworthiness to lead the Food Bank of Lincoln to its next several levels. She will have the complete and important support of the entire Board, staff and volunteers who do the important work of alleviating hunger in Southeast Nebraska."

**—Scott Young,
Former Executive Director**

New Leader, Same Mission

On May 1, we welcomed Michaella Kumke as the new President and CEO of the Food Bank of Lincoln. She is the fourth leader in our 39-year history.

As a devoted advocate with more than 20 years of nonprofit experience, Michaella has dedicated her career to serving others. In 2015, she joined the Food Bank as the communications director, and most recently, served as the community engagement director, staff co-leader of the Raising Our Response to Hunger capital campaign and as a member of the Food Bank leadership team.

"Beginning with the community members who saw a need and rallied to respond, the Food Bank of Lincoln has had dedicated leaders. Our commitment to advance the work and nourish our communities remains as strong as ever," Michaella said. "This work is personal to me, so it is my honor to listen and lead as we take our next big steps together to alleviate hunger in Southeast Nebraska."

Michaella succeeds Scott Young who retired on April 30.

Give to Lincoln Day is Here!

Your generosity has helped make Give to Lincoln Day a huge success each and every year. Your previous support has helped the Food Bank of Lincoln put food on the table of neighbors, like Michelle.

We hope you will consider donating to the Food Bank of Lincoln this year. Donations made between May 1 and May 25 are eligible for matching funds and you can choose to designate your gifts for the Food Bank's Raising Our Response facility campaign or general operating fund.

To donate online or for information about ways to donate offline, visit givetolincoln.com. If you have any questions, please contact John Mabry at jmabry@lincolnfoodbank.org or (402) 466-8170, ext. 110. Thank you!



"I want to thank you very deeply. I work two jobs and even with cutting my expenses, it is not enough to make ends meet, especially when raising kids. Without this valuable resource, I am not sure what my family would do." –Michelle



Extra Mile Walk *Supports Child Hunger Programs*

Walking independently or with a friend. In sneakers or sandals. With a short step or long stride.

While each student, staff and community member may have had their own approach, all who participated in the 14th Annual Extra Mile Walk shared the same goal: walk one mile to fight childhood hunger. This year's event to support the Food Bank of Lincoln's Child Hunger Programs was held virtually in March and April. During the final week, each participant walked a mile to increase awareness of childhood hunger in our community.

A special thanks to Lincoln Public Schools, event sponsors Edward Jones and Union Bank & Trust, and all who participated in this year's virtual walk. You made thousands of meals possible for our community's kids.



Rural Produce Distributions

Fresh fruits and vegetables are an important part of a healthy diet. ***In March, we were happy to resume Rural Produce Distributions, which bring fresh produce to neighbors in 14 different rural communities.*** Thank you to our partner agencies in these communities for helping get nutritious food to neighbors' tables. To view the Rural Produce Distribution schedule, visit lincolnfoodbank.org.



Empty Bowls To Go!

We hope you'll join us for Empty Bowls To Go!
The drive-thru style event will be held
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Tuesday, June 1, at the
Pinnacle Bank Arena Festival Lot in Lincoln.



Although the pandemic continues to impact our ability to gather, this year's event will still feature some of our favorite Empty Bowls

traditions. Each attendee will receive a handcrafted stoneware bowl from local artists at Down Under Pottery and a to-go cup of delicious soup from one of our long-time Lincoln restaurant partners: Billy's Restaurant & Catering, Buzzard Billy's and La Paz.*

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased until May 21 at lincolnfoodbank.org or by calling (402) 466-8170.

Billy's
 RESTAURANT & CATERING



*Participating restaurants at the time of print.



Food for the Summer


For children who depend on school meals for food, summer break can also mean a break from reliable meals. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides access to free and nutritious meals while school is out. **In partnership with the USDA and numerous community partners, the Food Bank of Lincoln is sponsoring 25 meal sites this summer.** Up from a pandemic-influenced eight sites in 2020, the Food Bank is prepared to connect more kids to nutritious food this summer so they are ready to learn during the school year.



MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
 AMERICA**

HOURS
 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Monday through Friday

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LOCATION
 4840 Doris Bair Circle, Suite A
 (next to Doris Bair softball complex)

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