

The Feeding Frontline

2022 WINTER NEWSLETTER



MEMBER OF
FEEDING AMERICA

LINCOLNFOODBANK.ORG

A Fresh Friendship



After injuries sustained from a car accident forced Connie to retire earlier than planned, she found herself experiencing food insecurity, or “food stress,” as she calls it.

“I was doing just fine — working and able to afford what I needed to eat healthy,” Connie explains. “And then Christmas Eve 2017, I get rear-ended, and my working life was over. All of a sudden, there I was.”

Prior to the accident, Connie was a home health nurse in Lincoln and often served clients in elderly housing. This work, paired with her son’s involvement with the public school system, introduced her to Food Bank programs, like the Backpack Program and Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), a federal food assistance program for seniors. *Learn more about CSFP on page 3.*

So, to help alleviate her food stress, Connie tapped into the Food Bank resources she had grown to know and support over the years. She began attending mobile food

distributions, visiting the Lincoln Fresh produce truck and participating in CSFP.

“I appreciated how seamless, gentle and non-judgmental the Food Bank made it for me to go from contributing to needing. I was never made to feel like I should be ashamed or embarrassed or needed an excuse for help to feed myself,” Connie said, grateful for the Food Bank’s no-questions-asked approach. “It was, ‘We’ll cheerfully put this in your truck if you pull up. We’ll trust you when you say you need it.’ That made it possible for me to attend.”

At 71 and with the continued presence of COVID-19, Connie explains she doesn’t go many places. Her trips to the Lincoln Fresh Truck have not only provided healthy fruits and vegetables but offered a chance for socially distanced human interaction.

“It’s like a social event for me. We smile and say something about the weather,” she says. “And there’s people from lots of different cultures there. I enjoy being yet another variety of human being there. It’s a rich tapestry of Lincoln people.”

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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 & CEO

In his book, "Use Fewer Words," writer, chef and Lincoln business owner Kevin Shinn wrote:

*If my solution to a conflict
Involves dismissing
The party at odds
Then I've not solved anything
But instead
Created a new problem*

Those words apply to all kinds of relationships and circumstances where conflict exists. We feel and see it in our families, workplaces, communities, schools, organizations, systems. The list goes on.

So do the possibilities.

We know we have healthy disagreement, even among our most passionate champions, about the "best" ways to serve our neighbors. Not all of our supporters champion every single one of our programs or our organizational values. That's okay, too. We know those challenges come from heartfelt places. We do not dismiss them, nor do our true supporters dismiss us.

That coming together that happened 40 years ago when the Food Bank began remains solidly intact. Coming together is what will allow us to move from our current location to our new facility this spring. Thank you to every one of our 10,070 donors who voiced your belief in the mission to alleviate hunger in Southeast Nebraska in 2021. Thank you to the more than 1,660 donors who share in the belief that we can do more to Raise Our Response to Hunger. Thank you to the supporters who keep raising your voices to policy makers in support of our work. Thank you for coming together in volunteer service to put food into neighbors' hands, in children's backpacks and in seniors' cupboards.

All of this action is evidence that a significant number of us have something in common. For all the division and conflict that exists, my hope is you will remember we cannot allow our differences to interfere with the greater good.

Still, saying it is the easy part. Maybe that's why Kevin suggests we use fewer words.

With gratitude,



Michaella Kumke
President & CEO
Food Bank of Lincoln



A Fresh Friendship *Continued from page 1*

The good-natured people, the displays that identify what's in the food bags and the occasional recipe card all help create a positive experience for Connie. But it's the produce itself that prompts a dance.

"When I pick up a bag of spinach or apples or oranges, I do a happy dance. These are the type of things I can't afford. I've also enjoyed the sweet potatoes, red, green and yellow peppers — they can seem like a real luxury."

Connie reiterates food stress can happen to anybody and can happen out of nowhere. You may not realize the person next to you is facing hunger.

"We're all interwoven together, whether we realize it or not. The lives of those giving to the Food Bank really connect with those who benefit from the Food Bank. You could be standing at the library right next to each other."





Food for Seniors Commodity Supplemental Food Program

In the United States, 1 in 14 seniors doesn't know where their next meal will come from, according to data from Feeding America. The Food Bank of Lincoln helps alleviate senior hunger by administering the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) in Lancaster, Otoe and Saunders counties. Through this USDA food-assistance program, eligible seniors receive monthly bags of shelf-stable foods from all of the major food groups: grains, fruits, vegetables, meat and dairy.

To learn more about the program and eligibility, visit lincolnfoodbank.org or contact Sylvie Bonilla, federal nutrition programs coordinator, at (402) 904-6550, ext. 103.

Lincoln Fresh Season Recap

The pandemic ended the 2020 Lincoln Fresh season after just three weeks of operation, so resuming a more active schedule in 2021 was a welcomed return. From April through December, the fresh produce truck offered free fruits and vegetables to neighbors at 16 different sites in underserved neighborhoods in Lincoln. In just its second uninterrupted season, Lincoln Fresh connected neighbors with 129,700 pounds of produce.

Lincoln Fresh returns to action for the 2022 season in March. For schedules and information, visit lincolnfoodbank.org and select the "Get Food" tab.

Lincoln Fresh is made possible thanks to a collaboration with Community Health Endowment of Lincoln and Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties.

2021 Season Snapshot

129,700	12,562	253	16
Pounds Distributed	People Served	Stops Made	Sites Visited



Save the Date for Spring Events

APRIL

4-22: State Campaign Against Hunger

23: 15th Annual Extra Mile Walk

Fundraising is not limited to LPS friends. Any Lincoln business can participate to help alleviate child hunger. For more information, please contact Community & Corporate Relations Director Gabby Ayala at (402) 466-8170, ext. 122.

MAY

26: Give to Lincoln Day

31: 20th Annual Empty Bowls Luncheon

Spoons Up! We are excited to return to our traditional event format as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of this beloved community event. We hope you'll join us at Embassy Suites (1040 P Street in Lincoln) to enjoy soup from Lincoln's finest restaurants, select a handcrafted stoneware bowl from Down Under Pottery and help fight hunger in Southeast Nebraska. For updates and information about ticket sales, stay tuned to lincolnfoodbank.org.



Empty Bowls
A fundraiser benefiting the Food Bank of Lincoln

A Message from the Campaign Chair



What a generous community! I'm pleased to announce, on behalf of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee and the Food Bank Board of Directors, that we have reached our goal of \$10.3 million. This will allow the Food Bank to Raise the Response to Hunger, to construct the new Food Bank building, establish a reserve for startup maintenance and operations expenses and be ready to move in sometime yet this spring. The building is simply the infrastructure that supports the safe storage and distribution of fresh and shelf-stable food, to serve the estimated 57,510 neighbors facing hunger and food insecurity in Lincoln and Southeast Nebraska.

Thanks to all who contributed. We received gifts from more than 1,660 donors, ranging from \$5 to more than \$1 million. Every gift matters; every donor matters. Combined, the outcome is visible, and people's lives are changed because of access to healthy food. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Dr. Marilyn Moore

Raising Our Response Campaign Chair

Raising Our Response to Hunger



Fundraising Progress:
\$10.3 Million Raised!



PROGRESS REPORT

Excitement is building for our move to the new facility at 1221 Kingbird Road in Lincoln, Nebraska. We anticipate the transition will occur in late April or early May (*projection at the time of print*). Stay tuned to our website, lincolnfoodbank.org, and social media channels for official relocation information.



New Faces at the Food Bank

In late 2021, we welcomed four new staff members to the Food Bank of Lincoln.



GABBY AYALA

Community & Corporate
Relations Director



TANNER BARBUR

Route Driver



JENNY EKELER

Vice President of Finance
& Human Resources



JAMES REILLY

Lincoln Fresh Coordinator



HOURS

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday-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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