



The mission of the Food Bank of Lincoln is to alleviate hunger in Southeast Nebraska.

Southwood shares passion for service

Pastor Greg Olson, a great friend of the Food Bank of Lincoln for many years, recently retired as Senior Pastor at Southwood Lutheran Church. And like the Food Bank, Southwood has also been celebrating a big birthday – 50 years.

Here is what Pastor Olson had to share about this powerful friendship:

In 2007, Southwood Lutheran Church began a partnership with the Food Bank of Lincoln that continues today. It started with providing money and volunteers for the distribution of backpacks of food at Saratoga Elementary School. Since then, it has grown exponentially to include a food distribution in Palmyra, a food market at Northeast High School and providing volunteers and support of other Food Bank programs.

At Southwood, when our church made the decision to become more mission minded in the community, we looked for partners who had a proven track record, as we did not want to “reinvent the wheel.”

The Food Bank was one of those in the Lincoln community that has a long history of serving the needs of food-insecure people. As we grew in our partnership, the Food Bank made us better by helping us understand the challenges people face in our own community. Many of our staff and volunteers attended the “Bridges out of Poverty” sessions the Food Bank offers.

As a result, we realized that as partners, not only did we share a passion for service, but we also shared the same values as to how to serve others with dignity and humility. These common values have strengthened our partnership to the point where, if the Food Bank has a need, they know they can come to us, and we will try to respond.



Pastor Olson

We give thanks for the relationship with the Food Bank of Lincoln and for the work they do to alleviate hunger in Southeast Nebraska. The Food Bank is an asset to the Lincoln community and a treasured partner of Southwood Lutheran Church.

A partnership that included a major gift for the Food Bank’s new facility campaign. Thanks to Pastor Olson and all our dear friends at Southwood. A friendship for the ages. Fifteen years and going strong.