



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

## Starting the day with Suzanne

Every Tuesday since 2018, front desk volunteer Suzanne Bartlett has greeted visitors and callers to the Food Bank of Lincoln with a cheerful “good morning” and genuine smile.

Making guests feel welcome comes naturally to Suzanne, who has known for quite some time she wanted to be a ‘regular’ volunteer in her retirement. In fact, it was a group of volunteers who inspired Suzanne to become a volunteer.



As the auction coordinator at Nebraska Public TV, Suzanne worked closely with a network of helpers. She recalls a group of routine volunteers who assisted with mailings and other tasks in the office.

“That group was always having fun, laughing and enjoying themselves,” Suzanne explained. “That’s when it hit me. When I retire, I want to volunteer like they do. That’s what volunteering is all about.”

Not only did Suzanne know she wanted to give back, but she always knew where.

“I remember telling a friend, ‘I hope the Food Bank has something I can do.’ She said, ‘why would you want to do that?’ and I said, ‘why wouldn’t you?’” Shortly after, Suzanne became the Tuesday morning front desk volunteer, helping with tasks such as answering phones, welcoming visitors and her personal favorite, entering volunteer hours into the Food Bank database. She enjoys seeing the names of all her fellow volunteers, so when she meets someone in person, she has an instant connection.

When the COVID-19 pandemic paused volunteer activity in the building for about a year, Suzanne continued to lend a helping hand by taking on tasks that could be completed from home. Specifically, she became a mailings expert—stuffing envelopes and alphabetizing letters.

Suzanne is happy to be back in the building, and excited to volunteer from the new facility on Kingbird Road where everyone gets to be in the same space. We’re glad she’s here, too. And while she enjoys all the ways she’s been able to engage, it’s the feeling that keeps her coming back.

“It’s fun. It’s satisfying. And it gives you a warm feeling because you’re helping somebody.”

To learn more about volunteering opportunities, visit [lincolnfoodbank.org](http://lincolnfoodbank.org) or contact Lauren Ritta at [LRitta@lincolnfoodbank.org](mailto:LRitta@lincolnfoodbank.org).