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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Food Bank of Lincoln celebrates new facility with ribbon cutting ceremony

LINCOLN, Neb.— On Thursday, June 16, the Food Bank of Lincoln celebrated its new facility at 1221 Kingbird Road in northwest Lincoln with a ribbon cutting ceremony and community celebration.

The event featured remarks from Steph Ledbetter, President of the Food Bank of Lincoln Board of Directors; Dr. Marilyn Moore, Chair of the Raising Our Response Capital Campaign; Michaela Kumke, President & CEO at the Food Bank of Lincoln; Leirion Gaylor Baird, Mayor of Lincoln; and Jason Ball, President/CEO at Lincoln Chamber of Commerce; along with a flag raising ceremony with the Nebraska National Guard and ribbon cutting ceremony with the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.

“This ceremony is a ribbon cutting, but what we are actually here to celebrate is the connection of a common thread,” Kumke said. “It’s a connection that binds, nourishes, sustains and compels us. Food.

“For some of us, food is a plan involving selective meal preparation and thoughtful choices. For others of us, food is an art. For many of us, food is attached to a memory—good or bad—that connects us to places, people and life events. For an estimated 57,510 neighbors, food is a combination of questions: Is there any? Will there be enough? What will we do if ...?”

The 60,000 square foot facility, made possible by more than 1,660 donors who supported the project, provides the infrastructure for the organization to serve the estimated 57,510 neighbors experiencing food insecurity its 16-county service area of Southeast Nebraska more efficiently and effectively.

The Scott Young Hunger Solutions Center, the organization’s distribution center, features an expanded freezer and cooler system with full racking inside and offers nearly two and a half times the cold storage space as the Food Bank’s previous unit. The increased capacity enables the organization to accept and distribute more nutritious foods like fresh produce, meat, eggs and dairy. Nine docks, compared to a previous four, help facilitate the efficient and safe movement of food into the building and out into the 16 counties the Food Bank serves.

The Wende Baker Community Room, collaboration spaces and classrooms offer welcoming spaces for visitors to engage in educational opportunities. Designated volunteer workspaces and employee workstations enable safe and productive mission engagement. Natural and energy efficient lighting illuminate all the work, providing staff and visitors with brighter inviting spaces.

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“We remember and commit that every neighbor who needs food is welcome,” Kumke said. “Beyond that, we must be willing to take our next steps together toward addressing root causes of poverty, inequity and food insecurity.”

The Food Bank began internal planning and research for a capital campaign in 2017, announced the goal for a new facility in January 2021, celebrated groundbreaking in May 2021 and reached its \$10.3 million fundraising goal in January 2022. The capital campaign was led by Dr. Marilyn Moore, and the facility was designed and constructed in collaboration with Sinclair Hille Architects, BIC Construction, Olsson, Kidwell, Five Nines, UBT, Custom Blinds and Design and 24 additional subcontractors.

To learn more about the new facility and the Food Bank of Lincoln, visit lincolnfoodbank.org.

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Photo Caption: *Members of the Food Bank staff (past and present), Board of Directors, capital campaign steering committee, project partners, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and Lincoln City Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, celebrate the new Food Bank of Lincoln facility with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, June 16. The new 60,000 square foot space will enable the nonprofit to connect more neighbors to more meals in its 16-county service area of Southeast Nebraska.*

About Food Bank of Lincoln

Since 1982, the mission of the Food Bank of Lincoln has been to alleviate hunger in Southeast Nebraska. Nearly 60,000 people in the Food Bank of Lincoln’s 16-county service area are food insecure; of that number, nearly one-third are children. To learn more, visit www.lincolnfoodbank.org.