



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

Bolz a longtime Food Bank friend

Donna Bolz's passion to help runs deep.

"My parents volunteered a lot. That's where I got my spirit," Donna explains.

It's what inspired her to earn degrees in social work. It's why she spent time in jobs that allowed her to connect with people—both in retail and at the Indian Center as a coordinator for the [Commodity Supplemental Food Program \(CSFP\)](#). And it's why she volunteers five days a week, two of which are at the Food Bank of Lincoln.

"I choose [to volunteer] at places like the Food Bank because it's important to work with the basic necessities of life ... like helping with food."

Donna became involved with the Food Bank nearly 40 years ago when she was a student at Southeast Community College. In between terms, she sorted food donations at our first location on Adams Street and helped with administrative tasks. She answered phones, greeted visitors, and one time, even stepped in on the fly to give a tour of that first Food Bank facility.



When her work hours conflicted with volunteering hours, she adapted, helping after hours by delivering promotional materials to grocery stores. She stayed involved with the Food Bank off and on ever since.

Meanwhile, "I searched and searched and searched for a job I wanted and was good at. Something that combined social work and farming. I never found that."

Fast forward a few years. Donna saw a post asking for Food Bank volunteers and asked to come back. We're glad she did.

Now, as a front-desk volunteer on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings, Donna says, "I'm doing the job I wanted to do when I got my bachelor's degree."

"The idea that I'm able to help people, it makes me feel good."

When she's not assisting guests, Donna spreads joy to staff and other volunteers, adding, "I sometimes think I should have been a standup comedian because I love coming up with one-liners."

Donna's advice for volunteering? "You have to do it for the right reasons, and only you know what that reason is."