



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

By design, Bavitz puts heartfelt touch on new Food Bank facility



Liz Bavitz, project architect and principal at Sinclair Hille, has 31 years of experience at the practice. She has spent roughly half of that time helping the Food Bank of Lincoln alleviate hunger in Southeast Nebraska.

It was important to John Sinclair, one of the firm's founding members. And it is important to her.

"John asked if I would like to be on the Board as his nine-year term was coming to an end," Liz said. "He said the Food Bank was in need of more women on the Board and thought I would enjoy the work. In 2006, I began my nine years of service. I had the honor of serving as president of the Board for two years and as a member of the Food Bank Foundation Board for four years.

"For several years in a row, our firm participated in the annual summer food drive that culminated with our employees building a sculpture in our front lobby out of the various cans, boxes and bags of food we distributed. It was always a fun team-building event that rose awareness among our team about the great cause."

Five years ago, when the Food Bank decided to get serious about a new facility, it was not hard to identify an architect to lead the design effort. Liz was a natural.

"From my first Board orientation meeting with Scott Young, I realized how critical the work is and wanted to help make a difference. The impact of the Backpack Program on our young students at that time was especially meaningful to me as I had elementary school kids. The heartbreaking stories of hungry kids spurred me to help the cause."

In 2017, the Food Bank was considering its options; either remodel or build new. "When Scott asked if I would help with the project on a professional level, I jumped again at the chance to assist."

The project was completed earlier this year, and on May 2, Food Bank of Lincoln operations moved to a 60,000-square-foot space at 1221 Kingbird Road in northwest Lincoln.

"Working closely with Scott and the amazing team at the Food Bank, from initial discussions about the project through to the completed building, has been a highlight of my career," Liz said. "I so look forward to seeing the impact the new space has on their operations and how it helps to expand service and serve the need. It means the world to me to have been included on their journey. Thank you."

And thank you, Liz, for designing a beautiful new facility, along with your team, and more than 15 years of heartfelt support for our mission.