

The Feeding Frontline



Winter 2023
lincolnfoodbank.org

'In the Right Place'

Though it happened about two years ago, Kim Meyer vividly recalls one of her first volunteering experiences with the Food Bank of Lincoln. She was directing traffic at a drive-thru food distribution when a family stopped to speak with her.

"If you're hungry and need food, you're in the right place," Kim remembers telling the mother and her children who asked what they needed to do to receive food. She and her kids had gone awhile without a meal and were very hungry, the mother told Kim.

"She saw our food trucks sitting there and pulled in. They were in the right place at the right time."

Kim is a recurring volunteer at the Food Bank, helping with drive-thru distributions like these and just about every other activity on the volunteer menu.

"It's a contagious thing," she said. **"Once you volunteer here, you'll want to come back. Once you see the impact it has on another human and the gratefulness people have, you'll just want to continue to help."**

While Kim enjoys the variety in her volunteer schedule, it's interacting with community members at the Lincoln Fresh truck she speaks most fondly of, highlighting a moment in the 2022 season when a neighbor's daughter spoke her first word, *yummy*, after seeing the fresh produce at the truck.

"I've loved seeing as people are waiting in line, they get to know their own neighbors whom they would have never met any other way."

Compassion—one of the Food Bank's core values—is at the heart of Kim's service to others, as she explains her ongoing commitment to ensuring all who engage with the Food Bank feel seen and heard.

"Everybody matters," she explains. **"I may not remember names, but I refer to neighbors as 'friend.' I try to remember which produce they like the most and am excited when I can say, 'we have avocados today' or whatever I know they like. I just feel like our purpose of being here is to help each other out. So why not help with this?"**

To learn more about volunteering opportunities, visit lincolnfoodbank.org.



Mission

To alleviate hunger in Southeast Nebraska.

Vision

Nourishing our communities to end hunger.

Values

Collaboration, Compassion, Diversity, Education, Responsibility

Board of Directors

Paula Hodges, President
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp.

Michelle Sitorius, Vice President
Cline Williams Law Firm

Steph Ledbetter, Past President
Zelle HR

Ron Jester, Treasurer
Labenz & Associates LLC

Dr. Vann Price, Secretary
Lincoln Public Schools

Becky Gould
Nebraska Appleseed

Marc Hausmann
NAI FMA Realty

Mariana Hunt
Union Bank & Trust

Jason Muhleisen
Union Bank & Trust

Dr. Takako Olson
Lincoln Public Schools

Ben Pankonin
Social Assurance

Kayla Pham
Wellness Pharmacy

Nancy Tellez
City of Crete

Dennis Van Horn
Van Horn Custom Homes

David Wilcox
Retired, Union Bank & Trust

A Letter from The President & CEO



While visiting a pantry at one of our school partner sites, I observed posters of students' work on display. The assignment—answer the question, “What Do You Need to Know When You Become an Adult?”—demonstrated real wisdom. The answers ranged from: “insurance for car, house and life” to the sometimes overlooked, but equally important: “don't microwave aluminum foil.”

The activity struck me as a teacher helping students create a way forward and anticipate challenges. **Some answers come more quickly than others. Some lessons come with better stories than others. There's value in the experience of challenging what we think we know.**

Our Bridges Out of Poverty and Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World programs return with gusto this year. It's our version of helping adults answer the above question. Information and strategies presented in these programs use the lens of economic class and personal experience to examine barriers and create opportunities. More importantly, they provide concrete examples and tools for a community to alleviate poverty. It's not easy work because it rarely offers massive, immediate change. It is steady, determined work. We're thrilled to lead that kind of steady, stability-building effort. To learn more about these programs, contact Georgann Roth at groth@lincolnfoodbank.org.

“Check your path” is a mantra truck drivers use to verify what they think they know and ensure the moves about to be made will offer the result the driver aims to achieve, like when backing into a tight space or making a challenging turn. I heard it during a ride-along with one Food Bank of Lincoln driver. That phrase applies to far more than road safety.

When I sat down to write this article, the cost of a dozen eggs in Southeast Nebraska ranged from \$5.12 to \$12. So, we are checking our path in 2023. As the need and prices continue to rise, so do the expectations we have of ourselves about responding.

And because of the financial and volunteer support you provide, your Food Bank team can help answer the big questions. We don't have all the answers to address hunger, but we have some pretty big ones.

In service,
Michaela J. Kumke

Michaela Kumke
President & CEO



Save the Date for these upcoming events:

LPS Extra Mile Walk
Saturday, April 22

Give to Lincoln Day
Wednesday, May 24

Empty Bowls Luncheon
Tuesday, May 30

For more information, visit lincolnfoodbank.org.

Feeding 44

Serves Neighbors in Nemaha County

On the second Friday of each month, vehicles weave through a parking lot on the Peru State College campus as volunteers place a mixture of nourishing items into their neighbors' trunks.

In collaboration with the Food Bank of Lincoln, the college hosts this monthly mobile food distribution known as Feeding 44—an initiative celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

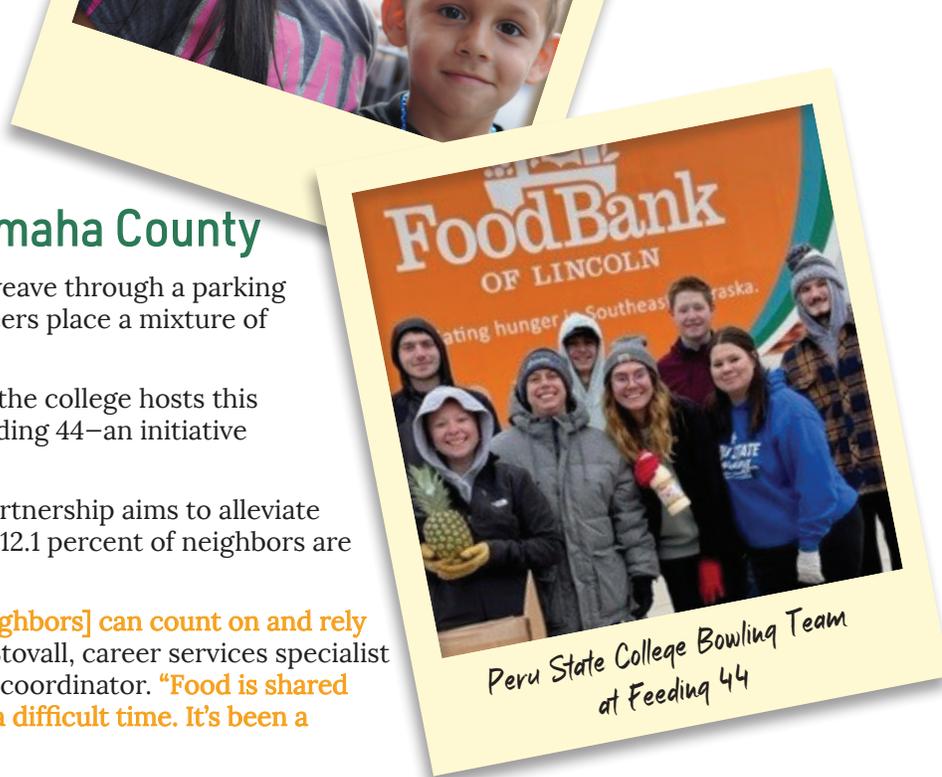
Aptly named for its service to county 44, this partnership aims to alleviate hunger in Nemaha County, where an estimated 12.1 percent of neighbors are food insecure.

“This distribution has been something they [neighbors] can count on and rely on to have food to put on the table,” said Dana Stovall, career services specialist at Peru State College and Feeding 44’s program coordinator. **“Food is shared with family and friends who are going through a difficult time. It’s been a blessing for this community.”**

Dana ensures Feeding 44 is ready to serve each month by coordinating campus organizations, athletic teams and staff members to help distribute food. The Peru State College security team manages the traffic flow. Together, these groups help connect an average of 200 families to meals each month.

“Feeding 44 and the Food Bank have had a tremendous impact on Nemaha County, including our students,” said Dr. Timothy Borchers, vice president of academic affairs at Peru State College. **“We have a lot of students who come from financially challenging conditions. Having Feeding 44 as a consistent supply of food each month has been significant for our students.”**

To read an extended version of this story, visit lincolnfoodbank.org.



Coming Soon! Hometown Fresh



Hometown Fresh, a new mobile food trailer, will soon begin traveling to rural communities. Designed to increase access to healthy food, the trailer is equipped with refrigeration systems, freezer units and shelves for dry goods and will welcome neighbors to walk-through and select a combination of nourishing foods.

To stay updated on the Hometown Fresh rollout, follow us on social media and visit lincolnfoodbank.org.

Hometown Fresh is made possible thanks to a partnership with Sandhills Global, Healthy Blue and Adams Industries.

Advocacy Update



The Farm Bill, an essential piece of legislation centered around food and farming, helps alleviate hunger by funding federal nutrition programs such as The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). These programs are critically important to connecting neighbors

to meals and ensuring food banks across the country have a reliable and consistent supply of food to distribute—especially as the demand for food assistance continues to rise. Last fiscal year, 18 percent of the food we distributed was provided by the government.

In December, Food Bank of Lincoln, Food Bank for the Heartland and Feeding America team members met with Nebraska's federal representatives and their staffers to educate lawmakers about the increased need for food assistance in our state and to advocate for their support of the Farm Bill, which needs to be reauthorized in 2023.

To learn more about the Farm Bill and ways to become an advocate, visit lincolnfoodbank.org.

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Donation Location

Our Edward Jones partners helped collect hundreds of pounds of donations in 2022, and we are so grateful to those offices and all who donated.

Year-round, Edward Jones locations throughout Southeast Nebraska accept donations for the Food Bank of Lincoln during their regular business hours (and you do not have to be a client). That includes food, diapers and personal care items.

Thank you, Edward Jones!

Lincoln Fresh Serves Healthy Helpings

2022 Season by The Numbers

26,358

People Served

Up 110% from 2021

183,893

Pounds Distributed

Up 42% from 2021

229 Stops Made

73 Different Types of Produce Offered

20 Sites Visited

In the 2022 season, a record number of neighbors visited the Lincoln Fresh truck to select fresh produce. Cabbage, cantaloupe and banana blossoms were among the 73 different types of produce offered at the bright blue truck. Lincoln Fresh returns to action in March.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Address

1221 Kingbird Road
Lincoln, NE 68521
www.lincolnfoodbank.org
402.466.8170



Hours

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday

Connect On Social Media



/FoodBankofLincoln



@FoodBankofLincoln



@FoodBankLincoln