

# The Feeding Frontline



Spring 2024  
lincolnfoodbank.org

## Every Meal has a Story

### 'Doing what we can to make it work'

"As inflation keeps going up, my income gets smaller," explains Shirley, who relies on Social Security. "I'm afraid prices are only going to get higher, and that's sad because our social security doesn't go up that much to warrant all of the increases. It's hard. We all have to do what we can to make it work.

**"I see a lot of older people like me at the grocery store who put things back because they can't afford it and it breaks my heart. We're all in that boat. We can't just shop like we want to anymore."**

To help make ends meet, Shirley attends food distributions.

She also lives with her son—and predicts more families will begin moving in together. Housing costs are "out of sight," she notes, sharing that her rent recently increased \$200 a month—a steep jump for her and her son's fixed incomes.

"It's very complicated to survive. I have to rely on food distributions like everyone else, here [at a mobile food distribution]. I'm very grateful for the Food Bank because they really help out."



## Creating community

For Carol and Deb, food is more than sustenance. It's relief. Creativity. Community.

With little wiggle room in their fixed-income budgets, they explain the food received at drive-thru distributions helps shorten their grocery lists and lightens the bill at the register. And although the food "is really helpful," Carol and Deb are quick to share with others in their apartment complex who could also benefit.

**"It forms a community and builds a connection between all of us," Deb says. "The fact that a grocer or someone will donate a can of food and that gives us community...that's just something. I'm glad that you are here for us and others like us. We thank you."**



**"The cost of living has gotten way out of hand. You can't do anything to stop it. If you need food, come (to the Food Bank). There's no reason for you to go hungry. This helps me a lot."**

- Barbara

## Give to Lincoln is Here!

Give to Lincoln Day is May 30 but you don't have to wait to make an impact! **Early giving is now open at [givetolincoln.com/nonprofits/food-bank-of-lincoln](https://givetolincoln.com/nonprofits/food-bank-of-lincoln).**

Learn more on page 4.

## Mission

To alleviate hunger in Southeast Nebraska.

## Vision

Nourishing our communities to end hunger.

## Values

Collaboration, Compassion, Diversity, Education, Responsibility

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# A Letter from The President & CEO



One of my early observations as a Food Bank employee struck me at a rural mobile food distribution. I suspected the average age of neighbors receiving food that day was about 60 years old. It was only a guess.

Today, more than 5.5 million seniors face hunger in the United States, according to Feeding America. Further, our senior neighbors who are hardest hit by food insecurity include ones who live in rural areas, seniors with disabilities, renters versus homeowners, seniors who live with grandchildren, and females. Further, data reveal communities of color experience disproportionate levels of food insecurity, up to four times as high. Lastly, insecurity among both seniors (60-plus) and older adults (50-59) remains higher than before the Great Recession.

May is Older Americans Month. According to AARP, in 2024, about 12,000 Americans per day will turn 65. By 2034, older adults are expected to outnumber children in the United States. While Nebraska fares okay among the 60-plus population, that's not the case for our older adults. **Nebraska ranks ninth for states with the highest rates of food insecurity among 50-59-year-olds.**

Food is a way to show care across generations.

Through our programs like Hometown Fresh, Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), Lincoln Fresh, Home Deliveries and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), we connect with neighbors who are in a stage of life where vulnerability and loneliness are prevalent. We are committed to finding new ways to connect with and serve our older community members.

Is there a greater goal than to provide steadfast loving care, regardless of age and background? Thank you for your financial, volunteer and advocacy support that allows us to embrace and support aging in a way that offers a greater quality of life.

With gratitude,

Michaella Kumke  
President & CEO

## A Message About Senior Hunger from Nebraska Senator Deb Fischer

"Millions of America's seniors face hunger—but they don't have to, thanks to wonderful organizations like the Food Bank of Lincoln. The Food Bank of Lincoln has partnered with the federal government to ensure older Americans get the nutrition they need to live healthy lives. Nebraska's seniors who find themselves unable to pay for nutrient-dense food should take the time to learn more about this resource."

To learn more about programs for seniors, search CSFP at [lincolnfoodbank.org](http://lincolnfoodbank.org).



# Thank you, Volunteers!

## The Impact of Your Time and Talent

In April, we celebrated National Volunteer Appreciation Month by honoring the wonderful groups and individuals who support the Food Bank of Lincoln through time and talent. We couldn't connect millions of meals in Southeast Nebraska without these dedicated community members, who help ensure the safety, equity and dignity of the food we distribute.

In calendar year 2023, volunteers donated more than 45,319 hours of their time. **That's the equivalent of nearly 22 additional full-time employees!** Thank you, volunteers!

Learn more about volunteering opportunities at [lincolnfoodbank.org](http://lincolnfoodbank.org).

## 2023 Statistics

**112,414**  
grocery bags  
prepped

**111,297+**  
neighbors served

**9,284**  
volunteers

**45,319.6**  
volunteer hours donated

**\$1,441,163.28**  
estimated labor value contributed

\*According to Independent Sector's estimated value of a volunteer hour.

## Food Bank FAQ:

What's the difference between a food bank and a food pantry?

### Food Banks



Food banks (like us!) act as logistics hubs. Our distribution center safely accepts and stores millions of pounds of food that is then distributed to feeding partners, like pantries, schools and hot meal sites. At the Food Bank of Lincoln, we also distribute food directly to neighbors facing hunger.

### Food Pantries



Food pantries receive food from their local food banks and distribute it directly to people experiencing hunger in that community. The Food Bank of Lincoln has pantry partners across our 16-county service area. View a list of our partner agencies, including pantry sites, at [lincolnfoodbank.org](http://lincolnfoodbank.org).



# It's Give to Lincoln Time!

Thursday, May 30

**"Hunger is one of the most horrible feelings, especially when you have nowhere to turn. Thank you, Food Bank." – Food Bank visitor**

In Lancaster County alone, an estimated 32,320 neighbors—including 8,610 kids—may not know where their next meal will come from. When you donate through Give to Lincoln, you provide hope and nourishment for our community to learn, work, play and thrive.



Every donation makes a bigger impact on Give to Lincoln Day. Thanks to the Lincoln Community Foundation and generous sponsors, nonprofits also get a proportional share of a \$650,000 match fund—the largest match fund in this event's history.

## Join us for a Give to Lincoln Day open house!

**Who:** All are welcome!

**What:** Receive a tour of the Food Bank facility, meet the staff and enjoy light refreshments. If you're writing a check for Give to Lincoln Day, bring it to the Food Bank (made payable to the Lincoln Community Foundation) and we will handle it from there!

**When:** Thursday, May 30 | Visit any time between 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Where:** 1221 Kingbird Road, Lincoln, Nebraska

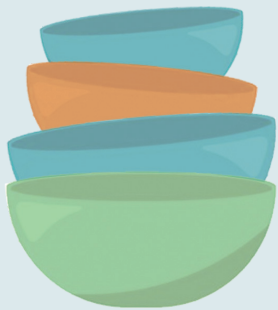
**Why:** See the impact of your generosity in action!



Give to Lincoln Day is May 30, but you don't have to wait to make an impact. Early giving is now open. Thanks to the kindness of Food Bank friends, all gifts made May 1-29 will be eligible for an additional \$50,000 in matching dollars.

**Thank you for helping set our community's tables.**

To donate or learn more, visit [givetolincoln.com](http://givetolincoln.com) or contact John Mabry at [jmabry@lincolnfoodbank.org](mailto:jmabry@lincolnfoodbank.org) or (402) 819-6861.



## Empty Bowls

Tuesday, May 28 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Embassy Suites, 1040 P Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

The 22nd annual Empty Bowls luncheon is coming soon—and we hope to see you there! Join us to enjoy soup from Lincoln's culinary greats, select a handcrafted stoneware bowl from Down Under Pottery Studio and help fight hunger in Southeast Nebraska. **Tickets are \$25 each and available for purchase while supplies last at [lincolnfoodbank.org/empty-bowls-tickets](http://lincolnfoodbank.org/empty-bowls-tickets).**



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

### Address

1221 Kingbird Road  
Lincoln, NE 68521  
[www.lincolnfoodbank.org](http://www.lincolnfoodbank.org)  
402.466.8170

### Hours

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

### Connect On Social Media



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