



Hope Inside



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A home for Head Start

For the first time ever, Community Action Head Start has a permanent home in Lincoln.

You dream of a community where every neighbor can thrive. Where all children have a safe, welcoming space to learn. Where all families can grow to reach their goals. We dream of this too. And **together with people like you, we make that dream a reality.**

As a friend of Community Action, you know that when children and families can access high-quality early childhood education, they have more opportunities to thrive. And when physical spaces are designed to support them, the possibilities are endless.

In September 2021, Community Action purchased the facility at 1843 K Street, formerly known as the Kaplan University Building or the historic Lincoln School of Commerce. Although Community Action has been providing Head Start services at this location since 2016, this purchase allowed us to expand from beyond our previous occupancy of just one wing.

We're building a center designed specifically with small children and their families in mind; and we're creating a resource hub for the surrounding neighborhoods which have some of the highest poverty rates in Lincoln. When complete, we'll be able to use this center as a space for early childhood education and so much more—ESL courses, professional development

offerings, financial coaching, and more—as families work to meet their unique goals related to economic stability.

Thank you for believing in Community Action and most importantly, those

we serve. **Every day, your support of our work gives our community's youngest children and their families the opportunity to thrive.**

Have questions about our K Street project or want to learn more about how you can support? Contact Jessie at jhedrick@communityactionnetwork.org or (402) 875-9338!

Thank you for believing in Community Action and most importantly, those we serve.



You dream of a community where every neighbor can thrive. So do we. And together with people like you, we make that dream a reality. It starts with supporting our youngest residents.

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You are building a future of opportunity



Thank you for your tremendous support of our mission as we plan for the future.

Dear Friend,

Spring has been a busy season here at Community Action, and in a very good way! I'm thrilled to be writing to you, as we've had such wonderful news to share over the past few months.

First, thank you for your tremendous support during this year's Give to Lincoln Day

Last month, you helped to raise nearly \$56,000 before match to benefit Community Action programs and those we serve. Thank you.

These dollars will make such an incredible difference. Your support will give young learners classroom spaces and support to grow to their greatest potential. You'll give families safe, stable homes in which to live. You'll give warm, nutritious meals to neighbors who need them most. Your support makes our work possible.

Within Community Action Head Start, we've just finished Phase I renovations on our recently-purchased facility at 1843 K Street. This center, when operating at full capacity (which will be happening soon!), serves 197 babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. We've been

dreaming for a long time about having a permanent home for Head Start in Lincoln: Now one exists.

When complete, this center will serve as a hub for high quality early childhood education and family support services. **It will change for the better the future of early childhood education in Lincoln.**

At Community Action we've been doing a lot of talking about the future. Community Action is in the final year of our current Strategic Plan. Our board of directors and leadership team are collaborating to draft our next five-year plan, using information from participants, staff, volunteers, community stakeholders, and our completed Equity Audit and Action Strategy to inform the agency's goals for the next several years. I look forward to updating you more on this

project, and the agency's identified priorities relating to addressing the causes and conditions of poverty in Lancaster and Saunders Counties, in the coming months.

Throughout this newsletter are more stories of some of the opportunities you've given to others. As you read, I hope you remember that *this newsletter is just a small glimpse of what you make possible every single day.* The truth is your impact cannot be conveyed in a single newsletter. It can't even fully be described in words.

By supporting Community Action, every day you create opportunity. You build hope.

We couldn't be more honored to have you by our side.

With gratitude,

Heather Loughman
Chief Executive Officer

"You changed my life."

Every day, your support of Community Action gives people like Sarah stability and hope.

Last summer, through no fault of her own Sarah found herself in a crisis. Her roommate of several years had recently moved out. While Sarah had searched for months to find a new apartment she could afford to rent on her own, she wasn't having any luck in her town.

Moving wasn't an option. Someone close to Sarah was very ill and they needed her nearby—but she needed somewhere to live.

"I had lost so much of my support system," said Sarah. "It was just a horrible year. I thought I might have to put all my stuff in

storage and have nowhere to go. I was really in trouble. Then I saw Community Action's phone number and I called."

A short time later, thanks to Community Action's support—**thanks to you**—Sarah moved into a new apartment she could afford on her own.

"I was at my lowest and this helped me to survive until I could move forward."

"When I think about working with Community Action... You changed my life," she said. "I was at my lowest and this helped me to survive until I could move

forward. I don't know what would have done without you."

Every day, your neighbors like Sarah receive life-changing support because of your generosity. **Thank you for making this work possible.**



Your support of Community Action gave Sarah a safe, stable place to live during one of the most difficult seasons of her life. Now, thanks to you, she's moving forward with confidence.

You can invest in Lincoln's future



For just \$1,500 you can provide everything a Head Start classroom needs for a year of learning and play.

Every day at our Head Start centers, our community's youngest children and their families receive the education, support, and space they need to learn, grow, and ultimately succeed. Community Action Head Start prepares children for success in school and life. Services are provided at no cost to families.



The work being done within Community Action Head Start today will determine the future of our community. But we cannot do it alone. Lincoln's children need your support.

Will you sponsor a Community Action Head Start classroom for the 2022-2023 program year?

For just \$1,500, you can provide the resources and supplies children need for a successful year of learning, growth, and play. We need your support.

All Community Action Head Start classroom sponsors will receive their name on a recognition plaque outside their classroom door. **For more information on classroom sponsorship, contact Jessie at jhedrick@communityactionatwork.org or (402) 875-9338!**

Gayla Martin receives 32nd Community Action at Work Award

Thank you to Gayla for her incredible support of our mission and those we serve.

On April 15, Community Action presented Gayla Martin with the 32nd Community Action at Work Award. This award is given to those who through their everyday work embody the spirit of our mission to empower people living in poverty to reach economic stability.

For many years, Gayla has volunteered with our Opportunity Passport™ youth matched savings program. She regularly serves as a guest speaker and teacher

during financial education classes. Gayla uses her expertise as an independent agent to empower participants to find the best insurance for their individual lives and assets.

Passionate dedication from people like Gayla is what makes our work possible every single day. Thank you, Gayla, for all that you do!



This April, Community Action presented Gayla Martin with the 32nd Community Action at Work Award, recognizing her dedication to our mission and most importantly, those we serve.

Thank you for an incredible **give** To Lincoln Day!

Your generosity is **astounding**. This year, you contributed nearly \$56,000 through Give to Lincoln Day (before match) to benefit Community Action and those we serve. **This support will do so much.**

Thank you for giving your neighbors the gift of safety, stability, and hope. Every day, your generosity breaks down barriers. **By giving to Community Action, you're building new pathways to success.**

In the words of one of our participants, "Community Action renewed the strength I knew existed in me. I am wholly and truly grateful."

This is what your support makes possible. **Thank you.**

Introducing Community Action's new Chief Financial Officer

Community Action is thrilled to announce that Deanna Briley has been named the agency's new Chief Financial Officer. Deanna has been with the agency for 14 years, most recently serving as Grants Administrator and Compliance Officer.

Deanna has experience overseeing financial and grant

management for Community Action and other non-profits. At Community Action, her contributions include collaborating with program and agency staff to create, review, implement, and monitor budgets, fiscal policies and procedures, and more.

"Deanna is a strong leader whose background and expertise

in grant compliance and non-profit accounting will support Community Action's continued ability to be a strong steward of multiple streams of public and private funding," said Heather Loughman, Community Action's CEO. "Her passion and dedication to our mission will also lend positively to the agency's continued growth."

Please join us in congratulating Deanna on her new role!



In April, volunteers joined Community Action staff for a celebration of the Gathering Place's 40th anniversary. Thank you to all who have made the Gathering Place's work possible since 1982!

Celebrating decades of generosity

Did you know 2022 marks the 40th anniversary of the Gathering Place?

In 1982, six passionate community leaders founded the Gathering Place as "a place where anyone would feel welcome." Ever since, the house on the corner of E and Goodhue has symbolized stability and hope for our neighbors in the Near South Neighborhood and beyond.

Every night, dedicated volunteers make possible our work to provide free hot,

nutritious meals to neighbors who need them most. This spring, we invited them to celebrate with us the Gathering Place's 40th anniversary! Everyone shared stories of their favorite volunteer moments, and we celebrated being together again after many long months apart.

Thank you for supporting Community Action's Gathering Place and those who rely on us each night for meals. Your generosity leaves a legacy.

PS. We'll be celebrating the Gathering Place's 40th anniversary all year long. Keep your eye out for more information about upcoming events!

YES, I want to help empower people living in poverty to reach economic stability.

Please accept my gift of \$ _____

Your donation will go toward supporting:

- Feeding those who are hungry at the Gathering Place
- Preparing children for success in school
- Preventing and eliminating homelessness
- Helping families learn financial skills/save for major asset purchases

I would like to designate my gift to the following program (e.g. The Gathering Place, Head Start, Basic needs supplies for families)

I have included (or intend to include) Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties in my will or estate.

My name _____
 Company _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

May we publish your name? Yes No

If so, how would you like your name(s) to appear?

Payment Options:

- Check payable to *Community Action*
- Credit Card: Visa MasterCard Discover

Account # _____
 Exp. Date (mo/yr) _____ Security Code _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

For more information contact:

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