



Hope Inside



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Thanks to you, our mission becomes action

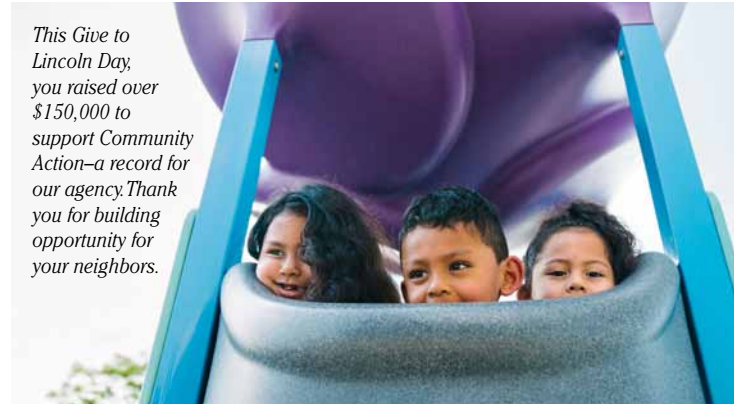
This Give to Lincoln Day, you gave a record-breaking amount of support. We couldn't be more grateful.

Wow. How lucky are we, to have friends like you?

This Give to Lincoln Day, May 24th, we asked for your support and you showed up for those we serve like never before. During this year's giving day, you helped raise over \$150,000 to support Community Action and those we serve. **Thank you.**

This was the most we have ever raised on Give to Lincoln Day. **Your generosity could not have come at a more critical time.** Across our programs, we're seeing increased levels of need. For example, *at the Gathering Place this April, we served over*

This Give to Lincoln Day, you raised over \$150,000 to support Community Action—a record for our agency. Thank you for building opportunity for your neighbors.



1,000 more meals than in April of 2022.

You're helping to ensure that no matter the support our neighbors need, Community Action will be there. You're giving safety, stability, and hope at a time when it's needed more than ever. **You are building opportunity.**

So whether you gave to build a Home for Head Start, to serve meals at the Gathering Place, to keep your

neighbors safely housed, to provide financial education opportunities, or to support our agency's areas of greatest need—**thank you.** You are making a remarkable difference.

Our community is better because you are part of it. You make Community Action's work possible, and our mission a reality. We couldn't do this without you.

Thank you.

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Thank you to our Give to Lincoln Day Drivers!

Dedicated to supporting the future of early childhood education in Lincoln, these individuals/entities led the way in supporting our Home for Head Start campaign this Give to Lincoln Day. Thank you to our Drivers for their generosity!

Assurity

Justin, Liz, Britta, Annika, and Preston Carlson
 Pam Carrier
 Nick and Ann Cusick
 Carl and Janet Eskridge
 Brad Korell
 Bill Loughman
 Marilyn and Dave Moore
 Denny and Arlene Van Horn
 Tammy Ward
 Cline Williams Wright, Johnson, and Oldfather
 Ross and Judy Wilcox



A season of joy and gratitude

You care for your community, and it creates a world of opportunity.

Dear Friend,

As I write to you, we're just days away from the official start of summer. I can't help but reflect on all you've made possible these past few months, across every single one of our programs.

This Give to Lincoln Day, for example, you showed up for our participants with record-breaking support. On May 24th, you helped raise over

\$150,000 for Community Action—a record for our agency by nearly \$50,000. Your generosity will create opportunity for so many of your neighbors right here in Lincoln. **Thank you.**

At our Home for Head Start, you've contributed 76% of our capital campaign goal. This has allowed us to **begin the second phase of construction** to transform our K Street Head Start center from a space designed to serve adults into one built for young children and their families. **Thank you.**

Recently, two Community Action cohorts graduated from their group learning programs. Our FEAST Wellness Program participants celebrated completing their 12-week nutrition education and peer support group. Financial Coaching participants celebrated the end of their 6-week learning session. We'll have a new round of cohorts starting up again soon!

Another bit of fun news—this month, Community Action received the honor of being recognized by

Woods Aitken LLP, the Lincoln Journal Star, and the Lincoln Human Resource Management Association as **one of Lincoln's Best Places to Work** for the sixth time! This year we received second place in the large business category. This honor belongs to our staff, who work tirelessly each day to turn our mission into action.

Thank you for celebrating success with us, and for making our work possible. None of this wonderful news would be possible without you. Every day, you make a difference in the lives of your neighbors through your support of Community Action. I look forward to sharing more good news with you soon!

Thank you for being a friend of Community Action and those we serve.

With Gratitude,



Heather Loughman
Chief Executive Officer



Thank you for joining us this Give to Lincoln Day to "drive home" toward our capital campaign goal!

Lincoln's future, built by you

With a gift to our Home for Head Start campaign, you can build a strong foundation for Lincoln's future. We would be honored to recognize your contribution in any of the following ways:

\$15,000 – An office space will be named in your honor, with a plaque displayed outside its entrance.

\$10,000 – A large personalized stepping stone will be displayed on the pathway to the entrance of our facility.

\$5,000 – A small personalized stepping stone will be displayed on the pathway to the entrance of our facility.

Gifts to our Home for Head Start campaign can be made over a period of up to five years.

Curious about recognition opportunities for gifts of other amounts? Contact Jessie at jhedrick@communityactionatwork.org or (402) 875-9338!



Building the future of early childhood education

When you support Community Action, you give children, families, and teachers the opportunity to thrive.

As a friend of Community Action, you know the importance of investing in your neighbors—especially our youngest community members. Of course, this means supporting the children and families we serve. But it also means giving teachers the chance to learn and grow, strengthening the entire early childhood sector.

Last spring, thanks to a grant from the City of Lincoln, Community Action launched an On-the-Job Training Program. This program gives Community Action Head Start teachers

the chance to earn credentials to advance their careers (leading to promotions/pay raises) while working for Community Action.

We're well on the way toward our goal of serving 70 participants throughout this three-year program. So far, over 25 individuals have participated, with nearly 20 having registered to complete their CDA (Child Development Associates) credential.

You recognize the importance of our community's access to quality early childhood education. This program makes that access possible—and gives educators the opportunity to build greater stability in their own lives.



When you give to Community Action, you give to a stronger community. **Thank you.**

Food, Education, Access, Support, Together



Last month, Community Action's FEAST Wellness Program celebrated another group of graduates!

Community Action's FEAST (Food, Education, Access Support, Together) Wellness Program provides community members, many of whom live

with extremely limited incomes, the opportunity to build skills and connections promoting their long-term health, well-being, and ultimately, stability.

Our 12-week program uses an evidence-based model, piloted in Los Angeles and proven to result in improved health behaviors and well-being. FEAST groups meet weekly to discuss topics relating to accessing fresh, whole foods and cooking easy, satisfying, affordable, delicious recipes. Participants also receive peer support within each session and leave class with knowledge in how to create a new recipe.

Recently, one FEAST participant shared of their participation in the program, **"I have become a more cautious consumer of sugar. I have also increased my physical exercise... I have also improved my emotional health."**

You create opportunities for community members to connect with one another and build the knowledge, skills, and support system for long-term success. Thank you.

Last month, graduates of Community Action's FEAST Wellness Program celebrated completion of their 12-week cohort!



Celebrating our incredible volunteers

Thank you for all that you do!

So much of our work here at Community Action would not be possible without the incredible dedication of our volunteers. Last year, 512 volunteers donated their time and talents to turn Community Action's mission into a reality.



During National Volunteer Week, April 16-22, we held a celebration at Prehistoric Putt in Lincoln to say thank you! Volunteers and their family members from a variety of Community Action programs joined us to celebrate all that they've made possible this year. Thank you, volunteers, for all that you do! We couldn't do this without you.

Interested in becoming a Community Action volunteer? We have opportunities across our agency—from Head Start to the Gathering Place, and more—and for groups of all sizes. Contact Sam Bates at sbates@communityactionatwork.org or (402) 875-9320 to learn more!



How do you want to be remembered?



Leave your legacy through a planned gift to Community Action.

Have you asked yourself this question? What legacy will you leave? Certainly, you've spent some time over the past year considering your passions – the causes closest to your heart. And you've taken time to consider what the world will look like for future generations. How you might make it better, brighter, and kinder.

Making a planned gift to support the work of Community Action is a powerful way to impact generations to come. By committing to a planned gift today, you will become a member of our Legacy Circle, a special group of donors who will play a significant role in advancing the work of Community Action well into the future. It's the perfect way to make a big impact for tomorrow without affecting your financial situation today.

Want to learn more or get started? Contact Heather Loughman at (402) 875-9319 or hloughman@communityactionatwork.org, or Jessie Hedrick at (402) 875-9338!

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:

Jessie Hedrick, *Communications and Development Director*
(402) 875-9338 | jhedrick@communityactionatwork.org



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