



Hope Inside



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In these unprecedented times, the impact on those we serve will be significant.

Will you help us respond to our participants' needs?

Dear Friend,

First, I hope you and your family are well as we endure these unprecedented, challenging times. With all that is going on locally and globally, we debated whether or not to send this newsletter to you per our typical cycle. We ultimately decided to do so because with all of the uncertainty right now, one thing remains certain: Your support of Community Action makes our community a better place. I hope the stories within this newsletter remind you of that.

Over the past several weeks, our Leadership Team has been working hard on developing a plan should operations at Community Action become impacted due to the spread of COVID-19. As of my writing this letter (March 18th), a couple operational changes have been made so far.

At the Gathering Place, following conversations with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, we've begun packing to-go boxes of food for our guests, handed to them from our front porch. We appreciate our dedicated volunteers for continuing to show up each night to package these meals. And

we appreciate the tremendous financial support you have provided to make our meal service possible. (Side note: Thanks to donors like you, we raised over \$182,000 during our 2019 year-end match campaign for the Gathering Place! Now that's something to celebrate!)

A more significant operational update is that our Lincoln Head Start centers will not provide on-site services through April 3rd. This decision was made, in part, following LPS's decision to close. During this time, we are focusing our attention on supporting families as we move to providing home-based services for a while. Our program staff members are working with each family to identify immediate needs and linking them with community resources and educational materials to have at home. Our main priority, of course, is keeping our participants and employees safe and healthy.

Meanwhile, we are thinking about how our modified operations will impact those we serve. Many of our families

depend upon Head Start to meet essential daily basic needs supplies, such as formula, diapers, and wipes. We are working with families to ensure they are aware of existing community resources, and are preparing to respond to additional needs as they arise. **I'd like to invite you, as a partner and friend, to help by making a financial contribution to support Head Start families and other Community Action participants facing additional need right now** (details can be found below). Thank you for your consideration!

This time in history will be remembered for generations. Right now, we're experiencing a challenge, and the impact on the well-being of those we serve will be great. But I know that—with friends like you—the long-term impact will be lessened. And together, we'll get through this.

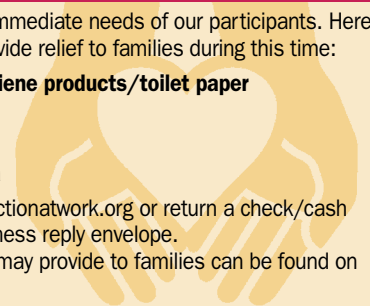
Please stay well.
 Sincerely,
 Vi See

HOW TO HELP

Our priority is responding to the immediate needs of our participants. Here are examples of how you can provide relief to families during this time:

- \$10 = baby wipes/feminine hygiene products/toilet paper**
- \$20 = food voucher**
- \$30 = large package of diapers**
- \$50 = container of baby formula**

To donate, visit www.communityactionatwork.org or return a check/cash contribution in the enclosed business reply envelope. Additional examples of items we may provide to families can be found on our wish list, also on our website.



A Head Start for the whole family

Your support of Community Action Head Start gives every child and caregiver opportunities to succeed.

Kler and her two young daughters love Head Start. “They take good care of my kids, and teach them well,” Kler says. “In Head Start, they learn everything they need to—and English.” But things for Kler’s family haven’t always been bright.

In 2015, Kler and her husband moved to the United States from Thailand. They’d experienced hardships in their home country. Lincoln was a good place, but over time, her relationship grew strained.

Just over three years later, Kler knew she needed to make a big change for herself and for her children. And in February of 2019, she made the decision to leave her husband.

Since then, Kler has worked with various community organizations in order to keep her children safe and in a healthy living and learning environment. She’s worked hard to build her own support network. Last February, she enrolled both children in Community Action Head Start, and began working with program staff to set goals she could work to achieve. Top of the list? Start working again. Kler wanted to be more self-sufficient. She wanted to provide for her herself and her children, and build a

happy, stable life.

She found a job in just six months. “This was my goal for years,” she says. “I love to make it happen.”

Asked how her children have grown since enrolling in Head Start, Kler beams. “They both have friends now. My oldest daughter can ask for what she wants—she didn’t know how to do that before. Her English is good. And my youngest daughter is so happy. She eats everything now—before, she was stressed. She hardly ate at all.”

But the best thing, according to Kler?

“Because of Head Start, we can set new goals.”

Your support of Head Start provides families like Kler’s with the supports they need to achieve their goals.

Thank you for giving families like Kler’s the opportunity to grow together. The empowering support you provide through your giving makes our participants believe in themselves—and that is priceless.



A home for the future

Thank you for supporting hard-working people like Amber in building safe, stable homes for their children.

As a parent, you want what’s best for your child. You want more than anything to provide them with the best possible life, and do everything in your power to keep them happy, healthy, and safe. Amber is no exception.

As a single mother raising two sons, Amber not only provides for her family financially—operating on a strict budget to do so—but also makes frequent trips to an Omaha hospital to ensure her oldest child receives the specialized

medical care he needs.

If you’ve ever had a child experience a serious illness, maybe you understand some of this stress. If you haven’t, maybe you can imagine it: Driving long distances to support one son. Listening to doctors. Working long hours to pay medical bills and provide basic necessities. Taking your other son to school, and all the while, trying to ensure each child gets the love and support they need to thrive. It’s an incredible

weight on one person’s shoulders.

Amber doesn’t like to ask for help. But when she learned that her family would have to move apartments, she knew she’d have to. While Amber had the funds for monthly expenses and a housing voucher, she was missing one crucial piece of the puzzle: money for a deposit. Her oldest son’s essential medical care coupled with the sudden need to move were too great a financial burden. That’s when she called Community Action.

And because you support Community Action, our Emergency Services program could provide Amanda with the one-time financial assistance she needed to relocate to a safe, stable home. Because you support Community Action, Amber’s sons avoided the trauma of homelessness. Thanks to you, they’ll have the chance to grow up in a home that’s happy, healthy, and safe—preparing them for a lifetime of success.

Building a future of opportunity

Your support of Community Action connects people like Kevin to a world of possibilities.

Kevin, pictured right, has been a participant in Opportunity Passport™ for over three years. He speaks three languages! Recently, he graduated high school—a great accomplishment, and an incredible start to his year. He works hard and supports himself, and thanks to your support, also attends financial education classes to build skills that, according to Kevin, make him feel confident.

Kevin’s goal is to earn a certification in construction management. Then, he wants to attend university to become a civil engineer.

Opportunity Passport™ savings match has allowed Kevin to fill a variety of needs on his journey to self-sufficiency. He’s made car payments, rent payments, and other valuable purchases. Support from donors like you made this possible.

“Finding this program has made my life so much better,” says Kevin. “Because of Opportunity Passport™, I’m getting out of debt. I graduated and I’m starting my life. I feel ready to move forward to the next thing.”

Thanks to your support of our programs, and the support he’s received through Opportunity Passport™, Kevin is well on his way to building something great.

Thank you for believing in Kevin, and connecting him to the financial skills he’ll use for a lifetime!



Spotlight on Lisa Hale, Vice President of Community Action’s Board of Directors

Lisa not only volunteers on our Agency Board, but also sponsors the Dazzling Dolphins classroom with her family!

How did you first hear about Community Action?

Before I moved to Lincoln, I served on a different Community Action’s Board of Directors! I currently work as Vice President of Customer Services for Lincoln Electric

System. We have a unique opportunity to collaborate with Community Action through the Energy Assistance Program. I believe very strongly in the agency’s work to fight poverty.

What inspired you to serve on Community Action’s Board of Directors?

It’s all in the mission statement. Empowering others, and breaking the cycle of poverty. I’m the wife of an educator and a mother of three kids. Community Action’s work to provide high-quality, whole-family early childhood education programs also speaks to me. Investing in our youngest learners strengthens our whole community. The

Hale family loves sponsoring the Dazzling Dolphins classroom!

As a member of Community Action’s Board of Directors, and a donor, what do you most want other donors to know?

Donors, I hope you know how truly important you are to the success of our whole community. When you give to Community Action, you give opportunity. I give to Community Action because I believe our children are the future of our community, and they all deserve a head start. Every dollar donated creates a lasting change. So I’d also want to say, “Thank you!”



Lisa Hale, Vice President of Community Action’s Board of Directors, says, “Thank you!” for providing opportunity to all.

Leave your legacy

Through a planned gift to Community Action

You give to Community Action for a very special reason. We're thankful for that reason, and are fortunate to have you by our side.

Your generous support is what makes our cause possible today. But did you know that you can make a significant gift to support it well into the future?

By making a planned gift, you can continue to support

the Community Action causes you love generations from now. Making a planned gift is a meaningful way to leave your legacy.

If you're interested in learning more about how to make a planned gift, or if you have already made a planned gift designation to support Community Action, please contact Heather at (402) 875-9339 or hloughman@communityactionatwork.org.

Thank you for being a true friend to the community we love.



If you had fun looking for Charlie in this photo, consider purchasing a "Where's Charlie?" flip-book from A Novel Idea Bookstore in May! All proceeds will benefit Community Action Head Start.

While every day is a good day to promote early literacy, Spring provides many opportunities to make it a full-on celebration.

In fact, this spring, A Novel Idea Bookstore will be raising funds for Community Action Head Start! As part of their spring Thank You Tuesdays program, A Novel Idea Bookstore will donate a percentage of its Tuesday sales between March and May to Community Action Head Start. Putting the extra "fun" in "fundraising," A Novel Idea will also produce a limited quantity of hand-assembled

flip-books inspired by the popular recurring "Where's Charlie?" posts on their social media. Books will go on sale at A Novel Idea in May during Children's Book Week (May 5-9) and all proceeds will benefit Community Action Head Start.

Please join in the fun and support our programs by patronizing A Novel Idea (118 N. 14th Street) on Tuesdays through May. Also be on the lookout for those "Where's Charlie?" books! For more information, visit: <http://anoveliideabookstore.com/philanthropy.htm>

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:

Heather Loughman, *Communications and Development Director*
(402) 875-9339 | hloughman@communityactionatwork.org



210 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
www.communityactionatwork.org