

Finding Purpose Through Philanthropy

WINTER/SPRING 2019

LINCOLN

F O R E V E R

BUILDING A GREAT CITY

Zoo and other projects
possible because of
generous legacy gifts

LINCOLN COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Greetings:

For Good.

The past three years have been remarkable for the Lincoln Community Foundation. We just completed our 2016-2018 strategic plan. We linked arms with the community to raise \$51 million and opened 311 funds. Grants totaling \$32.7 million were granted to 1,300 nonprofits. By community convening, stronger networks were created for public, private and philanthropic collaborations like Prosper Lincoln, Give to Lincoln Day and the Veteran's Initiative. All of this is good news because it impacts the nonprofits in our community. This great success belongs to you. We are very grateful.

For All.

Lincoln Littles giving day was launched on Abraham Lincoln's birthday. Gifts from the successful day will provide tuition assistance for children from our low-income families to attend quality early childhood education programs. This is important for all our children since 90% of the brain is developed by age 5.

Forever.

The past three years, we were honored to establish 79 new legacy funds. These generous planned gifts will someday make impactful grants like several featured in this newsletter. Legacy gifts are truly a gift of love for the community... forever.

For You.

A community foundation is a platform for philanthropy. For over 60 years, generations of Lincoln residents have entrusted the Lincoln Community Foundation to be a responsive and agile servant to the community. Our mantra has not changed. We are here for you.

Your philanthropic partner,



Barbara M. Bartle
President



Cover photo by Kelly Theye. John Chapo poses with Joey, the young male giraffe who recently moved into the Lincoln Children's Zoo's state-of-the-art giraffe habitat. Phoebe, the young female, peeks through the timbers. Article on page 4.

Save the Date

MAY 1 AT NOON

**Garden Performance Series Kick-off,
Lincoln Community Foundation Garden**

The annual summer concert series takes place every Wednesday at Noon, beginning May 1. This season shows will be added in September so patrons may enjoy the mild fall temperatures.

MAY 9 AT 11:30 AM

**Osbornes to be honored at Annual Event,
Cornhusker Hotel**

Tom and Nancy Osborne have been selected to receive Lincoln Community Foundation's distinguished Charity Award for 2019. They will be honored at the annual donor appreciation luncheon on May 9. Invitation to follow.

MAY 30 – Give to Lincoln Day

Lincoln Community Foundation's annual day of giving is back for its 8th year. Choose from more than 400 local nonprofits to support. Nonprofits will receive a proportionate share of a \$450,000 match made possible by LCF and generous sponsors. If you have a donor advised fund at LCF, make your Give to Lincoln Day grant request at LCF.org through the donor portal anytime before May 15 (please specify that it is for Give to Lincoln Day.) You may also make an online gift via credit card at www.GiveToLincoln.org starting May 1.



Young Professionals grant funds from NextGen Giving Circle

NextGen Lincoln, LCF's group of young professionals who donate their time and money to local nonprofits, granted \$13,000 to three local charities in 2018. Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters received \$6,500, Child Advocacy Center received \$3,900 and Community CROPS received \$2,600.

NextGen is now accepting new members for 2019. Sponsors and Friends are also needed to reach their goal of distributing \$20,000 in 2019.



*NextGen kicked off the 2019 year with their annual
Abe Lincoln Party on February 9.*

*To become a member or support the NextGen Giving Circle,
visit www.nextgenlincoln.org or contact Kelly Theye at
kellyt@lcf.org or 402-474-2345.*

Community Connections shines light on homelessness

Recently Lincoln Community Foundation hosted a panel discussion on homelessness in Lincoln. This Community Connections, an event designed to introduce donors and the community to current issues, explained how Lincoln has virtually eliminated Veteran homelessness and has helped improve the safety net to prevent homelessness.

One attendee, who is a property manager, said, "Thanks to the panel of experts you assembled, I learned much about the agencies working to make homelessness in Lincoln rare, brief, and non-recurring. Less than 24 hours after the gathering, I welcomed tenants in need of support into

my office. These tenants had past-due rent, and we had created a special payment plan for them to catch up. In the meantime, the tenant suffered a work-related injury and was laid off. Now the tenant is desperately scrambling to find work, pay bills, and remain in their home, all while healing. Thanks to the information provided at the LCF session, we were able to direct this family to the agencies in Lincoln whose missions focus on homeless prevention and diversion."

*Learn more about homeless prevention in Lincoln by
visiting <http://www.lincolnhomelesscoalition.org>*



BUILDING A GREAT CITY

We know Lincoln is a great city by the many accolades and national rankings we receive. Since 1955, the Lincoln Community Foundation has provided leadership and resources to help build a wonderful community to call home. This happens when thoughtful donors love Lincoln as much as we do.

Many know LCF as a grant-making organization. Grants are a key component to our local nonprofits' budgets. Grants, accompanied by direct donations from charitable people, help fund expert staff and keep the lights on so these organizations can accomplish their important missions.

Sometimes nonprofits must grow and dream big. That is where LCF can help with capital improvements. In recent years, dreams such as the new adoption

center for Capital Humane Society came true in part because of an LCF grant. YMCA facilities have been built and Woods Tennis Center has expanded. The Career Academy trains high school students for in-demand jobs, and Matt Talbot offers more services to the homeless through LCF support.

Capital grants from LCF helped build new and renovated substance use treatment centers, planted trees, obtained state-of-the-art equipment and improved access for people with disabilities.

LCF's latest capital grants will contribute to the building of the new Float 4 Life National Training Facility (JCMF Children's Charities), endowments for Rudge Park and the Prairie Corridor, as well as improvements to HopeSpoke, the new name of Child Guidance Center.

Most recently Lincoln Children's Zoo is expanding thanks to an LCF grant and much community support. A new giraffe habitat allowing children to look eye-to-eye with these tall creatures will open soon, as well as a new tiger habitat and facility for learning.

There are several landmarks made possible by LCF capital grants, including Tower Square, Gold Star Families Memorial monument, Centennial Mall and Union Plaza's amphitheater. Visitors and residents alike are fortunate to have places to enjoy their time here, thanks to the generosity of people who have made Lincoln their home. Because of gifts made to – and through – the Lincoln Community Foundation, memorials, monuments, green parks and city spaces are fine features of our city.

Some donors create permanent funds designated to a particular field of interest, such as the arts or human services. Others choose to leave the gift unrestricted, allowing Lincoln Community Foundation the flexibility to respond to the ever-changing needs of the community. Some donors give while they are living, while others wait until they've passed. All of

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“My wife is an educator and I’m a nonprofit guy. We aren’t wealthy people. But we can leave something. We are pleased to be able to leave a legacy gift with as few restrictions as possible because we don’t know what the future holds.”

- John Chapo

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these personalized ways of giving help build and sustain our city.

Personally, John Chapo, executive director of Lincoln Children’s Zoo, and his wife, Tracie, are members of Lincoln Community Foundation’s Legacy Society. “My wife is an educator and I’m a nonprofit guy. We aren’t wealthy people,” said Chapo. “But we can leave something. We

are pleased to be able to leave a legacy gift with as few restrictions as possible because we don’t know what the future holds.”

Do you want to leave a lasting legacy? Start the conversation with Chip DeBuse, VP for Development by contacting him at chipd@lcf.org or 402-474-2345.



Gold Star Families Memorial monument

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Since 1955 Lincoln Community Foundation has been afforded the opportunity to benefit this great city because of generous gifts left to us by thoughtful citizens. Recent estate gifts received include:

Ruth Gabelhouse

Created an endowment in honor of her husband, Thomas H. Gabelhouse, to support the unmet needs of Nebraskans serving in the military as well as veterans and their families.

Norma Somerheiser

Created a designated endowment to support five of her favorite charities and her church. She also created a scholarship for students studying the construction trades, agriculture or health care. Norma was an expert on all things German From Russia related.

Beatrice “Mike” Seacrest

Created a Lincoln Forever Fund, which is a broad unrestricted endowed fund that provides grants and leadership gifts to nonprofits in the community. These funds serve as valuable and flexible resources for responding to future needs and opportunities. As needs change in the community throughout the years, Lincoln Forever Funds provide the visionary gifts that improve our city and ensure a viable safety net.



Supporters of Lincoln's CLC's gathered last year to celebrate the creation of a new nonprofit to govern the CLC's in an effort to create long-term sustainability.

LCF Grant Launches CLCs 20 Years Ago

In 1999 Lincoln Community Foundation invested \$100,000 in an idea that would promote successful students, thriving families and strong neighborhoods. The creation of Community Learning Centers (CLCs) represented a major structural shift in how our community worked together to support children and families.

"Resoundingly, everyone said, 'Yes, we want to see the community and district work together,'" said Lea Ann Johnson, who a year later found herself Co-Coordinator of Lincoln's CLCs where she remained for 17 years.

CLCs started in four of Lincoln's public elementary schools, offering before and after school programming for students as well as services for families and neighbors. "CLCs were not just an after-school program," said Cathie Petsch, former

Co-Coordinator of the CLCs from 2001 to 2011. In addition to raising the academic standards of after school programming, the CLCs connect with families and the neighborhood surrounding the schools.

Today there are CLCs at 26 schools (19 elementary, 6 middle schools and 1 high school) with plans to expand to 3 additional schools (1 elementary and 2 high schools) beginning next school year. To date, they have served more than 68,000 students.

Over the past 20 years Lincoln's CLCs have leveraged millions of dollars from federal, state and city government, corporations, other foundations and private philanthropy. Each of the partners contribute a significant amount of funding and infrastructure to the system, with

Lincoln Public Schools contributing approximately \$2.5 million, City of Lincoln contributing \$1.9 million and the lead agencies contributing \$2.8 million in cash assets, capital, and in-kind support.

"The cooperation is a beautiful thing," said Petsch. "The school system, working with the city and along-side the nonprofit partners really made a difference."

"That's what I'm most proud of," Johnson said. "That collectively we've done good work."

Last year, an interlocal agreement created a new nonprofit to govern the CLCs in an effort to create long-term sustainability. "Building on our strong 20-year history, Lincoln CLCs continue to prioritize serving our community's most important asset – our children," said Nola Derby-Bennett, current director of the CLCs. "By serving the whole child, and their family and neighborhood, we give the student the very best possibility for success."

Learn how you can support children, families and neighborhoods, or a passion of your own, by contacting Tracy Edgerton, VP for Strategic Giving, at tracye@lcf.org or 402-474-2345.

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By serving the whole child, and their family
and neighborhood, we give the student the
very best possibility for success.

- Nola Derby-Bennett, Director of the Community Learning Centers

Changes at Lincoln Community Foundation



**MICHELLE
PAULK**

Lincoln Community Foundation announces the promotion of Michelle Paulk to Vice President for Community Outreach. For the past 8 years, Michelle has served as Program Coordinator, assisting with grants and overseeing Give to Lincoln Day. She has 17 years of experience in the nonprofit sector in database and grants management, donor relations and program administration.



**SARAH
PEETZ**

Michelle assumed this role upon Sarah Peetz retirement. Sarah served as VP for Community Outreach since 2010 overseeing grant distributions, community initiatives and fostering donor relations. To commemorate her service to the organization, LCF established the Sarah Peetz Lincoln Forever Fund to support the ever-changing needs in the community.



**KELLY
THEYE**

“Sarah’s leadership at the Foundation has been integral to our successful growth to help build a wonderful community,” said Barbara Bartle, President of the Lincoln Community Foundation. “We wish her well in her retirement and look forward to Michelle carrying on this important work.”

Kelly Theye has been promoted to Digital Communications Specialist. Kelly assists with graphic design, social media and database operations of the Foundation.



**CARLY
GRUTEL**

She will take on a greater role helping with Give to Lincoln Day and continues to administer the NextGen Giving Circle, Lincoln’s philanthropic group of young professionals.

You’ll see a new face when you visit the Foundation. Carly Grutel joined the staff in November as the new Donor Relations Assistant. She serves as the first point of contact with community partners and donors. Carly brings experience working with nonprofits in the areas of community engagement and program coordination.



**RICH
HERINK**

Finally, Rich Herink will lead the Foundation’s Strategic Partnerships. Herink will help build relationships and identify opportunities for collaboration with key constituencies, specifically around economic development, impact investing and affordable housing.

Herink recently concluded a 45-year banking career, serving most recently as President of First National Bank in Lincoln. Rich has been active in Lincoln, having previously served as Board Chair for Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and United Way of Lincoln. He currently serves on the boards of CHI Health, the Lied Center for Performing Arts, Junior Achievement, the NebraskaLand Foundation, and the Nebraska Chamber and a past board member of Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, Lincoln Independent Business Association, Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools and several local and statewide foundations and business associations.



BikeLNK

Lincoln’s bikeshare program launched in April, 2018. Thanks to the generous legacy of Kenneth J. Good, Lincoln Community Foundation provided a \$160,000 grant to help kick off the project. According to Jamie Granquist, BikeLNK City Manager, in 2018, 28,630 trips were taken, traveling 66,600 miles, burning 2,647,077 calories and offsetting 63,109 pounds of carbon! BikeLNK has already received honors, including the Downtown Lincoln Community Leadership Award and the Most Rides Per Bike Per Day award for programs of their size from BCycle.

Learn more at BikeLNK.com.

Lincoln Shines for Our Little Ones



The Lincoln Community Foundation hosted its first ever Lincoln Littles giving day in honor of Abe Lincoln's birthday on February 12. The day, inspired by the Prosper Lincoln agenda on early childhood, raised an impressive \$637,397 to help more children in need access quality early childhood programs.

The fund is a significant development toward the Prosper Lincoln Early Childhood community agenda goal of increasing accessible and affordable high-quality early childhood education.

"Hats off to this generous community," said Barbara Bartle, President of Lincoln Community Foundation. "Abe would like this birthday gift. He said, 'When I do good, I feel good.' Lincoln, you should feel good today. Thank you for your generous support of the little ones in our community."

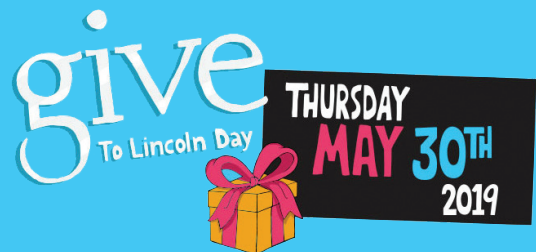
"Providing our kids with quality learning opportunities in their first few years sets the stage for success throughout their lives," said Mayor Chris Beutler. "It's the first step in preparing them to be our future leaders."

Ten early childhood education providers have pre-qualified to receive funding to provide tuition assistance to low-income families including CEDARS, The Children's Place, Community Action – Head Start, Educare Lincoln, Dimensions Education Programs at First-Plymouth, Fingerprints Child Development Center, Kids First Inc., KinderCare Learning Center, St. Mark's Preschool/KIDZONE, Westminster Preschool and World of Knowledge Child Development Center. They all are Step 2 or higher on Nebraska's Step Up to Quality rating scale and are currently serving at least one child from a low-income family. Additional providers may receive grants as soon as they meet the qualifications.

Seed funding was granted by W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Buffett Early Childhood Fund. Lead gifts to the Lincoln Littles Early Learning Fund were made by Champions for Children: Harbor of Dreams, Helen Raikes in Honor of Senator Ron Raikes, Bob and Jan FitzSimmons, Jim and Penny Krieger Family Foundation, Mary and Matt Reckmeyer, Mae Whitmer and the Susan and Jim Stuart Charitable Trust.

You can still support Lincoln Littles and other prosper Lincoln initiatives. Contact Michelle Paulk, VP for Community Outreach at michellep@lcf.org or 402-474-2345.

Support Give to Lincoln Day Nonprofits With Your Donor Advised Fund



If you have a donor advised fund at Lincoln Community Foundation, you can avoid credit card fees when you support nonprofits for Give to Lincoln Day. Instead of using www.GiveToLincoln.org, make grants to your favorite participating nonprofit, using my LCF online portal at www.lcf.org or email *Michelle Paulk* at michellep@lcf.org to request grant distributions by May 15. Minimum distribution of \$100 per nonprofit applies to grants from LCF donor advised funds.

If you don't already have a donor advised fund with Lincoln Community Foundation, there is still time. Plus, new DAFs will receive a 10% match up to \$1,000. Contact *Scott Lawson*, Vice President for Finance at scottl@lcf.org or 402-474-2345 to set up and fund your DAF by May 1st in order to make your Give to Lincoln Day grants from the fund.