

Finding Purpose Through Philanthropy

WINTER/SPRING 2020

LINCOLN

F O R E V E R

GIVE A GIFT FOR OUR LITTLE ONES

on Lincoln's Birthday
February 12



LINCOLN COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



Cover photo: Lincoln Littles
Learn more about the early
childhood initiative on page 4.
Special thanks to our contributing
writer, Mary Kay Roth.

Greetings:

Several weeks ago, I was given a children's book titled, **What Do You Do With A Chance?** A story for all ages that inspires us to embrace chances in life. Because you never know when a chance, once taken, might be the one to change everything.

When I read this book, I thought of our community in 2014. We were shocked by our first Lincoln Vital Signs report showing a 48% increase in poverty. Everywhere data was presented, audiences said, "We are Lincoln. We can do better."

In 2015, our community aspired to lift Lincoln higher and for the last 3 years this has been our focus. People from all sectors have stepped up to make Lincoln even better. Much has been accomplished in the priority areas of early childhood, skills for jobs and innovation/entrepreneurship. On the back cover, you can read more information about Lincoln Vital Signs 2019 and the plans to address the findings in the next five years of the Prosper Lincoln community agenda.

In his book, **The Different Drum**, M. Scott Peck says, "In and through community lies the salvation of the world." By assuming the specialness of every person, we build a culture of respect that generates energy, creativity and magnetism – a community that people can sense and feel, and to which they are drawn.

This was certainly true of Mahendra and Prem Bansal. They are celebrating the golden anniversary of their arrival in Lincoln with their young family. You can read how they built their life in Lincoln and now want to give back with a legacy gift.

Each of us and all of us enrich the life of our community. This is how we will build the future where we all achieve a strong, diverse and growing community – a community where everyone prospers. Put simply, for everyone to prosper in Lincoln, we need to lean in and love one another. Imagine such a city. If any city can do this, it is Lincoln. Philadelphia is the City of Brotherly Love, but we can be a city of action: Lincoln Loves.

So, what do you do with a chance? You take it...because it just might be the start of something incredible. Let's lock arms and take a chance. We can get started right away with a gift for Lincoln Littles to support quality early childhood education for a child in our community. Learn more inside and then take action by making a gift in the enclosed envelope.

When we band together...amazing things happen.

With gratitude,

Barbara M. Bartle
President



Save the Date

FEBRUARY 12

Lincoln Littles Giving Day



On Wednesday, February 12, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, the Lincoln Community Foundation will host the second annual Lincoln Littles Giving Day. It's one special day when people who care about kids in our city join forces to help more children in need receive a quality early childhood education.

Go to LincolnLittles.org and give to our little ones. It means a lot to the future of this great community. Full article on page 4.

MARCH 15

Deadline to Apply for Student Scholarships

Generous donors to the Lincoln Community Foundation have established more than 80 scholarship funds that benefit students in Lancaster County and across the state of Nebraska. For 2019, there were over 270 individual awards, amounting to a total of \$440,000. For a full list of 2019 scholarship recipients, visit lcf.org.

Scholarships for 2020 are now available. Students create an account on Blackbaud Award Management to access

the online application form. For more information on scholarships, visit LCF.org or contact Trish Reimer at 402-474-2345 or trishr@lcf.org.

MAY 7 @ 11:30 AM

Acklies to be honored at Charity Award Luncheon, Country Club of Lincoln

Duane and Phyllis Acklie will be honored on behalf of the community with LCF's distinguished Charity Award for 2020. The Charity Award recognizes individuals for their leadership and philanthropy to our great city. Invitation to follow.

MAY 28 - Give to Lincoln Day

Lincoln Community Foundation's annual day of giving is back for its 9th year! Choose from more than 400 local nonprofits to support. If you have a donor advised fund at LCF, make your Give to Lincoln Day grant request at LCF.org through the donor portal any time 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.



Changes at Lincoln Community Foundation



TRISH REIMER

LCF is pleased to welcome two new staff members – Trish Reimer and Chuck Williams. Trish Reimer previously worked at LCF from 2010-2015 and has returned to administer Foundation scholarships and assist the Vice President of Community Outreach with grant distributions. She has more than 15 years of experience working with various nonprofits within the state of Nebraska including the Grand Island Community Foundation and Hamilton Community Foundation.



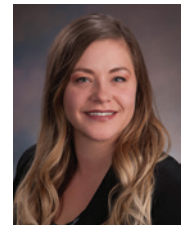
ROB MCMASTER

Trish assumes the role of Scholarship Coordinator as Rob McMaster retired after eight years of overseeing the endowed scholarship funds. Rob also served as the Internal Operations Coordinator and worked closely with several successful Lincoln Veteran Support Initiative Task Force projects, one of which was the installation of the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument adjacent to Lincoln Veterans Memorial Garden.

Additionally, Carly Grutel has been promoted to Internal Operations Coordinator. She will take on a greater role with building and tenant-related issues while continuing to serve as the first point of contact with community partners and donors.

Chuck Williams joins LCF as Accounting and Program Coordinator. Williams has spent the last five years working in the Human Resources Department of Intrado (formerly West Corporation), maintaining employee databases and information systems. Chuck is passionate about volunteer work and serving the community, which he has been participating in since his early scouting days in Papillion, Nebraska.

"We are grateful for Rob's hard work throughout the past eight years," said Barbara Bartle, president. "We wish him the best in his retirement and are excited to have Trish and Chuck join our team."



CARLY GRUTEL



CHUCK WILLIAMS



LINCOLN RALLIES AROUND ITS LITTLES

The audience sat in rapt attention at December's Prosper Lincoln Summit as they heard staggering numbers surrounding early childhood from the latest Lincoln Vital Signs report. Seventy-five percent of Lincoln's children under six have all parents in the workforce and parents at every income level report expense as the biggest challenge to accessing high quality care in Lincoln. It currently costs more per year to send an infant or toddler to a child care center than one year of tuition at the University of Nebraska.

It is especially difficult for families who fall below or near the poverty level to afford and access quality early childhood education. There are currently 3,362

children under the age of six in Lincoln who live in families that fall below the poverty threshold and only 9% of young children in poverty are enrolled in nursery/preschool programs.

The question arises – how do we serve our youngest citizens in need of quality early childcare? In response, LCF partnered with Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to host last year's 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 nearly \$640,000 to help 110 children from working families access quality early childhood programs in 2019.

"Hats off to Lincoln," said Barbara Bartle, President of the Lincoln Community Foundation. "As we enter into the second year of the Lincoln Littles program, we look forward to supporting even more children in our community."

In order to continue to raise funds for children from families facing the greatest odds, LCF will once again host its online Lincoln Littles giving day on Wednesday, February 12. Online donations may be made by visiting LincolnLittles.org starting at 12 a.m. on January 31 through 11:59 p.m. on February 12. Donations may also be mailed via the enclosed envelope or in person on February 12 by cash or check at the Lincoln Community Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Testimonials pouring in from those who received assistance through the program last year paint a moving picture – a family facing the loss of one spouse's job not knowing how they'll be able to keep their children enrolled in a program; a single mother leaving an abusive relationship and looking for a safe and stable place for her toddler; a preschooler with learning disabilities whose family is in need of high-quality educational environment they can afford. The stories go on and on.

Thirteen early childhood education providers qualified for funding to provide tuition assistance to families in need through the Lincoln Littles initiative in 2019. All providers are Step 2 or higher on Nebraska's Step Up to Quality, 5-step rating scale. Moving into the second year of the program, more providers have applied to assist families in need. A full list of providers can be found at LincolnLittles.org.

High-quality child care helps children develop the range of skills necessary for success in school and beyond. The National Chamber of Commerce Foundation says that quality early

childhood education is important for today's workforce as well as preparing the future workforce.

"We are thrilled to bring this giving day back to the Lincoln community for a second year to fill such an important need," said Barbara Bartle, President of Lincoln Community Foundation. "We know that helping these families access high-quality early childhood education is good for Lincoln's schools, workforce and, most importantly, our little ones. It means a lot for Lincoln's future."

Seed funding is granted by W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Buffett Early Childhood Fund. Champions for Children match partners are Acklie Charitable Foundation, Harbor of Dreams, Jim and Penny Krieger Family Foundation, Susan Sehnert Stuart and Mae Whitmer.

As Abe Lincoln said, "When I do good, I feel good." There's no better way to honor Abe, than with a gift to Lincoln Littles on February 12. For more information on how to participate, call 402-474-2345 or visit LincolnLittles.org.



Little Details

How to Give

Online donations may be made starting at 12 a.m. on January 31 through 11:59 p.m. on February 12 at LincolnLittles.org.

Donations may also be made via the enclosed envelope or in person on February 12 by cash or check at the Lincoln Community Foundation between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Checks must be written to "Lincoln Community Foundation" with "Lincoln Littles" written in the memo line.

Lincoln Community Foundation
215 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68508

Big Impact

Testimonials from Lincoln Littles scholarship recipients

"We are a family of four and my husband lost his job recently. His income was the primary source of income for our mortgage, the cars, preschool, all the big things. When he lost his job my first thought was – what about our kids? To say, 'thank you' wouldn't even begin to describe our gratitude for the Lincoln Littles Scholarship we received."

"Our daughter was able to receive the Lincoln Littles Scholarship and since being able to go to preschool, her whole personality has brightened up. The Lincoln Littles Scholarship has really allowed her to have amazing experiences and create many memories and she is only just starting school."

"I was so relieved at the mention of a scholarship. This is really an opportunity for me to express how grateful I am to the donors and to all those who are working to offer hope to families like mine. You wiped my tears by granting this opportunity to my child."

BANSALS' HEARTS BELONG TO LINCOLN



As they celebrate the golden anniversary of their arrival in Lincoln (following a few years in Lawrence, Kansas) as a young couple from India with three small children, Mahendra and Prem Bansal determined to honor their family legacy of generosity with a heartfelt gift to the Lincoln Community Foundation.

“Giving back to the community was part of our growing up, our faith, our family values,” Mahendra explained. “Our parents told us that you should always give whatever you have. The amount doesn’t matter, it is only important to give. Like our parents, we believe in leaving the world a better place than we found it.”

The principle of philanthropy was cultivated on both sides of their families. Prem’s parents gave to orphanages, while Mahendra’s family donated their land in India to create a school that eventually transformed into a college. “When people were looking for jobs, they would regularly come to our home in Delhi and stay with us,” Mahendra said. “A person never went hungry when they were in our house.”

Preeta Bansal, their youngest daughter and an LCF board member, reflected on this philosophy of care that shaped her family. “My parents come from a culture where family is everything, and community

is family. They both were born into large families at a time when community and family were the primary source for safety nets, so extended family members looked after one another. And villagers and community members were all considered part of the extended family.”

To honor that family tradition of giving, and as part of a larger community charitable giving strategy, the Bansals created a charitable gift annuity at the Foundation, which offers a lifetime income for Mahendra and Prem now while providing future support for the community. As a result of this gift, they are new members of the Foundation’s Legacy Society, honoring donors who arrange now for a gift at the end of life. “This is about giving back to Lincoln, a place we love,” Prem said. “Lincoln is our home. We want to pass on the blessings this community has bestowed upon us.”

The Bansals grew up in India, married and had three children, but both wanted to further their education. Mahendra came to America first to earn his doctorate in Kansas. Prem and the children followed soon after, and a job opportunity for Mahendra brought them to Lincoln.

It has been a wondrous journey. Mahendra became a registered professional engineer

with a Ph.D. in civil engineering, and he led the Data Bank for the Nebraska State Natural Resources Commission for decades. Prem has a Ph.D. in public administration and was the first Indian American woman to serve in a professional role in the Nebraska statehouse.

Throughout her tenure as a public servant, Prem worked with five Nebraska governors over three decades as senior aide, policy researcher, policy advisor and division head.

Their children also flourished.

- Ameeta Martin was in second grade when they arrived in Nebraska. She’s now a pediatric cardiologist in Lincoln.
- Jay became a cornea and refractive eye surgeon and lives as an entrepreneur in California.
- Preeta graduated from Harvard Law School and has spent more than 30 years in senior roles in government, global business and corporate law, including positions at the White House and U.S. Supreme Court. She recently returned to make Lincoln her home.

"Now that I'm back here in Lincoln and get to see them up close and personal, I am amazed how active my parents remain, socially and civically," Preeta said, noting a dizzying landscape of hands-on community service that includes Heartland Big Brothers and Sisters, Matt Talbot Kitchen, Cedars Home for Children, Friends of Foreign Students, Downtown Rotary, the Hindu Temple and the Faith Coalition of Lancaster County.

Granddaughter Alyssa Martin, a policy aide for Lincoln Mayor Leirion Gaylor-Baird and also a Harvard Law School graduate, agrees. "My grandparents infused in all of us a love for service to others and for

seeing past surface differences, to honor unity as well as the unique humanity and spark of the divine in each person," she said.

The Bansals are thankful for their blessings. "We believe in demonstrating gratitude and making a fair contribution. It is so easy to procrastinate, so we wanted to do something now," Prem said. "Our fifty-year anniversary in Lincoln seemed like the right time to say thank you to a community that has been very good to us. Our hearts belong to Lincoln."

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 \$13,350 to three local charities in 2019. CEDARS received \$6,675, Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln received \$4,005 and Nebraska Appleseed received \$2,670.

NextGen is now accepting membership applications for 2020. Sponsors and Friends are also needed to reach their goal of distributing \$20,000 in 2020. To learn more about NextGen, contact Kelly Burken at 402-474-2345 or kellyb@lcf.org.



From left to right: Tom Luebbe (NextGen Board Member), Jim Blue (Cedars), Christine Wenzl (Cedars), and Charlie Bills (NextGen President)

Leave Your Mark on the Future

When Mahendra and Prem Bansal decided it was time to do something now to create a future charitable legacy, they turned to the Lincoln Community Foundation. The Bansals met with Paula Metcalf to brainstorm about how best to structure a future gift, and after considerable discussion they elected to create a charitable gift annuity as an initial step in their community giving plans.

Members of the Foundation's Legacy Society make the ultimate and honored gift by including the community alongside family in the distribution of their assets through a will or trust, via beneficiary designation on a retirement account or insurance policy, or by creating a charitable gift annuity.

Mahendra and Prem were drawn to the Lincoln Community Foundation because it is a trusted organization, centered on community causes.

Their advice to Lincoln citizens: make your plans now. "Please do not put off your giving," said Prem. "As we grow older, it becomes even more important to give back to our community."

To learn more about how to create a charitable legacy, contact Paula Metcalf at 402-474-2345 or paulam@lcf.org.



More than 1,000 Community Members “On the Upbeat” at Prosper Lincoln Summit

Passionate Lincolniters gathered at Pinnacle Bank Arena on December 17 to celebrate the progress of the past three years and hear what's next for Prosper Lincoln's shared community agenda. Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, President-Elect of the University of Nebraska Vice Admiral Walter “Ted” Carter, Prosper Lincoln Tri-Chairs and others addressed the crowd of nearly 1,100. The 2019 Summit as well as the release of the latest Lincoln Vital Signs (lincolnvitalsigns.org) served as a springboard for the next five years of Prosper Lincoln.

What started as 2,100 ideas to address the 2014 Lincoln Vital Signs findings, turned into a focused community agenda to lift Lincoln higher. Lincoln Community Foundation President, Barbara Bartle, highlighted many Prosper Lincoln's recent successes at the Summit in the areas of Early Childhood, Employment Skills and Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The progress to date is due to a true community-wide effort across all sectors. Individuals and organizations have stepped up to make progress toward these goals, including neighborhoods, businesses, schools, faith organizations, nonprofits and more. Michelle Suarez, Bryan Seck and Rich Claussen have been waking up every day to move the agenda forward as Prosper Lincoln Developers since 2016.

While much progress has been made, the data in the 2019 Lincoln Vital Signs report by the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, shows that there is more work to be done for everyone in Lincoln to truly prosper. Public Policy Center Associate Director,

Dr. Nancy Shank, shared major findings from the report at the Summit. “Lincoln is prospering and growing stronger,” said Shank. “However, persistent weaknesses are stymieing our progress.”

In response to the 2019 Vital Sign findings, Prosper Lincoln has now expanded its focus areas for the next five years to include **Early Childhood, Innovative Workforce, Affordable Housing, Strong Neighborhoods and Civic Investments.**

As Prosper Lincoln embarks on this next phase, the community agenda looks to prioritize Lincoln's strengths and challenges, then concentrate public, private and philanthropic human and financial resources toward common goals, across all sectors from grassroots to systems leadership.

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird urged Lincolniters at the Prosper Lincoln Summit to “be informed, be involved, be patient.” For when we all band together...amazing things are possible! The full event can be viewed online at LNKTVcity.lincoln.ne.gov.

Turn insight into action! You can be “On the Upbeat” for Prosper Lincoln by gaining a shared understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing our community, getting involved and taking action to make our visions for the future a reality. Please visit www.prosperlincoln.org or email info@prosperlincoln.org for more information.