

Finding Purpose Through Philanthropy

SUMMER 2021

# LINCOLN

F O R E V E R

## IN PERFECT HARMONY

Love of music and  
community brings couple  
together to give back

LINCOLN COMMUNITY  
F O U N D A T I O N





**Excerpt from President Barbara Bartle's introduction letter to donors 3-16-10:**

*This organization is steeped in tradition and history. I am honored to serve and look forward to working hard to continue the growth and impact. I will need some time and more importantly, I will need your help. It is a new day at the Lincoln Community Foundation. I am excited to work with you to build the future. Let's get going.*

## Greetings:

In 2010, I asked for your support to build this community gem, the Lincoln Community Foundation. Your leadership, generosity and commitment have made all the difference. You can see some of the impact when you read the stories in our summer magazine:

- The community came together once again to break records on Give to Lincoln Day
- Matthew and Ann Finkner are giving to Lincoln Forever as members of LCF's Legacy Society
- LCF's Veteran Initiative was honored with a grant from the Bob Woodruff Foundation
- The John and Catherine Angle Fund gave local nonprofits a jumpstart through an inaugural two-year program

In the future, there will continue to be wonderful stories to tell. With an organization that is here forever, I am honored to be a small part in the history of LCF. I have signed thousands of appreciation letters. I see your faces. I know that the Foundation will continue to grow and prosper for our community...thanks to you!

With Gratitude,

Barbara M. Bartle  
President



## CONTRIBUTORS



### KELLY BURKEN

Kelly is the Digital Communications Specialist for the Lincoln Community Foundation as well as LCF's resident photographer. She specializes in wedding, family and senior portraits and lives with her husband, Kurt and their standard poodle, Banks.



### CHUCK WILLIAMS

Chuck is the Marketing Coordinator for the Lincoln Community Foundation as well as LCF's Veteran Liaison. He is a podcasting enthusiast and amateur voice over talent. When he is not in his recording studio, he is active in his church community.

# Save the Date



## **FEBRUARY 9** **Lincoln Littles Giving Day**

On Wednesday, February 9th the Lincoln Community Foundation will host the fourth annual Lincoln Littles Giving Day. This one special day, inspired by Prosper Lincoln, gives everyone in our great community the opportunity to help more children in need receive a quality early childhood education.

You too can live by Abe's words, "When I do good, I feel good."

**Do you want to make a BIG difference for Lincoln's little ones? Contact Chip DeBuse at 402-474-2345 or [chipd@lcf.org](mailto:chipd@lcf.org) to learn more about Match Fund Sponsorships.**

## Staff Updates

The Lincoln Community Foundation is pleased to welcome two new faces – Angie Grieshop, Staff Accountant, and Mallory Krenk, Marketing Intern.

Angie Grieshop joins LCF as Staff Accountant. Angie is a Cincinnati native and a graduate of the College of Mount St. Joseph. Previously, she was with Ameritas Life Insurance in various finance roles for nearly 20 years.

Mallory Krenk is serving as LCF's Marketing Intern this summer. Mallory is a senior Marketing and Management double major at the University of Nebraska. With a passion for entrepreneurship, she hopes to continue growing her small business and help others build theirs. Born and raised in Nebraska, Mallory plans to stay in Lincoln after graduation.

"Our staff has been key to the growth and vitality of the Foundation throughout the past decade," said LCF President Barbara Bartle. "We are thrilled to welcome Angie and Mallory to the team."



*Angie Grieshop*



*Mallory Krenk*

## LCF in the News:

### **VETERAN SUPPORT INITIATIVE RECEIVES GRANT FROM BOB WOODRUFF FOUNDATION**



**BOB WOODRUFF FOUNDATION**  
Investing in the Next Chapter for Our Veterans

LCF's Veteran Support Initiative was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Bob Woodward Foundation (BWF) to support their efforts combatting hunger and food insecurity in the veteran community. BWF partners with community and national programs, organizations and the military community, and advocates to create healthy, positive futures for service members, veterans, and their families. This funding is made possible by Craig Newmark Philanthropies, and has been distributed to the families of nine veterans in Lincoln through the nonprofit, Nebraska Veterans of Foreign Wars.

To learn more about the Foundation's Veteran Support Initiative, visit [www.lcf.org/impacting-community/strategic-initiatives/veteran-support](http://www.lcf.org/impacting-community/strategic-initiatives/veteran-support).

### **SCHOLARSHIPS BUILD STRONGER FUTURE FOR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY**

Generous donors to the Lincoln Community Foundation have established 90 scholarship funds, benefitting students in Lancaster County and throughout the state of Nebraska. For 2021, there were nearly 300 individual scholarship awards, amounting to a total of \$565,150. For a full list of 2021 scholarship recipients, visit [lcf.org/scholarships](http://lcf.org/scholarships).

The next scholarship cycle will open on December 15, 2021. **For more information on scholarships, visit [Lcf.org](http://Lcf.org) or contact Trish Reimer at 402-474-2345 or [trishr@lcf.org](mailto:trishr@lcf.org).**





# LEAVING A LEGACY OF HARMONY

Listening to Matthew and Ann Finkner speak about their attraction to Lincoln and each other, one thing becomes clear: music is a strong link.

Matthew came to Lincoln from Minden, Nebraska, to be the drum major of the Cornhusker Marching Band.

Hailing from Rushmore, Minnesota, Ann arrived in Lincoln by way of her new position with Farm Credit Services. Her childhood fascination with the Huskers made Lincoln an easy choice, even after her position moved to Omaha.

“Omaha has lots to offer, but Lincoln is home,” she said.

While here, Ann started attending Hope Reformed Church (now Hope

Community Church), and Matthew served as their organist and choir director. A gifted vocalist, Ann joined the church choir, and after some friendly persuasion from friends, they attempted a first date. They have been together ever since.

“She could sing anything I needed to sing,” Matthew recalls. “It was a great partnership.”

“Music is what brought us together,” Ann added. “And what keeps us together.”

Church and music brought the Finkners together. It also gave Ann her earliest memories of philanthropy. As a child, Ann remembers seeing her parents and grandparents support causes that were important to them, including the

family church. That spirit of giving has expanded over the years and became an increasingly important part of Ann’s life.

“I’d say as we’ve experienced more of what is possible or where needs are, that has expanded our giving beyond just religious affiliation,” she said.

Matthew agreed.

“For me, it was seeing what a lot of organizations were doing and wondering what I could do to help,” he said. “There are so many wonderful organizations doing amazing things, so you want to help them.”

The Finkners make contributions to many local nonprofits that serve the arts, human needs, and

education. One organization, however, sticks out as particularly special to them: Wyuka Cemetery.

“Wyuka is one of the most interesting places in Lincoln,” Matthew revealed. “We walk through Wyuka a lot. It’s full of history, and that’s one of the causes dear to our hearts.”

Ann echoed this sentiment.

“I am big into genealogy,” she confessed. “Cemeteries are my library, with what you can learn from them. We take good care of where we live in our living bodies. We think it’s important to take care of where our bodies rest as well.”

Their advice to others is to pursue personal passions and give in the best way they can.

“Some people think they don’t have a lot of money to give right away, but that isn’t what it takes,” Matthew reminds us. “It just takes giving what you can.”

“Find your passion and ask yourself how you support it,” Ann adds.

“What time, talents, and resources are you giving back?”

Matthew’s music career resulted in the couple switching churches from time to time. Now they attend a church where Ann wanted to sing, First-Plymouth. After Matthew retired from his director position, he became increasingly involved in First-Plymouth and Abendmusik, an organization that enriches and inspires the community through music using both international artists and locally produced performances.

For the Finkners, their philanthropic legacy is holistic. They enjoy supporting causes that help people live life. They are equally passionate about contributing to the organizations that preserve people’s legacy when life has ended.

One word describes the Finkners’ passion for their church, Lincoln, each other, and their philanthropy... “harmonious.” What a beautiful legacy.



## LCF’s Legacy Society

When Matthew retired, the Finkners became more involved in Abendmusik and First-Plymouth Congregational Church. They also became aware of the Lincoln Community Foundation when Ann served on the church’s board of trustees. As the church began working with LCF to manage its long-term endowed funds, the Finkners began considering whether LCF could help them with their philanthropic legacy.

Tracy Edgerton, Vice President for Strategic Giving, helped the Finkners discover all the possibilities, from endowed funds and donor advised funds to estate planning.

“LCF was particularly helpful with our estate planning process,” Ann said. “It’s been helpful to have their expertise and understanding, especially when dealing with organizations inside and outside of Lincoln.”

By creating their estate plans, they became members of the Foundation’s Legacy Society, honoring donors who make an end-of-life gift.

“Tracy and the Foundation have been there at every turn, saying ‘yes, we can do this, here is a way to do this,’” Matthew said. “We wouldn’t have known how to do that ourselves.”

For anyone considering becoming a member of the Legacy Society or interested in opening their first fund, the Finkners say no amount is too small, and there is no time like the present.

“It’s never too late to start,” Ann affirms. “You never know what tomorrow holds or what today holds.”

“And don’t think you have to start big,” Matthew adds. “Start small and increase it when you can. You’ll be surprised how good it makes you feel.”

*Are you interested in giving to Lincoln Forever and becoming a member of LCF’s Legacy Society? Contact Tracy Edgerton at 402-474-2345 or [tracye@lcf.org](mailto:tracye@lcf.org).*



# A JUMPSTART TO SERVING THE COMMUNITY



*Travis Centers, left, of Network for Good, led the inaugural cohort of nine local organizations through the transition of their donor databases in 2019.*

Growing nonprofits can face many challenges when it comes to fundraising. Many report that they lack the infrastructure to acquire, attain and upgrade donors. Health, economic and social crises have further taxed local nonprofits and the vulnerable communities they serve. With the shared goal of building capacity and sustainability within Lincoln's nonprofit community, Lincoln Community Foundation, Network for Good (NFG) and Cause Collective partnered to bring NFG's fundraising capacity building program, Jumpstart, to Lincoln nonprofits.

Network for Good approached LCF with the Jumpstart program in early 2019. Funding from the John and Catherine Angle Fund over two years was designated to help nonprofits improve their capacity, sustainability, and governance. Two cohorts of

nonprofits participated in the program between 2019-2021.

Jumpstart's fundraising platform and content management system was designed by NFG and provides integrated tools, coaching, and technology to nonprofits to build their fundraising capacity and sustain their programs.

In addition to the platform, the program provided a cohort of 8-10 agencies with one year of free software, fundraising coaching, and quarterly meetings facilitated by Cause Collective to share learning among the participants.

Before Jumpstart, members of the cohort used multiple methods to record their fundraising efforts and track donors.

"It was a bit of a free-for-all," said Jason Varga, executive director of Cause

Collective. "Some agencies were using software that was cumbersome and twice as expensive. Some were using large spreadsheets. Some were using nothing at all."

The results for many of the participating agencies were noticeable. Jumpstart tracked the fundraising of each agency with the software to compare those numbers to their previous fundraising campaigns. Almost every agency experienced a substantial increase in its fundraising totals. Two years since the initial pilot program, Jason believes the effect for the nonprofits has been positive.

"Agencies that still use the software are finding new ways to grow their fundraising, make processes more efficient, and properly thank their donors," he said.

The nonprofits who participated in the cohort agreed.

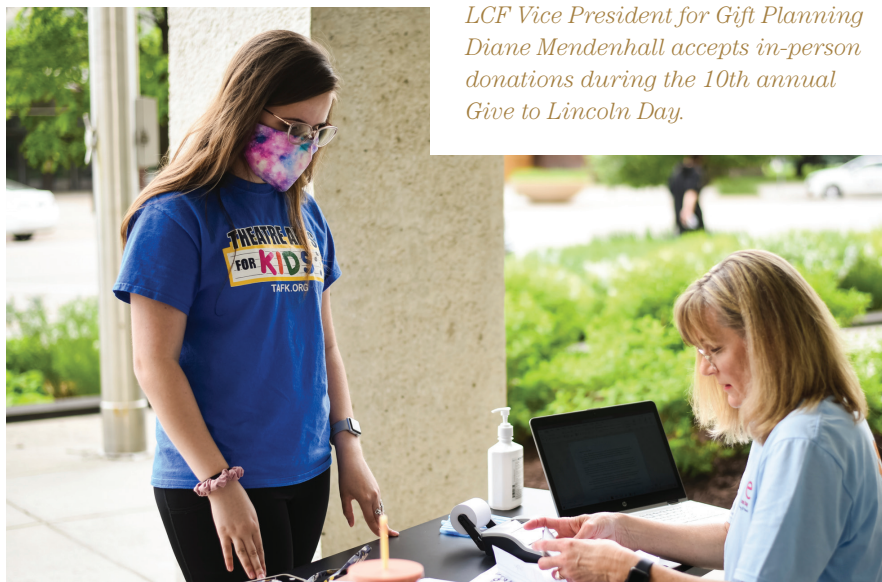
"I have learned so much in the last year through the Jumpstart program. Not only is the software user-friendly, but it also has many helpful features and tools that made our job easier," said Destiny Burkett, development director at Lincoln-Lancaster Child Advocacy Center. "Add to all of that the coaching that I received, and I can honestly say that it was a year that has been a huge benefit to our organization and fundraising capabilities."

Altogether, the 2020-2021 cohort leveraged the grant from LCF into \$282,697 in net new revenue for participating nonprofits.

"This would not have happened without LCF," said Varga. "Their funding made this work."



*LCF President Barbara Bartle and Channel 8 KLKN-TV's Jael Pembrick outside of the Lincoln Community Foundation.*



*LCF Vice President for Gift Planning Diane Mendenhall accepts in-person donations during the 10th annual Give to Lincoln Day.*

# 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY RAISES NEARLY \$8 MILLION

## Event Benefits 456 Local Nonprofit Organizations

The 10th annual Give to Lincoln Day on May 25th raised a record-breaking \$7,928,241, almost \$1 million over the previous record set last year.



***Give to Lincoln Day Through the Years:*** LCF President Barbara Bartle and West Gate Bank President Carl Sjulín in 2012. The first Give to Lincoln Day raised \$1.3 million. In its 10-year history the event has raised more than \$40 million for local nonprofits.

The funds are designated to help support 456 local nonprofits that serve Lincoln and Lancaster County. All participating nonprofits will receive a proportional share of a \$500,000 match fund based upon the organization's percentage of the total dollars raised, thanks to many generous sponsors including Presenting Sponsor West Gate Bank.

"We've seen from the past 10 years that when Lincoln comes together records can be broken," said Barbara Bartle, LCF president. "Our nonprofits have been on the front line serving our most vulnerable for over a year. To surpass last year's record-breaking event shows

the compassion of our community."

Nearly 30,000 donations were received for the 10th annual Give to Lincoln Day. The event has raised more than \$40 million for local nonprofits in its 10-year history.

"Give to Lincoln Day represents the strength of our community," said Barbara. "The modern symbol for the 10th anniversary is a diamond. The 10th annual Give to Lincoln Day was a spectacular gem for our community!"

*For more information and to see gifts received for each nonprofit, visit [GiveToLincoln.com](http://GiveToLincoln.com).*

## SAVE THE DATE

**Thursday, May 26 | Give to Lincoln Day 2022**

*Do you want to play a BIG part in 2022's Give to Lincoln Day? Learn how you can "love them all" by being a Match Fund Sponsor. Contact Diane Mendenhall, VP for Gift Planning, at 402-474-2345 or [dianem@lcf.org](mailto:dianem@lcf.org).*







## Lincoln Community Foundation announces retirement of President Barbara Bartle

The Lincoln Community Foundation recently announced Barbara Bartle will retire at year's end. Barbara was named President of the Lincoln Community Foundation in 2010. Under her leadership, LCF has grown substantially, initiating significant programs that have increased philanthropy in the community while creating new partnerships with government, business, nonprofits, and neighborhoods. Barbara's notable career spans 48 years of fundraising, program development, community engagement, and teaching.

For more than 65 years, the mission of LCF has been to provide leadership and resources to help build a great city. A few of the many accomplishments under Barbara's leadership include:

- The number of donor funds more than quadrupled
- Assets grew from \$62 million to \$175 million
- Annual grants to the community grew from \$4 million to more than \$21 million
- Give To Lincoln Day raised more than \$40 million for hundreds of nonprofits
- Lincoln Littles Giving Day raised more than \$2.4 million to help children from lower-income families with early childhood education
- Lincoln COVID-19 Response Fund raised more than \$1.2 million to assist 66 nonprofits serving the most vulnerable populations
- First Nebraska Community Land Trust was established in Lincoln to address affordable housing.
- From Veterans initiatives to Lincoln Vital Signs and Prosper Lincoln, there have been multiple community building efforts to guide Lincoln's vision toward a stronger, more diverse, and more innovative community.

Barbara's leadership, through her impact on the many organizations she has served, has been recognized with numerous awards. Some of those include the Association of Fundraising Professionals Nebraska Chapter Fundraising Hall of

Fame, Lincoln Journal Star's Inspire Awards' Woman of the Year, Spirit of United Way Award, and the Grace Abbott Award honoring her advocacy for children and families in Nebraska.

"We have been so fortunate to have Barbara Bartle at the helm of Lincoln Community Foundation for the past 11 years," said Foundation Board Chair Kim M. Robak. "She immediately set out to form the best staff, surrounding herself with talented, hardworking professionals. Barbara quickly connected with community foundations across the country, gathering great ideas and bringing them home. Her incredible passion and energy to raise funds and unite people together for causes that benefit Lincoln will leave a lasting legacy."

A search for Barbara's successor is underway. The Board of Directors of Lincoln Community Foundation is partnering with Kittleman and Associates, a national search firm focused on nonprofit CEO recruitment.

ONE LOVE. ONE COMMUNITY.

View the 2020 Annual Report at [LCFannualreport.org](https://lcfannualreport.org)

