



Lincoln Community
FOUNDATION

2024 Annual Report







Philanthropy in motion

Just as a singular drop of water creates a ripple of change when it meets a pool – only when our individual actions come together do we achieve a shared transformation.

In 2024, passion connected to action as we worked in tandem to move Lincoln forward. The stories in our annual report illustrate how our dreams for a brighter future are fueled through inspiration and connection.

On behalf of the board of directors and our staff, thank you for moving in generosity and extending your network for good.



Tracy Edgerton,
President



Mark Hesser,
Chair

2024 Accomplishments

**Recognized Marc & Kathy LeBaron
with the 2024 Charity Award and
presented Jack & Sally Campbell
with the JoAnn Martin Civic
Leadership Award.**



**Granted \$26.3
million in grants
and programs.**



**Awarded nearly
\$570,000 in
scholarships to
292 students.**

**Received the 2024 HUD
Secretary Award for Public-
Philanthropic Partnerships from
the Department of Housing and
Urban Development (HUD) and
the Council on Foundations.**



**Raised more than \$8.5
million through
Give to Lincoln
Day for 463
nonprofits.**



**Announced Tracy Edgerton as LCF's
new President & Chief Executive Officer.**



In 2024, the philanthropic vision of generous donors laid the groundwork for a brighter future.



1,160

Active Funds



586

Donor Advised
Funds
(24 New)



403

Benefactors



531

Legacy Society
Members

Momentous estate gift uplifts local nonprofits

In November 2024, LCF had the pleasure of delivering some very exciting and even unexpected news to a group of local nonprofit leaders. Seven organizations have been named by the estate of Mark H. Tallman each to receive approximately \$90,000 a year over the next 10 years.

The nearly \$7 million legacy gift will benefit Center for People, Food Bank of Lincoln, Friendship Home of Lincoln, Lighthouse, Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach, People's City Mission and Lincoln Community Foundation in support of Give to Lincoln Day matching funds.

"This extraordinary gift is a representation of Mark's quiet, yet visionary philanthropy," said President Tracy Edgerton. "Through his estate plan, he found a unique way to make a difference and support these essential organizations throughout the next decade."

This fund will be held and invested at the Foundation for 10 years, providing the selected nonprofits with annual distributions starting in 2025.

Mark Hall Tallman was born in Madison, WI, to Hazel Abel Tallman and Gene Hall Tallman. He spent most of his life in Lincoln, graduating from Lincoln Southeast High School in 1967 and Princeton University in 1971. Mark was the owner and president of DATA SOURCE MEDIA for 38 years. He died on January 23, 2024.

"Mark was always pro-Lincoln," said Mark's brother Tom Tallman. "He wanted to leave his estate to charity to make it easier for these organizations to live out their mission and continue to do great work for the community."





Jump-starting student success

Carol van Rossum and her late husband Chuck probably never imagined they would make such a momentous difference in the lives of so many young people.

But thanks to a thoughtful decision to use their named scholarship fund and participate in the Lincoln Community Foundation’s new Student Success Scholarship program – that’s exactly what they are doing.

“This scholarship fund is close to my heart, it speaks to everything my husband believed in and symbolized,” said Carol. “I was fortunate to talk to him about our estate planning while he was living, and we both wanted our legacy to live on as long as possible...to last in perpetuity.”

The couple established several funds through the Lincoln Community Foundation, but the student scholarship is perhaps the most precious to them.

And though the Charles F. and Carol A. van Rossum Scholarship Fund was created years ago, the

Foundation only recently founded the new Student Success Scholarship Fund as a place that existing scholarships – like Carol and Chuck’s – might find a better fit.

“I never dreamed I would actually see it working, but I’ve been so blessed to see this scholarship in action,” said Carol. “I’ve been lucky enough to read about the students who receive the scholarships through their thank-you letters. It warms my heart, and I know Chuck would have loved all of this.

The Student Success Scholarship Fund was implemented in 2024 to provide scholarship awards that are renewable, flexible and lead to degree completion.



Scan the QR code to read the full story.

LCF's garden performance series swings into its 50th year

The year 1974 saw the invention of chicken fingers, Skittles and the Rubik's Cube. Barbra Streisand scored a number one hit that year with "The Way We Were," and President Richard Nixon resigned following the Watergate scandal.

Meanwhile, here in Lincoln, Nebraska, the first Lincoln Community Foundation Garden Performance Series premiered at 14th and N streets.

Five decades later, hundreds of musical groups have performed

in the garden over the years accompanied by the tune of scores of family picnics.

Undoubtedly, many things have stayed the same over those many intervening summers. Families, business folks, older couples, and young children alike still come together each Wednesday at noon. Everyone still gathers in the delightful concert space next to the Lincoln Community Foundation building, and everyone still sways to the music right along with the rhythmic sounds of water fountains and rustling leaves.

The series honored its golden anniversary with a special celebration featuring the Lincoln Municipal Band on June 12th. Lincoln's beloved tradition continues with live music downtown every Wednesday from May through September.

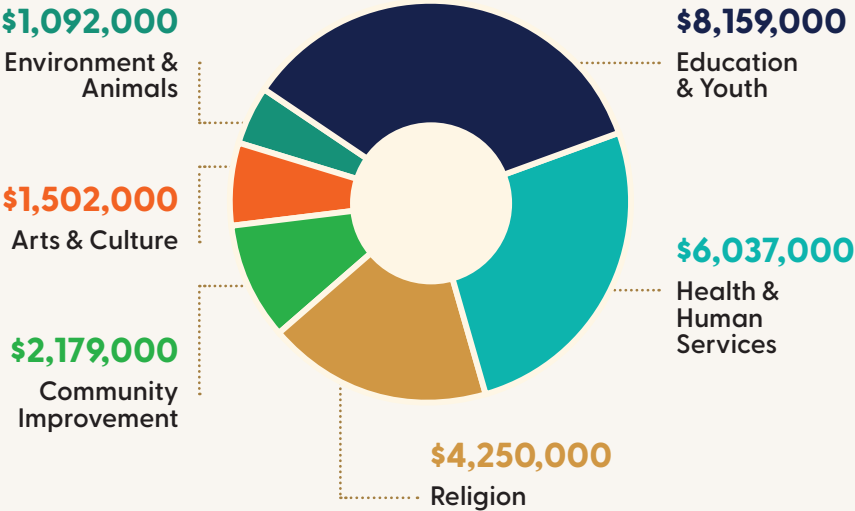




Funding the future

At Lincoln Community Foundation, we approach our work with focus and innovation, viewing the challenges of today as opportunities for a better tomorrow. Our grantmaking puts philanthropy into motion by providing support to great causes thanks to the generosity of our donors.

2024 Grants by Area:



Reeling in smiles

Big Gumdrop Outdoors connects underserved youth to nature with help from their first-ever grant

Growing up in Lincoln, Elijah Riley always loved the outdoors. A self-taught young man in archery and hunting – you could often find him going fishing with his dad, camping with his family and building fires in Cub Scouts.

But he noticed other kids like him – underserved minority children – were not experiencing nature and felt uncomfortable or afraid outdoors.

So, while in his early 20s, with his own sweat and money, Elijah was on a mission to create Big Gumdrop Outdoors – a nonprofit with a focus on helping underserved children discover the wonder of Mother Nature.

“I believe the outdoors is for everyone, and it’s my mission to make sure no kid feels like they don’t belong,” he said. “The wild is waiting – all we have to do is step outside.”

Until recently Elijah provided the funding for his endeavor, but last year Big Gumdrop Outdoors received their very first chance for outside support – an Open Door Grant from the Lincoln Community Foundation.

“It was for \$3,000 and that was just huge for us,” said Elijah. “We are so grateful to the Foundation for not only supporting us, but for providing opportunities to all of Lincoln’s nonprofits and smaller organizations. We’re now able to go into summer, our busiest season, confident we’re making a difference for our youth.”



Scan the QR code
to read the full story.

Leveraging community investments for modern affordable housing

It took around a decade and the collaboration of dozens of individuals and organizations to reach a groundbreaking ceremony held on Nov. 6. But within two years, Center Terrace will bring 125 affordable apartments, community space and a medical clinic to 1000 S. 13th St. in the South of Downtown neighborhood.

The five-story building will offer one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments for residents making 50-60% of Lincoln's median area income. The name highlights both the location's past as the home of CenterPointe and the building's rooftop deck, said Carina McCormick, housing advocate and treasurer for the South of Downtown Community Development Organization (SDCDO) board of directors.

Carina is a resident of the neighborhood and has been involved in efforts to improve the area even before SDCDO was created in 2016. She also served as board president in 2023, and worked closely with organizations, including Lincoln Community Foundation, that helped make the Center Terrace project a reality.

"It's a remarkable number of organizations and institutions that have made this possible," said Rich Herink, LCF's consultant for strategic partnerships. "Not to just build it, but to build it so it could provide quality housing for folks with half the median income."



Scan the
QR code to read
the full story.



Give to Lincoln Day soars to new heights

Each May is a flurry of activity at Lincoln Community Foundation thanks to Give to Lincoln Day. From fielding calls and emails from donors and nonprofits, to facilitating thousands of gifts and grants, to coordinating events with local media and sponsors, LCF's staff and volunteers are firing on all cylinders.

One Give to Lincoln Day activity has become a bit of an office tradition. In the breakroom there is a friendly pool where staff members make their best guesses for the total amount raised. Price is Right rules apply – the closest guess without going over receives bragging rights.

2024's record-breaking results took most of the team out of the running.

"To say we were pleasantly surprised is an understatement," said Michelle Paulk, LCF's VP for Grantmaking and Operations.

The 13th annual Give to Lincoln Day raised more than \$8.5

million – a new record and nearly \$1 million more than the previous year. The event also received a boost from the largest match fund in Give to Lincoln Day history, thanks to many generous sponsors including Presenting Sponsor West Gate Bank.

"When you think about a city of our size raising more than \$8.5 million for local nonprofits in the course of a month, it shows you just how generous Lincoln is," said Michelle. "In its history, Give to Lincoln Day has been the catalyst for \$65.5 million in critical support. We can't wait to see what's next."

As for LCF's office pool, Gift Processor Karlene Behlen received the bragging rights for having the closest guess to the final total, although her job may have given her an inside track.

"I had a feeling as I was processing donations all month long that we'd beat \$8 million," she said with a smile.



2024 Financials

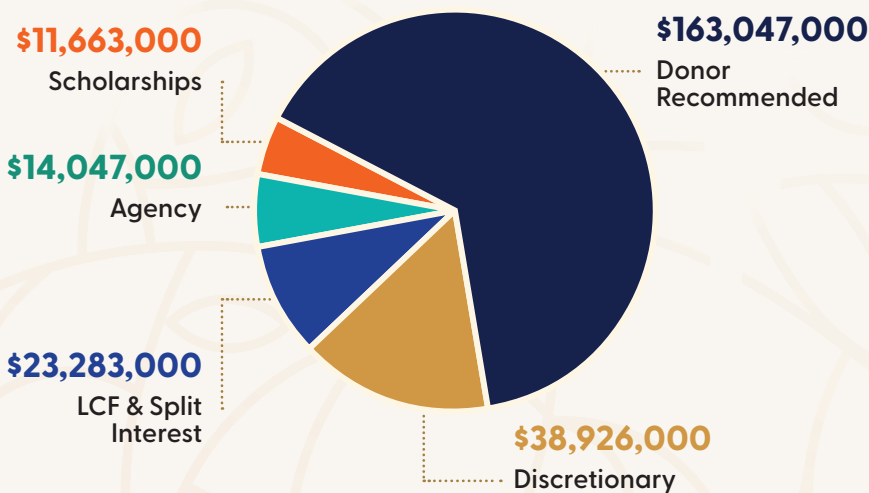
Assets
\$251,000,000

Contributions
\$48,997,000

Grants
\$23,200,000
\$1,600,000 from Discretionary Funds

Funds Opened
38

Assets by Type:



Board of Directors

Mark Hesser,
Chair

Lauren Pugliese,
Vice Chair

Susie Keisler-Munro,
Treasurer

Jasmine Kingsley,
Secretary

Dr. Marilyn Moore,
Past Chair

Dr. Marco Barker

Susie Blue

Eric Buchanan

Juan Carlos Huertas

Aaron Davis

Brett Ebert

Connie S. Edmond

Dr. Kathy Farrell

Dr. Ronnie Green

Aaron Hilkemann

Kile Johnson

Ben Kiser

Kassy Knudson

Dan Marvin

John Olsson

Makenzie Rath

Rhonda Seacrest

Diane Temme Stinton

Sändra Washington





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