

Finding Purpose Through Philanthropy

FALL 2017

LINCOLN

F O R E V E R

PASSION TO PURPOSE:

Mae Whitmer's gifts create lasting impact for children



LINCOLN COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Greetings:

I'm so pleased to share our new magazine for the Lincoln Community Foundation. This format will be filled with stories about donors like you who are making an impact. We hope you find them as inspiring as we do!

In this inaugural issue, you'll read about how Mae Whitmer was **moved by the Prosper Lincoln** community agenda focus on early childhood. She turned her passion for Lincoln's youngest citizens into action that will forever make a difference for Lincoln families.

An exciting new opportunity can be found on page 8. In an effort to help you support your favorite nonprofit or house of worship forever, Lincoln Community Foundation has established a **new match for endowed designated funds**. Be sure to read the details and contact our staff to make your permanent gift go even further.

My husband and I recently saw the musical, Hamilton. It is a powerful production focused on Alexander Hamilton's legacy. I especially like these lyrics:

Legacy. What is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see. But when you're gone, **who remembers your name? Who tells your story?** Who keeps your flame?

Please call the Lincoln Community Foundation to talk about your legacy and the mark you want to leave for Lincoln.

Warm regards,



Barbara M. Bartle
President

PS – Watch for our new media campaign, **Lincoln Forever**. Learn how you can leave a legacy gift for your favorite nonprofits at LincolnForever.org.



Cover photo by Tarik Abdel-Monem
Mae Whitmer stands and is recognized at the Prosper Lincoln Summit held August 23 at Pinnacle Bank Arena. Her thoughtful gifts are expanding the availability of quality early childhood education in our community. Article on page 4.

Children's Zoo to Expand Thanks To Donors' Legacy Gifts

Thanks to a \$200,000 gift from Lincoln Community Foundation, Lincoln Children's Zoo announced it has reached \$15 million toward its goal of \$20 million by 2020 in the Love Your Zoo expansion campaign.

The two gifts of \$100,000 each were made on behalf of the Kenneth J. Good and Sheila Dickinson Dinsmore Graf funds. The funds were established at Lincoln Community Foundation as part of each donors' estate plan. We believe that Ken and Sheila would have been thrilled to know we are using their gifts for such a significant project for generations of Lincoln children.

When complete in 2019, the Love Your Zoo campaign will bring giraffes, tigers and spider monkeys to Lincoln. These new habitats continue the Zoo's

mission of enriching lives through firsthand interaction with living things. Once complete,



Lincoln Children's Zoo will begin year-round operations featuring up-close animal and nature learning opportunities.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can create a lasting legacy through an estate gift, contact Tracy Edgerton, VP for Strategic Giving, at 402-474-2345 or tracye@lcf.org.

To learn more about our community grants program, contact Sarah Peetz, 402-474-2345 or sarahp@lcf.org.

LCF Approves \$1.23 Million in Local Distribution

At its August meeting, the Lincoln Community Foundation board approved distributions totaling \$1.23 million to local nonprofit organizations. The total includes \$480,000 in grants to 18 local nonprofits. Additionally, \$250,000 will support the Give to Lincoln Day 2018 Match Pool.

A new match pool of \$200,000 was approved for designated funds. LCF will provide a 10% match for new gifts to endowed funds that support Lancaster

County nonprofit organizations and houses of worship. This match opportunity will run through December 2018. (See page 8.)

In support of the Prosper Lincoln community agenda, LCF has made a mission investment in the form of a \$300,000 second mortgage loan to the Dimensions Educational Research Foundation to help the organization acquire a new building. (Read more on page 6.)



PASSION TO PURPOSE

Mae Whitmer's gifts have lasting benefit for children.

Mae Whitmer has a passion for children. In the 80s, Mae worked at SRI (Gallup) Child Development Center with babies and toddlers and realized the critical importance of early childhood development. When she learned through Prosper Lincoln that 750 young children in need are on a wait list for high quality early childhood education, she was moved to make a difference.

"Mae has a special place in her heart for babies and toddlers," said Paula Metcalf, VP for Gift Planning at Lincoln Community Foundation. "It was such a pleasure to watch her face light up as she discovered she could fulfill her lifelong dream by making a permanent impact through her gifts."

Mae began by establishing the Bill and Mae Whitmer Early Childhood Education Scholarship at the University of Nebraska Foundation. Because of Mae's generosity, six students already received scholarship awards this year to help with their tuition costs to pursue a career focusing specifically on infant and toddler education.

Mae then became a Benefactor at the Foundation when she established an endowment designated for Dimensions Education Programs. Their new early childhood center is located at 70th and A and will serve 120 more Lincoln children. Made possible by the sale of some land, this forward-thinking gift will reserve 45% of enrollment for infants and toddlers

from low-income families at Dimensions. These families will receive scholarship assistance from the endowment Mae set up at the Lincoln Community Foundation. Because this gift is endowed, it creates a permanent funding stream for these scholarships. This is a remarkable gift from a visionary person.

Mae's late husband, Bill, was the third generation owner of ABC Electric. In a beautiful tribute to Bill, Dimensions' new baby classroom will be named Advanced Baby Care (ABC).

"I'm thrilled that I was able to fulfill the three greatest needs identified by Prosper Lincoln's Early Childhood focus – teachers, space and infant and toddler scholarships," said Mae.



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It was such a pleasure to watch her face light up as she discovered she could fulfill her lifelong dream by making a permanent impact through her gifts.

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Would you follow Mae's lead? Find out how you can turn your passion into a lasting legacy for our community. Contact Paula at 402-474-2345 or at paulam@lcf.org.

What is Prosper Lincoln and Lincoln Vital Signs

In 2014, leaders of Lincoln's largest public and private charitable organizations commissioned the first Lincoln Vital Signs report to provide a shared understanding of both the strengths and the challenges in our city. Since then, Lincoln Vital Signs reports have been used by funders to target resources, nonprofit agencies for program development, the faith community for services planning, the business community to improve workforce development, neighborhood organizations for advocacy and involvement, performing arts as an inspiration for a new musical, and in many other ways.

Our community's response to Lincoln Vital Signs led to the creation of the Prosper Lincoln community agenda. Thousands of people participated in prioritizing Lincoln's focus areas of Early Childhood, Employment Skills, and Innovation.

Prosper Lincoln has an action-packed strategic plan to ensure great progress in these focus areas by year 2020. It is through the power of numbers - working toward a common goal - that our community agenda can best respond to Lincoln's needs and opportunities.

See the 2017 Lincoln Vital Signs Report or learn more about Prosper Lincoln at www.ProsperLincoln.org.



Lincoln
Vital Signs



Prosper Lincoln

LCF Invests in Early Childhood Resulting in Second Dimensions Preschool Location



Nancy Rosenow stands in the future outdoor classroom space for the new Dimensions early childhood center.

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Lincoln truly has a world-class vision when it comes to early childhood education.

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Lincoln Community Foundation has made an investment in the Dimensions Educational Research Foundation to help the organization acquire a new building. The new space, located at 7700 A Street will offer a second Dimensions Education Program location, providing quality early childhood education for 120 additional children. Approximately one-third of the placements will go to lower and moderate income families based on scholarships and a sliding fee scale.

Most of LCF's endowment assets are invested in a diversified mix of equity funds and bonds. The Foundation has been looking for opportunities to invest a portion of the endowment locally in projects that provide a market return and also help to achieve a mission, according to Scott Lawson, LCF's VP for Finance.



This inaugural mission investment has provided a \$300,000 second mortgage loan to Dimensions for the new space. The additional site will provide 11 new, living-wage jobs. Situated near a wooded area, the preschool will include a Nature Explore outdoor classroom. Additional space is available for training staff and workshops for other early childhood center staff in Lincoln. Classrooms are scheduled to open by fall of 2018. Dimensions' location at First Plymouth Church will continue to serve families at its current capacity.

“The Foundation has been exploring the concept of mission investment for some time,” said Barbara Bartle, President of Lincoln Community Foundation. “We are so pleased that this investment will help Lincoln's families by providing more quality early childhood education and career opportunities for adults. It is a great way for LCF to support the Prosper Lincoln community agenda.”

“Lincoln truly has a world-class vision when it comes to early childhood education.” said Nancy Rosenow, Executive Director of Dimensions Educational Research Foundation. “Lincoln Community Foundation's belief and investment in Dimensions is a win-win, especially for the young children in our community.”

Learn more about mission investment opportunities by contacting Scott Lawson at 402-474-2345 or scottl@lcf.org.



Nearly 1,000 Lincolnitites asked to Step Up!

The 2017 Prosper Lincoln Summit, held Wednesday, August 23 at Pinnacle Bank Arena, attracted nearly 1,000 individuals wishing to learn more about the community agenda designed to address the issues of early childhood, employment skills and innovation and entrepreneurship.

The Summit featured the release of the latest Lincoln Vital Signs report as well as speakers who have engaged in activities that further the Prosper Lincoln Strategic Plan. Making connections was a common thread as speakers talked about connecting students to innovation, helping people find careers through case managers and providing scholarships so babies and toddlers from low income families can receive high quality early childhood education.

Those that were in attendance were encouraged to write on a Post-It note how they would “step up” to the Prosper Lincoln community agenda and to place that note on a plexiglass tower as they left the Summit. The tower can be found at Wells Fargo Center in downtown Lincoln through October 2017 and will make its way around the community throughout the next year.

Watch videos from the Prosper Lincoln Summit by searching for Prosper Lincoln on YouTube.



One Nonprofit Helps Parents Thanks to Forward-thinking Donor



Strong families create strong, successful children and thriving communities. That's the backbone of the **Parents as Partners** program at Northeast Family Center (NFC). It was developed to address the need for quality, affordable and safe early childhood education for low-income families in northeast Lincoln.

In 2016, the Northeast Family Center applied to the Lincoln Community Foundation for a grant to support the Parents as Partners program. They received \$10,000, funded by the Esther M. Gehle Endowed Memorial Fund.

Esther, who passed away in 2012, established the fund in 1997. Her intent was to use a portion of her estate to "support efforts to strengthen and stabilize families and support systems that assist community members in reaching self-sufficiency."

"With the \$10,000 grant from Lincoln Community Foundation as well as other support, we were able to purchase a van to help with the increased enrollment of children," says Tonya Beckenhauer, former executive director of NFC. "It also allowed us to eliminate a waiting list and begin expansion of our program to serve more families in need."

Parents as Partners (PAP) uses evidence-based practices to enhance the lives and learning of children ranging from 6-weeks-old to age five – and their parents – through ongoing enrichment, parenting education and family support (including food, diapers and transportation of children to/from school and the center).

If you are interested in discussing how you can plan for a gift to support a particular cause or nonprofit, contact Chip DeBuse, LCF's VP for Development at 402-474-2345 or chipd@lcf.org.

What mark will you leave on Lincoln?

This city is your home, and it's filled with opportunities, experiences and energy that have left their mark on you. What mark will you leave?

The Lincoln Community Foundation can help you make an impact forever.

Make a permanent gift of \$10,000 or more for your favorite nonprofit or house of worship through Dec. 2018 and we will provide a 10% match.

Visit LincolnForever.org to leave your mark on the future.

