



Lincoln Community
FOUNDATION

2023 Annual Report







Illuminating Generosity

As the sun begins to set and the streetlights flicker on, Lincoln embraces its golden hour. At dusk, the city's skyline serves as a landmark to those traveling through our great state. To residents, it calls us home.

In 2023, the collective generosity of our neighbors vibrated throughout our city. Our annual report puts the spotlight on individuals coming together to create a thriving community.

On behalf of the board of directors and our staff, thank you for making Lincoln shine.



Alec Gorynski,
President/CEO



Mark Hesser,
Chair

2023 Accomplishments




Raised more than
\$7.5 million through
Give to Lincoln Day for
456 nonprofits.



Championed community
investment in early care and
education through annual
campaign for Lincoln Littles.






**Awarded nearly
\$550,000 in scholarships
to 291 students.**



**Recognized *Bill and Marilyn Cintani with
the 2023 Charity Award and presented
Dr. Mae Colleen Jones with the
JoAnn Martin Civic Leadership Award.**

**posthumously*



**Granted nearly \$22.5
million in grants and
programs.**



In 2023, the philanthropic vision of generous donors laid the groundwork for a brighter future.



1,245

Active Funds



650

Donor Advised
Funds
(27 New)



398

Benefactors
(2 New)



516

Legacy Society
Members
(22 New)

Sowing the Seeds of Success

Over the years, donors to Lincoln Community Foundation have established 87 scholarship funds that benefit students in Lancaster County and across the state of Nebraska. In 2023, 291 scholarship recipients received awards that totaled nearly \$550,000.

Volunteering as LCF scholarship reviewers led Bob and Sheri Downey to think about their own legacy plans and establishing a future gift for students.

“When you read the applications, the need is obvious,” said Bob. “And the work that these students are putting into gaining higher education is tremendous.”

Sheri agreed.

“They have a high likelihood of succeeding,” she said. “It’s a good thing to be able to help them along the way.”

When it came to deciding where to create their own scholarship fund, the choice was obvious.

“It was extremely easy to work with the Foundation,” said Bob. “The trust was already there. I just picked up the phone.”



Scan QR Code to read the Downeys' full story.



Lifting Up Our Littlest Residents

As communities across the nation navigate the complexities surrounding early childhood, Lincoln continues to lead the way in innovative solutions thanks to the important work of Lincoln Littles. Fiscally sponsored by LCF, Lincoln Littles is an organization of passionate advocates focused on ensuring access to quality and affordable early care and education.

In 2023, the annual giving campaign for Lincoln Littles raised \$667,400 in support of its programs, operations, and initiatives – including tuition assistance for infants,

toddlers, and preschoolers to attend quality early care and education programs throughout the community.

In addition to increasing affordable childcare options for families, Lincoln Littles has expanded its work to focus on increasing quality in early care and education, educating and engaging businesses and the larger community, supporting workforce development in the childcare sector, and influencing policies to be responsive to the needs of young children and their families.

Stronger Together



Connection Cadre provides moral support, guidance to local childcare educators

Vanessa Benes has worked as an early childcare educator for less than a year, and she's still new to her job with Kids First Childcare, Inc.

But she has found understanding, moral support and friendship – along with solid strategies and advice – at the Connection Cadre, a monthly professional learning and coaching opportunity initiated by Lincoln Littles.

“Everyone is so kind at the Cadre, very open, accommodating and encouraging,” Vanessa said. “They can give you support and sympathy when you’ve had a hard day, while also understanding that you really love your job.”

The Connection Cadre launched in 2023 with invitations to the 30 graduates of the Childcare Teacher Foundations Classes, an intentional learning environment hosted by Lincoln Littles and focused on providing training and guidance for those interested in early childcare. The Cadre focuses on teacher well-being by building community and connections in the early childhood workforce.

Friends, family, and early childhood advocates gathered at the Lincoln Community Foundation to celebrate the graduates of the inaugural Lincoln Littles Childcare Teacher Foundations Class.

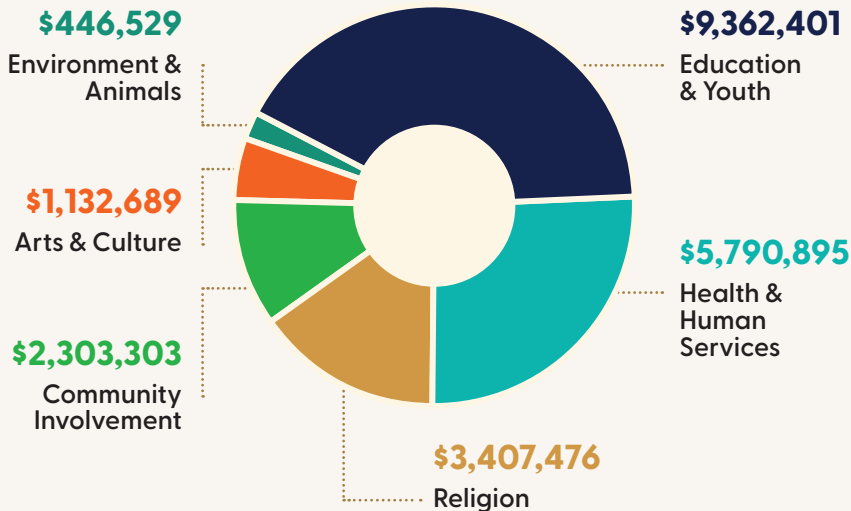


Scan the QR code to learn more about Connection Cadre.

Investing in Lincoln's Well-Being

In 1955, Lincoln Community Foundation's founding board of directors made our very first grant of \$539.70 to Pinewood Bowl for the purchase of a movie and slide projector. Since then, LCF has continued to facilitate the charitable gifts of donors and grant discretionary funds to support nonprofits.

2023 Grants by Area:





Rendering of Foxtail Meadows by Hoppe Development - a mixed-income project located in southwest Lincoln. The project was supported by the affordable housing loan fund within Community Development Resources.

Building a Dream

Housing that is affordable leads to healthier and more stable families and neighborhoods and promotes economic mobility. The City of Lincoln's Affordable Housing Coordinated Action Plan calls for the addition of 5,000 rental units and 4,000 affordable housing ownership options by 2030.

In alignment with this priority, LCF created and seeded its Affordable Housing Fund. Housing is defined as affordable when the annual housing cost does not exceed 30% of a family's annual income.

In 2023, LCF awarded \$850,000 in grants from its Affordable Housing Fund to seven organizations working to create and preserve affordable housing.

These organizations include Community Development Resources, Family Service Lincoln, Habitat for Humanity Lincoln/Lancaster County, Lincoln Housing Authority, Nebraska Housing Resource, NeighborWorks Lincoln and South of Downtown Community Development Organization.



Scan the QR code to read more about LCF's affordable housing grants.

Strong Neighborhood Grants Mobilize Community Action

Supporting our community in a holistic sense often starts with local folks embracing grassroots change by stepping up and digging in. In 2023, LCF and Civic Nebraska along with members of the Community Builder Coalition unveiled a new program to support neighborhood-based, resident-led programs and projects across Lincoln. LCF granted \$25,000 to support and equip neighborhood stakeholders to achieve their engagement and development goals.

Strong Neighborhoods grants may include neighborhood events that bring neighbors together and strengthen relationships in the community, projects that enhance the safety, beauty or social connections within a neighborhood, or programs that develop the leadership skills and roles of neighborhood residents.

Grants included funding for sustainable landscaping in the Near South neighborhood, a free community workshop day on rewilding yards with the South Salt Creek Community Organization, and a community art space and screen-printing studio at Proyecto Cultural, a nonprofit dedicated to the preservation of local Hispanic Culture.





The Next Era of NextGen

In Fall 2023, members of LCF's NextGen Lincoln voted on a new model for a giving circle where individuals come together to support emerging community solutions through the collective generosity of emerging donors and leaders in our great city.

Now known as Emerging Giving Collective, the giving circle is open to any self-described emerging community donor. Members connect, learn and make a difference through the power of collective giving.

2023 Financials

Assets

\$211,371,383

Contributions

\$33,115,006

Grants

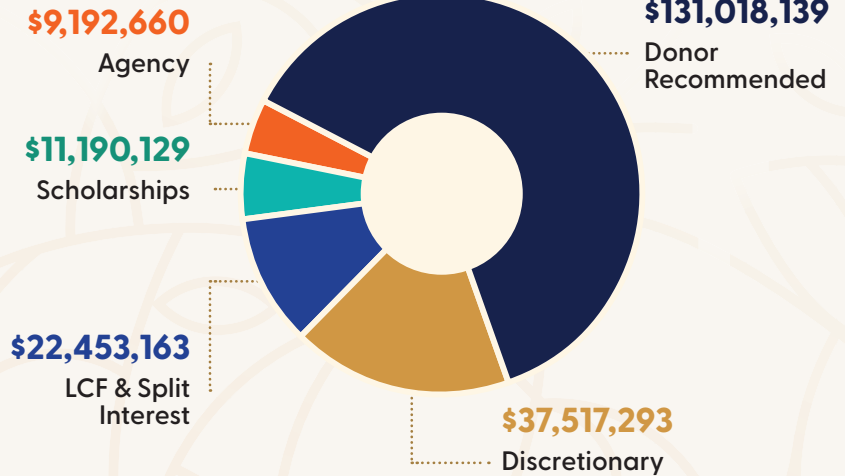
\$22,443,294

\$1.5 M Discretionary

Funds Opened

47

Assets by Type:



Board of Directors

Mark Hesser,
Chair

Lauren Pugliese,
Vice Chair

Ryan Beckman,
Treasurer

Jasmine Kingsley,
Secretary

Dr. Marilyn Moore,
Past Chair

Preeta D. Bansal

Dr. Marco Barker

Susie Blue

Mike Boyle

Eric Buchanan

Juan Carlos Huertas

Aaron Davis

Brett Ebert

Connie S. Edmond

Dr. Michael Ferris

Ronnie Green

Aaron Hilkemann

Kile Johnson

Susie Keisler-Munro

Ben Kiser

Dr. Meg Lauerman

Dan Marvin

Makenzie Rath

Steve Schaffer,
*Emerging Giving
Collective Chair*

Rhonda Seacrest

Diane Temme Stinton

Sändra Washington



Photo courtesy of Lincoln Parks and Recreation.



Lincoln Community
FOUNDATION



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