

Annual Report to the Community 2008-2009

Community Health Endowment of Lincoln



Milestones



Our Values

STEWARDSHIP

Using resources prudently, while growing and preserving assets.

COLLABORATION

Partnering to build healthy children, families, and neighborhoods.

COMMUNITY EXPERTISE

Valuing good ideas from the heart of our community.

INNOVATION

Finding new and better ways to improve the health of our increasingly diverse community.

The vision of the Community Health Endowment is to make Lincoln, Nebraska, the healthiest community in the nation.

Our Journey

One of the defining characteristics of the north shore of Lake Superior is the abundance of smooth, colorful stones. They spill across the sand for miles. As you hold one in your hand, you can't help but wonder about its journey to the beach. What is the story of its beginning? How many miles had this stone traveled to reach this place? What did it look like before the transformation of wind, waves, and water?

We trust that someday future generations will look back on the history of the Community Health Endowment (CHE) and be intrigued by the same things. What was the story of its beginning? What was its journey like to

reach this place? What did CHE look like before the transformation of people, time, and events?

As we celebrate our 10th year, it is easy to reflect back and see all that has been accomplished in CHE's short life. The milestones are prominent, easy to remember. You will read about them in this Annual Report. Although most milestones used by early American pioneers and ancient Romans have been lost to history or nature, it is our hope that the work being done today by CHE will be preserved and remembered for future generations. CHE can truly be this generation's legacy by laying a solid foundation for the health of our community today, but also for generations to come.

Just as each stone on the shores of Lake Superior is unique, CHE has grown and matured in the past decade into a distinctive, community-tailored organization. There is not another like it. We hope that you are as proud of it as we are. Let's not let the passage of time dull our abundant enthusiasm for a bright and healthy future.



Bill Lester, *Chair*



Lori Vrtiska Seibel, *President/CEO*



CHE Milestones – The First 10 Years

1999/2000

CHE's commitment to the community began in October with a series of town hall meetings and community forums to gain input on how CHE should address Lincoln's health needs. In November, CHE released its first set of funding priorities with a focus on improving the health

status of individuals at highest risk for the poorest outcomes.

A total of 18 projects were funded and \$1.2 million awarded in its first year.

Martha Hoile and Marilyn Keller help uninsured residents access healthcare services and prescription medications through Health360® and MAP.



CHE's Horizon Award features the art of Lincoln's Anne Burkholder. Summer, Lincoln Skyline, 1990



2000/2001

One of CHE's early grants was awarded to the *Harvest Project*, a community collaborative that provides case management services to vulnerable older adults with substance abuse and mental health concerns. The project achieved very successful results and continues today with funding from other local sources.

The *Medication Assistance Program (MAP)*, a signature project of CHE, began in 2000. Operated by the Lancaster County Medical Society, the project has assured the distribution of more than \$17.5 million in prescription medications to low-income and uninsured individuals in our community.

2001/2002

This year marked the beginning of the *Black Bag Project*, a three-year program jointly funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and CHE. The unique project featured a physician-led Mobile Chronic Care Team that provided home-based medical care to homebound elderly.

In what would become an annual tradition, CHE awarded its first *Horizon Award* this year.

The award recognizes an individual or group that enriches Lincoln through their time, talents, and resources to make Lincoln a healthier place to live, work, and raise a family.





2002/2003

In November, CHE released the final report of the *Blueprint Project*. The report, "40 Solutions: Improving the Health Status of Lincoln Census Tracts 4, 17, and 18," contained innovative solutions to improve community health among individuals at highest risk for the poorest outcomes. The findings and recommendations from this

report continue to be referenced in our community today.

The first annual *Health Challenge* was held this year. Thousands of Lincoln residents continue to participate each Spring in this activity which promotes healthy behaviors and active living among adults and children.



2003/2004

This year marked CHE's first investment in *capital construction* projects. Major funding awards were provided in 2003 to build Lincoln's federally-qualified health center, People's Health Center, at 1021 N. 27th Street. Major funding was also provided in 2003/2004 to assist in the renovation and expansion of Cornhusker Place, a provider of detoxification and substance abuse treatment services.

CHE funding was provided to the Lincoln Literacy Council to develop and implement the *Healthy Living* curriculum for English Language Learners. A few years later in 2005 this curriculum would be recognized with the ProLiteracy American Award of U.S. Program Innovation.

Another signature project for CHE, the *Peer Employment Project*, was funded in 2003.

This project uniquely incorporates vocational training for mental health consumers with the provision of medical-related transportation to homeless individuals. The project continues to provide this important service today.



CHE Milestones – The First 10 Years (continued)

2004/2005

This year marked the release of *“Urgent Matters: An Assessment of the Safety Net in Lincoln Nebraska.”*

Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and in partnership with CHE and BryanLGH Medical System, the project resulted in the development of ED Connections. As a community collaborative between BryanLGH and St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center, ED Connections continues

today by providing innovative case management services. Measurable outcomes for the program show it is saving the community millions of dollars in unnecessary emergency services.



The CHE Board of Trustees adopted a formal *Diversity Plan* in August. Five years later, Trustees and staff remain committed to the plan with a special focus on reducing disparities in healthcare and health status.



Members of the ED Connections team



Fresh fruit is provided to low-income children through the Backpack Program.



2005/2006

In March, CHE began a tradition of recognizing community volunteers with *Making a Difference* ads. The monthly ad in the Lincoln Journal Star recognizes a program or individual that is impacting the health, wellbeing, and safety of our community through dedicated volunteerism.

As part of a unique partnership with the Lincoln Food Bank, CHE began providing funds to include fresh fruit and milk in the *BackPack Program*. Lincoln's program is one of a select number of programs nationwide to offer this nutritional option to low-income families.



2006/2007

After hearing community concern about the growing problem of methamphetamine use in our community, CHE provided funding for the *Methamphetamine Collaborative Planning Initiative*. The final report resulted in the development of the Community Compass Project, a data collection project coordinated by Cornhusker Place.

CHE's inaugural "Closing the Gap" award was presented to Marty Ramirez Ph.D. for his commitment to eliminating barriers in healthcare access and reducing health disparities.



2007/2008

Health360° was conceived this year for the purpose of developing a systemic response to healthcare among low-income and uninsured individuals. As a result of the project, a collaborative approach to medical transportation, prescription medication, and specialty care in now operational. Thousands of individuals now have access to barrier-free healthcare because of the *Health360°* program.



Project A.L.L. Inaugural Class



CHE's Diversity Plan identified the need for minority representation on local boards and commissions as a priority. To address this need, and in partnership with Mayor Chris Beutler's Office and Leadership Lincoln, CHE funding was provided to launch *Project A.L.L. (Academy for Local Leadership)*. The purpose of Project A.L.L. is to recruit and encourage minority leaders to serve their communities through board participation. In the first two years, 26 individuals have participated in the program.

2008/2009

After four years of voter education and legislative deliberation, Amendment 1 was approved by the Nebraska voters. The amendment will expand the investment options of CHE.



To reflect upon the hard work towards achieving its vision, CHE examined its progress towards becoming the healthiest community in the nation with the release of "Are We There Yet? On the Road to Becoming the Healthiest Community in the Nation," a report comparing Lincoln to 10 other cities on 13 health status indicators.

At the conclusion of FY2008/09, CHE will have provided nearly \$11 million of funding to improve community health.

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Staff

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*Back Row: A. Larson, B. Miller, R. Boucher, M. Prendes-Lintel, B. Lester,
D. Anderson, M. Tavlin, E. Wimes, L. Seibel, J. Loos, R. Lanik
Front Row: S. Harley, M. Sutton, C. Gondring, L. Baldwin, B. Dart,
K. Russel, C. Erickson*



Making a Difference Recognition

CHE and the Lincoln Journal Star team up monthly to sponsor a "Making a Difference" ad to recognize special individuals who volunteer and the non-profit agencies to which they lend their time and talents to make Lincoln a healthier community. Those recognized in 2008-09 included:

- > **Campbell's Nurseries & Garden Centers** for supporting the Grow & Share Program to collect fresh produce for distribution to low income families through the Food Bank of Lincoln.
- > The **2,100 volunteers** needed to operate the YMCA of Lincoln Youth Sports programs each year, in which over 32,000 children and youth

participate.

- > The **over 70 volunteer** medical, public health professionals, and community-minded individuals who participate in the Southeast Nebraska Medical Reserve Corps to respond to emergencies and assist with general health initiatives.
- > **Mary Kelly** for her volunteer service to the Good Neighbor Community Center since 2003 to help individuals meet their basic needs and change their

lives for the better.

- > **Jason McCown, Jennie Ress, Rita Pfening, Leigh Fleming, Kathy Stewart, Bruce Stendrosky, and Laura Moulton** for giving of their time through the Annual Day of Caring to help at the Community CROPS Sunset Community Farm.
- > **Members of Christ's Place Church** for gathering one day each month to volunteer for a select project, many of which were affiliated with NeighborWorks® and focused on improving the neighborhood south of downtown.
- > **Dr. Lindy Mullin** a dedicated volunteer to the Mourning Hope Grief Center, for making a difference in the lives of grieving

children and families.

- > **Kiwanis representatives, Phil Willnerd, Diana Schultz, Kelly Stahly, and Scott Stream** for supporting the BackPack Program operated by the Food Bank of Lincoln.
- > **Child Advocacy Center volunteers and board members** who make a difference in the lives of children who have been impacted by abuse.
- > **Joan Young, Cheryl Peterson, Alynn Sampson, Ann Hamilton, Lori Buchmann, Rogene Godeker, Sheree Bacus, and Debra Caudill** volunteer leaders of the Clinic Operations Group or "COG," for their help in providing logistical and operational support to Clinic with a Heart.



Funding Commitments FY 2008-2009

SPARKI FUND

Support for a community training and education about the Delta Model, a community based treatment program for methamphetamine addiction and recovery. *(Substance Abuse Action Coalition: \$5,355)*

Partial support for a Community Organizer who will work to improve neighborhood health, stability, and safety in the Near South and Everett neighborhoods. *(NeighborWorks® Lincoln: \$10,000)*

Support for an on-call mental health consultant for 50 case managers who serve New Americans and to provide quarterly de-briefing sessions. *(New Americans Task Force: \$1,500)*

Purchase of dental instruments and equipment for the People's Health Center. *(People's Health Center: \$7,500)*

Development of a Multicultural Farmers' Market in north-central Lincoln to serve low-income, refugee, and immigrant families. *(Community CROPS: \$10,000)*

Funding for a technology assessment at People's Health Center. *(People's Health Center: \$10,000)*

Continued support for MAP to provide access to medication for low-income individuals. *(Lancaster County Medical Society: \$10,000)*

Funding for clinician training and certification in the use of Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy to treat clients with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). *(Centerpointe, Inc.: \$8,000)*

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Matching funds for the construction of a new crisis center to serve children who have been abused, neglected or homeless. *(CEDARS Youth Services: \$25,000)*

Matching funds to assist in the construction of three new transitional residential substance abuse treatment facilities. *(Houses of Hope: \$61,990)*
Year 1 of 3

Matching funds for the construction of a new Child Advocacy Center that will provide expanded services for the investigation of physical and sexual abuse of children. *(Child Advocacy Center: \$100,000)*
Year 1 of 2

Matching funds for needed renovations to the Child Guidance Center facility that will allow for increased training and counseling services. *(Child Guidance Center: \$43,414)*

Matching support for needed renovations at the Centerpointe, Inc. outpatient facility. *(Centerpointe, Inc.: \$12,875)*

Matching funds to assist in the construction of a walking track at Elliott Elementary School. *(Elliott Elementary School: \$8,000)*

**TARGETED &
SPECIAL INITIATIVES**

Implementation of peer-based recovery support services to serve behavioral health consumers served by five programs provided by agencies across Lincoln.
(Region V Systems & Community Partners: \$100,000)

Targeted effort to address the childhood obesity epidemic through the power of policy development and reform.
(Teach a Kid to Fish: \$60,000)

Operational Support to People's Health Center to increase accessibility for new patients.
(People's Health Center: \$118,000)

Planning and implementation of integration of behavioral health and primary care at People's Health Center.
(Region V Systems: \$54,905)

Development of an outreach team to assist homeless and near homeless individuals disabled by serious mental illness gain timely and efficient access to Social Security Administration benefits and/or Social Security Disability Insurance.
(Centerpointe, Inc. and Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach: \$56,987)
Year 1 of 2

CONTINUATION PROJECTS

Support for the work of the Medical Translation and Interpretation Leadership Group.
(MTI Leadership Group/Lancaster County Human Services: \$20,000)
Year 3 of 3

Support to provide lactation assistance and nutrition education to low-income mothers and infants.
(Milkworks: \$10,000) Year 3 of 3

Implementation of a Community Compass, a substance abuse research project, as a response to recommendations from the Methamphetamine Planning Initiative.
(Cornhusker Place: \$57,289)
Year 2 of 3

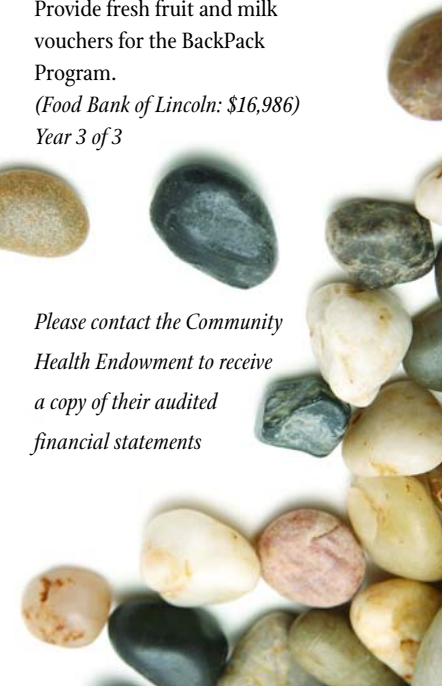
Operation of Project A.L.L. – Academy for Local Leadership, a response to the need for multi-cultural diversity on non-profit and government boards and commissions.
(CHE, Leadership Lincoln, and Mayor Chris Beutler's Office: \$8,700)
Year 2

Continued support for Health 360°, a coordinated response to assuring healthcare and supportive services to uninsured individuals.
(Lancaster County Medical Society & Community Mental Health Center: \$46,250) Year 2 of 3

Development of Weigh Cool®, a city-wide approach to combat childhood obesity and type II diabetes.
(YMCA of Lincoln: \$28,750)
Year 3 of 3

Provide fresh fruit and milk vouchers for the Backpack Program.
(Food Bank of Lincoln: \$16,986)
Year 3 of 3

Please contact the Community Health Endowment to receive a copy of their audited financial statements





If you wish to make a gift to the Community Health Endowment of Lincoln, please contact the President/CEO, Lori Vrtiska Seibel.

For information contact:



Community Health Endowment of Lincoln

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www.CHELincoln.org

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