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## **Community Health Endowment Awards More Than \$1.5 Million to Fund Legacy Projects in Celebration of 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Continuing the celebration of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Community Health Endowment of Lincoln (CHE) today announced the funding of two “Legacy Projects.” These projects present significant opportunities to improve life and health for Lincoln residents.

The **Healthy Food Access Project** will support providing healthier food to some of Lincoln’s most vulnerable children and under-resourced neighborhoods. CHE funds will support construction of a commercial kitchen that will be used to prepare healthy meals, initially for the Summer Food Service Program and Head Start Programs and for child care providers across the city. The kitchen will also provide space for locally produced food to be processed for distribution to local markets. In addition, CHE funds will purchase a healthy food access vehicle to deliver fresh produce to high-poverty neighborhoods. The project is a collaboration between the [Food Bank of Lincoln](#) and the [Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties](#). CHE is investing \$971,993 in this project.

The **Schroder Park Family Wellness Campus Project** will bring needed family support services to the West A neighborhood through a collaboration among [Mourning Hope Grief Center](#), [Lincoln Parks & Recreation](#), and the [Willard Community Center](#). From its soon-to-be-constructed building adjacent to Schroder Park, Mourning Hope will continue its work as the only community resource for Lincoln’s bereaved children and families and provide space for other agencies to offer counseling, parenting classes, and additional services designed to support family wellness.

The reconfigured Schroder Park will offer two acres of parkland for outdoor play, community gardens, and neighborhood gatherings. Willard Community Center will continue to provide early childhood education, before- and after-school programs, older adult activities, and other programming focused on wellness. CHE is investing \$560,000 in this project in addition to a \$100,000 grant made to the Willard Community Center in 2016. *(More detailed descriptions of both projects follow this release.)*

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In helping announce these projects, Mayor Chris Beutler reflected on the word 'legacy' and noted that these gifts not only represent the legacy of Lincoln General Hospital but also create their own legacy of health and wellness for Lincoln neighborhoods.

Lori Seibel, President/CEO of CHE, congratulated the project partners on their vision and their collaboration saying, "These transformative projects represent our commitment to making Lincoln the healthiest community today, tomorrow, and for generations to come. What better way to celebrate CHE's 20th anniversary?"

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*The Community Health Endowment of Lincoln (CHE) is a municipal endowment created from the City of Lincoln's 1998 sale of Lincoln General Hospital to what is now Bryan Health. CHE is dedicated to making Lincoln the healthiest community in the nation. To achieve this vision, CHE invests in health-related projects and programs and convenes the community around important health issues. Since its inception, CHE has returned more than \$30 million to the community.*