

Community Action Celebrates Successes.

At three years old, Luis had never spoken a single word. It was something that kept his mom, Sara, up at night – she felt lost, uncertain, and scared. After all, this was not the case with her two older children. She knew something was wrong. Why couldn't her son say "yes" and "no" and "mom" and "what are you doing?" like her other children had well before they were three? Why would he cry when he wanted something instead of just asking her? These were the questions that plagued Sara's mind on a daily basis. She loved her son more than anything in the world. She wanted to be able to help him; she just didn't know how.

Luis and Sara were able to enroll in our Early Head Start Home-based program, where they began to receive professional support and guidance to work through the delays Luis was experiencing. It was determined that Luis had Autism. While this diagnosis was hard for Sara at first, she was relieved to know what was wrong. With support from their Early Head Start Family Educator, Sara began conducting activities with Luis that were individualized to his developmental needs. They'd sing. They'd read. They'd write. They worked non-stop, and every day Sara hoped for just one thing: for her son to speak his first word. And then. During a home visit Sara took out a big sheet of paper. In big letters she began to write: A, B, C...Luis watched as she wrote each letter.

And what happened next stunned the whole family. "Beeeee," Luis's little voice spoke, "Ceeeee." From the kitchen, Luis's father and aunt – their eyes as big as saucers – bolted to the dining room table where Luis sat, saying his first words. His mother dropped the crayon she was writing with and gasped as tears pooled in her eyes. Her baby had spoken his first words. He recognized the letters she was writing. *He was going to be okay.* Luis continues to make progress as his mother, family, and Early Head Start staff support his development.

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Gail Steen, President
DeLynn Hay, Vice President
Kal Lausterer, Treasurer
Amy Jensen, Secretary

Members

Lorene Barros
Lester Buckley
Doug Emery
Lisa Hale
Marij McKinly
Debbie Mumm
Jess Parker
Chuck Richter
Captain Don Scheinost
Jay Steinacher
Alem Tewelde

Community Action

Leadership

Vi See
Jeri Winkelmann
Jill Bomberger
Steve Langdon
Michelle Martinez



210 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

www.communityactionnetwork.org

Thank you for **empowering** people living
in poverty to reach **economic stability.**

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 167

Community Action empowers people living in poverty to reach economic stability.



2016
Annual
Report

Community Action Celebrates New Beginnings.

On June 23, 2016 Mayor Chris Beutler and Community Action announced the award of a five-year, \$31 million grant to administer Early Head Start and Head Start services in Lancaster and Saunders Counties.

As a result of this new five-year project, Community Action was able to open two new Early Childhood Education centers in the heart of Lincoln's highest needs neighborhoods. One, located at the Health 360 campus, serves 58 children and families, and the other, located within the west wing of the Kaplan University building, serves 197 children and families. In addition, 132 children ages birth to three and expectant women are served through an Early Head Start home-based program, and 34 children are served through a full-day program with summer enrichment in partnership with Wahoo Public Schools.

Community Action's Early Head Start and Head Start programs meet a significant need in the community for high-quality early childhood education services. They help to ensure our community's most vulnerable children receive the interventions they need to be ready for kindergarten and a lifetime of productive learning.

Community Action would like to thank its Corporate Builders, which provide annual operating/program support of \$500 or more:

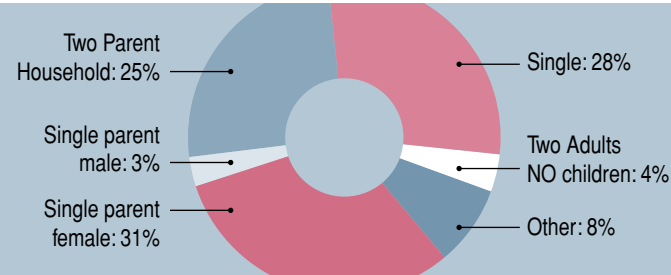
Groundbreakers (\$500-\$999)	Visionaries (\$1,000-\$2,499)	Pioneers (\$2,500-\$4,999)	Founders (\$5,000+)
Cruz Enterprises	Ameritas	First State Bank Nebraska	First National Bank US Bank
Cornhusker Bank	Cline Williams	Mutual of Omaha Bank	
FirstBank of Nebraska	Wright Johnson & Oldfather		
INSPRO Insurance	Duteau Chevrolet-Subaru		
Kidwell	Farm Credit Services of America		
Latsch's	General Dynamics ECAC Lincoln Chapter		
TEK Services	Horizon Bank		
	Lincoln Scheels		
	ShopKo		
	UNICO Group		

Who We Serve:

The following numbers are based on those individuals for whom these demographics were collected.

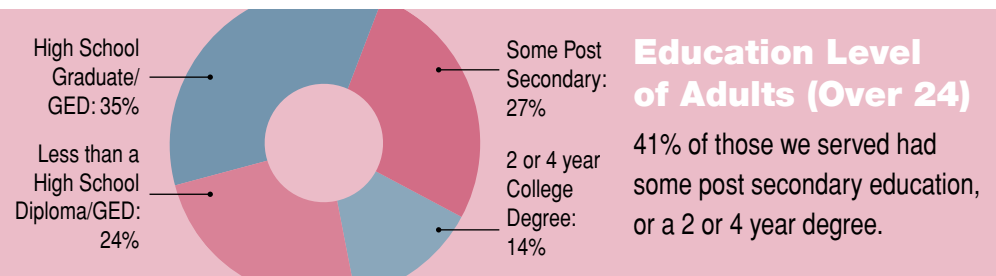
Family Type

Nearly one-third (31%) of those we served were female single parents.



Education Level of Adults (Over 24)

41% of those we served had some post secondary education, or a 2 or 4 year degree.



Level of Family Income

According to MIT's Living Wage Calculator, a family of four with two working parents in Lancaster County needs to earn \$64,930 per year before taxes just to meet basic living expenses. The income threshold for a family of four living at the federal poverty level is \$24,600 annually.

This is a gap of \$40,330 per year.

72% of those we served fell at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (\$24,600 annually for a family of 4).

30% Nearly one-third were living in extreme poverty (at or below 50% of the federal poverty earning \$12,300 annually for a family of 4).

2016 Revenue

\$13,472,224.00

Grant Revenue	72%
Program Revenue	10.6%
Donations	2.8%
Misc. Income	14.6%

2016 Expenses

\$13,257,352.00

Basic Needs	4.3%
Child & Family Development	60.6%
Community Services	8.9%
Homelessness Prevention	5.9%
Housing Services	4.1%
Money & Savings	2.5%
Management & General	13.6%

Community Action Meets Needs.

In 2016:

15,978 individuals received **72,166** services.

3,577 people were prevented from becoming homeless through emergency rent, deposit, and utility assistance and supportive services.

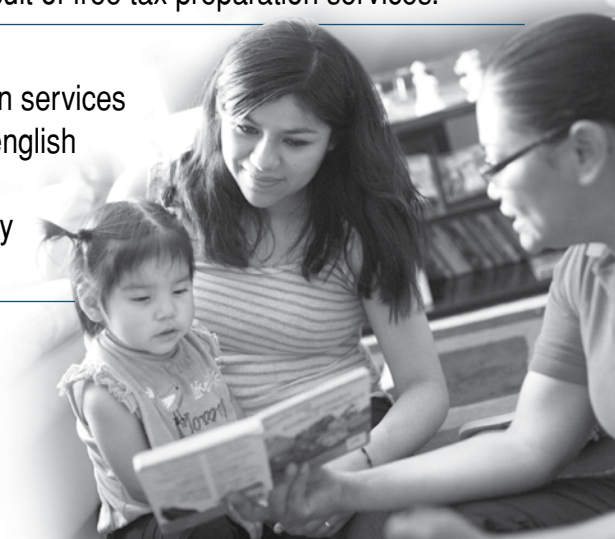
25,302 meals were served at The Gathering Place to those struggling with hunger.

802 children and their families were provided with quality early childhood education and services through Early Head Start and Head Start.

817 federal tax returns, and **864** state tax returns were prepared and filed as a result of free tax preparation services.

15,834 interpretation services were provided to the non-english speaking community via LanguageLinc (a subsidiary of Community Action).

1,995 services related to health insurance were provided.



Our Programs and Services

Emergency Rent, Utility, and Deposit Assistance | The Gathering Place Early Head Start | Head Start | Lincoln Community Response | Supportive Housing Program | Representative Payee Program | Matched Savings Accounts | Financial Well-Being | Health Insurance Enrollment Affordable Housing | Weatherization | Tenant Support Services Tax Preparation Services | LanguageLinc Translation & Interpretation Services