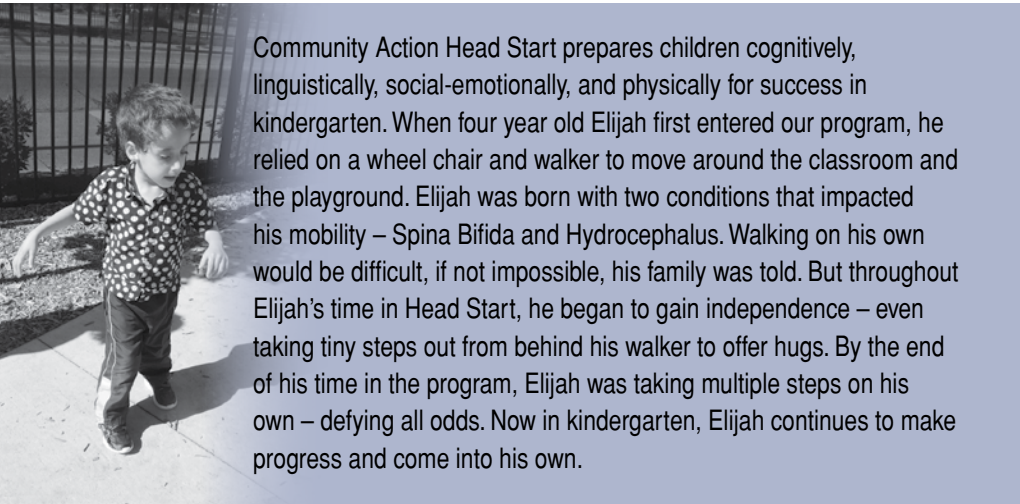


Community Action Celebrates Success.



Community Action Head Start prepares children cognitively, linguistically, social-emotionally, and physically for success in kindergarten. When four year old Elijah first entered our program, he relied on a wheel chair and walker to move around the classroom and the playground. Elijah was born with two conditions that impacted his mobility – Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus. Walking on his own would be difficult, if not impossible, his family was told. But throughout Elijah's time in Head Start, he began to gain independence – even taking tiny steps out from behind his walker to offer hugs. By the end of his time in the program, Elijah was taking multiple steps on his own – defying all odds. Now in kindergarten, Elijah continues to make progress and come into his own.

After fleeing domestic violence, Tanya and her four children found themselves homeless. After living in a shelter for several months, Tanya lost hope that things would ever look up for her and her children. She didn't know how to pick up the pieces; how to start over again. But her desire to provide the best life for her children – to keep them safe from harm – drove her to find a way. She applied for and was accepted into Community Action's Supportive Housing program where she and her children were connected to a place to call home. For Tanya, this was a new beginning – a chance to start over. With a safe, stable place to call home and the empowering support from the Supportive Housing team, Tanya is ready to achieve her goals.



Jenika and Michael – a young, hardworking couple with three children – were recently able to purchase the home of their dreams through participation in Community Action's Individual Development Accounts (matched savings) program. "This is something we have dreamed of for years," said Jenika. "Getting to this point has taken a lot of hard work, and we are thankful for the program and its donors for supporting us along the way." Jenika and Michael continue to dream about their future, and hope to eventually start their own small business.

The Gathering Place provides so much more than a place for those struggling with hunger in Lincoln to get a hot evening meal. It provides the comfort, quietness, and community of a home. What guests love most about The Gathering Place? In their words: the food, the volunteers and staff who treat them with dignity and respect, the hot coffee, and never having to worry about where their next meal is coming from.



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210 O Street
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www.communityactionnetwork.org

Our Programs and Services

Early Head Start and Head Start | Foster Grandparent Program | Affordable Housing | Displaced Tenant Assistance | Emergency Services | Representative Payee | Supportive Housing | Tenant Support Services | Financial Education | Health Access | Individual Development Accounts | Lincoln Community Response | Opportunity Passport™ | Tax Preparation | Weatherization | The Gathering Place | Community Action is the sole owner of LanguageLinc, LLC

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

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



2017
Annual
Report



Passion. Integrity. Respect. Performance. Community.

These are the principles that guide our work to fight poverty. 2017 was a year that profoundly demonstrated these principles at work. We added four new programs to our agency roster: Lincoln Community Response – provided in partnership with United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, and several other human service agencies – which supports and links families to resources to prevent entry into the child welfare system; Displaced Tenants Program – provided in partnership with the City of Lincoln – which provides emergency financial assistance to tenants whose homes have been red-tagged; Youth Eviction Prevention Program – a branch of our Tenant Support Services Program provided in partnership with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation – which prevents eviction among at-risk youth through the provision of financial assistance with housing and tenant education; and Foster Grandparents Program – provided through the Corporation for National and Community Service – which gives seniors age 55 and older the opportunity to serve within our Head Start programs. These and all programs and Community Action have been put in place to most effectively fight the causes and conditions of poverty in the community we call home.

Community Action has been operating since 1965, but the needs of our community are ever changing. This means that we, too, must change. On November 30, 2017, Mayor Chris Beutler announced Community Action's receipt of a \$460,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care Program to operate a Supportive Housing Program. Through this program, Community Action has the ability to house 40 homeless families and provide case management for 24 months to support their achievement of long-term self-sufficiency. Though we have been providing transitional housing for a number of years, this new model better supports the needs of homeless families by connecting them to permanent housing.

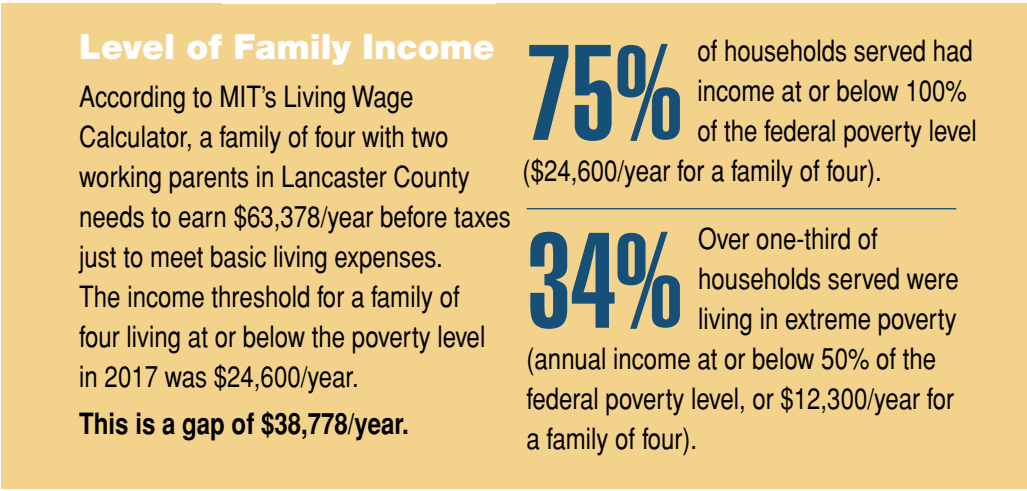
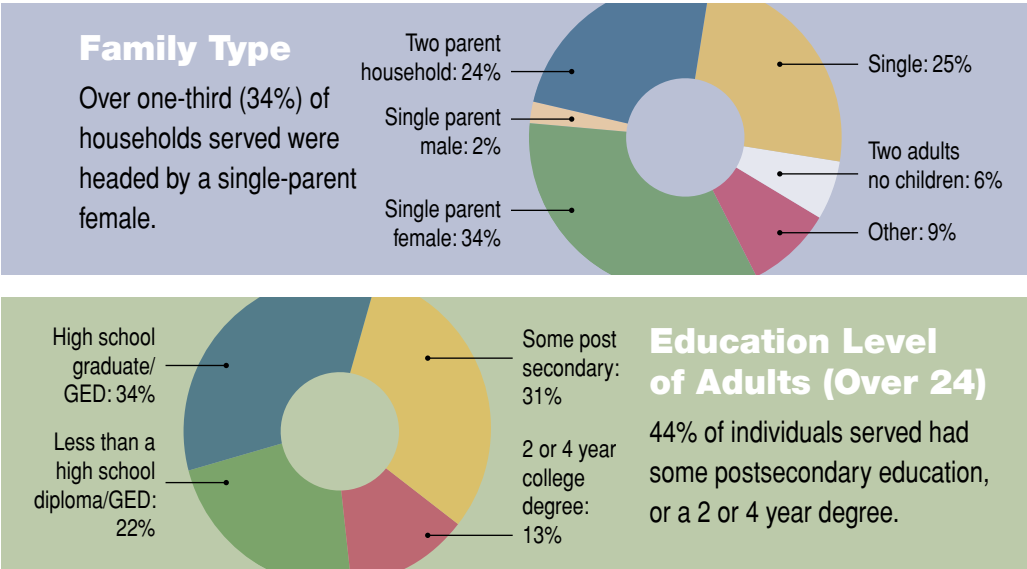
Effectively fighting poverty takes support from the entire community. Community Action would like to thank all our donors, partners, volunteers, and friends who contribute their personal resources, time, talents, ideas, and more to advance our work.

2017 was also a year of celebrating the passion and dedication of our staff, as Community Action was named one of Lincoln's "Best Places to Work"! This tremendous honor was determined by input from our own staff, which demonstrates their commitment and belief in our mission.



Who We Serve:

The following data demonstrates characteristics of those served by Community Action in 2017 for whom demographic information was collected.



2017 Revenue	2017 Expenses
\$12,885,651.00	\$12,892,243.00
Grant Revenue 69.51%	Basic Needs6.17%
Program Revenue7.82%	Child & Family Development ..61.36%
Donations2.79%	Community Services9.42%
Misc. Income19.88%	Homelessness Prevention....4.16%
	Housing Services7.16%
	Money & Savings.2.18%
	Management & General9.56%

Community Action Fights the Causes and Conditions of Poverty.

In 2017, Community Action provided 79,122 services to 17,499 individuals. The following represents data within each of our impact areas in 2017.

Early Childhood Education

489 babies, toddlers, and preschoolers were provided access to high-quality early childhood education at no cost to families. Of these:

- **308 (63%)** were living in extreme poverty
- **56** had a verified disability
- **44** experienced homelessness
- **22** were in foster care

Homelessness Prevention

3,538 individuals avoided homelessness/unsafe living conditions through the receipt of financial assistance with rent and utilities.

3,987 individuals received case management to support long-term housing stability.

1,033 individuals received tenant/landlord education and mediation geared toward eviction prevention.

Financial and Family Well-Being

787 individuals were provided tax preparation and filing services at no cost to them.

479 individuals were provided assistance with enrolling in health insurance and education related to using coverage to their financial benefit.

\$424,696 was invested in local housing stock through the Weatherization program to improve energy efficiency/decrease utility burdens for **43** homes/families.

1,014 financial education services were provided to **107** youth and adults via our matched savings programs, Individual Development Accounts and Opportunity Passport™.

Hunger Relief

27,535 hot, nutritious evening meals were served to those struggling with hunger at The Gathering Place.