Last year we had the unique opportunity to hear success stories from the perspective of some of our participants. Here is what they had to say:

**Renee**
My son was a year old when my husband walked out on us. My son lost his words, he just regressed. He had no voice anymore. He had no happiness. All I knew was that my little boy wasn’t right anymore. I felt hopeless as a mom.

You made me feel that I wasn’t alone. Early Head Start brought us hope. Without your help who knows where we would be right now. You have no idea the impact that you have had on our lives. You have given us so much, but most of all, you have given Wyatt his voice back.

**Kortnie**
It’s hard to admit when you need help. I was hopeless and embarrassed. My transmission went out, and I needed my car to work and to pay bills. Being on your own for the first time as an adult is hard.

You helped me with a budgeting class through Opportunity Passport.™ (matched savings) and you put me at ease. You reminded me that I’m not alone and helped me grow in my financial skills. Now I have a new car because of you, and I know how to take care of it, and I know how to take care of myself. You have made a huge difference in my life.

**Crystal**
Two bus tickets and two suitcases – that’s all we had when we came to town. I laid in that hotel room thinking I’m a terrible mother, and I can’t give my son a real home.

Even as an adult, you can feel really small.

You helped us start fixing our credit and save for a down payment. You believed in me. You said ‘with hard work you can get this dream.’ I started crying the day we closed on our house. The bank loan officer took the keys and she handed them to me and said ‘so, here’s your house!’ You gave me one key, and you changed everything. Without you, and the words you gave me I would still be lying in my bed because I was so embarrassed about who I was and how I was living.

Without you I’d know that I would be who I am right now. You were the extra block in building my home.

Renee, Kortnie, and Crystal’s full video testimonies are available at: http://tiny.cc/u19d6x.
Thank you for helping us celebrate 50 years.

On August 20th, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, an iconic piece of legislation that envisioned a new way to fight poverty in America. From this Act a national movement was born, a movement designed to provide opportunities for every American regardless of their economic situation. On October 15, 1965, 23 community members gathered together to sign the Articles of Incorporation for Lincoln Action Program, which we know today as Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties.

On Thursday, October 15, 2015 – exactly 50 years later – Community Action hosted an event to recognize all of the donors, partners, volunteers, and past/present board members and employees who have made the agency’s work possible over the years. Over 200 people in attendance had the opportunity to reconnect and reflect upon the impact their service and support has had on the lives of countless individuals over the past 50 years. Lincoln Mayor, Chris Beutler, and Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department Director, Judy Halstead, received Community Action at Work Awards for their extraordinary efforts to further the mission of Community Action.

Thank you to all who generously contribute to Community Action. With your support, thousands of children and adults in our community are achieving success.