



### **Lincoln Playwright takes on Child Hunger**

Bill Stephan, Executive Director of the Lied Center, attended the presentation of Lincoln Vital Signs last year. While the report revealed a long list of positive accomplishments in Lincoln, a staggering surprise was the number of children in Lincoln who are not getting enough to eat. Bill and his staff talked about hunger statistics and asked what can the arts community do to help?

Lincoln Playwright Becky Boesen is developing a new musical production titled "Puddin' and the Grumble" which will tell the story of family, love and survival in the face of adversity. Becky and Petra Wahlqvist, Education and Community Engagement Director of the Lied Center are working with Clinton Elementary Community Learning Center students who are providing real life stories and inspiration for lyrics for the project. The play is scheduled to premier in the spring of 2016.

Lincoln Community Foundation has partnered with the Lied Center to bring the Grumble project to the stage. Theater is a call to action. They are hoping post show discussions and community outreach will result in greater awareness and positive change for our children and their families facing hunger.

### **USDA Award to add Behavioral Health Information**

Thanks to a one-year USDA grant, Lincoln Vital Signs will have the opportunity to reflect more in-depth information about behavioral health in our community. The project is a collaboration of the City of Lincoln, Lincoln Community Foundation, Region V Systems, UNL Center on Children, Families, and the Law, and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. The funding will enable project partners to identify and compile meaningful data about behavioral health, distribute the results to the community using the Lincoln Vital Signs structure, and plan at least one intervention that will improve outcomes.

### **Mark your Calendars for May 12**

The new Lincoln Vital Signs report will be released in May. By waiting until spring, the updated report will now include two years of new data. Following the breakfast meeting where the new report will be shared with the community, engagement activities are planned so the data can be used to help Lincoln prosper and focus on ways to become even stronger.

### **Robin McDannel new Engagement Coordinator**

Robin assumes the role of Engagement Coordinator with Lincoln Community Foundation, a part-time position she will manage in addition to continuing her current role as Senior Director of Fund Distribution and Community Planning for United Way. She will manage the community engagement efforts, bringing together the many sectors of Lincoln to build

conversations, collaborations and identify resources to address community issues in Lincoln.

**Be Informed. Get Involved.**

Participating Organizations:

Abel Foundation  
City of Lincoln  
Community Health Endowment  
Cooper Foundation  
Educare of Lincoln  
Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools  
Lancaster County  
Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development  
Lincoln Community Foundation  
Nebraska Children and Families Foundation  
United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County  
University of Nebraska Foundation  
Woods Charitable Fund