



## **Vital Signs Update: July 2014**

During the coming months, sponsors of the [Lincoln Vital Signs](#) report are focusing on communicating the findings through community-wide events and presentations to community groups. We are pleased that results are being used by many organizations in their planning, such as the Alternative Response pilot for child welfare, City of Lincoln, Community Learning Centers, United Way of Lincoln/Lancaster County and Nebraskans for Peace.

### **FSG Community Breakfast**

More than 200 people attended a Collective Impact 101 community breakfast on June 4. Jennifer Juster from FSG, a social impact consultant, introduced the collective impact approach, how it differs from the other forms of collaboration and how communities have used it for major initiatives. Tamara Tormohlen, Executive Director of Aspen Community Foundation, shared how they are using the collective impact process in their Cradle to Career Initiative. The Colorado area they serve has a wide mix of cultures, incomes and challenges. Their mission is to help kids succeed so they are ready for kindergarten and graduate from high school ready for college or career.

Major initiatives to build on Lincoln's success and to tackle the complex issues identified in Lincoln Vital Signs 2014 will require collaboration among all sectors of our community. This community event introduced how collective impact could be used as a framework to help us reach a common agenda. The power point presentation from the breakfast can be viewed at <http://lincolnvitalsigns.org/reports.php>.

### **Recent Community Presentations**

Bob Campbell led a presentation on the subject of poverty in Lincoln for the Crucible Club group. He shared his script and we found it so interesting and powerful that we asked if we could share it publicly. You'll enjoy reading it. [View it here](#).

Don Tilley with Nebraskans for Peace presented Lincoln Vital Signs findings to a group of more than 75 people. The meeting was cosponsored by the Center for People in Need, First Plymouth Church's Peace and Justice Committee and other groups. Part of the meeting was devoted to discussing and prioritizing big ideas that could move Lincoln forward.

View [upcoming presentations](#) on the website and [contact us](#) if you would like to schedule a presentation for your group.

### **Vital Signs Survey**

Thank you to the nearly 100 people who completed the online survey about Lincoln's current and desired future. The survey results indicate that there are many things to appreciate about Lincoln: high quality of life, great people, and being a growing "right-sized" community. Many respondents pointed to their involvement in projects that have made Lincoln an extraordinary place. Respondents characterized effective community efforts as those with broad involvement, strong leadership, a solid rationale, good planning, and financial backing. Wishes for Lincoln's future primarily related to improved transportation systems and more support for persons in poverty or others who are vulnerable. The full report is available at [www.lincolnvitalsigns.org](http://www.lincolnvitalsigns.org).

**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