



## **Lincoln Vital Signs Update: October 2014**

### **Bridges Out of Poverty**

Almost 150 people attended a workshop hosted by the Food Bank of Lincoln and funded by the Lincoln Community Foundation on Friday, September 26. Philip DeVol, an international consultant and author of several books, met with community leaders to explain the Bridges concept. He shared examples from other communities across the country who are building bridges that support individuals as they move from poverty to sustainability.

The Bridges continuum addresses poverty at every stage of life – cradle to grave. The curriculum helps the community to work together, to better understand how to support and guide people down a path from just getting by to getting ahead. Phil shared a definition of poverty which was “the extent to which an individual does without resources.” Resources include much more than money. They also include relationships, support systems, and mental, emotional, spiritual and physical resources.

Phil was very impressed with the turnout for the meeting and how positively participants responded. The Food Bank of Lincoln asked those in attendance to indicate their interest in follow-up activities and they plan to build momentum for a successful Bridges community here in Lincoln.

If you would like to learn more, read Philip Devol’s books:

- *Bridges Out of Poverty*
- *Getting Ahead in a Just-Getting’-By World*
- *Bridges to Sustainable Communities*

### **Community Engagement**

Sponsors of Lincoln Vital Signs have focused their efforts in 2014 on sharing the findings in Lincoln Vital Signs throughout the community. It is rewarding to know that many people are now familiar with the report and that the data is being used by many organizations in the city.

As we move into 2015, the next phase is to use this information and engage the community in helping to identify one or two initiatives to focus on that will strengthen our great city. The Lincoln Community Foundation will be working with Grassroots Solutions to help develop the action plan for this next phase of community engagement.

**Be Informed. Get Involved.**

Please look on the [website](#) for scheduled meetings and upcoming opportunities to learn more. [Contact us](#) if you wish to schedule a Lincoln Vital Signs presentation for your group.

The next presentation is the League of Women Voters, October 9 from 12:00pm-1:00pm, at the downtown Holiday Inn. Public welcome. RSVP to 402-475-1411 or [lww-ne@inebraska.com](mailto:lww-ne@inebraska.com).

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