

In Southeast Nebraska, nearly 20,000 children live in households where people skip meals or eat less in order to make ends meet.

# Food Bank of Lincoln

Last year, the Food Bank gathered nearly 10 million pounds of food.

In 1982, the year the Food Bank was established, it provided 41,167 meals. Today it distributes nearly 30,000 meals each day throughout Southeast Nebraska.

In 2012, the Food Bank distributed 26,910 backpacks containing 562,320 meals for students in need.



The Food Bank of Lincoln's BackPack Program—currently celebrating its 10th anniversary—provides grocery-filled backpacks to students in need of food. The Food Bank sends over 3,000 Friday afternoon backpacks home with students in 35 Lincoln schools and 39 rural communities.

"We all know that hungry kids can't learn and that we see hunger as an obstacle to learning," said Sue Dutton, a Lincoln Public Schools social worker. "In years past, teachers had no option to help students. Now when kids come and say they're hungry, we can say we'll get you down to the food pantry or I can go and pick up the food for you and bring it to my classroom. We as a school district are so proud that we are able to help and that we have such a caring and supporting community."

The Cooper Foundation has given two grants totaling \$50,000 toward the BackPack Program. Our support for the Food Bank goes back three decades, when the Foundation played a crucial role in the creation of the organization. Former program officer Peg Huff learned about food banks while visiting Second Harvest in Phoenix in the early 1980s. She was inspired by Second Harvest's mission of repurposing large quantities of "waste" food, and upon her return to Lincoln she discussed it with E.N. "Jack" Thompson, then president of the Cooper Foundation. Jack pulled together others in the community interested in starting a food bank here. The Foundation hired consultant Robert Troyer to organize the effort; he became the Food Bank's first director in 1982. We take pride in the early efforts that helped establish the Food Bank of Lincoln, and in our history of support as it has developed into a vital community resource.



2013-2014  
Thompson Forum

What is America's role in the world today? This year's Forum examines America's economy, foreign relations, military reach, educational status, and the viability - and relevance - of the American Dream.

Launched in 1988, the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues was designed to increase Nebraskans' understanding of the people and cultures of other countries and the challenges that face us all. The Forum is sponsored by the Cooper Foundation, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

## 2013-2014 Thompson Forum Speakers

David Wessel  
September 24, 2013

Susan Glasser  
October 8, 2013

Hedrick Smith  
November 6, 2013

Andrew Bacevich / Derek Chollet  
February 25, 2014

Yong Zhao  
March 18, 2014



COOPER  
FOUNDATION

## E.N. "Jack" Thompson

The Food Bank of Lincoln and the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues were just two of the major programs led by Cooper Foundation president and chair E.N. "Jack" Thompson (1913-2002). Not only was Jack a visionary steward of the Cooper Foundation's philanthropy, he was known for initiating innovative projects. In addition to the two highlighted here, he helped create two statewide studies of higher education, merit scholarships at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the Lied Center for Performing Arts, and the Cooper Foundation Excellence in Teaching Awards, which were given annually to outstanding K-12 teachers around the state from 1982 to 1993.

To learn more about the life and legacy of Jack Thompson, visit [cooperfoundation.org](http://cooperfoundation.org).



## Grants Approved Third Quarter 2013

- Bright Lights - \$10,000
- CenterPointe - \$10,000
- Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries - \$20,000
- Jewish Federation of Omaha
- Institute for Holocaust Education - \$10,000
- Joslyn Art Museum - \$10,000
- Lincoln Community Foundation,
- Give to Lincoln Day - \$10,000
- Lincoln Parks Foundation,
- Centennial Mall - \$25,000
- Metropolitan Opera,
- Nebraska Auditions - \$1,000
- Mid-America Arts Alliance - \$20,000
- Nebraska Appleseed Center - \$10,000
- Northeast Family Center - \$10,000
- United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County - \$16,530
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln,
- Lied Center for Performing Arts - \$8,000
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln,
- Plains Humanities Alliance - \$9,500

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to support strong, sustainable organizations, innovative ideas and ventures of significant promise in education, the arts and humanities, human services and the environment. We do that through grants to non-profit organizations located and working in Nebraska, primarily Lincoln and Lancaster County.

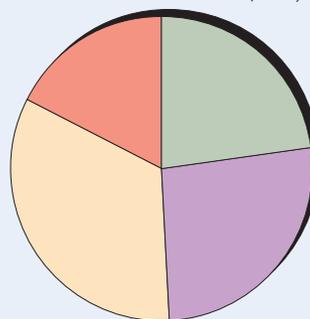
### Grant Application Deadlines

- January 15
- April 1
- August 1
- October 1

## 2013 Grants

3<sup>rd</sup> quarter

- Human Services \$ 56,530
  - Education \$ 45,000
  - Arts \$ 39,000
  - Humanities \$ 29,500
- \$170,030**



[cooperfoundation.org](http://cooperfoundation.org)



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Fall 2013

