

See the need. Meet the need.



combined health
agencies drive



United Way and CHAD (Community Health Agencies Drive) are committed to creating long-term change within Lincoln and Lancaster County. In order to create that change, it's important to take an in-depth look at the issues facing our community. Lincoln Vital Signs is a collaborative effort to examine those issues. Some findings in their 2019 report were:

Educational achievement impacts individuals and communities. Communities with educated populations are more productive, more innovative and pay higher salaries.

- 83% of public high school students graduate.
- Currently, 65% of Lincoln's third graders read proficiently. Students who do not read proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma.
- The number of Lincoln Public School students receiving free or reduced lunch has grown 81% in the past decade.
- 62% of Lincoln Public Schools' graduates enter post-secondary institutions.
- In 2018, eighth grade math proficient scores dropped 11% from the previous year.

A substantial proportion of Lincoln's population faces real need.

- 15% of Lincoln's children live in poverty.
- Children who live in poverty for at least half of their childhood are 90% more likely to leave school without a diploma.
- The majority of adults in poverty are in the workforce, but only about 33% work full-time year-round. Over half, (57%) worked part-time or part-year, suggesting that underemployment and/or job loss contribute to poverty.
- In 2018 in Lincoln, there was an increase of 3,450 people living at or below the poverty line than the previous year.
- There are currently 7 neighborhoods living in extreme poverty (in 2000 there were none). These neighborhoods have more than 40% of residents that fall below the poverty line.

American health is declining quickly and is cause for concern.

- In Lincoln there is a 20 year gap in life expectancy depending on the neighborhood you live in.
- Of the 10 leading causes of death in the U.S., 7 are chronic diseases.
- Almost half of all Americans live with at least one chronic illness.
- Rates of domestic assault investigations vary from year to year, overall has trended lower in the past four years.
- Lincoln police respond to one call per day related to suicide; Suicide is the 9th leading cause of death in Lancaster County.

These findings allow us to target donor dollars to our three areas of focus - *Health, Education and Financial Stability* - maximizing our efforts and building lasting change.