

# BOLD HOPE

2018–2019

Annual Report  
to the Community

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matt talbot  
kitchen & outreach

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018–2019

## Executive Committee

**Dave Smith, President**

Technology Manager,  
Allstate Life & Retirement

**Natasha Plooster, President Elect**

Chief Operating Officer,  
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Senior Vice President, UBS Financial

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Accountant,  
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**Roli Saraf, PhD**

Adjunct Faculty, Purdue University Global

**Lincoln Zehr**

CEO, Hampton Enterprises Inc.

Special thanks to retiring board members:

**Prem Bansal & Jennifer Conzemius**

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Bluestem Health

Food Bank of Lincoln

CEDARS

Lincoln Housing Authority

Center for People in Need

Lincoln Lancaster County Health Dept

CenterPointe

Lincoln Literacy

Clinic with a Heart

NE Vocational Rehabilitation

Community Corrections  
- Lancaster County

Paul Mitchell The School - Lincoln

Community CROPS

Southwood Lutheran Church

Department of Health & Human Services

Union College

First Plymouth Congregational Church

Veterans Affairs

Wells Fargo

# INSTILLING HOPE

This past year I celebrated a significant milestone at Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach — 20 years as the first and only Executive Director! I must say I would have never thought this would be the case. Twenty years is a long time! But I just fell in love with the mission, the people we serve, the staff and board as well as our amazing army of volunteers! I felt I had something to offer, my idealism and sense of hope is something worth sharing. In fact, I think it is vital to this work.



Susanne Blue

As a professional social worker I have been gratified by the significant growth in programs and advocacy efforts our organization has developed over the years. The many programs that have been implemented, some even lifesaving, have all stemmed from the instillation of hope. The instillation of hope offers a path back to a sense of possibility in our lives when almost all seemed lost. It's about relief, restoration and the chance, once more, to look forward — to wonder, when we're in a barren place, what might be over the horizon (and to be given the strength and sustenance to keep putting one foot in front of the other in order to find out). At Matt Talbot we make life better with tangible support services, like food and housing, showers and laundry services, and not-so-tangible programs like case management and substance use counseling that have great impact although the results may be harder to measure. Those services and results stem from hope.

In reflecting back on my career, I recall the first time I heard the concept of hope as viable intervention to assist persons in crisis. In fact it was the first one listed. Hope is the critical first step in moving forward in any circumstance. Hope and more aptly, “**Bold Hope**” has kept me going all these years at Matt Talbot. And it keeps me going to this day!

I hope you enjoy perusing this annual report. It is remarkable what has been accomplished in a years' time. Those accomplishments are because we have a tremendously dedicated and talented staff team. The support of our volunteers and donors is what keeps our doors open to the homeless and working poor of our community 365 days of the year. Your support has instilled hope in me, in our team, in the people we serve and in our community. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susanne Blue".

Susanne Blue, CMSW  
Executive Director



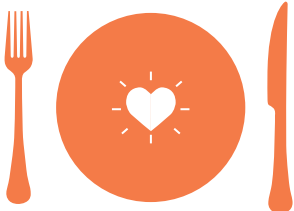
Dave Smith  
Board President

*It's hard to believe that I am on the downhill run now to completing my term as President of the Board of Directors of this amazing organization. It has been an honor to serve and I want to thank the talented board members, past and present, for their work and dedication to Matt Talbot. I also want to recognize the countless volunteers that make it all work, we are so thankful to the Lincoln community for their support! That said, what I am most impressed with is the tireless effort and dedication of the staff to change lives on a daily basis. And if you think that's an exaggeration, trust me — the work they do is truly life changing. Matt Talbot is in great shape to continue to serve the community of Lincoln's homeless and working poor population and to restore hope!*

# RELIEVING HUNGER

Everyone is welcome to walk through our open doors, and without judgment, get a hot meal two times a day, every day.

For more than 26 years, thousands of compassionate volunteers have come to our community kitchen to provide, prepare and serve hot, nutritious meals to the working poor and homeless in Lincoln. We also have volunteers who help with many of our outreach programs. These volunteers are tireless in their efforts to provide nourishment for body and spirit.

<div>13,049</div> <div>instances of volunteerism (an increase of 500 compared to 2017)</div>	<div>110,291</div> <div>meals provided in 2018 (nearly 4,000 more than in 2017)</div>	<div>9,190</div> <div>average meals served monthly</div>
<div>151</div> <div>average meals served daily</div>	<div></div>	<div>932</div> <div>food pantries provided</div>
<div>\$559,223</div> <div>worth of volunteer labor</div>	<div>\$245,725</div> <div>worth of food donations for hunger relief program</div>	<div>35,142</div> <div>hours provided by volunteers</div>







*When you are homeless you buy cheap but unhealthy groceries like ramen noodles. When I first came to Matt Talbot I was working manual labor jobs and that cheap food wasn't sustaining me. Matt Talbot served healthy food that filled me up for my shift. It also helps to have that good nutrition while on the job so I can be focused and stay safe and healthy.*

**Frank** — Matt Talbot Guest



# PROVIDING OUTREACH

Matt Talbot is much more than food. In addition to being a safe place of refuge, Matt Talbot works to *connect people to resources that take care of the whole person* — providing beyond basic needs to embolden people to have hope.

We serve a large number of people through hunger relief and basic outreach services. But the majority of our staff efforts serve fewer people with more comprehensive services such as *housing, case management, outreach, life skills training, drug and alcohol evaluations, and nutrition education* — all aimed at the goal of preventing homelessness.



A young guest attending the annual Back to School Foot Clinic. Union College nursing and physician assistant students provide foot care clinics at Matt Talbot throughout the school year.

*Matt Talbot helped me get my ID when I was in the work release center, which helped me get a job. Now I'm the manager. Thank you, Matt Talbot!*

*Stacy* — Matt Talbot Guest





**24** Life Skills classes facilitated  
**45** people graduated

**39,200** total outreach and homeless prevention services provided to guests in 2018



**1,715**  
homeless guest laundry instances



**3,400**  
homeless guest shower instances



**378**  
guests received vital ID assistance (i.e. drivers license, birth certificate)



**5,349**  
pieces of mail distributed to homeless guests



**377**  
haircuts



**4,395**  
guest phone calls

**3,949** unduplicated clients served



On a cold winter day we were able to offer a hot meal and hats to keep this family warm.

*Matt Talbot gave me hope when I felt I had lost all hope. It's not only a place to eat when you have nothing, but they provide laundry and shower facilities, too. They never ask why and they never judge. They are absolutely amazing and many of us would likely parish if this place didn't exist.*

*Rachel* — Matt Talbot Guest

# ADDRESSING ADDICTION

— **The Transitions + CARE Program** (Counseling, Advocacy, Referral, Evaluation/ Education) provides substance use evaluations, counseling, outreach and education to the homeless at no cost. These services, combined with transitional housing, gives individuals the opportunity to address housing, treatment and long-term recovery needs which brings us closer to our vision of defeating homelessness.

— **Pre-Treatment Group Launched** - This year we started a pre-treatment group for individuals who have had a substance use evaluation and are waiting to be admitted to a treatment program. The group prepares individuals for treatment and helps keep them motivated and focused. Ultimately we hope the groups improve “show” rates to treatment as well as long term recovery. Groups are held twice a week.



**241** unduplicated clients served through the CARE Program

**3,754** total instances of assistance through the CARE Program

**16** individuals served through transitional housing and intensive case management

**105** substance use evaluations provided free-of-charge

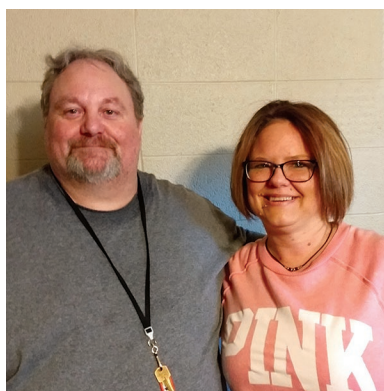
**82** individuals who attended alcohol education classes

## Transitions House Success

Curtis came to Matt Talbot’s Transitions House after years of IV drug use. During his stay at the house, he was able to find employment, save money, pay off debt, and build his credit. He is grateful for his sobriety and how being in the house has changed him.

“I’ve gotten off meth, have a job I love and feel like a citizen now. I feel great. Matt Talbot saved my life.”

Employed and more than two years sober, Curtis recently moved out of the Transitions House. Through our Landlord Liaison Project he was able to find an affordable and convenient apartment and he is HOME.



Curtis and Heather, his counselor, on the day he moved into his new home.



# DEFEATING HOMELESSNESS

Our programs used evidence-based best practices for securing safe and stable housing for the homeless.

- **First HOPE** using a proven model called Housing First to house the chronically homeless and surround them with the support they need. This program is currently serving 15 individuals and 5 families.
- **The Landlord Liaison Project** forms partnerships between property managers, consumers and case managers to address the critical need of finding quality affordable housing for the homeless in Lincoln.
- **Transitional Housing** provides a sober living environment for homeless men and women who have experienced significant drug and alcohol problems and are now serious about becoming and staying active in their recovery. Residents stay up to two years and receive intensive case management and counseling from CARE staff to prevent relapse, become employed, increase self-sufficiency and realize the goal of permanent housing. The men's house serves four residents and the women's house serves five residents. This program will be expanding in the coming year through a collaboration with Community Corrections.
- **Homeless Diversion** empowers individuals on the edge of homelessness to identify safe and appropriate housing options in order to avoid a shelter stay. The program offers mediation, conflict resolution and referral services and has the ultimate goal of reducing the number of individuals and families becoming homeless.



**104** people housed  
**17** children housed



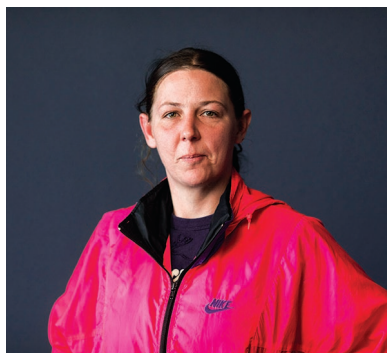
**30** partnering landlords

**109** individuals served through Homeless Diversion

**81%** retention rate

## From Homelessness to Dean's List

After years of abuse at the hands of those who said they loved her, Tracy's mental health and substance use led her to a life of chronic homelessness. She had been living on the streets in downtown Lincoln for more than three years when she was offered the opportunity to participate in the First HOPE Housing Program. With the support of her counselors and case manager, Tracy addressed her health issues and set goals for a new life. Three years have passed since Tracy entered the program and she is working full time, taking college classes (she made the Dean's List twice!) and has reconnected with her family. Most importantly — she is safe, strong and happy.



# BOLD COMPASSIONATE TEAM

Matt Talbot is a *dedicated and united front of staff and volunteers* who have found their true calling by helping the homeless and near homeless find possibilities when things seem impossible.

Staff members Sally Buchholz and Robert Rieck recently resigned their positions.



*Stanford Bradley*



*Sally Buchholz*



*Janet Buck*



*Vicky Droz*



*Lynda Flynn*



*Clarence Grendahl*



*Alanna Hulse*



*Dave Klitzke*



*Retha Knapp*



*Rosie Newell*



*Randy Olaveson*



*Victoria Oneil*



*Amanda Owen Doerr*



*Robert Rieck*



*Heather Rhoden*



*Glenn Schawang*



*Jeanetta Schnieder*



*Sara Sunderman*



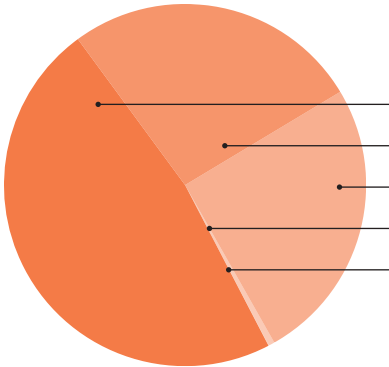
*Susie Wilson*



*Sydne Wirrick-Knox*

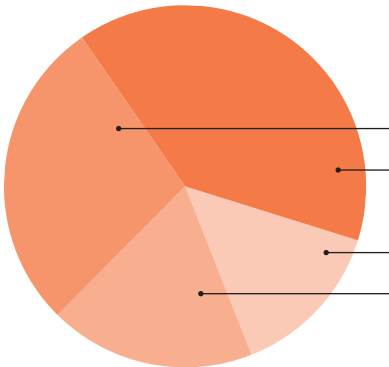
# STEWARDSHIP

Special thanks to Dana F. Cole and Co. LLP for audit preparation and their ongoing support of Matt Talbot.



## Revenues & Other Support

Donations	\$1,072,826
Special Events	\$597,501
Grant Revenue	\$573,185
Investment Income	\$12,586
Miscellaneous Income	\$613
<b>Total Revenues &amp; Other Support</b>	<b>\$2,256,711</b>



## Expenses

Program Expenses	
Hunger Relief	\$569,286
Outreach	\$804,385
Support Services	
Management & General	\$289,442
Fundraising	\$375,342
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,038,455</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

	2017	2018
Total Assets	\$3,856,786	\$4,042,418
Total Liabilities	\$132,240	\$99,616
Total Net Assets	\$3,724,546	\$3,942,802

A copy of our audited financial statement is available at  
[www.mtko.org/about/financialinformation](http://www.mtko.org/about/financialinformation)

## Memberships & Affiliations

Better Business Bureau  
 Cause Collective  
 Charity Navigator  
 Clinton Neighborhood Association  
 GuideStar  
 Lincoln Homeless Coalition: Continuum of Care  
 Nonprofit Association of the Midlands  
 North 27th Street Business & Civic Association  
 United Way of Lincoln & Lancaster County



★★★★  
**CHARITY NAVIGATOR**  
 Four Star Charity

Matt Talbot is one of the only seven charities in Lincoln and 32 in Nebraska to receive Charity Navigator's highest rating of four stars (June 2019).





## VISION:

Defeat hunger  
and homelessness.  
Restore hope!

## MISSION:

The mission of  
Matt Talbot Kitchen  
& Outreach is to  
serve the physical,  
emotional and  
spiritual needs of  
Lincoln's working  
poor and homeless  
through outreach,  
advocacy, education,  
and the provision of  
food and shelter.

## CORE VALUES:

Compassionate Love,  
Dignity, Empowerment,  
Community, Integrity



**matt talbot**  
kitchen & outreach

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