

2020 Community Impact Report

Staying Open for Bold Hope

It is hard to know what to say about 2020 other than it was a year like no other! I can't begin to express my gratitude for the tremendous support we received this past year. **In spite of the obstacles, we stayed safely open every day, providing most of the same compassionate services we always did.** Our amazing staff, board and volunteers kept showing up and serving the working poor and homeless in new and modified ways. And while it was certainly difficult, we learned some new ways of communicating, serving, and offering hope.

In 2020 we also lost two icons from Matt Talbot. Our founder Mary Costello passed and our co-founder Ruth McKinstry also passed away. It was made even more difficult during the pandemic as we could not honor these amazing women in the fashion we would have liked to. In order to rectify that just a little bit, I would like to dedicate this Community Impact Report to them. Mary and Ruth are definitely some of the most inspiring people I have ever met. Champions for the underdog, faith-filled, and women ahead of their time are just a few ways to describe them. They will be forever in the heart and history of Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach. May they rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon them.



2020 was also the year we unveiled our beautiful **Bold Hope Mural**, which adorns the cover of this report! While the world was struggling through the pandemic, we were quietly moving forward with our plan to beautify our grounds and embrace our North 27th Street community. We're thankful to artist Nolan Tredway for his vision and hard work in moving this forward. We made sure that hope was contagious, too! Please stop by sometime to see this community treasure. We've had some folks take pictures of it and hope to maintain it to be a Lincoln landmark for years to come!

Please enjoy our Community Impact Report. More detail is provided, success stories shared, and efforts to show our accountability and appreciation for your continued support. Here's looking back at 2020 with our eyes on the future as we engage in strategic planning with our hearts full of gratitude for the amazing generosity and compassion shown to those we serve.

Sincerely and with Bold Hope,



Susanne Blue

Susanne Blue, CMSW
Executive Director



Relieving Hunger

Everyone is welcome to walk through our open doors and, without judgment, get a nutritious meal two times a day, every day. Over a thousand compassionate volunteers came to our community kitchen last year during the COVID-19 pandemic — safely providing, preparing, and serving “to-go” meals as well as offering an important social connection during a time of isolation.



Matt Talbot guests safely enjoy their meals while seated at tables with plexiglass partitions.



Guests maintain a 6-foot distance while picking up bottled water, a small carton of milk, and a bagged prepared meal during the pandemic.



A Sunday brunch meal is provided, prepared, and served by a team from Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital.

Matt Talbot received a “Nourish Our Community” grant from Conagra Brands Foundation to support the pivot from congregate meals to grab-and-go meals during the pandemic. This change in service delivery decreased groups gathering during the pandemic while continuing to serve the nutritional needs of guests.



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.



Outreach staff handed out cold water to people without access to shelter on a 100+ degree day in June.



Matt Talbot partnered with the local health department to host COVID-19 vaccine clinics.



Matt Talbot's street outreach program builds trust with unsheltered individuals living outside in campsites or in their vehicles by offering food, water, personal care items, and other basic supplies. A powerful video about the program featuring Matt Talbot staff and former clients can be viewed on Matt Talbot's website or Facebook page.

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, give clients the opportunity to address housing, treatment, and long-term recovery needs.

SUCCESS STORY

Jeremy participated in Matt Talbot's transitional housing program after struggling with homelessness and addiction for many years. He worked hard — maintaining sobriety, gaining employment, volunteering, paying off debt, and resolving legal issues related to past criminal offenses and child support. He graduated from the program and moved into his own apartment in 2017. Today Jeremy is a proud new homeowner and recently celebrated 7 years of sobriety! His story provides us all with a dose of credible hope that together we really can defeat hunger and homeless in Lincoln.



Defeating Homelessness

Our programs use evidence-based best practices for securing safe and stable housing for the homeless. Last year we assisted 320 adults and children with housing — an increase of 48% from the previous year.

SUCCESS STORY

When COVID hit, Amanda lost her job and then her home. With no place to go, she used her tax return to pay for a hotel stay which solved the immediate problem but wasn't a good long term solution. Her 10-year old child needed more stability, and so did she. Matt Talbot helped Amanda access resources to help with her finances and other basic needs, like food. And then we helped her find an apartment for her family. A safe place for herself and her children to live and grow.



"Matt Talbot encouraged me without judgment and gave me a chance to get back on my feet. Losing everything really humbled me, but now I feel hopeful about our future."

2020 Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Natasha Plooster, President
COO, Bridgepoint Investment Banking

Alynn Sampson, President Elect
Youth & Family Program Director,
Food Bank of Lincoln

Kiley Wiechman, CPA, Treasurer
Accountant, HBE Becker Meyer Love LLP

DIRECTORS

Rick Costello
Strategic Customers, SAP America

Brad Crain
CPA, Union Bank & Trust

Reina Day
Realtor, RE/MAX Concepts

Eric Dinger
VP Marketing & Customer
Engagement, Sovereign
Sportsman Solutions

Greg Frayser
Attorney, Cline Williams Wright
Johnson & Oldfather, LLP

Ameeta Martin, MD
Assoc. Professor, Pediatric Cardiology,
UNMC & Children's Hospital

Tim McEwen, CFP
RBC Wealth Management

Brad Meyer
CEO, Bluestem Health

Josh Midgett
President, Integrated Life Choices

Lincoln Zehr
CEO, Hampton Enterprises Inc.

Special thanks to retiring
board members:
Greg Ernst & Dave Smith

Celebrating Success

15,539

OUTREACH SERVICES PROVIDED

Basic, emergency, and health needs such as laundry and shower services, message/mail/phone services, life skills classes, and assistance obtaining vital identification documents.

320

PEOPLE HOUSED

Through permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, the Landlord Liaison Project, and the COVID hotel and rapid rehousing program.

8,359

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES PROVIDED

Housing clients receive intensive and ongoing case management from professional staff. Homeless Diversion clients receive short-term case management, mediation, conflict resolution, and limited financial assistance to prevent homelessness.

7,443

SUBSTANCE
USE SERVICES
PROVIDED

1,704

UNDUPLICATED
CLIENTS SERVED

73,075

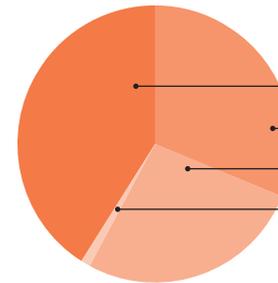
NUTRITIOUS
PREPARED MEALS
PROVIDED

10,510

VOLUNTEER
HOURS PROVIDED

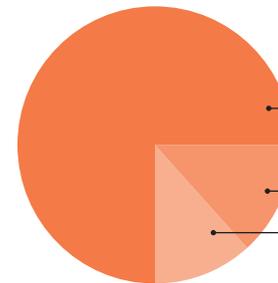
Stewardship

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



Revenues & Other Support

Donations	\$1,378,723
Grant Revenue	\$1,056,228
Special Events	\$884,851
Investment & Miscellaneous Income	\$39,374
Total Revenues & Other Support	\$3,359,176



Expenses

Program Expenses	
Hunger Relief & Outreach	\$2,036,151
Support Services	
Management & General	\$350,140
Fundraising	\$316,289
Total Expenses	\$2,702,580

A copy of our audited financial statement is available at
mtko.org/about/financialinformation

Gratitude

Matt Talbot stayed open throughout the pandemic because of your faithful, generous support. Amid the uncertainty of the pandemic, you stepped up to ensure that our work to defeat hunger and homelessness and restore hope continued. THANK YOU!

Find information on volunteering, getting help, classes, and news at mtko.org. To continue watching our story unfold, please visit us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



A handwritten note from a guest to our faithful volunteers during Volunteer Appreciation Week.

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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