

**MINUTES**  
**STARTRAN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**StarTran Conference Room 2**  
**July 25, 2013**

Members Present: Mike DeKalb, Don Herz, Kim Phelps, Beatty Brasch, Linda Carter

Members Absent: John Baylor, Stephen Speicher

Staff Present: Mike Davis, Mike Weston, Brian Praeuner, Scott Tharnish, Glenn Knust, Kitty Elliott, Connie Thoreson

**I. REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Chairman Mike DeKalb opened the meeting, noting the Open Meetings Act and Patron Conduct Notice posted on the north wall.

**A. Patrons to be Heard**

None

**B. Review/Action Items**

- **June 27, 2013 StarTran Advisory Board Meeting Minutes** - A motion for approval was made by Mr. Herz and seconded by Ms. Carter to approve the 6/27/13 minutes as submitted. The 6/27/13 StarTran Advisory Board Minutes were approved 5-0 (Phelps, Carter, DeKalb, Herz and Brasch all voted "aye").
- **Saturday, West "A" Schedule Change – Make Permanent** – Mike Weston noted that the schedule for the West "A" route schedule was changed on January, 3, 2013 to coincide with all other Saturday route schedules and has been working well with no complaints during the six-month trial period. StarTran staff asks the Board for approval to make this change permanent. A motion was made by Ms. Carter to approve the permanent West "A" schedule change, seconded by Ms. Brasch. Motion was approved 5-0 (Phelps, Carter, DeKalb, Herz and Brasch all voted "aye").
- **Fence at Gold's** – Mike Davis stated that the chain link fence on the 11<sup>th</sup> Street side of the Gold's building will be replaced with a black ornamental style. Mr. DeKalb pointed out that complaints were received, that the chain link fence is unattractive and Urban Design Standards also were not followed. Mr. Tharnish is in contact with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for permission to remove the chain link fence and for calculating the reimbursement to FTA, as the chain link fence has not met the full useful life regulation per FTA guidelines. Safety/security budgeted money will be used for this replacement. Mr. Davis has this issue on the Urban Design Committee's August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda and intends to meet with the Lincoln Police and City Law Departments in order to address any issues they may have with the fence replacement.

## July 25, 2013 StarTran Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - Page 2

### C. Operations Report

- Mike Davis reviewed current StarTran promotion and ridership per the Board Report.
- It was noted that the all-route map is in the process of being updated and is done every other year. This project is expected to be completed this fall.
- There was mention of the City/County Employee bus pass usage being low, with Ms. Elliott agreeing to look at other types of promotion for this program.

### D. Other Business

- **Poverty in Lincoln Report** - Beatty Brasch reviewed the attached 2013 Face of Poverty Today in Lincoln, Nebraska, per the attached report along with Transportation Issues Among Lincoln's Low Income Families (also attached). Mr. DeKalb complemented Ms. Brasch on a well documented report. Ms. Brasch agreed to present a comparison of Lincoln's low income statistics with peer cities, at a future StarTran Advisory Board meeting. Ms. Brasch encouraged Board Members as well as Staff to contact her with any other questions on this issue.

### E. Manager's Report

- **Rebranding**
- **Designated Bus Stops**
- **Purchase of 5 UNL Buses**

In review of the above three issues, Mr. Davis compiled results of the survey completed by Board Member noting the top priority as Marketing which will include rebranding. Staff is in the beginning stages of looking into implementing a new name, logo, and paint scheme. It was acknowledged that the cost for these changes will be budgeted and will include changing of bus stop signs, uniforms, etc. New bus paint schemes will be done with new bus purchases rather than repainting all existing buses.

Other priorities from Board Member survey results were; Technology, Funding & Fares, Operating Characteristics, Bus Stop Amenities (replacement fence at Gold's is in process and future bus stop designation to be studied), Expanded Use of Surveys (staff will survey patrons September, 2013), and Vehicle Improvements (CNG buses are being evaluated for the current five-bus purchase along with facility evaluation and cost effectiveness).

- Mr. Davis noted that he met with Beatty Brasch and toured the Center For People in Need. He has also met with the Commission for the Blind and plans meetings with other agencies in order to address transit needs and issues of Lincoln citizens.

### F. Patrons to be Heard

None

**G. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 29, 2013, 8:00 a.m. in the StarTran Conference Room #2.

2013

# The Face of POVERTY TODAY in Lincoln, Nebraska



Center  
for  
People  
in  
Need

The mission of the Center for People in Need is to enhance opportunities for individuals and families as they address socioeconomic barriers limiting their paths to success.



Center  
for  
People  
in  
Need

Foreword .....	1
Key Findings.....	2
Characteristics of Respondents.....	3
Education and Employment.....	5
Insurance and Health Care .....	6
Food and Utilities.....	7
Housing, Child Care, Transportation, & Miscellaneous Information.....	8
Effects of Poverty on the Family .....	10
Conclusions and Implications.....	10
Appendix: 2012 Survey Instrument.....	11

## Foreword

We are pleased to present this report, *The Face of Poverty Today in Lincoln, Nebraska*, for the seventh consecutive year. Based on a survey of Center for People in Need clients in December 2012, it is a snapshot of the conditions under which low-income families in Lincoln live.

The survey was completed voluntarily by one representative per client family—1,801 respondents in all—as they waited to choose free holiday gifts for their children. There was no coercion applied nor *quid pro quo* offered, and we believe the responses truly represent the conditions in which those low-income families live.

What makes the *Face of Poverty* report unique is the size of the sample. The American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that there are 7,151 families living in poverty in Lincoln and Lancaster County. The 1,801 families represented by this report make up a little more than quarter of that entire impoverished population.

We believe the report speaks for the poor in Lincoln and Lancaster County. It accurately describes their lives: the daily struggle to put food on the table; to have a place to call home; to see a doctor;

to get an education; to get and keep a job.

For those living on the knife-edge of poverty, a “simple” event like a flat tire can start a cascade of problems, and half the families we see have no one to turn to in times of crisis. No cash for a tire repair means no transportation, trouble getting the kids to school, and being late to work. That could mean losing your job.

Replacing a tire will take two-thirds of your weekly paycheck, and the money is already committed to rent, bills, and groceries. What would you do? The *Face of Poverty* report reveals what those in poverty have to do every day.

Please contact us with any questions you may have about this report. If you are interested in a particular aspect of the survey, we would be happy to discuss it with you. We can do additional analysis on request.

Sincerely,

Beatty Brasch  
Executive Director

Deb Daily  
Director of Operations

## Key Findings

**The Face of Poverty Today** report is based on a respondent pool of **1,801 Clients of the Center for People in Need** who took the survey in December 2012 at the Center's Toyland for Kids holiday toy distribution.

This sample represents about **25% of the 7,151 Lancaster County families living in poverty** (figures from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2011 "American Community Survey").

92% of those surveyed are women. Nearly all have at least one child under age 18. 73% live in households ranging from 3 to 6 members. Average family size is 4.5. 45% of respondents have jobs; 52% live in a household where some other adult has a job.

### Key findings of the survey:

- **88% of those surveyed live in poverty** (up from 84% in the 2011 survey).
- **56% live in extreme poverty** (up from 43% in 2011).
- **26% of them live on less than \$500 per month** (down from 27% in 2011).
- **55% "sometimes," "rarely," or "never" can afford to buy enough food for their families.**
- **47% are "very" or "somewhat" worried about having enough food for their families each week.**
- **45% did not have enough food for their families**

Note: Every year the US Department of Health and Human Services publishes guidelines used for determining eligibility for its programs. In 2012 a family of four with an annual income of \$23,050 or less was considered

for the next week.

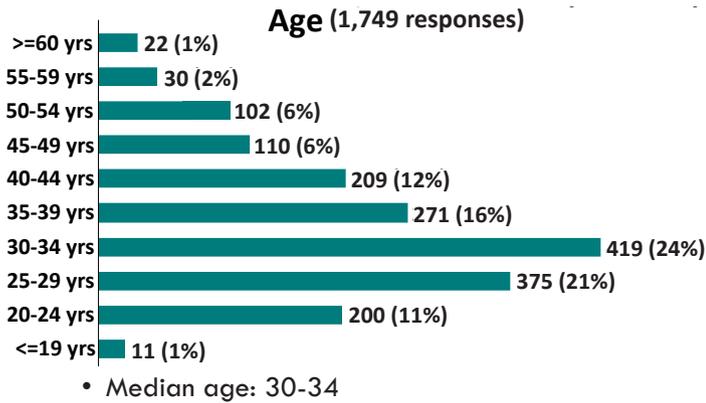
- **30% did not have enough food for the family on the day they took the survey.**
- **57% "always," "often," or "sometimes" have to choose between buying food and paying a bill.**
- **43% have no health insurance.**
- **34% have gone to an emergency room because they could not afford an office visit.**
- **37% have gone without care because they could not afford an office visit.**
- **77% are "very" or "somewhat" worried about having enough money to pay bills.**
- **55% have received a utility shut-off notice in the past year.**
- **9% had a utility shut off on the day they took the survey.**
- **69% say money worries affect their children.**
- **60% say money worries affect their relationship with their spouse or partner.**
- **43% say money worries cause "a lot" of stress in their family.**
- **56% say they are no better off today than they were last year.**
- **58% think they will be better off next year.**

to be in poverty. Larger families can earn more than smaller ones and be classified at the same level of poverty. The Center for People in Need accepts clients with income up to 150% of the federal poverty level.

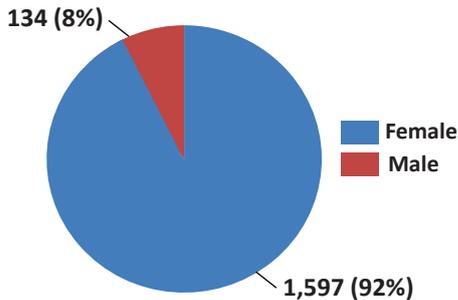


# Characteristics of Respondents

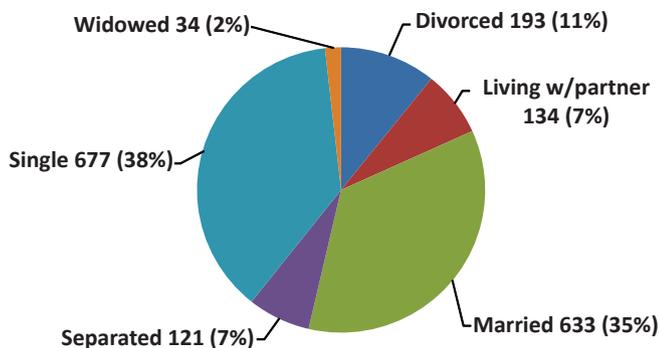
## Age, Gender, and Marital Status



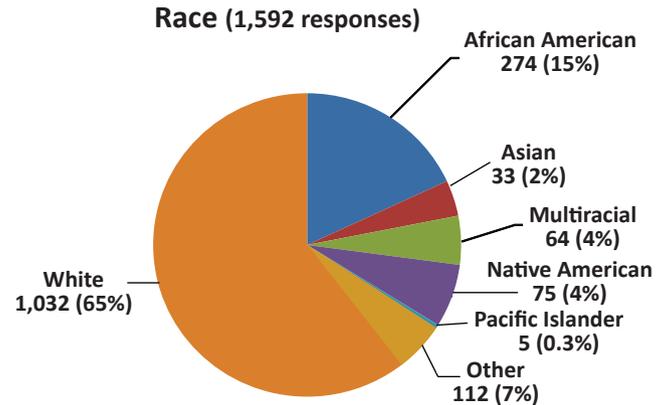
## Gender (1,963 responses)



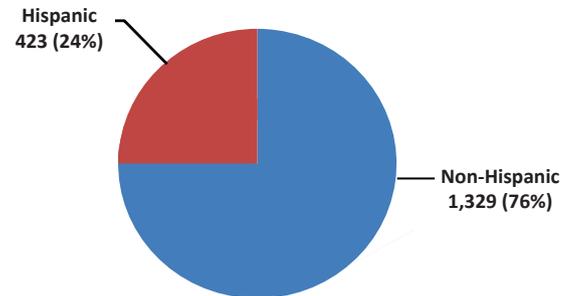
## Marital Status (2,067 responses)



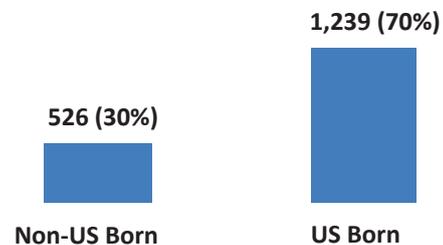
## Race, Ethnicity, Birthplace, Languages Spoken



## Ethnicity (1,752 responses)

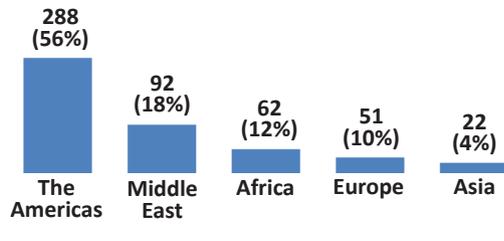


## US Born & Non-US Born (1,765 responses)

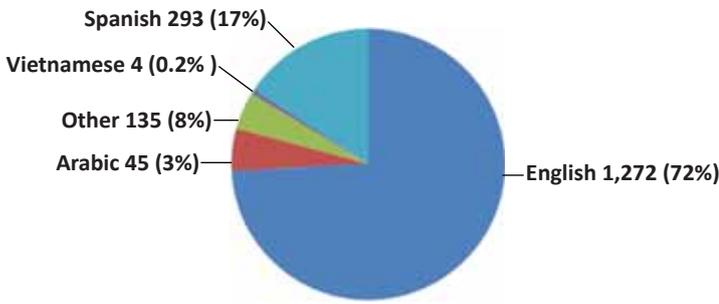


- 231 of foreign-born respondents (44%) said they were immigrants; 152 (29%) said they were refugees. The rest did not answer.

## Regions of Birth for Non-US Born (515 responses)



## Principal Language Spoken (1,749 responses)

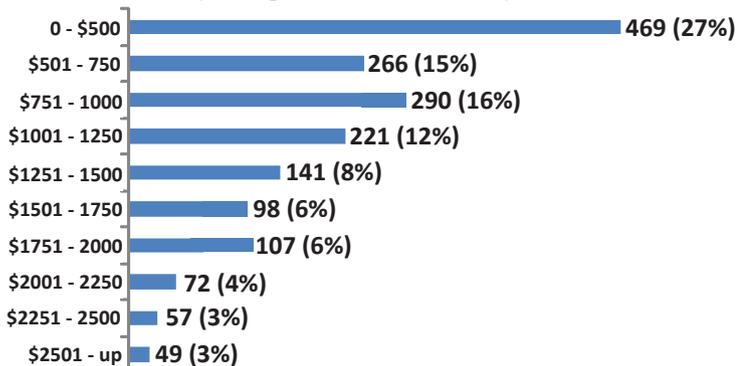


- 29 other languages were mentioned by 143 respondents: Kurdish (54), Russian (17), Ukrainian (12), French (9), Karen (8), Farsi (6), Nuer (6). One or two respondents each named the following: Acholi, Afghani, Albanian, American Sign Language (ASL), Bosnian, Chinese, Czech, Daik, Dari, Dinka, Grebo, Hindi, Kermanji, Nuba, Persian, Portuguese, Sudanese, Swahili, Tigrina, Timshada, Urdu, and Yezidi.

## Income, Household Size, and Homelessness

### Income

Monthly Household Income (1,770 responses)  
(Average household size 4.5)



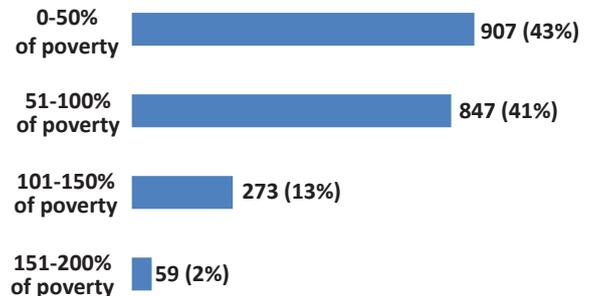
- Federal poverty guidelines are set yearly by the US Department of Health and Human Services. Guidelines depend on family size; larger families can earn more than smaller ones and be classified at the same level of poverty. The following table shows the income levels for 2012 in annual income.

## 2012 Federal Poverty Level

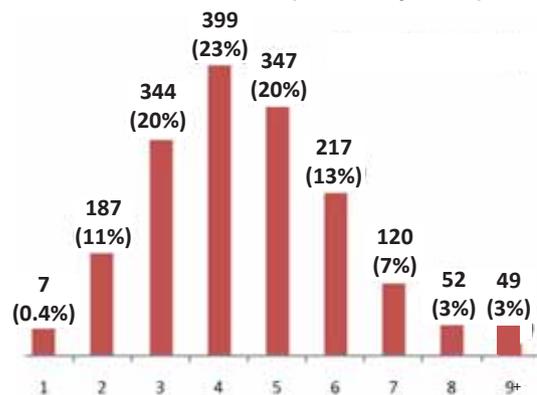
Family Size	% Gross Yearly Income			
	25%	50%	100%	150%
1	\$2,793	\$5,585	\$11,170	\$16,755
2	\$3,783	\$7,565	\$15,130	\$22,695
3	\$4,773	\$9,545	\$19,090	\$28,635
4	\$5,763	\$11,525	\$23,050	\$34,575
5	\$6,753	\$13,505	\$27,010	\$40,515
6	\$7,743	\$15,485	\$30,970	\$46,455
7	\$8,733	\$17,465	\$34,930	\$52,395
8	\$9,723	\$19,445	\$38,890	\$58,335

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
[aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/12poverty.shtml/#guidelines](http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/12poverty.shtml/#guidelines)

## Households with Income At or Below 150% of Poverty



## Household Size (1,722 responses)



- This survey is distributed at our Toyland for Kids event in December, so most respondents have children in the home or have custodial relationships with children. The average household size is 4.5 people.

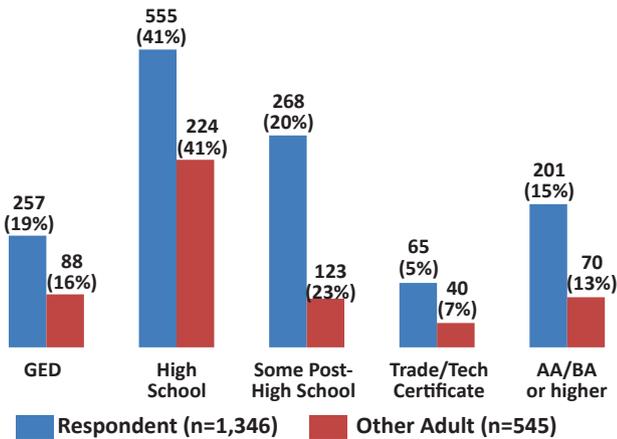
## Homelessness

- 150 respondents (9%) were homeless the day they took the survey. 239 (16%) had been homeless in the last year.
- Typically more men than women are homeless, but 92% of respondents to this survey were women, so these figures represent only this sample.

# Education and Employment

## Education

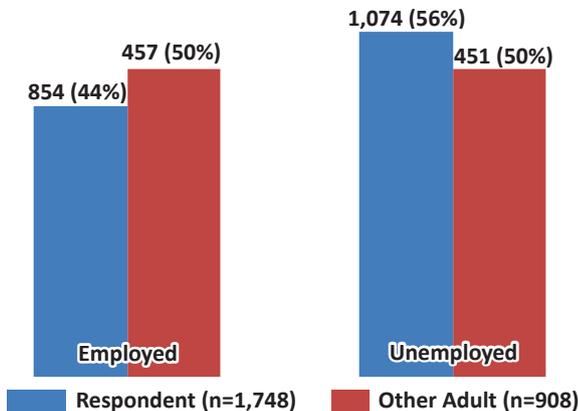
**Highest Post-primary Educational Level Achieved**  
(Respondent and any other adult in the household)



- 660 respondents had less than a high school education. 455 (63%) had completed 9th, 10th, or 11th grade. 137 (37%) had completed 1st -8th grades.
- 373 “other adults” had less than a high school education. 236 (63%) had completed 9th, 10th, or 11th grade. 137 (37%) had completed 1st -8th grades.
- In 235 two-adult households neither had more than an 11th grade education. In 61 such households neither had more than an 8th grade education.

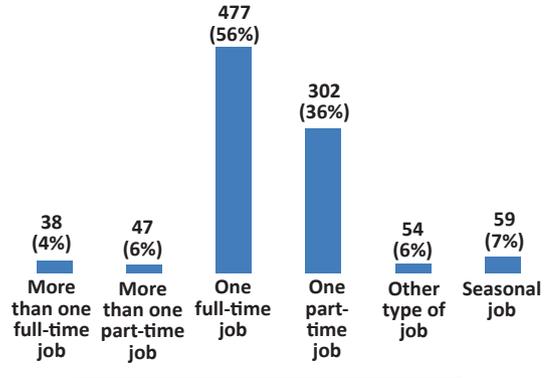
## Employment

**Employment**  
(Respondent and any other adult in the household)

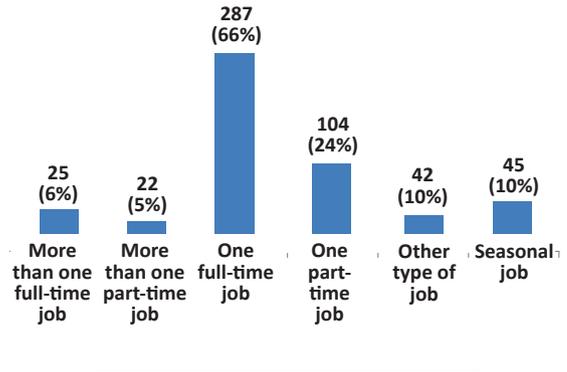


- Because most respondents are women, many of whom stay at home to care for children, we ask about employment of any other adult member of the household, here designated “Other Adult.”

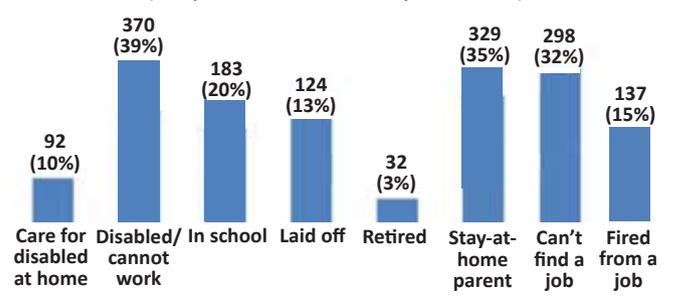
**Type of Employment - Respondent (847 responses)**  
(Responses not mutually exclusive)



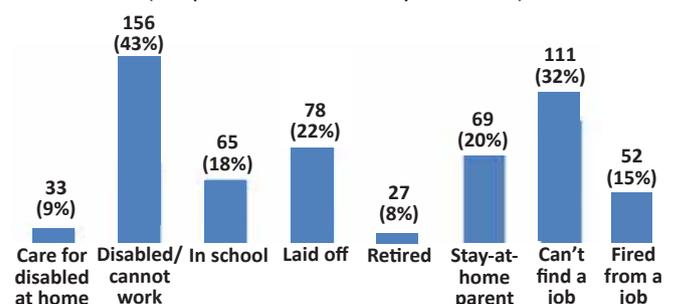
**Type of Employment - Adult 2 (434 responses)**  
(Responses not mutually exclusive)



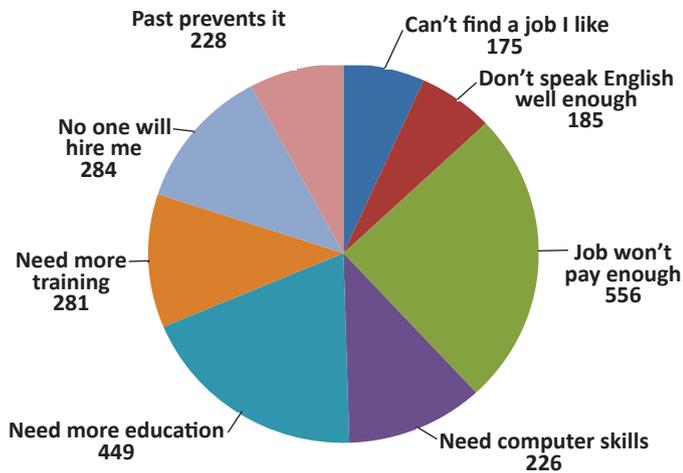
**Reasons for Unemployment - Respondent (937 responses)**  
(Responses not mutually exclusive)



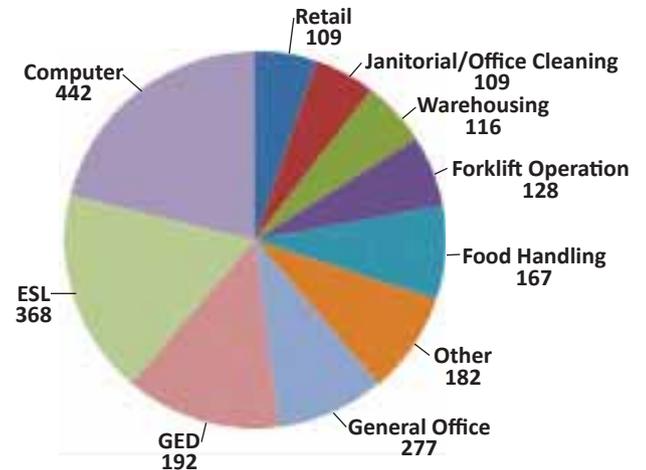
**Reasons for Unemployment - Adult 2 (352 responses)**  
(Responses not mutually exclusive)



**Perceived Barriers to Employment (01,084 responses)**  
(Responses not mutually exclusive)

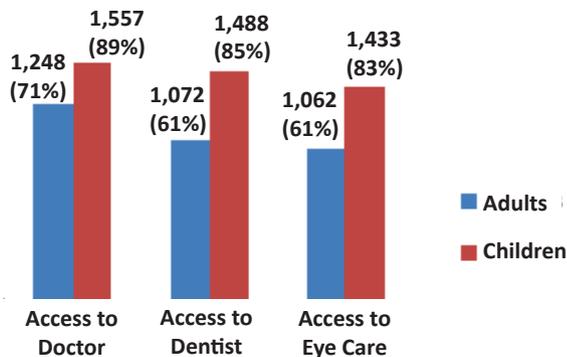


**Perceived Skills Needed for a Better Job (1,150 responses)**  
(Responses not mutually exclusive)



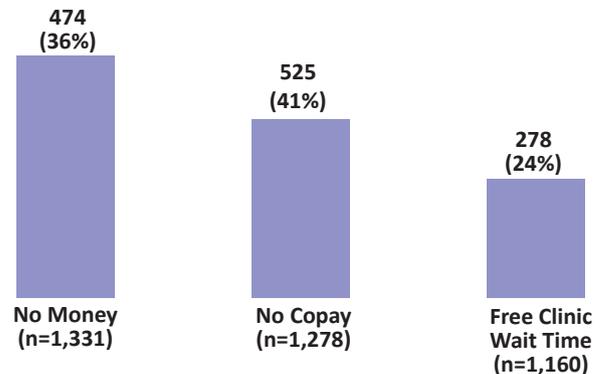
## Insurance and Health Care

**Access to Health Care Professionals**



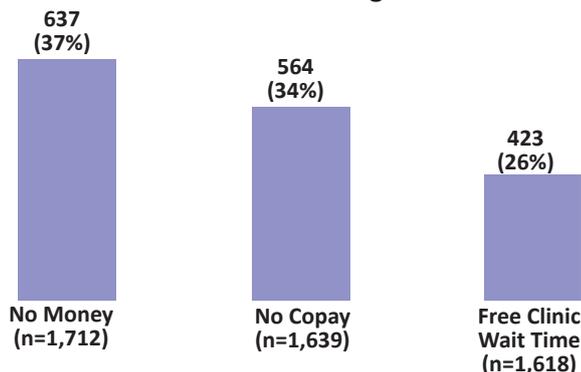
- 57% of adults (908) had health insurance. 82% (1,332) of their children did, probably because of the state children's health insurance program, Kids Connection, available to families with income up to 200% of poverty.

**Reasons for Not Seeing a Dentist**



- 56% of respondents (953 of 1,703) always or sometimes went without medicine because they didn't have money to pay for it.
- 68% of respondents (1,169 of 1,725) always or sometimes had trouble paying for their medicine.
- 41% of respondents (686 of 1,682) always or sometimes took less than the prescribed dose of medicine in order to make the medicine last longer.

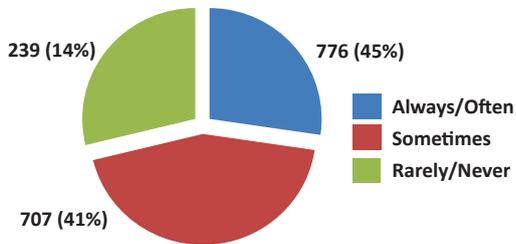
**Reasons for Not Seeing a Doctor**



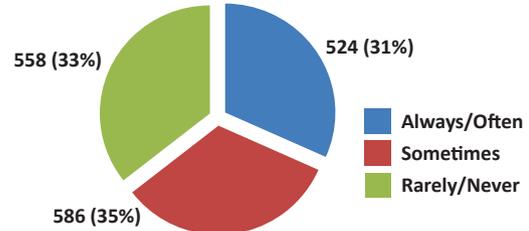
- 34% of respondents (589 of 1,710) have gone to an emergency room because they could not afford an office visit; 66% (1,121) have not.

# Food and Utilities

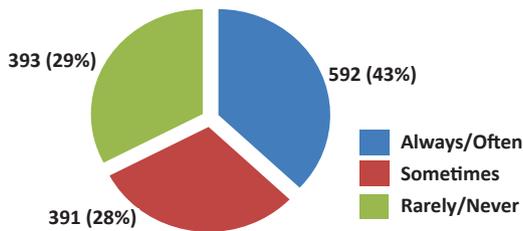
How often do you have trouble buying enough food for yourself and your family? (1,722 responses)



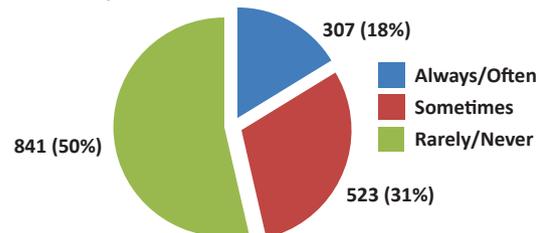
How often do you need more than one of these programs (i.e. SNAP AND FoodNet) to get enough food for you and your family? (1,668 responses)



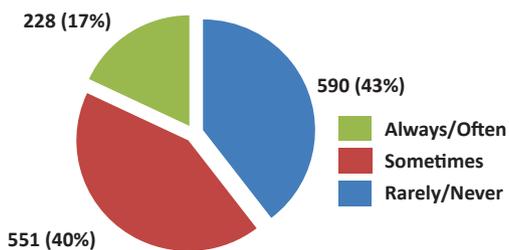
How often is government assistance (SNAP, WIC) adequate to feed you and your family? (n=1,376 responses)



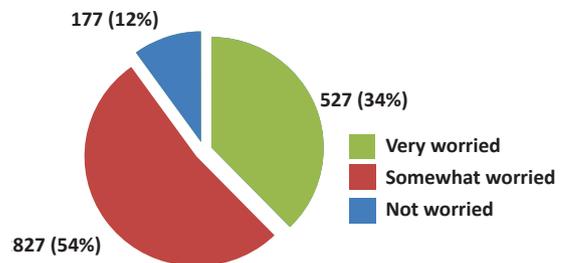
How often are you dependent on the Center for People in Need for food? (1,671 responses)



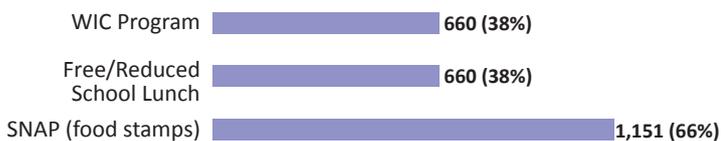
How often are food distribution programs like Neighborhood FOOD and FoodNet adequate to feed you and your family? (1,668 responses)



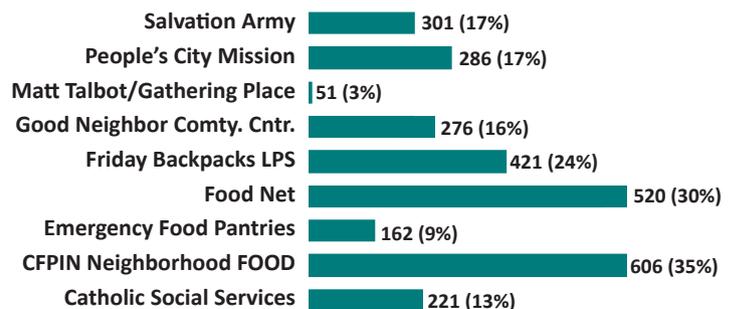
How worried are you about having enough food each week? (1,531 responses)



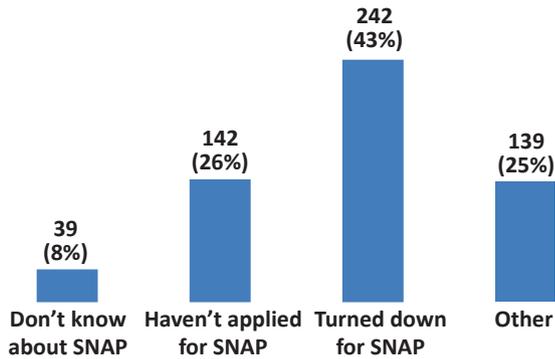
Assistance Programs Used (1,732 responses)



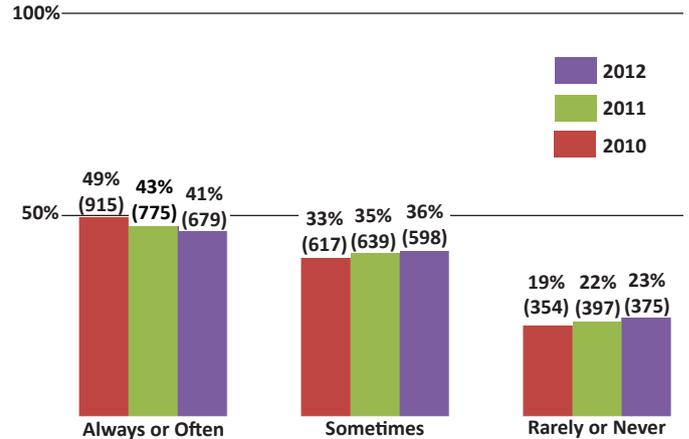
Food Programs Used (1,732 responses)



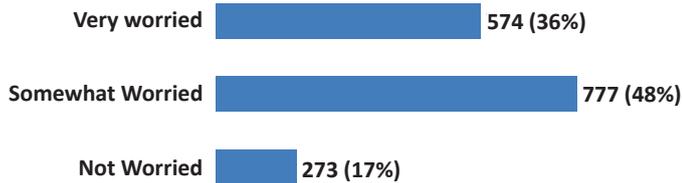
### Why People Don't Use SNAP (Food Stamps) (562 responses)



### Trouble Paying Utility Bills (Responses: 2010 - 1,886 • 2011 - 1,811 • 2012 - 1,653)



### Worry About Paying Utility Bills (1,623 responses)

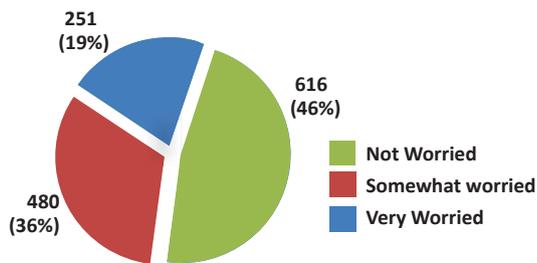


- 56% of respondents, (961 of 1,729) received a utility shut-off notice in the past year.
- 33% (454 of 1,702) had a utility shut off in the past year because they couldn't pay the bill.
- 9% (159 of 1,684) had utilities shut off the day they took the survey.

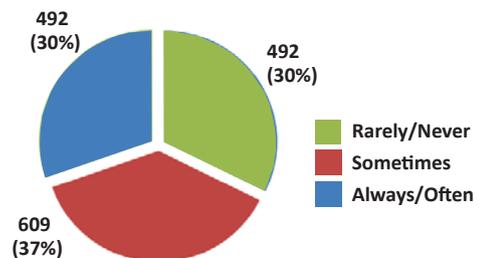
## Housing, Child Care, Transportation, and Miscellaneous Information

### Housing

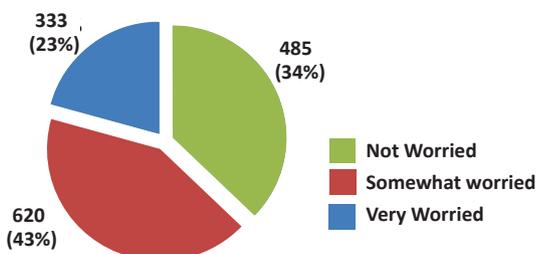
#### Worry About Finding Housing (1,499 responses)



#### Difficulty Paying Rent (1,625 responses)



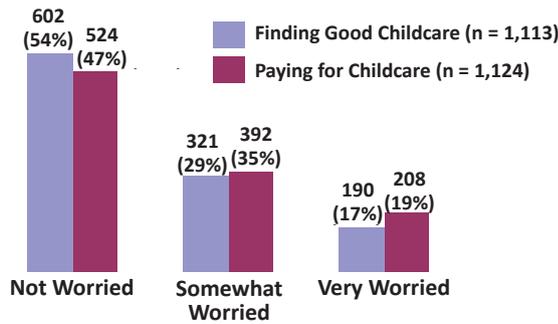
#### Worry About Paying for Housing (1,639 responses)



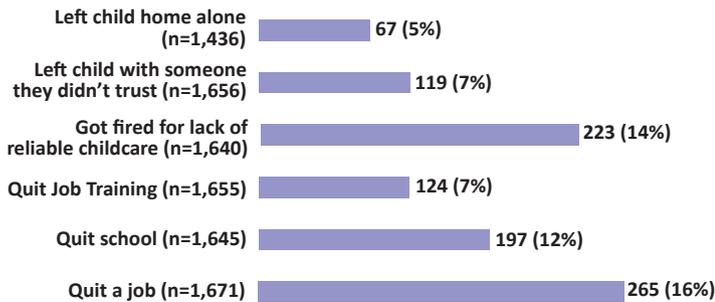
- 36% of respondents, (504 of 1,410) said they had missed at least one rent payment in the past year
- Of those 27% (148) had missed one payment; 31% (170) had missed two payments; 19% (102) had missed three payments; and 23% (126) had missed four or more payments.

## Child Care

### Worries About Accessing Childcare



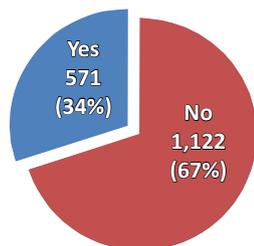
### Respondents who have done the following because of high child care costs (Multiple Answers Allowed)



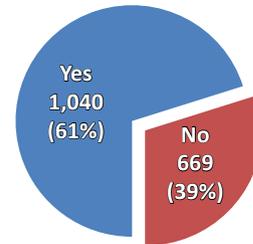
- 28% of respondents (482 of 1,709) said they or others in the household received TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, a program providing cash assistance to low-income families with children).
- 69% (585 of 853) said TANF did not cover basic monthly living assistance; 31% (268) said it did.

## Clothing and Personal Care

### Can you afford to buy clothing for yourself and your family? (1,847 responses)



### Do you have trouble buying personal care items for yourself and your family? (1,891 responses)



## Transportation

- 37% of respondents, (627 of 1,693) did not own or live in a household with a reliable car.
- 29% (488 of 1,693) did not have transportation for basic activities such as work, school, or shopping.
- 20% (334 of 1,690) used StarTran (the city bus system).
- 25% (396 of 1,614) often could not afford bus fare.
- 18% (303 of 1,642) used StarTran's Ride-for-\$8 monthly bus pass.

Of the 1,003 respondents not using the reduced rate pass

- 17% (172) did not know about it.
- 7% (75) did not know where to get a pass.
- 11% (108) could not afford a pass.
- 5% (50) said buying a pass was too much trouble.
- 77% (771) said they never ride the bus.
- 68% (1,139 of 1,683) would ride the bus if it were free.
- 65% (1,064 of 1,645) would ride the bus at 25¢ a ride.

## Military Service

- 4% of respondents (61 of 1,727) had served in the military; 9% (156) said a household member had served.

## Access to Information

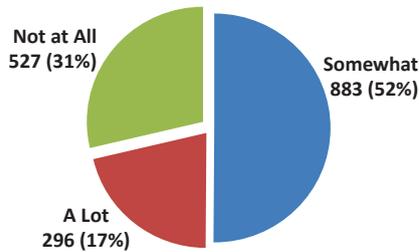
- 83% of respondents (1,426 of 1,709) were able to find information about the services they needed.
- 71% (1,217 of 1,716) used the Resource Handbooks from the Center for People in Need.
- 33% (609 of 1,845) had called the 211 information line for community resources.
- 52% (501 of 963) of those who called 211 got the information they needed.

## Voter Registration

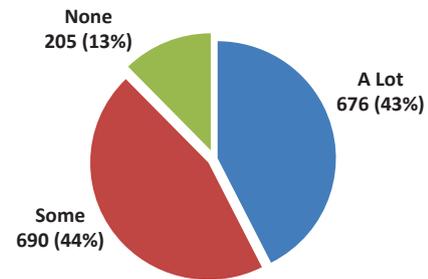
- 51% (767 of 1,506) respondents were registered to vote.

# Effects of Poverty on Families

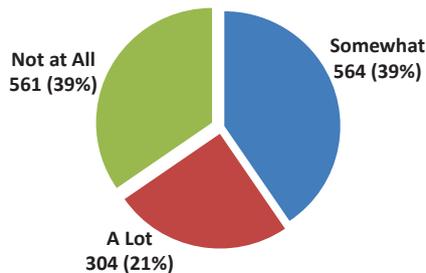
Do Money Worries Affect Your Children? (1,706 responses)



Do Money Worries Cause Stress in Your Family? (1,571 responses)



Do Money Worries Affect Your Relationship? (1,429 responses)



- 44% of respondents, (747 of 1,702) said they were better off in 2012 than in 2011.
- 43% of respondents (716 of 1,671) said they were better off in 2012 than in 2010
- 58% (955 of 1,695) thought they would be better off in 2013 than they were in 2012.
- 36% of them (607) thought they would be the same in 2013 as in 2012.
- 6% of them (105) thought they would be worse off in 2013 than in 2012.

## Conclusions and Implications

The most alarming result of the latest survey is the increase in the number of people living in poverty—From 84 percent of respondents in 2011 to 88 percent in the current survey. Even worse, 56 percent reported living in extreme poverty, up from 43 percent in 2011. We clearly have a worsening problem with poverty.

To measure the residual effects of our poverty problem in various areas, we previously compiled a summary of surveys taken between 2009 and 2012. When the 2012 results are compared with the 4-year-trends, it allows us to measure the progress we have made and it gives us the opportunity to identify areas for improvement. The following conclusions are based on the latest findings compared to four-year averages.

**INCOME:** A striking number of respondents, 27 percent, reported incomes less than \$500 per month. The average over the last four years has been 29 percent. When cost-of-living increases are figured into the equation, we have seen no improvement for those who are barely scraping by. A full 78 of percent respondents (1,387 people) indicated they are making less than \$1,500 a month.

**HOUSING AND UTILITIES:** There were 150 respondents, or 9 percent, who indicated they were homeless on the day they took the survey. This number has gone up. The four-year survey average for homeless people is 6.5 percent.

This year, 16 percent (239) said they had been home-

less at some point in the last year. The number is also up from the 13.25 average over the last four years.

The rising numbers of homeless people demonstrates a need to examine the number of shelters and beds available to homeless people. Community resources, as great as they are, fall short of meeting the city's needs for housing. Some homeless people are forced to rely on the generosity of relatives or friends, or live on the street.

The number of those reporting difficulty paying utility bills has remained consistent over the last four years. There were 1,277 people (or 77 percent) of respondents who indicated they have trouble paying utility bills. Over four years, the average has been 75.75.

**FOOD:** Eighty-six percent of respondents (or 1,483 people) reported that they always, often or sometimes have trouble buying enough food for themselves and their families. The four-year average was 75.5 percent. This means that the ability to acquire food has worsened. The Center for People in Need continues to fill a void in food insecurity with 830 respondents or 49 percent indicating they always, often or sometimes rely on the Center for food. Food programs have made progress, but resources are not currently meeting demand.

**MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE:** Programs, such as Kids Connection (the state children's health insurance program), have made a difference for families in poverty. Eighty-nine percent, or 1,557 respondents, indicated their children had access to health care professionals. Eighty-five percent indicated their children had access to a dentist. These numbers are up from the four-year trend of 87.5 percent and 83.25 percent respectively. Access to health care professionals is a bigger problem for adults. Only 71 percent of adults, or 1,248 respondents, indicated they had access to a doctor. And only 61 percent, or 1,072 respondents, indicated they had access to a dentist. This compares, respectively to 69.25 percent and 58.25 in the four year analysis.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Fifty-six percent of respondents (961) received a utility shut off notice in the past year. Thirty three percent (454) had a utility shut off in the past year because they couldn't pay the bill and 9 percent (159) had utilities shut off the day they took the survey. Thirty-six percent (504) of respondents said they had missed at least one rent payment in the past year.

Child care remains a worry for working parents. Fifty-four percent of respondents (600) are either very worried or somewhat worried about paying for child care. Sixteen percent quit a job because of child care costs. Sixty-nine percent of respondents (585) said TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) did not cover basic monthly living expenses.

Basic needs, such as clothing and transportation are also a problem for low-income people. Sixty-seven percent of respondents (1,222) said they could not afford to buy clothes for themselves or their family. Twenty-nine percent of respondents (488) did not have transportation for basic activities such as work, school or shopping. Bus ridership would dramatically increase at lower rates. While twenty percent used Star Tran, 65 percent said they would ride the bus at 25 cents per ride.

**FINAL ANALYSIS:** When reviewing this year's numbers and the four year trends, our final analysis is that more resources need to be devoted to meeting the needs of a rising number of impoverished people in the Lincoln area. While we have made monumental strides in helping low-income Nebraskans find housing, food, transportation, health care and other necessities, we are not responding urgently enough to the demand created by a growing number of impoverished people.

Poverty is a substantial problem. Those living in poverty frequently are faced with choosing between food and other necessities in order to survive day-to-day. With income levels falling, they are squeezed harder, so we must respond more effectively and efficiently.



## APPENDIX

*This report is based on responses to the survey reproduced below. It was distributed in English and Spanish and was completed by individuals from 2,086 households who attended the Toyland for Kids*

*holiday gift distribution in December 2012. The sample represents about 25% of the estimated number of households in poverty in the Lincoln area. Not all respondents answered every question.*

**Center for People in Need**  
**2011 Community Needs Survey**

Center Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please help us by completing this survey. We'll use the information to talk with community leaders and lawmakers about how to help low-income families. All answers will be reported in groups. No individual information will be shared. Thank you very much!

**PLEASE ANSWER EACH QUESTION BY COMPLETELY FILLING IN THE CORRECT CIRCLE(S) FOR YOUR RESPONSE, LIKE THIS: ● NOT LIKE THIS ☒**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

1. What is your total household income per month?

\$ 0 - \$ 500	<input type="radio"/>
\$ 501 - \$ 750	<input type="radio"/>
\$ 751 - \$1,000	<input type="radio"/>
\$1,001 - \$1,250	<input type="radio"/>
\$1,251 - \$1,500	<input type="radio"/>
\$1,501 - \$1,750	<input type="radio"/>
\$1,751 - \$2,000	<input type="radio"/>
\$2,001 - \$2,250	<input type="radio"/>
\$2,251 - \$2,500	<input type="radio"/>
\$2,501 - \$3,000	<input type="radio"/>
more than \$3,000	<input type="radio"/>

2. How old are you?

<input type="radio"/>	1
<input type="radio"/>	2
<input type="radio"/>	3
<input type="radio"/>	4
<input type="radio"/>	5
<input type="radio"/>	6
<input type="radio"/>	7
<input type="radio"/>	8
<input type="radio"/>	9
<input type="radio"/>	10
<input type="radio"/>	11 or more

3. How many people, including yourself, live in your house?

<input type="radio"/>	1
<input type="radio"/>	2
<input type="radio"/>	3
<input type="radio"/>	4
<input type="radio"/>	5
<input type="radio"/>	6
<input type="radio"/>	7
<input type="radio"/>	8
<input type="radio"/>	9
<input type="radio"/>	10
<input type="radio"/>	11 or more

4. Are you:  Single  
 Married  
 Separated  
 Divorced  
 Widowed  
 Living with a partner

5. Are you:  Female  
 Male

6. What is your race?

<input type="radio"/> White	<input type="radio"/> Black or African American
<input type="radio"/> American Indian/Alaska Native	<input type="radio"/> Asian
<input type="radio"/> Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	<input type="radio"/> Two or more races
<input type="radio"/> Some other race: _____	

7. Are you Hispanic/Latino/a?  Yes  No

1

29. Have you or has anyone in your household experienced any of the following **changes in household income** in the last year?

(Please fill in the circles for all that apply.)

loss of a job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
reduction in hours at your job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
unemployment of 6 months or more	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
someone with income moving out of the house	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
your unemployment benefits ran out	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
your ADC was used up	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
loss of benefits because of noncompliance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
loss of eligibility for benefits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
loss of child support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
loss of child care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
loss of other financial support (family, friends, agencies)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

30. Did this change cause you to fall into poverty?

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

31. Have you or has anyone in your household experienced any of the following **changes in household expenses** in the last year?

(Please fill in the circles for all that apply.)

increased expenses for health insurance at work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
increased expenses for prescription medication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
onset of extended illness or accidental injury	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
onset of mental illness requiring medical treatment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
addition to the household of a non-wage-earning person	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
increased support you must give to others (i.e. caring for parent)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
start or increase in paying child support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
unexpected home or car repairs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
unexpected major appliance replacement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
unexpected vehicle replacement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
moving costs (deposits, double payments, etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

32. Did this change cause you to fall into poverty?

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

33. Are any of these changes in income or expenses still affecting you **today**?  Yes  No

34. In addition to these changes, are there other reasons why you are currently in poverty?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3

8. Were you born in the United States?  Yes  No

9. **IF NO**, are you a Refugee?  Yes  No

10. **IF NO**, are you an Immigrant?  Yes  No

If you were **not** born in this country, please answer these questions:

11. What is your country of birth? \_\_\_\_\_

12. How long have you lived in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_ years

13. **IF** you are a refugee, in what US city were you **originally** resettled? \_\_\_\_\_

14. **IF** you are a refugee, when did you move to Lincoln? \_\_\_\_\_ (MM/YYYY)

15. What is your main language?  English  Vietnamese  
 Spanish  Arabic  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Below is a list of twelve concerns you may have. Please fill in one circle for each question that applies to you, choosing the most appropriate response. If an item does **not** apply to you, please leave it blank.**

	<b>VERY WORRIED</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT WORRIED</b>	<b>NOT WORRIED</b>	<b>NOT A PROBLEM</b>
16. Having enough food each week for myself and my family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17. Finding decent affordable housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18. Being able to pay for decent affordable housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19. Having enough money each month to pay utility bills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20. Having enough money to pay for medical care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21. Having enough money to pay for dental care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
22. Having enough money to pay for mental health care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
23. Having enough money to pay for needed medicine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
24. Finding good childcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
25. Being able to pay for good childcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
26. Finding affordable new or used clothing and shoes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27. Finding affordable recreational activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

28. How long have you been in poverty?

<input type="radio"/> less than one year	<input type="radio"/> 1 - 2 years	<input type="radio"/> 3 - 5 years
<input type="radio"/> more than 5 years	<input type="radio"/> all my life	<input type="radio"/> in and out over the years

2

**EMPLOYMENT**

For #35 and #36, answer first for yourself, then for any other adult in your household (Adult 2)

	<b>Adult 1 (me)</b>	<b>Adult 2</b>
35. Do you have a job?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>

**IF YES**, do you work: (fill in all that apply)

	<b>Adult 1 (me)</b>	<b>Adult 2</b>
One full-time job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More than one full-time job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
One part-time job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More than one part-time job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seasonal job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other type of job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

36. **IF** you or they do **NOT** have a job, is it because: (fill in all that apply)

	<b>Adult 1 (me)</b>	<b>Adult 2</b>
You/they were laid off from a job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You/they can't find a job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You/they are in school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You/they have an illness that keeps you/them from working	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You/they are disabled /cannot work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You/they are caring for a disabled person at home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You/they are retired	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You/they are a stay-at-home parent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other: _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

37. Please fill in the circles for all of the following statements that apply to you:

I can't find a job that pays enough to support me and my family	<input type="radio"/>
I can't find a job I like	<input type="radio"/>
No one will hire me	<input type="radio"/>
I can't get a good job because of something in my past	<input type="radio"/>
I don't speak English well enough to get a good job	<input type="radio"/>
I need more education to get a good job	<input type="radio"/>
I need more training to get a good job	<input type="radio"/>
I need computer skills to get a good job	<input type="radio"/>

4



<u>OTHER</u>	Not at all	Somewhat	A Lot
105. If you're a parent/guardian, does worrying about money affect your children?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
106. If you're married or in a relationship, does worrying about money affect your relationship with your spouse/partner?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
107. IF SO, does worrying about money:	<input type="radio"/>	have a positive effect on your relationship?	
	<input type="radio"/>	have a negative effect on your relationship?	
	<input type="radio"/>	have no effect on your relationship?	
108. How much stress does worrying about money cause in your family?		none	<input type="radio"/>
		some	<input type="radio"/>
		a lot	<input type="radio"/>
109. Are you better off today than you were last year?	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input type="radio"/>	
(please explain): _____			
110. Are you better off today than you were two years ago?	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input type="radio"/>	
(please explain): _____			
111. When you think about next year, do you think you will be:	better off	<input type="radio"/>	
	the same	<input type="radio"/>	
	worse off	<input type="radio"/>	
(please explain): _____			
<u>INFORMATION AND REFERRAL</u>			
112. Are you able to get information about the services you need?	Yes	No	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
113. Have you used the Center for People in Need's Resource Handbooks to find free and low-cost resources?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
114. Have you called the 211-information line for community resources?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
115. IF YES to Q114, did you get the information you needed from them?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
<u>COMMENTS</u> : What else would you like us to know?			
_____			
_____			
_____			
_____			
Thank you for taking part in our survey. The information you have given us will be very helpful as we continue to work toward enhancing opportunities for families on their path to success.			
9			

For more information or copies of this report contact:

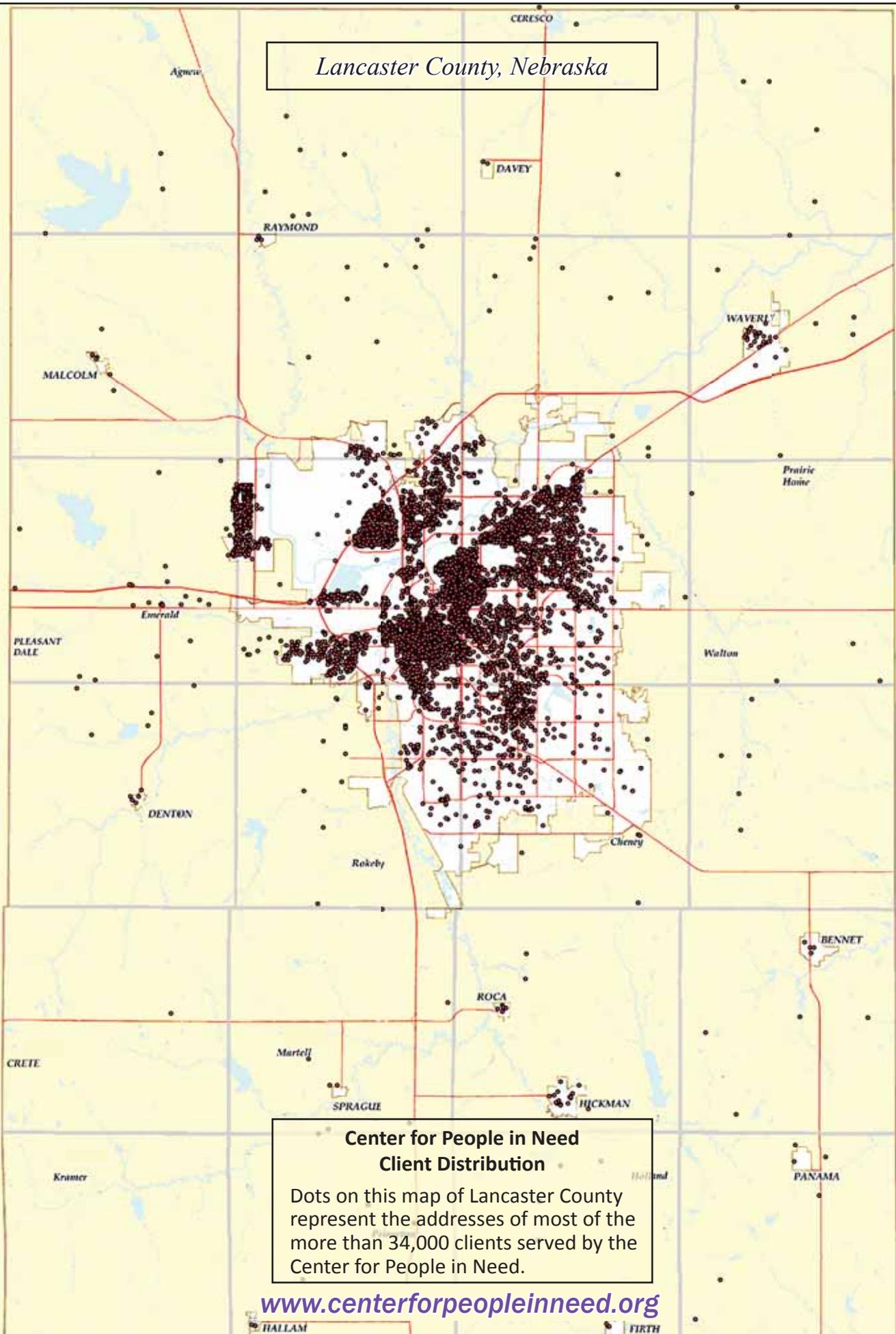
Beatty Brasch or Deb Daily  
Center for People in Need  
3901 N. 27th St., Unit 1  
Lincoln, NE 68521-4177  
Tel: 402-476-4357  
Fax: 402-476-4358

© 2013 Center for People in Need, Inc. (CFPIN). All rights reserved. This document and the theories, concepts, statistics, data, or other information contained here include copyrighted and protected information, trade secrets, and proprietary and confidential material which is protected by Federal and State Law and is exclusively the property of CFPIN. No part of the information contained in this document may be reproduced, republished, disseminated, copied, or redistributed to any person or entity without the prior written consent of CFPIN.

### Acknowledgments

The Center for People in Need thanks its clients for completing this survey, and its staff and volunteers for keeping data collection running smoothly. Thanks also to Maria Rosario de Guzman, Assistant Professor of Child, Youth, and Family Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, for her consulting and contributions to this report since its beginning.

Lancaster County, Nebraska



**Center for People in Need  
Client Distribution**

Dots on this map of Lancaster County represent the addresses of most of the more than 34,000 clients served by the Center for People in Need.

[www.centerforpeopleinneed.org](http://www.centerforpeopleinneed.org)

# TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

## Among Lincoln's

# LOW INCOME FAMILIES



A condensed item-analysis report of responses to a survey of 1,801 low-income households taken in December, 2012, by the Center for People in Need



Center  
for  
People  
in  
Need

July 2013

# Transportation Issues Among Lincoln's Low Income Families, November 2012

## A Condensed Item-Analysis Report

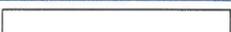
The following data is the tabulated results of a survey completed by representatives of 1,801 families who attended the Toyland for Kids holiday gift distribution at the Center for People in Need in December 2012. The number of families represented in the sample is approximately one-quarter of the low-income families in Lincoln and Lancaster County. About 92 percent of respondents were female, about 8 percent male.

The questions below are only those asking for basic demographic information and those most relevant to transportation issues. They are summarized from the actual wording used in the survey. Not all respondents answered every question, so percentages may not total 100. The complete survey instrument and more detailed item analysis reports are available at [www.centerforpeopleinneed.com](http://www.centerforpeopleinneed.com).

### 1. What is your total nonthly household income?

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 3.60
\$0 - \$500	469	26.04	
\$501 - \$750	266	14.77	
\$751 - \$1000	290	16.10	
\$1001 - \$1250	221	12.27	
\$1251 - \$1500	141	7.83	
\$1501 - \$1750	98	5.44	
\$1751 - \$2000	107	5.94	
\$2001 - \$2250	72	4.00	
\$2251 - \$2500	57	3.16	
\$2501 - up	49	2.72	
Missing	31	1.72	

### 2. How many people, including yourself, live in your house?

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 4.51
1	7	0.39	
2	187	10.38	
3	344	19.10	
4	399	22.15	
5	347	19.27	
6	217	12.05	
7	120	6.66	
8	52	2.89	
9	29	1.61	
10	20	1.11	
Missing	79	4.39	

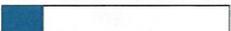
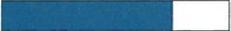
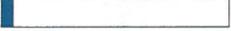
### 3. Do you or does someone in your house own a reliable car?

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 0.63
Yes	1066	59.19	
No	627	34.81	
Missing	108	6.00	

### 4. Do you have transportation for daily activities (work, school, shopping)?

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 0.71
Yes	1205	66.91	
No	488	27.10	
Missing	108	6.00	

### 5. Do you use the city bus system (StarTran)?

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 0.20
Yes	334	18.55	
No	1356	75.29	
Missing	111	6.16	

### 6. Do you have trouble paying the regular price for the bus (\$30/month)?

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 0.25
Yes	396	21.99	
No	1218	67.63	
Missing	187	10.38	

### 7. Do you use the Ride-for-\$8 Program (monthly bus pass for \$8)?

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 0.18
Yes	303	16.82	
No	1339	74.35	
Missing	159	8.83	

### 8. Do you have trouble paying the \$8 pass price for the bus?

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 0.17
Yes	283	15.71	
No	1341	74.46	
Missing	177	9.83	

9. Do you use the Ride-for-\$8 Program (monthly bus pass for \$8)?

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 0.18
Yes	303	16.82	
No	1339	74.35	
Missing	159	8.83	

10. Do you have trouble paying the \$8 pass price for the bus?

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 0.17
Yes	283	15.71	
No	1341	74.46	
Missing	177	9.83	

11. If you do not use the Ride-for-\$8 Program, is that because:

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: -
don't know about Ride-for-\$8	172	9.55	
don't know where to get Ride-for-\$8 passes	75	4.16	
can't afford to buy Ride-for-\$8 passes	108	6.00	
too much trouble to buy a Ride-for-\$8 pass	50	2.78	
I don't ever ride the bus	771	42.81	
Missing	798	44.31	

12. Would you ride the bus if it was free?

Response	Frequency	Percent	Mean: 0.68
Yes	1139	63.24	
No	544	30.21	
Missing	118	6.55	

## The Center for People in Need

**Beatty Brasch, Executive Director**  
*bbrasch@centerforpeopleinneed.org*

**Deb Daily, Director of Operations**  
*ddaily@centerforpeopleinneed.org*

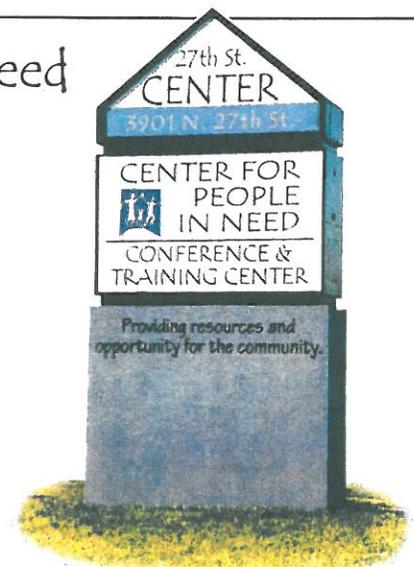
### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Frank Blythe *President*  
 Gene Crump *Vice President*  
 Lisa Olivares *Secretary*  
 Sue Samson *Treasurer*  
 Lynn Roper  
 DiAnna Schimek  
 Dave Piester

The Center for People in Need  
 3901 North 27th Street, Unit 1  
 Lincoln, NE 68521-4177  
 Tel: 402-476-4357  
 Fax: 402-476-4358

Founded in 2003, the Center for People in Need is a community based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit agency administering programs that provide a cohesive network of services for low-income families. Financed primarily by competitive grants and individual donations, the Center:

- **Assists other human services agencies** that provide for the well being of low-income, high-needs families throughout Nebraska
- **Provides emergency services** to families who lack basic necessities
- **Provides and supports education and job training**
- **Implements creative means of service delivery** to disadvantaged families
- **Advocates for systemic changes** through the legislature.



Our Mission:  
 To enhance opportunities for individuals and families as they address socioeconomic barriers limiting their paths to success



The Center for People in Need

### Transportation Issues Among Lincoln's Low-Income Families, July 2013

© 2013, The Center for People in Need, 3901 North 27th St., Lincoln, Nebraska 68521-4177

For additional copies of this report or more information about the activities and services of the Center call 402-476-4357. This report and more information about the Center are also available online at [www.centerforpeopleinneed.org](http://www.centerforpeopleinneed.org)



Center  
for  
People  
in  
Need

[www.centerforpeopleinneed.org](http://www.centerforpeopleinneed.org)