

Budget challenge makes our work even more important

By Kristen Stohs
 President of the Board of Directors
 The Seniors Foundation



When the going gets tough, the tough get going. It is... we are! The recent budget cuts to the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging (LAAA) have put an exclamation point on the importance of the Seniors Foundation fundraising efforts, our commitment to our community focus projects, and on our mission of enhancing the lives of the older adult in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Rather than being paralyzed by an uncertain future, our 17 member "can do" board is motivated. After all, the history of our board has been to answer challenges and find solutions to unaddressed needs. We will continue to be supportive of the LAAA programs and to additional older adult issues as they are identified in our community.

A need we are addressing at present: keeping our older adults active in our community after they no longer drive. Our solution: a volunteer social transportation network, providing a flexible affordable means for our seniors to keep doing the life enriching activities they enjoy thereby staying socially independent, not isolated. With hours of volunteer time and community expertise, we have tailored a system we feel will work best for older age adults in Lincoln. Researching a myriad of issues, we have written policies and by-laws to create the Lincoln Seniors Transportation Program.

Addressing this quality of life issue for the older adult will take quality funding. Those who utilize this service will only be requested for donations. A multi level fund raising campaign is underway for community minded businesses and individuals to

help underwrite this venture. Keeping our aging population engaged in the community not only helps the individual, it has a continuing social and financial impact on businesses, restaurants, churches, and entertainment venues in our city. Please consider how you can best contribute to this exciting new endeavor.

Our board commitment was put to the test by a donation challenge from past board president David Wilcox. It was met with unparalleled response and financial support from all board members. In addition, they have contributed hours of time in the area of their expertise or creative talents. This commitment from our current and past board members speaks volumes.

Thanks...

We thank Barbara Jacobson and Marcia Kushner who are completing their service on the board. They have added much during their tenures and we will miss them. Thanks also to Alice Skultety for accepting the position of President Elect; Michael Balm, the position of secretary; and Jay Heins, continuing as treasurer for his seventh year. Finally, a big thanks to Jay Bohlken who has served as president this past year and has been an exemplary leader in all areas of our board endeavors.

...and welcome

We welcome David Kroeker to our board. Mr. Kroeker recently retired from Lancaster County as Financial Director and currently works part time with Union Bank Title Co. His business expertise and commitment to our projects are very much appreciated.

It is with great pride I begin to serve as President of this caring committed board. Together, with your help, I'm confident we can turn our caring into action benefiting the Lincoln community. ■

Lela Shanks receives Community Service Award



Lela Shanks, upon receiving the Seniors Foundation 2007 Community Services Award, addresses the audience at the Lifelong Living Festival June 16. Joining Lela on stage are (from left) Gil Savery, Kristen Stohs and Barb McCabe.

Congratulations to Lela Shanks, recipient of the Seniors Foundation 2007 Community Service Award. Author, activist and lifelong spokesperson for civil rights and human rights, Ms. Shanks is well known and respected as an advocate of humane and innovative in-home caregiving for persons with Alzheimer's disease.

In 1998 Ms. Shanks was awarded the degree Doctor of Humane Letters by Nebraska Wesleyan University, and in 2000 the *Lincoln Journal Star* honored her as one of 100 people who helped build Nebraska in the twentieth century.

This award recognizes local seniors who have made a significant impact in the quality of lives of older adults residing in the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County. Previous recipients are former Lincoln Mayor Helen Boosalis, and former Lincoln Journal Star editor Gil Savery.



The Seniors Foundation is proud to be a member agency of the Community Services Fund. Yearly, hundreds of community members have supported activities of the Seniors Foundation through the fall United Way and Community Services Fund Workplace Giving Campaign. We encourage you to check with your employer to see how you can contribute to the Seniors Foundation through workplace giving. United Way and Community Services Fund Campaigns designate code 6200. State of Nebraska employees designate code 708V.

Please help remove the snow

Snow Removal beginning in August? You bet. Members of the Seniors Foundation Board of Directors picked up their shovels and went to work seeking contributions for the winter Snow Removal Program. All too soon, the snow will be blanketing the area and putting many older adults at a greater risk of injury.

Goal is no waiting list this year

During the last snow season we had the sidewalks and driveways cleared six times for 34 seniors. Unfortunately, during the same period we had an additional 20 people on a waiting list. Individuals being helped through the program, historically, are widows 70 years of age and older living on monthly incomes of less than \$800.

The Snow Removal Program focus is to provide snow removal assistance for low income older adults, who do not have immediate family in the area and require daily support in the form of medical deliveries, in-home care and other life enriching services. LAAA counselors are currently working to identify those local seniors who have the greatest need.

See your name in the news

In a November issue of the *Neighborhood Extra* a special advertisement and article will acknowledge the generous donors to the program.

Many thanks to campaign chairs, Bruce Bellamy, of Wells Fargo Bank and Bill Haberlan of Butherus Maser & Love.



Not wanting to wait until the last minute, Bruce Bellamy, co-chair of the Seniors Foundation Snow Removal Program, gets an early start helping older adults with snow removal.

You care. We care. Together, we can turn our caring into action.

Volunteering in the Transportation Program (as mentioned on the back page) is one good way to turn your caring into positive action. Donating to the Seniors Foundation is another. Here are several others:

In-kind donations

The Seniors Foundation accepts in-kind donations. We send your donated items on to clients of the LAAA. Items of greatest need are:

- ✓ Side-of-tub clamp-on grab bars
- ✓ Lift chairs
- ✓ Stool risers
- ✓ Wheelchairs
- ✓ Wheel walkers
- ✓ Quad canes (canes with four feet)
- ✓ Bedside commodes
- ✓ Reachers (tong-like devices for grabbing items too high or too low to reach by hand)

If you have such items in good working order, please call the Seniors Foundation at 441-6179 to make arrangements for delivery or pick up.

Payroll deductions

You can make payroll-deduction donations to the Seniors Foundation through the Community Services Fund / United Way. Just place our code number—**Code 6200**—on your payroll deduction form and the Foundation will begin receiving your payroll donation.

A living legacy

Your gift could be in the form of a bequest in your will or estate plan or it could involve other attractive means of planned giving. (Call 402/441-6179 for information on how you can provide future benefits to the Foundation while retaining use of your assets for your current needs.)

Make a direct contribution

The Seniors Foundation accepts cash, too, and we are most appreciative for any and all direct contributions. In return, we promise to put your donation to excellent use on behalf of our community's older adults. Please use the form below so we can send you a receipt for tax purposes.

Here is my tax-deductible gift of: \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$ _____

My check, payable to Seniors Foundation, is enclosed.

I would like to charge my donation to my: VISA MasterCard

Account No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Today's Date _____

Name on credit card: _____

Please attach a business card or print your name and address below so we can mail you a receipt for tax purposes.

Your name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

— Please mail this form to the Seniors Foundation • P.O. Box 81904 • Lincoln, NE 68501 —

Volunteers needed to make Transportation Program a success



By Richard Blair
Director of Development
The Seniors Foundation

Volunteers, start your engines. The Lincoln Seniors Transportation Program recently received its 501(c)(3) determination letter. Following several years of research and deliberations, the framework has been positioned to launch a viable social transportation program in Lincoln.

Major components of our program have been adapted from the nationally-recognized program in Austin Texas. Last year in Austin, 215 volunteer drivers provided nearly 4,900 rides — all within a 15 square mile area. You can imagine the impact.

Every new project, even the successful program in Austin, begins with volunteer number one. Then number two; then three, four and so on.

We invite you to be on the leading edge of Lincoln's new program. We need volunteer drivers, ride coordinators and people who enjoy providing administrative and special project assistance. You can volunteer once or twice every month or weekly, in the morning or afternoon, evenings and/or weekends. All we ask is that you provide a minimum two hour shift. Potential riders are being told rides will be based on driver availability.

Insurance question

“What about my personal car insurance, am I covered to transport volunteers?” is probably the most asked question we receive at our outreach presentations. Many volunteer drivers in the pro-

gram have received confirmation from their insurance companies that their volunteer activities are covered under their automobile insurance policies. However, we advise all volunteers to contact their respective carrier or confirmation of coverage for their volunteer driving activities. The program does provide each volunteer additional liability coverage on top of their personal coverage.

Complete descriptions of the various volunteer positions can be downloaded from the Seniors Foundation website (www.seniorsfoundation.org) under the Social Transportation Tab or by calling the Seniors Foundation office at 441-6179.

Time to start your engines, volunteers. ■

New brochure now available

Call 441-6179 and we'll mail you a copy.

You care.

We care.

Together,
we can turn
our caring
into action.

You and the



OF
LINCOLN & LANCASTER COUNTY

*In every decade
it is the older generations
who have provided the younger ones
with the infrastructure, the institutions
and the education upon which
to build a better life.*



*It is our turn now to
return the favors and provide
some of that better life to
the people who helped
make it possible.*

The Seniors Foundation Board of Directors

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Foundation staff: Richard Blair, *Director of Development*; Meldene Dorn, *Board Assistant*.