



years of impact and counting!

# 2021 Community Impact Report



# Coming Up On 30 Years of Bold Hope!

Greetings friends! I hope you are well. It's hard to believe another year has passed since our last impact report. And more than another year, we're at almost 30 years of impact now! September marks the 30th anniversary of Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach. We are excited to celebrate this milestone by honoring our past and looking toward the future. We have many new staff, expanding opportunities to serve, and a bold hope expansion facility project underway.

The past year has been a difficult one. Not unlike many industries and businesses we saw a lot of turnover in personnel. We also had some significant planned retirements from longtime staff members. There's been a lot of change. We are also growing increasingly busy, similar to pre-pandemic numbers. There are highlights throughout this report on all the accomplishments achieved in our bold vision to defeat hunger and homelessness and restore hope.

One thing that has not changed is our constant presence. Whether it's the constancy of a remarkable volunteer program providing hunger relief 365 days a year or constancy of a dedicated staff and board providing life changing services. Our constant presence and source of nourishment and hope is what makes our organization so impactful.

All these accomplishments wouldn't be possible without your constant support. Like Matt Talbot, the man for whom our center was named, we know that it's constancy that God wants. Compassion, persistence, and perseverance are the hallmark of our mission. We never give up on the belief that change is possible. As hard as times can be, we must never lose faith. We can only imagine what some of our guests have gone through-the helplessness and the worry. But we try to give them something more powerful. We give them bold hope and love. Love never fails-it's constant, just like Matt Talbot!

Please enjoy our 2021 Community Impact Report. More detail is provided, success stories shared, and our positive outcomes and accountability are highlighted. We continue to be strategic with three areas of focus: strengthening our infrastructure, focusing on prevention, and creating a communication plan for internal and external communities. We do this so we are here for 30 more years or as long as our community needs us! Thank you all for your generosity and compassion.

Sincerely and with Bold Hope,



*Susanne Blue*

Susanne Blue, MSW  
Executive Director



*Matt Talbot is one of only six charities in Lincoln and 27 in Nebraska to receive Charity Navigator's highest rating of four stars (July 2022).*

# Celebrating Success

**14,429**

## OUTREACH SERVICES PROVIDED

This includes basic and emergency needs such as laundry and shower services, message/mail/phone services, life skills and tenant education classes, and assistance obtaining vital identification documents.

**213**

## PEOPLE ASSISTED WITH HOUSING

Individuals and families were assisted through permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and the Landlord Liaison Project.

**18,960**

## 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.

**8,715**

## SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES PROVIDED

**59,960**

## NUTRITIOUS PREPARED MEALS PROVIDED

**2,318**

## UNDUPLICATED CLIENTS SERVED

(a 36% increase from  
2020)

**16,882**

## VOLUNTEER HOURS PROVIDED

## 2021 Board of Directors

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Natasha Plooster, President**  
COO, Bridgepoint Investment Banking

**Alynn Sampson, President Elect**  
Vice President of Operations &  
Impact, Food Bank of Lincoln

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

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CPA, Union Bank & Trust

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

**Tim McEwen, CFP**  
RBC Wealth Management

**Josh Midgett**  
President, Integrated Life Choices

**Lincoln Zehr**  
Community Volunteer

Special thanks to retiring  
board members:

**Eric Dinger and Brad Meyer**  
and a special welcome to  
new board members

**Juan Carlos Huertas, Teresa  
Lewis-Hunt, and Andrew Wolf.**

# Relieving Hunger

Everyone is welcome to walk through our open doors and, without judgement, get a nutritious meal two times a day, every day. Staff are available in the dining room during meal times to provide outreach and assistance to guests. Thanks to compassionate and committed volunteers (approximately 350 each month), the hunger relief program is ongoing, strong, and an important source of nutrition, resources, and social connection for individuals and families in Lincoln experiencing poverty and homelessness.



Sixty-two percent of guests are the working poor or near homeless who are housed but living in poverty. Eating meals at Matt Talbot helps these households save on food costs and keep up with other bills like rent, utilities, and gas.



Volunteer hunger relief teams provide, prepare, and serve the majority of the meals at Matt Talbot.

# Providing Outreach

Matt Talbot is much more than food. We work to **connect people to resources that take care of the whole person** – providing beyond basic needs to embolden people to have hope. More than 42,000 outreach and homeless prevention services were provided last year, a 34% increase from 2020.



While here for a meal or refuge from the outside elements, guests can access a variety of services such as help acquiring vital identification documents, message and mail services, shower and laundry services, and assistance with everyday needs such as hygiene products, seasonal items such as gloves or bug spray, and blankets.

**Diversion Specialist, Amanda Owen-Doerr, has a regular presence at the downtown library to offer encouragement, advocacy, resources, and assistance with housing and other basic needs.**



**Outreach Program Coordinator Glenn Schawang (standing) and team regularly conduct street outreach to build trust with unsheltered individuals living outside in campsites, on the street, or in their vehicles by offering food, water, personal care items, and other basic supplies.**

# Addressing Addiction & Defeating Homelessness

Our programs use evidence-based best practices for securing safe and stable housing for the homeless. Last year we assisted 213 adults and children with housing.

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



Scan the QR code with your phone to watch an inspiring 2 minute video about the impact of CARE and other outreach programs. Katie now has a full-time job, her own apartment, and has reunited with her family.

SUCCESS STORY

Corey came into Matt Talbot's Transitional Housing Program after being incarcerated on drug related charges. Substance use had played a central role in his legal and personal troubles for many years. And at 31 years old, he decided he was ready to make a change.

After looking at transitional housing options in Omaha and Lincoln, he found Matt Talbot's program to be exactly what he was looking for – especially the routine, responsibility, and accountability that are the cornerstones of Matt Talbot's program.

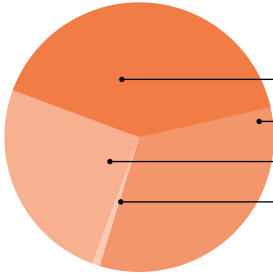
*"The house was safe and clean – a place where I could go to work, come home, and get up and do that again the next day. Living there helped me save money, focus on my recovery, and get back to a normal life."*

Living in his own apartment now, Corey just received a promotion at work, has maintained his sobriety, and remains grateful for the opportunities he had while living at the transitions house.



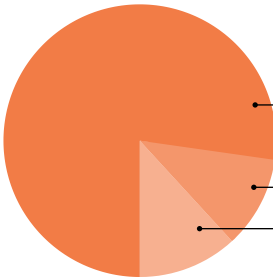
# Stewardship

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



## Revenues & Other Support

Donations	\$1,285,350
Grant Revenue	\$1,508,796
Special Events	\$977,791
Investment & Miscellaneous Income	\$34,143
<b>Total Revenues &amp; Other Support</b>	<b>\$ 3,806,648</b>



## Expenses

Program Expenses	
Hunger Relief & Outreach	\$2,141,153
Support Services	
Management & General	\$329,483
Fundraising	\$333,020
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,803,656</b>

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

# Gratitude

We appreciate your partnership in helping individuals and families struggling with homelessness and poverty find hope and a path to a better life.

THANK YOU!



## VISION:

Defeat hunger  
and homelessness.  
Restore hope!

## MISSION:

To serve the needs  
of Lincoln's working  
poor and homeless  
by relieving hunger,  
overcoming  
homelessness,  
addressing  
addiction, and  
providing outreach  
and advocacy.

## CORE VALUES:

Integrity, Dignity,  
Empowerment,  
Compassion, Inclusion,  
and Diversity.



**matt talbot**  
kitchen & outreach

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Find information on volunteer opportunities, services, events,  
and other announcements at [mtko.org](http://mtko.org). Please follow us on  
Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

