



Center
for
People
in
Need

PRESS RELEASE

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For more information, please contact:

Beatty Brasch, Executive Director, 476-4357, ext. 103

Deb Daily, Director of Operations, 476-4357, ext. 104

REPORT SHOWS POVERTY RUNS DEEP FOR LINCOLN FAMILIES

A study released today shows people still struggle to find enough food to feed their families, despite receiving help from food banks and other assistance programs for low-income people. The report presents information on education, employment, food, health care, housing and other topics to give a glimpse into the life of Lincoln's poor.

The study, commissioned by the Center for People in Need, was completed in partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. More than 2,000 families with children were included in this year's survey, given in four languages. This sample size represents 40 percent of Lincoln's impoverished families with children, according to the most recent U.S. Census.

"The data show people's needs are not being met – with food, job training, health care," said Beatty Brash, executive director of the Center. "Poverty is affecting a significant number of people in our community. We hope this report will bring awareness to the many challenges facing low-income families."

What's more, many people who reported they couldn't find enough food to eat are employed. Some 79 percent of employed respondents said they have trouble finding enough food for their families (p. 18).

Besides securing food, low-income people also say they believe they could find a better job if they had more education and skills, particularly in computers (p. 11).

The Center plans to launch a computer lab, along with job training classes and programs with access to real-world work experiences to address this need.

"We want to help people overcome any barriers that are keeping them from being self-sufficient," Brasch said. "Providing a link to job skills is an excellent way to accomplish this."

Besides food scarcity and trouble making ends meet by securing full employment, the survey's respondents also reported having trouble finding good housing and paying for utilities (p. 26). About 10 percent of respondents said they were homeless at the time of the survey.

Copies of the full report are available by visiting <http://centerforpeopleinneed.org> or by calling Lisa at 402-476-4357, ext. 108.

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