

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. GRADUATE.

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WHY VOLUNTEERS ARE ACTIVE

Not only does the **ENGAGE. EMPOWER. GRADUATE.** initiative address and identify the disadvantages faced by children and families in local elementary schools, it also brings together members of Women United (WU) and Emerging Leaders United (ELU) with community members to actively volunteer in making a difference.

The benefits of volunteering are not exclusive to those being served, but also to those serving. Volunteering gives a sense of purpose to your life, boosts your self-esteem by building your social network and makes you feel good!



"The women of WU have come together to serve a common goal. I'm so proud to be a part of that. Lincoln is a great community. We each have an obligation to ensure that continues. Seeing firsthand what our contributions are doing, how they are impacting the community is rewarding."

—Jennifer Wooster

"I belong to WU because I enjoy our comradery supporting a wonderful cause that engages, empowers and increases the graduation rate of Lincoln's youth. Philanthropy is important to me as I've been blessed in so many ways and believe in sharing those blessings to create little miracles around our community. I volunteer to make a direct impact on Lincoln's youth which will help them become great citizens of our community."

—Jenni Christiansen



"I belong to WU because the **ENGAGE. EMPOWER. GRADUATE.** program truly 'moves the needle' in assisting students and families to build successful academic foundations. I believe in sharing my time, talents and treasures with those less fortunate. I absolutely love being in the middle of the action, meeting people, experiencing new programs, and helping make a difference in our community."

—Shelia Odom

"I belong because I want to be part of a group making a difference in Lincoln. WU is such a group. I am blessed to be born into a loving and caring family. Our family benefitted from what Lincoln has provided and I believe it is important to give to organizations who strive to make sure everyone in our community has the opportunities my family enjoyed. Being philanthropic is what I/we can do to give back; it is a way to say thanks for the life we have enjoyed and help people in need. I want to leave the world a little bit better because I was in it.

Volunteering provides me with the chance to personally make a difference; to have a positive impact."

—Nancy Biggs



Happening Now!

United Way's
Virtual Book Drive

April 24-May 12



Text **BOOKS17** to **41444**

for an easy way to contribute to the United Way Virtual Book Drive

Please make checks payable to United Way.



To learn more about WU/ELU, please contact **Lona Thompson** at **402.441.7213** or **lthompson@unitedwaylincoln.org**.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 24-May 12
Virtual Book Drive

May 8, 5:00-6:30 pm
Women In Philanthropy
Networking at Earl May

Sponsored by:



May 10, 7:30-9:00 am
Leadership Breakfast

June 21
Day of Action

July 17-28, 9:00-11:00 am
Jump Start to Kindergarten
Campbell Elementary School

July 24-August 4, 9:00-Noon
Jump Start to Kindergarten
McPhee Elementary School

September 8, 7:30-9:00 am
Campaign Kick-Off
Embassy Suites

September 9
Day of Caring

September TBD
Women's Leadership Council
Lunch & Learn

Sponsored by:

WELLS
FARGO

INITIATIVE PROGRAMS:

- + **Early Childhood Development**
GOAL: Preparing children for kindergarten.
- + **Family Engagement and Support**
GOAL: Engaging parents with the school.
- + **Adult Education**
GOAL: Teaching both parents and students English.
- + **Mental Health and Family Support**
GOAL: Address behavioral and emotional barriers to learning through the support of a school-based therapist.
- + **Extended Learning Opportunities**
GOAL: Enrichment outside of the classroom to enhance development opportunities and reduce summertime grade level loss.
- + **Youth Development**
GOAL: Providing students with strong role models through mentoring relationships to foster educational engagement.
- + **Prevention Services**
GOAL: Reaching out to families in their homes to build safe environments and prevent child entrance into protective services.



HOW CAN I MAKE AN IMPACT?

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. GRADUATE. initiative is a joint undertaking by Women United (WU) and Emerging Leaders United (ELU). Together we're identifying and addressing the disadvantages that children and families face in local elementary school communities to ensure children and their families, regardless of circumstances, have the opportunity to succeed in school and life through key strategies.

Women United and the Emerging Leaders United members give at these four levels:



- + **WU/ELU Promoters:** minimum annual gift of \$500
- + **WU/ELU Supporters:** minimum annual gift of \$1,000
- + **WU/ELU Investors:** minimum annual gift of \$1,500
- + **WU/ELU Leaders:** minimum annual gift of \$2,500

UNITED WAY
WOMEN
UNITED

EMERGING
LEADERS

COMMUNITY
HEALTH CHARITIES
NEBRASKA

LIVE UNITED
United Way

United Way of Lincoln
and Lancaster County
UnitedWayLincoln.org



For event updates, photos and information, like us on Facebook or visit our website at unitedwaylincoln.org