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Issue  
**SIXTEEN**



A Seasonal Insight into the LHA Family Self-Sufficiency Program

# Future Forward



Current Topics >>>



## Follow Us!!

Lincoln Housing  
Authority Family Self-  
Sufficiency Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/254760728874693>

The FSS Facebook group will give you quick updates about community activities, scholarships, food distribution sites, employment opportunities and much more! Come join our group to stay up to date.

## Building Dreams at LHA

Northeast High School students have been partnering with Lincoln Housing Authority for the past 30 years through the school's home-building project. LNE's residential construction students gain hands-on experience in framing, drywall, trim work, painting, cabinetry, and other projects throughout the school year. Licensed contractors perform the electrical and plumbing work for these houses.

This year's home is being built at 5010 Starr Street. The home will feature three bedrooms, two baths, and a detached garage. Once the house is completed, it will be sold to an eligible family involved with LHA. If you are looking into buying a home in the near future, this would be a great option to consider.

The price hasn't been announced yet, but any interested LHA families can work with their FSS coordinator or reach out to Susan Tatum to determine their eligibility. You can email Susan at [SusanT@L-housing.com](mailto:SusanT@L-housing.com). Applicants are encouraged to take the homeownership classes through NeighborWorks Lincoln. You can find their information at <https://nwlincoln.org/the-work/apply/overview.html>.



### Spotlight A Graduate

Aldake joined the FSS program mid-2021 and recently graduated the program after completing his bachelor's degree at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Aldake stayed focused knowing a portion of his rent was being put into an escrow account. "Even though it wasn't coming to me directly, I saved money at LHA until I graduated," he said. "It was a good relief to know the money was gathering for my kids and family, so it could be used to buy a home in the future."

Congrats to Aldake on his achievements and good luck in the future!



**Professional Development Services**



Services featuring immersive soft skills training in communication, teamwork, and interpersonal skills

**P.O.P Scholarship**



(People Obtaining Prosperity)

partnership with Southeast Community College that enables participants to earn their associate degree tuition-free

**Resume Coaching**



helps you create and fine-tune your resume to highlight your skills to stand out from the rest

**H3**



(High-Demand, High-Skill, High-Wage)

offers high-impact training for positions with our Employers of Choice in business, healthcare, and skilled trades

# A Community for Everyone

Although the name of The Center for People in Need changed in 2023 to **The Center for People**, their mission stays consistent. While continuing to provide services and programs to the low-income community in Lincoln, they will also help people move beyond meeting immediate needs and towards sustained economic independence.

*“For wherever you are right now, and whatever you need to take your next step. We’ll help you with the basic needs, education, and professional development to move beyond poverty – to better opportunities, a better career, and a better life.”*

Contact the Center for People today at **402-476-4357** to get assistance with many different services such as the POP Scholarship, ELL classes, resume coaching, personal development services, food distribution and diaper assistance. An Engagement Specialist will help you get connected with the services you are looking for.

**EduTech**



prepares students for careers in the well-paid, growing area of technology

**ELL**



(English Language Learning)  
classes in two levels can make the difference in work and life for anyone whose primary language is not English

**REAP**

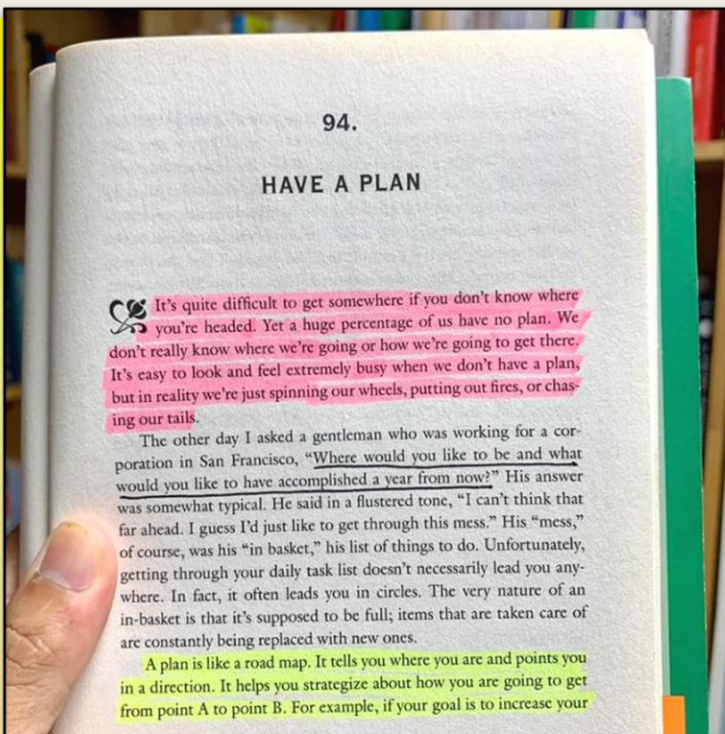


(Refugee Employment Assistance Program)  
provides training, education, and career connections for refugees who have recently arrived in Nebraska

**Life Development**



builds skills and resilience with financial literacy education, alumni groups, and more



## SMART Goals

<b>S</b>	<b>Specific</b>	Make your goal specific and narrow for more effective planning	
<b>M</b>	<b>Measurable</b>	Make sure your goal and progress are measurable	
<b>A</b>	<b>Achievable</b>	Make sure you can reasonably accomplish your goal within a certain time frame	
<b>R</b>	<b>Relevant</b>	Your goal should align with your values and long-term objectives	
<b>T</b>	<b>Time-based</b>	Set a realistic but ambitious end date to clarify task prioritization and increase motivation	



## Kids Eat Free!! (Or Almost Free)

<p><b>Sunday</b></p> <p><u>HF Crave</u> Kids 12 and under eat free (dine-in only)</p> <p><u>Dickey's Barbecue Pit</u> Kids eat free with \$12 adult meal purchase</p>	<p><b>Monday</b></p> <p><u>Honest Ave's</u> \$3 Kid's Meals</p> 	<p><b>Tuesday</b></p> <p><u>China Buffet</u> Kids eat free, one adult per meal</p> <p><u>Pizza Ranch</u> Kids eat free from 11am to 8pm, per full prices paying adult</p> <p><u>Screamers</u> Kids eat free, one adult per meal</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b></p> <p><u>Copal Mexican Cuisine</u> Kids eat free, one per adult meal.</p> <p><u>Red Robin</u> 50% off kid's meals (dine-in)</p>	<p><b>Everyday</b></p> <p><u>HuHot Mongolian Grill</u> Kids three and under eat for free</p> <p><u>Ginger</u> Kids three and under eat for free</p> <p><u>Amigo's/Kind's Classic</u> Kids meals are \$3.99 from 4PM to 8PM weekdays and all-day Saturday and Sunday</p> <p><u>IHOP</u> Kids eat free from 4PM to 10PM, (dine-in) with full-priced adult entree</p>
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# Scholarships for Middle Schoolers

It's never too early to start saving for your children's education. Trying to save on a limited budget can be a challenge though. Middle schoolers have a unique opportunity through EducationQuest of receiving a \$200 scholarship that would be deposited into their Nest 529 account and could be used for education cost once in college. Students would need to complete the EducationQuest Middle School College Savings Scholarship activity online at <https://educationquest.org/pay/college-savings-scholarship/> between **August 1 and April 30** and mail in their entry form to be considered for the scholarship. You do not need a Nest 529 account prior to completing the activity.

### Eligibility Rules

To be eligible, a student must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Be a middle school student attending a Nebraska school
- Complete and mail the scholarship entry form to EducationQuest between August 1 and April 30.

### How the Scholarship is Awarded

EducationQuest will randomly select one student winner on October 31, December 31, and February 28; and two students will be selected on April 30. \$200 scholarships will be deposited into the winners' Nest 529 College Savings Plan account. Winners who don't have an account will need to set one up.

### WHAT IS A NEST 529 ACCOUNT?

A Nest 529 account is a tax-advantaged investment account that can be used for future education expenses. You can choose from a wide range of investment options for the savings, which are easy to manage from an online account. Friends and family can also contribute to your child's Nest 529 account. Funds can be used for a wide range of qualified expenses at eligible colleges, as well as tuition. Find out more about setting up a Nest 529 account here: <https://nest529.com/>





# FREE Community Tax Preparation 2023 Federal and Nebraska State Returns

## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Site Schedule Must have an APPOINTMENT

Schedule an appointment at <https://vita.unl.edu/signup/> beginning January 15th

When scheduling your tax preparation appointment, please choose a site location, date, and time.

All sites listed below, will be face-to-face and require an appointment.

Virtual preparation is available, in addition to facilitated self-assistance (FSA), limited walk-ins.

All sites will follow local health department guidelines.

	<b>SITE NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>DATES AVAILABLE</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>American Job Center</b>	1330 N Street	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Jan 22 – Apr 8 (Closed Feb 19)
	<b>Asian Community and Culture Center</b>	114 N 44th Street A	10:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Jan 29 – Apr 8
	<b>Southeast Community College</b>	8800 O Street, T-102	1:00 PM to 3:00PM	Jan 29 – Apr 8 (Closed Mar 11)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>F Street</b>	1225 F Street	4:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Jan 30 – Feb 27
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Victor Anderson Library</b>	3635 Touzalin Ave	4:30 PM to 6:30 PM	Jan 31 – Apr 10
	<b>Center for People in Need</b>	3901 N 27th, Unit 1	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Feb 6 – Mar 27
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>Loren Eiseley Library</b>	1530 Superior Street	4:30 PM – 6:30 PM	Feb 1 – Apr 11
	<b>Southeast Community College</b>	8880 O Street, T-102	3:00 PM to 7:00 PM	Feb 1 – Apr 11 (Closed Mar 14)
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>Nebraska East Union* **</b>	Holdrege & 35th Streets	10:00 AM to 3:00 PM	Jan 20 – Mar 2
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>Bennett Martin Library</b>	14th & N Street	1:00 PM to 3:00 PM	Feb 4 – Mar 24
	<b>Good Neighbor Center</b>	2617 Y Street	1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Jan 28 – Feb 18
	<b>Native American VITA</b>	JGMC-Ubuntu/202, 1505 S St	1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Feb 4 – Apr 7, (Closed Mar 10, 17 & 31)

\*East Campus: Enter on Holdrege and 35th.

\*\* Bilingual Site, Spanish

### Site Closure Information

Lincoln Public Schools and/or UNL is closed due to bad weather all VITA sites are closed.

In case of bad weather, tune to KFOR 1240 for cancellations.

For more information call 2-1-1, visit [www.vita.unl.edu](http://www.vita.unl.edu)

### Contact information

If you have questions, contact Lincoln VITA at [vita@unl.edu](mailto:vita@unl.edu) or 402.472.0857

