In November, 2007, Lincoln Housing Charities kicked off a fund-raising campaign for a new resident van. Working with Lincoln Housing Authority and the residents of Burke Plaza, Mahoney Manor, and Crossroads House, the fund-raising goals were achieved in just nine months. Lincoln Housing Charities raised funds through letter writing campaigns and business and corporate grants.

The Resident Van Project won a NAHRO National Award of Merit and National Award of Excellence.
In dire need of a new vehicle for errands and activities, residents of three Lincoln Housing Authority properties began raising funds in November, 2007. The kick-off event was sales of Sparky the Puppy followed by raffles, garage sales, bake and craft sales, and a soup supper.

The response of residents was amazing and humbling. Not only did they provide the people-power for all the events, many made donations from loose change to the full amount of their economic stimulus rebate checks. Family, friends, staff and former staff made contributions and supported the events. Business and corporate donations were a major source of support.

In just eight months, Residents, Lincoln Housing Charities and Lincoln Housing Authority raised more than $56,000, well above the $46,000 goal, for the new, custom-built vehicle that offers accessibility, comfort, safety and reliability.

The Van Project brought a much-needed vehicle to residents at LHA properties and fostered cooperation and relationships between residents, families, staff and organizations toward a common goal.

“I always wondered why somebody didn’t do something about that. Then I realized that I was somebody.”

– Lily Tomlin, comedian.