

LINCOLN, Neb. (KOLN) - The Food Bank of Lincoln has maintained a strong lead in this year's Give to Lincoln campaign, raising over \$368,000 as of Thursday evening. For John Mabry, Chief Relationship Officer at the Food Bank, the event isn't about competition, it's about community impact.

"In general, we just have wonderful support in the community," Mabry said. "A lot of people come to our aid every day and this is just a way to highlight it with 'Give to Lincoln' and we love being around all our partners."

For every \$1 donated, the Food Bank is able to turn that into two meals. At its recent Empty Bowls fundraiser, they welcomed more than 1,000 supporters and raised just over \$200,000 which is equivalent to approximately 400,000 meals. For Mabry and his team, it's not about dollar signs, but about the number of lives they can help.

Give to Lincoln Leaderboard

"We couldn't do it without our donors and volunteers," Mabry said, "It's really uplifting to see all the hope in this space right now."

Food insecurity remains a large issue in the Lincoln area. One in seven people-- over 64,000 individuals, including 20,000 children-- have little access to nutritious food.

For Mabry, he believes the supporters are what is keeping the Food Bank alive.

"Folks know people gotta eat. It's kind of an easy sell, helping folks get the food they need and giving them hope. So it all comes together."

Thursday is the last day of the month-long initiative encouraging donations to local nonprofits across the Lincoln-Lancaster community.

Participating nonprofits are also eligible for a share of a \$650,000 matching fund made possible by the Lincoln Community Foundation and other sponsors.

While not everyone can contribute financially, time is just as valuable. The Food Bank of Lincoln is always in need of volunteers. To learn more or to get involved, visit www.lincolnfoodbank.org.