



Photo by Chris Dooley

Bob Troyer, manager of Food Bank of Lincoln, in front of boxes of food donated by manufacturer.

Churches, welfare, Food Bank join to feed hungry

BY MEILING LIU

The Food Bank, food pantries and welfare agencies are joining to feed an increasing number of hungry persons in Lincoln, according to Mayor Roland Luedtke.

Although Lincoln has a low unemployment rate in comparison with other cities, the local hunger problem, a result of last year's economic recession, is growing bigger, Luedtke said.

According to Steve Evans, executive secretary for the Lincoln Fellowship of Churches, 2,739 individuals, including 830 families, were served by food pantries from January through May. This represents a 81.6 percent increase for individuals and an 87 percent increase for families over the first five months of last year, he said.

The Lincoln Fellowship of Churches runs the food pantry project in an effort to meet people's short-term emergency needs, Evans said. When a referral agency gives a pantry names of those who call in for help, the pantry packs food in boxes for the referral agency to pick up and deliver, he said.

The nine church-based pantries are Bethany Christian, Second Presbyterian, Eastridge Presbyterian, Southeast Presbyterian, Lincoln Lutheran Metro Parish, East Lincoln Christian, St. Paul United Methodist, St. Mark's on the Campus and Friendship Home. Fifty to 60 churches in Lincoln support these pantries, he said.

According to Evans, 13 human service agencies, including the People's City Mission, Lincoln Action Program, and Lincoln Indian Center, counsel with families who ask for help. In this way, the chances of abusing aid requests are less likely to occur, he said.

The city also has the Food and Nutrition Task Force, which is part of the "crisis response team" created last December, said Bob Clark, city-county human services coordinator. The other three parts of the Task Force are Housing and Shelter, Utility, and Crisis Intervention.

These Task Force groups offer leadership to alleviate local problems, Clark said. The Food and Nutrition Task Force identifies which agencies are able to respond to food needs, what resources of food are available, and what the basic food and nutrition needs of low-income people are, he said.

The food pantries coordinate food in bulk from the Lincoln Food Bank, which is the

base of the Food and Nutrition Task Force.

The Chairman for the Food and Nutrition Task Force and general manager of Lincoln Food Bank, Bob Troyer, said that society has to fill up people's stomachs first, then let them walk out to face the world and look for jobs.

"Hunger is by far Lincoln's number one problem," he said.

Since the Food Bank started last August, he said, 300,000 pounds of food has been distributed. "We could do better," Troyer said, "if food companies cooperated more strongly with the Food Bank." So far, the Food Bank has 45 sources including IGA stores, restaurants, wholesalers, manufacturers and individual stores. All donations are tax deductible.

Every year about \$31 billion is wasted in the U.S. because of food-production errors, Troyer said, of which, \$6.7 billion is lost at wholesale and retail levels. The waste can be used in a better way, he said, and that is to feed the great numbers of hungry persons.

The Food Bank needs at least 500,000 pounds of food a year, he said. A better community organization and more savings on food are the factors for achieving that goal, he said.

At this point, he said, the Food Bank serves as a supplement to the 48 non-profit organizations which buy food at low prices from the Food Bank. But present supplies are not meeting the demands from the 48 organizations, he said.

Added pressures will come with the new food stamp system which is called "retrospective accounting," Troyer said. Stamp recipients have to show a need for two months before they can receive food stamps and, as a result, the hunger problem will be worse, he said.

Former Californian is new Union College dean

The Associated Press

Marilyn Carr, formerly of Modesto, Calif., is the new dean of women at Union College in Lincoln.

She was assistant dean of women at Pacific Union College in California and has taught music at Rio Lindo Academy in California and at Southwestern Adventist College in Texas.

Walesa vows legal fight to keep his shipyard job

SOKOLOW PODLASKI, Poland (AP) — Lech Walesa refused on Wednesday to end his unauthorized vacation and vowed to fight in court to keep his job.

"If they really fire me, I'll go to court," the head of the outlawed Solidarity labor federation said as he climbed into his white minibus with his wife, Danuta, and three young daughters.

"I am absolutely sure I will win," he added as the family left for a drive to a lake near this vacation site outside Warsaw. "I will never lose my job because of this — simply because I'm right."

Walesa ignored a 2 p.m. deadline (8 a.m.

EDT) for returning to work, saying he would not go back unless "taken by force."

The officials at the Lenin Shipyards in Gdansk, the Baltic seaport where Solidarity was launched as the Soviet bloc's first independent trade federation amid August 1980 strikes, have not decided on Walesa's case. Polish law stipulates that failure to return from an unauthorized leave within three days constitutes grounds for dismissal.

Continued failure to go to work could classify Walesa as a "social parasite" under a new law on work shirkers, and lead to his assignment to a strictly controlled work camp.

Nebraskans spending less than others to drive cars

OMAHA (AP) — Nebraska drivers are spending about \$136 a year less than the national average to own and operate medium-sized 1983 American-made cars, according to the Cornhusker AAA Motor Club.

Here are the comparative per-mile cost figures for three 1983 Chevrolet models tested: Chevette, 19.6 cents; Malibu, 24 cents; Impala, 25.1 cents. The figures are based on the assumption that the cars are driven 15,000 miles a year. The costs would go down

as mileage goes up, the club said.

Both fixed and variable costs were used in computing the figures, Motor Club spokesman Barc Wade said.

"Fixed costs are those expenses that are present even as the car sits in the garage — insurance, licensing fees, depreciation and finance charges," Wade said. "Variable costs include gasoline, oil, maintenance and tires, which are related to miles driven."

Visitor says U.S. college students working harder

BY LARRY SPARKS

College students in the United States are working harder at getting an education than they did 10 years ago, according to a visiting computer science professor from Germany.

Herbert Fischer, instructor at the Technical University of Munich, said that despite recent criticism, the American education system seems to be working well.

"The system here is a good one," Fischer said. "I don't think it's gone downhill."

Fischer last visited the University of Nebraska-Lincoln during the 1969-70 academic year. Since then, he said he has seen a renewed dedication among college stu-

dents in the United States and Germany. This apparently can be credited to a worldwide shortage of jobs, he said.

"Students know that they have to get good grades now to get a job after they graduate," Fischer said.

"Ten years ago, the students went to the university and just thought of it as a nice time," he said. "They didn't think much about jobs."

Fischer said universities around the world share the problem of having too many students. Class ranks need to be thinned out, he said, to make colleges effective learning centers.

Achieving this by raising admission

standards would be unfair, he said, because not all secondary schools have the same grading system. He said the standards for lower-level college courses should be raised to help weed out some of the in-coming students.

"Let them all have a try at it," Fischer said. "If they can get along in the course, fine, but if they find out it's too difficult, they should leave and try something else."

While the education systems of Germany and the United States are similar in many ways, there are differences, Fischer said.

In Germany, students attend high school until they are at least 19, Fischer said. This allows German students to learn some things in high school that Americans aren't taught until the first two years of college. As a result, German high school graduates tend to be better prepared for college than their American counterparts, he said.

One advantage American students have, Fischer said, is that schools in the United

States offer a bachelor degree program. Universities in Germany don't offer such a degree, he said.

"In Germany," he said, "we only have your equivalent of a master degree. Nobody gets out in less than four years and many have to stay for five or six."

Fischer said another strength of post-secondary institutions in the United States is that students are able to leave school for several years if they want and return later to finish their education. That is not possible in Germany, he said.

"In Germany, you are not allowed to leave for a short time," he said. "If you leave, it is almost impossible to get back in."

American students, however, do have at least one major weakness, according to Fischer.

"The students do not think as much as they should," he said. "They learn, but they should think more on their own. Whatever I say, they just believe it. If I would say something wrong, they would believe it."

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