

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## THE WHITE CANE FOUNDATION



### OVERVIEW:

- Continued Serving Belmont Elementary
- Added Lakeview Elementary
- 354 Students Impacted
- \$57,000 Raised in 2020
- \$104,000 Raised Cumulatively
- 12 Board Members
- 25 Individual Volunteers
- 267 Individual Donors

### Quote from a Belmont Teacher

"My students beam with pride with new clothes that fit. It levels the playing field for them. One boy expressed how excited he was to no longer have to wear his sister's shoes that were too big."



## ABOUT THE WHITE CANE FOUNDATION



The White Cane Foundation was established in 2019 after an inspiring trip to St. Louis where we witnessed the power of supplying basic needs to school children in high poverty populations. We looked at Lincoln and were surprised to find the level of need in our schools. Lincoln hides its poverty well, and kids are the first to suffer. The White Cane Foundation was imagined with these needs in mind. To be of service to those kids in need and allow them to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities an education provides.

### How the White Cane Foundation Works

- We partner with schools where the majority of students live at or below the poverty line.
- A school liaison is selected to help identify students in need and submit weekly orders to The White Cane Foundation.
- Volunteers fill orders and make weekly deliveries to specific schools.
- Volunteers meet one-on-one with students in The White Cane Foundation “store”, a designed space in every school that helps to preserve each child’s privacy and dignity and also contains items for emergency situations.
- Students are fit with coats and shoes, provided hygiene kits, socks, underwear; are encouraged, loved on, and transformed.
- We help coordinate other services with each school (i.e. book fairs, STEM learning, eye clinics, health screenings, and dental education).
- We continually evaluate our programs and services at each school to ensure alignment with district/school goals and measure the effect on students and the school community.

## A LETTER FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS DAVE AND KELLY LAUER



Dear friends and supporters,

This past year was historical, gut-wrenching, but also in some ways perfect. 2020 showed us the best, and at times the worst, in all of us. At The White Cane Foundation, we had a front-row seat to witness the very best in all of us. COVID put up barriers, but we forged new paths to find a way to still serve our students. COVID gave us time, time to reflect, dream, plan, and prepare. COVID brought us a new appreciation of what we have created and new energy to our growing Board of Directors to lead our efforts as we serve more of Lincoln's Title I schools.

We are inspired by the generous spirit revealed this past year in spite of the shared hardship all endured. Those of you who chose to support our work are especially appreciated this year. Go forward in this "New" year knowing your generosity fuels our determination to warrant even more of your trust and support as we grow and make a difference together.

Be the Light,  
Dave and Kelly

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

**Dave  
Lauer**



**Kelly  
Lauer**



Executive Director

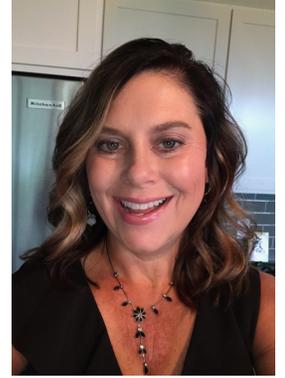
**Kara  
Bunde-Dunn**



**Doreen  
Frieauf**



**Stacy  
Gutschenritter**



**Quentin  
Brown**



**Deb  
Gokie**



**Crystal  
Wichita**



**Gary  
Kebbel**



**Paige  
Gade**



**Katie  
Rhone**



**Jenny  
Schroeder**



**Zach  
Scamehorn**



Social Media  
Director

**Maria  
Cardona**

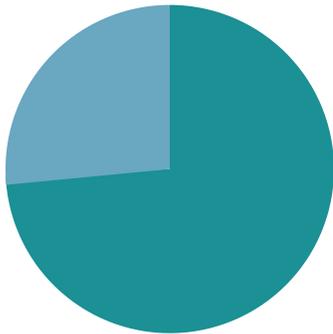


Community Relations  
Director

# OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

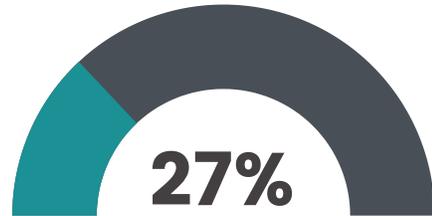
354 White Cane packages delivered

Lakeview  
26.5%

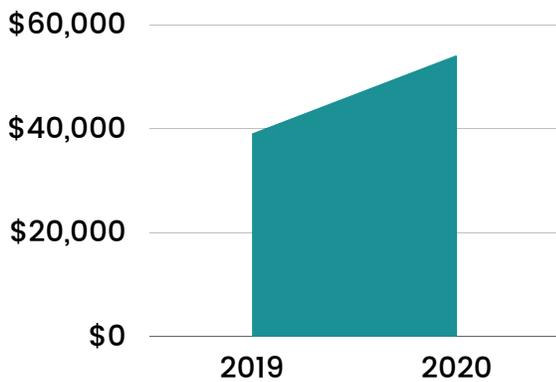


Belmont  
73.5%

27% Improved attendance after receiving a White Cane package



\$57,000 raised in 2020



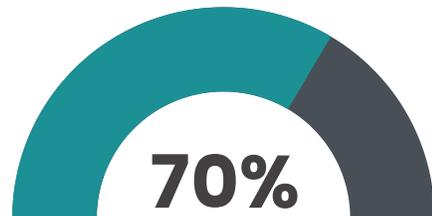
76% appear happier after receiving a White Cane package



72% of teachers have referred at least 1 student to receive a White Cane package



70% appear more confident after receiving a White Cane package



Each White Cane package includes all new items: one pair of pants, one top, two pairs of socks, two pairs of underwear, one pair of shoes, a jacket or coat, and sundry items.

**BOARD MEMBER AND  
VOLUNTEER(S) OF THE YEAR AWARDS**



**Kara Bunde-Dunn  
Lover of the Light  
Board Member of the Year**

**Maria Cardona & Alexa Cardona Wright  
Volunteers of the Year**



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR  
CORPORATE SPONSORS

Warehouse Space and In-kind Donations



Joyful Partner Corporate Sponsors



Dave Lauer Speaking at a  
Chiropractor Conference



The White Cane Foundation featured  
on 89.3 with Cause Collective

Cause Collective Radio 1/27/20 - White Cane Fo...

**LISTEN LOCAL  
KZUM  
89.3FM**

Kelly Lauer being interviewed by  
10-11 News



The White Cane Foundation featured in  
Lincoln Journal Star Neighborhood Extra

## White Cane Foundation adds Lakeview Elementary

BY DENNIS BUCKLEY for the Neighborhood Extra  
Jan 22, 2021 Updated Feb 1, 2021

Kelly Lauer speaking to students from  
Belmont Elementary



# A YEAR IN REVIEW OUR BOARD MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND SCHOOL STAFF





## Mission Statement

The White Cane Foundation is here to provide students with basic needs through a consistent presence. An emphasis will be placed on maintaining the dignity and respect of the individual. Students are empowered to go out in the world with confidence and independence to become their very best self.

## Vision Statement

To be the light for every student with a need.

## Core Values

Act with dignity, grace and compassion.

Be present.

Bring the joy.

Be open and accepting of others.

