2024-2025

Annual Report

Fitting Futures

Update from Our Executive Director | 2024–2025

.**2024 was a milestone year!** We began the school year serving 12 schools and quickly realized the need for more space and structure to support our expanding mission. With a small but deeply committed volunteer base, we transitioned to a more efficient, assembly-style process and secured our first leased space in downtown Lincoln, across from the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel. As our capacity grew, so did the need—and as it turns out, when you build it, they truly do come.

Our primary goal that year was ambitious: to establish a presence in all 18 Title I elementary schools. By adding six schools over two semesters, we achieved that goal. By year's end, we had served 1,524 children, providing more than 3,000 outfits, along with 1,524 pairs of shoes and 1,524 hygiene bags to families in our community.

Building on that momentum, **2024–2025 became a year of transformation.** We moved into a larger 4,000-square-foot space on Cornhusker Highway, allowing us to streamline operations and welcome even more volunteers. Perhaps most significantly, we **rebranded from The White Cane Foundation to Fitting Futures**—a name that more clearly reflects our mission and the children we serve. With that clarity came renewed energy and broader community understanding.

Even during what we considered a "pause year" to stabilize and support our rapid growth, the need continued to rise. When Meadow Lane was designated a Title I school, we didn't hesitate—we said yes. **Today, we are proud to serve all 19 Title I elementary schools in Lincoln.**

What has been most inspiring throughout this journey is the people. Our v**olunteer base has grown to more than 100 individuals,** many of whom are part of an older generation finding purpose through meaningful, one-on-one connections with students. What began as meeting a basic need has grown into something much deeper—a shared experience of dignity, connection, and community.

By the end of the 2024–2025 school year, we had served **2,510 students,** providing **more than 5,000 outfits**. Each number represents a child seen, supported, and given the confidence to step forward. This work continues because of the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our volunteers, and a community that believes every child deserves to feel confident and cared for.

Be the light,
Kelly Lauer
Executive Director

Outcome & Impact: 2024-25 School Year

2,510	5,020	1,533	600+
Bundles Delivered	ALL-NEW Outfits	Volunteer Hours	School Visits

Mission Matters

"Even though you are not helping the whole world, you are at least making a difference to the children you gave what they needed in life!" - *Student*

"Our kids always come back with a smile on their face and they are so excited to show off their new clothes! Oftentimes, they want to change into their new new shoes right away!" -*Elementary Teacher*

"Can I wear my new clothes right now? My mom says nothing matches with my clothes and now I have two outfits that match!" - *Student*

"It never gets old watching the girls come out of their tents and twirl at their reflection in the mirror. The shoes ALWAYS make both boys and girls run faster and jump higher. I've witnessed several examples of this! - *School Liaison*

Fitting Futures
New Clothes. Big Smiles. Lasting Impact.

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