

LCRB Monthly news & updates

May 2026 | Putting Kids First in Lincoln County

Upcoming Events

[LCRB May Meeting](#), Wed., May 27 at 8:30 a.m. at [Cuivre River Electric Cooperative, Community Room](#).

[Lincoln County R-III Back to School Bash](#), Thurs., July 30 4-7 p.m.

"Think Big for Kids" Effort Earns \$150,000 for LCRB CA/N Plan



LCRB announces "big" news for Lincoln County kids and families: YouthBridge Community Foundation has awarded its Think Big for Kids Grant to the Lincoln County Resource Board.

YouthBridge granted the award of \$150,000 to support the LCRB-driven CA/N (Child Abuse and Neglect) Plan.

CA/N Plan activities include:

- Employing a **Trauma Intervention Specialist/Case Navigator** through The Child Advocacy Center of Northeast MO;
- Implementing **integrated data-sharing systems** to improve case tracking and coordination; and
- Providing ongoing, **evidence-informed training for the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) partners, including law enforcement, child welfare services, and advocates.**

During the three-year grant cycle, the initiative will:



LCRB Honors Elsberry Principals

If you look up the definition of a champion, you'll find that a champion is described as "an ardent advocate who fiercely fights for a person or a cause."

In Lincoln County, the LCRB recognizes **Mr. Jason Miller** and **Mrs. Amanda Seeley** as the inaugural **LCRB Champion for Children honorees**.

In their roles as principals for the Elsberry School District, Miller (middle school) and Seeley (elementary school) "Put Kids First" daily. Ardent advocates for their students, especially children who faced barriers to their educational endeavors, Miller and Seeley ensured that these students were seen, heard, and helped. They never tired in their quests to meet a student's needs, going above and beyond the role of educators and administrators.

As a rural Lincoln County school district, Miller and Seeley advocated for greater LCRB investments in school-based mental health services to navigate barriers, such as transportation, poverty, and parent/caregiver work schedules. Through their leadership and partnership, the LCRB piloted a school-based professional counseling program through Youth In Need, for which the program has now

- Expand the “**Handle with Care**” **model** (a trauma-informed response to child maltreatment and children’s exposure to violence);
- Pilot a **two-tiered communication and referral system** for high-risk cases; and
- Conduct comprehensive evaluations with documented protocols to inform and **strengthen child welfare practices** in Lincoln County.

Thank you to YouthBridge Community Foundation for helping us to Put Kids First and prevent child abuse and neglect in Lincoln County.

Also, thank you to the Lincoln County MDT, especially the Child Advocacy Center for piloting the Trauma Intervention Specialist/Case Navigator role, and Dr. Cynthia (Berry) Gandolfo for leading the CA/N Plan research and evaluation processes.



grown and expanded to three Lincoln County School Districts.

When students were facing hospitalizations for severe mental health challenges and experiencing hardships transitioning back to the classroom, Mr. Miller created the LCRB-funded mental health support room. Inside this Elsberry School District space, students receive the instruction and specialized supports needed to maintain their academic standing and continue the healing process.

Rita F. Pierson, a professional educator since 1972, teaching elementary school, junior high and special education, shared these words in her 2013 TED Talk:

Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best they can possibly be.

Thank you, Mr. Miller and Mrs. Seeley, for serving as Lincoln County's champions for children. You have made a difference. You have left a legacy.

Enjoy retirement! You most certainly have earned it.

Shower of Love Creates Downpour of Community Support

PROUD TO SUPPORT

SHOWER OF LOVE



Lincoln County's Shower of Love campaign "rained" in support from local businesses, committed to preventing child abuse and neglect by supporting fragile families.

With monetary contributions from the **Bank of Old Monroe**, donating \$2,000, and **Don Julio's** Troy and Winfield restaurants committing \$655 from the May dine-in events, the Lincoln County Early Childhood Task Force will partner with local providers, including LCRB-funded agencies, to reduce family stressors associated with child abuse and neglect. Shower of Love affords families working with local agencies the means to fulfill critical care items or one-time payments for basic needs, such as utilities or childcare dues so parents can maintain employment.

The task force accepts Shower of Love donations throughout the year. To support Shower of Love, checks can be made to the Lincoln County Public Health Fund, Memo Shower of Love, and mailed or dropped off to the LCRB at 101 West College Street, Suite 5, Troy, MO.

www.lincolncountykids.org

Lincoln County Resource Board | 101 West College Street Suite 5 | Troy, MO 63379 US

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