Who We Are

Since 1883, Lincoln has impacted lives through evolving programs and a singular mission to disrupt the cycle of poverty and trauma, empowering children and families to build strong futures.

Lincoln’s approach is simple: provide children with support and services at as young an age as possible and make a continuum of programs available to them from their school years to graduation from high school. We go one step further to ensure their success by providing services to strengthen and engage their families and the community around them.

OUR ORIGINS

The first child ever served by Lincoln was an infant, laid upon the doorstep of our founder, Rebecca McWade. At the time, McWade was simply responding to a need and did not know she was beginning a legacy of caring for vulnerable children in our communities. Soon, word of McWade’s kindness spread and more children and families began seeking her help. She recruited like-minded friends and neighbors, and the West Oakland Home for Children was born.

After fire swept through the home in the 1920s, the Crocker family, the earliest of many generous supporters over the years, donated property on Lincoln Avenue upon which to rebuild. Children soon moved into the two newly completed cottages on the property, and a decade later our name would change to the Lincoln Home for Children. Out of what once was the region’s first racially integrated orphanage grew the Lincoln of today—a culturally responsive organization providing a range of services focused on improving educational outcomes, keeping families together and reducing the impacts of poverty and trauma.
Changing Lives

Every day, in communities throughout our region, Lincoln is providing real solutions to the unique issues faced by children, youth and families. At Lincoln, we go where children and youth are, and help them to develop skills to stay at home and in school. Our diverse, skilled staff work together with youth and families to utilize their strengths to build a plan for success. With this critical support, our children, youth and families thrive and build bold futures. Only Lincoln provides individualized care through integrated programs focused on education, family and well-being.
Education

The key to climbing out of poverty is education, yet many Lincoln children and youth face huge challenges that derail their progress and keep them from reaching their potential. Lincoln addresses these obstacles with programs that build school readiness, improve attendance and strengthen academic engagement. Lincoln helps kids and their families to see that academic achievement is attainable and gives them the skills they need to succeed.

PROGRAMS

Addressing obstacles that impact academic attendance and achievement

- **Getting Ready for School:** Early childhood parent and teacher consultation to build school readiness and social emotional skills.

- **Opening Pathways to Learning:** Social, emotional and behavioral services and supports for students, families and schools to develop tools and learning environments for academic success.

- **Improving Attendance:** Support and assistance for children, youth and families to reduce chronic truancy and improve attendance.

- **Building Literacy:** Early intervention, intensive family coaching and summer achievement gap programs to build literacy and improve attendance.

IMPACT

Students who miss school are more likely to struggle academically and eventually drop out altogether, putting them at high risk for unemployment, criminal activity and incarceration. Eighty-two percent of youth in Lincoln’s school engagement program showed a reduction in truancy—a powerful outcome for the vulnerable population we serve.
Family

At Lincoln, we have always believed that the success of children and the strength of families and the community go hand in hand. Their needs are inseparable and must be addressed together in order to transform lives and break the cycle of poverty and trauma. From providing counseling support for kin caregivers to linking families to community resources, Lincoln’s dedicated, experienced professionals tailor services to each unique family.

PROGRAMS
Strengthening stability and creating permanency

• Creating Permanency at Home: Intensive and targeted supports to foster children and youth at risk of foster care placement, and for youth and families during transitions from foster care and probation back to their homes.

• Strengthening Stability at School: Social and emotional services and supports for children and youth who are at risk of losing their home or school placement due to their behaviors.

• Building Strong Families: Skill-building for parents to regain influence over their children and build a home environment that sustains healthy and strong relationships.

• Providing Kinship Supports: Resource assistance, support groups, respite and youth activities for kin caregivers and their families.

• Facilitating Health and Recovery: Short-term intensive family and individual therapy and coaching to families with youth who are struggling with substance use and mental health challenges.

IMPACT
Children do best in safe, stable and permanent families. The costs are high, in terms of both human and financial capital, when families are unable to stay together. Research indicates that youth in child welfare are at high risk of dropping out of school, unemployment, homelessness, incarceration, mental health problems and more. One hundred percent of families in Lincoln’s kinship program remain stable and together.
Well-Being

As important to us as ensuring school success is our commitment to the long-term well-being of the youth, families and communities we serve. At Lincoln, we work in partnership with our kids and families to build on their unique strengths, cultures and relationships. With Lincoln, they are gaining confidence in their own abilities, strengthening their readiness to work, raising healthy children and becoming active members of their communities.

IMPACT

When families are involved with their child’s school, everything improves, from student performance to school-community relationships. By creating resource hubs attached to schools and providing families with the knowledge to support and advocate for their children, they will make sustainable gains over time. Eighty-seven percent of those engaged in Lincoln’s family resource center reported increased confidence in understanding and supporting their child’s social, emotional and academic needs.

PROGRAMS

Improving resiliency and well-being

- **Getting Ready for Life and Work:** Entrepreneurship and life skills curriculum for youth connected to the foster care and probation systems to ensure academic and work success.

- **Strengthening Resiliency and Pride:** Summer literacy and cultural pride program to improve the literacy gap and confidence of students.

- **Building Resource Supports:** A community hub for parents to access resources, participate in educational supports and career building, and engage more fully in their child’s education.

- **Preparing Communities:** Preparing organizations and institutions with skills to respond to the signs of mental illness and substance abuse.
Success Story

Every story has a beginning, and here is mine.

I am a survivor of years of extreme child abuse. My mother, my siblings and I were beaten with such regularity that it made me a violent person. My outbursts were so bad that I was expelled from multiple schools, the first when I was just 7 years old. In fact, the only grades I ever completed in public school were kindergarten and first. I bounced around from one special education program to the next and was even homeschooled as my behavior began to deteriorate further.

Then something happened that helped me regain control and gave me a chance at leading a full and healthy life. Lincoln happened.

My first day at Lincoln, my counselor Steve took me to the Emeryville Public Market for lunch. The market opened my eyes to many varieties of food from around the world. I didn’t know then that there would be many more doors opening for me.

Steve never gave up on me. It wasn’t easy in those early days, but he was always patient and encouraging, and a very good listener. I am grateful to him for that. The staff at Lincoln saw potential in me that I didn’t yet see myself.

One of the most pivotal people in my life at Lincoln was my therapist, Carol. She worked hard to make sure that I came out a better person. She was tough when she needed to be and more like a friend when that was called for. Although I sometimes stonewalled and tried to push her away, she wouldn’t allow it. Nothing was going to stop her from improving me as an individual.

At Lincoln, I gained the confidence and academic support I needed to earn my high school diploma and go on to attend Cal State, Chico. There, I joined a fraternity that involved me in charities and fundraising work. Today, I’m the owner of an East Bay construction firm.

With Lincoln’s help, I built my own bold future. Now I make my own contributions to Lincoln to ensure that this legacy will live on through the lives of so many others who need this open door, just as I once did.
Values

INTEGRITY
We are truth-tellers and adhere to our principles and values.

EXCELLENCE
We constantly work toward the highest standards and never give up.

COMPASSION
We provide a caring and supportive environment.

COURAGE
We stand up for what’s right, even in the face of adversity.

RESPECT
We honor all with dignity and consideration.

DIVERSITY
We commit to building awareness and proactively challenging issues of bias in our community.
How We Do It
Through a culturally relevant, adaptive approach and multigenerational model, Lincoln sets a new standard of support that impacts the lives of more than 4,600 children and family members in the Greater Bay Area annually.

PROGRAMS
Lincoln Operates in San Francisco’s East Bay via four regional offices and more:

- Headquarters (Oakland, CA)
- Contra Costa County (two offices in Pittsburg, CA)
- Southern Alameda County (Hayward, CA)
- More than 30 schools and community sites in both counties
You and Lincoln

INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE
Lincoln depends on partners like you in our work to strengthen families and change lives in our communities. Together we can create a legacy of resilient and successful generations for the future. Give today!

GET INVOLVED
Ready to go the next step and lend a hand? Only with your help can we activate a positive, equitable future for children and families. From individual and small groups to corporate volunteering, Lincoln has just the right experience to fit the way you like to make an impact. Don’t wait!

ADVOCATE
Is activism more your style? We need your bold voice. Whether you’re speaking out to improve education, income and mental health, reaching out to City Hall or the senate floor, or sharing Lincoln’s work with a colleague to show your support, you can create real change. So get informed, raise your voice and spread the word!

WORK FOR US
Lincoln is growing and we have job openings all over the East Bay. If you are looking for a meaningful career that strengthens families and changes lives in our communities, join us. Learn why we’ve been named a top Bay Area workplace three years in a row!

At Lincoln, we consistently execute our mission in a fiscally responsible way, efficiently managing and growing our finances. As a donor and partner, you can count on our sound management of your investment in our mission, our children and our families.

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