



Dale Young, Mayor  
City of Lincoln

To the Citizens of  
Lincoln & Lancaster County



Mary Helen Elliott  
President

*Why Not Us?*

Recently the newly formed Community Health Endowment set a goal to make Lincoln the healthiest community in the country. To some, this goal appears unachievable, a pie-in-the-sky notion conceived by a group of dreamers. They inquire, "How could *Lincoln* ever become the healthiest community in the country?" To us, this goal is not only attainable, it is consistent with the very mission of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

The idea of achieving seemingly unattainable goals is not new to our Department. In 1990, our staff and community set health goals for the year 2000. At that time, these goals appeared lofty, even impossible. Yet we have made great strides in some very difficult areas such as prenatal care, minority health and pollution prevention.

Our successes do not mean that there is not more work to do. For example, our community is experiencing a consistent increase in tobacco use among our youth, and especially female teens. Data indicates that it is time to address this growing public health threat head-on, and we assure you that our Department will be among those at the forefront of doing so.

On January 27, 1999, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Community Health Report Card will be unveiled. It is not difficult to see how we have excelled and what work lies ahead. We encourage you to keep this Report Card close at hand, not only as a reminder of what has been accomplished, but as the impetus to work even harder.

We look forward to working closely with the community to attain the personal and environmental health goals set out in the Report Card. **We are committed to the work of setting Lincoln and Lancaster County apart as the healthiest community in the country.**

After all, one community will be the healthiest in the country. *Why not us?*

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Lincoln-Lancaster County  
Board of Health