

INVESTMENTS

The Fund's investment return for the twelve months ended September 30, 2006 was 13.31%.

In the push for the adoption of Nebraska State Constitutional Amendment 2, the Fund's 5-year return was publicly acknowledged as a favorable benchmark.

Amendment 2 would allow public endowments to have a more diverse range of investment options. Current constitutional restrictions keep public endowments from investing in stocks.

On October 16th, the Lincoln Journal Star endorsed Amendment 2, citing the success of Woods Charitable Fund's stock investments. It stated, "Woods Charitable Fund of Lincoln, which can invest in a more diversified portfolio, has achieved a 17.5 percent return on investment over the past five years, compared to 5.7 percent for the (Community Health) endowment."

Amendment 2 will be voted on during Nebraska's statewide election on November 7.

GRANTS PAID IN 2006

With one of two grant cycles completed in 2006, the Fund, to-date, has paid **\$779,870** in grants to 30 organizations in Lincoln, with an average grant award of \$25,996. The Fund expects to pay grants totaling approximately **\$1.6 million** this year.

Prior to the November grant cycle, 63 grant proposals had been received, further demonstrating a growth trend witnessed at the Fund in recent years.

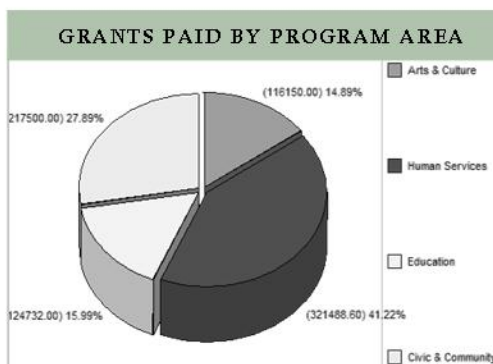
PAST GRANT MAKES WIDESPREAD IMPACT

In the 1950s through the 1970s, WCF made a number of grants to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, which the University could re-grant to faculty at its discretion.

During that time, some of those dollars were re-granted to music professor Raymond Haagh to fund research for a textbook entitled, *School of Clavier Playing*. Professor Haagh offered an edited English translation of the standard textbook of piano playing, written in German in the 18th century. The book, which until then was unavailable in English, is used by pianists worldwide today.

In the book's introduction, Professor Haagh included a dedication to Woods Charitable Fund for its financial support. WCF Board Member and University Senior Lecturer of Music Ann Chang-Barnes spotted this inscription and called attention to the significance. She calls the book "the Bible for piano performance."

Little documentation exists of the grant given to Professor Haagh, but his inscription stands as testament to the value and longevity of Woods' funding.



WEBSITE HAS NEW LOOK

Recently, the Fund revamped its website, offering added features and a new look.



Included in the updates is a section of frequently asked questions for grant-seekers. And the website now offers the full content of its annual reports of the past three years.

Additionally, to offer more transparency and accessibility for grant-seekers, the Fund's website features a list of the possible considerations of WCF board members when making funding decisions.

To explore the new website, visit www.woodscharitable.org.

PAST DIRECTOR SHARES WCF BOARD EXPERIENCE

Former WCF Board Member Gene Crump left the Board in December 2005; grants totaling nearly \$9 million were paid during his 6-year tenure.



What was one challenge of serving on the Board? "Successfully increasing grant funds during a time where many foundations were holding status quo or, worse, reducing grant funding."

What aspect of the Board surprised you? "The collegiality and the 'sameness' of a very independent and diverse Board. Each meeting was a refreshing yet intense opportunity to affect a problem, support an initiative, or reward an area of excellence."

Favorite grant projects? "Literacy for African families, support for (Heartland) Big Brothers Big Sisters' fundraising and (Larry Roots) art for the UNL Law College."