

## Nonprofits Leverage WCF Dollars to Increase Capacity

Two organizations recently demonstrated how they can make Woods dollars grow, a testament to the worth of WCF's practice of making grants toward organizational capacity building.



Over the past four years, WCF gave infrastructure-sustaining grants totaling \$168,000 to Community Development Resources of Lincoln (CDR), a loan institution supporting affordable housing and business opportunities for women, minorities and people of low income. This past September, the U.S. Department of Treasury awarded CDR a matching grant of \$314,952, with WCF being the largest private grant matched at \$75,000. The money will be used toward the organization's loan-loss reserve, to upgrade its technology, and to cover staffing, training and operational costs.



Executive Director Rick Wallace stated, "This is a 100% return on Woods' investment. The Treasury Department highly values private [matching] investments, and without Woods support, this award would have been significantly smaller. There will be a lot of small businesses in the community that can benefit from this."

In 2006 and 2007, WCF awarded Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters (HBBBS) grants totaling \$30,000 to support the salaries of its development staff. Now, HBBBS' recent fund development efforts have paid off greatly. HBBBS has been awarded a three-year \$379,000 federal grant toward its regional expansion, along with a three-year renewal of a \$200,000 federal grant toward mentoring children of incarcerated parents. The renewal of a multi-year government grant of this size is quite uncommon, explained HBBBS Executive Director Julie Cervantes-Salomons.



She added, "For many years it was just me [working for HBBBS], and now, with several staff working to help support our infrastructure, we have really blossomed. This year we're looking at a one-million dollar budget, and I wouldn't have been able to raise that money single-handedly." ♦

## WCF Investments



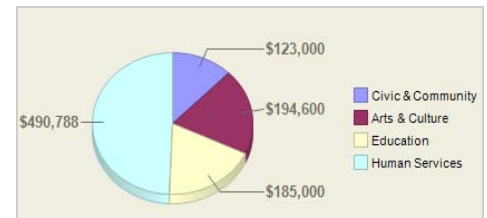
The Fund's investment return for the twelve months ended September 30, 2007 was 17.50%, with an average annual increase of 17.78% since 2002. Between September 2006 and September 2007, the Fund's endowment grew from \$37,684,250 to \$42,139,784 net of fees, operational expenses and grants paid.

## WCF Pays Record Number Grant Dollars in 2006

In 2006, WCF paid out a record dollar amount in grants and charitable investments, with a year-end total of more than \$1.8 million.

This year is expected to be a big grant-making year in terms of dollars. In line with the growth trend witnessed at the Fund over the past several years, 58 proposals have been received in 2007 to date. With two of three grant cycles completed in 2007, the Fund has so far paid \$993,387 grants, benefiting 43 organizations. By the close of 2007, the Fund expects to pay grants totaling near \$1.6 million. ♦

Grants Paid by Program Area, 2007 to Date



## McDowell Joins WCF Board

This year, WCF welcomed T.J. McDowell as its newest board member. T.J. brings to the board a wealth of insights and perspective from his nonprofit leadership background. T.J. currently serves as Executive Director of the Clyde Malone Community Center and also spent six years working as Executive Director for Lighthouse, a community-based, after-school program for at-risk youth. T.J. was elected last November to serve a six-year term.



## Study Indicates Investing in Arts Benefits Lincoln Economy



This past June, Lincoln Arts Council released the results of a national study showing the economic impact of the nonprofit arts in 155 communities across the country, including Lincoln. The study, conducted by the national nonprofit Americans for the Arts and facilitated locally by Lincoln Arts Council (LAC), was the most comprehensive study of its kind ever conducted. In 2005, WCF awarded LAC a \$9,150 grant to fund Lincoln's participation in the study.

Results revealed that the arts and culture industry in Lincoln generates a whopping \$36.27 million in local economic activity. It also supports 1,081 full-time jobs, generates \$21.86 million in local household income, and garners \$3.42 million in local and state government revenue.

"The timing for this study was critical. With both city government and business leaders currently focused on a new vision for Lincoln, the study will be central to many of those conversations," said LAC Executive Director Deb Weber.

With one grant cycle in 2007 yet to be completed, this year WCF has already paid a total of \$194,600 in grants toward Lincoln arts and culture interests. ♦



### Spotlight on Past WCF Director, Susan Ugai (1999-2005)



*Susan Ugai retired from the WCF board in 2005 after serving six years, two of which she served as board vice president. Grants totaling over \$10 million were paid during her tenure. Susan is an Assistant Attorney General for the Nebraska Department of Justice.*

**What was a challenge for you?** There are always more need areas than money to grant. When doing grant-making, you have to think with both your head and heart, which is sometimes difficult, especially when you know there is great need in the community.

**What aspect of serving on the WCF board surprised you?** I was surprised by how much fun it is to give away money. You spend time doing your due diligence and exploring the background information, but in the end, you get to give money to deserving nonprofits.

**What is something your experience with WCF taught you?** I had the opportunity to attend some national philanthropy meetings. This really helped give me a national perspective on philanthropy and the work being done around the country. Capacity building for nonprofits is the key for the future, and Woods has been very proactive in this area.

**What was one of your favorite projects funded during your tenure?** We did a strategic planning process to determine the greatest needs for the Lincoln/Lancaster County area. One of these areas was housing, and we decided to fund a [five-year] \$200,000/year project through NeighborWorks. Being able to give a consortium of nonprofits the stable funding to do multi-year planning and projects was very exciting.

### Organizations Awarded or Paid Grants in 2007

- Association of Small Foundations
- Center for People in Need
- CenterPointe
- City of Lincoln, Dept. of Parks and Recreation
- Community CROPS
- County of Lancaster, Youth Services Center
- Downtown Lincoln Foundation
- EndowNebraska
- Family Service Association
- Family Violence Council
- Flatwater Shakespeare Company
- Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools
- Fresh Start
- Good Neighbor Community Center
- Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Lincoln Action Program
- Lincoln Lancaster Co. Human Services Federation
- Lincoln Literacy Council
- Lincoln Medical Education Partnership
- Lincoln Orchestra Association
- Lincoln YWCA
- The Loft at the Mill
- Lux Center for the Arts
- Madonna Foundation
- Malone Community Center
- The Mediation Center
- Mental Health Assoc. of Nebraska
- MilkWorks
- Mourning Hope
- Nebraska Advocacy Services
- Nebraska Appleseed Center
- Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
- The Nebraska Cultural Endowment
- Nebraska Humanities Council
- Provider's Network
- Rebuilding Together-Lincoln
- Substance Abuse Action Coalition of Lancaster Co.
- United Methodist Ministries
- UNL-Center on Children, Families and the Law
- UNL-Dept. of Art and Art History
- UNL-International Quilt Study Center
- UNL-Nebraska Center for Research on Children
- Women in Community Services
- YMCA of Lincoln

### WCF Unveils New Website

This summer, Woods Charitable Fund introduced its new website, organized in a cleaner, more simplified format to make information easier to access. Using picture panels from the new downtown Lincoln skywalk mural by artist Larry Roots, a project partially funded by WCF, the website sports a new design and color scheme that aligns with the look of WCF's 2006 annual report. In addition to grant-seeking information, as in the past, visitors can also find a list of grants funded, past annual reports, audited financials and press releases. Visit the new website at [www.woodscharitable.org](http://www.woodscharitable.org).

