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WOODS CHARITABLE FUND AWARDS \$708,431 IN NEW GRANTS

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., a private foundation, today announced new and renewal grants in Lincoln, Nebraska totaling **\$708,431**, with one grant cycle remaining in 2006. The Fund has paid or committed to paying **\$1,171,980** in grant awards so far this year. Fund grants awarded since 2000 now exceed **\$9,000,000**.

“The Fund is pleased to provide support for new leadership at two of Lincoln’s ethnic minority community centers. We believe that Carmela Sanchez de Jimenez at the Hispanic Community Center and T.J. McDowell at the Clyde Malone Community Center will both excel in their new roles and strengthen their organizations’ community impact,” noted Mike Tavlin, President of Woods Charitable Fund.

Twenty-three tax-exempt organizations will benefit from the most recent awards (attached). Three of the grants awarded at the June meeting are highlighted below:

League of Human Dignity, Inc. (\$45,000) – Second-year support for implementation of the *Human Services Coordinated Transportation Project*, a three-year project in collaboration with Lincoln's StarTran System and other transportation providers to create a coordinated public-private transportation program for the elderly and persons with disabilities in Lincoln

Lincoln Literacy Council (\$91,257) – For the *ESL Academy project*, to extend the organization's administrative and pedagogical strengths to several collaborating ethnic and faith-based community partners in order to enhance and increase Lincoln's *English as a Second Language* services; partners include the Hispanic Community Center, the Good Neighbor Community Center, Catholic Social Services and the Asian Community and Cultural Center

UNL-Department of Educational Psychology (\$36,076) – Second-year support for *Target the Bully*, a half-day in-school suspension program that works with students who are chronic bullies through one-on-one evaluation and development of action plans aimed at stopping the bullying behaviors, to be offered in three Lincoln schools: Irving Middle School, Park Middle School and Prescott Elementary

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc. makes grants three times a year to not-for-profit organizations seeking funding for programs in the areas of: Human Services; Civic & Community; Education; and Arts & Culture as well as programs and initiatives designed to assist new Americans in Lincoln. **Applications must be received by July 1st to be considered for the next funding cycle in November.** For more information on funding guidelines or how to apply for a grant, call 436-5971, visit the Fund’s website at www.woodscharitable.org, or write to Pam Baker, Tom Woods or Angie Zmarzly at P. O. Box 81309, Lincoln, NE 68501.

Approved for Funding by Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., June, 2006

Bright Lights, Inc. (\$7,000) – Toward organizational strategic planning for this organization dedicated to providing unique summer learning opportunities for youth

Center for People in Need, Inc. (\$80,000) – Support of the Center's capital campaign for a warehouse and office facility to be used for project expansion, including its *Truckloads of Help Project*, in collaboration with Goodwill Industries and the Food Bank of Lincoln. The Center provides essential items for low income families at no cost.

Clyde Malone Community Center (\$60,000) – Two-year funding toward the Executive Director and Administrative Assistant positions during a transitional period aimed at refining the internal structure and sustaining the programming of this organization that serves ethnic minority and low income residents of Lincoln

EndowNebraska (\$10,000) – Support of a comprehensive marketing campaign to increase public awareness and utilization of Nebraska's new charitable giving tax credit and to evaluate the tax credit's impact on Nebraska philanthropy

Friends of Haydon, Inc. (\$15,400) – Funding for an Education Coordinator and art supplies for an ongoing series of art education projects for the underserved K-5 students of Lincoln Public School's Community Learning Centers

Girl Scouts-Homestead Council (\$10,442) – Second-year funding for *Studio 2B - Movin' to a New Beat*, a project to build adolescent participation in Girl Scouts as it strives to build girls of courage, confidence and character

Heartland Big Brothers-Big Sisters (\$20,000) – Support of staff positions in the areas of fundraising and volunteer development to build the agency's sustainability and strengthen its infrastructure as it provides professionally-supported, one-to-one relationships to help children reach their potential

Hispanic Community Center (\$25,000) – Operational support through a transitional restructuring period for the Center whose purpose is to enhance the quality of life for the Hispanic population of Lincoln and develop linkages between the Hispanic community and the community at large

Illusion Theater and School, Inc. (\$23,475) – For the creation of an interactive theatrical production on bullying prevention that targets Lincoln students in grades four through eight

League of Human Dignity, Inc. (\$45,000) – Second-year support for implementation of the *Human Services Coordinated Transportation Project*, a three-year project in collaboration with Lincoln's StarTran System and other transportation providers to create a coordinated public-private transportation program for the elderly and persons with disabilities in Lincoln

Lighthouse (\$57,000) – For the construction of a new facility to accommodate more students and allow expansion of the after-school activities and services of this organization offering a safe haven for Lincoln youth

Lincoln Association for the Traditional Arts (\$7,000) – Support of musician fees and a free concert to mark the 25th anniversary of this organization dedicated to providing Lincoln with folk and traditional music, dance and related arts since 1982

Lincoln Literacy Council (\$91,257) – For the *ESL Academy project*, to extend the organization's administrative and pedagogical strengths to several collaborating ethnic and faith-based community partners in order to enhance and increase Lincoln's *English as a Second Language* services

Lincoln Medical Education Partnership (\$23,381) – To fund three priority projects of the Family Violence Council, including a child abuse database to generate abuse reports for the community, the implementation of a Court Watch program and year-two funding for the *Aware* project that provides domestic violence and sexual assault training to relevant professionals

Lincoln YWCA (\$30,000) – Support for the position of Administrative Manager, to enhance the YWCA's existing leadership, strengthen its management and program support and improve its governance, income-generation and marketing as it strives to empower women and girls and end racism in the community

Madonna Foundation (\$30,000) – Two-year support for the expansion of the rehabilitation hospital's on-site learning center for children, which dedicates itself to helping students with acquired disabilities successfully integrate back into their regular school environments

Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (\$9,900) – To allow Lincoln Public Schools students better access to historical resources through developing hands-on learning stations and subsidizing bus transportation to and from the various Historical Society facilities in Lincoln

People's City Mission (\$20,000) – Implementation of the *Service Point Homeless Management Intervention System*, to allow the agency to keep better electronic data on clients and easier access to its records for this organization providing shelter and services for the impoverished

Rebuilding Together-Lincoln, Inc. (\$7,500) – For the position of a Construction Manager to oversee the organization's projects, materials and volunteers in order to provide more free home repairs to low income, elderly and disabled homeowners

TeamMates Mentoring Program (\$10,000) – For the development of community-based support networks for mentor/mentee matches in the public schools, which aim at increasing the longevity of mentoring relationships through mentor trainings, service learning opportunities and events for mentors/mentees to attend together

UNL-College of Architecture (\$10,000) – Support for a collaborative research project with the UNL Lied Center for Performing Arts, to explore the potential reuse of the auditorium of Lincoln's historic Whittier Junior High School and to develop an operational plan for its auditorium that will best serve the culturally diverse community

UNL-Department of Educational Psychology (\$36,076) – Second-year support for *Target the Bully*, a half-day in-school suspension program that works with students who are chronic bullies through one-on-one evaluation and development of action plans aimed at stopping the bullying behaviors

UNL-Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools (\$80,000) – Second and third-year funding for *Project TEAMS*, a partnership between Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, to assist students reentering LPS after a prolonged absence and work to increase the likelihood that they remain in high school and graduate