

For further information
contact: Pam Baker
402.436.5971

March 18, 2009

WOODS CHARITABLE FUND AWARDS GRANTS

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., a private grant-making foundation, today announced the approval of new and renewal grants in Lincoln, Nebraska totaling **\$386,000**, the first of three grant cycles this year. Fifteen tax-exempt organizations will benefit from these awards (**BELOW**).

At Woods' March board meeting, directors unanimously approved a motion to maintain the Fund's target payout despite experiencing a significant drop in its endowment in recent months. Woods Board Chair Donna Woods stated, "During this challenging time in our economy and our community, the Woods board of directors determined that now, more than ever before, we need to sustain our community support instead of pulling back."

Of the \$386,000 in grants approved, 5% of the funding went toward projects in the area of Education, 7% toward Arts & Culture, 13% toward Civic & Community, and 75% toward Human Services.

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc. makes grants three times a year to tax-exempt 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. For more information on funding guidelines, call 436.5971, visit the Fund's website at www.woodscharitable.org, or write to either Pam Baker, Tom Woods or Angie Zmarzly at P.O. Box 81309, Lincoln, NE 68501.

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Approved for Funding by Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., March 2009

Arc of Lincoln Lancaster County (\$25,000) – General operating support for this organization committed to promoting and protecting the rights and interests of people with developmental disabilities and their families

Community Development Resources (\$20,000) – General operating support for this organization that provides lending capital, affordable housing resources and business training for women, minorities and economically disadvantaged individuals

Cultural Centers Coalition (\$30,000) – For a feasibility study and planning for a collaborative facility in which the Asian Community and Cultural Center, El Centro de las Americas, Indian Center and Malone Community Center would co-locate

El Centro de las Americas (\$25,000) – Third-year staff salary support during a transitional restructuring period for the Center whose purpose is educating and empowering Hispanic/Latino families and the community at large

Fresh Start, Inc. (\$20,000) – For its *Outreach & Community Services* program that provides resources and support to women to increase their self-sufficiency after leaving Fresh Start Home

Friends of the Haymarket Theatre (\$6,000) – General operating support of this group providing professional theater productions and comprehensive theater training for children and young adults

Heartland Big Brothers-Big Sisters (\$10,000) – Toward part-time staff to help boost the number of male volunteer applicants and thus help match more boys with positive adult male role models

Heritage Nebraska (\$10,000) – For advocacy training activities by Heritage Nebraska field staff as part of its technical assistance to local historic preservation groups to help them protect Nebraska's historic built and cultural environment

Lighthouse (\$20,000) – For support of its *Truancy Intervention and Prevention* program focusing on youth in grades 5 through 12 who have problems with school attendance

Lincoln Action Program, Inc. (\$90,000) – Three-year general operating support during a transitional restructuring period of this organization working to improve the quality of life and economic self-sufficiency of people of low income by providing services, support and advocacy

Lincoln Community Playhouse, Inc. (\$20,000) – Toward the Director of Education & Outreach position to support both existing and new programming that provides theater arts education to children and underserved groups

United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County (\$5,000) – For a technology system upgrade through the purchase of a new software program designed to better track, process and analyze its pledge, donor and recipient data

Updowntowners, Inc. (\$15,000) – Toward the Events Coordinator position to increase and sustain the organization's ability to plan and promote downtown Lincoln's annual festivals and events that create millions of dollars of economic impact for the city

Voices for Children in Nebraska (\$60,000) – Two-year support of general operating and capacity-building efforts of this statewide organization that advocates for the well-being of children in Nebraska as it prepares for a transition in leadership

Voices of Hope of Lincoln, Inc. (\$30,000) – Toward the ongoing operations and expansion of the *Volunteer & Internship* program of this agency that serves survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their families