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WOODS CHARITABLE FUND AWARDS GRANTS

Woods Charitable Fund's Board of Directors approved grants totaling **\$286,364** to 13 tax-exempt organizations during its second grant cycle of 2012.

Of the \$286,364 in awards given this grant cycle, 35 percent will go toward Human Services organizations, 43 percent toward Civic & Community, 11 percent toward Education and 11 percent toward Arts & Culture.

Among the award recipients is **Flatwater Shakespeare Company**, which will receive a two-year grant of \$30,000 toward its second and third years offering Shakespeare productions in Lincoln public parks. Last year, more than 2,000 people attended its free performances of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at various locations in Lincoln.

The project aims to bring the outdoor theater experience to underserved populations in lower-income areas. Surveys distributed at the performances last year indicated only half of those attending had previously seen Flatwater Shakespeare perform, and more than 99 percent of survey respondents said they would return. This funding follows a grant for \$15,000 that WCF awarded to the project last year.

Woods Charitable Fund makes grants three times a year to tax-exempt organizations seeking funding for Lincoln-focused programs in the areas of Human Services, Civic & Community, Education and Arts & Culture. For more information on funding guidelines, call 402.436.5971, visit the Fund's website at www.woodscharitable.org or write to 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., June 2012

Boys and Girls Clubs of Lincoln Lancaster County (\$10,000) – Toward its *Project Learn* program that offers after-school tutoring and homework assistance as part of a concentrated strategy for improving Park Middle School kids' academic performances

BryanLGH Foundation (\$20,000) – Third-year support of the *Healthcare Education for Underserved Children and Youth* program to promote career advancement and professional development among at-risk youth through their participation in clubs and camps

Cedars Youth Services Inc. (\$20,000) – Second-year support of Cedars' *Education and Life Skills for Out of Home Youth* program to prepare older youth for independent living as adults

Center for Legal Immigration Assistance (\$25,000) – Third-year support of staff and transition expenses incurred during its establishment as an independent nonprofit

Community Action of Nebraska Inc. (\$22,564) – Toward the development of a sustainable advocacy program and network to affect public policy as it relates to low-income families in Lincoln and statewide

Flatwater Shakespeare Company (\$30,000) – Second and third-year funding toward the theatre company's touring performances to be offered free to the public in underserved areas of Lincoln

Food Bank of Lincoln Inc. (\$37,500) – Toward a bilingual outreach coordinator to help eligible clients enroll in the federal *Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program*

Interfaith Housing Coalition (\$15,000) – Toward a Capital Needs Assessment for two low-income housing properties in downtown Lincoln

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska Inc. (\$16,300) – Support of an employment assistance program that works with newly resettled refugees to enhance their self-sufficiency through employment training, orientation and job placement

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (\$20,000) – Third-year support of the *Quality Enhancement Project for Early Childhood Education* to help improve the quality of care in several early-childhood facilities within targeted low-income areas of Lincoln

Nebraskans for Civic Reform (\$25,000) – Second-year general operating start-up support of this organization dedicated to making elections and civic institutions more inclusive for traditionally disenfranchised Nebraskans

Northeast Family Resource Center (\$15,000) – Two-year support of its *Parents as Partners* program, which provides training in skill-building and child development to its parent clients who are predominantly of low income

St. Monica's Home (\$30,000) – General operating support of this behavioral health treatment center in Lincoln that serves women with substance abuse and/or co-existing mental health issues