

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information

Contact: Tom Woods

(402) 436-5971

twoods@woodscharitable.org

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**WOODS CHARITABLE FUND APPROVES \$480,000
IN GRANTS IN MARCH**

Woods Charitable Fund's Board of Directors approved grants totaling \$480,000 to 16 tax-exempt organizations during its first grant cycle of 2013. The Directors also approved a target payout percentage of 5 percent for the year, which likely will equal about \$1.1 million to be granted in 2013.

Of the \$480,000 in grants approved in this cycle, 39 percent will go toward Human Service organizations, 25 percent to Arts & Culture, 22 percent to Civic & Community, 10 percent to Education and 4 percent toward a miscellaneous organization.

Two of the grants continue support of human-services programs that received funding from Woods Charitable Fund in 2012. They are the Family Violence Council, which has received a second year of support for a multidisciplinary training program for handling child-abuse cases that also include domestic violence; and the Mediation Center, which will receive second- and third-year support to facilitate transition planning with older children preparing to age out of the foster care system.

Woods Charitable Fund also has granted funding to an organization in La Pointe, Wis. Woods Hall Craft Shop will receive matching funding for a capital campaign to expand its hall, which sells crafts created by Madeline Island's year-round residents. The Woods family supported initial building of the crafts hall in 1954.

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, Kathy Steinauer Smith or Angie Zmarzly at 1248 O St. Suite 1130, Lincoln, NE 68508, or at info@woodscharitable.org.

Approved for Funding by Woods Charitable Fund Inc., March 2013

Asian Community and Cultural Center (\$20,000) – For continued support of the Center's general operating expenses and Executive Director position

Bright Lights (\$5,000) – In support of a new online registration system for this educational organization’s summer enrichment courses

Center for People in Need (\$20,000) – For development of Project ICAN, an educational and work-skills training program for clients who receive Temporary Aid to Needy Families assistance

Center for Rural Affairs (\$20,000) – For training with other nonprofit organizations to develop public-policy advocates for low-income and working-poor Nebraskans

Easter Seal Society of Nebraska (\$15,000) – For continued support of the Lincoln Seniors Transportation Program, which encourages the independence and social interaction of Lincolnites ages 65 and older

Family Violence Council (\$50,000) – Toward second-year training of the Safe and Sound Initiative, a model that develops Lincoln’s first coordinated community response to handling child abuse investigations with co-occurring intimate partner abuse, in collaboration with several area agencies that work with victims and perpetrators of child abuse and domestic violence

Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters (\$20,000) – General operating support of this organization that coordinates and professionally supports one-to-one mentoring relationships for at-risk kids

Humanities Nebraska (\$20,000) – For communications and rebranding efforts for this organization formerly known as the Nebraska Humanities Council

Indian Center (\$35,000) – Second-year support of its intensive outpatient drug and alcohol counseling program for adults and teens

Legal Aid of Nebraska (\$50,000) – Three-year support of a new Access to Justice Self-Help Center in downtown Lincoln to be staffed by Legal Aid attorneys and open three afternoons a week

Lincoln Children’s Zoo (\$20,000) – Toward the organization’s financial sustainability planning project

Lincoln Public Schools (\$25,000) – Toward Hear to Learn, a pilot project to install sound systems in four LPS elementary schools and test the benefits. WCF funding will support systems for West Lincoln and Prescott elementary schools.

The Mediation Center (\$40,000) – For second- and third-year support of a program to facilitate transition planning with older youth as they age out of the foster care system

Nebraska Wesleyan University (\$20,000) – Toward its efforts to boost service-learning classes and opportunities for its students through work with Lincoln schools and nonprofit organizations

OpenSky Policy Institute (\$20,000) – Second-year general operations funding of this organization working to expanding economic opportunity for all Nebraskans by promoting public discussion and informed action through research, analysis and outreach

Woods Hall Craft Shop (\$100,000) – A three-year matching challenge grant for a capital campaign to build a new sales hall for this organization that sells art and crafts created by year-round residents of Madeline Island, Wis.