

Annual Report 2017



Woods Charitable Fund

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Community Volunteer

Carl Eskridge

Vice Chair

Deputy State Ombudsman

Lincoln City Councilman

Hank Woods

Treasurer

Community Volunteer

Michael J. Tavlin

Assistant Treasurer

Chief Financial Officer

Speedway Motors, Inc.

Nelle Woods Jamison

Community Volunteer

Ernesto Castillo, Jr.

(term ended 2017)

Planner II

Urban Development Department

City of Lincoln

Candice Howell

Assistant Dean for Student

Success & Persistence

Nebraska Wesleyan University

Ed Wimes

Community Volunteer

Michelle Suarez

(term began 2017)

Early Childhood Developer

Prosper Lincoln, Nebraska Children

and Families Foundation

Staff

Thomas C. Woods, IV

Board Secretary

President

Woods Charitable Fund

Joan Stolle

Operations Manager

Woods Charitable Fund

Kathy Steinauer Smith

Senior Community

Investment Director

Woods Charitable Fund

Angie Zmarzly

Community Investment Director

Woods Charitable Fund

(Left WCF in 2017)

Nicole Juranek

Community Investment Director

Woods Charitable Fund

All photos in this annual report

are provided courtesy of

Humanities Nebraska.



Angie Zmarzly



Nicole Juranek



Ernie Castillo



Michelle Suarez

*“The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”*

– Dr. Seuss, *Oh, the Places You’ll Go!*

Humanities Nebraska began offering the Prime Time Family Reading Time program in 2002. More than 15,000 Nebraskans have participated in the 238 bilingual and English-only Prime Time sessions held throughout the state in 17 public libraries, 18 elementary schools, 5 community centers and one Head Start program. Woods Charitable Fund applauds Humanities Nebraska for offering this program to help prepare Nebraska’s youth and families to read and learn.

2017 marked several changes at WCF. First, Angie Zmarzly resigned as WCF’s Community Investment Director after 12 years with the Fund. She had the opportunity to live abroad with her family and we will miss her empathetic and inquisitive interaction with grant-seekers.

Nicole Juranek was hired as Angie’s replacement in June to provide support with the Fund’s grants management, program review and communications. She was previously employed at Heartland Big Brothers-Big Sisters developing, managing and monitoring grants, coordinating events and drafting agency communications.

Ernie Castillo’s board term, which began in 2011, ended. Ernie is the Community Development Planner II Specialist for the City of Lincoln Department of Urban Development. He had recently completed board terms with VolunteerLinc and the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights when he was elected to WCF’s board. He remains involved with the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association as a board member. During Ernie’s board tenure, the Fund awarded 309 grants totaling \$9,040,814.

Michelle Suarez filled the board position vacated by Ernie in November. She is the Early Childhood Developer for the Prosper Lincoln initiative at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, which works to increase cross-sector initiatives and resources to advocate for and improve early-childhood development. Before joining Prosper Lincoln, she was a principal, administrator and teacher in Lincoln Public Schools for more than 30 years.

Please read through the report to learn more about WCF and see a listing of all of our 2017 grant recipients.

Thomas C. Woods, IV, *President*

Letter from the President



About the Foundation

WOODS CHARITABLE FUND is a private philanthropic foundation located in Lincoln, Nebraska. It was founded in 1941 by Frank H. Woods, Nelle C. Woods and their three sons, Thomas, Henry and Frank.

The Fund's vision is to help build a community that offers a promising future for all, where everyone has the opportunity to participate and thrive. It supports a broad range of activities that include, but are not limited to, these special interests: Human Services, Education, Civic & Community and Arts & Culture. More details about WCF's history, grant-making and review of financial statements can be found on its website, www.woodscharitable.org.

In 2016, Woods Charitable Fund launched a Breakthrough Initiative Grant to support promising and

groundbreaking new programs, collaborations and/or organizational best practices at nonprofit organizations serving Lincoln. In May 2017, the first Breakthrough Initiative Grant was awarded to Collective Impact Lincoln, a project to benefit low-income, working Lincolniters in six targeted neighborhoods through neighborhood revitalization, engagement and advocacy. Nebraskans for Civic Reform (now known as Civic Nebraska) is the lead agency on the project, which includes Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest and South of Downtown Community Development Organization as collaborative partners. The grant is pledged for \$1.175 million over three years. More details on this grant program are available at www.woodscharitable.org.

To Apply for a Grant

Before applying, grant-seekers are required to either contact the Fund by phone or mail/e-mail a letter of intent, including a budget, to determine if an application is appropriate. To allow adequate time for consideration, interested agencies are required to contact the Fund's staff at least two weeks prior to the application deadline.

If the Fund requests a full proposal, the applicant will be asked to complete WCF's web-based Grant Application Form, accessible only to those invited to apply.

The staff at Woods Charitable Fund Inc. is pleased to consult with applicants at any time during the process to help strengthen their proposals and reports.

In cases of extreme emergency, WCF will consider interim proposals of \$10,000 or less outside the set timetable.

Applicants should direct inquiries to:

Tom Woods, Kathy Steinauer Smith or Nicole Juranek

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc.
1248 O Street, Suite 1130
Lincoln, NE 68508

www.woodscharitable.org
402.436.5971

twoods@woodscharitable.org
ksteinauersmith@woodscharitable.org
njuranek@woodscharitable.org



TIMETABLE

Inquiry Deadline	Submission Dates	Notification Dates
April 15	April 15 to 30	November
October 15	October 15 to 31	May

Please note that if the deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline will defer to the following business day.

2017 Grant Payments

December 31, 2017

ARTS & CULTURE

Flatwater Shakespeare Company	\$ 12,500
Hear Nebraska, Inc.	15,000
Lincoln Friends of Chamber Music, Inc.	7,000
Lux Center for the Arts	15,000
Nebraska Brass, Inc.	5,000
Nebraska Writers Collective	10,000
UNL Lied Center for Performing Arts	10,000
UNL Nebraska Repertory Theatre	15,000
Vision Maker Media	20,000
Youth Actors Academy of Lincoln, Inc.	10,000
Subtotal	\$ 119,500

CIVIC & COMMUNITY

ACLU Nebraska Foundation, Inc.	\$ 15,000
Center for Legal Immigration Assistance	35,000
Center for Rural Affairs	15,000
Common Cause Nebraska Education Fund	12,000
Leadership Lincoln, Inc.	10,000
Lincoln Lancaster County Habitat for Humanity, Inc.	20,000
Nebraska Bicycling Alliance	10,000

Nebraska Civic Engagement Table	30,000
Nebraskans for Civic Reform, now Civic Nebraska (Breakthrough Initiative)	375,000
Neighborhoods, Inc. (dba NeighborWorks Lincoln)	30,000
South of Downtown Community Development Organization	30,000
VolunteerLinc	20,000
Subtotal	\$ 602,000

EDUCATION

Cedars Youth Services, Inc.	\$ 20,000
Lincoln Children's Museum	1,000
Lincoln Literacy Council (dba Lincoln Literacy)	30,000
Lincoln Public Schools (Community LINKS program)	94,000
Lincoln Public Schools (Fruit and Fiber program at Lincoln High School)	3,250
Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc.	16,800
Nebraska Human Resources Research Foundation, Inc.	20,000
Nebraska Humanities Council (dba Humanities Nebraska)	20,000
UNL NE Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools	30,000
Subtotal	\$ 235,050

2017 Grant Payments

December 31, 2017

HUMAN SERVICES

Asian Community and Cultural Center	\$ 20,000
Bay Lincoln (The Bay)	34,000
Bridges to Hope	5,000
Camp Summergold, Inc.	7,500
CASA for Lancaster County	10,000
Center for People in Need, Inc.	10,000
City of Lincoln, Lincoln Police Department	25,000
Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties	10,000
Disability Rights Nebraska	40,000
Girl Scouts-Spirit of Nebraska	20,000
Good Neighbor Community Center, Inc.	40,000
Guidance to Success Youth Club	9,500
Heartland Big Brothers-Big Sisters (Program Related Investment)	40,000
HUB Central Access Point for Young Adults	20,000
Karen Society of Nebraska, Inc.	3,500
Lincoln and Lancaster County Child Guidance Center, Inc.	45,000
Lincoln Lancaster County Child Advocacy Center	55,000
Lincoln Lancaster County Human Services Federation, Inc.	10,000
Lincoln Medical Education Partnership	7,250
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.	20,000

Malone Community Center*	25,000
Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach, Inc.	27,500
Nebraska Children and Families Foundation	15,000
Outlinc, Inc. **	5,000
Released and Restored, Inc.	30,000
St. Monica's Home	20,000
The Bridge Behavioral Health, Inc.	15,000
UNL Department of Psychology	16,000
Voices of Hope of Lincoln, Inc. (Program Related Investment)	100,000
Willard Community Center Corp.	30,000
YWCA of Lincoln	15,000
Subtotal	\$ 730,250

MISCELLANEOUS

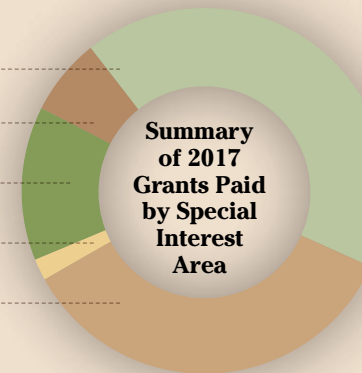
Nonprofit Hub Foundation	\$ 40,000
Subtotal	\$ 40,000

TOTAL GRANTS PAID \$ 1,726,800

* Indicates retiring
Director's grant
designation

** Indicates retiring
Staff's grant
designation

Human Services	\$730,250	42%
Arts & Culture	\$119,500	7%
Education	\$235,050	14%
Miscellaneous	\$40,000	2%
Civic & Community	\$602,000	35%



Featured Grantee:

Prime Time Family Reading Time & Humanities Nebraska

Named for a time when many people are home watching television, Prime Time Family Reading Time gathers children and families to eat dinner, read and discuss award-winning children's books.

In 2002, Humanities Nebraska launched Prime Time in Lincoln, and it has expanded into a statewide program engaging 15,000 Nebraskans in 18 communities since inception. Nebraska now ranks second in the nation in the number of completed Prime Time sessions, outdone only by Louisiana, where the program originated.

Led by trained storytellers and discussion leaders, families share carefully selected storybooks that focus on a variety of themes like kinship, courage, loyalty, compassion, fairness and determination. During each six-week session, children and their families meet at schools and public libraries to share dinner and storytelling.

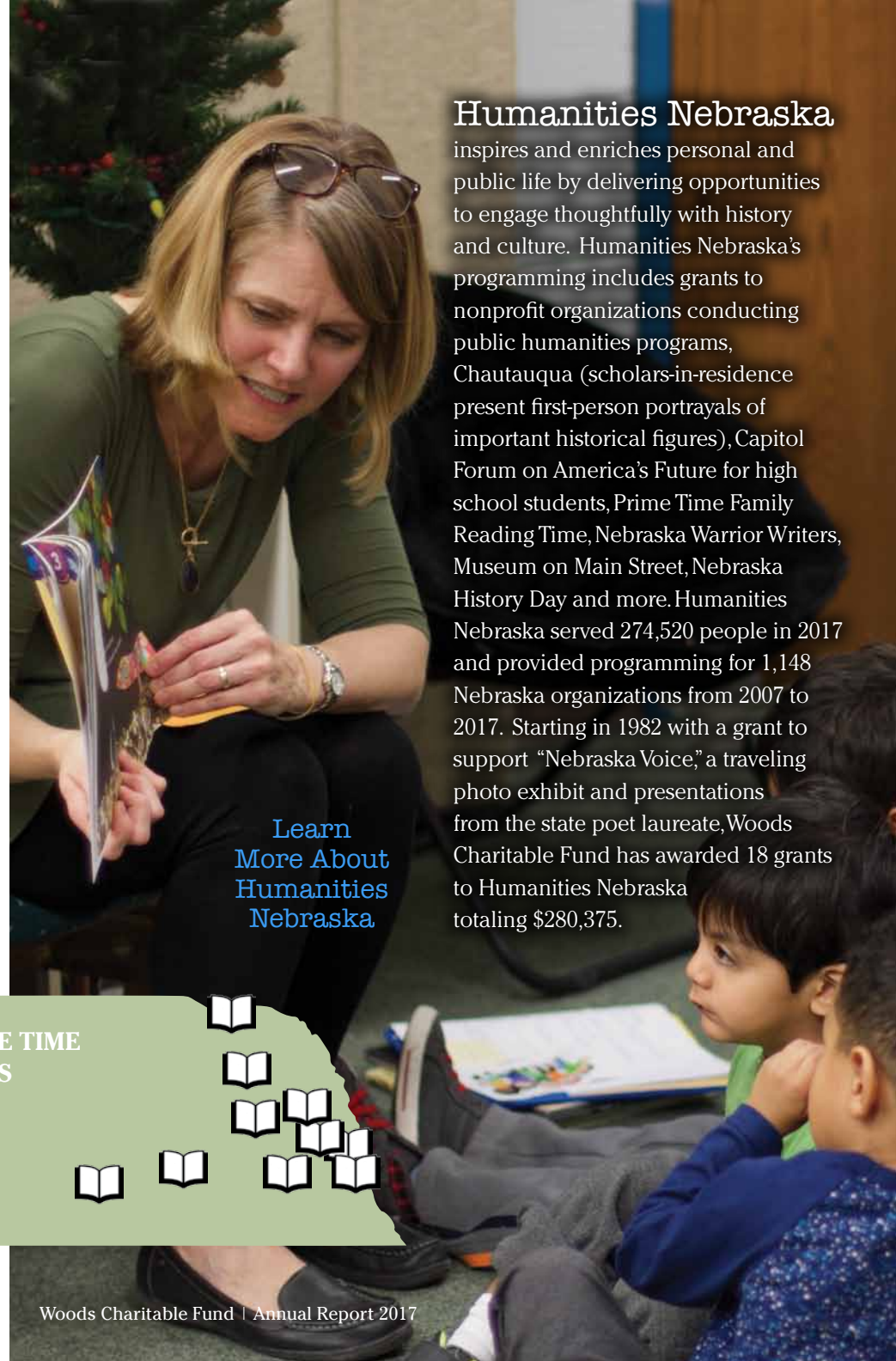
Humanities Nebraska seeks partners in underserved neighborhoods or where literacy scores fall below the state

standard. Sessions held at libraries help connect families to the many free resources available there and those at schools help to increase child and family school engagement. Essential to the program's success, Prime Time strives to remove barriers to a busy family's participation. For example, each week, Prime Time offers both transportation and a healthy meal.

"The program is unique in that it has years of development, observation and study behind it," said Susan Hale, Lincoln Prime Time Assistant. "There is a clearly defined step-by-step program, with the core intent to help prepare children for the future and have families engage as a unit in reading and discussing books."

Discussion following a story facilitates critical thinking and helps children develop connections between books and real-life situations. This aids a child in building reading comprehension and understanding. Humanities Nebraska offers Prime Time in five formats: Native American, African-American, bilingual for Spanish speaking families, preschool and multicultural.

(continued on next page)



Humanities Nebraska inspires and enriches personal and public life by delivering opportunities to engage thoughtfully with history and culture. Humanities Nebraska's programming includes grants to nonprofit organizations conducting public humanities programs, Chautauqua (scholars-in-residence present first-person portrayals of important historical figures), Capitol Forum on America's Future for high school students, Prime Time Family Reading Time, Nebraska Warrior Writers, Museum on Main Street, Nebraska History Day and more. Humanities Nebraska served 274,520 people in 2017 and provided programming for 1,148 Nebraska organizations from 2007 to 2017. Starting in 1982 with a grant to support "Nebraska Voice," a traveling photo exhibit and presentations from the state poet laureate, Woods Charitable Fund has awarded 18 grants to Humanities Nebraska totaling \$280,375.

[Learn More About Humanities Nebraska](#)

2017 PRIME TIME LOCATIONS



Featured Grantee: *(continued)*

Prime Time encourages families to read together both during and after the program. This inspires children to become self-directed learners who are eager to experience the world around them through books and interaction with others.

According to Humanities Nebraska's 2017 family survey, 91% of families report they spend more time reading now as a family since attending Prime Time and 91% said Prime Time improved the way they read and discuss books together. Additionally, 43% of families said they now read with their children every night and 55% read together at least once a week.

"While Humanities Nebraska provides grants, speakers, exhibitions, and other humanities opportunities throughout the state, Prime Time fills a special need in reaching underserved families," said Chris Sommerich, Humanities Nebraska's Executive Director. "We have been committed to devoting significant resources to expanding Prime Time to meet the needs for such a program, and we could not do this without the support of foundations like Woods Charitable Fund."

After establishing programs across the state and developing several Prime Time sites in Omaha, Humanities Nebraska made a commitment to grow the Lincoln program. In 2017, Woods Charitable Fund provided a two-year \$40,000 grant to hire the Lincoln Prime Time Assistant and expand the program throughout the city, particularly in underserved and low-income neighborhoods.

Over the last year, program sites in Lincoln have grown from two to four with eight planned in 2018. In 2017, Prime Time served 133 children and 46 families, with an average weekly attendance of 50 per site. Susan attributes this growth to heightened awareness of the program, strong community support and quality programming.

Parent testimonials convey the appreciation they have for the program. "It's wonderful we have Prime Time for our kids to be listening, respectful, reading, sitting, and discussing the story. Thank you so much. Hope we will participate in the future again. That will be great for the kids," a parent of a pre-school student in the bilingual program said.

[Learn More About Prime Time](#)

Yesenia's Story

Yesenia Lopez was 8 years old when she started attending Prime Time with her mother in Grand Island. Her mother has been involved in Prime Time's bilingual program for more than 10 years, first as a preschool teacher and then as a bilingual storyteller.

"Being involved in Prime Time really got me more involved in literature and reading at home," Yesenia said. "My mom would read at home and practice for the group with me; it helped me understand that reading is fun."

Today, Yesenia is an intern with Prime Time as well as a storyteller in the bilingual program in Lincoln. A junior at Nebraska Wesleyan, Yesenia is majoring in mathematics and hopes to pursue a career in actuarial science.

As a child, Yesenia enjoyed "Stellaluna" ("Stelaluna" in Spanish) for its illustrations and "The Crow & the Pitcher" because the group followed the story with a learning activity including an actual beaker, rocks and water. As a storyteller, Yesenia says the impact of the program is multifaceted.

"I see the impact of Prime Time in so many ways," Yesenia said. "Reading through the surveys, families say they read more at home and read more together. I enjoy seeing the connection the program allows parents to have with their kids, reading at home and enjoying reading as a family in both English and Spanish."

"My favorite part of this program is the families," Yesenia said. "When we pass out the books for families to follow along, I see parents who don't speak English as well working to follow along with the story in English and kids that want to learn Spanish

following along in Spanish. It is a different way to learn on both sides—parents and kids."





To make a gift to
Woods Charitable Fund,
please contact
President Tom Woods
at 402.436.5971 or
twoods@woodscharitable.org.

*Woods Charitable Fund offers
its office conference room
as a meeting space to
nonprofit organizations from
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays
through Thursdays and
8 a.m. to noon Fridays.
Call WCF at 402.436.5971
for more information or
visit [woodscharitable.org/
meeting-room/](http://woodscharitable.org/meeting-room/).*

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