Officers and Directors

Donna W. Woods  
Chair  
Community Volunteer  

Orville Jones, III  
Vice Chair  
Retired BNSF Railroad  
Community Volunteer  

Hank Woods  
Treasurer  
Community Volunteer  

Michael J. Tavlin  
Assistant Treasurer  
Chief Financial Officer  
Speedway Motors, Inc.  

Nelle Woods Jamison  
Community Volunteer  

Ernesto Castillo, Jr.  
Planner  
Urban Development Department  
City of Lincoln  

Carl Eskridge  
Deputy State Ombudsman  
Lincoln City Councilman  

Candice Howell  
Director of Student Success & Retention  
Nebraska Wesleyan University  

Staff

Thomas C. Woods, IV  
Board Secretary  
President  
Woods Charitable Fund  

Joan Stolle  
Operations Manager  
Woods Charitable Fund  

Kathy Steinauer Smith  
Community Investment Director  
Woods Charitable Fund  

Angie Zmarzly  
Community Investment Director  
Woods Charitable Fund  

ON THE COVER:
All photos of LCP productions in this annual report were provided 
courtesy of Lincoln Community Playhouse.
“The pessimist complains about the wind;  
the optimist expects it to change;  
the realist adjusts the sails.”

– William Arthur Ward

As a longtime funder in Lincoln, WCF has witnessed some nonprofit executives and boards of directors who have complained or expected and seldom adjusted. The Lincoln Community Playhouse is an example of a realist. The Playhouse was facing difficult winds in 2009, but its directors brought on Morrie Enders as its Executive Director in 2010. In unison, they adjusted the sails and 5 years later the Playhouse is again offering a gateway to new worlds of experience, emotion and knowledge.

WCF’s annual report shines a spotlight on the Lincoln Community Playhouse and Morrie Enders, the 2015 Executive of the Year by the Association of Nonprofit Executives. The work of the Playhouse has enriched the lives of those who have taken an active part in it, as well as those in the community who benefit from live theatre productions. On either side of the footlights, those involved have represented a diversity of age, culture, life experience, and a strong appreciation of the importance of the arts.

Woods Charitable Fund applauds the Playhouse’s outreach and educational offerings through its “A Playhouse for Everyone” project, which offers play productions free for Title I schools, scholarships to its theatre camps and free tickets through nonprofits; its “RadioActive Players,” which is a senior-citizen theatre group in conjunction with University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute; and its Penguin Project, which features a cast of children with special needs partnered with other children as mentors.

Please read through the report to learn more about WCF and see a listing of all of its 2015 grant recipients. Woods Charitable Fund’s 2015 financials may be found under the “About WCF” tab at www.woodscharitable.org.

Thomas C. Woods, IV
President
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.

To Apply for a Grant

Before applying, grant-seekers are required to contact the Fund by phone or mail/email with 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 deadlines.

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 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 Angie Zmarzly
Woods Charitable Fund, Inc.
1248 O Street, Suite 1130
Lincoln, NE 68508
www.woodscharitable.org
(402) 436-5971
twoods@woodscharitable.org
ksteinauersmith@woodscharitable.org
azmarzly@woodscharitable.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inqury Deadline</th>
<th>Submission Dates</th>
<th>Notification Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>April 15 to 30</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>October 15 to 31</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that if the deadline falls on a weekend, the deadline will defer to the following business day.
## 2015 Grant Payments

**December 31, 2015**

### ARTS AND CULTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Haymarket Theatre</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hear Nebraska</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Community Playhouse, Inc.</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Orchestra Association</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lux Center for the Arts</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA)</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska Art Association (Sheldon Museum of Art)</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska Jazz Orchestra, Inc.</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Family Resource Center</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Davidson Hahn &amp; Company</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) International Quilt Study Center &amp; Museum</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision Maker Media</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Education Foundation</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woods Hall Craft Shop</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>$288,500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CIVIC AND COMMUNITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center for Legal Immigration Assistance</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Rural Affairs</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Cause Education Fund (Nebraska)</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community CROPS</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development Resources (CDR)</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Aid of Nebraska</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mediation Center</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraskans for Civic Reform</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OpenSky Policy Institute</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>$270,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EDUCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Housing Charities</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Public Schools (Community LINKS programs)</td>
<td>$32,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Public Schools (Family Literacy Program)</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Madonna Foundation</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNL Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Families, Youth and Schools</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YMCA of Lincoln</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>$132,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Human Services

- Asian Community and Cultural Center: $25,000
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Lincoln Lancaster County: $20,000
- Bridge Behavioral Health, Inc.: $25,000
- CenterPointe, Inc.: $8,000
- Disability Rights Nebraska: $20,000
- El Centro de las Americas: $10,000
- Family Health Services: $10,000
- Food Bank of Lincoln, Inc.: $20,000
- Good Neighbor Community Center: $20,000
- Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters: $10,000
- Lincoln and Lancaster County Child Guidance Center, Inc.: $45,000
- Lincoln Lancaster County Child Advocacy Center: $20,000
- Nebraska Children and Families Foundation: $15,000
- Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition, Inc.: $4,500
- Produce from the Heart (fiscal agent: Center for People in Need, Inc.): $30,000
- Seniors Foundation: $20,000
- St. Monica’s Home: $20,000
- Tabitha Foundation: $15,000
- TeamMates Mentoring Program: $10,000
- UNL Department of Psychology: $24,000
- Voices for Children in Nebraska: $10,000
- Voices of Hope Lincoln, Inc.: $35,000

**Subtotal**: $416,500

### Miscellaneous

- Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries: $18,000
- Friends of Woods Tennis, Inc. (fiscal agent: Lincoln Parks & Recreation Foundation): $200,000
- Nonprofit Hub Foundation: $35,000

**Subtotal**: $253,000

**Total Grants Paid**: $1,360,000
FOR 70 YEARS, Lincoln Community Playhouse has been performing high-quality theatre experiences with a mission to transform people’s lives and change our community. With casts and crews featuring Lincoln adults and children, the Playhouse produces several performances of 8 plays each year, including a range of well-known and loved musicals, comedies and dramas, as well as family-friendly productions. Just a few of the plays and musicals that have been featured recently on the Playhouse’s stage include “Oklahoma!” “Les Miserables,” “Peter Pan,” “Mary Poppins,” “Twelve Angry Men,” and “Anne of Green Gables.”

Since becoming its Executive Director in 2010, Morrie Enders has led the Playhouse in several new outreach efforts to create a theatre that embodies the “community” in its name. Lincoln Community Playhouse offers free and reduced-price plays for about 1,000 elementary students annually and works with local organizations to provide tickets and books related to the plays. It also offers a year-round Theatre Arts Academy providing classes and camps for Lincoln’s youth to explore their interest in acting and technical aspects of the theatre. Scholarships are available for children from low-income families. Additionally, its senior-
citizen theatre group, RadioActive Players, produces one show annually.

Perhaps best known is the Playhouse’s award-winning Penguin Project, which has received media attention and accolades for its productions of plays featuring casts of children with special needs partnered with peer mentors. The Penguin Project received the 2015 Lincoln Mayor’s Arts Award for Outstanding Event, and in early 2016, the Playhouse was named the winner of the Twink Lynch Organizational Achievement Award from the American Association of Community Theatres for its innovative outreach programming. The award annually recognizes a theatre for successfully completing major steps in new directions, expanding services to its community and moving toward a new level of organizational development. Organizations that have won this award in previous years have included community theatres in Kansas, Florida, Texas and Tennessee.

Additionally, in recognition of his leadership and vision, Morrie Enders received the 2015 Nonprofit Executive of the Year award from the Association of Nonprofit Executives based in Lincoln.

The Playhouse’s origins began with a play staged by The Circlet Theatre in July 1946 at a downtown Lincoln hotel; the next year, The Circlet Theatre merged with the Lincoln Community Theatre to form The Lincoln Circlet Community Theatre. In the 1950s, The Lincoln Circlet Community Theatre became the Lincoln Community Playhouse, staging its first production in November 1954 at the Tifereth Israel Synagogue.

In 1972, the Playhouse purchased its current home at 2500 S. 56th St. and launched its first play there that year. Its Gallery Theatre opened in 1976, and the Children’s Theatre opened in 1980.

Woods Charitable Fund provided its first grant to the Lincoln Community Playhouse in 1967, funding an informational brochure to launch a capital campaign to buy its building, and grants from 1970-72 supported acquisition of the theatre. Throughout the Playhouse’s history, WCF has provided 18 grants to support the creation of its children’s theatre, touring productions, building refurbishment and salary support. A 2015 grant provided general-operating support for the Playhouse as it has continued to strengthen its high-quality plays, outreach and educational programming.
To make a gift to Woods Charitable Fund, please contact President Tom Woods at (402) 436-5971 or twoods@woodscharitable.org.