During the year, about 200 artists and writers come to the Open Studio and Writer’s Workshop on Wednesdays to create individual artistic projects. Some paint. Others draw or work with photographic images. Members of another group write poetry and short stories. Most are clients or former clients of the Community Mental Health Center or CenterPointe and have diagnosed mental health issues. All are working to meet their individual creative needs while maintaining their wellness.

The idea for a studio grew out of a series of client satisfaction studies conducted by CenterPointe and the Community Mental Health Center. A large percentage of the people leaving treatment told the centers that their treatment hadn’t explored their interests in art, writing, music, dance and performance.

In response, the Community Mental Health Center, in 1999, created a space in its basement to hold the first Open Studio on a trial basis. A few months later, CenterPointe opened the doors of its outpatient facility to begin the Writer’s Workshop. In these settings, people in recovery could work with professional artists and writers who would help them choose the appropriate media, get the necessary supplies and give them encouragement. Today their meetings have moved out of the treatment facilities and relocated at the “F” Street Community Center, adding the City of Lincoln as a partner.

The project, which began with six writers and ten artists with early grant support from Woods Charitable Fund, now produces an annual show and has published books of participant poetry and stories. Dean Settle, Director of the Community Mental Health Center says that his favorite story is one of a participant who would come to the group and introduce himself by saying, “I am a schizophrenic.” Today, when that person introduces himself he says, “I am an artist.”

To learn more about the Open Studio and Writer’s Workshop go to www.artscene.org or artistsontheedge.blogspot.com.
our favorite sofa
(for my wife)

although we almost quit calling each other
by our pet names
you would always be
“Mrs. Pumpernickel” to me
I didn’t mean to hurt you
how could I ever love anyone else
now joy blossoms
in the trees of my lungs
I remember that time
you walked three miles
in the boiling August sun
to be with me at the Regional Center
that you nursed my psychosis
back to some semblance of peace
and that now
while sitting together
on our favorite sofa
listening to the pain
of John Coltrane
we hold each other
as if for the first
the last time

Terrance Oberst
CONTENTS

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WOODS CHARITABLE FUND IS A PRIVATE philanthropic foundation created by Frank H. Woods and Nelle Cochrane Woods and their three sons. It was incorporated in Nebraska in 1941 and Frank Woods provided major endowment in 1952 before his death that year. In 1955 the Fund received one-third of the net residuary estate of Nelle C. Woods. The resources that made these gifts possible resulted from business interests in the telecommunications and coal industries in Nebraska and Illinois, namely Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph and Sahara Coal Company.

For over fifty years the Fund made grants in Lincoln, Nebraska and Chicago, Illinois. Until the early 1980’s, it operated as a family foundation under the leadership of trustees Frank H. Woods, Jr. in Chicago and Thomas C. Woods, Jr. in Lincoln. Both men had many business and personal ties in both cities. Their deaths, in 1980 and 1989 respectively, brought changes which included: expanding the board beyond family members to acknowledge both the benefits of new viewpoints and the fewer family members in the two cities available for board membership; bringing on staff; and introducing more targeted grant programs.

At the end of 1993, Woods Charitable Fund underwent a major restructuring that institutionalized in two separate foundations the different grant programs of the Fund in Chicago and Lincoln. Woods Charitable Fund now operates in Lincoln only and a second foundation, Woods Fund of Chicago, was created by transferring part of the original foundation’s assets to the new foundation. Both foundations currently operate with local representative boards and are able to respond to the issues, opportunities and creative leadership in their respective communities.

The Fund’s reports and Treasury Form 990-PF are on file at the Foundation Center in New York City and Washington, D.C. as well as in the office of the Secretary of State in Lincoln, Nebraska.
We’re living in turbulent economic times. Both for-profit businesses and not-for-profit organizations are struggling to continue their work, retain employees and provide value to the community. Yet there’s a major difference between the for-profit and the not-for-profit experience in difficult economic times. Businesses watch sales and demand retreat and can respond by cutting costs and downsizing. At the same time, their not-for-profit (community benefit organization - c.b.o.) counterparts, find a growing need for their services when the economy dips. In effect, the c.b.o. manager feels pressure to ramp up operations at the same time the organization’s bottom line is challenged.

The times present us “insurmountable opportunities” to maintain or increase support for those organizations whose work we value and would miss if they had to close their doors. **The Fund expects to sustain its community support in 2009 despite a shrinking endowment.** We hope everyone who can, will consider sustaining or increasing support for organizations whose work they respect.

“If we attend continually and promptly to the little that we can do, we shall ere long be surprised to find how little remains that we cannot do.”

– Samuel Butler (1835-1902)

Speaking of respect - we are proud to highlight the work of one of Lincoln’s best collaborations. Two fine, forward-thinking organizations - one public/one private - began working together in 1999 to help restore their clients through creativity. Ten years later, the Lincoln/Lancaster Mental Health Center and CenterPointe, Inc. have expanded opportunities for those with diagnosed mental health issues to create art and maintain their wellness through the Open Studio and Writer’s Workshop. Please read on to learn more about them and other organizations and programs Woods Charitable Fund supported in 2008.

And please remember to stand behind the community benefit organizations you value - by giving your best and most during this challenging time. As Nelson Mandela said in 1994, “Your playing small does not serve the world.”

[Signature]

Donna Woods, Chair

[Signature]

Pam Baker, Executive Director
PURPOSE
Through grants made to eligible organizations, Woods Charitable Fund seeks to strengthen the community by improving opportunities and life outcomes for all people in Lincoln, Nebraska. Woods supports members of the nonprofit sector who are exploring creative alternatives and promoting more just, effective approaches to meet community needs.

WOODS CHARITABLE FUND SUPPORTS A broad range of activities which include, but are not limited to, the SPECIAL INTERESTS described below. We are interested in reviewing plans for pilot projects and innovative programs, as well as sustained growth for organizations whose work coincides with the Fund’s purposes. Woods supports both direct services and policy programs.

The Fund looks forward to opportunities to review proposals involving partners (academic, community, government, business, public service, faith-based) to explore ways to integrate perspectives and talents toward common goals. We support projects that involve coalition-building, public education and advocacy to affect positive social change and improve opportunities for all citizens.

SPECIAL INTERESTS
HUMAN SERVICES
A significant cornerstone in community life is the family. Its power to mold and develop mentally healthy, secure, loving members determines Woods’ interest in supporting projects to strengthen families and provide opportunities for youth to achieve their full potential. This is a broad category and may include either direct service or policy programs focused on child care, single parenthood, the elderly, family planning, shelter, troubled families as well as others.

The Fund will give special consideration to programs and initiatives designed to prevent youth and family violence.

EDUCATION
Our educational systems face the challenge of preparing individuals for a rapidly changing society. Today, more than ever before, education touches the lives of people of all ages - students at all levels, newcomers learning a second language and culture, adults retraining to handle new job responsibilities. The Fund looks forward to opportunities to review proposals from existing educational institutions and from creative new programs to meet the challenge.

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY
To sustain or increase its vitality, a community must consistently nurture its development, particularly as that development impacts lower income citizens. The Fund supports projects that empower less advantaged Lincoln residents to participate in the economic system and that foster community participation and responsibility, thus engaging people to solve problems and improve opportunities for all. Woods recognizes the growing need in Lincoln for affordable housing and supports programs that expand its availability.

SUMMARY OF 2008 GRANTS PAID BY SPECIAL INTEREST AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Interest</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture</td>
<td>$276,950</td>
<td>19.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic &amp; Community</td>
<td>$294,151</td>
<td>20.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$172,100</td>
<td>11.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>$698,802</td>
<td>48.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,442,003</strong></td>
<td><strong>48.46%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advocacy groups as well as neighborhood, citizen and community organizations are effective avenues to promote citizen involvement and strengthen neighborhoods.

The need for individuals to achieve self-sufficiency has been identified as a primary community concern. The Fund encourages submission of proposals that suggest creative approaches to helping people escape poverty and become work-ready.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Visual art, literature, dance, theater and music are cornerstones of a community’s aesthetic and ethical being. They can bind people through shared experience and understanding. They stimulate thought, communication and creativity. Woods supports programs in the arts and humanities that will enhance or develop the common aesthetic spirit.

Programs that connect the arts and humanities with nontraditional participants are of special interest to the Fund.

FOCUS AREA

The Fund will give special consideration to programs and initiatives designed to: (1) support organizations that haven’t traditionally served refugees and immigrants but are trying to integrate them into their client bases and work forces; (2) expand English language education for New Americans; (3) help develop community acceptance and appreciation for New Americans; and (4) extend research and planning concerning immigrants and refugees in Lincoln.
FUNDING LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

While grants are made primarily in Lincoln, Nebraska, the Fund will consider grant applications from other locations in the context of their impact on Lincoln. The Fund makes grants in diverse fields, however, the following areas are not eligible for grant review:

- Computer hardware
- Environmental programs
- Funding of endowments
- Fundraising benefits or program advertising
- Health care programs
- Individual needs
- Medical and scientific research
- Programs for individual schools
- Recreation programs
- Religious programs
- Residential care and medical clinics
- Scholarships, fellowships
- Sponsorships

College and university proposals are reviewed only if they directly involve faculty and/or students in applied projects of benefit and concern to the community.

Requests for support of technology must be from organizations whose emphasis is in the Fund’s special interest areas. Requests must define the need for the technology, provide compelling evidence that it is appropriate for the task and is cost-effective. Furthermore, the proposal must demonstrate the technology’s impact on the organization’s mission.

The Fund will consider requests for:

- Computer software
- Fund development using technology
- Information/technology staff
- Marketing using technology
- Technical assistance for technology planning
- Technological training

Applicants generally should be organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and have a written ruling from the IRS that they also qualify under Section 509(a)(1), (2) or (3) of the Code (publicly supported organizations and their affiliates). Occasionally the Fund considers proposals from 501(c)(3) organizations that are private, operating foundations. In exceptional cases, the Fund will consider fiscal agent and expenditure responsibility grants.

The Fund does not accept applications from organizations: (1) that have had proposals approved or declined in the preceding 12 months; or (2) that are recipients of active, multi-year grants. This policy does not apply when organizations are involved in collaborative proposals.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE APPLYING:

- We only accept applications from nonprofit organizations that have communicated with us and have been asked to complete an application form.

- Contact the Fund by telephone or by sending a 2-page letter of intent, including budget information,
by mail, facsimile or e-mail. Then Woods staff can help you decide whether it is worth your time and expense to proceed with a full proposal.

- Many excellent proposals cannot be funded because there are absolute limits to the number of proposals the Fund can study thoroughly and support.
- If your organization receives a grant, you will be asked to sign a grant agreement form requiring written reports on use of the grant in relation to the original proposal objectives and program results. A selected number of grantees may be asked to participate in a post-grant evaluation to study program accomplishments in more depth.

TO APPLY FOR A GRANT

FIRST, please read the Fund’s guidelines, procedures and timetable.

SECOND, contact the Fund by telephone or by sending a 2-page letter of intent, including a budget, by mail, facsimile or e-mail to determine if it is worth your time and expense to proceed with a full proposal.

THIRD, if the Fund requests a full proposal, please complete a Lincoln/Lancaster County Grantmakers Common Application Form, available from Woods Charitable Fund’s office or on-line at www.woodscharitable.org as an RTF or PDF document. Together with the requested attachments, submit a single paper copy according to the timetable at right. The materials must arrive by 4:00 p.m. the day of the deadline or, if the deadline falls on a weekend, by 4:00 p.m. the following business day. An electronic copy of the application and attachments may be submitted, in addition to the hard copy, but is not required.

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

Applicants should direct inquiries to Pam Baker, Tom Woods or Angie Zmarzly:
Woods Charitable Fund, Inc.
P.O. Box 81309
1440 ‘M’ Street
Lincoln, NE 68501
(402) 436-5971 (telephone)
(402) 742-0123 (fax)
www.woodscharitable.org
pbaker@woodscharitable.org
twoods@woodscharitable.org
azmarzly@woodscharitable.org

TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submission Dates</th>
<th>Awards Announced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 15 – Mar 1</td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 15 – Jul 1</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 15 – Nov 1</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In cases of extreme emergency, the Fund will consider proposals of $10,000 or less outside the set timetable.
**HUMAN SERVICES**

**Adoption Links Worldwide, Inc.** - $15,525
For staff support and contracting fees to pursue Hague Accreditation to comply with new international adoption laws for this organization dedicated to matching Nebraska families with children around the world who are in need of permanent homes.

**Asian Community and Cultural Center** - $20,000
Third-year support of staff time toward sustaining the Asian Elderly New Americans Enrichment Project, a long-standing program of the Center that makes vital human services, behavioral health counseling and social interactions more accessible to Asian seniors.

**Center for People in Need, Inc.** - $75,000
Support of the Center’s capital campaign for a warehouse and office facility to be used for project expansion, including the Truckloads of Help Project. The Center provides essential items for low income families at no cost through the not-for-profit agencies that serve them. ($40,000)

To continue and expand public policy education on issues affecting low income and high need populations by maintaining a legislative resource database, providing leadership for the Coalition of Human Services Needs and facilitating advocacy education ($30,000).

General operating support † ($5,000)

**CenterPointe, Inc.** - $35,700
Second payment of a three-year $98,200 grant toward the salary of a new Director of Development to lead fundraising activities and develop private funds for this organization dedicated to serving those affected by co-occurring substance abuse and mental health issues.

City of Lincoln, **Lincoln Area Agency on Aging** - $15,000
For The Unity Project, which enhances protection and rights of vulnerable adults who reside in Lincoln area nursing homes and assisted living communities and to strengthen the Ombudsman Advocate Program.

**Asian Community and Cultural Center** - $20,000
Third-year support of staff time toward sustaining the Asian Elderly New Americans Enrichment Project, a long-standing program of the Center that makes vital human services, behavioral health counseling and social interactions more accessible to Asian seniors.

**Cultural Centers Coalition** - $35,000
For a shared Development Coordinator position for this collaboration, comprised of Asian Community and Cultural Center, Malone Community Center, Indian Center and El Centro de las Americas, that is dedicated to improving its client services through working collaboratively to strengthen each other and overcome the challenges shared by Lincoln’s cultural centers.

**Families Inspiring Families, Inc.** - $20,000
Second-year renewal for the Prevention Advocacy Program, a peer-to-peer support program for families whose children are at risk of becoming state wards due to their emotional, behavioral and/or mental health issues.

**Family Service Association of Lincoln** - $50,000
Second payment of a $40,000 grant for Therapy and Family Support services, a behavioral health program provided free-of-charge and on-site at elementary and middle schools to assist kids and families in dealing with life stressors that impact their behaviors and relationships at school or home ($20,000).

**Food Bank of Lincoln, Inc.** - $5,000
General operating support for this organization that collects and distributes food and basic need items for low income people †

† Indicates retiring board member grant designation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friendship Home of Lincoln</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>General operating support for this 25-bed emergency shelter for women and children who experience domestic violence †</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girl Scouts-Spirit of Nebraska</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>To launch Homestead Council’s Girl Scout Outreach Program, coordinating with schools to offer Girl Scout programming on-site to high-risk middle and high school girls, with programming focus on academic achievement, career development and dealing with real-life issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Neighbor Community Center, Inc.</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>First payment of a two-year $30,000 renewal grant to support the Executive Assistant position for this organization that provides clothing and basic needs to low-income people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houses of Hope of Nebraska, Inc.</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td>Toward the Vision of Hope capital campaign to create a new recovery campus, including three new halfway house facilities and an administrative office, for this agency that provides affordable residential treatment and support services for men recovering from substance abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Center, Inc.</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>Toward a Youth Coordinator position to help administer the Center’s services for at-risk Native American youth, including academic guidance and educational and employment opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Medical Education Partnership</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Renewal support for the evaluation of the School Community Intervention Program (SCIP) an in-school program to help elementary, middle and high school students with drug and alcohol abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln YWCA</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Second payment of a two-year $20,000 grant toward the Administrative Manager position, to enhance the YWCA’s existing leadership, strengthen its management and program support, and improve its governance, income generation and marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malone Community Center</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>General operating support of this organization that serves ethnic minority and low income residents of Lincoln †</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Talbot Kitchen</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>Toward a Development Specialist position to enhance capacity building and fund development for this agency dedicated to providing food and services to Lincoln’s homeless and working poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, Inc.</td>
<td>$40,077</td>
<td>Second payment of a three-year $120,000 grant for the creation of a new anti-poverty plan and public campaign, the Economic Opportunity Agenda for Nebraska, which will contain an assessment of current Nebraska anti-poverty programs and initiatives and for preparing a comprehensive media and messaging strategy to garner support for the Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Family Resource Center</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>For administrative support and for efforts in capacity building and strategic planning of this organization whose mission is to build strong families and neighborhoods in northeast Lincoln through education and support ($15,000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† Indicates retiring board member grant designation
For the *Parents as Partners* project, a merging of the Center’s two existing early childhood education programs, to provide parents with training in skill building and child development ($10,000)

**Planned Parenthood of Nebraska and Council Bluffs, Inc.** $55,000
Second payment of a three-year $150,000 grant for general operating support for this organization that provides affordable and confidential reproductive health care and sex education in Lincoln, Omaha and Council Bluffs, Iowa ($50,000)

General operating support † ($5,000)

**State of Nebraska, Region V Systems** $5,000
For the *Let’s Build* initiative managed by Region V Systems, with its partner the Lancaster County Funders Group, to assist community and faith-based organizations with becoming operationally effective and financially sound to better meet social service needs in the community

**St. Monica’s Home** $22,500
Renewal support for implementation of its newly developed *Cultural Diversity Organizational Model, The Quilted Web*, to better serve its clients by improving the cultural diversity and multicultural competencies of this organization that serves women affected by substance abuse and other behavioral health disorders

**UNL-Center on Children, Families and the Law** $30,000
Second payment of a two-year $61,000 grant to develop judicial guidelines on children’s participation in their foster care hearings through assessing child perceptions and attitudes about court participation and gathering information on the impact of their experience, in partnership with Lancaster County Juvenile Court

**UNL-University of Nebraska Public Policy Center** $20,000
Second payment of a three-year $60,000 grant to create, implement and promote a comprehensive, searchable online database of available human service resources in the state, to be freely accessible to Lincoln residents and service professionals

**TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES** $698,802

**CIVIC & COMMUNITY**

**Center for Rural Affairs** $20,000
For analysis of and advocacy for Nebraska’s microenterprise development, which aims at helping alleviate poverty in struggling urban and rural communities by enabling low and moderate income people to acquire assets and create wealth

**EndowNebraska** $10,000
Second-year support to continue and expand a marketing campaign aimed at increasing public understanding and utilization of Nebraska’s charitable giving tax credit and to raise awareness of the opportunities to support Nebraska’s nonprofit organizations

† Indicates retiring board member grant designation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funding Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goodwill Industries Serving</td>
<td>Second payment of a two-year $54,000 grant to enhance employment and translation services for immigrant and refugee job seekers and potential employers to increase the self-sufficiency of New Americans living in Lincoln and Lancaster County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership Lincoln, Inc.</td>
<td>Emergency funding for its youth programming which offers leadership development to Lincoln teens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Parks and Recreation Foundation</td>
<td>Second payment of a two-year $34,370 grant for an Executive Administrator to enhance fund development, community and volunteer involvement and to achieve the strategic plan set out by this organization that provides support to Lincoln’s parks and recreational resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NeighborWorks, Lincoln</td>
<td>To continue and expand on strategies developed during its five-year project aimed at increasing affordable housing in Lincoln as part of this organization’s mission to keep Lincoln a safe and prosperous community through building stronger neighborhoods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People’s City Mission</td>
<td>For horticultural education, vocational training, planting supplies and garden space for shelter residents and transitional housing tenants, a collaborative project with UNL Extension in Lancaster County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunrise Communications, Inc.</td>
<td>To convert KZUM radio station’s transmission signal from analog to digital and to create a second community radio station focused on serving Lincoln refugees, immigrants and low income individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mediation Center</td>
<td>Second payment of a two-year $35,000 grant to support a Marketing/Development Specialist to diversify the Center’s funding base and increase the amount of revenue from the fee-for-service programs of this organization dedicated to helping people reach agreement through mediation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Methodist Ministries</td>
<td>Second payment of a two-year $50,000 grant for the position of Bilingual Legal Adviser for the Equity-in-Nebraska program, a federally accredited program dedicated to providing affordable legal immigration services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VolunteerLinc dba Volunteer Partners</td>
<td>Second-year support of the marketing, staffing and office operations of a Corporate Volunteer Council (CVC) in Lincoln, which promotes workplace volunteerism, following its 2006 start-up phase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL CIVIC & COMMUNITY** $294,151

**ARTS & CULTURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Funding Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Lincoln, Department of Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>To build a time wall in Trago Park expressing and memorializing the Malone neighborhood African American community’s history prior to and during the 1960’s Civil Rights Movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flatwater Shakespeare Company</td>
<td>First payment of a two-year $30,000 grant to support the Artistic Director and Managing Director positions of this organization that inspires and informs Nebraska audiences and students through Shakespeare theatre productions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Arts Are Basic</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Haydon, Inc.</td>
<td>$14,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Arts Council</td>
<td>$20,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Municipal Band Association, Inc.</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Orchestra Association dba Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lux Center for the Arts</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska Humanities Council</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Loft at the Mill</td>
<td>$22,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNL-Department of Art and Art History</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNL-International Quilt Study Center</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNL-Lied Center for Performing Arts</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ARTS &amp; CULTURE</strong></td>
<td>$276,950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EDUCATION

Bright Lights, Inc.  $20,500
To help support a new Fundraising Coordinator and website updates for this organization that for 22 years has provided inclusive, unique summer learning opportunities for area youth

Informal Educators  $3,000
To support efforts of the Informal Educators’ network, a membership group comprised of museums, nature centers, libraries and performing arts organizations, to plan and implement Teachers’ Night Out, an event for K-12 teachers to network and learn from speakers about informal educational opportunities

Lincoln Children’s Zoo  $15,000
For organizational technology improvements to allow the Zoo to maintain comprehensive and efficient records of its members, guests, donors and program users

Lincoln Literacy Council  $89,600
Second payment of a two-year $90,000 grant for the English Language Academy (ELA) project, to extend the organization’s administrative and pedagogical strengths to several collaborating ethnic and faith-based community partners in order to enhance and increase Lincoln’s English language services ($45,000)

First payment of a $74,600 renewal grant for the ELA (see above) ($44,600)

Madonna Foundation  $10,000
Second payment of a two-year $30,000 grant for the expansion of the rehabilitation hospital’s on-site learning center for children, which dedicates itself to helping students with acquired disabilities successfully integrate back into their regular school environments

Malaika Foundation  $7,500
For financial support of teachers from Title I schools in Lincoln to attend the International Education symposium, Bringing the World to Your Classroom, which offers teachers the knowledge and resources to help students understand and appreciate their own culture in relation to other cultures at home and abroad

Union College  $6,500
Toward the planning and development of a program to help transition Lincoln students with disabilities into high school, college and adult life, in collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Education, Lincoln Public Schools and Nebraska Advocacy Services

YMCA of Lincoln  $20,000
Second-payment of a three-year $60,000 grant to support before and after-school programming for low income children in grades K-8 who will be served at the new northwest YMCA to be co-located with the Lincoln Public Schools’ new middle school

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TOTAL EDUCATION  $172,100

TOTAL GRANTS PAID  $1,442,003

† Indicates retiring board member grant designation
RHONDA SCHRADER, COVER ARTIST

Rhonda Schrader is a self-taught artist who spent most of her adult life in Lincoln, Nebraska and now lives in Arizona. Through the years she has worked as an accountant, a school bus driver for children with special needs, a Day Rehab program supervisor for those with mental illness and a group home manager.

When physical and mental health issues of her own confined her to home, Rhonda’s therapist referred her to the Open Studio to get feedback on the pen and ink drawing she was doing and explore the possibility of selling her work. She sold her first drawing in 2006 at the Artist’s On the Edge Loft Show.

For the past 15 years Rhonda has worked in pen and ink. She uses roller ball ink pens to create her artwork. In response to the question, “Why do you draw?” Rhonda responds, “It relaxes me. It reduces my anxiety and gives me something to do all day, every day.” A single large drawing will take about a month to complete. She has recently begun to use some color in her work as well.

Rhonda’s enjoying life in Arizona where lower humidity allows her to be outside more often and move about the community freely. She enjoys time with her daughter and grandchildren and working on her drawings every day.

TERRANCE OBERST, POET

Terrance Oberst received an M.A. degree in Creative Writing from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln in 1993. He currently lives in Lincoln where he facilitates the Writer’s Workshop at the F Street Recreation Center.

Terrance has published four books of poetry and over 60 poems in various magazines, journals and anthologies. His chapbook, Returning, was published by Mulberry Press in 1993. That was followed by a full-length collection, Transcendences, published by Pygmy Forest Press in 2000 and another collection, Kinship Patterns, by AuthorHouse in 2005. His most recent full-length collection, SUN, was released by Pygmy Forest Press in 2008. His poetry appears in the recently published Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry from Backwaters Press.

Terrance says that he has always considered his poetry a kind of “Ariadne’s thread through the dark labyrinth of the self.”
In 2008, Woods Charitable Fund, Inc. announced a new logo and tagline—adopted to reflect the Fund’s distinctive grant-making approach.