Woods Charitable Fund Board Chair Donna W. Woods retired from her position at the organization’s November meeting.

Donna was elected to the WCF Board in 2001, became vice chair in 2005 and chair in 2007. A longtime community volunteer, she will continue to serve WCF as chair emerita. During her tenure with the WCF Board, the organization awarded 1,179 grants totaling $26,710,160. Donna was married for 33 years to Thomas C. “Chip” Woods III, former Woods Charitable Fund Board President, until his death in 2000.

Nelle Woods Jamison was elected the new board chair at the November meeting. She was elected to the WCF Board in 2005. She earned a Bachelor of Journalism degree and a Master of Arts in Museum Studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has worked as the Director of Membership for the Minnesota Museum of American Art and as an Art Assistant for Creating Pride in Chicago. She is the daughter of Chip and Donna Woods.

To fill the board position vacated by Donna’s retirement, Jay Conrad was elected. Since 1991, he has been the Executive Director of Houses of Hope, which provides residential and support services for individuals impacted by substance use and related mental-health issues. He has served on local boards including Gathering Place, St. Monica’s, CenterPointe, Cause Collective and Nebraska AIDS Project. He works at the national level to increase awareness and need for behavioral health services.

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Grant-making at a glance

- Civic & Community: 56%
- Human Services: 26%
- Education: 13%
- Arts & Culture: 4%
- Misc.: 1%

Grants paid to date: $1,369,200
Grants cycles completed: 2 of 2
Average number of proposals reviewed per grant cycle: 19
Number of grants paid in 2019: 47
Average size of grants paid: $29,132
Smallest grant paid in 2019: $5,000
Largest grant paid in 2019: $400,000
Organizations paid grants in 2019

Bridges to Hope
Bright Lights
CASA for Lancaster County
Cause Collective
Center for Legal Immigration Assistance
Center for People in Need
Center for Rural Affairs
CenterPointe
Civic Nebraska
Disability Rights Nebraska
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation
El Centro de las Américas
Flatwater Shakespeare Company
Food Bank of Lincoln (2)
Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools
Girls Code Lincoln
Girls Incorporated of Omaha
HopeSpoke
Inclusive Communities
Leadership Lincoln
Legal Aid of Nebraska (2)
Lincoln Arts Council
Lincoln Community Learning Centers
Lincoln Housing Charities
Lincoln/Lancaster County Habitat for Humanity
Lincoln Medical Education Partnership
Lincoln Public Schools (2)
The Mediation Center
The Madonna Foundation
Mourning Hope
Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
Nebraska Civic Engagement Table
Nebraska Cultural Endowment
Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition
Nebraska Human Resources Research Foundation, Inc.
OpenSky Policy Institute
Planned Parenthood of the Heartland
Released and Restored Sunrise Communications (KZUM radio)
The Set Me Free Project
Vision Maker Media
Willard Community Center Corp.
ynpnLNK
YWCA of Lincoln

Woods Charitable Fund co-hosts Summer Social

In June, nonprofit and philanthropic organizations met to celebrate and honor Lincoln’s nonprofit community and the important role it plays in promoting and strengthening Lincoln.

More than 100 nonprofit and foundation representatives attended Lincoln’s celebration June 21 at The Mill on Innovation Campus. The Summer Social was inspired by the fourth annual Beverage to Enhance Equity in Relationships (BEER), started by Vu Le, a national thought leader, blogger and co-author of “Unicorns Unite: How Nonprofits and Foundations Can Build EPIC Partnerships.” Typically hosted on the summer solstice, this day provides an opportunity for nonprofit and philanthropic professionals, board members and trustees to make connections that strengthen relationships across the sector and in the community.

“The intent was to invite those from agencies that do not have many opportunities to network with foundation staff or their counterparts in the nonprofit sector,” said Tom Woods, President of Woods Charitable Fund. “This event was for all those who are doing critical work behind the scenes to allow them face time to meet and mingle with one another and foundation staff.”

“Collaboration is all about relationships,” said Rhonda Mattingly, Executive Director of Bridges to Hope. “Getting together for a social gathering such as this helps nonprofits realize that those in the foundations are just as concerned about helping those in need as the nonprofits are.”

This year’s event was hosted by Woods Charitable Fund, the Cooper Foundation, Duncan Family Trust, Kinder Porter Scott Family Foundation/WRK Family Foundation and in partnership with Cause Collective.

About Woods Charitable Fund

Thomas C. Woods IV, President and Board Secretary
Joan Stolle, Operations Manager
Kathy Steinauer Smith, Senior Community Investment Director
Nicole Juranek, Community Investment Director

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