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WOODS CHARITABLE FUND AWARDS GRANTS

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., a private grant-making foundation, today announced the approval of new and renewal grants in Lincoln, Nebraska, totaling **\$616,790**, as the third and final grant cycle of 2009. **Twenty tax-exempt organizations will benefit from these awards (BELOW).**

“In 2009, Woods Charitable Fund’s Board of Directors voted to sustain the dollar amount of its grant payments this year in the face of a challenging economy and an endowment that had experienced decline. The Fund has kept its commitment to the community, awarding grants this year totaling \$1,466,450,” stated the Fund’s Executive Director, Pam Baker.

Of the \$616,790 in grants approved at the most recent meeting, just under 15% of the funding went toward Arts and Culture, 25% toward Civic and Community, 16% toward Education, and just under 45% toward Human Services.

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc. makes grants three times a year to tax-exempt organizations seeking funding for programs in the areas of Human Services, Civic & Community, Education, and Arts & Culture, as well as programs and initiatives designed to assist new Americans in Lincoln. For more information on funding guidelines, call 436.5971, visit the Fund’s website at www.woodscharitable.org, or write to either Pam Baker, Tom Woods or Angie Zmarzly at P.O. Box 81309, Lincoln, NE 68501.

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Approved for Funding by Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., November 2009

Asian Community and Cultural Center (\$15,000) – For support of the Executive Director position for this community ethnic center dedicated to serving the needs of Lincoln’s Asian community since 1994

Center for Rural Affairs (\$25,000) – Toward its efforts to engage micro-entrepreneurs and community leaders in the debate over Nebraska economic development policy through education, policy updates and a media campaign

Community Services Fund of Nebraska (\$6,000) – For the purchase of computer software that provides enhanced online features to the potential donors of its future workplace giving campaigns in Lincoln and greater Nebraska

Families Inspiring Families (\$20,000) – Third-year support of its advocacy and family support program that helps families whose child is at risk of becoming a state ward due to having emotional, behavioral, and/or mental health issues by providing them with resources and tools to address their children’s intensive needs in the home

Family Service Association of Lincoln (\$30,000) – To expand to Lefler and Mickle Middle Schools its behavioral mental health services, which provides therapy in a school setting to students and their families

Friendship Home of Lincoln (\$30,000) – Three-year support of a part-time Major Gifts/Planned Giving Officer position to assist the organization’s staff and board in furthering its fund development

Friends of the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theatre (\$7,000) – For general operating support for this movie theater dedicated to presenting the community with a wide diversity of high quality film and video

Girl Scouts-Spirit of Nebraska (\$20,000) – Second-year support of its outreach program to offer Girl Scout programming, including topics in self-esteem building, academic achievement and career exploration, to high risk middle and high school girls

Habitat for Humanity (\$45,000) – Two-year support of the Family Support Manager position to provide Habitat homeowners and housing applicants with resources, education and assistance in owning their own homes

Legal Aid of Nebraska (\$25,000) – For its *Ethnic Island and Special Populations Outreach* program that takes civil legal aid services directly to ethnic and homeless populations in comfortable community settings

Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs (\$20,000) – For the implementation of a learning environment program to offer college students studying to be future licensed mental health professionals the opportunity to conduct supervised drug and alcohol abuse assessments with its clients

Lincoln Housing Charities (\$20,000) – Two-year support toward the RentWise program which presents a structured curriculum to educate diverse renters, helping them obtain and keep rental housing and be successful renters

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska (\$25,000) – Support of the *Lutheran Family Refugee Services* program, including the addition of a full-time case manager, that provides resettlement assistance to refugees before, during and after their arrival in Lincoln

Lux Center for the Arts (\$15,000) – For general operating support of its education programs, including its center-based art classes and its visual arts education outreach to underserved, disadvantaged youth and senior citizens

Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach (\$100,000) – For support of its capital campaign, *Witness to Hope*, to construct a larger facility for this organization providing hunger relief and homeless prevention services to Lincoln’s homeless and working poor individuals and families

Nebraska Art Association (\$8,000) – Toward Sheldon Museum of Art’s new *Civic Engagement Initiative* to provide collaborative programming and to increase engagement of diverse and underserved constituents in addition to the general community

Nebraska Cultural Endowment (\$60,000) – Three-year support of administration expenses to conduct the \$5 million fundraising campaign for this organization established to provide long-term stability and funding for the arts and humanities in Nebraska

Seniors Foundation (\$15,000) – Toward the *Lincoln Seniors Transportation Program*, a volunteer social transportation program that provides affordable, non-medical transportation assistance for older adults in Lincoln

UNL-Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools (\$100,000) – Two-year support of its program, *Building Bridges Through Relationships*, to increase student engagement, motivation, and achievement among Lincoln Northeast and North Star High Schools’ 9th graders at risk of dropping out

VolunteerLinc (\$30,790) – To provide board diversity development and training to nonprofit boards of directors and to ultimately enhance the diversity and functioning of local nonprofit organizations’ boards, a collaborative-led project with Lincoln Lancaster County Human Services Federation and Leadership Lincoln