

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information

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**WOODS CHARITABLE FUND APPROVES \$652,500 IN GRANTS
AT NOVEMBER MEETING**

Woods Charitable Fund's Board of Directors approved grants totaling \$652,500 to 19 tax-exempt organizations during its November meeting.

The largest percentage of the granted funding – 61 percent – will support four Education organizations serving Lincoln. Additionally, 27 percent of the granted funding benefits Human Services agencies while 9 percent funds Arts and Culture programs. About 3 percent will aid one Civic & Community organization.

Through its three grant cycles in 2015, Woods Charitable Fund's Board of Directors has awarded grants to 46 organizations totaling \$1,312,500.

Beginning in 2016, Woods Charitable Fund will make grants twice a year to tax-exempt organizations seeking funding for Lincoln-focused programs in the areas of Human Services, Civic & Community, Education and Arts & Culture. For more information on funding guidelines, call (402) 436-5971, visit the Fund's website at www.woodscharitable.org or write to Kathy Steinauer Smith, Tom Woods or Angie Zmarzly at 1248 O St. Suite 1130, Lincoln, NE 68508, or at info@woodscharitable.org.

Approved for Funding by Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., November 2015

Center for People in Need (\$30,000) – A two-year grant to increase fiscal staffing at this agency that provides supplies, services and training to Lincoln's low-income and at-risk populations

CenterPointe, Inc. (\$8,000) – For continued support of a Development Associate position for this organization helping homeless and low-income people with mental-health and substance-abuse issues

Community CROPS (\$15,000) – To support strategic planning for this organization that works to help the community grow and enjoy healthy, local food

Disability Rights Nebraska (\$20,000) – To assist production of an Inclusive Education Advocacy Institute, a workshop to promote inclusive education for all children in preschool through middle school

Food Bank of Lincoln (\$40,000) – Two-year support of markets providing nonperishable foods, baked goods and fresh produce at two Lincoln high schools

Friends of Haymarket Theatre (\$20,000) – For general-operating and staffing support of this organization providing live theater and youth performing arts education programs

Lincoln Community Playhouse (\$20,000) – Continued general-operating support for outreach and education

Lincoln Orchestra Association (\$10,000) – In support of a partnership providing tickets and education for families in the Lincoln Public Schools' Family Literacy Program attending the Orchestra's two Family Concerts in the 2015-16 season

Lincoln Public Schools (\$220,000) – Three-year support for Community LINKS, a collaboration of student services provided by community organizations, teachers and staff members to help Lincoln High School freshmen and sophomores at risk of dropping out

Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (\$4,500) – To assist with offering advocacy training for deaf and hard-of-hearing advocates

Nebraska Human Resources Research Foundation, Inc. (\$60,000) – A three-year grant in support of a leadership position at this leadership-development program that pairs college students with students in 1st through 12th grades

Northeast Family Resource Center (\$5,000) – Support for the organization's Academy of Rock concert series and festival

Produce from the Heart (\$30,000) – General-operating support for this organization that collects and distributes excess produce to food-insecure populations

St. Monica's Home (\$20,000) – To assist with start-up costs to launch a substance-abuse treatment program for adolescent girls at this behavioral health treatment organization dedicated to serving women

TeamMates Mentoring Program (\$15,000) – A two-year grant to assist with development of a research project to improve the organization's recruitment and retention of mentors

UNL-Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools (\$80,000) – Three-year support of its program, Building Bridges Through Relationships, to increase student engagement and motivation among Lincoln Northeast and Lincoln High School freshmen at risk of dropping out

Vision Maker Media (\$5,000) – Support for the Vision Maker Film Festival in March 2016, which showcases stories of Native Americans and provides related educational resources for teachers, students and the community

Voices for Children in Nebraska (\$10,000) – To provide transitional support of the Executive Director position for this statewide organization advocating for children's well-being

YMCA of Lincoln (\$40,000) – To support the organization's work as a lead agency directing Community Learning Centers at four Lincoln public elementary and middle schools