

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**June 13, 2007**

## **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 **\$459,480**, with one grant cycle remaining for the year. Thirteen tax-exempt organizations will benefit from these awards **(BELOW)**.

Of the \$459,480 in grants awarded, 33% of the funding went toward projects in the area of Education, 30% toward Civic & Community, 26% toward Human Services, and 11% toward Arts & Culture.

*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](http://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., June 2007**

***City of Lincoln, Department of Parks and Recreation (\$14,800)*** – In partnership with Community Mental Health Center of Lancaster County and CenterPointe, to enhance and sustain the *Open Studio and Writers WordShop*, which provides hands-on art education to encourage positive self-expression among adults with mental health issues and those in recovery

***Family Service Association of Lincoln (\$10,000)*** – For the *Building Tomorrow Program* to support Lincoln and Lancaster County child care providers by continuing to offer free or low cost training and resources including its toll-free support line

***Family Service Association of Lincoln (\$40,000)*** – For *Therapy and Family Support* services, a behavioral health program provided free-of-charge within Lincoln Public Schools to assist kids and families in dealing with life stressors that impact their behaviors and relationships at school or home

***Good Neighbor Community Center, Inc. (\$30,000)*** – For support of the Executive Assistant position for this organization that provides clothing and basic needs to low-income people

***Heartland Big Brothers-Big Sisters (\$10,000)*** – Second-year support of staff positions in the areas of volunteer development and fundraising in order to build the agency's sustainability and strengthen its infrastructure

***Lincoln Lancaster County Human Services Federation (\$10,000)*** – For the Lincoln CASH Campaign (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope), a collaborative project to expand the number of low and moderate income workers who are able to move toward greater self-sufficiency through receipt of the Federal and State Earned Income Tax Credit and access to financial literacy services

***Lincoln Literacy Council (\$90,000)*** – Second-year funding for the ESL Academy 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 as a Second Language services

***Lincoln YWCA (\$20,000)*** – Second-year support of 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

***Mental Health Association of Nebraska (\$10,000)*** – In collaboration with Families Inspiring Families, to implement *DETOUR*, a Mental Health Association of Nebraska peer-developed and facilitated project to offer age-appropriate education and mutual support groups for adolescents and young adults with mental illness

***Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, Inc. (\$120,000)*** – Three-year funding 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 a comprehensive media and messaging strategy to garner support for ideas contained in the Agenda

***Nebraska Advocacy Services, Inc. (\$9,680)*** – For a three-day *Social Role Valorization* workshop offered by the Nebraska Value-Based Education Coalition in conjunction with Nebraska Advocacy Services involving developmental disabilities service workers, policy makers, special educators and people with disabilities and their families

***Nebraska Humanities Council (\$25,000)*** – Two-year support toward technological improvements including online updates and a new information system for tracking its fundraising activities

***UNL-Department of Art and Art History (\$10,000)*** – To expand and enhance the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Art and Art History Department's efforts in providing free art instruction and projects to Lincoln Public Schools students through the addition of new visiting artists and art events

***YMCA of Lincoln (\$60,000)*** – Three-year start-up support of 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

## **RECIPIENT CONTACTS:**

### **City of Lincoln, Department of Parks and Recreation**

Contact: Sandy Myers Phone: 429-8261

### **Family Service Association of Lincoln**

Contact: Barry Gourley Phone: 441-7949

### **Good Neighbor Community Center, Inc.**

Contact: Sheila Schlisner Phone: 477-4173

### **Heartland Big Brothers-Big Sisters**

Contact: Tom Crew Phone: 464-2227, ext. 102

### **Lincoln Lancaster County Human Services Federation**

Contact: Rick Carter Phone: 441-4399

### **Lincoln Literacy Council**

Contact: Clay Naff Phone: 476-7323

### **Lincoln YWCA**

Contact: Susan Scott Phone: 434-3494

### **Mental Health Association of Nebraska**

Contact: Alan Green Phone: 441-4371

### **Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, Inc.**

Contact: Becky Gould Phone: 438-8853

### **Nebraska Advocacy Services, Inc.**

Contact: John Murphy Phone: 474-3183

### **Nebraska Humanities Council**

Contact: Chris Sommerich Phone: 474-2131, ext. 105

### **UNL-Department of Art and Art History**

Contact: Edward Forde Phone: 472-5522

### **YMCA of Lincoln**

Contact: Barbara Bettin Phone: 434-9201