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November 13, 2008

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 **\$211,500**, as the final of three grant cycles this year. Twelve tax-exempt organizations will benefit from these awards **(BELOW)**.

Pam Baker, the Fund's Executive Director, noted that, in light of recent incidences of families leaving teenage children at Lincoln and Omaha hospitals under Nebraska's Safe Haven law, second-year support for Families Inspiring Families, a group that provides peer support and advocacy for families whose children have emotional, behavioral and/or mental health issues, may be a resource that can help families in need should the scope of that law be changed in the upcoming special session of the Legislature. "Also," she said, "the work that Family Service, the Northeast Family Resource Center, Lincoln Medical Education Partnership and the Indian Center are continuing and expanding with Woods support will contribute to family health and the well being of children and youth in Lincoln."

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 2008

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 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

Families Inspiring Families, Inc. (\$20,000) – Second-year support 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 (\$30,000) – Second-year support for expansion of 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 impacting their behaviors and relationships at school or home, in partnership with Lincoln Public Schools

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

Indian Center, Inc. (\$20,000) – 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

Lincoln Medical Education Partnership (\$5,000) – Second-year 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

Lux Center for the Arts (\$15,000) – To develop and implement a new mobile art outreach program to serve low income children and senior citizens

Matt Talbot Kitchen (\$30,000) – 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

Northeast Family Resource Center (\$10,000) – 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

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

UNL-African American and African Studies Program (\$5,000) – Second-year support for the biannual *Black Film Festival* at the Mary Riepma Ross Theatre with the theme, *Real to Reel: Documenting Empowerment Equality Inclusion*, to expose the broader University and the Lincoln-Omaha communities to Africans and African Americans in world cinematic genres