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June 10, 2009

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 **\$436,460**, as the second of three grant cycles this year. **Sixteen tax-exempt organizations will benefit from these awards (BELOW).**

Board Chair Donna Woods stated, "During this time of economic challenge, these grants provide critical support to community organizations' operations and programming in the focus areas of Arts and Culture, Civic and Community, Education and Human Services." Of the \$436,460 in grants approved, 18% of the funding went toward Arts and Culture, 13% toward Civic and Community, 31% toward Education, 36% toward Human Services, and 2% toward Other.

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., June 2009

Bright Lights (\$7,500) – Second-year support toward its Development Coordinator position to increase the agency's long-term stability

CASA for Lancaster County (\$12,500) – Support of increased staff time toward the retention of the agency's volunteer advocates who work to ensure that the needs and best interests of abused and neglected children are being met while under the jurisdiction of the courts

Center for People in Need, Inc. (\$20,000) – Staff salary support for its job skills/adult education programs that aim to improve the earning potential of low-income workers and facilitate long-term, sustainable economic self-sufficiency

Community CROPS (\$15,000) – General operating support to help enhance the capacity and fundraising capabilities of this organization that supports the food security and agricultural-based enterprises of immigrant, refugee and low income gardeners in Lincoln and Southeast Nebraska

City of Lincoln, Lincoln City Libraries (\$10,000) – For its *Comprehensive Library Planning Project* to conduct a comprehensive strategic planning process

Lincoln Literacy Council (\$34,000) – Fourth-year support for the *English Language Academy*, a program that extends volunteer tutors to over twenty collaborating ethnic and faith-based community partners in order to enhance and increase Lincoln's English Language services

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (\$20,000) – For the *Quality Enhancement Project* to identify 15 early childhood programs in Title I school neighborhoods of Lincoln and work together with them to improve the quality of services

Nebraska State Bar Foundation (\$10,000) – For review and research efforts to enhance the organization's *Teen Parents and the Law* program, implemented in Lincoln Public Schools and CEDARS Youth Services, which educates teen parents on their rights and responsibilities

Nebraska Wesleyan University (\$8,500) – For a pilot project to increase the desire and capacity of 40 disadvantaged Lincoln-area high school students to pursue and succeed in higher education, in conjunction with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Upward Bound program

State of Nebraska - Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (\$6,750) – To support the training of Department staff on how to be better role models in order to improve inmates' interpersonal behavior and increase their success in re-entering society following incarceration

St. Monica's Home (\$95,000) – For *The Human Potential and Development Institute*, a new set of programs which will operate internally, to maximize the vocational and personal potential of women with substance abuse and mental health issues, and externally by offering clinical consultation, community training and outreach

TADA Productions, Inc. (\$12,500) – To expand staff to include a Managing Artistic Director and a Technical Coordinator for this not-for-profit theater company that provides the community with dramatic performances, musical productions and special events

The Mediation Center (\$35,200) – Two-year funding to help sustain and possibly expand the *Small Claims Court Mediation Program* of this agency that provides low cost, neutral mediation services in Lincoln

UNL-International Quilt Study Center (\$50,000) – Two-year support of the Communications Coordinator position for the implementation of strategic communications to increase the Quilt Museum's visibility, with a focus on neighborhood and community outreach

UNL-Nebraska Repertory Theatre (\$15,000) – Toward the part-time Director of Community Engagement & Development position to coordinate fundraising and friend-raising activities to ensure long-term sustainability of this organization that offers theatre productions and professional opportunities in Lincoln

Union College (\$84,510) – Three-year support toward the development and implementation of a program to help transition Lincoln students with disabilities into high school, college and adult life, in collaboration with Nebraska Department of Education, Lincoln Public Schools and Nebraska Advocacy Services