

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For further information**

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**June 14, 2013**

**WOODS CHARITABLE FUND APPROVES \$763,000  
IN GRANTS AT JUNE MEETING**

Woods Charitable Fund's Board of Directors approved grants totaling more than \$750,000 to 17 tax-exempt organizations during its June grant cycle.

Of the \$763,000 in grants approved in this cycle, 26 percent will go toward a miscellaneous organization in Lincoln, 24 percent to Human Services organizations, 23 percent to Civic & Community groups, 21 percent to Arts & Culture organizations, and 6 percent to Education programs.

Woods Charitable Fund is offering continued support in this grant cycle to a project it first funded in 2010. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Community and Regional Planning will receive \$75,000 over two years for its continuing Community Assessment project. UNL students and neighborhood volunteers assess neighborhoods, ranking the condition of each home and collecting massive amounts of data that help neighborhood leaders develop strategic plans to improve problem areas. This collaborative project of the university, neighborhoods, city government departments and NeighborWorks Lincoln has assessed six neighborhoods and more than 8,600 houses and lots since 2010 and plans to analyze at least four additional Lincoln neighborhoods in 2013-14.

Woods Charitable Fund makes grants three times 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](http://www.woodscharitable.org) or write to Tom Woods, Kathy Steinauer Smith or Angie Zmarzly at 1248 O St. Suite 1130, Lincoln, NE 68508, or at [info@woodscharitable.org](mailto:info@woodscharitable.org).

**Approved for Funding by Woods Charitable Fund Inc., June 2013**

***CASA for Lancaster County (\$15,000)*** – For support of a new Volunteer Coordinator position to increase the capacity for this organization that supports abused and neglected children going through the juvenile court system

***Common Cause Nebraska Education Fund (\$25,000)*** – For general-operating support of this watchdog organization that works to keep government accountable to all citizens

***Family Service Association of Lincoln (\$20,000)*** – For continued support of behavioral health therapists at Lincoln Public Schools, especially in high schools

***Family Violence Council (\$50,000)*** – To support Keepers of the Flame, a collaborative outreach, prevention education and services referral project between domestic violence/adult sexual assault victim-services organizations and Lincoln’s four cultural centers

***Food Bank of Lincoln (\$20,000)*** – Toward second-year support of a bilingual outreach coordinator to help eligible clients enroll in the federal Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program

***Friendship Home (\$40,000)*** – Toward support of a new substance abuse counselor position to provide mental-health and substance-abuse counseling for women in this domestic-violence shelter’s programs

***Friends of Woods Tennis Inc. (\$200,000)*** – Toward a capital campaign to replace the “bubbles” at Woods Park with a permanent indoor tennis facility

***Grand Island Community Foundation (\$10,000)*** – In support of The Quilted Conscience Project, an intergenerational art and storytelling project that will work with Karen youth at Lincoln High School

***Habitat for Humanity Inc. (\$8,000)*** – Toward the funding of a new volunteer coordinator position to work with this organization that builds housing for low-income Lincoln families

***Leadership Lincoln (\$40,000)*** – A program-related investment to support this city leadership program

***Lincoln Parks and Recreation Foundation (\$150,000)*** – Toward the funding of artwork by Jun Kaneko, a nationally renowned Nebraska-based artist, to be installed at the P Street Civic Plaza at 13<sup>th</sup> and P streets

***Lincoln Public Schools (\$30,000)*** – Three-year support of the Family Literacy Program, which integrates literacy training for parents with their children’s LPS education

***Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (\$15,000)*** – Fourth-year support of the Quality Enhancement Project for Early Childhood Education to help improve the quality of care in several early-childhood facilities within targeted low-income areas of Lincoln

***Nebraskans for Civic Reform (\$25,000)*** – Third-year general operating support of this organization dedicated to making elections and civic institutions more inclusive for traditionally disenfranchised Nebraskans

***St. Monica’s Home (\$15,000)*** – Toward the creation of a development assistant position for this organization helping women with alcohol and substance-abuse issues

***University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Community and Regional Planning (\$75,000)*** – Third- and fourth-year support of the Enhancing Citizen Engagement in Community Assessment project, in collaboration with NeighborWorks Lincoln and city government departments, to involve residents of the city’s neighborhoods in a neighborhood-wide property assessment to help set goals for improvement

***Voices of Hope Lincoln, Inc. (\$25,000)*** – In support of staffing and programs related to the organization’s increasing work with children of victims of domestic violence