

Community Cultural Centers Band Together

In 2007, the Fund awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Cultural Centers Coalition, an organization comprised of Lincoln's four cultural centers: Asian Community and Cultural Center, El Centro de las Americas, Indian Center and Clyde Malone Community Center.

The grant enabled the Coalition to hire two part-time development coordinators who will focus fundraising efforts on partnering projects between the centers. Elizabeth Wolf and Kit Boesch were hired with dual focus. Elizabeth seeks local support through donors, sponsorships and foundations and Kit writes for national and federal grants.



The Indian Center

Prior to employing the development coordinators, the Coalition had already received two-year funding from the Office of Minority Health of Nebraska for its collaborative work on the Minority Health Initiative and two years of funding from Lincoln/Lancaster County Joint Budget Committee for the Multicultural Youth Program.



When El Centro de las Americas decided to relocate this past year, the Malone Community Center welcomed El Centro as its new co-tenant in the building that Malone has resided in since 1982. The colocation has been a success for both the leadership and their clients and, as a result, the Coalition is now exploring



Malone Community Center and site of El Centro de las Americas

the idea of a collaborative facility that could house all four centers.



"Cultural Centers provide essential programs and services to the community—helping to feed hungry people, provide youth enrichment opportunities, support elders, and assist New Americans. The Coalition's existence has led to many positive steps in strengthening these Centers," said Malone Community Center Executive Director T.J. McDowell, Jr. ♦

Lynn Roper Completes Board Term

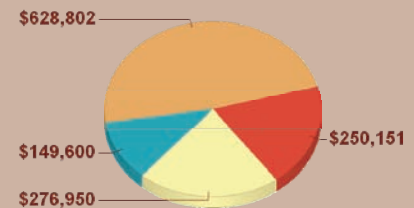
This year marked the end of Lynn Roper's board term which began in 2003. Since that time, over \$8 million in grants have been paid by the Fund. Lynn will retain a role with WCF as an Assistant Treasurer and WCF will continue to benefit from her expertise in finance and investing. Lynn serves as 1st Vice President & Senior Resident Manager for Merrill Lynch, where she has worked for 27 years. ♦



2008 Grant-making Dashboard

Grants paid in 2008: \$1,305,503

■ Civic & Community ■ Arts & Culture
■ Education ■ Human Services



Number of grant proposals received: 69

Grant cycles completed: 3 of 3

Average number of proposals received per grant cycle: 23

Number of grants awarded: 46

Percentage of grants approved: 67%

Median dollar amount of awards: \$21,250

Largest grant awarded: \$750,000

Total dollar amount of grants approved: \$2,018,331

"A civilization flourishes when people plant trees under whose shade they will never sit."

- Greek Proverb

WCF Board Approves Resolution Stating Commitment to Diversity

In January, Woods Charitable Fund's Board of Directors approved a resolution demonstrating its commitment to diversity. The resolution is available for review on its website www.woodscharitable.org and seen below. ♦

Board Resolution Regarding Woods Charitable Fund's Commitment to Diversity

WHEREAS, Woods Charitable Fund (WCF) is a private independent foundation whose mission is to strengthen the community by improving opportunities and life outcomes for all people in Lincoln, Nebraska.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

WCF believes that diversity encompasses, but is not limited to age, gender, race, national origin (ethnicity), religious beliefs, disabilities, sexual orientation, economic circumstances and lifestyle.

WCF views diversity as a fundamental element of social justice and integral to its mission.

WCF's ability to achieve its goals can best be accomplished if the programs it offers and supports reflect a diversity of perspectives among the Fund's grantmaking, personnel and employment practices, and governance.

WCF believes that its Board should take every reasonable step to ensure that women and persons from minority ethnic groups are in the pool from which Board nominees are chosen.

WCF will work in cooperation with other organizations in the philanthropic community to support and encourage their efforts, and to bolster WCF's own efforts, to encourage and support greater diversity and inclusiveness in philanthropy.

WCF seeks to collaborate and conduct business with individuals and organizations who have made a commitment to diversity, as reflected in the composition of their Boards, staffs and programs they implement.

FOR THESE REASONS, the Board has voted to adopt the aforementioned Board resolution to guide the Fund as it seeks to encourage and support greater diversity in all aspects of its operations.

BE IT RESOLVED.



Donna W. Woods, Board Chair

On the 29th day of January, 2008

WCF Reveals New Look

This summer Woods Charitable Fund introduced a new look—a logo, color scheme and tagline, “setting ideas in motion,” adopted to reflect Woods Charitable Fund's distinctive grant-making approach.



setting ideas in motion

Organizations Awarded or Paid Grants in 2008

- Adoption Links Worldwide, Inc.
- Asian Community and Cultural Center
- Bright Lights
- Center for People in Need, Inc.
- Center for Rural Affairs
- CenterPointe, Inc.
- Cultural Centers Coalition
- City of Lincoln, Dept. of Parks and Recreation
- EndowNebraska
- Families Inspiring Families
- Family Service Association
- Flatwater Shakespeare Company
- Food Bank of Lincoln, Inc.
- Friends of Arts Are Basic
- Friends of Haydon, Inc.
- Friendship Home of Lincoln
- Girl Scouts-Spirit of Nebraska
- Good Neighbor Community Center
- Houses of Hope Nebraska, Inc.
- Indian Center, Inc.
- Informal Educators
- Leadership Lincoln, Inc.
- Lincoln/Lancaster Co. Child Advocacy Center
- Lincoln/Lancaster Co. Child Guidance Center
- Lincoln Area Agency on Aging
- Lincoln Arts Council
- Lincoln Literacy Council
- Lincoln Medical Education Partnership
- Lincoln Municipal Band Association, Inc.
- Lincoln Parks and Recreation Foundation
- Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra
- Lux Center for the Arts
- Madonna Foundation
- Malaika Foundation
- Malone Community Center
- Matt Talbot Kitchen
- Nebraska Appleseed Center
- Nebraska Humanities Council
- NeighborWorks, Lincoln
- Northeast Family Resource Center
- People's City Mission
- Planned Parenthood of Nebraska and Council Bluffs, Inc.
- Region V Systems
- St. Monica's Home
- Sunrise Communications, Inc. (KZUM)
- The Loft at the Mill
- The Mediation Center
- Union College
- United Methodist Ministries
- University of Nebraska Foundation
- University of Nebraska Public Policy Center
- UNL-African American and African Studies Program
- UNL-Dept. of Art and Art History
- UNL-International Quilt Study Center
- UNL-Lied Center for Performing Arts
- Volunteer Linc
- YMCA
- YWCA

Spotlight on Past WCF Director, Marilyn Johnson-Farr (1994-98)



Dr. Marilyn Johnson-Farr retired from the WCF board in December 1998 after serving more than four years. Grants totaling nearly \$3.8 million were awarded during her tenure. Marilyn is the Dwight E. Porter Professor of Education for Doane College.

What was a challenge for you while serving on the WCF Board?

Seeing so many wonderful projects and deciding where was the greatest need and impact going to be made.

What aspect of serving on the WCF board surprised you? The diversity of ideas and the high level of respect for those ideas — even in the midst of our differences we could still focus on the common good.

What is something your experience with WCF taught you? The importance of giving back and that our community has many needs that often go unspoken.

What were favorite projects funded during your tenure? I so appreciated the opportunity to look at the ones that impacted the youth in the community and also low income families.