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June 8, 2011

WOODS CHARITABLE FUND AWARDS GRANTS

Woods Charitable Fund's Board of Directors awarded funding at its June meeting to two Lincoln-based organizations working to inform critical policy debates in Nebraska. **Nebraska Housing Developers Association** was awarded \$10,000 to further develop its statewide network of housing advocates dedicated to educating the public and policy-makers on Nebraska's affordable housing needs. **Nebraskans for Civic Reform** was awarded \$35,000 for start-up operations and its continuing efforts to make elections and civic institutions more inclusive for traditionally disenfranchised Nebraskans.

These two organizations are among eighteen tax-exempt organizations to be awarded new or renewal grants as part of Woods Charitable Fund's second grant cycle of 2011. Grants totaling **\$418,208** were approved at WCF's June meeting (**BELOW**). Of the \$418,208 in awards given, 45% will go toward Human Services, 29% toward Education, 18% toward Civic & Community and 8% toward Arts & Culture.

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., a private grant-making foundation, awards funding three times a year to tax-exempt organizations seeking support 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 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 2011

Bright Lights, Inc. (\$4,500) – A challenge grant to help support the creation of a strategic plan for this organization that provides inspiring, hands-on summer learning opportunities for kids

BryanLGH Foundation (\$20,000) – Second-year support of the *Healthcare Education for Underserved Children and Youth* program aimed at raising interest in health professions among minority and at-risk youth through participation in clubs and camps

CEDARS Youth Services (\$20,000) – Toward the development of an *Educational and Independent Living Skills* program for youth in CEDARS' out-of-home programs

CenterPointe, Inc. (\$20,000) – To support its Community Education Center website, an online educational resource that provides free classes, articles and research on a broad range of mental and behavioral health topics

Community CROPS (\$10,000) – Third-year general operating support for this organization that develops and provides community garden space for immigrants, refugees and people of low income so they can grow healthy food and live sustainably

Family Service Association of Lincoln (\$20,000) – Fourth-year support and expansion of its Behavioral Health program that provides on-site mental health therapy for students and their families in several Lincoln schools

Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools, fiscal agent for Lincoln Community Learning Centers (\$35,000) – To support staffing and consultation to take Lincoln Community Learning Centers to a new level of permanent governance and sustainability while implementing a full service community school model in Lincoln

Good Neighbor Community Center, Inc. (\$20,000) – For support of a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Coordinator to assist its clients who are eligible for food stamps

Indian Center, Inc. (\$50,000) – To support its new *Intensive Outpatient Drug and Alcohol Counseling* program for youth and adults

Lincoln Arts Council (\$30,000) – To help support two key staff positions dedicated to communicating and collaborating with the community, performance groups and artists it serves

Lincoln Association for the Traditional Arts (\$5,335) – Toward three musical performances and related community outreach work as part of LAFTA's upcoming 30th anniversary concert series, in collaboration with the Lied Center for Performing Arts

Lincoln Literacy Council (\$60,000) – Two-year renewal funding of its *English Language & Literacy Academy* that integrates literacy, childcare and transportation services to help individuals become proficient in the English language and more knowledgeable of Lincoln's community and culture

Lincoln Medical Education Partnership (\$3,373) – To support capacity building efforts to help strengthen its long-standing *School Community Intervention Program*

Lincoln YWCA (\$25,000) – Second-year general operating support of this organization dedicated to facilitating the security, self-discovery and leadership of women and youth

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (\$20,000) – To support 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

Nebraska Housing Developers Association (\$10,000) – Toward the creation and strengthening of a statewide network of housing advocates dedicated to educating the public and policy-makers on Nebraska's affordable housing needs

Nebraskans for Civic Reform (\$35,000) – General operating start-up support of this organization dedicated to making elections and civic institutions more inclusive for traditionally disenfranchised Nebraskans

Voices for Children in Nebraska (\$30,000) – Toward the creation of an online program to help build a more engaged, connected network of Nebraskans willing to work on behalf of children-centered public policy issues