

For further information
contact: Tom Woods
402.436.5971

March 7, 2012

WOODS CHARITABLE FUND AWARDS GRANTS

Woods Charitable Fund's Board of Directors approved grants totaling **\$367,100** to sixteen tax-exempt organizations during its first grant cycle of 2012. The Directors also approved a target amount of \$1.5 million in total grants to be paid in 2012.

Of the \$367,100 in awards given this grant cycle, 60% will go toward Human Services, 35% toward Civic & Community and 5% toward Arts & Culture.

Among the award recipients is Legal Aid of Nebraska, which will receive a grant of \$30,000 toward its implementation of a Mobile Justice Center in Lincoln. While federal funding for legal services decreases, the need for low income civil legal representation continues to increase. The Nebraska Supreme Court estimates in at least 50% of civil cases one or both parties appear with no attorney.

The Mobile Justice Center of Lancaster County will be a resource center for self-represented litigants of low income. Legal Aid staff will be available to assist those individuals in completing court filings, educate them on the civil legal system, and help them safeguard their rights.

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc. 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 436.5971, visit the Fund's website at www.woodscharitable.org, or write to Tom Woods or Angie Zmarzly at P.O. Box 81309, Lincoln, NE 68501.

###

Approved for Funding by Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., March 2012

Asian Community and Cultural Center (\$20,000) – Third-year support of the Center's general operating expenses and Executive Director position

Family Violence Council (\$50,000) – Toward the implementation of the *Safe and Together Model*, which would create Lincoln's first coordinated community response to handling child abuse investigations with co-occurring intimate partner abuse, in collaboration with several area agencies that work with victims and perpetrators of domestic violence

Girl Scouts-Spirit of Nebraska (\$20,000) – Fourth-year support of Girl Scouts' outreach work that provides leadership programming to girls on-site in schools with high at-risk indicators, including poverty, low attendance and language barriers

Heartland Big Brothers-Big Sisters (\$20,000) – General operating support of this organization that coordinates and professionally supports one-to-one mentoring relationships for at-risk kids

Legal Aid of Nebraska (\$30,000) – Toward the implementation of the *Mobile Justice Center* in Lincoln, which will provide assistance to self-represented litigants of low income through completing court filings, educating them on the civil legal system, and helping them safeguard their rights

Lincoln Lancaster County Child Advocacy Center (\$20,000) – General operating support of this agency that provides a safe, neutral location for conducting forensic interviews of victims of child abuse

Lux Center for the Arts (\$15,000) – Toward its *Art Education and Outreach* program that brings art classes out to the community, particularly to Title I schools with high at-risk indicators

The Mediation Center (\$23,600) – Toward the development of a new program aimed at facilitating transition planning discussions with older youth to prepare and support them as they age-out of the foster care system

Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition (\$30,000) – Support of the operations of its *Spanish Crisis Line*, which provides bilingual crisis intervention services and community resources to people throughout Nebraska

OpenSky Policy Institute (\$30,000) – General operating support of this organization dedicated to expanding economic opportunity for all Nebraskans by promoting public discussion and informed action through research, analysis and outreach

Released and Restored (\$20,000) – General operating support of this organization that provides incarcerated individuals with re-entry preparation, job readiness and life skills programming prior to their release

United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County (\$8,500) – Second-year support of its *Women in Philanthropy* program, which succeeds at attracting a broader range of women donors and volunteers for the agency

UNL-Center on Children, Families and the Law (\$15,000) – Support of the participation of a multi-disciplinary team from Lancaster County at Nebraska's third *Through the Eyes of the Child* summit, which aims at improving the court system for abused and neglected children

UNL-Department of Community and Regional Planning (\$37,500) – Second-year support of the *Enhancing Citizen Engagement in Community Assessment* project, in collaboration with NeighborWorks Lincoln and the City of Lincoln Urban Development Department, to involve residents of the city's vulnerable neighborhoods in a neighborhood-wide property assessment to help set goals for improvement

UNL-School of Music (\$5,000) – Toward the *Music for Hope Concert Series* that provides world-class chamber music performances to the homeless and near homeless clients at Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach

VolunteerPartners (\$22,500) – General operating support of this community volunteer center that connects people with causes, promotes corporate volunteerism and provides nonprofit training to expand ethnic minority board representation