

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WOODS CHARITABLE FUND APPROVES MORE THAN \$600,000 IN GRANTS AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Woods Charitable Fund's Board of Directors approved grants totaling \$603,000 to 27 tax-exempt organizations during its November meeting.

The largest percentage of the granted funding – 46 percent – will support Human Services agencies serving Lincoln. Additionally, 21 percent of the granted funding benefits Education programs and another 21 percent funds Civic & Community organizations. About 12 percent will aid Arts & Culture organizations.

To date in 2016, Woods Charitable Fund has awarded grants totaling \$1,206,700.

Woods Charitable Fund makes grants twice a year to tax-exempt organizations seeking funding for Lincoln-focused programs in the areas of Human Services, Civic & Community, Education and Arts & Culture, and in 2017 will award funding through a new Breakthrough Initiative Grant program. For more information on funding guidelines, call (402) 436-5971, visit the Fund's website at www.woodscharitable.org or write to Kathy Steinauer Smith, Tom Woods or Angie Zmarzly at 1248 O St. Suite 1130, Lincoln, NE 68508, or at info@woodscharitable.org.

Approved for Funding by Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., November 2016

Asian Community and Cultural Center (\$45,000) – Two-year general-operating support for this cultural center dedicated to serving the needs of Lincoln's Asian community

Boys and Girls Clubs of Lincoln Lancaster County (\$10,000) – For general-operating support as the organization renovates and expands its location at Park Middle School

Bright Lights, Inc. (\$8,000) – General-operating support for this organization that provides summer academic and enrichment courses for elementary- and middle-school students

CASA for Lancaster County (\$22,500) – Two-year support of a new Development Director position to increase the capacity for this organization that supports abused and neglected children going through the juvenile court system

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties (\$30,000) – A three-year grant to support the Individual Development Account program to help families build savings and enhance financial literacy

Dimensions Educational Research Foundation (\$50,000) – In support of a Nature Explore outdoor classroom at the Cedars Northbridge Early Childhood Development Center

Fresh Start (\$19,000) – General-operating support for this organization that serves homeless women

Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters (\$30,000) – General-operating support for this organization that coordinates and professionally supports one-to-one mentoring relationships for at-risk children

Humanities Nebraska (\$40,000) – A two-year grant to expand the Prime Time Family Reading Time program in Lincoln

Leadership Lincoln, Inc. (\$30,000) – Two-year support for a new Communications Specialist position for this organization that provides community leadership training

Lincoln Arts Council (\$20,000) – For coordination of Art Makes Me SmArt, which provides arts programming at Lincoln schools

Lincoln Lancaster County Habitat for Humanity (\$20,000) – Support for a new Volunteer Coordinator position to work with this organization that builds housing for low-income Lincoln families

Lincoln Orchestra Association (\$10,000) – In support of a partnership providing tickets and education for families in the Lincoln Public Schools' Family Literacy Program attending the Orchestra's two Family Concerts in the 2016-17 season

Malone Community Center (\$20,000) – In support of a new full-time position to lead the Center's out-of-school programming

Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach Inc. (\$55,000) – Two-year support of a new Director of Business & Finance position for this organization working with the homeless and near-homeless of Lincoln

Meadowlark Music Festival (\$10,000) – In support of this chamber music organization's 2017 summer music festival

Mid-America Arts Alliance (\$8,000) – In support of two training workshops to be held in Lincoln sponsored by this organization providing national touring art exhibitions, training and grants opportunities for Nebraskan artists and arts organizations

Nebraska Bicycling Alliance (\$20,000) – Two-year leadership support for this organization working to cultivate a more bicycle-friendly state through partnerships, education and advocacy

Nebraskans for Civic Reform (\$20,000) – Continued support of a Legal Director of Voting Rights position focusing on protecting voting rights for all Nebraskans

Nebraska Writers Collective (\$15,000) – In support of the Louder Than A Bomb performance poetry program offered at eight Lincoln/Lancaster County public schools

Northeast Family Resource Center (\$12,500) – To provide quality assessment and accreditation of the organization’s Early Learning Center and upgraded security for the Center

OpenSky Policy Institute (\$15,000) – To support a temporary staff position researching health-related topics for this organization that promotes public discussion and conducts research on fiscal policy

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center (\$20,000) – In support of educational programming to bring Lincoln Public Schools students to Spring Creek Prairie in spring and summer 2017

Sunrise Communications, Inc. (KZUM Radio) (\$20,000) – General-operating support for 2017 for this Lincoln community radio station

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Great Plains Arts Museum (\$8,000) – In support of “Contemporary Indigeneity: Spiritual Borderlands,” an exhibition exploring Native American spirituality through artistic interpretations of place in the Great Plains

Voices for Children in Nebraska (\$10,000) – In support of an upgraded website and interactive presentation of the annual Kids Count in Nebraska report online for this advocacy organization supporting Nebraska’s children and families

Voices of Hope Lincoln, Inc. (\$35,000) – Continued support to expand capacity and staffing for work with threat assessment teams in Lincoln for this agency that assists and advocates for victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault