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**WOODS CHARITABLE FUND APPROVES NEARLY \$300,000
IN GRANTS AT MAY MEETING**

Woods Charitable Fund's Board of Directors approved grants in its spring grant cycle totaling \$297,600 to 17 tax-exempt organizations at its May meeting.

Five of these grants will benefit organizations providing summer programming across Lincoln. The Lincoln Community Playhouse, Lincoln Housing Charities and Willard Community Center Corp. have been awarded grants to support their programs this summer, while Bright Lights and the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools have received funds to help with planning to boost their ability to provide summer programs in the future.

The largest percentage of the granted funding – 53 percent – will support Human Services agencies serving Lincoln. Additionally, 22 percent funds Civic & Community organizations, while 17 percent of the grants benefit Arts & Culture programs. About 8 percent supports Education organizations. One grant, for ynpnLNK, supports a miscellaneous organization.

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 through its 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 Tom Woods, Kathy Steinauer Smith or Nicole Juranek at 1248 O St. Suite 1130, Lincoln, NE 68508, or at info@woodscharitable.org.

Approved for Funding by Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., May 2019

Bright Lights, Inc. (\$5,100) – To support a strategic plan for this organization that provides summer academic and enrichment courses for elementary- and middle-school students

Center for Rural Affairs (\$20,000) – General-operating support for advocacy work in Lancaster County to benefit low- and moderate-income Nebraskans

Flatwater Shakespeare Company (\$15,000) – Continued general-operating support for this performing-arts organization

Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools (\$10,000) – To support a strategic business plan for its Spark summer programming

HopeSpoke (\$35,000) – Continued support of a project to boost salaries, training and other incentives for staff at this organization that provides child-centered, family-focused mental health services for low-income families

Legal Aid of Nebraska (\$25,000) – Support of a Lincoln attorney specializing in housing legal issues for the organization’s Housing Justice Project

Lied Center for Performing Arts (\$25,000) – For planning and implementation of a project to provide programming to Lincoln Public Schools’ students

Lincoln Community Playhouse (\$10,000) – In support of its summer Theatre Arts Academy

Lincoln Housing Charities (\$5,000) – Support of Expanding Horizons, a free summer enrichment program for children in Lincoln’s Air Park neighborhood

Lincoln Medical Education Partnership (\$15,000) – In support of the School Community Intervention and Prevention program, which supports students’ mental, behavioral and emotional health

The Mediation Center (\$9,500) – For work with a peer-to-peer restorative justice project at two Lincoln high schools

OpenSky Policy Institute (\$10,000) – To support a journalism project for this organization that promotes public discussion and conducts research on fiscal policy

Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, Inc. (\$20,000) – Continued support of educational staffing and programming in Lincoln

Released and Restored (\$55,000) – A two-year grant to support empowerment programming provided to women from Community Corrections Center – Lincoln

The Set Me Free Project (\$20,000) – Continued funding of programming in Lincoln that focuses on prevention education on the dangers of human trafficking and social media safety for elementary, middle and high school students

Willard Community Center Corp. (\$13,000) – To support staffing and expenses for youth and summer programming at this community center serving west Lincoln

ynpnLNK (\$5,000) – To support start-up expenses for this Lincoln chapter of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network