Woods Charitable Fund | Annual Report 2014

This timeline at the top of the following pages explains how Lincoln Community Scan improves Lincoln's neighborhoods:

Step 1:
In 2010, **Woods Charitable Fund** awards the first of three grants to support **Lincoln Community Scan.**

Woods Charitable Fund
Setting Ideas In Motion

Step 2:
University of Nebraska–Lincoln's Community and Regional Planning Program and **NeighborWorks Lincoln** develop **Lincoln Community Scan** to recognize and improve targeted neighborhoods in Lincoln.

University of Nebraska Lincoln

NeighborWorks® LINCOLN

Our featured project: Lincoln Community Scan

In early 2010, Woods Charitable Fund awarded a grant for a pilot project to help Lincoln neighborhoods concerned about vacant and neglected properties, graffiti, weeds, litter and other problems that can become safety and quality-of-life concerns. The first Lincoln Community Scan project assessed the condition of every home in two Lincoln neighborhoods and compiled the information in databases. Then residents could pinpoint their biggest concerns, set the most appropriate improvement goals for their neighborhoods and find resources to correct problems.

From 2010 through 2014, Woods Charitable Fund has awarded three grants totaling $137,500 for Lincoln Community Scan, a joint project of NeighborWorks Lincoln and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Community and Regional Planning Program. Over the five years of the project, more than 350 neighborhood residents and UNL students have assessed about 12,700 properties in eight Lincoln neighborhoods: Clinton, University Place, Everett, Irvingdale, Woods Park, Havelock, Indian Village and Hartley. Information from Lincoln Community Scan has helped neighborhoods rehabilitate problem homes and remove junk cars. Many residents said the work improved their perception of their neighborhoods and showed them the impact of even one neglected property. Community Scan has had greater citywide effects as well. It has helped to pass a city ordinance that adds higher fees and penalties for those who repeatedly neglect their properties. Community Scan information also has been shared with the City of Lincoln's Public Works Department, and additional funds have been acquired for fixing sidewalks in at least three neighborhoods that could pinpoint their most problematic areas thanks to the project. As they continue to assess more of Lincoln's neighborhoods, NeighborWorks Lincoln and the UNL Community and Regional Planning Program continue to develop new collaborations and purposes for the information they're gathering to benefit all of Lincoln.

For more information about Lincoln Community Scan, visit:
http://nwlincoln.org/community-building/scan/

Step 3:

Lincoln Community Scan selects and meets with **Neighborhood Associations** to discuss the project and gather residents and students to conduct the assessments.

Step 4:

Neighborhood residents and **UNL students** are trained to use mobile and GPS technology on which they will gather data about their neighborhood's condition.

Letter from the President

"Imagine what our real neighborhoods would be like if each of us offered as a matter of course, just one kind word to another person… one kind word has a wonderful way of turning into many."

- Fred Rogers, Host of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*

Lincoln is composed of many great neighborhoods and some that are in transition. NeighborWorks Lincoln is an agency that works to keep Lincoln a safe and prosperous community by revitalizing neighborhoods and promoting homeownership. It encourages better neighborhoods by empowering strong resident leadership through collaboration with city departments and community partners; facilitating sustainable homeownership through homebuyer education and assistance; and developing desirable housing for economically diverse clientele in Lincoln's core neighborhoods.

WCF's annual report features *Lincoln Community Scan*, a program that NeighborWorks Lincoln has been doing since 2010, in collaboration with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Community and Regional Planning Program. It has had a string of successes of steering those transitional neighborhoods in a positive direction.

Woods Charitable Fund applauds the work of *Lincoln Community Scan's* program partners and also the work of Kathleen Rutledge, who retired from WCF's board of directors in 2014. Kathleen's board term began in 2009 shortly after she retired from serving as the Executive Editor of the Lincoln Journal Star for six years. Kathleen lived up to her reputation for fairness and ability to address sensitive issues in a productive and thoughtful manner. During her board tenure, Woods Charitable Fund awarded 308 grants totaling $7,643,197. We will miss Kathleen's perspective and incisive questioning of grant proposals and policies.

Kathleen Rutledge

Candice Howell filled the board position vacated by Kathleen in November 2014. She is the Director of Student Success and Retention at Nebraska Wesleyan University, where she provides academic success services and help to students whose progress to graduation is at risk. Candice works with the administration to set goals and objectives for improving student retention and to develop programs supporting retention.

Candice Howell

Donna W. Woods, *Chair*

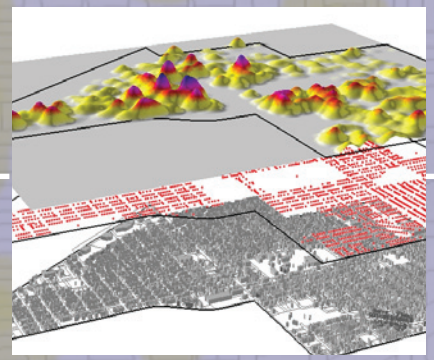
Thomas C. Woods, IV, *President*

Step 5:

Over several weeks, the **neighborhood residents** and **UNL students** walk the neighborhood and evaluate the physical condition of every home, garage, yard and driveway.

Step 6:

Professors and **students** of the **UNL Community and Regional Planning Program** compile the data from the surveys and create databases and neighborhood maps charting what the **Lincoln Community Scan** has found.



Officers and Directors

Donna W. Woods, *Chair*
Community Volunteer

Kathleen Rutledge, *Vice Chair*
(term ended 2014)
Retired Executive Editor
Lincoln Journal Star

Orville Jones, III, *Vice Chair*
Retired BNSF Railroad
Community Volunteer

Hank Woods, *Treasurer*
Community Volunteer

Michael J. Tavlin,
Assistant Treasurer
Chief Financial Officer
Speedway Motors, Inc.

Nelle Woods Jamison
Community Volunteer

Ernesto Castillo, Jr.
Planner
Urban Development Department
City of Lincoln

Carl Eskridge
Deputy State Ombudsman
Lincoln City Councilman

Candice Howell
(term began 2014)
Director of Student Success & Retention
Nebraska Wesleyan University

Staff

Thomas C. Woods, IV, *Secretary*
President
Woods Charitable Fund

Joan Stolle
Operations Manager
Woods Charitable Fund

Kathy Steinauer Smith
Community Investment Director
Woods Charitable Fund

Angie Zmarzly
Community Investment Director
Woods Charitable Fund

Step 7:

Lincoln Community Scan meets with the selected **Neighborhood Association** to report their findings and discuss a course of action to improve their area.

Step 8:

With the help of **NeighborWorks Lincoln,** residents learn how to address their neighborhood issues, perhaps with painting parties to spruce up homes or by contacting **city officials** to report abandoned homes or junk cars.

About the Foundation

WOODS CHARITABLE FUND is a private philanthropic foundation located in Lincoln, Nebraska. It was founded in 1941 by Frank H. Woods, Nelle C. Woods and their three sons, Thomas, Henry and Frank.

The Fund's vision is to help build a community that offers a promising future for all, where everyone has the opportunity to participate and thrive. It supports a broad range of activities that include, but are not limited to, these special interests: Human Services, Education, Civic & Community and Arts & Culture. More details about WCF's history, grant-making and review of financial statements can be found on its website, www.woodscharitable.org.

TO APPLY FOR A GRANT

Before applying, grant-seekers are required to contact the Fund by phone or mail/email with a letter of intent, including a budget, to determine if an application is appropriate. To allow adequate time for consideration, interested agencies are required to contact the Fund's staff at least two weeks prior to the application deadlines.

If the Fund requests a full proposal, the applicant will be asked to complete a web-based version of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Grantmakers Application Form, accessible only to those invited to apply.

The staff at Woods Charitable Fund is pleased to consult with applicants at any time during the process to help strengthen their proposals and reports.

In cases of extreme emergency, WCF will consider interim proposals of $10,000 or less outside the set timetable.

Applicants should direct inquiries to:
Tom Woods, Kathy Steinauer Smith
or Angie Zmarzly
Woods Charitable Fund, Inc.
1248 O Street, Suite 1130
Lincoln, NE 68508
www.woodscharitable.org
(402) 436-5971
twoods@woodscharitable.org
ksteinauersmith@woodscharitable.org
azmarzly@woodscharitable.org

TIMETABLE

Inquiry Deadline	Submission Dates	Notification Dates
March 1	March 1 to 15	Mid-June
July 1	July 1 to 15	Mid-November
November 1	November 1 to 15	Late March

Communitywide Benefits:

Information from **Lincoln Community Scan** was used in a 2014 pilot project at **Dawes Middle School** to gauge the importance of clear sidewalks and safe neighborhoods in determining how children walked or biked to and from school.

Lincoln Community Scan has provided valuable information, a platform for community discussion and real-world opportunity for **UNL students, Lincoln Public Schools, neighborhood associations, community leaders** and **city officials**.

Summary of 2014 Grants Paid by Special Interest Area

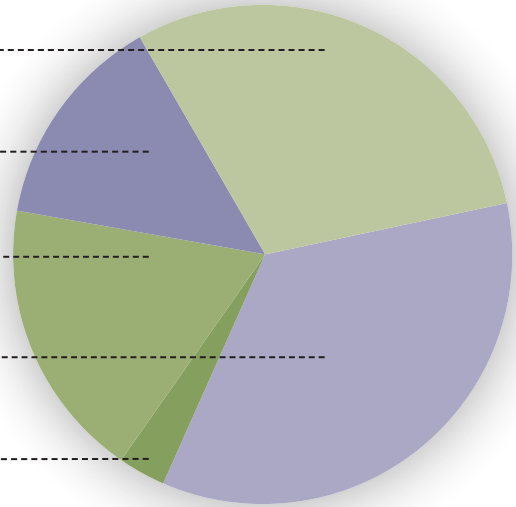
Arts & Culture | $364,500 | 30%

Civic & Community | $172,500 | 14%

Education | $217,500 | 18%

Human Services | $425,500 | 35%

Miscellaneous | $25,000 | 3%



2014 Grant/Program Related Investment Payments / December 31, 2014

ARTS & CULTURE

Grand Island Community Foundation	$ 8,000
Hear Nebraska	30,000
Lincoln Arts Council	20,000
Lincoln Community Playhouse, Inc.	20,000
Lincoln Parks and Recreation Foundation	100,000
Meadowlark Music Festival	10,000
Merrick Foundation	5,000
Nebraska Cultural Endowment	60,000
OmniArts Nebraska	5,000
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Center for Great Plains Studies	5,000
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lied Center for Performing Arts	61,500
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Plains Humanities Alliance	5,000
Woods Hall Craft Shop	35,000
Subtotal	**$ 364,500**

CIVIC & COMMUNITY

ACLU Nebraska Foundation, Inc.	$ 10,000
Common Cause Education Fund (Nebraska)	20,000
Legal Aid of Nebraska	15,000
League of Human Dignity, Inc.	10,000
Lincoln Community Foundation, Inc.	1,000
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.	5,500
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, Inc.	10,000
Nebraska Lawyers Foundation	25,000
Nebraskans for Civic Reform	20,000
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Community and Regional Planning Program	36,000
VolunteerLinc dba Volunteer Partners	20,000
Subtotal	**$ 172,500**

EDUCATION

Educare of Lincoln	$ 30,000
Lincoln Children's Museum	40,000
Lincoln Housing Charities	5,000
Lincoln Literacy Council	35,000
Lincoln Public Schools (Behavior Intervention Support Team)	60,000
Lincoln Public Schools (Family Literacy Program)	10,000
Madonna Foundation	10,000
Malone Community Center	7,500
Nebraska Human Resources Research Foundation, Inc.	20,000
Subtotal	**$ 217,500**

2014 Grant/Program Related Investment Payments / December 31, 2014

HUMAN SERVICES

CASA for Lancaster County	$ 7,500
Catholic Social Services	3,000
CenterPointe, Inc.	10,000
Community Action Partnership of Lancaster & Saunders Counties	10,000
El Centro de las Americas (Incorporation of Cultural Centers Coalition)	2,000
El Centro de las Americas (Family Support Services Program)	15,000
Family Health Services	5,000
Family Violence Council	25,000
Fresh Start, Inc.	20,000
Friendship Home of Lincoln	20,000
Good Neighbor Community Center	20,000
Guidance to Success Youth Club	20,000
Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters	20,000
Indian Center, Inc. (General Operating) *	12,500
Indian Center, Inc. (Commodity Supplemental Food Program)	15,000
Lincoln Medical Education Partnership	15,000
Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, Inc.	20,000
The Mediation Center	18,000
Malone Community Center *	12,500
Nebraska Children and Families Foundation	20,000
Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association	3,000
Planned Parenthood of the Heartland	25,000
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska	20,000
Provider's Network, Inc.	10,000
Released and Restored, Inc.	30,000
St. Monica's Home	10,000
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Center on Children, Families and the Law (Through the Eyes of the Child)	20,000
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Center on Children, Families and the Law (Protective Custody Parent's Guide)	5,000
Voices for Children in Nebraska	10,000
VolunteerLinc dba Volunteer Partners	2,000
Subtotal	**$ 425,500**

MISCELLANEOUS

Town of La Pointe Volunteer Fire Department	$ 25,000
Subtotal	**$ 25,000**
TOTAL GRANTS PAID	**$1,205,000**

**Indicates retiring Director's grant designations*

Photography courtesy of UNL Community and Regional Planning Program

To make a gift to Woods Charitable Fund,
please contact President Tom Woods
at (402) 436-5971 or twoods@woodscharitable.org.

Woods
Charitable
Fund

Setting Ideas In Motion

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