Woods Charitable Fund

Annual Report 2015

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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

ON THE COVER:

The Lincoln Community Playhouse produced "Les Misérables" in May 2013. All photos of LCP productions in this annual report were provided courtesy of Lincoln Community Playhouse.

Letter from the President

"The pessimist complains about the wind;
the optimist expects it to change;
the realist adjusts the sails."
– William Arthur Ward

As a longtime funder in Lincoln, WCF has witnessed some nonprofit executives and boards of directors who have complained or expected and seldom adjusted. The Lincoln Community Playhouse is an example of a realist. The Playhouse was facing difficult winds in 2009, but its directors brought on Morrie Enders as its Executive Director in 2010. In unison, they adjusted the sails and 5 years later the Playhouse is again offering a gateway to new worlds of experience, emotion and knowledge.

WCF's annual report shines a spotlight on the Lincoln Community Playhouse and Morrie Enders, the 2015 Executive of the Year by the Association of Nonprofit Executives. The work of the Playhouse has enriched the lives of those who have taken an active part in it, as well as those in the community who benefit from live theatre productions. On either side of the footlights, those involved have represented a diversity of age, culture, life experience, and a strong appreciation of the importance of the arts.

Woods Charitable Fund applauds the Playhouse's outreach and educational offerings through its "A Playhouse for Everyone" project, which offers play productions for free for Title I schools, scholarships to its theatre camps and free tickets through nonprofits; its "RadioActive Players," which is a senior-citizen theatre group in conjunction with University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute; and its Penguin Project, which features a cast of children with special needs partnered with other children as mentors.

Please read through the report to learn more about WCF and see a listing of all of its 2015 grant recipients. Woods Charitable Fund's 2015 financials may be found under the "About WCF" tab at www.woodscharitable.org.

Thomas C. Woods, IV
President

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 WCF's web-based Grant 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

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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**
April 15	April 15 to 30	November
October 15	October 15 to 31	May

Please note that if the deadline falls on a weekend, the deadline will defer to the following business day.

2015 Grant Payments

December 31, 2015

ARTS AND CULTURE

Friends of the Haymarket Theatre	$ 20,000
Hear Nebraska	20,000
Lincoln Community Playhouse, Inc.	20,000
Lincoln Orchestra Association	10,000
Lux Center for the Arts	25,000
Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA)	15,000
Nebraska Art Association (Sheldon Museum of Art)	100,000
Nebraska Jazz Orchestra, Inc.	7,500
Northeast Family Resource Center	5,000
Ruth Davidson Hahn & Company	1,000
University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) International Quilt Study Center & Museum	15,000
Vision Maker Media	5,000
Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Education Foundation	15,000
Woods Hall Craft Shop	30,000
Subtotal	**$ 288,500**

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY

Center for Legal Immigration Assistance	$ 50,000
Center for Rural Affairs	20,000
Common Cause Education Fund (Nebraska)	20,000
Community CROPS	15,000
Community Development Resources (CDR)	100,000
Legal Aid of Nebraska	10,000
The Mediation Center	15,000
Nebraskans for Civic Reform	20,000
OpenSky Policy Institute	20,000
Subtotal	**$ 270,000**

EDUCATION

Lincoln Housing Charities	$ 5,000
Lincoln Public Schools (Community LINKS programs)	32,000
Lincoln Public Schools (Family Literacy Program)	10,000
The Madonna Foundation	5,000
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center	20,000
UNL Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Families, Youth and Schools	20,000
YMCA of Lincoln	40,000
Subtotal	**$ 132,000**

2015 Grant Payments

December 31, 2015

HUMAN SERVICES

Asian Community and Cultural Center	$ 25,000
Boys and Girls Clubs of Lincoln Lancaster County	20,000
Bridge Behavioral Health, Inc.	25,000
CenterPointe, Inc.	8,000
Disability Rights Nebraska	20,000
El Centro de las Américas	10,000
Family Health Services	10,000
Food Bank of Lincoln, Inc.	20,000
Good Neighbor Community Center	20,000
Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters	10,000
Lincoln and Lancaster County Child Guidance Center, Inc.	45,000
Lincoln Lancaster County Child Advocacy Center	20,000
Nebraska Children and Families Foundation	15,000
Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition, Inc.	4,500
Produce from the Heart (fiscal agent: Center for People in Need, Inc.)	30,000
Seniors Foundation	20,000
St. Monica's Home	20,000
Tabitha Foundation	15,000
TeamMates Mentoring Program	10,000
UNL Department of Psychology	24,000
Voices for Children in Nebraska	10,000
Voices of Hope Lincoln, Inc.	35,000
Subtotal	**$ 416,500**

MISCELLANEOUS

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries	$18,000
Friends of Woods Tennis, Inc. (fiscal agent: Lincoln Parks & Recreation Foundation)	200,000
Nonprofit Hub Foundation	35,000
Subtotal	**$ 253,000**
TOTAL GRANTS PAID	**$ 1,360,000**

SUMMARY OF 2015 GRANTS PAID BY SPECIAL INTEREST AREA

Arts & Culture | $288,500 | 21%

Civic & Community | $270,000 | 20%

Education | $132,000 | 10%

Human Services | $416,500 | 31%

Miscellaneous | $253,000 | 18%

Featured Organization

Lincoln COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

www.lincolnplayhouse.com

FOR 70 YEARS, Lincoln Community Playhouse has been performing high-quality theatre experiences with a mission to transform people's lives and change our community. With casts and crews featuring Lincoln adults and children, the Playhouse produces several performances of 8 plays each year, including a range of well-known and loved musicals, comedies and dramas, as well as family-friendly productions. Just a few of the plays and musicals that have been featured recently on the Playhouse's stage include "Oklahoma!" "Les Miserables," "Peter Pan," "Mary Poppins," "Twelve Angry Men," and "Anne of Green Gables."

Since becoming its Executive Director in 2010, Morrie Enders has led the Playhouse in several new outreach efforts to create a theatre that embodies the "community" in its name. Lincoln Community Playhouse offers free and reduced-price plays for about 1,000 elementary students annually and works with local organizations to provide tickets and books related to the plays. It also offers a year-round Theatre Arts Academy providing classes and camps for Lincoln's youth to explore their interest in acting and technical aspects of the theatre. Scholarships are available for children from low-income families. Additionally, its senior-

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Penguin Project

LINCOLN COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE staged its first Penguin Project production, "Annie Jr.," in summer 2014. The play featured young actors and actresses with special needs in all roles and paired them with on-stage peer mentors. The Penguin Project won the 2015 Mayor's Arts Award for Outstanding Event, which recognizes a performance, exhibition or project that will be notable in the community memory for years to come because of its content or cultural significance.

The Penguin Project was created by Dr. Andrew Morgan, a pediatrician who also directed and performed in community theatre productions in Illinois. The goal of the Penguin Project is to demonstrate that individuals with special needs are able to participate in community activities with the same dedication and enthusiasm as others. It also benefits all children and families by breaking isolation and introducing them to the theatre – and perhaps a lifelong love for it.

Lincoln Community Playhouse was the first community theatre outside of Illinois to produce a Penguin Project play. "Annie Jr." included 25 actors and actresses paired with 25 mentors presenting 3 performances. In June 2015, 52 actors and actresses made up the cast of "The Little Mermaid Jr." and staged 6 performances.

The Playhouse is currently working on its June 2016 production of "Beauty and the Beast Jr." The production will offer 6 performances June 10-12 and 17-19 at the Lincoln Community Playhouse, with an additional free performance planned for the participating children's families and other families with special-needs members.

LEARN MORE

Featured Organization

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citizen theatre group, RadioActive Players, produces one show annually.

Perhaps best known is the Playhouse's award-winning Penguin Project, which has received media attention and accolades for its productions of plays featuring casts of children with special needs partnered with peer mentors. The Penguin Project received the 2015 Lincoln Mayor's Arts Award for Outstanding Event, and in early 2016, the Playhouse was named the winner of the Twink Lynch Organizational Achievement Award from the American Association of Community Theatres for its innovative outreach programming. The award annually recognizes a theatre for successfully completing major steps in new directions, expanding services to its community and moving toward a new level of organizational development. Organizations that have won this award in previous years have included community theatres in Kansas, Florida, Texas and Tennessee.

Additionally, in recognition of his leadership and vision, Morrie Enders received the 2015 Nonprofit Executive of the Year award from the Association of Nonprofit Executives based in Lincoln.

Lincoln Community Playhouse staff is, from left to right, Christine Cottam, Director of Operations; Stephanie Geery-Zink, Development Director; Morrie Enders, Executive Director; Jane Schiermeyer, Education Director; Nick Turner, Technical Director.

The Playhouse's origins began with a play staged by The Circlet Theatre in July 1946 at a downtown Lincoln hotel; the next year, The Circlet Theatre merged with the Lincoln Community Theatre to form The Lincoln Circlet Community Theatre. In the 1950s, The Lincoln Circlet Community Theatre became the Lincoln Community Playhouse, staging its first production in November 1954 at the Tifereth Israel Synagogue.

In 1972, the Playhouse purchased its current home at 2500 S. 56th St. and launched its first play there that year. Its Gallery Theatre opened in 1976, and the Children's Theatre opened in 1980.

LEARN MORE

Woods Charitable Fund provided its first grant to the Lincoln Community Playhouse in 1967, funding an informational brochure to launch a capital campaign to buy its building, and grants from 1970-72 supported acquisition of the theatre. Throughout the Playhouse's history, WCF has provided 18 grants to support the creation of its children's theatre, touring productions, building refurbishment and salary support. A 2015 grant provided general-operating support for the Playhouse as it has continued to strengthen its high-quality plays, outreach and educational programming.

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