Woods Charitable Fund

Annual Report 2016

Officers and Directors

Donna W. Woods
Chair
Community Volunteer

Orville Jones, III
Vice Chair
(term ended 2016)
Retired BNSF Railroad
Community Volunteer

Carl Eskridge
Vice Chair
Deputy State Ombudsman
Lincoln City Councilman

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 II
Urban Development Department
City of Lincoln

Candice Howell
Assistant Dean for Student
Success & Persistence
Nebraska Wesleyan University

Ed Wimes
(term began 2016)
Community Volunteer

All photos in this annual report are provided courtesy of Hear Nebraska and were taken by Hear Nebraska photographers. Photographers with photos in this report are JP Davis, James Dean, Andrew Dickinson, Chris Dinan, Lauren Farris, Adam LaRose, Matt Mejstrik, Bridget McQuillan and Lindsey Yoneda.

Staff

Thomas C. Woods, IV
Board 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

Letter from the President

"Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending."
– Maria Robinson

Nebraska has long been known as a flyover state. There are those who are content with that misperception but there are a handful of others like Andrew Norman, co-founder and Executive Director of Hear Nebraska, who want to change that for those passing through as well as those born and bred in Nebraska.

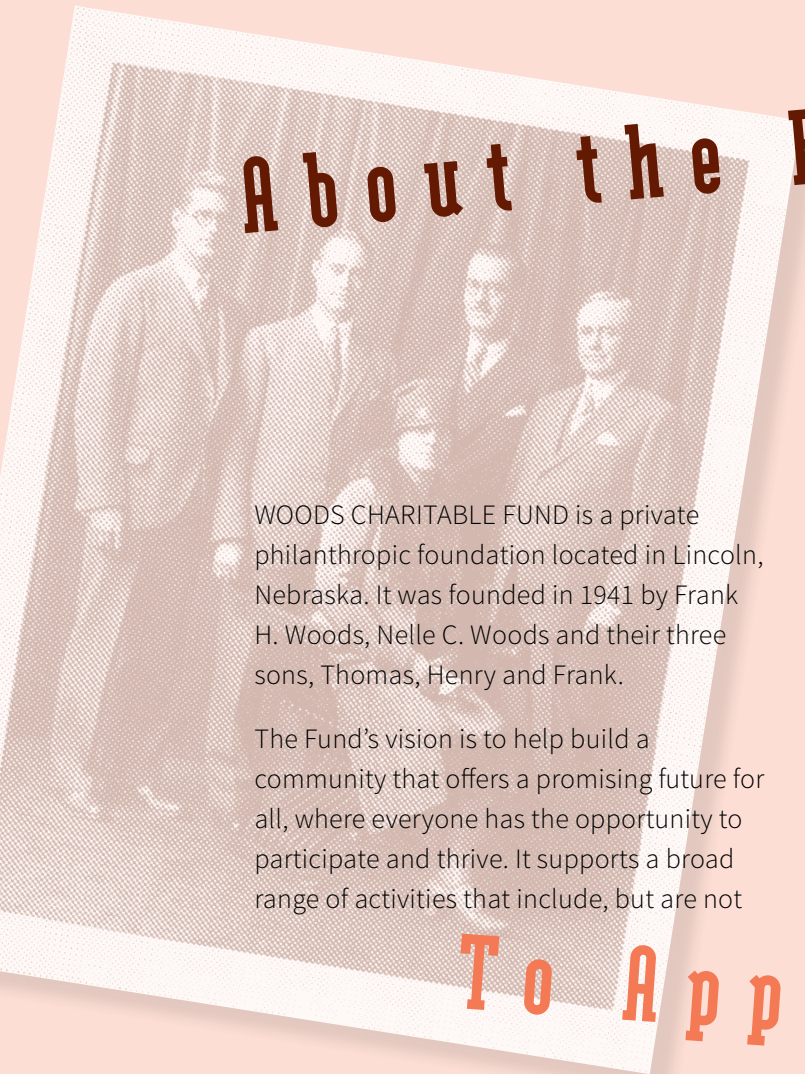
Hear Nebraska's mission is to connect and engage fans, artists and communities through music journalism, education and events. The agency develops and provides exposure for Nebraska's music, arts and creative industry; trains and educates the next generation of Nebraska's leaders, while increasing arts appreciation and state pride; and illustrates and creates reasons for young people to invest and stay in Nebraska. WCF's annual report shines a spotlight on Hear Nebraska and Andrew Norman, recipient of the 2016 Governor's Arts Award for Emerging Leader.

Woods Charitable Fund applauds the work of Hear Nebraska to make the state a globally recognized cultural destination, and also the work of Orville Jones, who retired from WCF's board of directors in 2016. Orville's board term began in 2009. Orville lived up to his reputation for fairness and ability to address sensitive issues in a productive and thoughtful manner. Orville faithfully reminded us that a variety of perspectives needs to be factored into grantmaking. He demonstrated that taking a strong stand on what we believe determines who and what we are as individuals and as an organization. During his board tenure, Woods Charitable Fund awarded 327 grants totaling $7,115,343. We will miss Orville's perspective and incisive questioning of grant proposals and policies.

Ed Wimes filled the board position vacated by Orville in November 2016. He is owner of E&S Consulting, which provides leadership coaching, human resources management, and diversity/inclusion strategies to public and private firms and institutions. Before retiring in 2015 to start his consulting business, Ed served as Special Assistant to the President of the University of Nebraska and for 14 years as the University's Assistant Vice President/Director of Human Resources. His professional experience, his personal commitment to serving Lincoln and his proven record as a champion of diversity will be invaluable contributions to Woods as it strives to make the best grant-making decisions.

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.

In 2016, Woods Charitable Fund launched a new Breakthrough Initiative Grant program, to support promising and groundbreaking new programs, collaborations and/or organizational best practices at nonprofit organizations serving Lincoln. The first recipients of this grant, which is expected to be awarded in the range of $150,000 to $500,000 per year, will be announced in May 2017. More details on this grant program are available at 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 or Kathy Steinauer Smith

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc.
1248 O Street, Suite 1130
Lincoln, NE 68508

www.woodscharitable.org
(402) 436-5971

twoods@woodscharitable.org
ksteinauersmith@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 or holiday, the deadline will defer to the following business day.

2016 Grant Payments

December 31, 2016

ARTS AND CULTURE

Colonel Mustard Amateur Attic Theatre Company	$ 5,000
Fiesta Mexicana of the Heartlands	5,700
Flatwater Shakespeare Company	12,500
Hear Nebraska, Inc.	20,000
Lincoln Arts Council	20,000
Lincoln Orchestra Association	10,000
Lux Center for the Arts	25,000
Meadowlark Music Festival	10,000
Mid-America Arts Alliance	8,000
Nebraska Art Association (Director grant, general operating)	5,000
Nebraska Brass, Inc.	2,500
Nebraska Writers Collective	15,000
University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL) Great Plains Art Museum	8,000
Subtotal	**$ 146,700**

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY

ACLU Nebraska Foundation, Inc.	$ 5,000
Leadership Lincoln, Inc.	20,000
Legal Aid of Nebraska	25,000
Lincoln Community Foundation, Inc.	1,000
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, Inc.	30,000
Nebraska Bicycling Alliance	10,000
Nebraskans for Civic Reform	20,000
Neighborhoods, Inc. (dba NeighborWorks Lincoln)	30,000
OpenSky Policy Institute	15,000
Sunrise Communications, Inc. (dba KZUM Radio)	20,000
VolunteerLinc	20,000
Subtotal	**$ 196,000**

EDUCATION

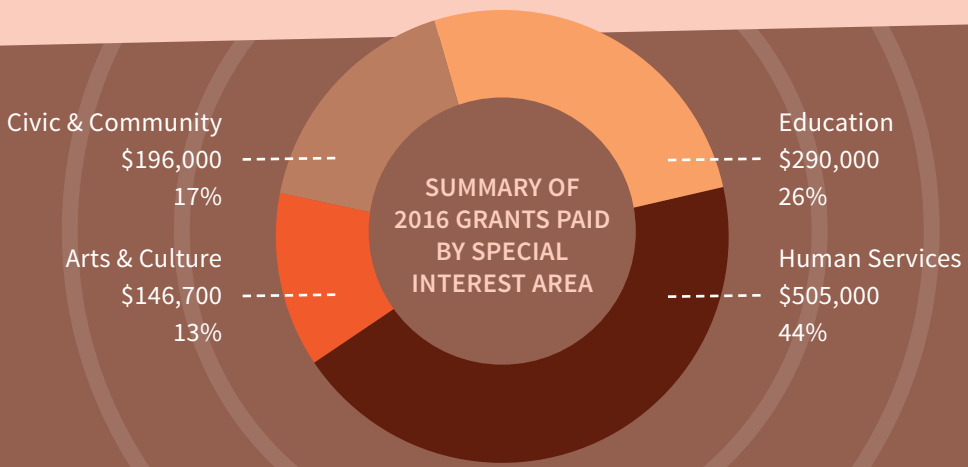
Bright Lights, Inc.	$ 8,000
Dimensions Educational Research Foundation	50,000
Educare of Lincoln	20,000
Lincoln Children's Museum	1,000
Lincoln Housing Charities	4,500
Lincoln Literacy Council	30,000
Lincoln Public Schools (Community LINKS program)	94,000
Nebraska Human Resources Research Foundation, Inc.	20,000
Northeast Family Resource Center	12,500
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center	20,000
UNL Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools	30,000
Subtotal	**$ 290,000**

2016 Grant Payments

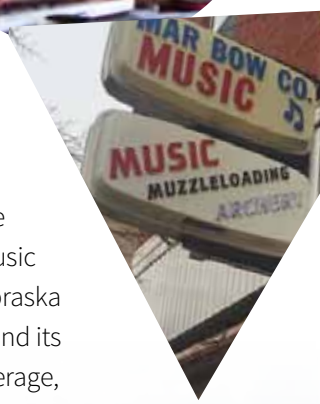
December 31, 2016

HUMAN SERVICES

Asian Community & Cultural Center	$ 25,000
Boys and Girls Clubs of Lincoln Lancaster County	10,000
CASA for Lancaster County	12,500
Cedars Youth Services	30,000
Center for People in Need, Inc.	20,000
Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties	10,000
Food Bank of Lincoln, Inc.	20,000
Fresh Start, Inc.	19,000
Girl Scouts-Spirit of Nebraska	20,000
Heartland Big Brothers-Big Sisters	30,000
Karen Society of Nebraska, Inc.	5,000
Lincoln Bike Kitchen	8,000
Lincoln Lancaster County Child Advocacy Center	10,000
Lincoln Lancaster County Human Services Federation, Inc.	10,000
Lincoln YWCA	25,000
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.	25,000
Malone Community Center (Culler Summer Investigators program)	10,000
Malone Community Center (Director grant, general operating)	20,000
Malone Community Center (Out-of-School program coordinator position)	20,000
Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach, Inc.	27,500
Mourning Hope	15,000
Outlinc, Inc.	6,000
Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, Inc.	20,000
TeamMates Mentoring Program	5,000
UNL Center on Children, Families and the Law	12,000
UNL Department of Psychology	25,000
Voices for Children in Nebraska	10,000
Voices of Hope Lincoln, Inc.	35,000
Wellbeing Initiative, Inc.	20,000
Subtotal	**$ 505,000**
TOTAL GRANTS PAID	**$ 1,137,700**



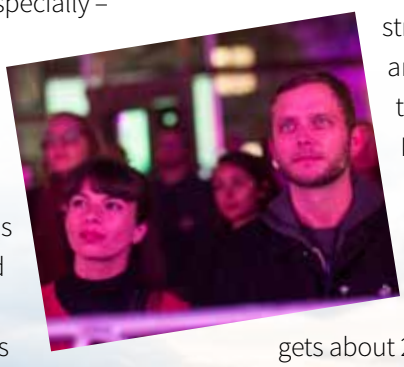
Featured Organization



LEARN MORE

Andrew Norman knows very well what a lot of people who don't live in Nebraska say about our state. As a graduate student in Michigan, he grew weary of the comments about flyover country, that it's all flat and boring.

The native of Imperial was inspired to take action, to prove that his homeland had plenty to offer, including – perhaps especially – for young people. His focus: Nebraska's live music scene.



After developing the plans for Hear Nebraska as part of his master's thesis, Andrew and his wife, Angie, *(at right)* launched the nonprofit organization in 2010. Hear Nebraska produces live shows and covers the state's music scene at hearnebraska.org, its robust website offering news, feature stories, a statewide concert calendar and HN Radio, a live music stream playing diverse Nebraska artists. Through concerts and its thorough journalistic coverage, Hear Nebraska engages musicians and fans with a goal to cultivate the state as a cultural destination. Each month, hearnebraska.org gets about 27,000 visits, with 33% of its traffic coming from outside of Nebraska and 7% internationally.

(continued)

Featured Organization (continued)

Hear Nebraska's live shows launched in earnest in 2012 with Lincoln's downtown lunchtime summer concert series, Hear Lincoln, and have grown to include weekly summer concerts in Omaha and Grand Island. In 2015, Hear Nebraska expanded to truly cover the state with the launch of the first Good Living Tour, which produced free, all-ages live shows featuring dozens of Nebraskan musicians and bands in nine Nebraska cities and created new cultural events for music fans of all ages in their parts of the state. Its journalists, photographers and interns visited those towns to write stories and shoot photos and videos about the concerts but also about their places and people. That year, Hear Nebraska invested about $100,000 into Nebraska's music industry, including $50,000 paid directly to musicians.

In 2016 the Good Living Tour expanded to present 36 Nebraska bands and 12 DJs in 12 Nebraska towns over three weekends in July and August. While Hear Nebraska again produced stories about the concerts, it also filmed performance videos of towns' musicians and a series of videos to spotlight young professionals and artists across the state. That fall, Hear Nebraska produced and managed Lincoln Calling, a weekend-long concert series featuring 120 bands and comedians across downtown Lincoln that Hear Nebraska hopes will become "Nebraska's South by Southwest" festival. Throughout 2016, Hear Nebraska published nearly 500 stories, more than 2,000 calendar events and more than 6,000 photos. It produced 49 concerts in 16 Nebraska cities and invested more than $61,000 in 140 Nebraska artists.

Hear Nebraska continues to grow as a resource for Nebraska's musicians while keeping its focus on showcasing all the state has to offer in music, culture and art – from Imperial to Omaha, for fans of all types of music and culture. It provides avenues and reasons for musicians and music lovers to invest and stay in our state, become leaders in our arts and culture scene and show the world that Nebraska is anything but boring.

In 2016, Andrew Norman received the Governor's Arts Award for Emerging Leader sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council. Woods Charitable Fund has awarded three grants, in 2014, 2015 and 2016, to support his vision and leadership as Executive Director of Hear Nebraska.

HEAR NEBRASKA

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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