

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information
Contact: Tom Woods
(402) 436-5971
twoods@woodscharitable.org

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**WOODS CHARITABLE FUND APPROVES \$675,000 IN GRANTS
AT MAY MEETING**

Woods Charitable Fund's Board of Directors approved grants in its spring grant cycle totaling \$675,000 to 20 tax-exempt organizations at its May meeting.

Several grants assist organizations that increase Lincoln's civic engagement, education and community participation. A two-year grant to the Nebraska Civic Engagement Table supports its Lincoln programs to strengthen and streamline civic participation and get-out-the-vote activities, with additional funding in 2025 when Lincoln's focus will turn to local elections. Another grant continues funding for Civic Nebraska's Capitol Experience Days, which provide civics education at the capitol, and OutNebraska receives an additional two years of grant support to continue its advocacy and support for Nebraska's LGBTQ+ community. Additionally, a grant will help KZUM Radio provide local community news and information, especially through its multilingual radio shows and podcasts.

Most of the approved funding – 59 percent – will support Human Services agencies. Additionally, 22 percent of the grants benefit Civic and Community projects, 18 percent Education organizations and 1 percent for an Arts and Culture program.

Earlier this year, Woods Charitable Fund provided grants totaling \$23,000 to three nonprofit organizations: Lincoln Community Playhouse, \$10,000 for general operations; Meadowlark Music Festival, \$5,000 for educational programming with Lincoln Public high schools; and MENTOR Nebraska, \$8,000 for capacity building for Lincoln mentoring programs.

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 and Culture, and through its Breakthrough Initiative Grant program. For more information, call (402) 436-5971, visit 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 2024

Belmont Community Center (\$10,000) – An operating grant for this neighborhood and childcare center serving northwest Lincoln

Boys and Girls Clubs of Lincoln/Lancaster County (\$15,000) – An operating grant for this youth-serving organization that leads out-of-school programming through the Community Learning Centers at Park Middle School, and North Star and Northwest high schools

Center on Children, Families and the Law at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (\$225,000) – Continued support of the Safe and Healthy Families Initiative, which provides a community response with five partners to child abuse cases in Lancaster County in which domestic violence also occurs

Civic Nebraska (\$10,000) – For Capitol Experience Day programs, which provide an immersive civics education experience at the capitol to encourage civic engagement and promote civil discourse

Fresh Start, Inc. (\$25,000) – Operating support for this shelter and transitional program for homeless women

Good Life Community Development (\$10,000) – In support of staffing costs for this organization operating Ybor - A Second Chance Kitchen, a social enterprise restaurant that provides job training and stability coaching for those navigating life after incarceration

Indian Center, Inc. (\$30,000) – Continued operating support for the executive director position of this Lincoln cultural center serving the Native American community

Justice for Our Neighbors Nebraska (Immigrant Legal Center + Refugee Empowerment Center) (\$10,000) – A grant to assist with refugee resettlement services in Lincoln

Lincoln Bike Kitchen (\$20,000) – A two-year grant to support a new executive director position for this organization providing bikes and bike repair for adults and children

Lincoln Community Learning Centers (\$100,000) – A two-year grant for leadership positions within this collaborative program providing services for Lincoln Public Schools' students, their families and neighborhoods

Mourning Hope (\$10,000) – Continued general-operating funding for this organization that provides services for grieving children, families and adults

Nebraska Civic Engagement Table (\$30,000) – Two-year funding for Lincoln-based staffing for civic engagement and community-organizing projects including voter education

Nebraska Lawyers Foundation (\$40,000) – A collaborative grant with the University of Nebraska College of Law's Housing Justice clinic for operations and

staffing of the Tenant Assistance Project, which provides free, limited legal representation and other resources to those facing eviction at the Lancaster County Courthouse

Nebraska Writers Collective (\$10,000) – Support for the All Writes Reserved Youth Spoken Word program at two Lincoln Public high schools

Outline, Inc. (\$25,000) – Two-year continued staffing and general-operating funding for this organization, also known as OutNebraska, that celebrates and empowers LGBTQ+ Nebraskans

Poverty Impact Network, Inc. (\$10,000) – An operating grant for staff expenses for this organization, also known as Lincoln Hygiene Network, that provides access to hygiene and personal care products

Republic of South Sudan (ROSS) Leaders (\$10,000) – In support of staffing for Lincoln educational programming of this South Sudanese organization serving youth through academic support, health and wellness, and cultural engagement programs

Sunrise Communications, Inc. (KZUM Radio) (\$15,000) – A general-operating grant for this Lincoln community radio station

Visionary Youth (\$50,000) – Two-year staffing support for this organization providing mentoring programs, free items and haircuts at community events for youth and families experiencing poverty

Voices of Hope Lincoln, Inc. (\$20,000) – An operating grant for staff expenses for this organization that assists and advocates for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault

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