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WOODS CHARITABLE FUND APPROVES $365,000 IN GRANTS AT MAY MEETING

Woods Charitable Fund's Board of Directors approved grants in its spring grant cycle totaling $365,000 to 10 tax-exempt organizations at its May meeting.

Three grants benefit organizations serving Lincoln's immigrant and refugee populations. The Center for Legal Immigration Assistance and CIRA offer legal immigration, resettlement and social-work services, while ECHO Collective offers entrepreneurial business coaching, creative programming and peer support for New American women.

Most of the funding approved at the May meeting – 73 percent – will support Human Services organizations and projects. Additionally, 14 percent of the grants benefit Civic and Community agencies, 8 percent Education organizations, and 5 percent for an Arts and Culture program.

Earlier this year, Woods Charitable Fund provided the first payments of a 5-year pledge approved by its board in 2024. Each of 5 Lincoln cultural centers received general-operating grants of $30,000 and will receive increasing annual grants through 2029. Those centers are the Asian Community and Cultural Center, El Centro de las Américas, Good Neighbor Community Center, the Indian Center and the Malone Community Center. Additionally, WCF provided $10,000 in continuing support earlier this month to the Belmont Community Center, a neighborhood and childcare center serving northwest Lincoln.

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 2025

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands ($20,000) – General-operating support for Lincoln programming for this organization that coordinates and professionally supports one-to-one mentoring relationships for at-risk children

Center for Legal Immigration Assistance ($25,000) – Continued general-operating support to provide legal immigration services to low-income immigrants and refugees

Center on Children, Families and the Law at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln ($200,000) – Continued support of the Safe and Healthy Families Initiative, which provides a community response with four nonprofit partners to child maltreatment and neglect cases in Lancaster County in which domestic violence also occurs

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties ($15,000) – Support for The Parent Place, which provides a gathering place for families served by Head Start programming in Lincoln to access resources and peer support

ECHO Collective ($10,000) – Support for this organization that provides cohort-based business education, coaching, creative programming and peer support for immigrant and refugee women

Good Life Community Development ($20,000) – Continued staffing and operating support for this agency providing pre-release programming, job training and stability coaching for those navigating life after incarceration primarily through Ybor - A Second Chance Kitchen, a social enterprise restaurant

Justice for Our Neighbors Nebraska (CIRA - Center for Immigrant and Refugee Advancement) ($15,000) – Continued support for legal immigration, refugee resettlement and social-work services in Lincoln

Lincoln Community Playhouse ($20,000) – General-operating support for this community theater providing high-quality, accessible productions, education and programs for all ages

OpenSky Policy Institute ($10,000) – To support a data and outreach project about Medicaid in Lancaster County by this agency that promotes public discussion and conducts research on fiscal policy

Voices of Hope Lincoln, Inc. ($30,000) – Continued operating support for this organization that assists and advocates for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, stalking, incest and childhood abuse

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