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November 9, 2010

WOODS CHARITABLE FUND AWARDS GRANTS

In the midst of Nebraska's foster care system reform and the related challenges facing children and families involved, Woods Charitable Fund's Board of Directors awarded funding at its November meeting to two organizations directly impacted by the reform efforts.

CASA for Lancaster County relies exclusively on volunteers to carryout its mission of providing a voice for abused and neglected children in the court system, many of whom are in foster care. WCF Directors awarded funding to support CASA's ability to retain those volunteers and re-engage some of them as community spokespeople.

KVC Behavioral Healthcare-Nebraska, the lone agency serving as a lead foster care services provider in the Lincoln area, was awarded a grant to enhance its placement of children of color, specifically Latino and African American children. Research shows foster children often do better in homes of like cultures. Funding was awarded toward KVC's special efforts in recruiting Spanish-speaking and African American foster parents to provide transitional or permanent homes to children in need.

CASA and KVC are among twelve tax-exempt organizations to be awarded new or renewal grants as part of Woods Charitable Fund's third and final grant cycle of 2010. Grants totaling **\$432,420** were approved at the Fund's November meeting (**BELOW**). Of the \$432,420 in awards given, 77% will go toward Human Services, 16% toward Civic & Community, and 7% toward Other.

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., a private grant-making foundation, awards funding three times a year to tax-exempt organizations seeking support for programs in the areas of Human Services, Civic & Community, Education, and Arts & Culture, as well as programs and initiatives designed to assist new Americans in Lincoln. For more information on funding guidelines, call 436.5971, visit the Fund's website at www.woodscharitable.org, or write to Pam Baker, Tom Woods or Angie Zmarzly at P.O. Box 81309, Lincoln, NE 68501.

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Approved for Funding by Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., November 2010

CASA for Lancaster County (\$12,500) – Renewal support for enhancing the volunteer program of this agency that provides a voice for abused and neglected children in the court system so they can thrive in safe, permanent homes

Center for Rural Affairs (\$25,000) – For organizing a diverse group of microentrepreneurial leaders who will engage in the Nebraska Legislature's budget and economic development policy debate

Community Development Resources (\$20,000) – A challenge grant toward the general operating expenses of this organization that expands economic opportunities for low-income, minority, and women business owners by providing loans, access to capital resources, technical assistance, and training

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries (\$30,000) – Toward its *Vision & Building Concept* study to examine the possibility of a new main library for the replacement of the Bennett Martin

Heartland Big Brothers-Big Sisters (\$25,000) – Support of the operations of its community-based child and youth mentoring program, including the recruitment, screening, assessing, background checks and oversight of its mentoring matches

KVC Behavioral Healthcare-Nebraska, Inc. (\$24,920) – Toward the targeted recruitment of foster parents of Latino and African American ethnicities to provide homes for abused and neglected children

Mourning Hope (\$10,000) – General operating support for this organization that provides grief support groups, education, resources and referrals to children, teens, young adults and their families who are experiencing the death or serious illness of a loved one

Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest, Inc. (\$25,000) – Toward the *Health Care Reform Policy Implementation* project to ensure that the interests of low income families are represented as Nebraska prepares to implement the federal health care reform legislation

Northeast Family Resource Center (\$25,000) – General operating support for this agency that works to build strong families and vital neighborhoods by educating, supporting, and advocating for the residents of northeast Lincoln and beyond

Planned Parenthood of the Heartland (\$150,000) – Three-year support for the operations of the new Women's Reproductive Health Clinic in Lincoln

St. Monica's Home (\$60,000) – Second-year support of its new social enterprise program, *Sprout*, which provides training and consulting to for-profit companies and human services providers with a focus on mental health and wellness

Voices of Hope Lincoln, Inc. (\$25,000) – Toward the cost of operating the agency's core 24-hour advocacy and crisis intervention services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in the community