

For further information
contact: Pam Baker
402.436.5971

November 10, 2011

**WOODS CHARITABLE FUND AWARDS GRANTS,
EXTENDS THE COMMUNITY NONPROFIT LOAN FUND**

Woods Charitable Fund's Board of Directors approved grants totaling **\$453,614** to sixteen tax-exempt organizations during its final grant cycle of the year. In 2011 to-date, **nearly \$1.2 million in grants have been paid.**

Of the \$453,614 in awards given this grant cycle, 40% will go toward Education, 27% toward Human Services, 18% toward Arts & Culture, and 15% toward Civic & Community.

The largest grant awarded at the meeting – a three-year \$180,000 grant to Lincoln Public Schools – aims at strengthening the use of a new philosophical approach to handling student behavior challenges and implementing that approach in 31 Lincoln schools. Moving away from a “punish and dismiss” disciplinary system, the schools involved will follow the new “teach and protect” philosophy.

The WCF Board also approved extending the Community Nonprofit Loan Fund (CNLF). Created in 2010 in partnership with Lincoln's Community Development Resources, the CNLF makes no-interest loans to nonprofit organizations in Lincoln and Lancaster County. WCF Board members approved changes to CNLF's operation that will raise the maximum amount of lending from \$20,000 to \$30,000 per organization and will extend the loan repayment period to up to 36 months.

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 2011

ACLU Nebraska Foundation, Inc. (\$15,000) – Toward the creation of new education materials aimed at reducing the need for litigation by proactively informing Nebraskans of their guaranteed civil rights

The Angels Theatre Company (\$20,000) – Toward a new Executive Director position for this 20-year-old performing arts group dedicated to offering thought-provoking theatrical productions

CASA for Lancaster County (\$15,000) – Third-year support of the volunteer retention efforts of this organization that provides a voice for children in the court system

Center for Rural Affairs (\$20,000) – Fourth-year support of the organization’s efforts in engaging citizens and informing policymakers to promote state support for micro-enterprise development

El Centro de las Americas (\$25,000) – General operating support for this organization that provides educational and social services to help strengthen and empower Lincoln’s Latino community

Friends of Arts Are Basic (\$10,000) – Support of a new part-time Assistant Director position for Arts Are Basic to help enhance the capacity of this aesthetic education program that brings dance, music, theater, and visual art from around the world to students throughout Nebraska

Friends of Lied (\$20,000) – Toward the *Lied/Lincoln Partnership for Arts Education* program, which will offer four productions and related education to at-risk kids, their teachers and parents.

Lincoln Housing Charities (\$5,000) – A challenge grant toward a building security system for Burke Plaza and Crossroads House high-rises, which house low income residents who are elderly or disabled

Lincoln Lancaster County Human Services Federation, Inc. (\$3,614) – Toward the *Community Services Initiative’s Partnership for Process Improvement* project to enhance the service capacity, client outcomes and cost efficiency of Community Mental Health Center, Cornhusker Place, Houses of Hope, Lutheran Family Services and St. Monica’s

Lincoln Municipal Band Association (\$20,000) – General operating support for this organization and its four Lincoln-based affiliates, Nebraska Jazz Orchestra, Nebraska Brass, Nebraska Trumpet Ensemble and Capital Jazz Society

Lincoln Public Schools (\$180,000) – A three-year grant toward the broad implementation in Lincoln Public Schools of an innovative new behavior management model and a new philosophical approach for responding to students’ inappropriate, disruptive or hurtful behavior

Malone Community Center (\$25,000) – General operating support for this organization that serves the Lincoln community through educational, cultural and advocacy programs and by honoring African American heritage

Mourning Hope (\$25,000) – Two-year funding toward its new Community & Outreach Coordinator position charged with building community partnerships and enhancing public awareness of this group dedicated to bringing comfort and support to families during times of grief

Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest (\$30,000) – Second-year support of the agency’s *Healthcare Reform Policy Implementation* project to ensure the interests of low income families are represented in the state’s policy debate on healthcare

Nebraskans for the Arts (\$10,000) – Toward the organization’s website redesign to allow for better communication with those arts supporters involved in educating local, state and federal lawmakers on the value of the arts

Voices of Hope (\$30,000) – Toward a Case Manager/Advocate position for this organization that provides 24-hour crisis intervention services for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking