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**PAM BAKER, LONG-TIME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF WOODS CHARITABLE FUND, TO RETIRE**

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., a private grant-making foundation in Lincoln, announces the retirement of its long-time Executive Director Pam Baker. Baker will begin her retirement March 1st.

Baker has had more than 23 years of service with the Fund. In 1988 she was hired as the Fund's first Lincoln-based staff person. Since her start date, over \$26 Million in grants were awarded in Lincoln and the surrounding community.

"Funding groups often strive to be proactive – which depends on believing that they know how to best solve a problem. Other funders are more reactive and wait for ideas to be brought to them. I'm most proud that Woods Charitable Fund has worked interactively – 'on the ground' with Lincoln's nonprofit organizations, unearthing together the best ways to improve our community. Over the years I think this approach has helped us build great relationships with nonprofits and positively impact Lincoln," said Baker.

Baker was hired with the Fund after working in Human Resources and Data Communications & Marketing for then-Lincoln Telephone Company. Previously she also taught at Lincoln Public Schools. She holds a Master's Degree in Adult & Continuing Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

At the time of Baker's hire, Woods Charitable Fund was unified with now-Woods Fund of Chicago. Board meetings were typically held in Chicago, and grant dollars were divided between the two cities. In 1994, Woods Charitable Fund formally split into the two foundations in Lincoln and Chicago that continue to operate today.

"I will miss Pam's compassion and dedication to enhancing the quality of life of all residents of Lincoln," said Donna W. Woods, Chair of Woods Charitable Fund's Board of Directors.

Tom Woods has been selected to succeed Baker as the Fund's Executive Director. Woods has worked for the Fund since 1999 and currently serves as its Senior Program Officer. He received both a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Certificate of Non-Profit Management from the University of Pittsburgh. Woods came to the Fund after serving as Program Associate at the Community Foundation Serving Coastal South Carolina (Charleston).

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc. makes grants three times a year to tax-exempt organizations seeking funding 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.

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