

## Woods Charitable Fund awards grants

*By the Lincoln Journal Star  
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Woods Charitable Fund Inc., a private grant-making foundation, has announced grants totaling \$386,000.

Fifteen tax-exempt organizations will benefit.

At Woods' March board meeting, directors also unanimously approved maintaining the fund's target payout despite experiencing a significant drop in its endowment in recent months.

Of the \$386,000 in grants approved, 5 percent of the funding went toward projects in the area of education, 7 percent toward arts and culture, 13 percent toward civic and community, and 75 percent toward human services.

Woods Charitable Fund makes grants three times a year to tax-exempt organizations.

Approved for funding were:

**Arc of Lincoln Lancaster County** (\$25,000) – General operating support for this organization committed to promoting and protecting the rights and interests of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

**Community Development Resources** (\$20,000) – General operating support for this organization that provides lending capital, affordable housing resources and business training for women, minorities and economically disadvantaged individuals.

**Cultural Centers Coalition** (\$30,000) – For a feasibility study and planning for a collaborative facility in which the Asian Community and Cultural Center, El Centro de las Americas, Indian Center and Malone Community Center would co-locate.

**El Centro de las Americas** (\$25,000) – Third-year staff salary support during a transitional restructuring period for the center whose purpose is educating and empowering Hispanic/Latino families and the community at large.

**Fresh Start Inc.** (\$20,000) – For its Outreach and Community Services program that provides resources and support to women to increase their self-sufficiency after leaving Fresh Start Home.

**Friends of the Haymarket Theatre** (\$6,000) – General operating support of this group providing professional theater productions and comprehensive theater training for children and young adults.

**Heartland Big Brothers-Big Sisters** (\$10,000) – Toward part-time staff to help boost the number of male volunteer applicants and thus help match more boys with positive adult male role models.

**Heritage Nebraska** (\$10,000) – For advocacy training activities by Heritage Nebraska field staff as part of its technical assistance to local historic preservation groups to help them protect Nebraska's historic built and cultural environment.

**Lighthouse** (\$20,000) – For support of its Truancy Intervention and Prevention program focusing on youth in grades 5 through 12 who have problems with school attendance.

**Lincoln Action Program Inc.** (\$90,000) – Three-year general operating support

during a transitional restructuring period of this organization working to improve the quality of life and economic self-sufficiency of people of low income by providing services, support and advocacy.

**Lincoln Community Playhouse Inc.** (\$20,000) – Toward the Director of Education and Outreach position to support both existing and new programming that provides theater arts education to children and underserved groups.

**United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County** (\$5,000) – For a technology system upgrade through the purchase of a new software program designed to better track, process and analyze its pledge, donor and recipient data.

**Updowntowners Inc.** (\$15,000 ) – Toward the Events Coordinator position to increase and sustain the organization's ability to plan and promote downtown Lincoln's annual festivals and events that create millions of dollars of economic impact for the city.

**Voices for Children in Nebraska** (\$60,000) – Two-year support of general operating and capacity-building efforts of this statewide organization that advocates for the well-being of children in Nebraska as it prepares for a transition in leadership.

**Voices of Hope of Lincoln Inc.** (\$30,000) – Toward the ongoing operations and expansion of the Volunteer and Internship program of this agency that serves survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their families.

For more information on funding guidelines, call 436.5971, visit the fund's Web site at [www.woodscharitable.org](http://www.woodscharitable.org), or write to either Pam Baker, Tom Woods or Angie Zmarzly at P.O. Box 81309, Lincoln, NE 68501.

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