

**Cooper Foundation
870 Wells Fargo Center
1248 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68508**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 19, 2007**

COOPER FOUNDATION GRANTS OVER \$1 MILLION IN 2007

The Cooper Foundation approved grants totaling \$1,084,960 in 2007 to nonprofit organizations in Lincoln and around the state. Of those, over \$955,000 will be paid in the year. Art Thompson, president, said, "This is the highest annual grant payout in the Cooper Foundation's 73 year history."

Thompson said the final grant approved for the year was for \$12,000.00 to the OLPC Foundation for 60 XO Laptops. Under their **Give One Get One Program**, 30 of the XO Laptops will be sent to a developing nation and 30 more to Lincoln. The OLPC Foundation's mission is to stimulate initiatives designed to enhance and sustain the effectiveness of laptops as learning tools for children living in lesser-developed countries. The XO Laptops coming to Lincoln will serve that same goal for children here.

The Cooper Foundation is working with the Foundation for the Lincoln Public Schools to develop plans for distribution of the XO Laptops. Thompson said if people are interested in learning more, they should go to the OLPC Foundation's website (<http://www.laptopfoundation.org/>). Since the grant was announced, two other local donors have joined the effort and their contributions will add another 20 XO Laptops for Lincoln Public Schools students.

The Cooper Foundation was founded in 1934 by Joseph H. Cooper, founder of the Cooper Theatres, and has granted over \$17 million to benefit the people of Nebraska. The Foundation makes quarterly grant awards supporting education, human services, the arts, the humanities, and the environment in Lincoln and Lancaster County, and throughout Nebraska. For more information about grant guidelines and application deadlines visit the Foundation's website, www.cooperfoundation.org.

GRANTS APPROVED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER

Grantees are located in Lincoln, Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

Asian Community and Cultural Center – \$40,000

Operating and programming support for the Family Resource Program, Senior Program, and Cultural Education Program.

CenterPointe - \$22,865

For the purchase of state-of-the art hardware and software to assist clinical staff with psychological testing and diagnosis. CenterPointe offers an integrated treatment program for clients with mental health and substance use problems.

Fresh Start - \$26,827

Support for upgraded technology, marketing, and capacity building to increase and diversify funding. Fresh Start provides transitional housing and supportive services for homeless women in Lincoln.

Friendship Home - \$30,000

Salary support for a mental health counselor to serve women in emergency shelter.

Goodwill Industries - \$10,000

Salary support for an Employment Specialist to work with immigrant and refugee job seekers.

Groundwater Foundation - \$33,698

Operational funding to support executive leadership transition, board development and enhanced financial operations.

Friends of the Haymarket Theatre - \$20,000

2008 operational funding for organizational development, expanded programming and increased fundraising for the Haymarket Theatre.

Junior Achievement of Lincoln - \$5,000

Matching funds to increase the number of new and upgraded donors to Junior Achievement. Junior Achievement offers work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy programs for 13,600 K-12 students in 70 Lincoln public and parochial schools.

Lincoln Children's Zoo - \$29,420

Upgraded technology and staff training to strengthen fundraising, increase staff efficiency, and improve online services to Zoo visitors.

Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra - \$15,000

Second-year support for the Development Director position.

Lofte Community Theatre, Manley, NE - \$15,000

Fund development program for this volunteer theatre company that presents over 44 performances each year with a annual attendance of over 11,000 people from Southeast Nebraska and beyond.

Lux Center for the Arts - \$15,000

To make visual art education accessible to broader, more diverse audiences.

Metropolitan Opera/Nebraska Auditions - \$1,000

Support for awards for the 2008 auditions.

Mid-America Arts Alliance, Kansas City, MO - \$25,000

Support for HELP, training for 20 small, rural museums in Nebraska, to improve governance, financial management, professional skills and resource sharing among peer institutions.

Nebraska Community Foundation - \$25,000

Support for the EndowNebraska marketing campaign, to promote the Nebraska Charitable Tax Credit for gifts to permanent endowments of Nebraska nonprofit organizations.

Nebraska Conservation Educational Fund - \$25,000

General operating support for this new agency which works to increase public engagement in conservation policy formation in Nebraska.

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum - \$10,000

Support for a lecture by Richard Louv, author of "Last Child in the Woods," on the importance of outdoor experiences for children, at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in February, 2008.

Northeast Family Center - \$30,000

Administrative support for this organization that offers services and programming for families and youth in northeast Lincoln.

Opera Omaha, Omaha, NE - \$10,000

For the book detailing Opera Omaha's original production of Verdi's *Aida*, featuring sets and costumes designed by artist Catherine Ferguson.

St. Monica's Behavioral Health Services for Women - \$31,081

Technology to enhance staff efficiency, improve client service and increase fundraising.

Strategic Air and Space Museum - \$10,000

Support for Lancaster County students attending *SPACE: Journey to Our Future*, from February 9 to May 4, 2008. Students will use interactive lessons in science, technology, engineering and math to learn how discoveries in space exploration are made.

Third Chair Chamber Players - \$2,600

Support for the music program "Thomas the Tough Turkey" in collaboration with the Lincoln Children's Museum and Lux Center for the Arts.

The Thorpe, Inc., David City, NE - \$18,000

For the salary of a part-time Executive Director for the historic Thorpe Opera House.

United Way of Lincoln/Lancaster County - \$12,707

2007 United Way Campaign.

University of Nebraska Lincoln, E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues - \$15,934

Annual support from the Thompson Family Fund, established by E.N. and Katherine Thompson to support programs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

University of Nebraska Lincoln, Psychology Department - \$18,424

For the Project SAFE Coordinator at the Child Advocacy Center in Lincoln. Project SAFE provides free on-site individual and group therapy services to victims of sexual abuse, their siblings and non-offending parents and caregivers.

Wyuka Historical Foundation - \$10,000

Support for planning and design of the Wyuka Park and Gardens project.

For clarification or additional information

contact Victoria Kovar, Program Officer

Office: 402-476-7571, Fax: 402-476-2356

EMAIL: victoria@cooperfoundation.org

URL: <http://www.cooperfoundation.org>