

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2, 2008**

**COOPER FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANTS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS**

Two grants to support the needs of people with developmental disabilities are among the programs recently funded by the Cooper Foundation. General operation funding will support The Arc of Lincoln/Lancaster County, which is the primary and only advocacy agency entirely dedicated to serving individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in our local community, providing individual advocacy services, family support and respite programs, and supportive housing. Working in collaboration with The Arc to address the increased needs for sexuality education for this population, Planned Parenthood of Nebraska and Council Bluffs will provide a professional development workshop and a parent workshop, expand resources on sexuality education and abuse prevention, and provide private consultations for consumers and community agency staff.

The Cooper Foundation was founded in 1934 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.

Grantees are located in Lincoln, Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

Arc of Lincoln/Lancaster County - \$15,000

General operating support of the mission and objectives of the agency, as well as continuation of programs which have supported people with developmental disabilities and their families since 1952.

Center for People in Need - \$5,000

Support for Truckloads of Help, which provides new, donated merchandise from national retailers that is provided to over 225 human services, non-profit agencies across the state at no charge. The merchandise, including personal care items, clothing, and cleaning supplies, is then distributed directly to disadvantaged populations across the state by the agencies that serve them.

Foundation Center, New York, NY - \$2,750

General operation support of the Center's mission to strengthen the nonprofit sector by advancing knowledge about philanthropy in the United States.

Grantmakers in the Arts, Seattle, WA - \$500

Support toward a pre-conference session as part of the 2008 Grantmakers in the Arts conference. The pre-conference, entitled "Rural Arts Funding: Exploring a Hidden Landscape" will address the social justice and cultural concerns affecting rural communities, offering funders the chance to learn from experts in rural economic and cultural policy.

Legal Aid of Nebraska - \$5,000

Support for increased delivery of legal services in Lincoln and Lancaster County in 2008-2009. Legal Aid helps people in their "welfare-to-work" efforts as well as through special projects for domestic violence, community economic development, migrant workers, Native Americans, Elder Law, farmers/ranchers, income tax clinics, juvenile courts and the homeless.

Loup Basin RC&D, Ord, NE - \$5,000

Support for staffing for the Loup Basin Technology Center.

Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach - \$7,500

Support of the capacity building efforts, specifically for the enhancement of the organization's website and on-line giving options. Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach is Lincoln's largest provider of free nutritious meals and outreach services to the working poor and homeless.

Mediation Center - \$8,500

General operating support for increased services to parents by legislatively mandated court referrals for separating or divorcing parents to create highly detailed parenting plans.

Metropolitan Opera/Nebraska Auditions - \$1,000

Support for the 2009 Nebraska auditions of the Metropolitan Opera National Council.

Museum of Nebraska Art, Kearney, NE - \$3,500

Support of the organization, presentation and education, and outreach activity surrounding the exhibition "No Conservative Measures: Art and Nature Collide" which will be on view at the Museum of Nebraska Art from January 20-April 5, 2009.

Nebraska Humanities Council - \$5,000

Second-year support of a partnership with the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues to establish and promote the simulcasting of the Thompson Forum lecture series at educational institutions across Nebraska for the 2008-09 academic year.

Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, Omaha, NE - \$5,000

Support for the traveling production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" to high school and middle school students in underserved communities throughout Nebraska.

Northern Prairies Land Trust, Sioux Falls, SD - \$8,000

General operating funding to support staffing for ranching and habitat protection projects in Nebraska.

Planned Parenthood of Nebraska and Council Bluffs - \$9,089

Support to expand and strengthen Planned Parenthood's educational programming for individuals with developmental disabilities and the professionals that serve them in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County - \$13,342

2008 Annual Campaign.

University of Nebraska Lincoln, Friends of the Libraries - \$4,000

Support for the national traveling exhibit entitled, "Lewis & Clark and the Indian Country." Focusing on the perspective of Native Americans, this exhibit examines Lewis and Clark's expedition to the Pacific Ocean and back, its encounter with more than 50 native tribes along the way, and the long-term effects of that encounter on the Indian country and United States history.

**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>**