

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COOPER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES GRANTS

The trustees of the Cooper Foundation have approved ten grants totaling \$51,100. Art Thompson, president, said the grants provide crucial support for operations and programs for nonprofit organizations working in all the program areas targeted by the Foundation, including education, human services, the arts and humanities, and the environment.

In the second quarter of 2009, the Foundation awarded grants to the following nonprofit organizations. The grantees are located in Lincoln, Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

El Centro de las Americas - \$7,500

Support for the Executive Director of El Centro, Lincoln's only community center dedicated to helping the area's Latino families, including refugees and immigrants, become fully integrated into the community. The agency provides a range of services and programs aimed at furthering self-sufficiency while preserving cultural heritage, and last year served over 8,000 people.

Clyde Malone Community Center - \$7,500

General operating support for the Clyde Malone Community Center, which serves Lincoln's diverse and evolving community through educational, social, recreational and cultural programming for youth and families.

Community CROPS - \$7,500

General operating support for Community CROPS which provides community garden plots for over 150 families at 15 locations in Lincoln; an Urban Farmers Project to support refugees, immigrants and low-income families in developing small farm models for growing produce and raising livestock for market; and a weekly Farmer's Market on N. 27th St. which provides an opportunity for gardeners to sell produce and for outreach to low-income and underserved residents.

Girls Scouts – Spirit of Nebraska - \$2,500

Support for the elementary outreach troops at Clinton and Elliott elementary schools in Lincoln, giving girls a safe haven where they can interact with caring adult mentors and each other.

Meadowlark Music Festival - \$2,500

Support for performance fees for the 9th Annual Meadowlark Music Festival. Since its inception in 2001, Nebraska's only summer classical music festival has worked toward its mission of making "classical music a necessary component of every Nebraskan's definition of THE GOOD LIFE" by introducing thousands of Nebraskans to classical music and to first rate musicians from around the world.

National Audubon Society, Spring Creek Prairie, Denton, NE - \$5,000

General operating support for Spring Creek Prairie, whose goal is to connect people to nature by sharing Nebraska's natural and cultural heritage, and by forming and nurturing diverse community partnerships. Spring Creek Prairie is a strong leader in habitat management and prairie education, and last year served over 3,500 children and adults in formal programs and hosted over 10,000 individual visitors.

Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest - \$3,000

Support toward the next phase of the Choosing Education Program which works to increase the number of participants in Nebraska's Aid to Dependent Children program who access post-secondary education.

Nebraska Jazz Orchestra - \$6,000

Support for programming and performances of the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra, Lincoln Municipal Band, and Nebraska Brass.

Northeast Family Center - \$5,000

Support toward Parents as Partners, a project combining the full-time, academic childcare program (Early Learning Center) with the Parents as Teachers program.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Hixon-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts - \$5,000

Support toward the inaugural Interdisciplinary Arts Symposium (IAS) in the fall of 2009. IAS includes a public performing arts series, a residential artists program, and special seminar offered for UNL students. Its overarching goals are to showcase cutting-edge developments in the performing arts, attract a diverse audience, and to use performance to create public discussion of issues concerning citizenship in a democracy. The theme this year is "Race, American History, and Performance," and will use drama, dance, and technology to examine how United States history pertaining to the complicated concept of 'race'—particularly African-American history—can be better understood through theater.

The Cooper Foundation was founded in 1934 and has granted over \$17.8 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. For more information about grant guidelines and application deadlines visit the Foundation's website, www.cooperfoundation.org.

For clarification or additional information

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