

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 18, 2009**

COOPER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES FOURTH QUARTER GRANTS

The trustees of the Cooper Foundation approved 22 grants totaling \$132,997 in the fourth quarter of 2009. Joseph H. Cooper established the Foundation 75 years ago, in December of 1934, in Lincoln. Since then the Foundation has granted nearly \$18 million to benefit the people of Nebraska. All grant recipients are located in Lincoln, Nebraska unless otherwise noted.

Asian Community and Cultural Center - \$10,000

General operating support. The Asian Community & Cultural Center provides services, support and advocacy, and cultural programming for Asian immigrants, refugees and others.

El Centro de las Americas - \$2,500

General operating support. El Centro is dedicated to enhancing the lives of Latino families through empowerment and education.

Community CROPS - \$2,500

General operating support. Community CROPS helps families grow food for themselves and the community through garden plots for over 150 families, the Urban Farmers Project for refugees, immigrants and low-income families, and a weekly Farmer's Market on North 27th Street.

Food Bank of Lincoln - \$15,000

Program support for the Back Pack Program, which feeds over 1,500 hungry children in Lincoln and 12 rural communities in Southeast Nebraska.

Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools - \$12,500

Third-year operating support for their major gift campaign, *Great Schools ... Forever!*

Friendship Home - \$7,500

General operating support. Friendship Home provides transitional shelter and supportive services for women and their children who are victims of domestic violence.

Girl Scouts-Spirit of Nebraska - \$2,500

Program support for its elementary outreach troops at Clinton and Elliott elementary schools in Lincoln, safe havens where girls can interact with caring adult mentors and each other.

Groundwater Foundation - \$1,000

General operating support. The Groundwater Foundation educates youth and adults about the use and protection of our state's most precious resource.

Institute for Holocaust Education, Omaha, NE - \$15,000

General operating support. The Institute increases understanding of the Holocaust through educational and cultural programs for students, teachers, and the community and assists the Holocaust survivor community as their generation ages.

Lighthouse - \$7,076

Program support for its truancy intervention program, which identifies students at risk and addresses the root causes of truancy, providing tutoring, mentoring and supportive services and strengthening connections with the families and support systems of the youth involved.

Lincoln Symphony Orchestra - \$10,000

General operating support. The Lincoln Symphony broadens appreciation of and support for orchestral music and presents a range of performances including symphonic, pops and chamber orchestra.

Lux Center for the Arts - \$5,000

General operating support. The Lux Center for the Arts provides learning opportunities in contemporary art and fine craft, including hands-on art classes, residency programs, interactive exhibitions, historical displays, and community outreach.

Clyde Malone Community Center - \$2,500

General operating support. The Center strengthens the Lincoln community by serving as a cornerstone for education, culture, and advocacy.

Meadowlark Music Festival - \$2,500

General operating support for the 10th annual summer festival of chamber music.

Metropolitan Opera/Nebraska Auditions - \$1,000

General operating support for the 2010 Nebraska auditions.

Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest - \$5,000

Program support for Choosing Education, which works to increase the number of participants in Aid to Dependent Children who access post-secondary education.

Nebraska Jazz Orchestra - \$4,000

Program support for the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra, Lincoln Municipal Band, and Nebraska Brass.

Northeast Family Center - \$5,000

Program support for Parents as Partners which combines the full-time academic, childcare and Parents as Teachers programs, promoting parent knowledge of early childhood education.

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Denton, NE - \$2,500

General operating support. Spring Creek Prairie is an 808-acre tallgrass preserve southwest of Lincoln. Their mission is to foster the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of

Nebraska's tallgrass prairie ecosystems by engaging people in the site's natural and cultural resources.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center - \$7,500

General operating support. The Ross is dedicated to the celebration and study of the moving image, especially film and video, as the major 20th century art form.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Textiles, Clothing & Design Department - \$3,000

Support for the exhibition "The Black Ocean: Europe-Africa-America" by French artist William Wilson at the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery on UNL's East Campus in April, 2010.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues - \$9,421

Annual support from the Thompson Family Fund, established by E.N. and Katherine Thompson to support programs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues offers Nebraskans thought provoking lectures by speakers whose work and ideas impact our changing world.

The Cooper Foundation makes quarterly grants 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 contact

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