

L I N C O L N F O R E V E R

LCF NEWS FROM PRESIDENT BARBARA BARTLE

WINTER, 2012

FOUNDATION GRANTS LARGE LEADERSHIP GIFT TO EDUCARE HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN IN LINCOLN

Educare, a research-based program that prepares young children for success in school, will build a new state-of-the-art facility in Lincoln to support at-risk children thanks in part to a large grant made by the Lincoln Community Foundation. Educare provides high-quality early care and education to infants, toddlers and preschoolers growing up in low-income families.

Foundation president Barbara Bartle says, "Improving early childhood development and education will have a lasting impact in Lincoln. Our \$500,000 leadership gift is made on behalf of Sheila Dickinson Dinsmore Graf, Kenneth J. Good and Richard

Thoene. These three generous benefactors expressed an interest in early childhood education and would be pleased to know that their gifts will help build Lincoln's future."

On October 18th, Educare partners broke ground on the new facility, next to Belmont Elementary School at 3425 N. 14th Street, which will provide an effective early learning environment for up to 200 at-risk children in Lincoln when it opens in late 2012. Most Educare facilities are built adjacent to elementary schools to reinforce the message that the time from birth through the primary years is a critically important learning period



Preschoolers join local dignitaries at groundbreaking ceremony for Educare Lincoln.

for children. Educare partners include the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, University of Nebraska Foundation, Lincoln Public Schools, University of Nebraska and the Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties.



BE A FAN OF LINCOLN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

In addition to our quarterly newsletter, you can stay up to date with the Lincoln community news via Facebook. Be sure to "like us" and become a fan to receive updates and links to new content on our LCF Web site. Many non-profit agencies will also be featured throughout the year.



LINCOLN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO BE FEATURED ON NET NEBRASKA PHILANTHROPY SERIES

Gifts from some of Lincoln's most generous individuals come through The Lincoln Community Foundation to help important local projects and initiatives. Nebraska Philanthropy: Investing In Our Future features stories about people giving of their time and their treasure, to preserve "The Good Life" for current and future generations of Nebraskans.

Airing on February 17, the NET program will feature several recent Lincoln initiatives and gifts including Alice Dittman's Integrity Fund and others. Visit netNebraska.org/givingback for the broadcast schedule.

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LINCOLN COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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AN ENDOWMENT GIFT THAT WILL BENEFIT LINCOLN FOR GENERATIONS

SHEILA DICKINSON DINSMORE GRAF, 1923-1996



In a simple yet profound way, Sheila Dickinson Dinsmore Graf believed in putting others above herself. Mother to five children and four stepchildren, Sheila taught her children that happiness comes from "doing for others." As one of Lincoln Community Foundation's largest benefactors, her \$16 million dollar endowment gift will impact Lincoln for generations to

come. While she did not know what Lincoln's future needs might be, Sheila trusted LCF to make good decisions on her behalf and give to causes like the parks, early education, arts and culture, older adults and rural affairs. Her intentions were clear.... to make Lincoln a better place to live.

Sheila was the daughter of Robert S. and Carrie Dickinson of Omaha. Robert was the president and chairman of the board of Nebraska Consolidated Mills, which later became ConAgra. According to her eldest child, Lee Ellen of Upstate New York, she was a woman of few words. She was heart oriented, intuitive, perceptive and wise. Sheila's son, Dave Dinsmore, remembers that she loved to meet people from all walks of life. "Mom believed everyone was important no matter what their circumstance or economic status. I believe this is why she was interested in giving gifts to the public. She liked to lead by example."

Sheila was a single mother for fourteen years with five children. She married architect Burket Graf in 1972. Sheila was a perpetual volunteer who had a passion for the environment and for assisting those in economic need. Burket loved the performing and visual arts. They were well loved by all those who came in contact with them.

Barbara Bartle, President of the Lincoln Community Foundation said "This generous gift has doubled the amount of grants distributed each year to Lincoln nonprofit organizations and has provided new grants for rural Nebraska."

Two very significant gifts have recently been made from Sheila's fund. A \$600,000 gift from the Foundation to the Lincoln Parks Foundation on behalf of the Sheila Dickinson Dinsmore Graf Fund in 2011 was one of the largest gifts to city parks in history. The funds will be used to build the Union Plaza outdoor amphitheater

and surrounding bike trails in Antelope Valley. In December, a generous gift from the Lincoln Community Foundation, on behalf of the Sheila Dickinson Dinsmore Graf Fund contributed to the \$500,000 grant to Educare of Lincoln. Educare's mission aligns with all of Sheila's interests including nature, early education, and at-risk children.

Organizations receiving grants from the Sheila Dickinson Dinsmore Graf Fund at Lincoln Community Foundation in 2010 and 2011 include: YMCA of Lincoln, Boys and Girls Club of Lincoln, Girl Scouts-Spirit of Nebraska, Lincoln Parks Foundation, Community Action Partnership, University of Nebraska Foundation for Educare, Lux Center for the Arts, Easter Seals Nebraska, Center for Rural Affairs, Nebraska Rural Schools Scholarships to University of South Dakota, University of Nebraska - Omaha and Kearney, Chadron State and Doane College.



Sheila with Jim Tyler on three wheeled bicycle.

THE M.U.S.I.C. FUND HELPS CHILDREN PURSUE MUSIC STUDY

Lincoln Music Teachers Association has established The M.U.S.I.C. Endowment (Music for UnderServed Interested Children) through the Lincoln Community Foundation. Donors can become charter members of this new endowment society for the benefit of school-aged children who desire to pursue music study.

A luncheon at the Governor's Mansion on August 31, 2011, marked the beginning of the fundraising campaign. For more information visit LMTA.info.



(above): Nebraska Mosaic student Jaclyn Tan, left, talks with Mexican immigrant Soledad Villicaña. (Photo by Cory Dozier)

KNIGHT FOUNDATION GRANT MATCHING GRANT HELPS LINCOLN'S REFUGEE COMMUNITY

The number of refugees in Lincoln continues to grow. There are more than 50 languages spoken in our public schools. Since Lincoln is a refugee resettlement community, there are unique challenges and real needs. In response to this need, the Lincoln Community Foundation has partnered with the Knight Foundation to provide a grant to UNL's College of Journalism and Mass Communications to improve the local flow of information. These matching grants, totaling \$48,000, support efforts to further reach out to Lincoln's refugees.

The **Knight Community Information Challenge** engages community and place-based foundations in playing leading roles in meeting the information needs of their communities. As part of this program, University journalism students have the opportunity to work with Lincoln's refugee population at Arnold Community Learning Center, where Iraqi, Sudanese, Guatemalan and Karen women from Burma come to share their concerns.

Under the leadership of Dean Gary Keibel, college students have developed a new community news initiative called **Nebraska Mosaic** that will allow refugee communities to tell their stories in videos and post them online. UNL Professor and project leader, Tim Anderson remarked, "Our goal is to teach refugees how to tell their stories and to be a repository of practical information. They need to know things like 'How do you get a drivers license when you don't speak English?' 'Where can you buy a hijab?' 'How do you use the city bus?' We want to teach the refugees to participate in our project to help them survive and thrive in Lincoln."

Anderson continued, "Many years ago, to get this kind of exposure, you had to leave Nebraska. You don't have to do that anymore. You can almost be a foreign correspondent right here in Lincoln." To find out more, visit www.nemosaic.org.

IMPROVING OUR COMMUNITY



Panelists from left to right: Roger Lempke, Cathy Lang, Juan Franco and Joe Kelly.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS SUPPORT FOR OUR RETURNING MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS

Community Connections is a series of meetings held periodically for Lincoln Community Foundation's donors, focused on current topics important to the community. The first donor information event was held on Tuesday, November 8th to discuss the needs of returning veterans and their families. Panel members included Roger Lempke, former Adjutant General of Nebraska National Guard, Juan Franco, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at UNL, Cathy Lang, Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Labor and Joe Kelly, Lancaster County Attorney.

President Barbara Bartle was invited to present at the Pentagon on the Military Support Initiative replication model developed by the Lincoln Community Foundation. Community foundations, which are at the intersection of public, private and philanthropic sectors, are best positioned to develop local solutions to this growing national challenge.

A Rodeo Benefit at Pershing Center will be held on Friday, January 27 at 7:30 pm. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Lincoln Community Foundation's Military Support Fund. Grants from this fund will be made to nonprofit organizations in the community to support the needs of our service members, veterans and their families. To give to the Military Support Fund visit lcf.org.

NOVEMBER GRANTS AWARDED

The Lincoln Community Foundation recently granted \$246,850 to fifteen nonprofit organizations. The grants, which range from \$7,500 to \$40,000, are made possible by contributions from the Lincoln Forever Fund and from a number of LCF donor endowment funds. Organizations that received funding include:

Asian Community & Cultural Center - \$10,000

Fusion Project which serves Sudanese refugees and their families.

Center for Legal Immigration Assistance - \$7,500

A study to explore the growing need for legal immigration services in the community.

Community Action Partnership - \$20,000

Support for people struggling in poverty to achieve self-reliance.

Community Development Resources - \$35,350

Administrative support of Alice's Integrity* Loan Fund.

Easter Seals Nebraska - \$10,000

Lincoln Seniors Transportation Program providing affordable transportation options.

Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries - \$20,000

Study to explore future community building and service needs of the City Libraries.

Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska - \$15,000

Establish an Association of Ministries to provide a central network of cooperation and coordination between all Lincoln faith communities.

Lincoln Housing Charities - \$9,000

Install security cameras and recording systems at two high-rise apartment buildings for the elderly.

Lincoln Medical Education Partnership - \$12,000

Young Families Program which provides pregnant and parenting women with support to form healthy lifestyles.

Lincoln Parks Foundation - \$40,000

Two for Trees utility billing donation program through the Lincoln Water System for the purpose of planting and maintenance of city trees.

Madonna Foundation - \$15,000

Support for renovation and relocation of the pediatric outpatient rehabilitation services.

Meadowlark Music Festival - \$5,000

To support the Meadowlark Music Festival 2012 season.

The Meeting Place - \$18,000

New roof for the building that provides meeting space for recovery support services.

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc. - \$10,000

To strengthen the quality of child care centers through the Accreditation Support Project.

Planned Parenthood of the Heartland - \$20,000

Furnishing and equipping the Sexual Assault Examination Suite.

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