

July 2009

Community Services Fund of Nebraska

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Thank You

Thank you for downloading our new electronic newsletter for Community Services Fund of Nebraska. I hope that you find some interesting and informative articles in this issue. We hope to bring you more E-Newsletters in the future.

We are grateful to all of our donors for your amazing support of Community Services Fund and our member agencies. If you ever have questions, please don't hesitate to contact our office!

Best Wishes,



Kiersten Hill
Executive Director

Agencies Raise \$359,000 in Annual Workplace Campaigns

Community Services Fund of Nebraska is pleased to announce the results of the 2008 worksite fundraising campaign. \$359,204 was raised during the 2008 Campaign to improve the quality of life across Nebraska. This represents an 11% increase over the 2007 Campaign total.

"This is a tremendous success for Community Services Fund and our member agencies," said Campaign Chairperson Jessica McMullen. The campaign contributions were raised during last fall's annual campaign. "Even in uncertain economic times donors stepped up to support our member agencies. Community Services Fund agencies are working diligently in our local communities and across the state of Nebraska to improve the quality of life we all enjoy. Donors are demonstrating, through their designations, commitment to these issues and organizations."

"Donors are savvy and truly care about where their contributions go," McMullen said. "We find that every year more and more donors want to designate their gifts to the agencies they love!"

The 2008 campaign was enhanced by the addition of three well-respected and well-known non-profit organizations. "Capital Humane Society, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Nebraska and the Nebraska Children's Home Society Foundation were meaningful additions to our list of

Check out other great features on our website!

www.communityservicesfund.org

You'll find:

Videos
Stories
Links to agencies
& more!

member agencies," said Executive Director, Kiersten Hill. "All of the non-profit organizations who belong to Community Services Fund work so hard in our local communities and it is wonderful to be able to assist them in carrying out their good work."

If your workplace would like to add these terrific agencies to your workplace campaign, contact Hill at 402-489-4332.

Community Services Fund is a federation of non-profit organizations that come together to offer increased donor choice in workplace giving campaigns. Community Services Fund utilizes a completely donor-directed system that encourages donors to designate to the agency(ies) they choose. Additional information and a complete listing of the member agencies is available online at: www.communityservicesfund.org.

Community Services Fund 2009 member agencies improve the quality of life throughout Nebraska by preserving resources, expanding knowledge, encouraging creativity and protecting rights.

ACLU Nebraska
 Capital Humane Society
 CenterPointe
 Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries
 Girl Scouts Spirit of NE - Homestead Service Center
 Houses of Hope
 KZUM FM
 Lincoln Children's Museum
 Lincoln Children's Zoo
 Lincoln/Lancaster Co. Habitat for Humanity
 Lincoln Parks Foundation
 Lux Center for the Arts
 Make-A-Wish Foundation of Nebraska
 The Mediation Center
 Mothers Against Drunk Driving
 The Nature Conservancy
 Nebraska Appleseed
 Nebraska CASA Association
 Nebraska Children's Home Society Foundation
 Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition
 Nebraska Humanities Council
 Nebraska Trails Foundation
 Nebraska Wing Civil Air Patrol/Starbase NE
 NET Foundation for Radio
 NET Foundation for Television
 Planned Parenthood of Nebraska & Council Bluffs
 Seniors Foundation
 Voices for Children in NE
 Wachiska Audubon Society

NET 's 2009 Governor's Premiere Event, Featuring Astronaut Clay Anderson Held in April

Nebraska's first astronaut Clay Anderson, as well as Event Honorary Chair Jeff Raikes, former Ashland resident and the current CEO of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, recently attended a gala event at the Strategic Air and Space Museum in Ashland to celebrate the premiere of NET Television's new documentary "Homemade Astronaut: The Clay Anderson Story."

The 2009 NET Governor's Premiere featured dinner and a preview of the documentary, which spotlighted Anderson's life and career and culminated in his 2007 trip on the Space

Shuttle Atlantis to the International Space Station, where he lived and worked for six months.

"This is really a very personal, very emotional story," explained "Homemade Astronaut" producer Sue Maryott. "The story of an astronaut, yes, but also the story of a Nebraska boy at heart."

"We were thrilled and honored to be able to feature Nebraska's first astronaut Clay Anderson at this year's Governor's Premiere," said NET Foundations Executive Director Jeff Beckman. "His story is truly inspiring."

The broadcast premiere of "Homemade Astronaut: The Clay Anderson Story" will air this fall on NET Television.



Your Support Thinks Global, Acts Local!

Imagine being a mother in a refugee camp in the Sudan. Very little, if any, clean water and food; poor health and no real health care available...

Now, imagine finding a safe home in Nebraska and arriving with only your immediate family—perhaps not even all of your immediate family.

Would you know how to get women's medical services? Would you be aware of American cultural standards

for parenting? Would you have any idea where to turn for answers?

Support from Woods Charitable Fund, Building Strong Families Fund and your generous gifts have been providing reproductive health information and parental support for Lincoln's Sudanese women and their families since 2001.

Thank you for supporting Planned Parenthood of

Nebraska and Council Bluffs' efforts to serve our culturally diverse communities. Every woman deserves basic health care and we couldn't do it without you!



Student becomes an artist after taking classes at Lux Center for the Arts

Len Sloup never thought about becoming an artist or even taking art classes when he was growing up on his family's farm on the outskirts of Seward, Nebraska. Even after Sloup moved to Lincoln to major in business at the University of Nebraska, learning art did not occur to

him. After graduation he took a job with the Nebraska Department of Revenue, got married, and raised a family.

Seven years ago Sloup received an art education brochure from Lux Center for the Arts, and the idea of taking art classes appealed to

him. He had not taken an art class since elementary school, but "getting the brochure in the mail sparked my interest and after glancing through the list of art classes, I chose printmaking for no other reason than it seemed interesting to me," Sloup

Student becomes an artist after taking classes at Lux Center for the Arts

The labor-intensive process of printmaking is what he likes best about the medium and he feels that is why it “suits” him. Sloup has since taken several classes at the Lux Center, bought a printing press for his home studio, and has shown his work in Washington D.C. and Chicago. He had no idea the decision to take an art class at the Lux Center would have such a positive impact on his life. When reflecting on his first class, Sloup remembers that he was nervous and intimidated, but he soon discovered that the art center had a very comfortable learning environment in which he could learn, grow, and explore.

Sloup has been a long time supporter of the arts, but by becoming an artist, he has evolved from “being an observer, to being a

participant.” Making artwork has given him much gratification and fulfillment, and it also changed his outlook and perspective on life. He has become less fearful of making mistakes and can appreciate the lessons learned from making them. He also recognizes that there are many ways to solve problems.

Sloup says his life has been enriched by the phenomenal people in the arts and at the Lux Center. He remains grateful to Lux Center for the Arts for providing him the opportunities to nurture his creativity. Sloup is now an active member of the board of directors at the Lux Center. He says, “Executive Director Jo Ann Emerson is doing a wonderful job at the Lux, and the folks working there have a good chemistry and a high energy level.” This is why

he enjoys stopping by the Lux Center on Saturdays to work in the studio while children are taking classes. He is inspired by their zest for life and ability to attack a piece of paper or clay without the fear that most adults have. When asked what he would like other people to learn from his experience, he humbly replied, “I just want to share one thing: if I can do it, anyone can.”



“Sloup says his life has been enriched by the phenomenal people in the arts and at the Lux Center.”

ACLU sues to protect Women’s Privacy

On May 12th, ACLU filed suit charging that patents on two human genes associated with breast and ovarian cancer are unconstitutional and invalid. The suit was filed on behalf of four scientific organizations that represent geneticists, pathologists, researchers, breast cancer and women’s health groups and individual women.

The US Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) has granted thousands of patents on human genes. A gene patent holder has a right to prevent anyone from studying, testing or even looking at a gene. As a result, scientific research and genetic testing has been delayed, limited or even shut down due to concerns about gene patents.

Women with certain mutations of genes known as BRCA1 and BRCA2 are at a significantly higher risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer. Yet as a result of the patent process, only one lab in the entire US can work on these genes, giving them a monopoly on developing the genes, developing tests, or coming up with alternate treatments. Read more about the suit at .

www.aclu.org/freespeech/gen/brca.html

From *ACLU Nebraska News—Summer 2009*, page 6



Zoo Helps Encourage Workplace Giving

Lights... Camera... Action! Community Services Fund of Nebraska (CSF), Lincoln Children's Zoo and dedicated member organizations work together to encourage workplace giving.

The Zoo is a member agency of CSF, a nonprofit umbrella organization that provides resources to help agencies gain access to workplace giving.

This year's video, shared with employees within the public sector, features the Zoo. Kiersten Hill, CSF executive director, said the video will be released in July and used for fundraising throughout the fall.

Zoo Member Tracy Beranek provides a moving testimonial for CSF on the

film. The spotlight is on Alea, Tracy's 18-year-old daughter.

Alea was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer when she was 4. Alea is now 18; there is no more cancer, but related strokes caused permanent balance difficulties and blindness. Her love of animals, though, is greater than her physical barriers. She takes advantage of the Zoo's annual Sensory Safari, a one-day event for visually impaired children and adults.

Sensory Safari is a collaboration of the Zoo and other area agencies. Recordings of animals, stuffed animals and sensory discovery stations help attendees see the animals as others do.

"Sensory Safari has fueled Alea's passion for animals," Tracy said. "She's attended every year since it began, and every year we've learned something new. It's been a fantastic

experience all the way around."

Not only does Alea help care for the family's dog, mouse, snail, two cats and nine fish; she also wants to work with animals one day. She remembers meeting President/CEO John Chapo when she was 6, her first backstage tour of the Zoo and the friends she met at the Zoo since.

"The volunteers from the Zoo remember our kids," Tracy said. "They'll say, 'Hi, Alea! How are you? You look fantastic.' Hearing that is incredible to me." "We have been so immensely and richly blessed," Tracy said. "We have met many wonderful people and want to share that message. I hope this film helps people remember to not put off doing nice things."

The Zoo impacts its visitors, and visitors impact the Zoo as well.

"This project exemplifies years of connectivity," Chapo said. "The Zoo



touches many lives in many ways. It keeps me going." Alea has one brother and two older sisters. Tracy and her husband Kevin have taken their children from their home in Milford, to the Zoo countless times. They are grateful for the help CSF has given to organizations like the Zoo.

"The organization impacts many groups," Tracy said. "We're part of a group that got impacted. Thank you to everyone who has supported the Zoo and Sensory Safari."

Reprinted from page 3 of Lincoln Children's Zoo Zootracks Summer 2008 edition

CSF NOTE:

This article highlighted the 2008 Campaign Video used in the local public sector workplaces. The newest public sector video for the 2009 Campaign is available for viewing on the Community Services Fund website. The 2009 video was created by NET Television. Thanks NET!



Aleah and Tony Morrow, her hunt guide and mentor. Aleah and Tony met through the Sensory Safari.



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