



“This work can be hard emotionally, because some people really struggle. But when you see someone come out of a crisis with new ideas and new hope it makes you so happy.”  
 – *María Leticia, Mujeres en Confianza (Women in Confidence) Program Coordinator*

## We are a nation of immigrants.

Nebraska has a long and complex history of immigration. Originally home to many indigenous peoples, including Pawnee, Omaha, Otoe-Missouria, Ponca, Lakota, and Cheyenne, the state has seen steady movement and population shifts over its 150 years. German, Swedish, and Czech pioneers faced the rough territory in search of new opportunities, as Mexican, Sudanese, Vietnamese, Karen, Iraqi, Yazidi, and people from around the globe find refuge, challenges and successes in Nebraska today. As neighbors, taxpayers, workers, and business owners, immigrants and refugees are an integral part of our state’s workforce, economy, and vibrant culture.

The Cooper Foundation has funded programs, operations, and staff at many organizations that welcome and support immigrants and refugees. They provide education, employment skills, health care, social services, and cultural programs to help people grow and thrive in their new homes. We visited four organizations to meet the staff who do this important work. They spoke with knowledge, passion, and great care for each other and for the people they serve. The threads that wove through every conversation were teamwork, family, home, support, and community. From crisis response to cultural celebrations, these agencies empower individuals, embrace families, and strengthen our communities.



“We are learning together – we are learning about life, we are learning about each other, and we are learning what true community is.”  
 – *Renee Cox, Adult Empowerment Program Manager*



“Women come here and feel relief. We help them adjust to the different culture, empower them to be strong, have financial independence, and find meaning in their life here.”  
 – *Khamisa Abdalla, Women’s Program Manager*

Cover quote - JueYezi (Rebecca) Reinhardt, Cultural Programs Coordinator/ Chinese Community Advocate



“I have strong core values and beliefs, and here I can be my authentic self every day. These are real people we work with, and their lives matter.”  
 – *Brian Whitecalf, Assessment Coordinator*

Special thanks to photographer Charles Haacker

# E. N. THOMPSON FORUM ON WORLD ISSUES

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

# 18.19

**Jon Meacham**

Oct. 9, 2018 | 7:30 P.M. | Lied Center  
"Tumult, Tragedy and Hope: America in 1968 from a Half Century's Perspective"

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities presented by Humanities Nebraska

**Nadine Strossen**

Nov. 7, 2018 | 7:00 P.M. | Lied Center  
"HATE: Why We Should Resist It With Free Speech, Not Censorship"

**Jana Eggers**

Feb. 26, 2019 | 7:00 P.M. | Lied Center  
"The Role of Artificial Intelligence in our Future"

**Our mission** is to support strong, sustainable organizations, innovative ideas and ventures of significant promise in education, the arts and humanities, human services and the environment in Nebraska, primarily in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

### Grant Cycle Deadlines

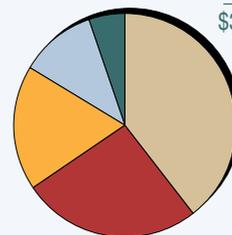
January 1      July 15  
March 15      September 15

### 2018 Grants

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters

- Human Services \$127,000
- Education \$83,750
- Arts \$58,000
- Environment \$35,590
- Community Improvement \$16,750

\$321,090



### Funding Type:

Programming: \$96,850 (30%)  
Operating: \$224,250 (70%)



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"We work together as a team. We feel like a family."

