

Service provides fund raising help

By Jeff Goodwin

Community groups wanting funding for their projects may be able to find it with the help of a service offered by Lincoln's Urban Development Department.

The program, Funding Resource Assistance, attempts to raise funds from private foundations, churches and companies.

Kurt Buser, project chairman, said the response from community groups has been good so far.

"At the present time I'm working with about 15 different organizations," Buser said.

The project also attempts to assist groups to do their own fund raising, Buser said.

"We're putting together a fund raising guide to help community groups do some fund raising on their own," Buser said.

The project is even more important now because of reduced federal aid, he said.

"Federal money has gotten pretty tight," Buser said. "More and more groups are having to look to other sources of funding."

Companies also are becoming more tightfisted, he

said. "The (Lincoln) business sector is almost totally dry for the rest of the year" because of fund raising for Cornhusker Square, Buser said. "But it is sometimes still possible to get funding. If you know someone in an organization, it can sometimes be the key."

The type of project often determines who he will approach for funding, he said.

"If you're working on a local project, the chances are you will go to a local source," Buser said. "If you're trying to get funds for a neighborhood park, you're not going to go to the Ford Foundation."

Ironically, the project itself may be a victim of a budget cut.

Buser said money for the project is scheduled to be used by September, and so far his position has not been renewed.

He said the Lincoln City Council may decide to create another department, which would have approximately the same duties, and Buser could apply for a position there, he said.

"It would have largely the same functions and a few additional ones," Buser said.

Shorts

The Christian Science Organization will meet Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. Room will be posted.

Hyde Memorial Observatory will be open to the public, free of charge, each Saturday night in April from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

William LeoGrande, a political science professor at the American University in Washington, D.C., will speak about "U.S. Policy in Central America" Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

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