

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Angels Share Inc. Receives Grants
To Support \$11.6 Million Project
On Former Dana Campus

Blair, NE — Angels Share, a charitable non-profit organization which is repurposing the former Dana College campus, has received \$8.3 million in grants to renovate two buildings to house at-risk youth who have aged out of the foster care system as well as low income elderly people.

“The project has been more than three years in the making,” said Ed Shada, CEO of Angels Share. “The former Mickelsen and Blair Halls will be converted into 60 studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments to house, lift up and advance people who are most vulnerable to becoming homeless.”

\$7.39 million of the grant total was awarded by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) which authorizes the sale of tax credits to raise funds for worthy projects. \$960,000 in HOME funds was awarded by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. Private donations and loans will finance the remainder of the project.

Shada has already begun the mission to help at-risk youth. Angels Share is linking housing with jobs, life skills, mentoring and vocational training to put these youth on a path to self-sufficiency. “Blair provides a unique opportunity for these young people,” Shada said. “The campus offers space, yet a common community for them. The town has plentiful jobs, including auto dealers, trucking companies, a new Dollar General distribution center, telecommunications firms, and multinational companies in biotech food production, all within minutes of the campus. We are building an environment that assists these youth in the jobs of the future.

“In addition, we are working closely with employers who need trade-related skills. There is a real shortfall of people to take these kinds of jobs. And, there is a need to train the next generation of technicians, the “Clean Electrotechnicians,” if you will, to work on electric vehicles and other emerging technologies.”

The 151 acre campus was donated to Angels Share by Frank Krejci of Century Development, who had purchased it from the bondholders of the former Dana College. The campus is complete with gymnasium, library, classroom, and performing arts facilities. A church is already a part of the campus, providing a spiritual center for campus residents and the community as a whole. Blair, a town of 8,000, is 20 minutes north of Omaha and proximity to big city amenities.

“The city of Blair has been an exceptional partner in bringing all of this to fruition. They have gone well beyond my expectations,” said Shada. “We’re looking forward to continuing that partnership with even more opportunities in the future.”

#####

For more information, call Angels Share at (402) 630-5664.