



## PARTNERS IN PHILANTHROPY

Fall 2007 (Web version)

---

### **ARTS, CULTURE AND HUMANITIES: Total of \$225,000 in 4 grants.**

Grants of \$5000 or more are listed below

**Actors Theater of Minnesota** | Saint Paul, MN

[www.actors theater of minnesota.org](http://www.actors theater of minnesota.org)

\$30,000 – To help finance the budget of the Alternative Programming Project

#### **Background and Purpose**

Actors Theater of Minnesota (ATM) incorporated in 2000 with a mission of bringing “new professional theater to Minnesota communities that do not otherwise have access to a given style of theater and to price it at a cost that is competitive within a given community.” ATM fulfills its mission by presenting off-Broadway productions, providing high-quality theater in smaller communities throughout greater Minnesota, and by sponsoring the Arts Access Seating program, which offers reduced-cost tickets to low-income individuals.

From 2001-2003, ATM presented two full seasons at the Fitzgerald Theater in downtown St. Paul. From 2003-2006, ATM partnered with the Padelford Packet Boat Company and the University of Minnesota to produce shows aboard the Minnesota Centennial Showboat on Harriet Island.

ATM’s current project is an original production, *We Gotta Bingo* at the Lowry Theater in downtown Saint Paul. ATM operates with a nine-member Board of Directors, five full time staff, three part time staff members and 20 volunteers. They are committed to using only Minnesota-based artists in their productions.

#### **Current Request**

Actors Theater of Minnesota is the permanent long-term tenant of the Lowry Theater. Currently, their interactive show *We Gotta Bingo* is in an open-ended run, performing each weekend, Thursday through Sunday. They receive regular inquiries from others about the availability of the theatre. The room is set up in an informal dinner-theater style space with a stage that is quite suitable for live music, spoken word groups, comedy and improvisation style companies.

These groups are most interested in using the space either late at night (following the *We Gotta Bingo* performance) or during the earlier part of the week. ATM believes that the space is currently an underutilized resource that, with some technical improvements and added dedicated staff, could provide both additional revenues for the theatre as well as much needed space for performance groups in the Twin Cities.

According to the Mayor’s office, there are very few inexpensive spaces in the city for small performance groups to showcase their work. Most groups use venues in Minneapolis such as The Theatre Garage, Bryant Lake Bowl, or Old Arizona. With the support of The Saint Paul Foundation to hire a part-time program coordinator, ATM would be able to provide a reasonably priced space in St. Paul to fill this need.

## **Recommendation**

The board approved a \$30,000 to Actors Theater of Minnesota to help finance the \$75,000 budget of the Alternative Programming Project.

**Public Art Saint Paul** | Saint Paul, MN

[www.publicartstpaul.org](http://www.publicartstpaul.org)

\$150,000 – For the Public Art Program Fund

## **Background and Purpose**

Public Art Saint Paul (PASP) was established in 1987 as a public-private initiative to examine the presence and role of public art in the City of Saint Paul. Its mission is “to bring artists together with communities to shape a public realm that fosters imagination, explores and illuminates Saint Paul’s civic values and evolving history, and strengthens public places as vessels of public life.”

PASP’s goals are to create opportunities for artists to shape and transform the experience of public places; to develop community, bureaucratic, professional and financial partnerships that will support artists working with the public realm; to foster understanding of public art and commitment to its care; to catalyze international amity, positive social change, and environmental stewardship; and to build the community’s capacity for creativity and hope.

Operated by two fulltime and one part-time staff and governed by a twenty-two member board, PASP’s programs include commissioning of art for public places, placemaking (engaging artists in shaping public places and structures), education, stewardship of public art, and oversight of the Western Sculpture Park. Public Art Saint Paul has been charged by the Saint Paul City Council to draft a municipal public art policy. This will be presented to the City Council by the end of 2007.

## **Current Request**

For the past 20 years, Public Art Saint Paul has served the community through its programs and services. The organization has successfully raised funds to cover each new program as needed. In 2006, PASP held its most ambitious event ever, “Minnesota Rocks!” which included the commission of thirteen large new stone sculptures by artists representing Japan, Germany, Mexico, China, Zimbabwe, Finland, Egypt, as well as Minnesota.

At a cost of \$500,000, it pushed the organization to far exceed any of their previous efforts. It also illustrated the need to stabilize resources in a way that would allow PASP to sustain programs with successful histories and to seed programs that respond to new artist and community visions.

The Board of Directors began this planning in 2005 with internal discussions and meetings with shareholders (city and neighborhood leaders, artists, funders, and other advisors). With this information in mind, and with the organization’s twentieth anniversary on the horizon, Public Art Saint Paul developed the Public Art Program Fund.

This Fund would support PASP’s four major inter-related programs: Stewardship, Placemaking, Education, and Western Sculpture Park. In addition, the Program Fund will include a revolving Seed Fund to continually support new works and programs.

PASP’s request to The Saint Paul Foundation is to help support The Public Art Program Fund’s first three years with a budget of \$750,000.

## **Recommendation**

The Foundation responded with an approved grant of \$150,000 for The Public Art Program Fund.

\$10,000 – To help finance the budget for capacity building

### **Background and Purpose**

The Theatre Space Project (Theatre Space) was created in April 2000 to provide quality performance space at an affordable price to smaller performing arts companies. The idea grew out of the need for an organization to address the shortage of performance venues for live theatre in the city of St. Paul. Theatre Space estimates there are over 100 theatre companies in the Twin Cities. Well over half of these are new groups casting emerging actors. Virtually all of these companies must rent their performance space but have limited resources to do so.

Theatre Space opened the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Theatre, a 78-seat performance space inside the Kellogg Square Building in downtown Saint Paul in 2003. In three seasons more than two dozen performing groups rented the space. These have included Middle Eastern dancing, an African American produced and written play, original works, a rock band, and a Hispanic theatre company. Content has included everything from women's issues and comedy to cutting-edge contemporary plays.

In 2004-2005, the last full year of theatre activity in one space, over 4,000 people attended 47 different productions by 23 different companies. In November 2006, due to rapid and spiraling rent increases, Theatre Space moved from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to the Lowry Building and created a new space called the Lowry Lab Theater. From mid-January through May, all but one week were rented by six different performing arts groups.

### **Current Request**

During the seven years of its existence, The Theatre Space Project has only had one part time paid contract employee. The organization has relied heavily on the efforts of the board and other volunteers in order to stay in operation. Now that the organization has settled into a long-term ten-year lease with the Lowry Building, they wish to strengthen the infrastructure so as to grow in capacity.

The board's goals include: 1. Increasing the Executive Director's hours and making her a full-time staff member; 2. Developing a more sophisticated accounting process; 3. Hiring a contracted grant writer to take advantage of funding opportunities; 4. Renting office space at the theatre to facilitate volunteer coordination; and 5. Professional development and strategic planning for both staff and board. To help with these goals,

### **Recommendation**

The Theatre Space Project received a grant of \$10,000 to help finance the \$39,310 budget for capacity building.

\$35,000 – To help finance the budget for the Saint Paul Community Newsdesk ect

### **Background and Purpose**

The seeds of the Twin Cities Media Alliance (TCMA) were planted in the mid-1990s as an informal group of journalists and media professionals from local media who met to discuss trends in the profession. Interest in creating an alliance was spurred in late 2004 when local FCC hearings on media consolidation highlighted both the perceived inadequacy of local mainstream news coverage and the growth and development of community news media outlets.

TCMA received its 501(c)3 status in April 2006. Their mission is to bring together media

professionals and engaged citizens to improve the quality, accountability and diversity of the local media. They do this through partnerships with over 40 community news outlets – both ethnically-specific and neighborhood-based papers. TCMA helps to identify partner needs and to then undertake projects that will further their common interests. The centerpiece of TCMA's work is the *Twin Cities Daily Planet* – an on-line news site and syndication service at [www.tcdailyplanet.net](http://www.tcdailyplanet.net).

Since its launch in May 2006, traffic has grown and now averages 2,000 hits a day. In addition to operating this site, TCMA provides support to help media partners increase internal capacity with technical assistance and stories from the *Daily Planet* that partners can publish without fees. TCMA also sponsors public forums and offers training to community journalists.

### **Current Request**

With the *Saint Paul Pioneer Press*'s recent cuts, the paper is devoting fewer resources to covering increasingly diverse urban neighborhoods, communities and issues. The Twin Cities Media Alliance is attempting to fill that void by partnering with St. Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN) to create the Saint Paul Community Newsdesk. The goal of the Newsdesk is to enable the voices of marginalized, immigrant and ethnic communities to reach a larger audience and to give community members new tools for communication and civic engagement.

Ultimately their work is about giving residents of St Paul access to the kind and quantity of local news and information they need in order to become active participants in the life of their community. In their discussion with their partners, TCMA learned that two of the greatest challenges these media outlets face are finding skilled reporters from within their communities and securing the financial resources to pay them adequately for their work.

The activities of the Newsdesk will be to offer journalism and short form video workshops, to help cover payment to writers, to share original story content, and to facilitate the sharing of news and information by local neighborhood and community organizations.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$35,000 to the Twin Cities Media Alliance to help finance the \$47,000 budget for the Saint Paul Community Newsdesk.

## **EDUCATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES: Total of \$450,000 in 1 grants.**

Grants of \$5000 or more are listed below

**Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation** | Saint Paul, MN

[www.sppsfoundation.org](http://www.sppsfoundation.org)

\$450,000 – To help finance the start-up budget for programs and operations

### **Background and Purpose**

The Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation (Schools Foundation) was established in 1995. Its primary function during its early years was to augment existing school district programs. In the early years, it raised a modest amount of money but never lived up to its founders' expectations. In 2004, at the request of then Saint Paul Public Schools (School District) Superintendent Pat Harvey, the Schools Foundation secured funds from the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation to reinvigorate the Schools Foundation. The Schools Foundation became a support organization of The Saint Paul Foundation, and a new board was created.

A feasibility study was undertaken to look at the potential need for the Schools Foundation and its ability to sustain itself. In 2006, Mike Anderson was hired as executive director. Program priorities have been established, individual fundraising efforts have begun, and a few key initiatives have been jointly identified by the School District and the Schools Foundation. The Schools Foundation mission states: "The Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation is an organization committed to supporting academic excellence in the Saint Paul Public Schools by connecting the community to the classroom."

The Schools Foundation is working in partnership with the School District and the Saint Paul community to create a broad base of support that will result in high academic achievement for all students throughout the district. To assist with this goal, a \$450,000 grant was approved by the board to the Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation to help finance the three year start-up budget of \$1,803,085 for programs and operations.

### **Current Request**

The Schools Foundation is requesting funding over three years to help develop four initiatives and to provide assistance in helping to stabilize its long-term funding. The four initiatives include: 1) The Partnership for Academic Excellence will be a collaborative of up to fifty organizations, congregations, businesses, and government entities who will work together to help implement the School District's strategic plan and the Mayor's Education Initiative; 2) The Tutoring Partners Program will support existing tutoring programs to utilize research-based best practices, align the tutoring programs with school curriculum, and increase the number of volunteer tutors. A pilot with 4 or 5 programs will be launched in the fall of 2007; 3) The Comprehensive Neighborhood Educational Initiative will work with neighborhood groups, congregations and organizations that will make a commitment to coordinate their academic achievement and academic enrichment programs with the School District at a neighborhood level (initial programs will be in the neighborhoods around Cleveland Jr. High on the East Side starting in 2007 and Washington Jr. High on the North End starting in 2008); 4) Community Connections will assist cultural communities in the development of strategies and specific initiatives that seek to close the achievement gap and develop stronger relationships between the schools and families.

The long-term sustainability of the Schools Foundation depends on its ability to build a strong base of individual donor support and establish an endowment. A portion of this request will also support the executive director to raise additional funds for the Schools Foundation through a variety of approaches.

### **Recommendation**

To assist with this goal, a \$450,000 grant was approved by the board to the Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation to help finance the three year start-up budget of \$1,803,085 for programs and operations.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND ANIMALS: Total of \$50,000 in 1 grants.**

Grants of \$5000 or more are listed below

### **Thomas E. and Edna D. Carpenter Foundation | Hastings, MN**

\$50,000 – For the In Touch with Nature Permanent Interactive Educational Exhibits

#### **Background and Purpose**

The Thomas E. and Edna D. Carpenter Foundation was formed in the late 1960's to receive the Carpenter's charitable gift of 325 acres of prime real estate on the St. Croix River and almost \$3 million dollars of appreciated stock. Carpenter Nature Center (Carpenter) is an environmental learning center situated on over one mile of St. Croix River shoreline (located about a mile north of Prescott on the Minnesota side) in the midst of 7,000 original apple trees, providing environmental education for children and families in the St. Croix Valley. Carpenter operates 425 acres in Minnesota with over 15 miles of trails and a 295 acre Wildlife Refuge in Troy Township, St. Croix County, Wisconsin.

The communities served by Carpenter are predominantly the southeastern Twin Cities metro area and the St. Croix Valley. Carpenter's mission is to foster appreciation and inspire stewardship of the natural world through quality environmental education, conservation practices and outdoor experiences for visitors of all ages and capabilities. Environmental education centers like Carpenter have become an integral part of the educational curriculum and graduation standards for Minnesota school children.

Nature Centers have become a legitimate extension of the school campus. Carpenter received over 29,000 visitors in 2006. Programs include an outdoor environmental education lab, summer school programs, adult and family weekend and evening programs, outreach, a college student intern program, and the interpretive center. Carpenter is open year round and does not charge admission to visit the interpretive center or use the trails. A nominal fee is charged for student groups and activities requiring Carpenter teaching staff.

#### **Current Request**

The Nature Center's award-winning K-12 curriculum already meets the needs of area teachers based on satisfaction surveys. However there is a lack of permanent interpretive exhibits in the Visitor Center to meet the needs of families and individuals exploring nature at their own pace. Designed to offer information targeted to multiple levels of comprehension, the exhibits will allow young people to learn through hands-on exploration activities, while providing more detailed written information for the adults accompanying them.

Shared learning strengthens bonds between adults and children. Carpenter has been working with Split Rock Studios in Saint Paul to create a detailed interpretive design plan. Split Rock Studios is a full-service museum firm specializing in natural and cultural history exhibits. They have in-house exhibit designers, project managers, researchers, writers, engineers, artists, muralists, sculptors, model-makers, illustrators and museum-quality cabinetmakers.

#### **Recommendation**

The budget for the In Touch with Nature Permanent Interactive Educational Exhibits is \$336,434. Of that, the Foundation granted \$50,000 to the Thomas E. and Edna D. Carpenter Foundation.

**HEALTH: Total of \$110,000 in 3 grants.**

Grants of \$5000 or more are listed below.

**Family Tree Inc.** | Saint Paul, MN

[www.familytreeclinic.org](http://www.familytreeclinic.org)

\$25,000 – To help finance the budget for transitional operating expenses

**Background and Purpose**

Family Tree Inc. (Family Tree) is a reproductive and sexual health care agency established in 1971 to address a venereal disease epidemic among young adult residents and students of Saint Paul's Macalester-Groveland neighborhood. The organization's mission is "to provide affordable, confidential, accessible reproductive and sexual health care, education and referral services in a respectful and caring environment to diverse communities."

A diverse, low-income and at-risk population of young adults and teens, primarily residing in Ramsey County, is served through Family Tree's programs. In 2006, over 21,000 individuals received services through the organization's (a) medical reproductive health services, (b) community health education programming, (c) health and wellness program serving deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing, and (d) the statewide family planning and STI (sexually transmitted infection) hotline.

**Current Request**

Family Tree's transitional funding needs relate to two changes that significantly impact the organization. The first change is in leadership, as the Executive Director of 26 years prepares to retire at the end of November. Family Tree's board and staff have been working with a succession-planning consultant who, along with other consultants, has indicated that the salary paid to the current Executive Director is not competitive, based on marketplace standards, for attracting qualified candidates and hiring a capable individual to lead the organization. In addition, there will be overlap of salaries during a two-month period of transition, as well as technology and training needs for the new Executive Director.

The second change faced by Family Tree is a significant loss in revenue that was previously generated from the sale of birth control products. Beginning in 2002, the pharmaceutical provider of reduced-cost birth control products to publicly funded clinics gradually increased the prices for these products. Since then, the cost of birth control pills per cycle increased from \$1.85 to \$36.64. In January 2007, the pharmaceutical company discontinued its practice of selling products to "safety net" providers such as Family Tree altogether.

The products have been a source of revenue to Family Tree, because they could be sold at an affordable price for patients yet for more than the cost charged to Family Tree. As a result of this change, Family Tree anticipates lost revenue of about \$50,000 in a 12-month period. Legislation was just passed giving family planning clinics access to a multi-state purchasing pool for a limited number of products, but a system for accessing the products through that source may not become fully functional until next year.

**Recommendation**

For this reason, the board approved a grant of \$25,000 to Family Tree Inc. to help finance the \$115,145 budget for transitional operating expenses.

**Guild Incorporated** | West Saint Paul, MN

[www.guildincorporated.org](http://www.guildincorporated.org)

\$60,000 – To help finance the budget of the Open Door Project

**Background and Purpose**

Guild Incorporated (Guild) was founded as Guild Residences, Inc. in 1990. Originally a transitional

living facility, Guild has evolved to provide an array of services that carry out its mission -- “to help individuals with mental illness lead quality lives.” Guild’s psychiatric rehabilitation services support recovery and successful community living for people with complex and long-term psychiatric illnesses such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Services include assertive community treatment; crisis stabilization; intensive residential treatment; rehabilitative interventions to help meet basic living needs, cope with symptoms, manage medications, etc.; housing and employment support services; family support and education; and case management/service coordination. Guild primarily serves residents of Ramsey and Dakota counties, with sites in Saint Paul, West Saint Paul and South Saint Paul. On any given day Guild serves more than 600 residents; a total of 850 different individuals receive services over the course of a year.

### **Current Request**

The Open Door Project (Open Door) is an effort by Guild to provide services to people the organization has generally not served in the past. Since Guild’s primary source of revenue and referrals is governmental agencies that contract with Guild for people on General Assistance Medical Care, that is the population Guild has solely served.

In 2006, Guild accepted its first private pay client when parents arranged for Guild to provide services to their son. Since then Guild has accepted one other client under similar circumstances, and there is ongoing demand from family members and individuals who are not receiving General Assistance Medical Care. Guild sees this as a growing area of service for the organization and intends, through Open Door, to accept more clients on a private-pay-basis, as well as those who have commercial insurance and others who lack financial resources, are uninsured and do not qualify for public health programs.

Grant funds would be used for staffing the program with a new full-time mental health professional and a new full-time mental health practitioner, and for psychiatry consultation services during the program’s start-up period while Guild builds its financial capacity to support these additional expenses with the reimbursements it receives for providing services.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$60,000 to help finance the \$181,500 budget of the Open Door Project.

**Sub-Saharan African Youth and Family Services in Minnesota |**  
Saint Paul, MN

[www.sayfsm.org](http://www.sayfsm.org)

\$25,000 – To help finance the budget to provide care advocacy services to clients

### **Background and Purpose**

Sub-Saharan African Youth and Family Services in Minnesota (African Services) was formally established as a charitable nonprofit in 2003 in response to the growing demand and need for culturally-specific services by African community members. Prior to 2003 these services had been provided by African Services’ founder on an informal basis, beginning shortly after her arrival in the United States as a student from Ethiopia in 1986.

The agency’s mission is to provide culturally-sensitive and linguistically-appropriate activities that (1) promote activities that impact the health of the African community and (2) provide African immigrants and refugees with the education, support and resources they need to reach their full potential. African Services provides health education and case management, an HIV support group, a women’s self-sufficiency program, and family enrichment activities with two full-time and four part-time staff, plus 13 volunteers. In 2006, African Services served almost 4,000 individuals from the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The organization’s office is located on University Avenue in St.

Paul's Midway area.

**Current Request**

As knowledge of African Services and its programs has grown with the organization's increased presence in the community, the demand for assistance with immediate and short-term needs has exceeded the capacity of the staff to provide those services. Individuals call or drop in at the African Services office for assistance with finding food or housing, navigating the transit system, searching for addresses or telephone numbers, translating documents, faxing letters, communicating with service providers, etc. By allocating a portion of an unrestricted contribution from an ongoing funder, African Services recently hired a half-time Care Advocate to relieve staff – particularly the Executive Director – of providing care advocacy assistance.

The plan is to increase the position to full time once funding is secured. A grant would help support the full-time position for a 12-month period. Since the Care Advocate was hired, African Services has been able to respond more readily to requests for assistance as they are received, increase the availability of services, and consistently document the numbers of people and type of assistance being provided. In the first month on staff, the Care Advocate had 100 visits.

**Recommendation**

The board authorized a \$25,000 grant to Sub-Saharan African Youth and Family Services to help finance the \$47,214 budget to provide care advocacy services to clients.

## **HUMAN SERVICES: Total of \$593,000 in 18 grants.**

Grants of \$5000 or more are listed below

### **Alliance for Metropolitan Stability | Minneapolis, MN**

[www.metrostability.org](http://www.metrostability.org)

\$30,000 – To help finance the budget of the East Metro Organizing Project

#### **Background and Purpose**

The Alliance for Metropolitan Stability (Alliance) is a coalition of organizations advocating for public policies that promote regional equity in the metropolitan area. The Alliance unites more than 20 local grassroots organizations in calling for equity in the Twin Cities metropolitan area by linking issues that have not been traditionally viewed as interdependent. The Alliance's mission is to engage communities in working together to eliminate geographic, racial, and economic disparities and achieve a healthy, sustainable, and equitable environment for all residents of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

The three strategies of the Alliance are to work for racial and economic justice in its own work and to advance racial and economic justice work in the region; to provide capacity-building support and assistance to organizations engaged in grassroots organizing for regional equity; and to advance equitable development strategies throughout the region.

#### **Current Request**

The Alliance is requesting support for the East Metro Organizing Project to bring technical assistance and training about community benefits agreements (CBA) and comprehensive plans to organizations in Saint Paul and throughout the East Metro area. A community benefits agreement is a legally enforceable contract, signed by community groups and by a developer. CBAs may include such things as living wage requirements, first source hiring preferences, job training programs, land banking and affordable housing set-asides, transit integration, environmental cleanup, and other provisions.

Through the agreement, the developer commits to specific actions as part of the development project. Often implemented in instances where a project is receiving public subsidies, CBAs are based on the premise that the particular needs of a community should inform the ways in which development in that community takes place. CBAs give communities a means to articulate their visions, identify key issues and craft solutions to address these issues. CBAs have only been in existence nationally since 2001. The Alliance has been an early leader in Minnesota in proposing the use of CBAs to link community investment directly to community identified needs.

The Alliance will also be involved in providing its Comprehensive Plan 101 trainings to community leaders in the East Metro. State law requires every city in the metro area to submit a comprehensive plan to the Metropolitan Council every 10 years (all are due December 2008). These plans are required by the Minnesota Land Use Planning Act to lay out each city's vision for transit, open space and affordable housing, among other things, for the decade to come.

#### **Recommendation**

The board authorized a grant of \$30,000 to the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability for year one of a two-year budget of \$267,555 for the East Metro Organizing Project.

### **Hallie Q. Brown Community Center Incorporated |**

Saint Paul, MN

\$100,000 – For transitional support

#### **Background and Purpose**

Founded in 1929 as a settlement agency for African Americans denied services from other agencies, Hallie Q. Brown Community Center Incorporated (Hallie Q.) is a multi-service agency serving the

Summit-University area of Saint Paul. Hallie Q. operates five core programs which include: 1) Child Care Center, which is licensed for 52 preschoolers and focuses on kindergarten readiness with a cultural emphasis; 2) Social Development and Adjustment for Youth, for youth ages six to fourteen to develop academic and social skills; 3) Family Work Unit: Food and Clothing Assistance, which provides emergency services as well as assisting families with self-sufficiency; 4) Senior Citizens Program, which provides transportation and meals and; 5) Multi-Service Center Coordination, which includes managing the Martin Luther King Center and renting out space to other agencies, including the Penumbra Theater, to improve program offerings in the community.

### **Current Request**

In 2006, the board of Hallie Q., in assuming a more direct role in agency operations, began an overall management assessment and developed a five year revitalization plan to deal with long time financial and operations issues that have hindered the agency. These issues include budget management and accountability concerns, which have led to cuts in programming and a lack of reimbursement for some services because third-party payers are not billed. To address these issues, Hallie Q. hired an interim director and business director.

With the financial support of The Saint Paul Foundation and the United Way, the agency has been working hard to stabilize the financial position of the organization so that they are able to continue providing services to the community. The agency's board and interim director have negotiated a debt reduction of 80% with the City of St. Paul for a \$260,000 utility bill that the agency had accumulated over many years and have improved billing and accounting practices within the organization.

The agency has also decided to provide additional space to the Penumbra Theater by closing its underutilized child care center, which will increase rental revenue. The most immediate financial concerns of the agency have been addressed and now the board and staff are ready to begin rebuilding the agency organizationally and programmatically with the assistance of Billie Collins, the Executive Director of the YWCA, and his very capable staff.

The YWCA has offered to lead Hallie Q. through an intensive process of building organizational capacity and will loan staff to the agency to fill needed functions that have been absent from the Center for many years. Loaned functions will include human resources, technology, financial and accounting support, developing organizational processes and procedures, building maintenance, program evaluation and development, as well as staff development assistance.

The YWCA has offered these services because they recognize the unique benefits that this traditionally African American community center has offered the Summit University community, and they want to ensure that Hallie Q. has the capacity to continue providing needed services to this community in the short and long-term.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$100,000 to Hallie Q. for the \$1,153,755 budget for transitional support.

### **Center for Africans New to America | Minneapolis, MN**

\$24,900 – To help finance development of the Promoting Academic Student Success Project

### **Background and Purpose**

The Center for Africans New to America (Center for Africans) was established in 1996 as a volunteer organization by a group of twenty refugee and immigrant families from Africa. The organization's original goal was to assist African parents in dealing with the challenges of raising their children in America. Since its grassroots beginning, the Center for Africans has been successful in providing culturally relevant services that meet the needs of African families.

In 2001 the Center for Africans received its 501(c) 3 status. The Center for Africans currently

provides job training, independent living skills, educational support and enrichment, public health education and family support services. Its programs include a Medical and Clinical Assistance Program providing client advocacy and case management and referral; African language interpreters and translators (13 African languages); and cultural competency training-work plans for healthcare providers and healthcare trainers to develop healthcare trainers in the immigrant community.

Its Education and Training Programs include English Language Learners; Child Care Provider Training for over 50 African immigrants who have been formally trained as child care providers; African Teachers Intervention Team, which recruits Africans with teaching experience to work in public education; African Families Action Team seeking to improve parents' and students' interaction with the schools and other institutions; and Promoting Academic Success, a tutoring and mentoring program. The Center for Africans has one full-time staff person and two part-time staff. A majority of its programs are run by a cadre of over 20 volunteers who each provide more than ten hours of service a week. In 2006 the Center for Africans served over 400 immigrant families.

### **Current Request**

The Center for Africans is developing a pilot program to serve 50 African immigrant students in grades 9 - 12 at Arlington High School. The program, Promoting Academic Student Success, will focus on increasing African immigrant students' academic achievement and reducing expulsions, suspensions, absenteeism, and disciplinary actions. The program will recruit mentors and tutors from the African community, along with volunteer tutors from partnering organizations like the Saint Paul Police Department and the Saint Paul Public Schools.

The program will also work to increase the number of African immigrant parents involved in their children's education. This project has the support of the counseling department at Arlington High School.

### **Recommendation**

A grant of \$24,900 was approved by the Foundation's board to the Center for Africans New to America to finance the entire \$24,900 budget for development of the Promoting Academic Student Success Project.

**Episcopal Community Services Inc.**| Minneapolis, MN

[www.ecsmn.org](http://www.ecsmn.org)

\$16,000 – To help finance expansion of the Ready for Success Program in the East Metro

### **Background and Purpose**

Episcopal Community Services Inc (Episcopal Community Services) is a statewide, comprehensive social service organization founded in 1963 by the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota to address health and welfare needs within the State of Minnesota. Episcopal Community Service's vision is to provide individualized comprehensive services to families, children and youth living in poverty or suffering from emotional, behavioral or addictive disorders.

Episcopal Community Services provides services in two program areas: Residential Youth Services (comprised of residential treatment in Bemidji, Minnesota for youth with severe mental health, behavioral, and/or chemical dependency issues) and Family Resource Centers located in Saint Paul, Stillwater, Duluth, Fairmont and Minneapolis to assist low-income families in moving toward self-sufficiency through comprehensive services in the areas of employment, child care, housing, and transportation.

Episcopal Community Services added the Ready for Success Program in Minneapolis in 2001 and expanded it to Saint Paul in 2002. Ready for Success works with low-income women entering the job market who are referred by job training programs and case managers. Ready for Success receives referrals from over sixty agencies.

Women are matched with a volunteer “personal shopper” who helps them coordinate work appropriate outfits from new or “gently used” professional clothing that has been donated to the Ready for Success Program. Each client receives one-on-one assistance from a volunteer for up to two hours and leaves the Ready for Success appointment with three to four complete outfits, including all accessories such as handbags, scarves, jewelry and toiletries.

### **Current Request**

Episcopal Community Service is requesting \$16,000 in second year support to enhance and expand the Ready for Success Program in the East Metro. In year one they purchased a computer and office equipment and created a formal reception area in their small, donated space. They are increasing staff hours by five per week to give them time to recruit and train twenty-five more volunteers to accommodate more shoppers.

Some funding will be used to purchase the type of clothing that is not often donated, such as very large sizes and headscarves and long skirts and to begin a new program called “Interviewing 101”.

### **Recommendation**

For the Ready for Success Program Expansion in the East Metro, the board approved a grant of \$16,000 to Episcopal Community Services, Inc. to help finance their entire \$16,000 program expansion budget.

## **Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation | Saint Paul, MN**

[www.greaterfrogtowncdc.org](http://www.greaterfrogtowncdc.org)

\$35,000 – To help finance the budget of the Empower Frogtown Initiative

### **Background and Purpose**

The Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation (Greater Frogtown) was created in 1995 in the Frogtown neighborhood to bring a comprehensive approach to community development. The offices are located at 689 North Dale Street. Greater Frogtown emphasizes affordable housing development for low-to-moderate income residents, and provides leadership in economic development and community building activities that will improve the strength of the community and the image of the Frogtown neighborhood.

In June 2002, Greater Frogtown established the Community Land Trust to provide and preserve decent, safe, and affordable housing in the neighborhoods of Capital Heights, Frogtown, and East Midway in Saint Paul. The Community Land Trust involves permanent ownership of the land by Greater Frogtown, which is leased to local residents. These lessees may own homes or make other improvements on the leased land, but their ownership is subject to restrictions on use and resale that are stated in the ground lease.

Over the past nine years, Greater Frogtown has developed and expanded its program base to include home ownership, home rehabilitation, and home lending. Since its inception, Greater Frogtown has helped to channel more than \$12 million dollars into the community, and it has strategically replaced vacant or distressed homes and empty lots with 79 new and renovated homes that have been sold to low-income families.

### **Current Request**

Greater Frogtown is requesting \$70,000 over two years to fund its Empower Frogtown Plan. The plan is designed to interconnect with the mayor's program, Invest St. Paul. The Frogtown neighborhood currently has 112 vacant houses.

The Empower Frogtown Plan will target blocks that have a high percentage of vacant homes and property. The Greater Frogtown staff will work with neighbors and property owners to create improvement plans for each block and create grassroots leadership to work with Greater Frogtown to

fix up depressed properties for resale. In some cases Greater Frogtown may purchase properties to fix up as rental properties.

This project will include 1.5 new staff positions. Greater Frogtown staff sees a need for strategic block-focused projects because of the increased number of foreclosures.

### **Recommendation**

A grant was approved totalling \$35,000 for the first year budget of \$126,000 of the Empower Frogtown Initiative.

**Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota Inc** | Saint Paul, MN

[www.immigrantlawcentermn.org](http://www.immigrantlawcentermn.org)

\$40,000 – For expansion of the New Beginnings Project oject

### **Background and Purpose**

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota Inc (Immigrant Law) provides free legal assistance to low-income families and individuals of all nationalities in immigration matters. Immigrant Law provides services to individuals in the East Metro (nearly 60% of clients) and in 33 counties of southern Minnesota. Additionally, Immigrant Law provides legal services to victims of torture and victims of domestic violence throughout the state.

In 2006, the agency worked on more than 1,400 cases providing legal advice and direct representation. In addition to legal services, Immigrant Law serves approximately 4,000 people yearly with law-related education. The majority of these sessions are through the Youth Intervention Crime Project, which targets immigrant youth and provides them with information about the consequences of crime so that they can avoid deportation.

### **Current Request**

Immigrant Law is requesting funds to expand the New Beginnings Project, which provides legal services to immigrants and refugees to help them escape violence and obtain legal status in the United States. This project provides specialized, individual representation for immigrants and their minor children who have been victims of domestic abuse or other serious crimes covered under the Violence Against Women Act as well as provides special Visa assistance for those covered under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act. When undocumented victims cooperate with law enforcement investigations and prosecutions, they obtain a visa which will allow them to work in the United States without fear of deportation, and their household income increases as they are able to enter the mainstream employment market.

Through this program Immigrant Law also educates advocates to recognize potential beneficiaries, and connects victims with a network of helpful service agencies to address other needs related to violence including health care, housing, and mental health assistance.

### **Recommendation**

Immigrant Law Center received a grant from the Foundation for \$40,000 to help finance the \$245,900 first year of a two year budget for the New Beginnings Project.

**Jeremiah Program** | Minneapolis, MN

[www.jeremiahprogram.org](http://www.jeremiahprogram.org)

\$25,000 – To help finance the budget for staff training and organizational development

### **Background and Purpose**

The Jeremiah Program's (Jeremiah) mission is to help low-income single women with children under the age of four move from economic dependency to economic self sufficiency through access to

education, employment, and improved life skills. Jeremiah was established in 1993 as the result of a broad-based, providing housing and training to 38 women and their children. community initiative in Minneapolis. Jeremiah opened its doors to serve families in 1997 and provides life skills training with intensive individual coaching to its residents on the Jeremiah Community Campus.

Participants are single mothers, at least 18 years old, with a child or children under the age of four. Applicants are screened to ensure they are fully prepared to enter the rigorous program and are required to complete a 16-week empowerment-training course prior to admission. Residents must enroll in school, work part-time, attend weekly Life Skills workshops and work with a coach on goal setting. Children of participants are enrolled at the on-site child development center. Residents are expected to develop their skills in a range of areas including financial management, health (physical, emotional, and sexual), career development, healthy relationships, and parenting

The goal is that by graduation women will secure employment that pays a minimum of \$12/hour with benefits. Residents pay one third of their income toward rent and may continue to reside on the Jeremiah Campus for six months after graduation from their school or job program provided they maintain employment. Residents typically live on campus for up to 2 ½ years. In 2003 Jeremiah's executive director, Gloria Perez Jordan, was approached by leaders of Saint Paul's faith-based and civic communities to open a Saint Paul Campus. In response to this request the Jeremiah Board of Trustees moved forward with plans to open and operate a campus in Saint Paul. The campus will open in the fall of 2007

### **Current Request**

Jeremiah is requesting funds to a) develop its organizational leadership team by working with a consulting firm and b) to train its entire staff in the Empowerment Training Program. Each member of the leadership team will go through an assessment from MDA Consulting that is tied to the team members' understanding of Jeremiah's strategies, systems, structures and processes. This assessment will focus on organizational results. Following the assessment individual coaching will be provided to each member of the leadership team to maximize their abilities to meet clients' needs.

In addition, all staff will participate in the Empowerment Training Program, a 32-hour training program developed by Twin Cities Rise that helps participants develop the habits, attitudes, and skills needed to achieve professional success and personal stability. Currently all program participants go through the Empowerment Training, but only a portion of Jeremiah's staff have gone through the program. The goal is to have all staff, including the executive team and all new hires for the Saint Paul Campus, go through the Empowerment Training Program to become more familiar with Jeremiah's approach to serving its program participants.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a \$25,000 grant to the Jeremiah Program to help finance the \$103,890 budget for staff training and organizational development.

**Jewish Community Action** | Saint Paul, MN

[www.jewishcommunityaction.org](http://www.jewishcommunityaction.org)

\$30,000 – To help finance the budget of the Gateway Community Coalition and the Jewish Youth Organizing Leadership Team

### **Background and Purpose**

Founded in 1995, Jewish Community Action's (JCA's) mission is to bring together Jewish people from diverse traditions and perspectives to promote understanding and action about social and economic justice issues in Minnesota. Through JCA, Jewish individuals and congregations are working to address the root causes of poverty, racism, and injustice. JCA is comprised of over 600 member households, more than 100 volunteers, a 15 member governing board, and six full-time and

three part-time staff members.

Jewish Community Action partners with local coalitions, interfaith initiatives, neighborhood groups, and minority and immigrant groups working for social and economic justice. While some of JCA's programs are tailored to meet the needs of the Jewish community, all of its programs and services are open to the public and draw participants from the Greater Saint Paul area.

### **Current Request**

Jewish Community Action is requesting funding to expand the capacity of two emerging initiatives:

1) Gateway Community Coalition is a new JCA-led effort to build neighborhood capacity and work for social justice in the Shepard/Davern/West 7<sup>th</sup> or "Gateway" neighborhood of St. Paul. JCA was integral to the creation of low-income housing in this area and now wants to work to organize residents. This work would bring the Jewish community in close partnership with members of immigrant communities and communities of color to develop a volunteer-led coalition that, through multi-ethnic listening circles, will determine neighborhood priorities and develop a plan of action.

2) Jewish Youth Organizing Leadership Team is a group of high school and college-age Jewish youth who work to create change in their communities by educating other youth about social justice issues. These youth also work in coalition and as allies to youth from other communities, and bring a youth perspective to the work of Jewish Community Action. In the first year of this program more than 200 youth participated and helped to lead a local coalition for immigrant rights to encourage passage of the DREAM Act, which would extend in-state tuition rates to Minnesota high school graduates who are undocumented. During the grant period JCA would like to work to expand its ability to bring together Jewish members with youth activists from other, allied communities.

### **Recommendation**

For the \$86,000 budget of the Gateway Community Coalition and Jewish Youth Organizing Leadership Team, the board approved a \$30,000 grant.

**La Familia Guidance Center Inc** | Saint Paul, MN

[www.lafamiliaguidance.org](http://www.lafamiliaguidance.org)

\$10,000 – To help finance the budget of In-School Student Support Services in the Saint Paul Public Schools

### **Background and Purpose**

La Familia Guidance Center Inc (La Familia) has been providing culturally competent mental health and social services attending the Chicano/Latino community since 1995. The agency provides a variety of comprehensive mental health services to children, adolescents and adults through bilingual and bicultural licensed mental health professionals including psychiatrists, psychologists, therapists and social workers that have 50 years of combined experience working with the Chicano/Latino community.

La Familia's services consist of diagnostic assessments, marriage and family counseling, individual and group counseling, prevention and intervention, home visits, and transitional services for youth leaving Red Wing correctional facility. In 2006, La Familia treated 800 children, adolescents and adults for mental health conditions. An additional 500 children and families were served through community and social programming, mental health case management and family/community support services. La Familia offices are located off Wabasha Street on St. Paul's West Side.

### **Current Request**

La Familia proposes to expand its In-School Student Support Services (Support Services) for Chicano/Latino students attending Saint Paul public schools. The agency has been providing these services at Jefferson Elementary School and Edison High School in Minneapolis for the last one - two years. Similar services were offered for three years at Humboldt High School in the mid-1990's

but were discontinued with a change in school principal.

Through Support Services, La Familia places staff on-site at schools to intervene when behavior issues arise, facilitate resolution of issues among school staff, students and parents in ways that are culturally appropriate, and offer group, one-to-one and family counseling. The programming at each school is custom-tailored to meet the needs of the school and its student population.

Goals of Support Services are to improve school attendance and academic performance, decrease negative behavior and make behavior expectations clear so student suspensions decrease, increase programming and student participation in after-school programs, and strengthen family involvement to assure students' success. Grant funds would be used to help offset the cost of a full-time staff position and program expenses. Support Services will be provided at Academia Cesar Chavez - a charter school - and one or two of the Saint Paul Public Schools facilities. Saint Paul Public Schools District staff have indicated their interest in and intent to bring Support Services to District schools, but the specific schools have not yet been finalized.

### **Recommendation**

A grant was authorized by the board for \$10,000 to La Familia to help finance the \$56,500 budget of In-School Student Support Services in the Saint Paul Public Schools.

**Lifeworks Services, Inc.** | Mendota Heights, MN

[www.lifeworks.org](http://www.lifeworks.org)

\$15,000 – To help finance the budget of the Logowear Project

### **Background and Purpose**

Lifeworks Services, Inc. (Lifeworks) was founded as the Dakota County Day Activity Center in 1965 by families of children with special needs. The organization has since evolved to serving adults and families of children with developmental disabilities and other related disabilities such as cerebral palsy, autism and epilepsy. Lifeworks' mission is "to serve our community and people with disabilities as we live and work together by fostering a greater understanding of people with disabilities so that they are included and their contributions valued."

The organization's Customized Support Services help individuals and families access and manage their state services funds and benefits; Employment Services match employable individuals with more than 290 businesses; and Enrichment Services provide personalized learning opportunities such as job skill development, art, music, volunteer opportunities, and communication and computer support. In 2006, Lifeworks served 1,400 people at its locations in Bloomington, Brooklyn Park, Burnsville, Hastings, Mankato, Mendota Heights, Minneapolis and St. Paul. They have 182 full time and 11 part time staff members.

### **Current Request**

Lifeworks has recently received a gift of screen printing equipment, supplies and a customer list from the estate of a donor. They wish to pursue the possibility of setting up a small screen printing business in their Burnsville location which would provide training and opportunity for people with disabilities to learn the screen printing process. The business would produce t-shirts, hats and other logo clothing. Individuals with disabilities would use computer design and machines to produce the goods. They would be supported for part of their day in a training program that would teach computer design, web design, and computer-assisted art.

In addition, this opportunity will create a business plan for a larger scaled business that would employ people with disabilities who could also have an ownership stake. Lifeworks Logowear would be a corporation that will be operated and managed by Lifeworks and shareholders, with ownership opportunities afforded to investors, Lifeworks, and employees with disabilities. Support from The Saint Paul Foundation would allow them to explore the possibility of both business ideas by

purchasing additional start-up equipment and supplies, making necessary renovations, and hiring an industry consultant to help develop a business plan for the larger business.

### **Recommendation**

They have a commitment from Leonard, Street and Deinard for up to 150 hours of legal work to develop the corporate structure. They were also granted \$15,000 from the Foundation for assistance in the \$65,500 budget of the Logowear Project.

**Midwest Special Services, Inc.**| Saint Paul, MN

[www.mwsservices.org](http://www.mwsservices.org)

\$15,000 – To help finance the budget for technology upgrades

### **Background and Purpose**

Established in 1949 by a group of concerned parents of children with disabilities, Midwest Special Services, Inc. (MSS) has been providing employment, training, and support services to individuals with disabilities for almost 60 years. Originally called United Cerebral Palsy of St. Paul, the organization was established to provide an alternative to public schools for school-age children with disabilities since, at that time, public education was not available to these children.

The agency has grown and changed over the years from primarily providing life skills training and support services to include an extensive vocational training and employment program for adults experiencing barriers to employment. Their mission is to provide programs and services to assist persons with disabilities in the attainment of their individual, physical, social, emotional and vocational goals. Community integration is emphasized with a desire to assist each individual in becoming a contributing member of their community, in whatever capacity they choose.

Currently, MSS provides services through two primary programs: 1) the Day Training and Habilitation Program (DT&H) serving 300 adults with severe and multiple mental and physical disabilities from five sites: St. Paul, Shoreview, Eagan, Burnsville and Brooklyn Park in Ramsey, Dakota and Hennepin counties; and 2) the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program serving 115-130 handicapped individuals by providing work experience in a sheltered employment setting. This program operates primarily out of the St. Paul location. MSS employs approximately 115 FTE staff.

### **Current Request**

MSS would like to outfit their training facility with an integrated, multimedia computer lab. They have two goals for this technology improvement. First, the facility would help people with disabilities develop skills for independent or supported employment. Some possible uses for this training are to learn how to create a resume, search for jobs online, and/or complete computerized job applications. About 120 people participate in the employment program at MSS. All of these will benefit from some training in the computer lab. Of these, 50% will be involved in more intensive training with the goal of employment in the community.

Second, the room would allow better professional development opportunities for their staff who have an inconsistent level of computer knowledge. Improved computer efficiency and literacy will allow staff to spend more time on program activities and less time managing paperwork and case files. The room will be designed for maximum efficiency and adaptability for all users. A/V equipment and computers will be linked to the internal network and the internet using wireless technology. A mobile computer lab, using laptop computers, will allow the flexibility to use the technology in the training room or at any of the four satellite DT& H centers.

### **Recommendation**

Of the \$43,490 budget for technology upgrades, the board approved a grant of \$15,000 to Midwest Special Services, Inc.

\$25,000 – To help finance the budget of the Racial Disparities Research Project

### **Background and Purpose**

Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission (The Commission) is an 11-member body created by the legislature to develop Minnesota's guidelines that judges must apply in felony sentencing. Three members of the commission are judges appointed by the Chief Justice of Minnesota's Supreme Court. The remainder are appointed by the Governor and include the Commissioner of Corrections, a peace officer, a prosecutor, a defense attorney, a probation officer, and public citizens, one of whom must be a crime victim.

The Commission also employs a 5.75 FTE staff to maintain the guidelines, train criminal justice professionals, collect and analyze data, and respond to the public's questions about sentencing. The Commission supports policies and practices in keeping with Minnesota's sentencing goals: public safety, proportionality, avoidance of unfair disparity, rational use of correctional resources, and transparency.

### **Current Request**

The Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission is requesting funds to help support its new research project which is intended to identify and eliminate unfair racial disparities in the state's criminal justice system. This project is a collaboration with Minnesota's State Court and the University of Minnesota's College of Law. The study will have two stages.

Stage One will use the Commission's sentencing data, which is the most complete collection of data in the nation that looks at demographics of sentenced felons, conviction offense, severity level, criminal history, presumptive sentence, actual sentence, and probation information. This data will be used to examine disparities in the criminal justice system and will inform the next stage of this project.

The second stage of the project will examine the communities, neighborhoods, and schools that offenders come from. This two pronged approach is intended to develop a comprehensive approach to disparities through revisions in laws, policies, and practices that are determined through the analysis of the data. This will be a statewide study with an in-depth examination of 16 geographic areas in the state. Ramsey, Dakota, and Washington counties will all be examined through this in-depth research.

### **Recommendation**

Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission received a grant of \$25,000 to help finance the \$220,200 budget of the Racial Disparities Research Project.

\$37,100 – To help finance the budget of the African Research Network

### **Background and Purpose**

New American Community Services (New Americans) is a mutual assistance agency established in 2000 following recommendations by the St. Paul Mayor's Advisory Committee on New Americans that an agency be formed to address the issues of African-born immigrants and refugees. Its goal is for its community to have access to resettlement, employment, education, health, and other social services necessary for them to achieve stable livelihoods and long-term independence.

A secondary goal is to educate mainstream Americans about African cultures and build bridges between the two. In 2005, New Americans' 9 bi-lingual and bi-cultural staff members served approximately 1,500 refugees and immigrants. Current programs include employment services and job training, social security income advocacy, developmental disabilities services, financial education, health and wellness, research on health disparities, and a health clinic opened this summer.

### **Current Request**

New Americans established the African Research Network to bring representatives from African communities, academic scholars, and government leaders together to develop and carry out African community-based participatory research. This means that African communities will develop the research questions, determine the methods for collecting information, and implement the data collection, evaluation and dissemination using methods that are culturally appropriate. The first project of the network was an assessment of the overall social, economic, health, and well-being of African communities from an in-person survey of a large sample of over 1,000 immigrants. Surveying was completed last summer and because of fundraising difficulties the analysis of the data was not completed at that time.

New Americans is requesting funding to complete this analysis. Results will also be used to estimate the overall size of the African population in the Twin Cities. An initial analysis will be brought to a community advisory committee and later to community members for interpretation and feedback. Then a formal report will be written to present the findings and, based on these findings, articulate questions for further exploration through qualitative focus group studies. Reports will be distributed to the African community, local government, nonprofits, funders and health providers to be used as a tool for future decision-making.

### **Recommendation**

The Saint Paul Foundation funded nearly half of the \$83,870 budget by granting \$37,100 to New American Community Services to help finance the second year of the African Research Network.

**Project Pathfinder Inc.** | Saint Paul, MN

[www.projectpathfinder.org](http://www.projectpathfinder.org)

\$35,000 – To help finance the budget of the Stop It Now! Minnesota Organizational Practices Initiative

### **Background and Purpose**

Founded in 1992, the mission of Project Pathfinder Inc (Pathfinder) is to provide psychotherapy, consultation, research, training, and education in a way that prevents sexual violence and abuse; protects community interests; and improves the lives of clients and families, and the community at large. The organization serves children, adolescents and adults with sexual behavioral concerns through its programs.

In 2006, Pathfinder provided clinical services to 888 individuals and more than 200 hours of education and training. The organization has a staff of 34.5 FTE employees. Pathfinder has a main office in the Midway area of Saint Paul and five satellite offices in suburban Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota. About half of Pathfinder's clients are East Metro residents.

### **Current Request**

The Organizational Practices Initiative (the Initiative) is a component of Pathfinder's Stop it Now! Minnesota Program (Stop Program). Stop is a child sexual abuse prevention program launched in 2003 in collaboration with ten statewide organizational partners. The goal of the Stop Program is to prevent the sexual abuse of children before a child is harmed, and before an adult, youth or child acts in a sexually inappropriate way towards a child. Through the Initiative, the Stop Program will conduct a pilot project with the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department (Parks and Recreation)

to develop and implement proactive, comprehensive, effective organizational policies and practices to prevent child abuse.

As part of the project, the Stop Program and Parks and Recreation will (1) review and assess Parks and Recreation's current policies and practices related to child safety and preventing child sexual abuse; (2) compare results of the assessment to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "critical strategies" and develop a plan to strengthen policies and practices; and (3) conduct presentations and trainings for Parks and Recreation staff to implement improved policies and practices.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$35,000 to Project Pathfinder Inc to help finance the \$71,234 budget of the Stop it Now! Minnesota Organizational Practices Initiative.

### **Twin Cities RISE | Minneapolis, MN**

\$45,000 – To help finance the budget for expansion of Awali Place East

### **Background and Purpose**

Twin Cities RISE (RISE) is an anti-poverty program available to some of the hardest-to-employ individuals in the Twin Cities. They provide low income adults with long-term, intensive work skills training, education and supportive services.

Training lasts from six to eighteen months, depending on the individual's needs. Participants spend 12-15 hours per week in training, depending on their skills and career focus. They also work at least part-time during training. Upon completion of the Core Program, RISE assists participants in finding jobs with customer companies that pay livable wages.

Many job training programs, especially those targeting welfare to work, do not provide participants with enough skills to move out of poverty. RISE defines living wage jobs as paying at least \$20,000 per year with full benefits and opportunities for upward mobility. RISE is distinguished by its results-oriented, market-driven approach to placement. It costs RISE about \$20,000 to train each graduate. The primary stakeholders in the program are major regional employers. RISE customer companies agree to pay a fee and to employ successful program participants in entry-level skilled jobs within their companies.

The connections between employers and the use of a fee-driven, market-based model ensures that the training responds to market changes and provides participants with the skills employers need. This translates into higher quality services for participants and placement into higher paying jobs when they finish the program.

### **Current Request**

RISE is requesting support for Awali Place East to allow RISE to provide a continuum of services for East Metro residents. Awali is Swahili and means Beginning. To reach more of their target population of males of color, RISE launched Project ReEntry in 2005 to work with individuals soon to be released from Ramsey County Correctional Facility.

The expectation was that Project ReEntry would prepare men for participation in the Core Program when they were released from prison but RISE quickly realized that most weren't ready for that step. Awali Place was then created to serve as a transition program for ex-offenders. Participants spend five to ten weeks at Awali learning self actualization and social skills before moving into the Core Program.

The goal is to recruit 20-40% of Awali graduates into the Core Program. The major expansion to create Awali Place is the most significant change in programming in eight years and has entailed the

creation of two new sites in five months and an organizational budget increase of more than 30% between 2006 and 2007.

### **Recommendation**

For the first year of a three year budget of \$254,625, Twin Cities RISE received a grant of \$45,000 for expansion of Awali Place East.

**University of Minnesota Foundation** | Minneapolis, MN

[www.giving.umn.edu](http://www.giving.umn.edu)

\$30,000 – To help finance the budget of the All-Around-the-Neighborhood Project of the Center for Democracy and Citizenship

### **Background and Purpose**

The Center for Democracy and Citizenship is part of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Established in 1987, the Center develops citizenship initiatives around a concept of public work defined as “sustained, visible, serious effort by a diverse mix of ordinary people to create things of lasting civic or public significance that contributes to building the community’s capacity.” Some of the Center’s initiatives include: Public Achievement, an experience-based youth civic education effort located in several K-12 schools; the Jane Addams School for Democracy, a community-based initiative where students, new immigrants and citizens prepare for active participation in public life; Civic Mission of Higher Education, an effort to strengthen higher education’s public purposes; and the Neighborhood Learning Community.

The Neighborhood Learning Community program stemmed from community work created on the West Side of Saint Paul through the Jane Addams School. In mid-2001, the University was awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the Wallace Foundation to support the Neighborhood Learning Community over a four-year period. The program aims to improve the education of children and families by creating a neighborhood culture where learning opportunities and meaningful partnerships among residents and institutions are established.

### **Current Request**

As part of the Neighborhood Learning Community, the University, along with 17 West Side neighborhood organizations, began the All-Around-the-Neighborhood (AATN) Summer Camp in 2004 for children ages 4 to 18. The broad objective of AATN is to “organize a coordinated neighborhood based, out-of-school initiative led by parents, youth, community education and staff of community organizations to create a West Side alive with learning.”

In 2006, AATN expanded into a year-round program that offered parent-led day camps during school release days. The West Side Circulator provides free transportation for all neighborhood youth to attend programs. During the past year, the AATN program partnered with the Science Museum of Minnesota, FORECAST Public Artworks and Cherokee Park United Church. They collaborated with the West Side schools including GAP, Saint Matthew’s, Humboldt Junior and Senior High Schools.

They increased participation from 149 children in 2005 to 191 in 2006. Children participated in a variety of programs including camping, cooking, theatre, science and the arts. The Center is requesting a second year of support to continue implementation and work toward sustainability. With a second year of funding, they would be able to deepen the sense of community and further develop an infrastructure that leads to strong organizational ownership of All-Around-the-Neighborhood.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a \$30,000 grant to the University of Minnesota Foundation to help finance the \$100,893 budget of the All-Around-Neighborhood Project of the Center for Democracy and Citizenship.

\$20,000 – To help finance the budget of the Karen Support Project

### **Background and Purpose**

Located in St. Paul, Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota (Vietnamese Social Services) was founded in 1987 to serve the Vietnamese refugee community of Minnesota. During its 20-year history, the agency has worked to help Vietnamese refugees and immigrants overcome language and cultural barriers to successfully adjust to life in Minnesota. In 2002, Vietnamese Social Services made the decision to utilize the organization's skills and capacity in refugee resettlement to serve new refugee groups settling in the Twin Cities. Vietnamese Social Services' new mission is to maintain the identity of Minnesota's Vietnamese community while addressing the basic economic, educational, and health needs of refugees and immigrants statewide.

It accomplishes this mission through its primary programs which include: Self-Sufficiency and Employment; the Literacy and Citizenship Program; Elders Program; Youth Program; and Good Health-Better Life Program. Since 2002, Vietnamese Social Services has provided resettlement services to the Somali and East African communities through the services of two Somali staff. In 2004, leaders from the Karen community, who are refugees from Burma, began building a relationship with Vietnamese Social Services.

### **Current Request**

Vietnamese Social Services hired a Karen Outreach and Access Specialist in June 2005 and began providing resettlement and social adjustment assistance to the Karen Community. Since that time nearly 500 Karen have been assisted as they learn English, find jobs and housing, enroll their children in school, obtain health insurance, and take care of their medical needs. Vietnamese Social Services is requesting third-year funding to support the full-time Karen Outreach and Access Specialist who provides social adjustment assistance.

The specialist will specifically provide translation and interpreter services, employment assistance, transportation assistance, application assistance, student support, and client advocacy to help Karen individuals and families access community resources.

### **Recommendation**

A grant of \$20,000 was approved by the board to help finance the \$187,637 budget of the Karen Support Project.

\$60,000 – To help finance the budget of the Academic Enrichment Services Capacity Building Initiative

### **Background and Purpose**

Young Womens Christian Association of St. Paul, Minnesota (YWCA) is a 100-year-old nonprofit organization committed to improving the quality of life of people in its community. YWCA provides opportunities for developing physical and emotional well-being, building self-determination and leadership skills, supporting volunteers in fulfilling community needs, and advocating for social change by addressing racism, sexism, and economic inequities.

Last year, over 6,200 people participated in YWCA programming including health and wellness services, housing and supportive services, childcare, girls empowerment and youth development, employment and training, volunteer services, outreach and community programming. Over 88% of

their social service program participants were of color; 91% were from low-income households.

### **Current Request**

The YWCA is requesting funds over three years to increase its capacity to deliver academic enrichment programs for its youth and young adults. Academic enrichment programs include the Y's Kids Club, a service-enriched K-6 childcare program for children from working poor families; the Youth Achievers Program that serves youth 7-14 from high risk families by providing support, skill building and academic programming; the Girls LEAD Program that serves girls 7-14 with a focus on character building and academic support; and the IMPACT Program that works with youth 15-22 who have had a history of problem behaviors and poor school performance by helping them develop employment and academic skills that lead to GED and long term employment.

This project will add three new positions to the YWCA: 1) the Academic Services Coordinator will oversee the YWCA programs that have academic content; 2) the Literacy Specialist will deliver the upgraded and expanded academic services and assure that the YWCA can continue to receive funding from Supplemental Educational Services; and 3) the Family Support Services Manager will coordinate the educational and employment services for young adults in YWCA programs.

### **Recommendation**

A grant of \$60,000 was recommended and approved by the board to the Young Women's Christian Association of St. Paul, Minnesota to help finance the first year of a three year \$505,857 budget for the Academic Enrichment Services Capacity Building Initiative.

**PUBLIC, SOCIETAL BENEFIT: Total of \$330,000 in 10 grants.**

Grants of \$5000 or more are listed below

**African Development Center | Minneapolis, MN**

[www.adcminnesota.org](http://www.adcminnesota.org)

\$55,000 – To help finance the budget for program expansion in the East Metro area

**Background and Purpose**

African Development Center (ADC) was created in October 2002 to work within the African communities in Minnesota to start and sustain successful businesses, build assets, and promote community reinvestment. It is estimated that approximately 155,000 African immigrants and refugees live in Minnesota. This includes the largest Somali community in the Western world.

ADC's office is located in the heart of the African immigrant community at the junction of Riverside and Cedar Avenues in Minneapolis, although 40 percent of their clients live or work in the East Metro. African Development Center focuses on three core areas: 1) business development by providing technical assistance and business planning services, financing assistance, and micro-lending; 2) increased home ownership opportunities for African immigrants by developing and delivering culturally-sensitive education, counseling, and related support services; and 3) financial literacy training to increase African immigrants' understanding of American financial systems and services through culturally-appropriate financial literacy workshops.

African Development Center serves as a bridge between clients and loan capital through its relationships with local banks, the Neighborhood Development Center, and the Minneapolis Consortium of Community Developers, of which it is a member. African Development Center is also a formal Development Partner (along with the Latino Economic Development Center) in Global Market, a large marketplace venture in Minneapolis. African Development Center's profit based Islamic home ownership financing model was developed in partnership with Project for Pride in Living.

**Current Request**

African Development Center is requesting \$110,000, over two years, to help finance expansion of their East Metro focused staff by 1.5 FTE positions and related expenses. The new positions are for a Business Development Advisory/Counselor and Financial Literacy Counselor. Staff time for community organizing and program development will also increase. The new positions will allow ADC to be more active and visible in the East Metro. The community organizer position will begin with Asset Mapping to determine how many Somali families live in East Metro and where are existing resources.

ADC has also been approached by the City of Saint Paul to help research how light rail transit along University Avenue will affect the African community and what options, including technical assistance or loan funds, might help prevent business losses during construction.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$55,000 to the ADC for the \$130,000 budget of the first year program expansion in the East Metro area.

**Center for Southeast Asian Research and Education | Minneapolis, MN**

\$30,000 – To help finance the budget for organizational start up

**Background and Purpose**

The Center for Southeast Asian Research and Education is a collaboration of Southeast Asian organizations and institutional partners joined to address the research needs of the Cambodian,

Hmong, Lao, and Vietnamese communities. In 2005, a group of executive directors and institutional leaders formally came together to discuss the research needs of the Southeast Asian Community. The group concluded that data pertaining to issues affecting the Southeast Asian community is lacking. Census, school districts, health agencies, and government data provide numbers that highlight the issues, but do not address the causes and correlations of such issues.

The group committed to the creation of the Center for Southeast Asian Research and Education, and formed a nine-member Board of Directors to ensure a genuine and sustainable partnership. The purpose of the Center is to work with the community to do participatory research and to provide education and advocacy to leverage systems change. Current board members include the executive directors of the largest Southeast Asian organizations such as Hmong American Partnership, Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota, United Cambodian Association of Minnesota, and Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota. Other members include respected research professionals and representatives from the Center for Health Statistics, the Department of Education Research Prevention, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs of the University of Minnesota (CURA), and community members at large.

CURA currently houses and supports the Center for Southeast Asian Research and Education, and provides in-kind space, phone, fax, email, and administrative support. In addition, pro bono services from faculty at the University of Minnesota and Hamline University have been secured. The Center currently has one employee, its 0.75 FTE Executive Director. In its first year of operations the Center has worked on a research project for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and has collaborated with the Powderhorn-Phillips Cultural Wellness Center on health disparities research.

### **Current Request**

The Center for Southeast Asian Research and Education seeks foundation support for second year organizational start up support. Activities include further defining the Center's business model, identifying products and services, developing research activities, and further building organizational capacity. These activities are intended to strengthen the organization's long-term sustainability so that it is able to become self-sustaining through contracted services.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved \$30,000 to the Center for Southeast Asian Research and Education to help finance the \$117,000 organizational start up budget.

**Community Action Council** | Lakeville, MN

[www.communityactioncouncil.org](http://www.communityactioncouncil.org)

\$35,000 – To help finance the budget of the New American Services Program

### **Background and Purpose**

Since 1970, Community Action Council Inc (Community Action), has provided services to residents of Dakota County (Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, and Rosemount) and to eastern Scott County. Its programs are intended to prevent violence, ensure school success and promote long-term self-sufficiency. Current Community Action programs include Lewis House (24 hour domestic abuse services), Sexual Assault Services, Child Care Resource and Referral, Family Loan (interest free loans to low and moderate income families), Community Connections (training for volunteers serving as family mentors in Burnsville), Dakota Healthy Families (intensive home visiting to newborns at risk for abuse or neglect), Violence Prevention Education, Armful of Love (holiday meals and gifts) and tax preparation for elderly and disabled low to moderate income Dakota County residents. Community Action's services are neighborhood-based, located in 50 sites in schools, community centers, apartment complexes, faith communities, and police stations.

### **Current Request**

In February 2006, Community Action surveyed community partners to identify the immigrant groups

they worked with most often and determine the areas where they needed help to reduce barriers in their work with immigrants. Results from this survey indicated Latino and African populations were the two groups they were working with most often. Community Action received first year Foundation support to: 1) launch services into Latino immigrant communities; 2) conduct a needs assessment of African immigrant populations and launch services into African immigrant communities and; 3) serve as a resource and increase the knowledge and understanding of Dakota County professionals as they assist immigrant and refugee populations.

Community Action is requesting second year funding to implement a capacity building plan to become a more culturally competent organization, to handle the growth of its immigrant programs and to incorporate aspects of the New Americans Services into all of its programming. Community Action will also work to firmly establish the New Americans Services Program in the community and begin to incorporate future costs into contracts, grants and fees for professional education and trainings.

### **Recommendation**

Approving a grant, the board dispersed \$30,000 to Community Action Council Inc. to help finance the \$165,750 budget of the New American Services Program.

### **The Community Solutions Fund**

[www.communitysharesmn.org](http://www.communitysharesmn.org)

**(now Community Shares of Minnesota)** | Saint Paul, MN

\$40,000 – To help finance the budget for the Grassroots Evaluation Project

### **Background and Purpose**

Founded in the late 1970's by social justice advocates, The Community Solutions Fund (Solutions Fund) is an association of forty-one grass-roots service agencies, neighborhood groups and advocacy organizations dedicated to addressing community-identified problems through progressive social change initiatives.

The organizations share a philosophy of involving members of the community in finding the solutions they need to help themselves. Solutions Fund was the first and has been one of the country's most effective "alternative" federated funds supporting social change agencies.

The purpose of Solutions Fund is to develop, through payroll deduction workplace campaigns, sustained support for organizations engaged in social action and community improvement in the Twin Cities area. It distributes over \$650,000 per year to member organizations and to other nonprofits designated by donors. Forty-three percent of the forty-one member organizations are based in East Metro communities and several others have programs that serve residents of the East Metro.

### **Current Request**

The Solutions Fund ensures that gifts to its annual campaign are being effectively managed by member organizations by requiring an annual member review that includes financial reporting, evidence of sound management practices, and program accomplishments.

Through this process the fund can identify program strengths and organizational weaknesses. Through this review process the fund identified technical assistance needs and implemented a capacity building and technical assistance training program for member agencies. Organizations have found this technical assistance useful but many of the organizations requested more in depth assistance to learn how to conduct evaluations of their work.

The Solutions Fund is requesting support to provide this assistance, free of charge, to its 41 member agencies. Working with Rainbow Research, the Solutions Fund will implement a comprehensive capacity assessment, development, and evaluation project for member organizations.

The Solutions Fund will provide organizations with training and technical assistance to use an evaluation methodology to assess their impact, communicate it to their constituents, and share results with campaign donors and the public at-large.

### **Recommendation**

A grant of \$40,000 was approved by the board to help fund the \$205,000 budget for the Grassroots Evaluation Project.

**Latino Economic Development Center** | Minneapolis, MN

[www.ledc-mn.org](http://www.ledc-mn.org)

\$40,000 – To help finance the budget of East Metro community economic development programs and a scholarship program director position

### **Background and Purpose**

The Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC) received its 501(c)(3) ruling in December 2003, but, in many respects, it is not a new organization. Its roots are in the South Minneapolis neighborhood of Whittier and grew out of the terrific success of the Mercado Central marketplace of 45 businesses, which sparked the ongoing Latino revitalization of the Lake Street corridor in South Minneapolis. Mercado Central has total annual sales of \$5 million and LEDC was organized to build on the vision of these initial entrepreneurs. LEDC focuses on entrepreneurial development as the means for Latino immigrants to stake out their claim to a positive and growing role in society.

To meet the needs of the community, LEDC has forged collaborations of existing resources to provide a business development strategy that can roughly be divided into three types of programs: 1) support for prospective entrepreneurs; 2) support for emerging businesses; and 3) real estate development projects to provide appropriate space for Latino entrepreneurs. LEDC provides services in Saint Paul, Minneapolis, and increasingly in Greater Minnesota. The mission of LEDC is “To promote sustainable communities by expanding business opportunities to low and moderate income Latinos in the State of Minnesota and creating a socially responsible business community.” LEDC has grown to six full-time staff.

LEDC members also have a strong desire to increase Latino access to higher education. In response, LEDC created a Latino Scholarship Fund affiliated with El Fondo de Nuestra Comunidad of The Saint Paul Foundation. As a strategy to build assets within the community, the LEDC membership decided to provide organizational support for a scholarship to meet the needs of the community. LEDC has also made the decision to become a partner in the development of Fiesta Market at 990 Payne Avenue on the East Side of Saint Paul in the former Borgstrom Pharmacy Building. This market will replicate many features of the Mercado Central.

### **Current Request**

LEDC is seeking support to expand its Saint Paul programs and to staff a full-time scholarship program director position. LEDC opened an office in the Frogtown neighborhood of Saint Paul in 2004 and hired a full time business consultant in the East Metro in 2006 to provide direct technical assistance and loan packaging to residents of the East Metro. Free Spanish-language group business orientations are held twice a month in the Saint Paul office. Each attendee has access to a follow-up two-hour one-on-one session to address individual questions. In addition, entrepreneur trainings are held in partnership with Neighborhood Development Center twice a year. LEDC also provides individual technical assistance for LEDC members and graduates of the micro entrepreneur-training program.

The part-time scholarship coordinator position has been redefined and expanded into a full-time scholarship program director position, responsible for raising funds for the scholarship endowment and building relationships between the Latino business community, LEDC, educational institutions and students. As business and community members begin to reach economic empowerment, the

scholarship program is one vehicle through which to promote socially responsible giving back to the community.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$40,000 to the LEDC to help finance the \$234,975 expansion budget of East Metro community economic development programs and a scholarship program director position.

**Management Assistance Programs for Nonprofits Inc. |**  
Saint Paul, MN

[www.mapfornonprofits.org](http://www.mapfornonprofits.org)

\$30,000 – To help finance the budget of Project ReDesign

### **Background and Purpose**

The Management Assistance Programs for Nonprofits Inc (MAP) is a 28-year-old nonprofit which assists other nonprofit organizations with management and organizational infrastructure support. MAP's services are divided into two categories: core services and strategic services. The core services group provides essential services including: legal consultation, on-site accounting, technology planning, human resource programs, and board recruitment and training. The strategic services group focuses on assisting nonprofit organizations with direction and execution of organizational plans. Services include: strategic and business planning, market analysis and marketing plans, and financial analysis.

Annually, MAP provides services to over 500 nonprofits, 60 percent of which are health and human services organizations. MAP provides its services through the talents of over 350 volunteers, a cadre of consultants and its own staff.

### **Current Request**

MAP is requesting funding over three years to develop Project ReDesign, a program that will assist nonprofit organizations contemplating mergers, program transfers, alliances or restructuring. This program will add new staff to manage the program and promote the project in the community. The project will take advantage of other MAP staff expertise to work on specific aspects of organizational plans as needed. The goal is to assist nonprofits as they negotiate new funding realities.

Currently more organizations are looking for partnerships and alliances that will create more efficiencies or increase programmatic or geographic areas they serve. Many nonprofits assume that the funding community is looking to nonprofits to reduce redundancies and increase productivity through mergers. On the basis of inquiries MAP has received over the past year, MAP staff believes there is a market for these services.

### **Recommendation**

To help finance the first year of a three year budget for Project ReDesign, the Foundation approved a grant of \$30,000.

**Management Assistance Programs for Nonprofits Inc. |**  
Saint Paul, MN

[www.mapfornonprofits.org](http://www.mapfornonprofits.org)

\$15,000 – For Phase II of the Board Study Project

### **Background and Purpose**

In 2005 a group of small to midsize nonprofits agreed to collaborate on the Board Study Project (Project) and asked that MAP serve as the lead organization. The Project grew out of the observations of nonprofit leaders, foundation staff, and capacity building consultants who

collectively observed that existing capacity-building models and training curriculum are designed for larger nonprofit systems and do not fit smaller and grassroots organizations, especially nonprofits run by and for communities whose identities are based on non-western cultures. The study, known as *Coloring Outside the Box... One size Does Not fit all In Nonprofit Governance* was published, distributed and presented at a variety of conferences and meetings in the fall of 2006.

### **Current Request**

Phase I of the *Coloring Outside the Box... One size Does Not fit all In Nonprofit Governance* (study) documented that the needs of small constituency-based nonprofits do not match the capacity building models and training curriculum available. In the process of completing interviews for the study, researchers Ellen Benavides and Kim Vanderwall confirmed that nonprofit leaders lacked resources tailored to their unique needs as small, community-based and constituent driven organizations.

Phase II is aimed at meeting the needs of nonprofits raised in Phase I. During Phase II the researchers, with guidance of the Study collaboration leaders, will convene three sessions with nonprofits (one in the East Metro, one in the West Metro, and one in greater Minnesota) to inform the development of a board self-assessment tool. Based on the findings of the convenings a curriculum will be designed and tested as to its ability to meet the unique needs identified by the assessment. Phase II will also require printing additional copies of the study in order to meet demand for the study.

### **Recommendation**

The board authorized a grant of \$15,000 for the \$105,325 budget for the Management Assistance Programs for Nonprofits Inc for Phase II of the Board Study Collaboration.

### **Reconnecting America | Oakland, CA**

[www.reconnectingamerica.org](http://www.reconnectingamerica.org)

\$25,000 – To help finance the budget for developing a framework and business plan for the Central Corridor Funding Collaborative

### **Background and Purpose**

Since last September, The Saint Paul Foundation and The McKnight Foundation have been co-convening a monthly meeting of local and national funders to better inform the funding community of Central Corridor development issues. The Central Corridor is the route for a light rail transit (LRT) line connecting downtown Saint Paul with downtown Minneapolis via University Avenue. LRT will stimulate major development adjacent to the line. Reconnecting America through its main program, the Center for Transit-Oriented Development (Center), has been providing support to this funders working group by gathering information on the Central Corridor, facilitating meetings of the working group and providing advice and guidance based on their experience working on transit oriented development stimulated by LRT in other major metropolitan areas.

Reconnecting America, headquartered in Oakland, California, is a national nonprofit that is working to integrate transportation systems and the communities they serve, with the goal of generating lasting public and private returns, improving economic and environmental efficiency, and giving consumers more housing and mobility choices. The Center is dedicated to providing best practices, research, and tools to support market-based transit-oriented development. The Center is funded by the federal government to serve as a national clearinghouse for best practices for transit oriented development and to help develop standards for transit oriented development as well as provide guidance for transit system planning with the goal of maximizing rider-ship through planning and development.

### **Current Request**

After meeting for a number of months to develop a common understanding of the many complex issues related to Central Corridor development, members of the working group are now exploring

how to work collaboratively to have greater impact in addressing issues of common interest along the Corridor. These include helping to assure that existing affordable housing is preserved, that small businesses can be maintained and grow, and that LRT is built and new development occurs in a manner that maximizes benefits to the affected communities.

The Center is helping to develop a framework and business plan for a Central Corridor Funding Collaborative which will include creation of a catalyst fund to seed transformational initiatives related to the Corridor, a series of working groups on important issues such as housing and business/entrepreneurship that could help inform individual grantmaking decisions, and a Central Corridor Coordinator position to help guide the working group, identify transformational initiative opportunities, and help orchestrate how stakeholders are brought into the process. This request is for a grant to provide the funding for the Center to complete its work on the collaborative framework and business plan.

### **Recommendation**

Approved by the board, a \$25,000 grant was distributed to Reconnecting America to help finance the \$75,000 budget for developing a framework and business plan for the Central Corridor Funding Collaborative.

**Rondo Community Land Trust** | Saint Paul, MN

[www.rondoclt.org](http://www.rondoclt.org)

\$25,000 – To help finance the budget for expansion to suburban Ramsey County

### **Background and Purpose**

Rondo Community Land Trust (Rondo Land Trust) is a community-based affordable housing program located on Selby Avenue in Saint Paul. Rondo Land Trust is named after Rondo Avenue, the main avenue for the African American community. The Summit-University Planning Council initiated Rondo Land Trust in 1989 to explore successful methods of preserving affordable housing that had been used across the country. A task force recommended the land trust model as the most proven method of preserving affordable housing for generations.

In 1993 Rondo Land Trust was incorporated as the first inner-city land trust in the Twin Cities. Originally designed to serve the Summit-University and Lexington-Hamline neighborhoods, Rondo Land Trust membership later voted to expand its service area to include all communities in Ramsey County. Governed by an elected board which represents an equal balance of community, leaseholder, and public representatives, Rondo Land Trust uses various development methods to acquire and rehabilitate properties as well as build new homes.

Individuals and families served by Rondo Land Trust have incomes between 50 to 80 percent of the Twin Cities median income as defined by federal guidelines, or \$38,350 to \$57,500 per year for a family of four. Since 1992 Rondo Land Trust has renovated or built 50 land trust homes for low-income people in Saint Paul.

### **Current Request**

The Ramsey County Community and Economic Development Department has developed a 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan which identifies affordable housing in suburban Ramsey County as a critical need. Given this need county staff has requested that Rondo Land Trust expand its services to suburban Ramsey County. In response to this request Rondo Land Trust is seeking two years of funding to create a new position of Housing Manager responsible for developing land trust housing in suburban Ramsey County.

The new position will also allow the Executive Director to spend more time on fund development issues. The Housing Manager's responsibilities will include community outreach, property acquisition, construction management, and relationship building with suburban city housing staff.

## **Recommendation**

The two year budget of \$124,000 for the Suburban Ramsey County expansion was supported with a grant from the Foundation of \$25,000 to Rondo Community Land Trust.

**University United** | Saint Paul, MN

[www.universityunited.com](http://www.universityunited.com)

\$35,000 – To help finance the budget of the Alternative Programming Project

## **Background and Purpose**

The City of Saint Paul is divided into seventeen geographic districts, each representing district neighborhoods within the City. Each district has a District Council elected by residents of the neighborhood. District Councils address important neighborhood issues and serve as the official voice of their community in the City of Saint Paul's planning processes.

The District Councils Collaborative of Saint Paul and Minneapolis (Collaborative) was formed to help neighborhoods navigate through the complex web of information and planning processes, and ensure that the needs and interests of residents and businesses are fully represented in Central Corridor transit discussions. University United, a nonprofit coalition of twelve community organizations and seven business members with interests in the area of University Avenue, is providing a home for the Collaborative. However, the Collaborative is operating independently of University United's staff and programs.

## **Current Request**

University United is requesting \$35,000 on behalf of the Collaborative for second year support of a three year project to facilitate neighborhood participation in shaping the direction of future Central Corridor light rail development. The Collaborative arose from concerns district councils raised about their individual capacity to facilitate a meaningful community review process for a project as large and complex as the discussion of light rail along University Avenue.

A Memorandum of Understanding was approved in March 2006 that defines objectives of the Collaborative and responsibilities of participating members. Each neighborhood association agrees to participate in a collaborative effort for the purpose of facilitating discussion, identifying priorities and concerns and providing information and outreach for the Central Corridor project.

The Collaborative has filled the staff position and created its own operating structure, leadership, goals and work plan. Sixteen organizations including eleven of the 17 District Councils in Saint Paul have joined the Collaborative.

## **Recommendation**

University United received a grant of \$35,000 for the \$110,000 budget for the second year of operation of the District Council Collaborative of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

## **RELIGION RELATED, SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT: Total of \$112,500 in 1 grants.**

Grants of \$5000 or more are listed below

**Unity Church of St. Paul** | Saint Paul, MN

[www.unityunitarian.org](http://www.unityunitarian.org)

\$112,500 – To help finance the operating budgets of Community Outreach Partnerships and Young Adult Ministries

### **Background and Purpose**

Unity Church – Unitarian of St. Paul is a vibrant intergenerational congregation grounded in the history and heritage of liberal religion. It is a congregation of about 900 adult members and over 400 children and youth. Its mission is to engage people in a free and inclusive religious community that encourages lives of integrity, service, and joy.

Unity Church is one of three organizations specified by the Furness sisters, in establishing the Furness Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation, to which The Saint Paul Foundation is to consider appropriate grantmaking opportunities. The other organizations are the Minnesota Historical Society and Neighborhood House. The fund is also available to make grants to a broader range of nonprofits serving the local community. In 2001, The Saint Paul Foundation awarded a five-year grant of \$400,000 from the Furness Fund to Unity Church to develop two new ministries: Community Outreach Partnerships and Young Adult Ministries. The five-year project to launch these two ministries has been successful.

In Community Outreach Partnerships Unity Church has: added a new staff position, the Community Outreach Partnership Coordinator; developed several vital new community outreach partnerships in the areas of Restorative Justice, the St. Paul Center for Victims of Torture, Anti-Racism, Affordable Housing, Green Sanctuary, and Sustainable Agriculture; brought new focus to existing community partnerships; initiated a successful series of community forums for education on community outreach issues; and incorporated education on outreach areas in church services and Sunday education efforts.

Young Adult Ministries Unity Church has: established a successful campus ministry at Macalester College; formed a Unity Young Adult Group that meets twice a month; experimented with worship and education formats to meet the needs of young adults; and integrated young adults into all activities of the church.

### **Current Request**

Unity Church is requesting a grant to finance half of the budget for these two programs for an additional eighteen months as it completes a transition to full funding of these programs through Unity Church's operating budget.

### **Recommendation**

That request was met by a grant approved by the board for \$112,500 to help finance the \$225,000 budgets of Community Outreach Partnerships and Young Adult Ministries.