

Winter 2008



## Partners in Philanthropy

### ARTS, CULTURE AND HUMANITIES

#### **Actors Theater of Minnesota**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

#### **Background and Purpose**

Actors Theater of Minnesota (ATM) incorporated in 2000 with a mission to “create and present new professional theater that is accessible and affordable to a wide audience, and that helps to develop new audiences by engaging and welcoming nontraditional theatergoers.” ATM strives to be a “bridge” theater company that introduces non-theatergoers to theater through interactive, popular performances and familiar stories that appeal to a wide audience. From 2001-2003, ATM presented two full seasons at the Fitzgerald Theater in downtown St. Paul. Season packages were available for less than \$40. From 2003-2006, ATM partnered with the University of Minnesota to produce shows aboard the Minnesota Centennial Showboat moored off Harriet Island. ATM’s most recent production, *We Gotta Bingo*, ran at the Lowry Theater in downtown Saint Paul for more than two years, closing this past January. During FY09, ATM will produce another full season in the Lowry Building theater spaces. In addition, they will present the annual *A Christmas Carol Feast* at Wiggington Hall on Harriet Island. Last year they partnered with several non-profits to provide 2,000 free tickets for people who could not otherwise afford to purchase tickets. The theater is committed to using only Minnesota-based artists in their productions and to paying them a living wage. ATM operates with a nine-member board of directors, five full time staff, five part time staff and 20 volunteers.

#### **Current Request**

Last year, Actors Theater initiated the Alternative Programming Project aimed at making the Lowry Theater space available to outside artists and organizations for a wide variety of events and arts activities. With first year support from The Saint Paul Foundation, the theater was able to hire a part time staff person and train a second to run this program. In the first year, more than fifty organizations and individuals used the Lowry Theater space for events such as residential meetings; live music, theater, and comedy shows; corporate receptions; fundraisers; school functions; and youth programs. These events attracted approximately 4,500 attendees. The goal of the program is to manage the current demand and increase and diversify the type of events in the Lowry Theater space. In addition, they hope that eventually these rental activities will bring in revenue to support Actors Theater productions. The theater is returning to The Saint Paul Foundation for a second year of support.

## **Recommendation**

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

## **American Composers Forum**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

## **Background and Purpose**

The American Composers Forum (the Forum) is a national non-profit organization, created in 1973, located in Saint Paul. Its mission is to enrich lives by nurturing the creative spirit of composers and communities. The Forum provides new opportunities for composers and their music to flourish, and for communities to engage in the creation, performance and enjoyment of new music. By building two-way relationships between artists and the public, the Forum develops programs that educate audiences, provide new roles for composers, develop new markets, stimulate collaboration, and promote musical creativity. With a national office staff of fourteen and five active chapters in New England, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Minnesota and San Francisco, the Forum administers a dozen programs that reach performers, friends of new music, and audiences in all 50 states and 14 foreign countries. The Forum has nearly 1,800 members and serves more than 7,500 artists annually, of which 900 are composers from Minnesota. The Twin Cities area chapter was established in May 2000. A national board of 28 members governs the organization.

## **Current Request**

Last year, The Saint Paul Foundation awarded the Forum \$12,500 in first year funding of *Saint Paul Listens*, a music education program for three Saint Paul middle schools: Humboldt, Murray, and Capitol Hill. The goal of the program is for students to experience all aspects of music composition: how music is inspired, critiqued, refined, interpreted and readied for performance. The objectives are to increase awareness and understanding of the work of living composers, promote an appreciation and understanding of the compositional process, and provide teachers and students tools and strategies for creating their own music. The first year was devoted to planning. During this time, music specialists from each school participated in curriculum design and professional development so they can integrate the learning in their coursework. Three local professional composers (Gao Hong, Mike Crosswell and Dough Little) created new pieces for the students to study. All have experience working with this age group. Each piece has been recorded by the new music ensemble, Zeitgeist. The composers met with the partner teachers to plan the residency. The Forum is now requesting support for the second year of the program. During the 2008-2009 school year, students will meet the composers, learn about new music, and engage in creating their own original music using composition software. Students who wish to can submit their piece to the Young Composers Competition. Finalists in the competition will have their pieces recorded on CDs and on-line for others to listen. Community members will be able to vote on their favorite piece. The winners will have their original songs performed at two culminating concerts in May 2009. The program will benefit four tiers of young people: the students studying with the three middle school music specialists and composers (approximately 60 in each school); all the other students in these three schools who will see the performances; any other Saint Paul middle school students whose teachers choose to incorporate the curriculum; and all students in the school district who choose to participate in the Young Composers Competition.

## **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$12,500 to American Composers Forum to help finance the budget of Saint Paul Listens.

## **ARTS-Us**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

[www.arts-us.org](http://www.arts-us.org)

### **Background and Purpose**

ARTS-Us has delivered professional African Diaspora-based and multicultural, educational and entertainment presentations, exhibits and training in Twin Cities K-12 schools, community organizations, university, business, and government settings since its beginnings in 1992. The mission of ARTS-Us is to develop young leaders, in and through the arts, by means of the following goals: 1) provide high quality African Diaspora arts programs for youth to help them develop knowledge and skills in the arts; 2) work with artists and educators to infuse arts and culture into classroom curricula and to encourage increased student of color participation and achievement in learning; and 3) engage the broad community to promote and celebrate the growth, achievement and leadership in youth of color – in and through the arts. Over the agency's sixteen-year history, approximately 7,000 young people and 700 adults (including over 300 teachers) have participated in ARTS-Us programs. Its target audiences are youth ages 7 through 25 – primarily African American – and the adults who parent, educate, advise, mentor and counsel them. Located in St. Paul, ARTS-Us mainly serves youth from the Summit-University, Thomas-Dale and Frogtown neighborhoods. Currently, there is an interim executive director. The agency plans to hire a permanent director by February 2009.

### **Current Request**

Up until June of 2008, ARTS-Us worked out of an office and held their programs in various sites including Concordia University and the Family Community Resource Center on Selby Avenue. This past summer the organization signed a five-year contract with the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department to use the Dunning Recreation Center building as their headquarters. They agreed to provide programming for youth in exchange for a rent-free contract. The organization is also responsible for building expenses like maintenance. The space offers a large community room, a dance studio, and several smaller classroom/meeting spaces. Their goal is to increase the number of youth they serve from around 70 annually to more than 200 and to increase their audience from approximately 1,000 per year to 3,000 community members. They are requesting support from The Saint Paul Foundation to help them transition into this new building to meet the community needs for more youth programming.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$15,000 to ARTS-Us to help finance the budget to expand programming at Dunning Recreation Center.

## **Artspace Projects Inc.**

Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Artspace Projects Inc (Artspace) was founded in 1979 as an advocate for artists who were being forced out of Minneapolis' historic Warehouse District by rising rents. The mission of Artspace is to create, foster and preserve affordable space for artists and arts organizations. By the late 1980s Artspace made the leap from advocate to developer. Since then, the scope of Artspace activities has grown dramatically. Artspace is now the nation's leading nonprofit developer of affordable space for artists and arts organizations. To date, Artspace has completed 14 major "live/work" projects with 721 units in which each residential unit also contains sufficient space for a working studio. In the mid 1990s Artspace broadened its mission to include non-residential projects. The first of these, the Traffic Zone Center for Visual Art (1995), transformed a historic bakery in the Minneapolis Warehouse District into 24 studios

for mid-career artists. Artspace is currently working on the Minnesota Shubert Performing Arts and Education Center, a \$37 million, three-building cultural complex in downtown Minneapolis, which will serve as a performing home for the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and 20 other arts groups when completed. Over the last few years, Artspace has evolved from a Minnesota organization with a few national projects into a truly national organization based in the Twin Cities. Artspace now has projects in more than a dozen states and has helped communities in 40 states address their arts-related space issues. Artspace programs fall into three broad categories: property development, asset management and national consulting.

### **Current Request**

In 1989 the City of Saint Paul invited Artspace to develop the Northern Warehouse (Northern) as an artist housing cooperative. The Northern has 52 units of housing, artists' studios and two floors of non-residential space for arts-related business. In 1989 tax credits had not been used in the purchase of affordable housing for artists. The city required Artspace to form a limited partnership with a commercial developer who was experienced in the use of tax credits. Currently the limited partnership is the owner of the Northern. The 15-year tax credit has expired and in order to keep the Northern as an affordable housing project Artspace will have to purchase the building from the limited partnership. Artspace is requesting funds to assist in the purchase of the Northern and for rehab work to the building, such as a roof replacement, window replacement, tuck pointing and the replacement of countertops and cabinets in certain units.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$100,000 to Artspace Projects Inc to help finance the budget for the purchase and rehabilitation of the Northern Warehouse.

### **The History Theater Inc.**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Founded thirty years ago, the History Theatre's current mission is that it "inspires, entertains, and provokes audiences by creating and producing new works that explore Minnesota's past and the diverse American experience." The theater is guided by a core belief that "history provides a unique lens through which one can see and understand contemporary issues." The theater has three primary components: each year it produces a season of new plays and musicals produced each year that illuminate history; *Raw Stages* – a program to develop new work for production on the stage; and an education program which brings students to the theater for discounted matinees, provides teachers with study guides and hosts post-performance discussions. Since its inception, History Theatre has commissioned and produced over 100 world premiere plays and musicals by over 90 playwrights and composers. Each year, nearly 50,000 people (including 9,000 students) see productions at the History Theatre. The theater regularly makes free or discounted tickets available to low-income youth and families. All in all, over 30% of all tickets are discounted or free. This past year has brought many recognitions and accomplishments including "Best of" accolades in The Star Tribune and City Pages; a 2007 Ivey Award for the portrayal of *Wellstone!*; the development of History Theatre plays in seven other states; and three world premieres and two new plays in *Raw Stages* that are part of the 2008-09 season. A 15-member board of directors oversees a 10 member staff and artistic team. Over 250 volunteers work with the theater each year.

### **Current Request**

Despite its artistic successes, the History Theatre has struggled administratively and financially. In August of 2007, the theater was \$425,000 in debt. And while the artistic director had been with the

theater for fourteen years, the administrative side had experienced much more staff turnover. Ticket sales decreased due in part to the economy and to competition with the expanded Guthrie Theater. The theater then hired two seasoned professionals to lead the administrative side: Kathleen Hansen as Managing Director in the summer of 2007 and Barbe Marshall as Development Director in the fall of 2008. Since Kathleen joined the organization, she has succeeded in chipping away at the debt, reducing it to \$373,000. She has also increased individual support by creating better database tracking, list generation, new donor levels and ways to recognize donors, board hosted donor house parties, online donation opportunities and a new e-blast system. As a result of her leadership, individual giving grew to 12% of the budget, with contributed support totaling almost 50% of overall revenue. Ultimately, in comparison to FY07, History Theatre demonstrated an increase of 27% in total dollars raised. The History Theatre is now requesting a \$50,000 matching grant to build on the momentum and to inspire community members to support the theater. Long-term goals include eliminating debt load in five years and changing their business structure to sustain the theater into the future. For FY09 the goals are to increase individual giving by 53% from FY08 - from \$150,000 to \$230,000; increase the number of donors by 50 to 600; increase the average gift size from \$229 to \$251; and meet individual giving benchmarks set in their FY09 assumptions. One of the main strategies that they'll use to meet these goals is to increase the board's capacity to raise money. The newly configured and trained board will work closely with the new Development Director who has created a Development Committee that includes both board and community members.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$50,000 to The History Theater, Inc. for a matching gift fundraising program.

### **Park Square Theater Inc.**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Park Square Theatre company, (Park Square Theatre) a mid-size professional producing theater, was founded in 1974 in Lowertown's Park Square Court building. In 1995, the theater relocated to its current 340 seat home in the 7<sup>th</sup> Place Theatre of the Historic Hamm Building in downtown Saint Paul. Its mission is "to enrich our community by producing and presenting exceptional live theater that touches the heart, engages the mind and delights the spirit." The theater's organizational goals include being an artistic leader by continuously enhancing the quality of its work, collaborating in education by serving students and educators, and being a good neighbor by maintaining a theater deeply rooted in the community. The theater presents European and American works through eight full-scale theater productions annually with an administrative staff of nine led by a 18-member board of directors. With a subscription base of 2,780, Park Square has the third largest theater subscription base in the Twin Cities behind the Guthrie Theater and The Children's Theatre Company. The adult audience has grown by 29% over the past three seasons. The theater also offers one of the most complete education programs in the region for grades 6-12, reaching up to 25,000 area students annually. All told, more than 53,000 people attended the theatre in 2007-08.

### **Current Request**

Park Square Theatre's board and staff have recently begun implementing "The Next Stage," the theater's strategic plan for 2008-2011. The plan includes a \$2.1 million campaign in order to achieve the goals outlined in four core areas: Artistic Vision; Succession Planning; Financial Stability; and Branding/Positioning/External Relations. Artistically, the theater developed a plan to create a second space and a "third audience" that would add to their current components: the main stage subscription series and their education series for teens. This third offering would target younger adult audiences who

are interested in edgier, contemporary plays. Park Square is planning to build a 150 seat proscenium stage in the Hamm Building. There they would present some of their own work as well as productions from other small theater companies. Succession planning is part of “The Next Stage” as the board wishes to prepare for all the issues involved with a change in leadership. As for financial stability, the theater has had its challenges over the years and is working toward debt reduction and the development of a reserve. To grow the artistic vision, stabilize the finances, and build individual giving and corporate sponsorship, the board recognized that the theater would require a significantly stronger external relations commitment than was currently in place. Mature leadership guiding fund development, marketing, and external relations was seen as key to achieving the other three prongs of the plan. With help from The Saint Paul Foundation, the theater hired Michael-jon Pease, a seasoned arts administrator to serve as Park Square’s first Director of External Relations. Park Square is now responding to the Foundation’s invitation to return with a request for second year support.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$25,000 to Park Square Theater Company to help finance the budget for the position of Director of External Relations.

### **Sample Night Live**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Sample Night Live (Sample Night) is a recently incorporated nonprofit organization established to expose Twin Cities residents to a wide variety of performing arts options. The spark for Sample Night originated a few years ago when a group of artists and arts administrators got together to brainstorm ideas on how to develop audiences for Twin Cities’ performing arts events. Their belief was not that people didn’t want to go to see theater, music or dance, but that there were too many offerings to choose from. Their solution to this perceived barrier was to create a monthly event showcasing a dozen different local acts featuring a wide variety of genres, from classical music to dance to stand-up comedy to puppetry. Audiences are invited to vote on their favorite act, to opt into mailing lists from any of the performers, and to win door prizes. The first part of the evening is “G-rated” so that families are encouraged to attend. The second act is unrated and uncensored. People are welcome to come for either act, or stay for both. The first Sample Night was held in January 2008 at Bryant Lake Bowl in Minneapolis and has been held every first Wednesday of the month except in August in deference to the Minnesota Fringe Festival. From January to September, over 800 people attended Sample Night performances in the 85-seat house. In addition, the Minnesota State Fair invited them to present a special version of the show which attracted almost 600 fairgoers.

### **Current Request**

Earlier this year, Sample Night received a \$25,000 City of Saint Paul Cultural STAR grant with the condition that they move their operations to downtown Saint Paul. With this financial support, they searched for a space that could accommodate the variety of performances that make up a typical Sample Night. Their plan is to produce their monthly show on the History Theatre’s stage most months except the few when it is not available. They will then perform in one of the other venues they are currently negotiating with. They will kick off their new Saint Paul-based season in December which will feature all the audience favorites from past Sample Night performances. As the Saint Paul Cultural STAR requires a match, Sample Night is requesting funds from The Saint Paul Foundation to meet this condition.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$25,000 to Sample Night Live, to help finance the budget for foundational

infrastructure.

### **Springboard for the Arts**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

#### **Background and Purpose**

Springboard for the Arts (Springboard) originated in 1978 as a program of United Arts. In 1991, it became an independent non-profit organization known as Resources and Counseling for the Arts. In 2002, the organization changed its name to Springboard for the Arts with a mission to “cultivate a vibrant arts community by connecting artists with the skills, contacts, information and services they need to make a living and a life.” Springboard serves artists, small to mid-sized arts and cultural organizations, and people interested in arts administrative careers. It is the only organization in the Upper Midwest that serves individual artists in this way. The majority of clients are from the Twin Cities; progressively, more clients from greater Minnesota and other states in the Upper Midwest (Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa) are seeking Springboard for the Arts services.

Some of the programs that they offer include one-on-one career consultations, business skills training, the Artists’ Loan Fund, Emergency Relief Fund, Artists’ Access to Healthcare; online resources and job book, an organizational fiscal agency program (Incubator) currently serving over 40 emerging arts organizations, attorney/accountant referrals, and an Artist Resource Center in their Lowertown offices. In FY 2007, Springboard worked with over 6,000 individual artists as well as an additional 20,000 through phone and online services. Overall direction and responsibility for Springboard’s activities is provided by a 14-member board of directors. Springboard employs five full time staff members.

#### **Current Request**

Springboard is requesting support for a new development model that will address two challenges. The first is the great need of small and emerging arts organizations to have access to high quality development and fundraising training and support. Most development professionals with experience aren’t willing to work for the small fees that these agencies can afford to pay. Through their Incubator Program and other consulting, Springboard serves over 100 emerging organizations; many of them seeking help with fundraising and development issues. The second challenge is Springboard’s own need for development support. Currently, the Executive Director does all of the fundraising leaving her little time for strategic direction and program expansion. Their solution to these problems is to hire a full time development director who will devote 50% of his/her time to consulting with the smaller agencies. The other 50% will be focused on Springboard’s own fundraising needs as the organization continues to grow in scope and size.

#### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$10,000 to Springboard for the Arts to help finance the budget of the Development Program.

### **Stepping Stone Theater Co.**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

#### **Background and Purpose**

Stepping Stone Theater for Youth Development (Stepping Stone) was founded in 1987. Its mission is “to develop the whole child by using educational theater programs and fully-staged productions to build self-esteem, confidence and a sense of community, while celebrating diversity in a supportive, non-

competitive atmosphere.” The theater is committed to maintaining broad access to its programs through low-ticket prices, scholarships for classes and workshops, discounted residencies for schools and community programs, and assistance with transportation. Stepping Stone’s work is focused in three primary programs: 1) *Mainstage*: the production of plays for and about children and youth of diverse cultures and economic backgrounds, with peer modeling and peer education as the primary goal; 2) *Education*: residencies where theater artists teach students to create performances drawn from school curricula and/or the student’s own experiences; and 3) *Outreach*: classes taught by professional theater educators that stress creativity and collaboration. In the past eleven years, the theater has almost tripled its operating budget from \$270,000 in FY 1997 to \$855,000 in FY 2008. Last year 39,820 patrons attended 179 performances. A 19-member board of directors oversees a staff of eight full-time and five part-time employees.

### **Current Request**

Stepping Stone outgrew its former location at Saint Paul’s Landmark Center where the theater had been located since its inception. The increased demand for classes and services made it more challenging to acquire adequate affordable space in public schools, churches and community locations for classes and rehearsals. As a result, the theater’s board of directors determined that finding new space was essential for the organization to continue to grow in a way that fully supported its mission. In 2002, Stepping Stone conducted a capital campaign feasibility study and determined that renovating an existing facility would be more cost effective than building. It also concluded that a \$4 million campaign goal was achievable, although the majority of funding would have to come from the private sector. After an extensive planning and search period, on August 30, 2005 the theater purchased the former Grace Community Church at 55 North Victoria (across the street from William Mitchell College of Law). The theater began its capital campaign to raise the necessary funds to pay for the purchase and renovation of this facility. The Saint Paul Foundation supported this campaign with an initial gift of \$250,000. In December 2006, the campaign goal was raised to \$5.3 million due to increases in the construction costs and newly discovered engineering issues. On December 1, 2007, Stepping Stone opened the doors to its new theater. The facility meets the size and configuration needed – seating capacity per performance almost doubled from 230 to 400 seats, and capacity for annual enrollment in educational programs increased from just over 500 to nearly 900 participants. The new facility provides a safe, child-friendly location, easy access from major highways, and good visibility in a diverse and vibrant neighborhood. Stepping Stone has raised over \$4.2M for the building and is returning to The Saint Paul Foundation for a supplemental grant to help finish the campaign.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$100,000 to Stepping Stone Theater Co for completion of the capital campaign.

### **Twin Cities Media Alliance**

Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

The seeds of the Twin Cities Media Alliance (Alliance) were planted in the mid-1990s when an informal group of journalists and media professionals from local media 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. The Alliance 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. The Alliance helps to identify partner needs and to then undertake projects that will further their common interests. The centerpiece of Twin Cities Media Alliance’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, the Alliance provides support to help media partners increase internal capacity with technical assistance and stories from the *Daily Planet* that partners can publish without fees. Twin Cities Media Alliance 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. Last year, the Twin Cities Media Alliance created the Saint Paul Community Newsdesk to try and help fill that gap. 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 Saint 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, the Alliance 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 has been 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 \$20,000 to Twin Cities Media Alliance to help finance the budget for the Saint Paul Newsdesk.

## **EDUCATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES**

### **Minnesota Literacy Council, Inc.**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

#### **Background and Purpose**

The Minnesota Literacy Council, Inc. (Literacy Council), founded in 1972, is dedicated to improving literacy in Minnesota. Its mission is to “share the power of learning through education, community building, and advocacy. The Literacy Council fulfills its mission by helping adults improve literacy, helping vulnerable children to gain school success, increasing literacy volunteers, and raising awareness of literacy needs throughout Minnesota.” The Literacy Council provides direct literacy instruction for adults and children (tutoring, literacy home visits, citizenship classes, functional English classes, and Adult Basic Education classes), provides technical assistance to literacy programs (recruitment and training of literacy volunteers), and links people with a range of literacy related services and supports (literacy hotline).

The Literacy Council is a member of and acts as the lead partner organization for the St. Paul Community Literacy Consortium. The Consortium is a citywide collaborative of 13 community-based non-profits, St. Paul Public Schools, Adult Learning, and the St. Paul Public Library that provides adult basic education services to residents of St. Paul, Minnesota. During fiscal year 2008, Consortium members and affiliates provided programming in the areas of English Language Learning for refugee resettlement, Functional Work English for those on public assistance, the National Work Readiness Credential, citizenship classes, workforce education, and special projects, delivering services to 11,097 students. In 2007, 81% of Consortium Adult Basic Education participants were English Language Learners. The ethnicity of those receiving at least 12 hours of services was: 34% Black/African American, 31% Asian, 31% Hispanic/Latino, 4% White.

#### **Current Request**

On behalf of the Consortium, the Literacy Council is requesting a \$20,000 grant to pilot the Learner Web Project. The Learner Web, developed by Portland State University, is an internet based tool, to help adult learners earn their GED, develop functional work English skills, or gain work readiness skills that brings Adult Basic Education to undereducated adults, giving them an opportunity to improve their skills so that they can become productive citizens. The Consortium is the seventh (and only Midwestern) site to be selected to be part of a three-year collaborative project to implement the Learner Web software. The seven sites have been working together in 2007-2008 to develop the key content for the different skill areas (GED, Functional Work English, etc.) and then will be able to tailor the information for the distinct language and cultural needs of each community. In 2008-2009, the seven sites will pilot and assess the implementation of the program with an eye to full implementation in 2009-2010. The International Museum and Library Science Association has been hired by Portland State University to evaluate implementation at the seven sites of the Learner Web Project.

The Learner Web will provide in-person orientation to the system; educational content, testing, and support via a user-friendly internet based system; as well as phone and face-to-face support at accessible locations. The Consortium has identified 150 learners currently participating in educational programming and will track the experiences of these individuals closely to make modifications to the Learner Web as needed, in order to expand implementation more broadly in 2009-2010.

#### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$20,000 to the Minnesota Literacy Council, Inc. to help finance the budget of the St. Paul Community Literacy Consortium’s Learner Web Project.

## **Montessori Training Center of Minnesota Inc.**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

The Montessori Training Center of Minnesota Inc (Center) was established in 1973. It offers a complete course of study for those seeking a career as a preschool Montessori teacher, teaching ages 2.5 to 6 years, and is accredited by the Association Montessori Internationale, the organization founded by Dr. Montessori. Students from around the world participate in the nine-month course that begins in September of each year. The Center also publishes periodicals, operates an audio-visual library, and conducts workshops and research. Today there are more than 75 schools in Minnesota, ranging from preschool through junior high levels, that operate using the Montessori approach.

### **Current Request**

The Center is requesting a second grant from The Saint Paul Foundation for the \$6.8 million Timeless Education for a New World Capital Campaign to help underwrite the capital costs of renovating its new building on Saint Paul's East Side which will offer highly specialized educational environments suited to the Montessori method of teaching. The new facility is home to *Cornerstone Montessori*, the preK-6 urban lab school attached to the training center; an expanded Montessori Teacher Training Center that includes infancy Montessori pedagogy, a nine-month curriculum to teach how to work with children 3-6 years old, a three summer program to train adults to work with children ages 6-12 years old, an Assistant to Teachers course that ensures philosophical alignment of all adults in Montessori curriculum, and workshops and training; the Montessori Museum and Research Center (unique in the country); and, the Community Outreach Program that includes parent and infant courses, technical assistance to schools and other nonprofits, and scholarships for teachers and students from communities of color.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$100,000 to the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota Inc for the Timeless Education for a New World Campaign.

## **Mounds Park Academy**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Mounds Park Academy (Mounds Park) is an independent, non-denominational, co-educational, college preparatory day school founded in 1982. Mounds Park serves over 700 students from throughout the Twin Cities metro area, Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade, in one building. This setting fosters role modeling, cross-grade collaboration, mentoring, and many other opportunities for shared growth and learning. Mounds Park's mission is to "teach students to think independently, communicate effectively and act with respect and integrity in a diverse community that models intellectual ambition, global responsibility and the joy of learning." As part of its outreach to the community Mounds Park has developed Breakthrough Saint Paul; a collaboration with the Saint Paul Public Schools. The collaboration was created in 2005 to increase the levels of participation of low-income highly motivated at-risk middle school students from Saint Paul Public Schools who succeed in academically rigorous junior high and high school courses and to encourage them to go on to college. Breakthrough Saint Paul is affiliated with the national Breakthrough program. Breakthrough was founded in San Francisco in 1978 and now serves more than 2,200 middle school students and employs 722 college and high school students in 26 locations across the U.S. Breakthrough is a two-year program that starts with students at the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The program has two components-summer school and school year support. All programs are tuition free. The summer school program runs for

six weeks, five days a week, seven hours a day, with two hours of homework each evening. The class work is academically intensive and student centered, with an average of eight students per class. The initiative recruits high school and college students to teach in the summer school program as a way to attract students of color to the teaching profession. Master teachers from the Saint Paul Public Schools mentor the high school and college age teachers. During the school year the students meet on fourteen Saturdays where they are offered enrichment classes and are provided encouragement and assistance, if needed, with their schoolwork and other issues that talented children must cope with in school settings. In January of 2007 Breakthrough added a high school program component to assist students in grades 9-12 to stay on the college prep track in high school and help them get into college. During this past year the program served 106 seventh, eighth and ninth graders and 30 aspiring teachers.

### **Current Request**

Mounds Park is requesting funds in order to continue to develop their Breakthrough Saint Paul Initiative. Their goals are to assist low-income students in making tangible changes in their education by increasing the number of Advance Placement and International Baccalaureate courses they take and by preparing them to enter college in four years; to train new leaders, particularly people of color, for professional positions as teachers; and to develop the organizational and financial capacity of Breakthrough Saint Paul so it can continue to support promising students from Saint Paul Public Schools. Breakthrough Saint Paul's goal for the 2008-2009 school year is to serve 147 students and recruit 30 aspiring teachers. The majority of the cost of the program is for salaries for the director, coordinator, and mentor teachers and for stipends for aspiring teachers. Other costs consist of recruitment of students and aspiring teachers and educational supplies.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$15,000 to Mounds Park Academy to help finance the budget of the Breakthrough Saint Paul Initiative.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND ANIMALS**

### **Como Friends**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Como Park Zoo and Como Conservatory are owned and operated by the City of Saint Paul and administered and managed by the City's Division of Parks and Recreation. Como Friends is a separate 501(c)(3) that exists to raise money from the private sector to support capital needs of the Zoo and Conservatory. Como Park Zoo and Conservatory welcomes a diverse audience that is representative of the Twin Cities ethnic and economic community. Admission is free and daily interpretation and enrichment offerings are provided free of charge to the public. Education programs have been developed for all age groups to meet the learning needs of the more than 7,000 school children a day who visit the Zoo and Conservatory during the spring months of April – June.

Since 2005, Como has operated the Visitor Center, providing classrooms, an auditorium and new learning exhibit; increased restrooms, a café, indoor eating area, customer service desk and a gift shop; and state-of-the-art facilities for the care and management of Como Zoo's animals. They have also recently added the new wing of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory and Tropic Encounters. Como Park Zoo and Conservatory employs fifty full-time staff and thirty part-time staff. During 2007, 1,200 volunteers contributed 47,800 hours of service. Como Friends employs thirteen full-time and nine part-time/seasonal gift shop staff. Como Friends is governed by a nineteen member Board of Directors.

### **Current Request**

A newly adopted master plan details a sequence of improvements to the animal habitats at Como Zoo and the gardens at Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. The first phase implementation of the Master Plan will cost \$18.80 million. Project elements include construction of a new polar bear habitat, construction of a new Japanese Gardens Experience, a Capital Maintenance Fund, and a Beautification and Interactives Fund. These improvements will be funded through a private sector/public sector partnership of Como Friends and City of Saint Paul/Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. Como Friends is undertaking an \$8.45 million campaign for the first phase projects. Objective One of the first phase is the Polar Bear Odyssey, a world class habitat that will provide the polar bears with a dramatically improved environment that is four times larger than their existing space and one that closely simulates their native Tundra habitat. Visitors will have an up-close and personal experience of both underwater and expansive views of the entire habitat from the comfort of a climate controlled building. Outside, visitors will have unobstructed views that bring the polar bears as close as twenty feet. A new education plan for teaching visitors about the environment was developed in parallel to the architectural drawings. The second objective is to add a new wing to the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory to provide a year-round indoor/outdoor experience of the Conservatory's Japanese plants and gardens with a particular focus on the Bonsai Garden. Additional elements of the Campaign are to integrate learning opportunities into Polar Bear Odyssey and the Japanese Gardens Experience and creation of a Capital Maintenance Fund and a Beautification and Interactives Fund to maintain the grounds and interactive learning experiences.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$250,000 to Como Friends for the Campaign for Como Park Zoo and Conservatory.

## **HEALTH**

### **Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

#### **Background and Purpose**

Founded by a small group of parents concerned about their children's mental health, the Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health (Children's) has evolved since its establishment in 1992 into a statewide education and advocacy organization. The organization's mission is to promote positive mental health for all infants, children, adolescents and their families. Key programs empower parents, teachers, mental health professionals, and youth with the knowledge and skills needed to understand, respect and address the unique needs of children with mental health disorders. Children's provides parent education and training, helps parents build peer support groups, and trains parents in advocacy and leadership skills. In addition, Children's provides publications and classroom curricula, professional training, and an annual conference that offers parents and professionals the opportunity to share the latest research, practices, and experiences in the field. Children's operates out of an office in the Cathedral Hill area with 11 staff.

#### **Current Request**

In 2007, Children's was awarded a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) to organize an advanced leadership training program for parents and caregivers of children with mental health disorders. Children's began the Family Catalyst Project in January 2008 and in the first year has provided formal training for 10 participants from the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Once trained, participants became actively involved in the work of 16 local, county and state policy and planning bodies. A new group of participants will begin in the second year, and interested first-year participants will help mentor the new Family Catalysts. Children's experience during the first year led staff to make changes in the project that require funding above and beyond the amount of the SAMSHA grant. Additional funds would be used to broaden the scope of participant activities; increase by 50% the number of new participants beyond what is required for the SAMSHA grant; provide appropriate stipends to participants that helps offset the time, travel and childcare costs related to their involvement in the project; and to help finance the increase in staff, travel and other program costs related to these changes.

#### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$30,000 to the Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health to help finance the budget to expand the Family Catalyst Project in Ramsey, Washington and Dakota counties.

### **Model Cities of St. Paul, Inc.**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

#### **Background and Purpose**

Model Cities of St. Paul (Model Cities) was started in 1967 as a neighborhood-based health outreach project in the Summit-University neighborhood. In 1985, after operating as a satellite clinic of the St. Paul Division of Public Health, it incorporated as a separate nonprofit organization. In 1991, due to restrictions in federal regulations, Model Cities was restructured into three components – a health clinic, a human services provider, and a community development program. In 1998, the health center became a separate organization, leaving Model Cities comprised of the two remaining components. The Model Cities Community Development Corporation promotes and carries out community-based development, contributing to the revitalization of inner city communities and improving the quality of life of residents.

Model Cities Human Services promotes the physical, mental, spiritual, social and economic well-being of individuals, families and communities which are underserved through services such as crisis intervention, children's mental health services, early childhood services, social services and client assistance, and youth services. Model Cities provides services from eight buildings in the Thomas-Dale neighborhood, including five apartment buildings for chemically dependent single parents and their children, a Children and Youth Services building, and the Model Cities BROWNstone, which houses administrative offices, family services programming and meeting space. Model Cities serves approximately 1,000 low-income families each year. MCASA Homes is a home ownership development partnership, established by Model Cities and Aurora-St Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation to increase homeownership, primarily among African American families in the Thomas-Dale and Summit-University neighborhoods.

### **Current Request**

Model Cities is requesting funding to help develop up to 15 affordable single-family (three bedroom) homes for families making from 50% to 80% of the Twin Cities median income as defined by federal guidelines. The program will target primarily African American families that have participated in the Home Stretch homebuyer's curriculum operated by Aurora-St Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation, Neighborhood Development Alliance, and ACORN. This project is based on a rent-to-own home ownership model, where targeted families can rent the home from 12 to 36 months before purchasing. During that time the renters receive one-on-one home ownership counseling, financial counseling and gap financing if needed to improve affordability. Currently Model Cities has site control over four properties. All of the sites are located in the Thomas Dale, Summit University neighborhoods. The goal is to rehab and/or build 15 houses by the end of the project. However, all the houses may not be complete by the end of the grant period; therefore the goal is to complete 10 houses by the end of the grant period.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$100,000 to Model Cities of St. Paul, Inc. to help finance the budget of the MCASA Homes partnership.

### **Regions Hospital Foundation**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

[www.regionshospital.com/Regions/Menu/0,1640,2220,00.html](http://www.regionshospital.com/Regions/Menu/0,1640,2220,00.html)

### **Background and Purpose**

Regions Hospital Foundation (Regions) was established in 1992 to support the programs and services of Regions Hospital (the Hospital), a full-service provider of medical and surgical care to the East Metro, eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. The Hospital, founded in 1852 and once operated by Ramsey County, is now a part of HealthPartners, a nonprofit consumer-governed health care organization. The mission of the Foundation is "to develop public awareness of, build community partnerships with and raise charitable contributions for Regions Hospital to secure better health for our patients and community." In 2007, the Hospital had 25,315 admissions and 274,428 outpatient visits. Regions provided a total of \$4,849,389 to the Hospital for programs, administration and support that year.

### **Current Request**

The Video Remote Interpreting System Pilot (the Pilot) involves employing the use of wireless technology to create a two-way visual and auditory link, in real time, between medical providers and patients of limited English proficiency. The purpose of the Pilot is to study the potential of the technology for: 1) providing safer, more effective language services than telephonic interpreter services during times when staff interpreters are unavailable; and 2) effectively replacing some in-person interpreters, allowing the

Hospital's Interpreter Services unit to focus in-person services in the areas of greatest need. The technology would be piloted in the Emergency Center, Birth Center and/or two internal medicine units, depending on the amount of funds raised. A small number of portable wireless units and the software for a number of the mobile computers currently on each hospital unit will be purchased from a vendor that specializes in video remote interpreting technology. Regions will also engage in a one-year contract with the vendor for video interpreting services. The success of the Video Remote Interpreting System and its impact on patient care will then be assessed so that educated decisions about long-term strategies for interpreter services can be made by the Hospital.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$40,000 to the Regions Hospital Foundation to help finance the budget of the Video Remote Interpreting System Pilot.

### **Sub-Saharan African Youth and Family Services in Minnesota**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

### **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 for 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 mission of African Services is to provide culturally-sensitive and linguistically-appropriate health education and social services to African immigrants and refugees. African Services programs include public education about Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) prevention and risk reduction, facilitation of a culturally-appropriate support group for African immigrants and refugees living with HIV, care advocacy and case management to address the basic needs of individuals and their families, and family enrichment activities for children with HIV. The organization has four full-time and three part-time staff, plus 13 volunteers. From January through June 2008, African Services educated more than 65,000 people about HIV prevention and served an additional 200 individuals through its other programs. The organization's office is located on University Avenue in St. Paul's Midway area.

### **Current Request**

In 2007 African Services hired a full-time Care Advocate to meet the needs of individuals who call or drop in at the African Services office for assistance, including finding food or housing, navigating the transit system, searching for addresses or telephone numbers, translating documents, faxing letters, communicating with service providers, etc. The demand for assistance in dealing with these immediate and short-term needs had increased as knowledge of African Services and its programs grew in the community, and the organization's capacity to respond was limited because of its small staff. Since the Care Advocate was hired, African Services has been able to create a more welcoming environment for clients by having someone on site whose sole focus is to readily respond to requests for assistance. Second and third year funding is being sought to help African Services maintain the Care Advocacy program while the organization works to integrate the program into its operating budget.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$37,500 to Sub-Saharan African Youth and Family Services to help finance the budget of the Care Advocacy Program.

## **HUMAN SERVICES**

### **Aeon Homes**

Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Aeon Homes (Aeon), formerly known as Central Community Housing Trust, was founded in 1986 in an effort to replace housing units lost through construction of the Minneapolis Convention Center. Since that time, Aeon has grown to become one of the largest providers of permanent affordable housing in Minnesota. Aeon currently owns and manages 1,484 units of housing. Aeon's mission is to create and sustain quality affordable housing that strengthens lives and communities. Aeon currently operates housing and related programming for childless, homeless adults; homeless youth (ages 16-20); low-income working people; very low and fixed income elders and handicapped individuals; and very low-income families. Residents in Aeon properties have an average household income of \$16,289 and a median household income of \$15,652.

### **Current Request**

The Renaissance Box building is located at 509 Sibley in the North Quadrant neighborhood of downtown Saint Paul. The building was built in 1915 and was the home of the O'Donnell Shoe Factory. Over the past thirty years the building has been underutilized as commercial and retail space. Aeon plans to develop 67 affordable rental units of housing in the Renaissance Box building, 16 efficiency apartments, 39 one-bedroom apartments, 12 two-bedroom apartments, and a first floor community room. The units will be rented to individuals and couples that are living at 30% of medium income (14 units) and individuals and couples living at 50% to 60% of medium income (53 units). Two additional units will be built at market rate to support the neighborhood's desire to have a variety of housing options in the building. Of the 67 units 14 will qualify as Heading Home Minnesota housing. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring 2009 and will be completed by spring 2010.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$100,000 to Aeon Homes to help finance the budget to renovate the Renaissance Box building for affordable housing.

### **Ain Dah Yung Our Home Shelter**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Ain Dah Yung Our Home Shelter's (Ain Dah Yung) mission is to assist American Indian youth and families to thrive in safety and wholeness, and to provide a healing place within the community. Since 1983, Ain Dah Yung has offered a "temporary, culturally-based, homelike environment to American Indian homeless and runaway youth." Services include emergency shelter for youth ages 5-17; Beverly A. Benjamin Youth Lodge transitional housing for youth ages 16 to 21; Ninijanisag chemical abuse prevention; the Violence Reduction Project, which provides mental health counseling to Indian youth ages 10-18 who exhibit serious emotional disturbances; Namadji Program, a program of suicide prevention for American Indian middle school students in St. Paul; Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Case Management; and the Indian Child Welfare Legal Advocacy Project, a collaboration with Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services to assist American Indian families who have open cases with Ramsey County social services and juvenile corrections. In 2001, Ain Dah Yung added Oyate Nawajin, a program that provides mental health services to Indian youth and their families. The agency has 30 full and part-time

staff, as well as a small group of alumni volunteers. Eighty percent of staff and volunteers are American Indian.

### **Current Request**

During 2008, with a grant from The Saint Paul Foundation, Ain Dah Yung launched Phase I of an effort to transition its accounting and fundraising functions from external consultants to internal staff positions. Ain Dah Yung is requesting \$25,000 to help finance Phase II of the transition which is scheduled for completion at the end of 2009. To date Ain Dah Yung has transitioned and trained existing administrative staff to support the additional marketing and development needs, and identified a full time finance director that will join the staff in January 2009. Ain Dah Yung has been thoughtful and thorough in how it provides professional development opportunities for its new staff, allowing ample time and support to help them grow into their positions and responsibilities. Plans for strengthening its administrative capacity in 2009 will build on its work from 2008 and include hiring a development director, increasing its fundraising staff to 1.5 FTE's, building capacity of existing staff to better understand organizational finances, including forecasting and cost analysis, and expanding its development plan to include activities to build their database of contacts, creating a case statement, launching an "alumni" campaign comprised of former employees and board members, and creating and implementing two marketing/fundraising events including planning their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$25,000 to Ain Dah Yung Our Home Shelter to help finance the budget of the Strengthening Administrative Capacity Project.

### **Aurora-St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Aurora-St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation (Aurora-St. Anthony) was established in 1980 as Aurora-St. Anthony Area Block Club, Inc. in St. Paul's Summit-University community as a neighborhood watch and crime prevention program. It is located at 774 University Avenue. Today it is a nonprofit membership-based organization with more than 200 members (residents, churches, and local businesses) serving the Summit-University, Aurora-St. Anthony, and Thomas-Dale (Frogtown) neighborhoods (Ward I). Aurora-St. Anthony programs include: affordable housing; minority business development; and workforce assistance to help residents find jobs and upgrade their work skills. Other activities include citizen participation programs (leadership development, block clubs, Got Voice Got Power-Citizen Engagement Program, crime prevention, and organizing), financial literacy classes, micro-entrepreneur training, healthy youth development and senior programs, community gardens, and science educational programs for neighborhood youth. Since the mid-1980s, Aurora-St. Anthony has renovated and sold over 31 homes for low- to moderate-income families and facilitated the demolition of 15 nuisance and abandoned properties. It also developed the open-air market on University and Dale, which provides an opportunity for local community members to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. Aurora-St. Anthony's vision is to improve the social and economic well being of the communities it serves. In 2007, Aurora-St. Anthony served over 750 individuals through its programs. Aurora-St. Anthony is also the co-developer and owner of 92 affordable rental units that are located over the new Rondo Community Library at University and Dale.

### **Current Request**

The Power of One Plus One Program has been designed to increase resident leadership in Frogtown and the Thomas-Dale neighborhoods. The goal of the program is to have grassroots community resident leaders -

20 over two years - that have a passion for a community project and want to volunteer their time for a year to bring the program or activity to completion. During the year, in addition to working on their project, participants take part in monthly meetings and training to help them become competent neighborhood leaders. The funds requested for this program would go toward the salary of a coordinator, a stipend for participants and general program costs.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$30,000 to Aurora-St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation to help finance the Power of One Plus One Program.

### **Centro Legal Inc.**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

[www.centro-legal.org](http://www.centro-legal.org)

### **Background and Purpose**

Centro Legal, Inc., (Centro) is a nonprofit community law office and Minnesota's leading legal advocate for Latinos. Based in St. Paul, Centro provides legal services to more than 3,000 Latinos and their families each year, more than any other private or public institution in the state. Its mission is to empower Latinos through legal advocacy. Centro delivers bilingual and culturally relevant services that increase access to opportunities and improve the capacity for self-sufficiency and success of Latinos across the state. In 2007, direct legal services benefited more than 1,500 individuals including representing 1,147 to achieve a more secure immigration status, 430 to secure employment authorization, 486 who were victims of domestic violence including representing 89 victims in Order for Protection proceedings, and 83 families in foreclosure prevention, employment disputes, security deposit disputes, wrongful eviction, and rental safety and habitability.

### **Current Request**

Centro is requesting \$50,000 over two years to support the Foreclosure Legal Assistance for Latinos in St. Paul Project. In response to high demand, Centro has restructured its Poverty Law Unit and hired a new bilingual and culturally competent attorney to focus on foreclosure prevention services. Centro anticipates that these services will be in high demand over the next two years as the foreclosure crisis continues to play out. Foreclosure prevention services include direct legal assistance to individuals and families as well as foreclosure prevention education and advocacy. As a result, Latino families in St. Paul and throughout the East Metro who are at risk of losing their homes will avoid foreclosure and families seeking new mortgages will secure mortgages with terms that do not put them at financial risk of foreclosure. Additionally, lenders that target Latinos with predatory and discriminatory practices will be held accountable.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$25,000 to Centro Legal, Inc. to help finance the budget of the Foreclosure Legal Assistance for Latinos in St. Paul Project.

### **CommonBond Communities**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

CommonBond Communities was founded in 1971 and has grown to become the largest nonprofit provider of affordable housing with resident services in the Upper Midwest. Their goals include acquiring and rehabilitating existing properties in order to create and preserve high quality affordable housing and to build

community; maintaining high quality properties so the community sees them as assets; forming community partnerships that encourage economic self-sufficiency for families and academic achievement for students; and providing independent living for seniors and residents with special needs. Additionally they work to engage the local community so affordable housing is better understood. More than 7,300 people live in CommonBond housing statewide including 2,000 children and teens. One of its largest buildings is Skyline Towers in Saint Paul where over 1,000 people live. Over 75% of all residents are families with children and 20% are over the age of 62. Annual household incomes average less than \$13,700.

### **Current Request**

CommonBond, in partnership with Ramsey County Community Human Services, Ronald M. Hubbs Center, Neighborhood House and Hmong American Partnership, is requesting \$30,000 in bridge funding for the Hmong Somali Outreach Program. This partnership, started in 2006, provides information and access to Ramsey County services for limited English proficient people. Funding for its initial work was provided by a grant from the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. The partnership gave Ramsey County the opportunity to train two of its employees on an array of services specific to meeting the needs of immigrant communities. Once trained, the county employees were co-located at Neighborhood House, Ronald Hubbs Center for Lifelong Learning, Hmong American Partnership, and Skyline Towers. In each location county staff are a critical point of contact for the Hmong and Somali communities—educating them on how to access county services, providing needs assessments and service information. The federal funding that launched the partnership will sunset at the end of 2008. On behalf of the partnership CommonBond is requesting transitional operating support to allow the two county employees to continue providing services in 2009 linking refugees with critically needed county and community services.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$30,000 to CommonBond Communities to help finance the budget of the Hmong Somali Outreach Program.

### **Genesys Works**

Houston, Texas

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Genesys Works began in Houston, Texas in 2002 with seed money and involvement from Social Venture Partners. The program creates connections between economically disadvantaged high school students, businesses seeking skilled workers, and public education. Bright, motivated minority students who do not have a lot of resources and who may not have considered a professional career are recruited to participate in the program beginning in the summer between their junior and senior years of high school. They spend the summer training in IT skills as well as general business skills. They are then placed in an IT position with a Fortune 1000 corporation. During their senior year of high school, they take classes in their schools in the morning and spend the afternoons working in their new position. There they are mentored by professional staff members. The students also continue to meet as a group once a week for support, continued training and social and community service opportunities. In addition, they receive guidance in how to move forward in their education including advice from enrollment and financial aid experts. They learn to evaluate various colleges, fill out applications and write essays, and apply for scholarships. All in all, over the course of 14 months, approximately 1,500 hours are spent by each student in these activities. Over 900 students have participated in the program since it began six years ago in Houston.

### **Current Request**

Up until now, Genesys Works has only been available in the Houston area. Based on the success of the

program, they have decided to expand into other cities. The Twin Cities was chosen as the first expansion site. With the help of the local Social Venture Partners organization, a pilot program was held this summer with 12 students. They met in downtown Saint Paul for training five days a week, four hours a day for eight weeks. They worked with several trainers to learn specific IT skills as well as interpersonal and other “soft” business skills such as professional dress and behavior, time management, etc. The students are currently in their senior year of high school studying in the morning, working in a professional capacity at a local corporation in the afternoon, and preparing to go on to higher education. The pilot is based in Saint Paul, and the Genesys Works staff is partnering with Saint Paul public schools for student recruitment. The pilot program included students from Harding, Highland Park and Humboldt high schools. The corporate partners include Ecolab, 3M, Travelers, Bremer, Land O’Lakes, Deluxe and the City of Saint Paul. In terms of college access, Genesys Works has developed curriculum for students, but they also collaborate and coordinate with existing programs such as Admission Possible and Minnesota College Access Network to take advantage of their successful programming for students of color.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$30,000 to Genesys Works to help finance the budget to establish a career training program for high school students in Saint Paul.

### **Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

### **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 to 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, which 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 second-year funding of \$35,000 for its Empower Frogtown Plan. The plan is designed to work with the Mayor's program, Invest St. Paul. The Frogtown neighborhood currently has 112 vacant houses. The Empower Frogtown Plan targets blocks that have a high percentage of vacant homes and property. The Greater Frogtown staff 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 has purchased properties to fix up as rental properties. Greater Frogtown added 1.5 staff positions to carry out this work and continues to see a need for this strategic block-focused approach because of the increased number of foreclosures.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$35,000 to the Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation

to help finance the budget of the Empower Frogtown Initiative.

## **Greater Twin Cities United Way**

Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Greater Twin Cities United Way (United Way) has served the Twin Cities since 1915. The organization's mission is to unite caring people in building stronger communities by inspiring people to help others, increasing resources to meet needs, and fostering innovative solutions to problems. The United Way works in partnership with businesses, government and nonprofit organizations to improve lives and strengthen the community. Counties included in its service region include Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties.

The United Way has adopted the Agenda for Lasting Change, a long-term commitment to measurably impact the communities most pressing issues through 10 goals in three critical areas:

- Meeting Basic Needs
  - Reduce hunger in our area by 20 percent by 2009.
  - In partnership with the Governor's initiative, end long-term homelessness in the Twin Cities by 2010.
  - Improve the financial stability of 40,000 individuals by 2009.
  
- Supporting Health and Independence
  - Increase access to health care for an additional 25,000 people by 2010.
  - Increase healthy, preventive behavior among an additional 15,000 children by 2010.
  - Help an additional 15,000 seniors and people with disabilities maximize independence by 2010.
  
- Nurturing Children and Families
  - Increase the number of third-graders reading at grade level to 80 percent by 2012.
  - Reach 15,000 additional youth through quality out-of-school time programming by 2012 (in partner school districts).
  - Reduce family violence by increasing access to services 20 percent by 2012.
  - Working with key community partners, ensure 80 percent of Minnesota's children are ready for kindergarten by 2012.

### **Current Request**

Reducing hunger in our region by 20 percent is one of the ten measurable goals that form the United Way's Agenda for Lasting Change. To reach this goal, the United Way has invested \$2 million this year to support forty food shelves serving the highest poverty neighborhoods in the Twin Cities area. Fifteen are located in the East Metro area. Even with this effort the need is increasing faster than it can be met. In response the United Way is allocating \$300,000 from its emergency funds and is inviting others to contribute to an emergency pool to make additional grants to the food banks it supports to purchase additional food to distribute to those in need. East Metro Food Shelf locations include the Dorothy Day Center, Hallie Q. Brown (2 sites), Keystone Community Services (3 sites), Merrick Community Services (2 sites), Neighborhood House, The Salvation Army (2 sites), Sharing Korner, Neighbors Inc., Community Action

Council, and Family Pathways. The United Way has invited The Saint Paul Foundation to contribute to this emergency pool.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$100,000 to the Greater Twin Cities United Way for a fund to distribute money to food shelves in the East Metro area to purchase additional food to meet increasing demand.

### **Hmong Educational Center**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

### **Background and Purpose**

Hmong Educational Center was founded in 2000 to respond to a community concern that Hmong adults are unable to read and write in English and that more than 80% of all Hmong students in Saint Paul Schools are considered students with limited English proficiency. Hmong Educational Center is located at 995 University Avenue. Its mission is “to provide educational services and opportunities to Hmong children, adults, and families so they can communicate effectively and contribute proactively to a diverse community.” Currently, the center offers four programs: in-home after-school tutoring program; Hmong adult reading and writing classes in English and Hmong; Youth Cultural Program where Hmong youth learn their traditions and cultural practices; and Parent Seminars. The staff and board also serve as resources to area schools on how to resolve issues between families and the schools. Since its inception, the Hmong Educational Center, through its 8 volunteers, one full-time staff person, and six part-time staff, has served over 580 Hmong children, youth, and adults.

### **Current Request**

The Hmong Educational Center is seeking funding to continue its Refugee Youth Survival Skills Program. The goal of the program is to teach survival skills to 105 Hmong youth, ages 10 to 17, who are new Hmong refugees. The program is designed to assist with the youths’ adjustment to life in America, while maintaining the positive influences of their own culture. The program works with 35 youth at a time over a 13-week period. The program focuses on four areas: communications - English language, reading and identifying signs, forms and applications; laws - regulations, fishing and hunting, gangs and violence; transportation skills - city buses, school buses, cabs and drivers licenses; and technology skills - phones, calculators, and computers.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$17,000 to the Hmong Educational Center to help finance the budget of the Refugee Youth Survival Skills Program.

### **Home Ownership Center**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

The Home Ownership Center (Center), founded in 1993, is an organization dedicated to helping low-income and moderate -income Minnesotans purchase and maintain homes. The Center got its start from stakeholders in the mortgage industry concerned with affordable, sustainable home ownership. The Center has grown to become a network of 50 agencies throughout the state of Minnesota. The Center provides the 50 agencies with curriculum for pre-purchase education and counseling; training and certification for community-based home ownership education and counseling; technical assistance in reporting and evaluation tools; program marketing and outreach; funding for network members that work toward ensuring

sustainable home ownership throughout Minnesota; and leadership and technical expertise in initiatives related to affordable home ownership. Annually, the Center and its network of agencies provide 15,000 low- to moderate-income households with the tools they need to purchase and sustain affordable homes. The Center is currently collaborating with the Dakota County Community Development Agency and the Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority to increase the number of home owners in Dakota and Washington counties receiving foreclosure prevention services.

### **Current Request**

Between 2000 and 2006, foreclosures in the East Metro grew by 441%. In Dakota County there were 864 foreclosures in 2006, 1,610 in 2007 and 1,449 through August of 2008. In Washington County there were 429 foreclosures in 2006, 878 in 2007 and 926 through August 2008. The sub-prime lending market has been the driving force in the growth of foreclosures; many low-income and moderate-income families in the community will lose their homes in the coming year because they have sub-prime loans or predatory loans. The Center is requesting funds to continue a project to decrease the number of families going through foreclosure by developing an early intervention approach that identifies borrowers who are at risk of defaulting on their loans. The Center has also increased its capacity to manage the increasing number of home owners that need foreclosure prevention services by streamlining its policies and practices to increase its efficiency and effectiveness and build the staff capacity of its foreclosure prevention program in Dakota and Washington counties. The Center will maintain a staff person to work .5 FTE in Dakota County and .5 FTE in Washington County. Through this intervention, the Center plans to assist 1,120 homeowners with issues related to foreclosure.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$25,000 to the Home Ownership Center to help finance the budget of the East Metro Enhanced Foreclosure Prevention Services Program.

### **Keystone Community Services**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Keystone Community Services was created in 2004 as the result of a merger of Merriam Park Community Services and Neighbor to Neighbor with a goal of expanding services to meet the increasing and evolving community. The merging agencies both grew out of the settlement house tradition, shared neighboring service areas, and had decades of experience of providing a broad array of human services to their respective communities. Keystone's service area includes the Midway and North End areas of Saint Paul and north suburban Ramsey County, and 85% of its clients are low-income. Keystone's mission is "to strengthen the capacity of individuals and families to improve their quality of life, thereby strengthening our entire community."

In 2004 Keystone identified immigrant and refugee children in low-income housing as the children most in need in their service area and hired a Hmong staff member to develop the Hmong Youth and Families Program (Program) to provide afterschool programming for Hmong girls (8-18 years of age) and their families at McDonough Homes. The program promotes healthy social and emotional development and school success, and teaches youth to live in two cultures; the American setting in which they are growing up, as well as the traditional Hmong culture of their parents and elders. Since older Hmong girls are often responsible for taking care of younger siblings, participation of the younger children made it possible for older girls to attend to provide mentoring opportunities between older and younger kids. Program components include: schoolwork assistance, afterschool and summer enrichment activities (including culturally specific activities such as Hmong dance; a support group, mentoring and leadership opportunities

for high school age girls, monthly family activities; and in-home, culturally specific case management support for families.

### **Current Request**

Keystone is seeking funds to expand the Hmong Youth and Families Program to serve 40 youth (versus 28 currently registered) and to increase the frequency of meetings from twice a week to three times per week in 2009 and to five times per week by the end of 2010. In addition, Keystone wants to expand the number of families participating in its weekly meetings between youth and their parents to serve an additional 62 youth (versus 44 currently registered). Staff will continue to make home visits to families who cannot attend (30 families per year) and to have monthly activities for both groups. During the grant period, Keystone will also explore the feasibility of adding an activity to the afterschool program that would be more appealing to boys in order to increase the number of male participants, as the Public Housing Authority has indicated a great need for afterschool programming for boys at McDonough Homes.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$50,000 to Keystone Community Services to help finance the budget to expand the Youth Development Program.

### **Opportunity Neighborhood Development Corporation**

New Brighton, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Opportunity Neighborhood Development Corporation (ONDC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1998 to address the needs of low-income individuals and families experiencing barriers to housing stability. ONDC addresses these needs by making financial investments in affordable housing sites while integrating a social service system within these sites where chronic resident housing mobility is high. ONDC currently coordinates individual and family support services at Ames Lake in the East Side of St. Paul and Polynesian Village in New Brighton, as well as Eden Park in Brooklyn Park. The three agency objectives for all sites are increased community safety, increased housing stability and increased opportunities for family success. Programs developed to meet these goals include youth and early childhood, financial literacy, case management services, information and referral services, community building activities and safety programs.

### **Current Request**

ONDC is requesting funding to expand the Family Success Project (FSP), a program designed to directly stop housing loss, while providing long-term employment and economic support services, to two new affordable housing properties owned by the Cornerstone Group. The program will be hosted at Cedarview Apartments in North St. Paul and Rivertown Commons in the Frogtown neighborhood of Saint Paul. The FSP includes employment support services, adult support groups, monthly educational workshops, career mentoring opportunities and rent assistance during a financial crisis. During the first two years of the program at Ames Lake and Polynesian Village, the integration of employment and housing services helped to create an environment of family stability, which meant that children were more likely to stay longer in their school location. The management company supports this program with rental assistance to families that participate in the program. Foundation funds will be used to support the cost of the staff and related program expenses at the new sites.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$15,000 to Opportunity Neighborhood Development Corporation to help finance the budget to expand the Family Success Project to two additional sites.

**People Incorporated**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

**Background and Purpose**

People Incorporated (People) was founded in 1969 to provide help and support for an underserved population of men and women living in halfway houses and shelters throughout the Twin Cities, many of whom had been released from institutional settings and displayed symptoms of mental illness and chemical dependency. People's mission is "to promote and secure independence for people with mental illness and other brain disorders" through delivery of client-driven and evidence-based services. Services are highly individualized to address a wide range of needs for people with serious and persistent mental illness, ranging from community support services to intensive residential treatment and homeless outreach. In 2007, 5,646 people were served through 41 programs located in Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Anoka, and Dakota counties. The organization is based in St. Paul and employs 446 full-time and part-time staff.

**Current Request**

People began the Next Steps Program (Next Steps) as a pilot in July 2007 in collaboration with Dakota County Community Services' Supportive Housing Unit and the CAP Agency's Housing and Homeless Prevention program. Next Steps is designed for high-risk young families with a history of mental illness, intergenerational homelessness and poverty. A Family Specialist works on a one-to-one basis with young single parents – primarily mothers -- in their homes to address, on an individualized basis, barriers to self-sufficiency and destructive patterns of family functioning. The Family Specialist serves as coach and mentor by helping to build parenting skills and establish family routines; assisting with paperwork and medication management; accompanying family members to appointments; and setting goals for training, education or employment. People is requesting grant funds to build on the pilot phase of Next Steps by increasing the number of families served from about 15 to about 20, and by providing more intensive services to families with the hiring of a second Family Specialist at .5 FTE. Funds would also supplement the limited resources available for the associated costs of transportation, child care and other expenses that help facilitate the parent's participation in support or treatment groups, vocational or educational programs, or parenting programs. These activities are instrumental for attainment of self-sufficiency by participant families.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$20,000 to People Incorporated to help finance the budget of the Next Steps Program in Dakota County.

**Project Pathfinder Inc.**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

**Background and Purpose**

Founded in 1986 as an adult sexual behavior treatment program of HealthEast, Project Pathfinder Inc (Pathfinder) has since evolved into an independent nonprofit dedicated to the elimination of sexual violence and abuse. The organization's mission is to provide psychotherapy, consultation, training, education, and research in a way that: 1) protects the community interests; 2) prevents sexual violence and abuse; and 3) improves the lives of clients, their families and the community. Children, adolescents, adults, and families are served by Pathfinder through evaluation and treatment programs; education and outreach about child sexual abuse warning signs, services and prevention; and training on topics related to the treatment and prevention of sexual abuse. Pathfinder's public health campaign, Stop It Now! Minnesota, is focused on

empowering adults to prevent the sexual abuse of children. Pathfinder is a statewide organization with a main office in St. Paul and satellite offices in seven other locations in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and Greater Minnesota.

### **Current Request**

The Development Director Project (the Project) involves filling a newly-created full-time Development Director (Director) position and related expenses, including donor database software and marketing costs. The Director will be responsible for identifying, cultivating, soliciting, and stewarding individual, corporate, and foundation prospects, and for developing and implementing a comprehensive fundraising plan. Should funding be secured, Pathfinder anticipates filling the position by March 2009. The Director's first-year activities will include researching and purchasing development software, and creating and maintaining a donor database; creating a fundraising and communications plan; and developing written policies and procedures for tracking and reporting on grants and donations.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$25,000 to Project Pathfinder Inc to help finance the budget of the Development Director Project.

### **Resource Inc.**

Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Resource Inc (Resource) is a multi-service organization in Minneapolis founded in 1960. Its mission is to "empower people to achieve greater personal, social and economic success, with the commitment of undoing racism and promoting diversity." Resource is comprised of four divisions: 1. Employment Action Center provides individualized, professional guidance and support for disadvantaged jobseekers focusing on their specific needs including low-income working mothers, dislocated workers, at-risk youth, teen parents, welfare recipients, adults with literacy needs, and mature workers; 2. Recovery Resource Center serves individuals with chemical health problems by providing outpatient treatment, aftercare, and transitional housing; 3. Spectrum Community Mental Health helps people with mental illness live in the community by providing supportive services; and 4. Minnesota Resource Center expands employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities through evaluation, training, placement, and retention services. In 2007, Resource assisted 11,704 low-income adults to reach their parenting, educational and employment goals. These individuals were responsible for 14,037 children who benefited from their parents' increased stability and self-sufficiency. In 1994, Resource designed the Young Dads program in Minneapolis to assist at-risk disadvantaged young fathers, age 15-29, become involved financially, physically, and emotionally with their children and secure and retain employment that supports self-sufficiency.

### **Current Request**

In 2007, several Ramsey County judges who had seen good results with the young fathers participating in Young Dads in Minneapolis, asked Resource Inc to expand the program to Saint Paul. Young Dads provides services that assist young men in finishing basic education, locating affordable permanent housing, receiving employment training, preparing for secure employment, learning parenting, financial, and conflict resolution skills and supporting their children. People of color make up 95% of the participants. When they enter the program most of the young fathers are unemployed, 86% are either homeless or living in temporary housing, and most are behind in their child support. The second year of the program has experienced growth, with 92 participants, surpassing the agency's goal of 80. Resource is requesting funds to continue its Young Dads Program for a third year in Saint Paul. Funds for the expansion help cover the costs of two full-time case managers, administrative staff, scholarships and other opportunities for the men,

and space and equipment.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$30,000 to Resource Inc. to help finance the budget of the Young Dads Program.

### **Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity Inc.**

Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity Inc (Habitat) was established as an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International in 1985 and completed the rehabilitation of its first house in the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis in 1986. As a local affiliate, Habitat is responsible for all aspects of home building. This includes fund development, site selection, rehabilitation and new construction, volunteer recruitment and management, selection of families and mortgage financing. Each home that is produced uses the same unique formula: 1) extensive use of volunteer labor, 2) donation of construction materials, 3) surplus land or vacant homes, and 4) generous cash contributions from individuals, congregations, corporations and foundations. As a result of these efforts, Habitat has produced over 700 units of affordable, owner-occupied homes and has grown to become one of the largest Habitat for Humanity affiliates in the United States.

### **Current Request**

Habitat is requesting funds to build a web-based online volunteer management system and advocacy tool. This will work with Habitat's new "Build, Think, Act" program, which has been designed to affect how people think and feel about affordable housing. The advocacy tool will allow Habitat to e-mail all of its volunteers to provide educational updates and action alerts on housing issues. Being able to register volunteers on-line at the construction site means that Habitat will be able to follow up with immediate and customized communication to thank volunteers for their involvement and invite them to participate in further action. Communications will include sharing facts, current events, and opportunities to take action related to affordable housing, while directing people to the Habitat website for more information. It will also include action alerts sent through e-advocacy tools, which will connect volunteers directly to their public officials. Habitat will make it easy for volunteers to take action as advocates and will keep Habitat and housing at the top of their mind after their volunteer day.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$100,000 to Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity Inc to help finance development of technology to support its civic engagement initiative Housing Matters.

### **Amherst H. Wilder Foundation**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Established in 1906, The Amherst H. Wilder Foundation (Wilder) is one of St. Paul's largest human service providers, serving over 10,000 clients in the greater Saint Paul and surrounding areas last year. Wilder operates more than 70 programs intended to help children succeed in school, older adults remain independent, troubled youth and families create healthy futures, and individuals and families maintain long-term, affordable housing. Working with more than 100 organizations, Wilder Research Center (WRC) is

one of the nation's largest nonprofit research and evaluation groups dedicated to the field of human service.

### **Current Request**

Project Kofi is a culturally specific, school-based mental health program designed to eliminate barriers to success for African American boys in grades three through eight who have a mental health diagnosis. Currently Project Kofi is in seven Saint Paul Public Schools. The goal of Project Kofi is to improve the success of African American youth at home, in school, and in the community with the result of improved mental health, academic performance, and school attendance and development of positive self-perception in each youth. This year Project Kofi will work with 104 youth in the Saint Paul Public Schools. In response to requests from the principals at Webster and Jackson Elementary Schools and parents from these schools, the Wilder Foundation decided to expand the services of Project Kofi to these two schools and create a program component addressing the needs of girls (grades three through eight). The program began at the beginning of the current school year. Wilder Foundation is requesting funds to assist in implementation of the current expansion. The expansion will serve an additional 40 students, half of whom will be girls. Expansion costs include the addition of a project supervisor who will assist in the development of the girls program and the addition of a project counselor who will provide services to the two new schools.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$60,000 to the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation to help finance the budget to expand Project Kofi.

### **Wilderness Inquiry Inc.**

Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Established in 1978, Wilderness Inquiry, Inc. (WI) provides outdoor educational and recreational experiences for people with and without disabilities. Their mission is to “facilitate community integration, promote healthy lifestyles and encourage stewardship of the environment for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.” Wilderness Inquiry advances the study of wilderness experiences by developing enabling technology and disseminating information. In 2007 WI served 9,903 people (including close to 2,000 Saint Paul residents) on 272 events, including 50 events in St. Paul and the surrounding communities, bringing people to areas such as the Mississippi River, St. Croix River, Lake Phalen, and Como Park. Programs include Inclusive Outdoor Adventures – multi-day wilderness experiences; Outdoor Skills Workshops – socially integrated workshops in urban settings in St. Paul and Minneapolis that serve youth and families with little or no experience in outdoor recreation activities; Adventure Leadership Program – a year-round outdoor leadership program for teens of all abilities and backgrounds; Universal Access Training – training for organizations and individuals who want to learn how to effectively include people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities in their activities and programs; Schools and Community Partnerships; and Project FIT (Families Integrating Together) – opportunities for families to learn new skills, build peer support networks and make new connections with other families from all backgrounds. Wilderness Inquiry is governed by a 21-member board of directors and has ten full-time staff, 50 professional trail guides and an active volunteer base of 400.

### **Current Request**

Wilderness Inquiry is requesting support from The Saint Paul Foundation for a special initiative that establishes a Mississippi River canoe route that goes through the urban core of the Twin Cities including downtown Saint Paul. The Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventure (UWCA) will provide increased access to the outdoors in the middle of the metro area for disadvantaged youth and families. The program will ramp up capacity over the first 36 months, building from 1,000 participants in 2008 to 10,000 youth served by

2010. Each group will paddle the river, camp, cook and conduct camp crafts. Both day and overnight trips will be offered. WI will provide all equipment and supervisory staff necessary for each trip. Partners committed to this vision include both cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the National Park Service, The Mississippi River Fund, Aggregate Industries, and many school groups and Boy and Girl Scout troops. The program hopes to impact young people in three ways: increased community integration by youth with disabilities and economic disadvantages; increased personal health; and increased understanding and respect for the environment, specially the unique Mississippi River watershed.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$30,000 to Wilderness Inquiry to help finance the budget of the Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventure.

## **PUBLIC, SOCIETAL BENEFIT**

### **Farmers' Legal Action Group Inc.**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

#### **Background and Purpose**

Farmers Legal Action Group Inc (FLAG) was founded in 1986. Its mission is to provide legal services to family farmers and their communities to help keep family farmers on the land. FLAG employs the following methods of assistance: Education – FLAG conducts seminars in Minnesota on issues facing farmers such as credit, contract farming, sustainable agriculture, and disaster assistance; Back-up support – FLAG maintains a toll-free line that Minnesota farmers, lawyers, and advocates can call for brief advice and referral; Impact Litigation – FLAG undertakes strategic litigation to change important areas of law that will have an effect on a large number of family farmers; Administrative and Legislative Technical Assistance – FLAG submits formal comments on proposed agency regulations, testifies before federal and state legislative bodies, and assists client organizations in drafting legislation.

#### **Current Request**

FLAG is requesting \$105,000 (\$35,000 each year for three years) to expand technical and legal assistance to East Metro Hmong family farmers and to assess the legal needs of East Metro Latino farmers. FLAG will leverage its relationships with partner organizations to access Hmong farmers, including the Association of the Advancement of Hmong Women, Lao Family Community, Hmong American Partnership, Minnesota Food Association and the St. Paul Growers Association. Each of these partners has been in a long-term relationship with FLAG and supports the expansion. FLAG will convene a series of workshops for Hmong farmers to educate them on agriculture risk management and assist them in applying for risk management products from the government. FLAG will also assist Hmong farmers in applying for disaster assistance under applicable federal or state programs, helping to enroll farmers with the local Farm Service Agency. FLAG will document its assistance activities with Hmong farmers to ensure the program is appropriately meeting their needs and to collect lessons learned that may be shared with the broader Hmong farming community, as well as other emerging immigrant farmer from communities of color. FLAG will also advocate on behalf of Hmong farmers when appropriate.

#### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$35,000 to the Farmers Legal Action Group Inc. for the budget to expand outreach efforts to East Metro Hmong and Latino farmers.

### **Neighborhood Development Alliance, Inc.**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

#### **Background and Purpose**

Neighborhood Development Alliance, Inc. (NeDA) was founded in 1989 as the West Side's community development program and was charged with implementing the priorities of the 1988 West Side Long Range Plan. NeDa's mission is to strengthen the vitality of lower-income neighborhoods within the City of Saint Paul, by creating and preserving housing and business opportunities for residents of all income levels. NeDA provides a variety of housing programs including home ownership counseling, single-family rehab and new construction, home improvement loans, foreclosure services in Spanish, and multi-family rental asset management. Since its inception NeDA has developed 108 units of rental housing and sold 88 homes to moderate and low income homebuyers. Each year NeDA provides financial and home buyer counseling to over 1,320 people.

### **Current Request**

NeDA is requesting funds to do a feasibility study that would address the growing number of vacant duplexes on Saint Paul's West Side. The program will look at the feasibility of developing a scattered site condominium association. Grant dollars will be used to hire consultants (land use consultant, building rehab consultant and condominium researcher) to work with NeDA to determine the feasibility of this type of housing project. The goal is to put together 10 duplexes (20 units) for home ownership for low to moderate income families.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$20,000 to Neighborhood Development Alliance, Inc. to help finance the budget of the New Life for Abandoned Homes Project.

### **Organizing Apprenticeship Project**

Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

The Organizing Apprenticeship Project (OAP) was founded in 1993 to improve the quality of community organizing work in Minnesota by providing and improving access to quality training for diverse groups of local community organizers. OAP's mission is to increase the number, skills, and diversity of trained community organizers in Minnesota. OAP is one of the few programs in the nation that successfully recruits and trains organizers to work in a wide range of organizing settings. Through its paid apprenticeship program, OAP recruits and hires 12 potential organizers per year. Apprentices are placed with experienced community organizers in local community-based organizations including neighborhood groups, organizations, churches, and coalitions. 102 emerging community organizers have participated in an intensive 6-month apprenticeship training program. Over 55% trained in the past three years have gone on to organize in St. Paul and the East Metro. Eighty-seven organizers have participated in advanced training. Over 30% are from the East Metro.

### **Current Request**

The Organizing Apprenticeship Project is requesting \$60,000 over the next two years to help increase capacity in the areas of development, communications, administration and technology. Three years ago, OAP refocused its work to increase their capacity to do racial justice organizing. New Program strategies in the areas of research, strategic convening/events and a statewide power-analysis project were added. OAP's core organizational networks, defined as active working relationships with organizations that inform and shape their work, grew exponentially from 25 to more than 80. OAP also doubled its staffing capacity from 2.5 FTE to 5 FTE. Now OAP must fortify its infrastructure so it can sustain its racial justice organizing initiatives at their new and higher level of impact. OAP must increase and diversify its revenue streams (racial justice giving circles), improve data management and build an information management system that allow OAP to communicate and connect critical racial justice and organizational information across its core networks, develop communication strategies that connect the emerging base of racial justice leaders and organizations to each other and to OAP, and increase administrative capacity to sustain its core strategies and support the expansion of its program strategies.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$60,000 to the Organizing Apprenticeship Project to help finance the budget of the Capacity and Infrastructure Building Project.

## **Riverview Economic Development Association**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

The Riverview Economic Development Association (REDA) was founded in 1983 to focus on redevelopment of the Riverview Commercial District on Saint Paul's West Side known as District del Sol. The Riverview Commercial District includes the retail corridor of Wabasha, Robert and Cesar Chavez Streets. REDA's mission is "To enhance the quality of life of St. Paul's West Side by cultivating a sustainable and vibrant business community." REDA leads marketing activities for District del Sol by celebrating public life including Music and Movies in Parque Castillo, Blooming District del Sol and the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, bringing more than 100,000 visitors to the neighborhood each year. REDA's newest program is the Commercial Development Program. They have four full time staff, twelve volunteer board members, and 350 volunteers for Cinco de Mayo.

### **Current Request**

REDA is requesting \$45,000 to help finance start-up of the Commercial Development Program created to address the problem of strategic commercial sites in District del Sol which have been persistently vacant or underutilized. Recently REDA hired its first Commercial Development Manager and is launching a creative development strategy for these key, blighted properties. Priorities include development of the Commercial Club site at the intersection of Robert and Cesar Chavez Streets, a building that has been vacant for over twenty years, and the proposed development of 430 South Robert, a badly polluted site of a former gas station. REDA has acquired the land at the Commercial Club site, involving five different parcels and three different property owners. The land acquisition is the first step in the redevelopment of the Robert/Cesar Chavez intersection.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$45,000 to the Riverview Economic Development Association to help finance the start-up budget of the Commercial Development Program.

## **University of Minnesota Foundation**

Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

The Center for Democracy and Citizenship (the Center) 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 and visible effort with lasting civic or public significance done by ordinary people." The work focuses on segments of society frequently marginalized including children and youth, particularly those in urban environments; new immigrant populations; and racial and ethnic minorities. The Center's work is based on the principle that a healthy democracy requires everyone's participation and productive contributions, and that everyone has immense potential and capacity to bring to the ongoing work of democratic societies. Some of the Center's initiatives include: *Public Achievement*, an experience-based youth civic education effort located in multiple US cities; *Healthy Together*, an initiative promoting community building by creating opportunities for meaningful exchanges between immigrant and non-immigrant groups; *Minnesota Works Together*, a program created to excavate Minnesota's civic traditions and revitalize public life; the *Neighborhood Learning Community*, an effort by West Side citizens to create a culture of learning; and the *Jane Addams School for Democracy*, a community-based initiative where West Side students, new immigrants and citizens prepare for active participation in public life. A Leadership Team comprised of 1.9 FTE staff and

15 participants (both immigrant and non-immigrant) meet weekly to reflect on the work and practices of the school and to change the work and practices as needed to best meet the needs of all involved. All initiatives of the Humphrey Institute are guided by an Institute Advisory Board of 48 members representing a wide diversity of public and private sectors.

### **Current Request**

Quite often groups of community members who volunteer to help solve local problems do not reflect the growing diversity of their towns. It can be very challenging for leaders to attract and sustain diverse participation. Without this input however, decisions can be made that neglect some of the populous. In order to enrich the building of an anti-racist community, the Jane Addams School will initiate *Crossing Borders*, a new program created to build the leadership capacity of a group of elders and youth – Somalis, Mexican, Hmong, Peruvian, and US born – who can then help others develop cross-cultural practices. This group will develop digital teaching tools about intercultural dialogue and civic engagement useful across languages and cultures, and they'll convene at least five workshops to share learning and resources with urban and suburban communities in the East Metro area. The project has been designed by and will be led by this group of immigrants who have clear community-building aspirations. Specific activities include convening bi-monthly leadership skill development sessions; the identification of critical democratic and cross-cultural practices; and the creation of opportunities to practice these skills and build confidence. To disseminate what they learn, the group will develop six cross-cultural digital stories; create new graphic tools to teach democratic practices in community settings; design workshops; and publish materials describing the process and results of their crossing borders work.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$15,000 to the University of Minnesota Foundation to help finance the budget of Crossing Borders.

## **RELIGION RELATED, SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Cherokee Park United Church**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Cherokee Park United Church is a central city congregation founded in the 1920's on the West Side of Saint Paul. The church went through an extended period of decline that was reversed in the 1980's with a recommitment to its West Side neighborhood. The congregation now has 125 members and has a very active anti-racism ministry that resulted in the church becoming the home for the Antiracism Study-Dialogue Circles (ASDIC) Partnership. ASDIC was started in 2004 by Dr. Herbert Perkins who was serving as Director of the Theological Exploration of Vocation Program at Hamline University. The mission of ASDIC is to mend "the brokenness of racism by fostering wholeness, spinning webs of relationship, and untangling knots of oppression." ASDIC offers a carefully designed process for antiracism transformation of relationships and institutions. Its core program is the study circle which is an intensive 30 hour workshop offered in 12 sessions spread over three to six months. Each study circle is a community of 12-15 people who gather to create supportive relationships as they explore ways their social behavior and identities have been formed in the context of race. Many circle groups do not end, as they become permanent antiracism teams or coalitions. The program is intentional about the creation of an antiracism action plan at the end of the 12 sessions, and these permanent teams or coalitions help facilitate the implementation of these plans. More than 423 people have participated in ASDIC circles since 2004. Participants have come from churches, universities, school districts, youth programs and neighborhoods. In 2009, ASDIC intends to expand its impact via four activities: offer the traditional 12-week ASDIC circles at lower cost to participants to increase accessibility; increase the number of people prepared to facilitate circles; develop an ASDIC curriculum for youth; and develop new versions of the ASDIC curriculum to introduce antiracism transformation to more people (e.g. shorter courses, different audiences, etc.)

### **Current Request**

ASDIC is run primarily by volunteers. The Executive Director and Administrative Director each work about half-time for ASDIC. However, the Executive Director is currently paid an annual salary of \$6,000 and the Administrative Director works as a volunteer. In addition to their administrative and leadership roles, both Directors' regularly lead circles on a contract basis. Twenty-eight people have worked as circle co-facilitators, five working as contractors and 23 serving as volunteers. ASDIC is seeking funds to expand its budget so it can increase the use of paid staff and circle facilitators and can subsidize additional circles and facilitator trainings.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$60,000 to Cherokee Park United Church to help finance the budget for expansion of the Antiracism Study-Dialogue Circle Partnership .