



## **PARTNERS IN PHILANTHROPY ONLINE**

### **ARTS, CULTURE AND HUMANITIES**

#### **St. Paul Neighborhood Network**

Saint Paul, MN

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

#### **Background and Purpose**

Originally known as Cable Access Saint Paul, St Paul Neighborhood Network (Neighborhood Network) is the non-profit community television provider for the City of Saint Paul. Since 1984 they have aired non-commercial programming on five cable access channels, provided community members with media technology training and access to video production resource and have worked with school-aged youth to develop media literacy skills and encourage creative expression through video. Neighborhood Network's mission is "to make media available, reflective and responsive to the needs of people in Saint Paul in order to increase understanding and respect for the diversity of people and ideas in our democratic society." Their current goals are to promote media and information technology literacy to Saint Paul residents, provide affordable media solutions for residents and non-profits in our region, and to promote community and cultural education to residents. Neighborhood Network primarily serves the geographic area of Saint Paul with programming available to 52,000 households. 400 people are active members who use video production resources for creating their own programs. They work in partnership with over 100 non-profits each year and numerous local, county, state and federal agencies based in Saint Paul. The mission of Neighborhood Network's Youth Programs is to provide Saint Paul youth with the opportunity to create community media with a lasting impact. Current programs include *Set It Up*, a teen produced show about their concerns, the Summer Youth Intern Program, a career exploration program, and residencies. In 2008, they served 300 youth with the majority of them from Saint Paul and between the ages of 14 to 18. Neighborhood Network has 11 board members, 17 full-time staff and one part-time staff member, 25 AmeriCorps volunteers and 50 organizational volunteers.

#### **Current Request**

After talking with community members who saw a need for middle school youth to participate in meaningful activities, Saint Paul Neighborhood Network decided to develop a program specifically for this age group. Most of their youth programming had catered to high school students. Over the past few years, they partnered with community organizations to provide one to three week video production camps for middle school aged youth. The students chose a neighborhood issue to spotlight in their youth-created documentaries. In analyzing this program with their partners, Neighborhood Network determined that the length of time spent in each neighborhood needed to be increased in order to spend more time researching and documenting historical context for current community issues. With more time, they could involve artists and historians to provide specialized knowledge for the project participants. More time could also allow for more frequent contact with community members, experts and community organizations, all of whom could act as mentors for the youth. They concluded that a longer program would allow for stronger adult-youth partnerships, greater opportunity for youth to develop a sense of belonging and ownership, more in-depth

technical training, and more time for reflection for adults and youth alike. Thus the Neighborhood Video Project was created. Middle school youth in the West 7th, Dayton's Bluff and Hamline Midway will be invited to participate in one of three separate fourteen-week sessions. The identified neighborhoods were selected because of the high number of new immigrants, low income youth and youth of color residing there and because of the presence of specific partners such as CommonBond Communities' Skyline Tower. Students will share their final documentaries with their neighbors and will lead community discussions on these videos.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$30,000 to the Saint Paul Neighborhood Network to help finance the budget of the Neighborhood Video Project.

### **Springboard for the Arts**

Saint Paul, MN

[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, with other clients from greater Minnesota and other states in the Upper Midwest seeking Springboard's 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. 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 acting as fiscal agent for artist educator Jila Nikpay who is in residence at Como Park High School in Saint Paul. Ms. Nikpay is a photographer who has worked with portraiture in both her artistic and teaching careers. She has been partnering with Como Park's art teacher in a pilot program where immigrant students use photography to explore their own identity. With support from The Saint Paul Foundation, Ms. Nikpay and the art teacher wish to expand the program to include native-born students. Like most city high schools, Como Park is highly diverse and, like most high schools, very segregated. With this project, students from all cultures will be partnered with American-born students (of all ethnic backgrounds) to interview one another and take photographic portraits of one another. The portraits will be displayed in the school and other students will be involved in a dialogue about the project and the final resulting artwork. The dialogue will be led by staff from The Perpich Center for Arts Education, who will use a tested protocol for reflecting on student artwork. Participating students will also be trained to lead the dialogue with other classes. All of the work of this group will be documented and written as curriculum which will then be available for other Saint Paul schools to use through the Saint Paul Public Schools website.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$17,250 to Springboard for the Arts to help finance the budget of Exploration of Identity through Photographic Portraiture.

**Twin Cities Public Television, Inc.**

Saint Paul, MN

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

Background and Purpose

Twin Cities Public Television (TPT), a Saint Paul-based public service media organization, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2007. The organization aims to put the tool of television to good use for the benefit of community in three ways: by presenting high quality television programs, by producing original television programs for national and regional broadcast and by partnering with audiences and organizations. More than 1.5 million people in the Twin Cities region (along with central Minnesota and western Wisconsin) watch TPT each month. TPT has recently refreshed its strategic plan to guide program activities with three broad programmatic goals. These are: 1) meet the unique needs of viewers at different stages of life; 2) build on their role as a media hub for Minnesota and 3) engage people in the present and learn from the past. Specific focus areas for TPT's work are: deliver the best in television; tell the Minnesota story; be a leader in national production; seek new ways to serve; focus on the audience; fund the future; and live the mission and values.

Current Request

Two of TPT's strategic plan focus areas (telling the Minnesota story and seeking new ways to serve) have propelled the station toward the creation of the Minnesota Video Vault (originally called the Minnesota Public Media Library), an initiative to preserve and make accessible the wealth of media they have produced and continue to produce on a regular basis. The Video Vault ([www.mnvideovault.org](http://www.mnvideovault.org)) is an online library of rich digital media content that is available free of charge anytime and anywhere. Most of TPT's current media content is on videotape which has two challenges: it has a shelf-life of just 20-30 years and the equipment that broadcasts videotape is rapidly being replaced with digital equipment. In the first year of the initiative TPT created a system for making the video tapes of previously aired shows platform ready and digitized 500 shows for the web. In 2009, their plan is to digitize an additional 600 shows and hold the public launch of the site in March. Shows include TPT developed ones such as *Almanac*, history documentaries, performance specials and arts and interview series. In addition, TPT will digitize programs collected from other outlets such as the Minnesota Historical Society and the Minnesota Public Television Association. To date they have identified more than 5,000 episodes of local and national productions in TPT's library, most of which are inaccessible to the public after broadcast. And while all new productions are now converted from tape to digital broadcast files with an automated process, 90% of the programs in the archive remain on tape.

Recommendation

The board approved a grant of \$100,000 to Twin Cities Public Television, Inc. to help finance the budget of the Minnesota Video Vault.

## **EDUCATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES**

### **Augsburg College**

Minneapolis, MN

[www.augsburg.edu](http://www.augsburg.edu)

#### **Background and Purpose**

Augsburg College (Augsburg) was founded in 1869 and currently serves 4,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Augsburg is located in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood of Minneapolis, one mile from the downtown loop. Augsburg offers an education that unites the liberal arts with practical training to prepare students for vocations in a global, multicultural society. Over 19% of the undergraduates are students of color and approximately 28% come from low-income families. Since 2003 Augsburg has served as the Urban Debate League's (Urban Debate) fiscal agent. In addition, Augsburg provides pro bono a faculty adviser, accounting and fund raising assistance, office space and housing for students for the annual Summer Debate Camp. The mission of Urban Debate is to improve public education, empowering students to become engaged learners, critical thinkers, and active citizens who are effective advocates for themselves and their communities. Currently Urban Debate serves 175 middle and high school students in 11 schools in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Of the students participating in the Urban Debate program, 89% are eligible for the federally funded free or reduced lunch program and 50% are students of color.

#### **Current Request**

Augsburg is requesting two-year funding to support expansion of the Urban Debate program to three public middle schools in Saint Paul. The expansion will take place at Ramsey, Murray and Highland Junior Highs. The expansion will add 65 additional middle school students to the program. Funding will be used to recruit and train debate coaches, recruit middle school students to participate in the program, and help pay for the cost of programming and evaluation over the next two years.

#### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$30,000 to Augsburg College to help finance the budget for expansion of the Urban Debate League in the Saint Paul Public Schools.

### **Independent School District #196**

Rosemount, MN

[www.district196.org](http://www.district196.org)

#### **Background and Purpose**

Independent School District # 196 (District), established in 1918, is located in Dakota County and oversees public education for all of Coates and portions of Apple Valley, Rosemount, Eagan, Burnsville, Inver Grove Heights, and Lakeville, and Empire and Vermillion Townships. The District serves approximately 28,300 students in K-12. The district consists of eighteen elementary schools, six middle schools, and five high schools. The mission of the district is "to educate our students to reach their full potential." Students of color make up 17 percent of the student population, and 14 percent of District students were eligible for free and reduced lunch. During the 2004-05 school year the District hired a consultant to audit the District's Enhanced Learning Program (a program for gifted, talented, and creative students). One of the findings of the audit was that students of color and low-income students are not well represented in the District's Enhanced Learning Program. The District also identified that students of color and low-income students were not enrolling in college

preparatory Advanced Placement courses, and most were not going on to college. The District began to address this issue in 2005 by offering Pre-Advanced Placement courses in the middle schools and developing and offering the Advancement Via Individual Determination Program (AVID) for 30 students at its Valley Middle School and 30 students at Apple Valley High School. AVID is a structured program that targets students who are in the middle, those who have potential, need motivation and structure, and have the skills to take advanced classes and who, with the right supports, can succeed in college. The program looks for students who will be the first in their families to attend college. Students master effective note taking, strong writing, good test-taking strategies, time management, and college/career awareness. As students progress they are expected to take the most rigorous curriculum available at their schools. Currently AVID is being offered in four schools within the district and 163 students are participating in the program.

### **Current Request**

Building off its first two years of success, the District is requesting third-year funding for its AVID program. The third year of the program will focus on training eight additional teachers and beginning two additional cohorts of 25 students at Eastview High School (Eastview) in Apple Valley. Eastview was chosen as the next school in which to expand the AVID program because it has the fewest students of color and low-income students in its Advanced Placement classes of the District's four high schools. It was also chosen because one of the middle schools that currently has the AVID program is a feeder school to Eastview. Funds will be used to cover the costs of training materials, professional training, and AVID library reading materials for students.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$23,750 to Independent School District #196 to help finance the budget for the Advancement Via Individual Determination Program.

### **Inver Hills Community College Foundation**

Inver Grove Heights, MN

[www.inverhills.edu/FoundationAlumni/index.aspx](http://www.inverhills.edu/FoundationAlumni/index.aspx)

### **Background and Purpose**

Inver Hills Community College (Inver Hills) was established in 1970 and is one of thirty-two public, post-secondary institutions in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) System. Inver Hills is a comprehensive community college dedicated to serving students and providing two-year associate degrees, non-credit adult education courses and services, and training and re-training for business and industry. Inver Hills Community College is the 10th largest among Minnesota's State Community and Technical Colleges. Last year Inver Hills served 9,000 credit students and 2,000 continuing education and non-credit students. Seventeen percent of Inver Hill's students are students of color, 59 percent are women and 40 percent are full-time students. Inver Hills offers 50 academic disciplines and programs and 20 two-year degree options. Inver Hills currently employs 100 full-time faculty, 125 part-time and adjunct faculty, 115 full- and part-time support staff and 15 administrators. In addition, 110 students work for the college.

### **Current Request**

Project Breakthrough has been designed as a three-year project that will dramatically improve outcomes for students who are at greatest risk of dropping out of college or are academically deficient. Through this project the College will enhance and sustain the student/faculty Learning

Center, which will focus on math, English, science, writing and technology skill development for students and professional development for faculty as they learn best techniques for working with at-risk students. The goal of the project is to serve 2,000 freshmen and 3,300 ongoing students, over the three years, providing them with: one-on-one tutoring, mentoring, advising and referral to other retention services, English Language Learning (ELL) services, scholarships for students with financial need, and academic workshops. Inver Hills is committed to providing academic coordinating staff; creating institutional change; developing an Advisory Board composed of administrators, faculty, staff, external business leaders and other stakeholders; and implementing an evaluation for measuring the program's effectiveness in increasing retention.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$25,000 to Inver Hills Community College Foundation to help finance the budget of Project Breakthrough.

### **Minnesota Humanities Center**

Saint Paul, MN

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Located on the East Side of St. Paul, the Minnesota Humanities Center (the Center) was founded in 1971. The Center's mission is "to create a thoughtful, literate, and engaged society by providing context and content for literacy of all kinds." Affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities, the organization's primary commitments are to education, cultural preservation and public conversation. Activities and projects related to these commitments include professional development for educators, educational resource development, community programs, early literacy, cultural competency, indigenous history and language, Smithsonian exhibits, and a rural authors program. In 2008, the Center provided professional development for more than 1,250 educators impacting an estimated 115,000 students; conducted literacy workshops for 480 participants serving 36,000 children; provided humanities programs for 3,000 elementary students, and delivered family literacy events and public humanities programming to over 30,000 individuals.

### **Current Request**

"Bdote" in the Dakota language is the place where waters come together, and the primary Bdote for the Dakota is the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers near Mendota and Fort Snelling. The Bdote Memory Map (the Map) is a geography-based digital educational resource intended to help students better understand the place where they live and to begin to see it from an indigenous perspective. It will be used in partnership with the St. Paul Public Schools Indian Education department to increase American Indian student engagement with their classroom content, improve their academic achievement, and empower them to be successful. The testing of the concept and pilot construction of the Map has been completed in partnership with Allies: media/art, a Dakota-owned media production company. The next step in the Project is to build a stable and more interactive platform for the Map and a companion web site to capture more content including video of scholars and community members, historical photos, textual histories of the places on the map, and brief testimonies about the meaning of the Bdote for the Dakota people. Project partners will then test the usability of the Map and help create educational resources and teacher guides. Finally, the Project will be implemented in educational settings.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$50,000 to the Minnesota Humanities Center to help finance the budget of the Bdote Memory Map Project in Ramsey, Washington and Dakota counties.

**Teach for America, Inc.**

New York, NY

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

**Background and Purpose**

Teach for America (Teach) aims to end educational inequity by supporting a national teacher corps of recent college graduates who commit two years to teach and effect change in under-resourced urban and rural public schools. Founded in 1990 with 500 corps members (teachers) in 6 regions across the country Teach has grown to 6,200 teachers in 29 regions and is affiliated with AmeriCorps. Highly motivated recent college graduates of all academic majors are aggressively recruited, and a stringent admissions process keeps Teach's overall acceptance rate at a rigorous 15%. Those accepted into the teaching corps are assigned to one of Teach's 29 teaching regions and attend an intensive five-week summer institute combining academic coursework and summer school teaching in districts where Teach teachers are placed. Upon completion of this institute teachers report to their assigned regions, where they are full employees of local school districts, held to the same certification standards, student academic expectations, and pay scales as all other first year teachers. During their two year commitment teachers are strongly supported by Teach staff through regular observations, learning communities, and teaching assessments. While 66% of Teach teachers stay in education past the two year commitment, Teach maintains an active alumni and reports that 93% of alums, in whatever their chosen careers, continue to pursue the mission of ending educational inequity in the United States.

**Current Request**

Teach for America is requesting \$35,000 to help finance the founding of a regional site in the Twin Cities. This request is specifically intended to support teachers in four long-established St. Paul charter schools (Achieve Language, New Spirit, Higher Ground, and Hmong Academies) during the 2009-2010 academic year. Teach will hire two full-time program directors for the Twin Cities regional office who will help to provide these teachers with pre-service training, an intensive summer institute, a local orientation prior to the start of the academic year, and ongoing support, observation, and professional development during their two year commitment. The total Twin Cities expansion site will also place teachers in the Minneapolis and Brooklyn Center public school districts. The Twin Cities were chosen as an expansion site (from over 20 potential expansion sites for 2009) due to persistent educational inequality along socioeconomic and racial lines, enthusiasm from local districts for the Teach model, and a partnership with Hamline University that will allow Teach teachers to pursue Minnesota teacher licensure during their two-year commitment. Minnesota was also chosen as an expansion site in part because it has the second largest gap in academic performance between white and minority students in the nation, and in the St. Paul Public Schools less than half of students are proficient in reading and under 45% are proficient in math, with these percentages even lower for low-income students.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$35,000 to Teach for America, Inc. to help finance the budget of Teach for America Twin Cities.

## HUMAN SERVICES

### Community Action Partnership of Ramsey Washington Counties

Saint Paul, MN

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

#### Background and Purpose

Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties (CAP) was organized as a nonprofit in 1964 to develop and provide resources to assist low-income individuals guided by its mission “to mobilize community resources to reduce poverty in Ramsey and Washington counties.” CAP acts as the fiscal agent for CrossingBarriers and provides office space for it.

In 2004, CrossingBarriers’ founder Ladan Bashir Yusuf was approached by a number of students experiencing difficulties with the Minneapolis Public Schools. While helping students respond to these issues, Ms. Yusuf found similar problems with discrimination for immigrant students in a variety of school districts. While immigrant students recognized the educational inequities, they were ill-equipped to navigate the education system in pursuit of resolving the issues. Ms. Yusuf created CrossingBarriers to develop the leadership skills of immigrant youth, students, and activists to improve education and other systems. Programs include: leadership development for immigrant youth to learn about civic and political participation; developing the voice of immigrant students by organizing immigrant students and their families to advocate for improvements in educational, public safety, and employment issues; and technical assistance to other immigrant-led organizations or immigrant-serving organizations.

A 2008 grant from the Foundation funded organizational capacity building and the first year of a three-year effort to expand CrossingBarriers beyond its work in Minneapolis to meet the needs of Saint Paul immigrants.

#### Current Request

CrossingBarriers is requesting a grant of \$20,000 to help finance a second year of support to continue its St. Paul expansion. Funding will help to sustain its efforts to develop leadership skills in immigrant youth in St. Paul through training sessions critical to creating a positive climate for immigrant students in East Metro schools focused on building relationships with school officials and other community leaders. Sustaining its director at a full-time position and adding a part time program assistant are key to the success of the St. Paul expansion. One focus in 2009 includes mentoring and support of Students Against Violence (SAV), a group of college students responding to the shooting of an Augsburg Somali student. The five SAV leaders, two who are from Burnsville and Falcon Heights, plan to survey, educate, organize and mobilize other students across the metro area on how to address and prevent violence against students, especially immigrant students. A second focus of 2009 will be on exploring the viability of expanding the successful Solution Finder’s Project, launched in Eden Prairie, to interested groups in St. Paul. CrossingBarriers has been in dialog with Somali students at Skyline Towers about the model and want to explore using the Solution Finders model at the high schools they attend (e.g. Humboldt, Higher Ground).

#### Recommendation

The board approved a grant of \$20,000 to Community Action Partnership of Ramsey Washington Counties to help finance expansion of CrossingBarriers to Saint Paul.

**East Side Neighborhood Development Company Inc.**

Saint Paul, MN

[www.esndc.org](http://www.esndc.org)**Background and Purpose**

Founded in 1979 by residents and business owners, the East Side Neighborhood Development Company's (ESNDC) volunteers and staff share a passion for building a successful, economically and culturally diverse community by working in partnership to revitalize the neighborhood through housing, economic and community development. Its mission is to create a prosperous, multi-racial neighborhood by generating wealth and opportunities for the people and businesses of the Payne/Phalen Lake neighborhood on Saint Paul's East Side. ESNDC operates programs in three key areas. Their Housing Development Program works to improve the quality and affordability of owner-occupied and rental properties. The Economic Development Program uses a comprehensive revitalization strategy to integrate work in the areas of commercial development, marketing and promotions, crime and safety, and building and streetscape design. A Human Development Program includes the East Side Family Center (Family Center) as well as other services that bring neighbors together by engaging them in creating a prosperous multi-racial neighborhood. ESNDC also provides financial and administrative support to the Phalen Corridor Initiative and the Lower Phalen Creek Restoration Project (also known as Vento Nature Sanctuary). The Family Center is a partnership of ESNDC and the St. Paul Public Schools.

**Current Request**

The Family Center, located in John A. Johnson Elementary School, works to prevent family problems by strengthening parent-child relationships and providing whatever parents need in order to be good nurturers and providers. ESNDC is requesting bridge funding in 2009 for the Family Center to help address loss of funding from one of its primary funders. In December of 2007 the St. Paul Children's Collaborative denied a request from ESNDC for annual operating support due to changes in the Collaborative's focus and a reduction in funds that the Collaborative receives from the federal government. The Family Center has been operating on bridge funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which lasted through the end of May 2008. ESNDC is waiting for the outcome of its request for support from the Greater Twin Cities United Way and for the distribution of renewable funds from the Minnesota Children's Trust Fund. Over the past three years the Family Center has diversified its funding, decreasing its dependence on the St. Paul Children's Collaborative. It is currently receiving support from eleven separate funders.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$50,000 to East Side Neighborhood Development Company Inc. to help finance the budget of the East Side Family Center.

**Family Housing Fund**

Minneapolis, MN

[www.fhfund.org](http://www.fhfund.org)**Background and Purpose**

The Family Housing Fund was created by the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul and The McKnight Foundation in 1980 to provide financial support for affordable rental housing and homeownership in both cities. Family Housing Fund's work over the past 26 years has expanded to address changing housing needs throughout the seven county area. The mission continues to be to

preserve and expand quality affordable housing for families with low and moderate incomes and to take an active role in convening and educating policymakers in order to promote more effective affordable housing policies and greater commitment of public and private resources to housing. The Family Housing Fund's rental housing programs are targeted toward families with incomes below 60 percent of the area median income, whereas homeownership programs are targeted toward families with incomes below 80 percent of the median. Most families living in Family Housing Fund's supported housing have very low incomes. Without assistance from a variety of support services, these families would have extreme difficulty finding affordable housing. Over the past three years the Family Housing Fund has successfully created protocols, tools and strategies to improve the quality of supportive housing programs and the lives of families living in supportive housing. Given the current economic downturn the Family Housing Fund staff and board believe it is important to stabilize and reinforce the gains they have made over the past three years.

### **Current Request**

The Family Housing Fund is requesting funds for two purposes. It will embed the knowledge and skill developed through its work from the Visible Child Initiative by 1) developing multiple training resources for supportive housing providers; and 2) publishing and disseminating key reports that document the results and key learnings from the past three years. It will also implement two housing preservation strategies in partnership with funders and housing providers by 1) creating a uniform process for diagnosing and responding to financial difficulties of supportive housing programs and developments; and 2) developing and providing asset management consultation and training to assist supportive housing executives and boards in avoiding loss and/or default during the current economic challenge.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$100,000 to Family Housing Fund to help finance the budget of the Supportive Housing for Families Initiative.

### **The Family Place**

Saint Paul, MN

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

### **Background and Purpose**

The Family Place was incorporated in the spring of 2001; it is the day center for homeless families in Ramsey County and is under contract with Ramsey County to provide central intake for all homeless families throughout the county. The Family Place works to stabilize homeless families and help them begin to achieve self-sufficiency. Its services include: meeting basic needs of food, shelter and safety during daytime hours; placing families in emergency shelter and helping them locate permanent or transitional housing; helping families with applications for state and county assistance programs; providing enrichment programs for children; helping parents find employment opportunities; and serving as a site for health and dental care. The Family Place works closely with the Maplewood Family Shelter and with Project Home (the overnight emergency overflow shelter program). The Family Place serves approximately 40 families a month and over 90% of these families only use the services of The Family Place once prior to finding other housing arrangements. In 2008 The Family Place served 1,200 adults and children. During the spring of 2007 the agency experienced a financial crisis that was addressed by an appeal to the community. The Family Place board of directors realized that given the increasing number of homeless families (12,000 calls for assistance in 2008) and the increasing number of days families stay at the shelter, a more formal and

professional approach to fund development activities needed to be implemented.

### **Current Request**

Over the past year The Family Place has continued to see an increase in demand for its services, but has not seen the same type of growth in its income. Its staff is requesting second-year funding to help fund the cost of its development director. In the past year the development director has created an annual Giving Campaign. The Giving Campaign has identified new and existing donors; increased giving from current donors; increased giving from churches, community organizations and civic groups; the development director has also created a development committee from members of the board and the community; and has worked with the volunteer coordinator to increase the number of volunteers in the program.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$20,000 to The Family Place to help finance the budget of the development program.

### **Friends of the Minnesota Conservation Corps**

Maplewood, MN

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

### **Background and Purpose**

The roots of the Friends of the Minnesota Conservation Corps, operating as the Minnesota Conservation Corps (the Corps) go back to the Great Depression when President Roosevelt proposed the Civilian Conservation Corps to provide jobs. In the 1970s, the federal government launched the summer Youth Conservation Corps which employed young people in productive conservation work. When federal support ended in 1981, the Minnesota Conservation Corps was created by the legislature to offer youth programs through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. In 1997 the Minnesota Conservation Corps was incorporated with the mission to provide hands-on environmental stewardship and service-learning opportunities to youth and young adults while completing valuable conservation, natural-resource management and emergency-response work throughout the region. Their goals are to help young people from diverse backgrounds become more connected to the environment, engaged in natural-resource conservation, involved in the community and prepared for future employment. They realize their mission through two main initiatives: the Summer Youth Program where youth 15-18 years old work in crews over eight weeks; and the Young Adult Program where people 18-25 complete 10 months of full-time work in natural resource management and emergency response. The Corps is staffed by 17 full-time staff members and 110 AmeriCorps members and overseen by a 16-member board of directors.

### **Current Request**

Minnesota Conservation Corp is requesting support for a new youth development program, Youth Outdoors. The program was piloted in Saint Paul in the fall of 2008 as an after-school and Saturday program with twelve students, 15-18 years old. Eighty-two percent of the participating students were African American (9% of whom were refugees or immigrants from Ethiopia) and 18% were Asian, predominantly Hmong. They worked in environmental education, natural resource restoration, job training and community service. With the success of the pilot, the Corps wishes to develop the concept into a full program, continuing to target youth of color and low income. Youth Outdoors is designed as a 12-week session with students working twelve hours a week. They will work in local neighborhoods and public spaces with at least one of their projects conceptualized and directed by

the youth. Transportation, meals and a stipend will be provided. Minnesota Conservation Corps is partnering with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation who have agreed to pay for youth stipends. Funds from The Saint Paul Foundation will help cover costs for the 2009-2010 school year where the Corps will work with 48 participants during two 12-week sessions.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$15,000 to the Friends of the Minnesota Conservation Corps to help finance the budget of Youth Outdoors.

**Funders Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities Inc.**

Coral Gables, FL

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

**Background and Purpose**

The Funders Network serves as an active resource and focal point for foundations, nonprofit organizations, and other partners working to solve the environmental, social, and economic problems created by sprawling patterns of development and urban disinvestment. The Funders Network attempts to leverage organizational, financial, and intellectual resources towards solving these problems. Throughout its nine-year history, the Funders Network has created and represents a model for fostering funder collaboration. The Network is supported by contributions from 120 member foundations and is a not-for-profit Florida corporation with federal tax-exempt status. The Funders Network is governed by a twelve-member Board of Directors representing community, private and family foundations across the country.

Members of the Funders Network believe funders can effectively address issues such as congestion, loss of open space, transit oriented development, and school overcrowding at the national, state, regional and/or local level. To help funders maximize their effectiveness and increase the number of funders in this field, the Network works to inform and connect funders, offers responsive services, implements projects, and provides facilitative leadership in selected regions.

The Funders Network helps funders to advance policy reforms; share knowledge of effective strategies and tools; build the capacity of key constituencies; raise awareness about the interdisciplinary nature of these issues; and encourage sustained engagement with growth related issues by a diverse coalition of funders. The Network's current projects address: 1) communications, 2) community foundations leadership, 3) regional and neighborhood equity, 4) transportation, 5) green buildings and green neighborhoods, and 6) healthy people and places.

**Current Request**

Membership dues help to support the ongoing operations and activities of the Funders Network in its mission to strengthen funders' capacity to address community growth issues. The annual amount paid by members ranges from \$1,000 to \$35,000 based on guidelines tied to asset size of the foundation.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$5,000 to the Funders Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities Inc. for general corporate purposes.

**Hastings Family Service**

Hastings, MN

[www.famserve.org](http://www.famserve.org)**Background and Purpose**

Hastings Family Service (Hastings Family) was founded in 1970 as a grassroots organization providing emergency clothing to those in need, initially operating out of the basement of a home. Since then, the organization has grown and added new programs including a food shelf, medical and dental grants, school assistance, Meals on Wheels, Just Friends (phone support, personal visits, and transportation services), and information and referrals, while continuing its primary focus on emergency and supportive services. The organization seeks to recognize and serve those whose needs may be hidden, including the so-called “working poor.” Its mission: “The people of Hastings reaching out as Family in support and Service to one another.” Its service area is defined as Independent School District 200, which includes the residents of Hastings, Vermillion, Welch, Hampton, Miesville, Marshan, Nininger, and Ravina Townships. Hastings Family served a total of 3,144 individuals in 2008.

**Current Request**

Due to the economic downturn and a growing number of seniors in the area, Hastings Family has experienced an estimated 15-25 percent increase in demand for services over the past year. In order to meet increased demand Hastings Family plans to fortify its volunteer management and increase revenue from contributions. Key to increasing its capacity is the addition of two new staff positions: a .5FTE volunteer coordinator and a .5FTE position to assist with fundraising including donor and prospect management. Historically volunteer management was a part of the emergency manager’s position. A dedicated volunteer coordinator position will allow Hastings Family to grow its base of 300 volunteers to meet increased demand. The fundraising assistant position will help Hastings Family to leverage and build momentum from its annual appeal into opportunities to foster larger gifts from board and volunteers and to expand its development strategies (memorials, tributes, institutional grants, and planned gifts). Hastings Family is requesting \$20,000 to help finance the expansion of its volunteer and fund development programs.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$20,000 to Hastings Family Service to help finance the budget of the Resource Development Implementation Plan.

**Hmong American Partnership**

Saint Paul, MN

[www.hmong.org](http://www.hmong.org)**Background and Purpose**

Hmong American Partnership (The Partnership) was founded in 1990. The Partnership has evolved from a small organization focused on basic refugee resettlement issues to become an established provider of comprehensive, culturally appropriate social services. The Partnership’s “mission is to foster trust, to assist Hmong in achieving their full potential and participate actively in the community and to promote mutual respect, cultural awareness and the exchange of knowledge and values.” Its services are designed to help adults find jobs and decrease their reliance on public assistance; help youth increase their academic performance and keep away from drugs and crime; and strengthen family and social ties. With a staff of 53 full-time and 9 part-time employees, the

Partnership serves almost 2,000 individuals per year. The Partnership services include employment, education and training for adults through contracts with Ramsey and Hennepin counties; English for New Americans; training for Employable Computer Skills; American Citizenship Training; and services for youth and families, including an after-school mentoring program and a program for high-risk teens; parent and family support; mental health outreach education; and a Hmong Elders Program that supports the elderly to reduce isolation and depression.

### **Current Request**

The Partnership is under new management and is working to become more responsive and transparent to its funders and its clients. The Partnership is requesting funds to purchase and develop financial and accounting software. The Partnership plans on purchasing the Blackbaud Financial accounting software. With the new software they intend to create a strategy for individual fund raising and be able to produce financial statements in a timely fashion.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$25,000 to Hmong American Partnership to help finance the budget to purchase and install financial and accounting software.

### **HOME Line**

Minneapolis, MN

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

### **Background and Purpose**

HOME Line was established in 1999 to provide free legal, organizing, education, and advocacy services so tenants could solve their own rental housing problems. The staff of three housing attorneys, three full-time tenant organizers, an executive director and three VISTA volunteers provides: tenant advocacy, offering free information and advice on Minnesota tenant/landlord law and court procedures to call-in and walk-in clients; tenant organizing, helping tenants work together to solve common problems and seeking to develop tenant leadership; and renter education for high school students. Tenant advocacy is supervised by three experienced housing law attorneys, operating primarily via a telephone "hotline" staffed by the attorneys and volunteers recruited primarily from area law schools. The tenant advocacy program handles about 10,124 unduplicated cases per year. HOME Line provides free legal advice and representation to families with children who rent and are facing eviction, assisting approximately 280 families each year. The high school education program presents a "basics of renting" for young people who will be entering the rental market for the first time on their own. HOME Line also engages in policy advocacy, using their extensive database to effect housing policy.

### **Current Request**

HOME Line is requesting \$25,000 for second year funding for its expanded services to tenants in the Saint Paul area. Since the agency began providing outreach to St. Paul in January of 2006, approximately 30% of their calls are from the East Metro area. Home Line has hired a full-time VISTA volunteer to handle the increase in requests and has also reassigned current staff to help handle this increase. The attorneys and volunteers provide advice over the hotline to East Metro residents. Through contacts made over the hotline, each staff attorney identifies clients with problems requiring legal representation and provides limited legal representation to clients in Ramsey County Housing Court. The attorneys have also familiarized themselves with Conciliation

Court operations in Ramsey, Washington and Dakota counties so they can give informed advice to clients.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$25,000 to HOME Line to help finance the budget for expansion of the Tenant Hotline Service to the East Metro area.

### **HOPE Adoption and Family Services International, Inc.**

Oak Park Heights, MN

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Founded in 1978, in an effort to provide more support to adoptive families, HOPE Adoption and Family Services International, Inc. (HOPE) has united almost 1,800 children with their “forever” families. HOPE (Helping Others with a Personal Emphasis) was one of the first American adoption agencies to eliminate many of the arbitrary barriers that once kept parents from adopting - barriers such as age, weight, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, or number of children already in the family.

Their “niche” has been to serve these families unable to adopt through the more traditional agencies. In addition, HOPE works with the most difficult to place children. These are children who have emotional or physical handicaps, school-aged children who have been in multiple foster homes, sibling groups, and children of minority heritage. Approximately one-fourth of the children they have helped have special needs.

HOPE recruits and prepares adoptive families, supports and assists birth parents as they make adoption plans for their child, and supports families during and after the adoption by providing consultation, information and referral, and by offering workshops on issues such as attachment, multicultural parenting, school advocacy, and disabilities.

This past year, HOPE has helped bring 45 children from seven different countries, including the U.S., into loving families. Of those, 19 were challenging-to-place foster care children. 73% of the children and families they serve reside in Ramsey or Washington County. HOPE is governed by a twelve-member board and has fourteen professional and support staff. More than 100 volunteers participate in fund raising projects, provide administrative and grounds maintenance support, and assist with workshops.

### **Current Request**

In 2007, HOPE adopted a strategic plan which called for increasing contributed revenue through individual donations and events. They created a two-year development capacity building program with several goals: to increase individual, foundation and corporate donations by at least \$80,000 over those received during FY 08; add 100 first-time donors and secure renewal donations from 150 supporters. Last April The Saint Paul Foundation funded this initiative with a \$20,000 grant (of which \$5,000 was matching funds). Since then, the agency has made some gains toward reaching their goals. They hired a part time development staff person, installed a new donor management and prospecting system, and used the matching funds to motivate new and increased donors. They have secured a new corporate benefactor and raised over \$7,500 of new or increased individual contributions. Their 30th anniversary celebration event netted \$16,000, almost twice the net revenue

generated by the prior year's event. However, with the current economic downturn, they have adjusted their goals for the two-year plan. They are currently projecting an increase of about \$40,000 by the end of the FY2009. Their goal for the end of the 2010 fiscal year is to maintain that new contributed amount of \$183,800. Several of their supportive foundations, corporations and individuals have alerted the agency that they would not be in a position to support them at the same level next year. Knowing that 2010 is expected to be more challenging for non-profits, HOPE staff believe it will be a great accomplishment to maintain the 2009 level in the second year of the program. With the success of the dollar-to-dollar match, they have asked to increase the amount for matching to \$7,500. They do, however, wish to use the match to not only inspire new and increased donations, but to leverage current support as well.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$20,000 to HOPE Adoption and Family Services International, Inc. to help finance the budget for increasing development capacity.

### **Hope for the City**

Minnetonka, MN

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Hope for the City (Hope) is a privately funded, 501(c)(3) relief organization that was established in the Twin Cities in 2000 to fight poverty, hunger and disease by utilizing corporate surplus. Hope collects overstocked products from top retailers, medical companies, and food distributors nationwide and donates the items to people in need locally, across the country, and across the world. Locally Hope distributes corporate surplus to nonprofit organizations that serve the poor in the Twin Cities and surrounding areas. It touches 10,000 individuals in need each month. Internationally Hope delivers medicines, medical supplies, and equipment to developing countries all over the world. It is able to equip a hospital with everything from hospital beds and exam tables, to supplies and medicines. Since its inception Hope has donated approximately \$400 million in wholesale value of goods.

### **Current Request**

Since 1998 The Saint Paul Foundation has served as the local host for Kids in Distressed Situations (K.I.D.S.), a national and international charity of leading retailers, manufacturers and licensors of children's and youth products in partnership with major foundations, committed to improve the lives of children and families in need. K.I.D.S. encourages and facilitates donations of new apparel, shoes, toys, juvenile products, books, and other items that benefit children who are ill, living in poverty, or are the victims of natural disasters. It distributes from \$35 million to \$42 million annually to two million to four million children. Since 1998 The Saint Paul Foundation has made grants of \$25,000 each year to K.I.D.S. In return K.I.D.S. has provided a minimum of \$250,000 worth of new products to be distributed locally. Second Harvest Heartland Food Bank has donated warehouse space for the distribution of products received from K.I.D.S. that are shipped to Saint Paul approximately three to four times per year. Staff of The Saint Paul Foundation has been responsible for sorting the product and managing the distribution of it to local nonprofits who serve low-income families and children. The purpose of this grant is to transition the role of local host and the management of this program from The Saint Paul Foundation to Hope.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$30,000 to Hope for the City to help finance the budget to operate the K.I.D.S. program in the Twin Cities.

**Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota Inc.**

Saint Paul, MN

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

**Background and Purpose**

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota Inc. (Immigrant Law) provides free legal assistance to low-income families and individuals of all nationalities in immigration matters. Immigrant Law provides services to individuals in the East Metro (nearly 60% of clients) and in 33 counties of southern Minnesota. In 2008, the agency worked on more than 1,897 cases providing legal advice and direct representation. Of those clients, 32% were from Southern and rural Minnesota, 45% in Ramsey County, eight percent in Dakota county, and three percent in Washington County. This was an increase of 26% over the previous year. Immigrant Law also provided immigration law related education services to approximately 9,045 people in FY 2008.

**Current Request**

Immigrant Law is requesting funds to continue expansion of the New Beginnings Project, which provides legal services to immigrants and refugees to help them escape violence and obtain legal status in the United States. The U-Visa allows victims of serious crimes who cooperate with law enforcement in the investigation and/or the prosecution of the crime to receive federal immigration protection with a work visa for up to four years that can lead to legal and permanent residency for the victim and her/his close family members. This project provides specialized, individual representation for immigrants and their minor children who have been victims of domestic abuse or violence by undocumented spouses or others covered under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Through this program Immigrant Law also educates advocates to recognize potential beneficiaries, and connects victims with a network of helpful service agencies to address other needs related to violence including health care, housing, and mental health assistance.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$40,000 to the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota Inc. to help finance the budget for expansion of the New Beginnings Project.

**Lifetrack Resources Inc.**

Saint Paul, MN

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

**Background and Purpose**

Lifetrack Resources Inc. (Lifetrack), located in St. Paul, provides services to low-income, hard to employ, and other highly stressed populations for whom few resources are available. Founded in 1948, Lifetrack serves over 11,000 people annually through its focus on Employment and Economic Opportunity and Child and Family Healthy Development. Employment services include job preparation, placement, and retention support for people leaving welfare, immigrants, ex-offenders, persons with disabilities, and at-risk youth. Child/family services exist along a spectrum of classroom and home based services including Families Together (therapeutic preschool/home

visiting), Head Start, occupational/physical/speech therapy, deaf and hard of hearing services, mental health assessment and resources, and 8 different home visiting programs for children and families.

### **Current Request**

Lifetrack is requesting \$35,000 to help finance its Enhanced Home Visiting Pilot, a program intended to test the intensity and curricula needed to achieve child development/parenting skills outcomes similar to those seen in its Families Together therapeutic preschool program. The pilot will pair home visiting and curriculum with non-therapeutic early childhood programs available to a wider range of families than those eligible for Families Together. The home visiting component of the pilot will involve a minimum of two home visits each month per family enrolled, during which home visitors will use research-based parenting curricula and child development screening tools to support and benchmark progress towards program goals. This pilot and eventual program will help Lifetrack reach its ambitious goal of serving no less than 50% of Ramsey County's highly at-risk children aged 0 to 5.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$35,000 to Lifetrack Resources Inc. to help finance the budget of the Enhanced Home Visiting Pilot.

### **Network for Better Futures**

Minneapolis, MN

### **Background and Purpose**

Network for Better Futures (NetWork) is a new concept and new organization designed and developed by some of the Twin Cities' top providers of services to the most challenged people in the community. For the past three years, the leaders of these organizations have been actively engaged in solidifying their partnership, realigning existing resources to improve their operations, and working together to improve the lives of the more than 210 high-risk men who enrolled in the NetWork in 2008. The partners are RS Eden, Family Housing Fund, Medica, NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center, Turning Point, Inc., Summit Academy OIC, and Twin Cities RISE. All partners annually sign a Memorandum of Understanding clearly defining their roles and responsibilities to the NetWork. The NetWork is a social enterprise that promotes the recovery, resiliency and prosperity of high-risk adults, primarily African American men, with histories of incarceration, substance abuse, mental illness, chronic unemployment, and homelessness. By setting high expectations and providing direct access to the resources needed to meet these expectations (housing, behavioral health and primary health care, short term employment, and community reengagement), men in the NetWork are offered the opportunity to become contributing, productive and positive members of society.

The NetWork began operations in Minneapolis in 2008 by enrolling 210 men (108 of whom are still active). Men who come to the NetWork are immediately required to have a complete physical and mental health/behavioral assessment. Staff works with each individual to secure employment and housing. The NetWork leases blocks of living quarters and has created their own income generating enterprise that puts men who are not otherwise employed immediately to work. NetWork participants must immediately begin paying child support. All enrolled men must attend twice-weekly community sessions where they hold themselves and each other accountable for their actions that week. An individual plan is created by each participant in cooperation with staff team leaders to identify goals and appropriate resources to help in meeting those goals. The NetWork works with

each participant to make sure they have transportation and whatever else they need to work with other providers (e.g. tutoring, CD treatment) and make progress toward their individual goals.

### **Current Request**

The NetWork is requesting \$200,000 over two years to expand the program to enroll 75 participants from Ramsey County. Expansion will allow East Metro participants to access all of the facets of the NetWork enterprise without needing to relocate to Hennepin County.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$100,000 to the Network for Better Futures to help finance the budget for expansion in the East Metro area.

### **North East Neighborhoods Development Corporation**

Saint Paul, MN

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

### **Background and Purpose**

First Lutheran Church, located at Maria Avenue and East Seventh Street in St. Paul, is a 400-member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Church is also home to the Dayton's Bluff Living at Home/Block Nurse Program and a Hmong Elder Program. House of Knowledge (House) is a group of 45 Latino seniors who intend to transition a one-day-a-week gathering sponsored by the Payne-Phalen Living at Home/Block Nurse Program to a new nonprofit that will offer a licensed, culturally relevant adult day program five days a week for Latino seniors. First Lutheran Church will host the Program on an in-kind basis. The mission statement adopted by House is as follows: "A neighborhood based Licensed Adult Day program that provides the Latino elders the capability of socializing in the community and networking which enhances the quality of life for the Latino community and neighborhood residents through providing client driven programming and brings support for family members." House is currently volunteer-led and has no paid staff. A board of six members has been formed, and four additional members will be recruited.

### **Current Request**

About two years ago, ten Latino seniors began gathering once a week at a church in St. Paul under the auspices of the Payne-Phalen Living at Home/Block Nurse program (Payne-Phalen). Since that time the number of attendees has grown to over 45, as have the needs and issues the group wishes to address. Payne-Phalen, however, will not be continuing the group as one of its activities because the organization has decided to focus on its mission of keeping seniors healthy and safe in their homes. Because the seniors have found the group gatherings so valuable, they and the individuals who staffed the gatherings are taking steps to establish a five-day-a-week licensed adult day program (the Program). Senior needs to be addressed through the Program include health care education; assistance and advocacy with Medicare, immigration, citizenship and other paperwork concerns; socializing; networking; English classes; and respite care for the families in a culturally-relevant environment. Funding is being requested to offset the costs of Program start-up so the seniors can continue meeting weekly until adult day program licensure and nonprofit status is obtained. Licensure will allow for reimbursement of services for eligible participants through public and private funding sources.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$31,000 to First Lutheran Church of Saint Paul, Minnesota, on behalf

of House of Knowledge, to help finance the start-up budget of the Adult Day Services Program.

**Project for Pride in Living Inc.**

Minneapolis, MN

[www.ppl-inc.org](http://www.ppl-inc.org)

**Background and Purpose**

Project for Pride in Living, Inc. (Project For Pride) was created in 1972. In 2008 Project for Pride merged with Loring Nicollet-Bethlehem Community Center. The newly merged organization has retained the name Project for Pride. The new organization assists low-income individuals and families work toward self-sufficiency through housing, employment training, support services and education. Project For Pride offers comprehensive self-sufficiency services in inner-city neighborhoods in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. The Affordable Housing Program includes feasibility analysis, pre-development, development construction, and property management services with a commitment to developing and sustaining quality affordable rental housing in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. More than 1,900 people live in Project For Pride's 801 units of affordable housing throughout the Twin Cities, including 145 units in Saint Paul. The Self-Sufficiency Program is at the heart of all of Project For Pride's other programs, offering supportive and referral services that help families and individuals with employment and housing stability, children's programming, and other responsive services. Project For Pride is also working to help inner-city students do better in school by providing during and after-school extensive learning options. In 2007 the merged organization's programs directly served 11,651 men, women and children.

**Current Request**

Project for Pride is requesting two-year funding to continue two new positions that serve its families in St. Paul. The Community Organizer position that works to assist families in integrating into the community and to connect families with resources in the community would be maintained. A .5 FTE Youth Worker that assists youth in Project for Pride's St Paul youth programs with academic enrichment and creates opportunities for youth to connect and serve the community would be added.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$42,500 to Project for Pride in Living Inc. to help finance the budget for expansion of programs in Saint Paul.

**Rebuilding Together-Twin Cities**

Saint Paul, MN

[www.rebuildingtogether-twincities.org](http://www.rebuildingtogether-twincities.org)

**Background and Purpose**

Founded in 1997, Rebuilding Together-Twin Cities (Rebuilding TC) is one of 200 affiliates of the national Rebuilding Together. Rebuilding TC has the mission to preserve affordable housing by bringing together volunteers and communities to rehabilitate the homes of low-income homeowners. Rebuilding TC programs include National Rebuilding Day, the annual event of Rebuilding Together. The event works to preserve affordable homeownership by bringing volunteers and communities together to rehabilitate the homes of low-income homeowners. The event is held on the last Saturday in April. National Rebuilding Day is the day when affiliates from all parts of the country plan

projects to bring national attention to the plight of America's low-income homeowners and the communities in which they live. Home Repair is a year-round program that repairs and rehabilitates homes for low-income homeowners. Renovation work includes re-roofing, installing handicap ramps, weatherization, plumbing, electrical repairs, carpeting, patching, painting and any other repairs that help the homeowners stay in their homes.

### **Current Request**

Rebuilding TC is requesting funds to launch its new program Safe at Home. The Safe at Home program makes immediate modifications and accessibility improvements that enable low-income elderly homeowners to avoid having to leave their homes. The program also serves low-income homeowners who have emergency needs that must be addressed for health and safety reasons. Funds will be used for the purchase of materials needed for the home improvements, staff time and an AmeriCorps staff person to coordinate and market the program.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$15,000 to Rebuilding Together-Twin Cities to help finance the budget of the Safe at Home Program.

### **Southeast Asian Ministry Inc.**

Saint Paul, MN

[www.seam-stpaul.org](http://www.seam-stpaul.org)

### **Background and Purpose**

Founded in 1981 by Lutheran pastors and lay people to serve refugees that came to the Twin Cities following the Vietnam War, Southeast Asian Ministry (Ministry) is "a faith-based ministry serving people of diverse cultures new to our community as they strive to achieve self-reliance." Ministry's programs include English classes for immigrants and refugees, parish nurse services, social/recreational programs for isolated Cambodian and Hmong elders, a consignment sale business for Hmong needlework, quilt and holiday gift distribution to families in need, and educational presentations. The organization operates out of Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill with a full-time executive director, a full-time intern, two part-time parish nurses, three part-time assistants/translators, and volunteers who contribute thousands of hours each year. Ministry's services and programs reach approximately 2,800 annually.

### **Current Request**

Ministry began the Hmong Elder Program (the Program) in 2005, modeling it after the agency's Cambodian elders program. The primary goal of the Program is to help participating elders cope with depression that results from a sense of isolation due to cultural, language and transportation barriers. Hosted by First Lutheran Church, located next to Metropolitan State University, the Program provides participants with opportunities to socialize with other elders and to engage in activities such as practicing English with volunteers; learning about nutrition, health and exercise from a Hmong parish nurse; and playing games, doing crafts and taking field trips. Thirty-nine elders participate in the Program, with weekly attendance averaging about 18. Initially elders gathered on a bi-monthly basis, but, in 2008, at the request of the elders and with funding from The Saint Paul Foundation, the Program expanded to weekly gatherings. Ministry is requesting funds to continue offering the Program on a weekly basis as the agency works to strengthen and grow its base of congregational and other funding partners. New activities that have been initiated in the past year and which are expected to continue include gardening, video recording the oral histories of program

participants, and hands-on cooking classes led by the University of Minnesota Extension division.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$17,000 to Southeast Asian Ministry Inc. to help finance the budget of the Hmong Elder Program.

**Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services Inc.**

Saint Paul, MN

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

**Background and Purpose**

Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Inc. (SMRLS) provides free, high quality legal representation in all of the major poverty law areas to low-income people in 33 counties of southern Minnesota, as well as to farm workers in the migrant stream in Minnesota and North Dakota. Begun in 1909 in St. Paul as a branch of Associated Charities, SMRLS is the oldest legal aid program in Minnesota. Current programs include American Indian Branch Office, Community Legal Education, Education Law Advocacy Project, Family Law Unit, Government Law Unit, Housing Equality Law Project, Housing Unit, Immigration and Naturalization Project, Migrant Legal Services, Pro Bono Involvement, Project Hope, and Senior Law Project. Through its eight offices, SMRLS closed over 11,000 cases in 2008. More than 30,000 families and individuals were assisted in casework. In addition 20,000 people took part in SMRLS community education programs and preventive law workshops.

**Current Request**

In the East Metro area, as well as around the country, an unprecedented number of mortgage foreclosures are taking place. The foreclosure problem is not just an issue for homeowners but also an issue for renters, who believe they must move in 30 days if the property in which they live is foreclosed by the sheriff's office. Many times renters can stay in the property for up to an additional seven months. In some Saint Paul neighborhoods, foreclosures of rental properties outnumber the foreclosures of owner-occupied properties. The Assistance for Tenants in Foreclosed Rental Property Program will help 100 families stay in their homes over the next year. The program is staffed by one full-time attorney and one full-time paralegal.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$37,500 to Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services Inc. to help finance the budget of the Assistance for Tenants in Foreclosed Rental Property Program.

**Urban Partnership and Community Development Center**

Saint Paul, MN

**Background and Purpose**

The Urban Partnership and Community Development Center (Urban Partnership) is located at in the Summit-University neighborhood and was established in December 2003 as a volunteer run organization to serve African American seniors (55 and older) by offering a variety of community based assistance to keep seniors engaged and aware of resources available to them. Their programs are designed to help seniors take responsibility for themselves by staying in their homes and living independently with dignity. The service area identified by Urban Partnership is Frogtown,

Summit/University, Como Park, and North End. These neighborhoods share a combined total of over 6,900 seniors. Although their primary clientele are African Americans, they offer services to all seniors.

**Current Request**

Urban Partnership is requesting a third year of start-up support to continue its transition from an all volunteer to a staffed organization. Programs consist of Growing Gray Gracefully - young adults are connected in a one-on-one relationship with a senior to provide friendship and serve as a guide for the senior as they manage the medical, social services, housing, and other issues that may affect their independence; Healthy Senior Living - provides activities as well as exercise and educational programs that assist seniors in delaying and preventing chronic illness and diseases associated with aging; Transportation – volunteer drivers use the Urban Partnership van to provide free rides to seniors getting to medical and other necessary appointments; and We Care – a licensed social worker completes a personal needs assessment and assists seniors in completing paperwork to access county and other services to help seniors continue to live in their own homes. The agency provides its services at a very low or no cost to low-income seniors.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$20,000 to Urban Partnership and Community Development Center to help finance the start-up budget.

## **PUBLIC, SOCIETAL BENEFIT**

### **Community Action Council Inc.**

Lakeville, MN

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

#### **Background and Purpose**

Lakeville area community volunteers formed the Community Action Council Inc. (the Council) in 1970. The Council has grown and evolved since that time to its current mission: “In the spirit of caring for our neighbors, Community Action Council provides support to people and communities to prevent violence, ensure school success, and promote long-term self-sufficiency.” The organization operates its program out of 50 community-based sites in Dakota and eastern Scott counties. A total of 98 employees representing 58 full-time-equivalent staff, plus over 1,700 volunteers, carry out the Council’s work. The Council’s administrative offices recently relocated to Burnsville.

#### **Current Request**

CommUnity is a pilot project to develop a community-building model for Burnsville that promotes personal and social responsibility so that families are strengthened to provide healthy development for children. The CommUnity process will begin with collection, synthesis and presentation of local data to community leaders recruited and convened by the Council for this purpose. A shared vision for the community will be developed from which one to three issues will be identified to address. Outcomes and key indicators will be defined, as will methods for measurement and evaluation. Community members will be engaged to develop strategies for addressing identified issues, and community organizers will be hired to ensure community efforts are coordinated and effective. The Council will create tool kits to guide and support the work of the community, equipping volunteers and community organizers with effective approaches to recruit additional volunteers, develop community plans and oversee community-wide and project-by-project initiatives. Finally, a replicable community-building model will be documented for replication in other Dakota County cities.

#### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$50,000 to Community Action Council Inc. to help finance the CommUnity Project.

### **Council on Foundations, Inc.**

Arlington, VA

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

#### **Background and Purpose**

Founded in 1949, the Council is a membership organization of more than 2,000 grantmaking foundations and giving programs worldwide. The Council’s mission as a membership organization is to serve the public good by promoting and enhancing responsible and effective philanthropy. All Council members are expected to commit to the Principles and Practices for Effective Grantmaking. The Council provides leadership, expertise, legal services, networking opportunities, and other services to its members and the general public. It is governed by a 35-member Board of Directors representing different types of foundations from across the country. In 2005, the Council embarked on a new strategic plan that provides a framework for the organization’s activities over the next five years. The plan identifies three primary areas where the Council is best positioned to lead and produce results: purposeful leadership on matters essential to organized philanthropy; legislative and

regulatory advocacy; and championing accountability, promoting professional standards and building consensus around principles and practices.

**Current Request**

Membership dues help to support the ongoing operations and activities of the Council in its mission to further responsible and effective philanthropy. The annual amount paid by members ranges from \$500 to \$55,000, based on foundation type and average charitable assets for a period of three years. The Saint Paul Foundation's average assets for 2005, 2006 and 2007 were approximately \$702 million, which corresponds to a 2009 membership dues amount of \$40,000.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$40,000 to the Council on Foundations, Inc. for general corporate purposes.

**Headwaters Foundation for Justice**

Minneapolis, MN

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

**Background and Purpose**

The Headwaters Foundation for Justice (Headwaters Foundation) was created in 1984 to provide grants and capacity building assistance to "grassroots social change organizations" that address social, racial, economic and environmental justice. Headwaters Foundation serves the Twin Cities and state of Minnesota, by supporting groups with limited access to funding, low-income communities, communities of color, women, GLBT people, people with disabilities, immigrants and other historically excluded constituencies. Headwaters Foundation funds emerging groups that use community organizing to change public policies, institutions and attitudes to support equity and justice. Since its inception the Headwaters Foundation has directed over \$7 million to community led organizations. In 2008 Headwaters Foundation distributed \$810,000 to community organizations.

**Current Request**

Given the current economic climate, more grassroots organizations are looking for tools to strengthen their fundraising capacity and most do not have professional development budgets to pay for that specialized training. Headwaters Foundation is revamping its capacity building and launching an online component to meet the needs of these small grassroots organizations. The project will include an overhaul of the website to create a library of free trainings, including videotaped trainings, written resources, and webinars. The project will also include working with a videographer to create short video clips of trainings that will be used to develop online training modules. Headwaters Foundation expects 60% of the groups that use this training will be from Ramsey, Dakota, and Washington Counties.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$25,000 to Headwaters Foundation for Justice to help finance the budget for development of online training.

**Independent Sector**

Washington, DC

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

**Background and Purpose**

Founded in 1980, Independent Sector (IS) is a leadership forum for charities, foundations, and corporate giving programs committed to advancing the common good in America and around the world. As a non-partisan coalition it leads, strengthens, and mobilizes the charitable community in order to fulfill its vision of a just and inclusive society of active citizens, vibrant communities, effective institutions, and healthy democracy. IS fulfills its mission by providing convening opportunities for sector leaders to work together on key issues; promoting policies that enable the charitable community to engage with public officials on a non-partisan basis; supporting the development and dissemination of strategies to strengthen volunteering, voting, giving, and other forms of citizen engagement; encouraging the sector to meet the highest standards of ethical practice and effectiveness; and serving as the voice of the charitable community to the media, government, business, and international voluntary communities.

**Current Request**

Membership dues are based on the size of the organization or its grantmaking budget. The Saint Paul Foundation qualifies for the annual dues of \$15,000.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$15,000 to Independent Sector for general corporate purposes.

**The Minneapolis Foundation**

Minneapolis, MN

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

**Background and Purpose**

The American Indian Family Empowerment Program (AIFEP) was created twelve years ago by the Marbrook Foundation and the Grotto Foundation as a grantmaking program that reflects, preserves, and perpetuates a respect for American Indian cultures and values, as a means to strengthen Native youth and families. AIFEP operates two programs that, in tandem, promote the capacity of American Indians to address urgent needs in the American Indian community. The AIFEP Grant Program makes grants to American Indian individuals and families seeking financial resources to achieve their goals, shape their future, and make positive contributions to their community. Grants ranging in size from \$500 to \$2,500 are made to support education/training opportunities and/or other related needs; to finance opportunities in employment, business or housing and/or other related needs; and to preserve or renew cultural connections. The AIFEP Leadership Development Program increases the opportunities for American Indian leadership and participation within the philanthropic sector. Currently 15 American Indians, each with a significant background in nonprofit operations, are receiving extensive training in philanthropy, fiduciary issues, and leadership responsibilities. AIFEP is headquartered at the Grotto Foundation offices. The Minneapolis Foundation manages its finances through a special interest fund and would be the recipient of a grant from The Saint Paul Foundation, should one be approved.

**Current Request**

In response to its success over the past decade and with the support of its foundation partners the AIFEP Advisory Committee is in the process of transitioning AIFEP to an independent foundation called the Tiwahe Foundation. "Tiwahe" is the Dakota word for family. As an independent foundation the Tiwahe Foundation hopes to double the size of its grantmaking, expand the

Leadership Development Program, and ensure a strong base of support for organizational development over the next three years. The Tiwahe Foundation is now incorporated in the state of Minnesota as a nonprofit, and the former advisory committee of AIFEP has become the board of directors of the new corporation. The Tiwahe Foundation is in the process of submitting an application to the Internal Revenue Service to obtain status as a 501(c)(3) public charity. In order to complete its transition to independence the Tiwahe Foundation has undertaken a \$6 million organizational development campaign to raise \$4 million for a permanent endowment for grantmaking, \$1 million for a permanent endowment to support operations, \$500,000 in transition support for the Leadership Development Program, and \$500,000 in bridge funding. It is requesting a grant from The Saint Paul Foundation to support the grantmaking and operating endowments.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$100,000 to The Minneapolis Foundation to help finance the operating budget and grantmaking activities of the American Indian Family Empowerment Program for the purpose of assisting American Indians from Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington counties with educational attainment.

### **Minnesota Council on Foundations**

Minneapolis, MN

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Founded in 1969, the Minnesota Council on Foundations is a regional membership association of grantmakers working to improve the health and vitality of communities they serve. The Council's mission is to strengthen and expand philanthropy. It is guided in its work by six core values: excellence, integrity, respect, inclusiveness, equality, and innovation. Membership is open to any family foundation, private independent foundation, community foundation, public foundation, corporate foundation or giving program, or public charity grantmaker. All members are expected to commit to eight Principles for Minnesota Grantmakers, upon which members are to base their work in recognition of their role in the communities they serve and obligation to uphold the public trust. The Council offers a wide range of member services in the areas of education and professional development, research and information, communications, government relations, and leadership. A staff of 13 full-time and part-time employees carry out the work of the Council, and it is governed by a 21-member Board of Directors.

### **Current Request**

Membership investments help to support the ongoing operations and activities of the Council to strengthen and expand philanthropy. The annual amount paid by members ranges from \$500 to \$45,300, based on the level of contributions/grants paid out by the subscribing organization in the most recently completed fiscal year. In 2008, The Saint Paul Foundation's charitable contributions totaled \$42,021,450, which corresponds to a 2009 membership investment of \$29,700.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$29,700 to the Minnesota Council on Foundations for general corporate purposes.

### **National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota**

Saint Paul, MN

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

### **Background and Purpose**

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota (the Alliance), based in St. Paul, is a grassroots organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults affected by serious and persistent mental illnesses. The Alliance is serving as fiscal agent for the Juvenile Justice Coalition of Minnesota (the Coalition), because both organizations share the common goal of addressing the needs of youth involved in Minnesota's juvenile justice system. The Coalition began in 1995 as a Hennepin County entity developed primarily to disburse federal dollars for prevention and intervention of juvenile involvement in the justice system. In 2008 the Coalition began moving to the structure of an unincorporated association of state agencies, juvenile justice professionals, legislative leaders, parents, youth, and other stakeholders, and is evolving into a systems change and advocacy organization that promotes state and local level juvenile justice reform. The Coalition's mission is "to create an effective juvenile justice system in the state of Minnesota that promotes the physical, psychological, educational and vocational well-being of youth, while holding youth accountable for their actions and protecting the public safety of the community." Coalition priorities are focused on decreasing the number of youth involved in the juvenile justice system, the recidivism rate, and geographic, racial and ethnic disparities, as well as increasing the number of youth who are diverted to community-based programs rather than being formally charged. The Coalition contracts with a .25 FTE Director, a 1.0 FTE Associate Director, and for evaluation services and hourly staff support.

### **Current Request**

The Coalition is in the process of transitioning from its long-term Hennepin County focus to serving as a statewide convener, advocate and innovator for Minnesota juvenile justice reform. Some of the groundwork for this transition has been completed over the past year, with the drafting of a new mission statement and guiding principles and the formation of a more broad-based steering committee. Coalition goals for the coming two years are to provide leadership to improve statewide communication and coordination in Minnesota's juvenile justice system, create a unified Minnesota juvenile justice system, provide primary agency leadership and direction with identified juvenile justice reforms, and provide supportive or secondary assistance to other agencies as it relates to reforms. Strategies for achieving these goals include convening juvenile justice stakeholders to develop a shared vision and pursue a common action agenda; providing forums, work groups, training, research on best practices and online tools for communication and connection related to juvenile justice issues and reforms; and developing a shared legislative agenda and coordinating advocacy efforts. The Coalition will also be completing the mapping of the Dakota, Ramsey and Washington county female juvenile justice systems in 2009.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$30,000 to National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota, on behalf of the Juvenile Justice Coalition, to help finance the budget of the organizational transition.

### **Neighborhood Development Center Inc.**

Saint Paul, MN

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Neighborhood Development Center Inc. (NDC) was created in 1993 by Western Initiatives for

Neighborhood Development, a community development corporation owned by Western Bank in Saint Paul. NDC has a long history of success combining the three branches of community development: community development corporations – with a focus on neighborhood development; micro enterprise development – with a focus on creation and support of small businesses started by low-income persons; and community organizing – with a focus on community empowerment and development of “social capital” such as positive role models and community gathering places. By combining the strengths of these three branches, NDC applies the power of “home-grown” entrepreneurial talent to the revitalization of low-income inner-city and ethnic communities in a process controlled by the community itself. NDC also lends funds to start-up and existing businesses with a \$2 million revolving loan fund.

### **Current Request**

At the request of Mayor Coleman and his staff, NDC has been playing a lead role in defining the role, budget and work plan for the University Avenue Business Preparation Collaborative (U7). U7 is comprised of: Aurora / St. Anthony NDC; Greater Frogtown CDC; Hmong Central Coalition; Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD); Neighborhood Development Center; Selby Area CDC; and SPARC. All of these groups in some way serve small business interests along University Avenue. Nieeta Presley (Aurora / St. Anthony NDC) and Jill Henricksen (Greater Frogtown CDC) are co-chairs of U7. NDC is serving as the administrative office for U7 and will be managing all contributions and expenses. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between all parties is being developed laying out governance issues and other processes. The partners are also developing a Roles and Responsibilities document and finalizing an annual work plan.

The mission of U7 is to help existing small businesses along University Avenue prepare to “survive and thrive” – before, during and after the Central Corridor light rail line is built. In addition to learning from the experiences of other cities, U7 is committed to collaborating closely with key players to develop and deliver a comprehensive business retention program, including giving a voice to all LRT-related opportunities and threats that could affect these small businesses today and in the future. A key focus will be helping small business attract new and repeat customers to lessen the anticipated loss of sales. Business Retention Officers will be the face of U7’s small business retention efforts starting in April 2009, supported by the seven member organizations and a wide array of business specialists – paid professionals, volunteers and interns.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$75,000 to Neighborhood Development Center, Inc. to help finance the budget of the University Avenue Business Preparation Collaborative.

### **Philanthrofund Foundation**

Minneapolis, MN  
[www.pfundonline.org](http://www.pfundonline.org)

### **Background and Purpose**

Philanthrofund Foundation (PFund) was created in 1987 with the creation of a \$2,000 fund to support gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied (GLBTA) individuals and organizations to advance social justice and foster inclusiveness. PFund’s mission ‘is to be a vital resource and community builder for GLBTA communities by providing grants and scholarships, developing leaders, and inspiring giving.’ PFund has grown to become a community foundation that has the support of thousands of individual donors and hundreds of volunteers. PFund annually awards over

\$150,000 in grants and scholarships to GLBT-related individuals and organizations throughout the Upper Midwest in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota with a concentration of effort in the metropolitan Twin Cities. PFund actively seeks out GLBT-friendly investments, particularly in organizations with fair and non-discriminatory employment practices. Increasingly, PFund has been asked to provide assistance and support in the areas of nonprofit management and governance, including board development, fundraising, strategic planning and as a convener of GLBT organizations to discuss issues and trends such as health care, housing and racism. Over the past several years PFund's grants and scholarship programs have grown significantly.

### **Current Request**

To address these expanding programmatic needs, PFund added a half-time program manager in 2007. This position has been effective in assisting grantees and grassroots organizations in carrying out their vision and missions. The program manager has also had an impact on the development of processes and structures for grant making by PFund's board. PFund is requesting funding to increase the program manager position to a full-time position in order to have the capability to make more site visits, measure outcomes, expand the effectiveness of technical assistance to applicants and grantees and increase the number of organizations and groups it can assist.

### **Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$22,000 to Philanthrofund Foundation to help finance the budget of the project manager position.

### **Transit for Livable Communities**

Saint Paul, MN

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

### **Background and Purpose**

Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) was founded in 1996 to improve the quality of life in our region by expanding transportation choices, including bus and rail transit, walking and bicycling and transit oriented development. TLC provides public education and advocacy and community organizing. TLC also conducts timely research and analysis about the impact of transportation choices on the community focusing on sustainability, economic vitality, affordability, and health. TLC has worked to strengthen and expand the number of voices calling for more transportation choices by building and developing its own membership and volunteer leadership. Over the last six years, TLC has added over 10,000 supporters (most transit riders) to its action network, developing hundreds of local volunteer leaders in communities throughout the region to speak for and about the need for more transit and more livable, walkable communities. TLC has a staff of 10.5 FTEs and is governed by a 10 member board of directors.

### **Current Request**

TLC currently has one community organizer and is requesting support to add another community organizer focused on the East Metro area to build leadership capacity of volunteers to expand the power and influence of transit riders in the East Metro. TLC's model of working in partnership with faith-based, community cultural and other local stakeholder groups will require additional staff capacity as the organizing focus shifts more to corridor and neighborhood issues to build the power of the organization and its constituents and respond to the needs of transit users. TLC will hire a new East Metro community organizer to build relationships and knowledge with existing stakeholders

and decision makers already working on corridors and explore and build partnerships with key stakeholder groups not yet involved in corridor development work.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$35,000 to Transit for Livable Communities to help finance the budget of the East Metro Community Organizing Program.

**Workers Interfaith Network**

Minneapolis, MN

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

**Background and Purpose**

The Workers Interfaith Network (Worker's Interfaith Network) began as a loose affiliation of clergy and labor organizers working together to improve the lives of immigrant and low-wage workers in the Twin Cities. The agency has undertaken a large number of campaigns to win better wages, benefits, and working conditions for these workers. In 2005, the Worker's Interfaith Network worked with the Workers Rights Clinic and the University of Minnesota Law School to open four satellite sites of the Interfaith Center for Workers Justice. In 2007 with support from The Saint Paul Foundation and the F.R. Bigelow Foundation Workers Interfaith Network hired staff dedicated to East Metro outreach and programming. Volunteers and staff meet with workers, identify problems, and develop solutions to issues such as unsafe working conditions, unpaid wages, and lack of benefits. The Worker's Interfaith Network has a multifaceted educational approach that teaches low-wage workers about their rights as well as educating religious leaders and people of faith about the state of the low-skilled, low-wage economy and the lives of the workers that sustain that economy. The agency teaches labor leaders and religious leaders how to build relationships and coalitions together. The Worker's Interfaith Network employs one full-time executive director, three full time community organizers and one full time congregational organizer. There is a 19-member board of directors, 20-25 active volunteers, and an additional 50-60 volunteers that are available for special campaigns.

**Current Request**

The Workers Interfaith Network is requesting funding to continue a third year of East Metro outreach and activity through the Saint Paul Worker Empowerment Project. They use space in Guadalupe Alternative Program as a site for orientation and worker training. Current East Metro programming includes securing legal assistance when necessary to address injustice affecting a class of workers. education for low-wage workers about their rights, worker organizing around wage issues, organizing campaigns to improve working conditions, leadership development and training for workers to provide them the tools they need to develop campaigns to resolve injustices in their workplace and a new level of worker training to engage worker leaders in a campaign to win policy and enforcement reforms in the federal Department of Labor.

**Recommendation**

The board approved a grant of \$25,000 to Workers Interfaith Network to help finance the budget of the Saint Paul Worker Empowerment Project.