2003

VIRGINIA McKNIGHT BINGER
AWARDS IN HUMAN SERVICE

THE McKNIGHT FOUNDATION
Virginia McKnight Binger Awards in Human Service

The Awards in Human Service are an annual tradition at The McKnight Foundation, reflecting the Foundation’s deep belief in the virtue and power of compassion. Since 1985, the award has gone to 197 Minnesotans, including this year’s group, who have selflessly given time and effort to others without expecting material reward for themselves. Each recipient exemplifies the life-changing difference one person can make through service.

The Foundation created the Awards in Human Service in 1985 and renamed them 10 years later as a tribute to Virginia McKnight Binger, who served the Foundation for nearly 50 years, first as a board member, then as president from 1974 through 1987, and as honorary chair from 1988 until her death in December 2002. Mrs. Binger’s parents, William and Maude McKnight, established the Foundation, which operated on a small scale until Mrs. Binger took charge of it. Known for her compassion and generosity, Mrs. Binger set the standard for the Foundation’s work.

Like Virginia Binger herself, those who receive these awards are powerfully aware of others’ needs and motivated to help in their communities, not to earn recognition. Someone familiar with their work nominates them in confidence, and the nominations are researched and evaluated independently. To qualify, nominees must live in Minnesota and show commitment to helping others achieve a better life, while receiving little or nothing for their own efforts. Awardees each receive $7,500.

The Foundation invites nominations each spring through the media and charitable organizations. Beginning in August, a committee of people active in various human services fields evaluates the nominations and recommends 10 nominees to the Foundation’s Board of Directors.

The following pages describe the 2003 award recipients and their work. Names of past recipients are listed in the back.

To receive a nomination form or more information about the program, contact The McKnight Foundation at 612-333-4220. Next year’s nomination form will be available on the Foundation’s website, www.mcknight.org, in May 2004.
2003
VIRGINIA McKNIGHT BINGER
AWARDS IN HUMAN SERVICE

PROGRAM

Cal Appleby
James Dodge
Jayne Frank
Linda Jemison
Cindy Johnson
Nathaniel Khaliq
Nancy Meyers
Rajiv Shah
John Siegfried
Char Thompson
2003
VIRGINIA McKNIGHT BINGER
AWARDS IN HUMAN SERVICE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21
2:30 p.m.

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY
OF VIRGINIA McKNIGHT BINGER

Program

WELCOME
Rip Rapson
President, The McKnight Foundation

Noa Staryk
Chair, The McKnight Foundation

MUSIC, “I DO YOU”
Larry Long
Peter Schimke, piano
Latonia Hughes, vocals

REMARKS
Sheldon Olkon
Chair, Awards in Human Service Committee

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
Erika Binger
Director, The McKnight Foundation
Rip Rapson

AWARDS IN HUMAN SERVICE COMMITTEE
Lisa J. Braun, St. Cloud
Ron Buzard, Rochester
Sue Liedl, Tenstrike
Tony Looking Elk, Minneapolis
Deborah Montgomery, St. Paul
Sheldon Olkon, Minnetonka, Chair
Juan Rangel, West St. Paul
Last summer I received a phone call from a man who wanted to tell me how much he had appreciated my grandmother, Virginia McKnight Binger. He said her help at a critical time had enabled him to continue his work. He had found others who had also benefited from her giving, and, drawing upon their stories, he had written a song.

The man was Larry Long, a Minneapolis-based singer who travels the world using music to bring people together and build community. The song Larry has written captures their caring spirit as much as it captures my grandmother’s. The title of his song, “I Do You,” comes from a eulogy delivered at my grandmother’s funeral last December by Joel Gibson, a former Episcopal priest who, with her help, founded Spiritual Opportunities for Life, an interfaith center to help individuals explore and develop their spirituality. He was close to Ginnie (the name by which everyone knew my grandmother), and he intended those three words to honor her deep personal connection with people and her active style of giving.

Ginnie and my mother, Cynthia Boynton, created the Human Service Awards 19 years ago, and the Foundation has given these awards in Ginnie’s name for nine years now. This year we also are dedicating the ceremony to her. It’s a fitting honor, because the people who receive the awards share her selfless spirit. Like them, she did not wait for someone to take the lead but recognized a need and gave from the heart.
A community’s infrastructure rests on wise governments, strong organizations, and thoughtful leaders. But even in the most livable communities, gaps remain and human needs go unmet. To recognize those gaps and meet those needs, a community depends on those working behind the scenes to look out for people who might be left behind. Without such gestures of compassion, a place lacks the caring spirit that makes it a community.

This year’s awardees are among those who make our community whole. They are helping older battered women find safety, obtaining rights for deaf or disabled citizens, fighting crime, empowering people to turn their lives around, and much more. They give from the heart—time, money, and energy—without expecting anything in return.

In Ginnie’s name, we are proud to honor them.
She was rich to the core
A friend to the poor
I do you
From her heart she
would give
So others might live
I do you

Some people have
So many have not
Enough in life to get by
The dream lives
The dreamer dies
I do you

So often she’d read
Of people in need
I do you
God has many names
To her doorstep some
came
I do you
To fall through the cracks
To never get back
Without a hand to hold
Like Lazarus of old
I do you

Mothers unwed
No place for their heads
I do you
To get a degree
Child care they need
I do you

One plate full at a time
Until all children find
The love, the comfort
of home
To be safe and never alone
I do you

Surrender yourself
To love someone else
To share in love not
control

To see in each face
The whole human race
I do you
To see the gift
Not someone at risk
I do you

Wonders made real
Through God’s grace
revealed
Through human
compassion combined
To share this world
as divine
I do you

Words and music by Larry Long
February 24, 2003
To Cal Appleby, a person in prison is not just a criminal. He or she is a human being with many undeveloped talents and with great potential for good. Tapping into that potential is a matter of spiritual development and self-awareness, Cal says. To that end, he brings meditation and yoga to prisons, treatment centers, and other places where people face challenging life conditions. He coordinates some 50 volunteers through the Beverly White Community Outreach Project, a volunteer organization he founded and named for his own teacher. Meditation and yoga helped Cal overcome alcohol addiction many years ago, and now he spreads the practice to help others realize their highest values and change their lives.

Cal is a compassionate soul who is quick to respond to people’s needs. He started a project at Augsburg College to teach students what it’s like to be disabled, and in time, growing awareness of disabilities led to an administrative commitment to make the whole campus accessible. His work with welfare mothers at the University of Minnesota resulted in the Student–Parent HELP Center, which helps single parents, some of whom were high school dropouts, complete college degrees. “I see myself as a catalyst.” Cal says. “I get the spark going and other people come in to keep the flame burning.”
In the mid-1970s, Hodgkin’s disease jolted Jim Dodge into a decision to go into the ministry. He quit his accounting job and became a United Methodist minister. Over the years, problems from radiation treatments weakened his legs and limited his physical activity. Now that he needs a wheelchair, he devotes his time largely to one-on-one spiritual guidance. He founded a small nonprofit, City House, which provides volunteers to listen to and guide people coming out of prison, homeless people, people in recovery, and other marginalized individuals who find themselves outside traditional faith communities. “I get immeasurable joy and satisfaction out of helping people grow spiritually,” he says.

Jim also helps low-income people with their financial needs. In 1971, as an accountant, he founded AccountAbility Minnesota, a nonprofit that provides tax assistance for low-income people, enabling them to receive tax credits that can significantly boost their annual income. He is currently a board member and tax assistance volunteer. “The legacy of my accounting career is AccountAbility,” Jim says. “The legacy of my ministry career, when I finish, will be City House. I’m proud of both of them.”
“Jayne has contributed to the lives of people with developmental disabilities in many ways, including legislative lobbying and serving as board member, donor, and volunteer.”

—John Wayne Barker

Jayne Frank
St. Paul

When her daughter Stephanie was diagnosed at age 3 with brain damage from encephalitis, doctors suggested to Jayne Frank that the child might be better off in an institution. Despite the difficult path ahead, Jayne couldn’t imagine not giving her daughter a family life. She and her husband, James, raised Stephanie along with two other girls, and Stephanie was part of the family until her death at age 38. “She totally enriched our lives,” Jayne says.

Stephanie enriched many other lives, too, because she inspired Jayne to get involved in improving opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. “They are so vulnerable,” Jayne says. “They have to depend on others to fight for their rights.” Jayne joined the St. Paul Association for Retarded Children (Arc) when it started in 1951, and later served several terms on the Arc Minnesota board. She helped found a day activity center program and a work training program at Merrick Community Center in St. Paul. She helped create the Cultural Club, a social, recreational, and education program for people with developmental disabilities. As part of her lasting gift to the community, she has passed on her enthusiasm for helping this population to her other daughters, Deborah Junker and Melanie Tschida.
“She is a compassionate person who always has had a love for people, especially people in need.”
—Jeanine Hill

It wasn’t unusual to find strangers at the dinner table when Linda Jemison was growing up. Her mother, Ethel Gordon, would meet needy people on the bus she rode home from work and bring them home with her. “We used to make food baskets and take them to people sleeping under the bridge,” Linda recalls. “And almost every day, we knew Mom would be bringing someone home. We’d freak out and say, ‘Mom, you don’t know these people!’”

Now Linda is following in her mother’s footsteps. She started and runs the Ethel Gordon Community Care Center and Shelter in St. Paul, a transitional shelter licensed to accommodate up to 12 women and 9 children in a homelike setting. Linda, who is on call 24 hours a day, helps the women set goals and find stable permanent housing. She provides tutoring for children at the shelter and others from the neighborhood. Sometimes the reward is apparent, like the mother with three girls who, after a year at the shelter, was drug-free and able to buy a house. Sometimes, as she saw with her mother, people take advantage of her. She doesn’t lose faith. “My mother instilled in me that you never know who might be an angel—he or she might be dressed like a bum,” Linda says. “That’s why I’ve always been willing to help.”
“Her tireless work for disability rights has made services available for thousands of Minnesotans.”
—Steve Larson

For 10 years, Cindy Johnson has been at the State Capitol lobbying for the rights of people with disabilities. She has two inspirations: her daughter, Jenna, who was born with cerebral palsy and was able to grow up at home; and her sister, Kimmy, who has mental and physical disabilities but, in the 1970s, had to live in institutions because services weren’t available to care for her at home. Eventually, Cindy and her family helped her sister get into a small group home, where she now has a better life.

Cindy credits Arc Minnesota and others for advocacy work that changed public policy to help people with developmental disabilities. To build on those improvements and services, Cindy began volunteering for Arc Minnesota. She has been the governmental affairs chair for years and is on the boards of both the state and national Arc organizations. For 15 years she has put her career on hold to care for her daughter, finish her master’s degree, and do the advocacy she believes in. Her husband, Greg, has always stood behind her.

“Because of our time at home and the policy changes,” Cindy says, “Jenna has a great life and a bright future.”
“His special gift is his openness, his honesty, his caring nature. He is very interested in people who are on the lower rung of the economic ladder.”
—Anisah Dawan

Nathaniel Khaliq
ST. PAUL

Strong role models inspire change. Just ask Nathaniel Khaliq. Criminal behavior in his teens got him an eight-month sojourn in Boys Totem Town, a residential correctional facility in Ramsey County. But the examples of his grandfather—a minister who tried to save the black St. Paul neighborhood called Rondo from being destroyed for a freeway—and Malcolm X awakened his sense of justice. “They instilled in me a sense of wanting to give back and to help,” Khaliq says. “As a young man I felt I had taken some things away from the community because of my incorrigibility.”

He has been giving back unstintingly for 40 years. Currently president of the St. Paul chapter of the NAACP, Khaliq has been a contractor and firefighter while battling crime and drugs, mentoring young people, distributing food to people in need, seeking fair treatment for black Americans in the justice system and on the job, and making inner-city St. Paul neighborhoods cleaner and safer. His tenacity hasn’t always made him popular—enemies once firebombed his house—but he is sustained by the memory of his grandfather, his faith, his experience as a Vietnam air veteran in the Marine Corps, and “the unyielding dedication and support of my wife, Victoria.”
“Nancy has reached beyond differences of age, life experience, language, and culture to show us what extraordinary things can be accomplished when deaf and hearing people take time to learn from one another and build relationships of trust and mutual respect.”

—Roberta Cordano

Nancy Meyers
MINNEAPOLIS

Nancy Meyers was 50 years old before she met a deaf person. Looking for something meaningful to do with her life, she took a sign-language class. Shortly thereafter, her mother died. Nancy and her siblings had to fight the medical system to get their mother into a hospice where she could die peacefully. It occurred to Nancy that a deaf person seeking hospice care might never be able to communicate that wish.

To ensure that caregivers and family understand deaf people during the last phase of their lives, Nancy founded the Deaf End of Life Care Education Project. She leads a team primarily of deaf people to train hospice providers and deaf volunteers, developing workshops and a video. They also help deaf people and their families understand critical legal and medical information, such as advance directives. She has encouraged academic professionals to develop groundbreaking research about deaf people at the end of their lives. Nancy credits her deaf colleagues for the project’s success. “I feel like I found my place,” she says.
“Rajiv is a leader of the next generation.
He is a great role model who will leave a lasting impact
on this community.”
—Rita Kalan

Nine years ago, at the age of 21, Rajiv Shah created Athletes Committed to Educating Students (ACES), an after-school tutoring and mentoring program that teaches critical thinking and problem solving through sports. He and cofounder Rhoda Au drew up a plan; enlisted professional athletes, sports teams, and public schools; and raised money for the first such program in professional sports. Today it helps some 250 inner-city elementary, junior high, and high school students in the Twin Cities.

Rajiv was born in Uganda but grew up in Great Britain, Canada, and the United States. His parents, who left Uganda during the rule of former dictator Idi Amin, were committed to community service and education. Through ACES Rajiv spreads their values. While practicing medicine full-time, he spends 20 to 30 hours a week as board chair of ACES, overseeing full-time and part-time staff and volunteers. Students can be involved for up to nine years, and last spring, on Rajiv’s birthday, the program “graduated” the first six nine-year participants. It was, he says, “incredibly fulfilling. We had a dream and a vision of what we thought would be helpful, and seeing it come to reality was pretty cool.”
“He spends countless hours and a lot of his own money to sustain the gardening project. He even attends auctions to buy machinery for it.”
—Carlos Gallego

John Siegfried
Chaska

On a 14-acre site in the heart of Chaska, 18 families from nine ethnic communities farm side by side on small plots. They share seeds native to their communities and expertise from their cultural perspective. Some raise food for their families, and others sell produce at farmers’ markets to earn money. Behind the scenes is John Siegfried, a volunteer who oversees the program for the Minnesota Food Association, cultivates the land for planting, hauls water, purchases machinery, and teaches people to drive the tractor. This summer, when the state wanted to idle the land, which it owns for a pending highway project, John placed a strategic phone call and got permission for another year of gardening.

A former restaurant owner and county commissioner, John is also active in Christmas in May, a program that rehabs homes of elderly and low-income people. He rides with the sheriff’s volunteer posse, helps clean up the Minnesota River, and works with business and human service associations. He began volunteering because it was good for his restaurant, he says, but “you get involved and pretty soon it becomes your nature to do what you’re interested in—just because somebody should do it.”
“In Char Thompson’s seventy-some years on this earth, she has done for others what few people could do in three lifetimes.”
—Shelley Cline

Char Thompson
ROSEVILLE

“We live in such an ageist society,” Char Thompson says. “An older woman faces incredible barriers in trying to address difficulties in her life.” When the difficulty is abuse at the hands of a spouse, partner, or child, the barriers can seem insurmountable. An older woman may stay with an abusive spouse because she is conditioned to believe that marriage is forever. She may be that spouse’s caretaker, and her own health may be failing. She may be helplessly unaware of the family finances, with no idea of how to survive alone.

That’s where Char comes in. She is an advocate for older battered women through the St. Paul Domestic Abuse Intervention Project and founder of the Minnesota Network on Abuse in Later Life. She counsels women and helps them find the resources to escape abuse. Her husband, Andrew, is supportive of her effort to volunteer nearly full-time for the cause. Char finds great reward when a woman’s shocking tale of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse comes to an end.

“It’s a joy to see the relief and feeling of safety return to a woman who has been traumatized and in silence for years,” she says.
Previous Recipients

VIRGINIA MCKNIGHT BINGER AWRDS IN HUMAN SERVICE

2002
Andrew Benjamin
Martha Cardenas
Bonham Cross
Mohamed Essa
Ann Hooley
Jacqueline Kavanagh
Ed and Fern Ostberg
Ron Schwartz
Margaret Smith
Gail Weigle

1999
Henry Bruns
Ernesto DelVillar, Sr.
Marcelle Diedrich
Denise Gubrud and
Margarita Reese
Darlene Edwards
Phoenix Hill
Geraldine Hull
Ardis Knutson
Yako Myers
Joyce Segelbaum

2001
Susan Baxter
George Failes
Bertha Givins
Maria Inés Hitateguy
Barb King
Marge Melich
Kristine Reiter
Muriel Simmons
V.J. Smith
Sang Vu

1998
Christine Barich
Dawn Glaser-Falk
Joe Huber
Michael Kirk
Kevin L. Perez Rodriguez
Edwin Reich
Scott Schlaffman
Choua “Mindy” Thao
Georgeanna Toftum
Clorasteen Wilson

2000
Jean Andrews
Melvin Carter, Jr.
Sylvia Carty
Richard Endres
John and Julie Funari
Hazel Jacobson
Raleigh Kent
George Nelsen
Delroy Schoenleben
Manuel Zuniga

1997
Marjory Aldrich
Jim Christy
Dianne Kimm
Allan Law
Sue Liedl
Larry Cloud Morgan
William Radueg
RaeAnn Ruth
Frankie and Velma Tyson
Peggy Wells
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Vivian Blount, Cynthia Hawkins, Gregory Horan, Dale Hulme, Joe LaGarde, Percy and Lillian Olson, Joan Peterson, Jody Porter, Dave Ronning, Georgia Theis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Laurice Beaudry, Dianne Binns, Leonard Gloeb, Fran Heitzman, Algjuan Hixon, Bruce Lubitz, Mary Robillard, Bill Rowe, Pat Schwartz, Jamie Slattery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>John Bobolink, Lori Ellis Boswell, Bill Driscoll, Janet Gostanczik, Shirley Ellen Jensen, Art Johnson, James Francis Kelly, Katherine G. King, Forrest R. Osterholm, Fred Rupp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Eileen Bohn, Francisco Caballero, Sandra Gessler, Frank R. Johnson, David Lund, Don Mooney, Tyrone Smith, Art Stoeberl, Sheila White Eagle, Eleanore Whitmyre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Peggy Holmes, Bellecourt, Dorothy Bilheimer, Jane Blattner, Eugene Chelberg, Dr. Kenneth and Grace Covey, Dorothy Haynes, Norma Schleppegreill, Roger and Donna Urbanski, Quang Vu, Glen Wilfong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Cynthia Ann Barry, Shirley Benitez, Julia Dinsmore, Dan Edgar, Terry Ford, Alice McHie, Kouthong Vixayvong, Walter White, Marie Wing, Mary Stier Winkels</td>
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1990
Ruby Alexander
Dan Celentano
Cheryl Ford
Muriel Gaines
Patrick Hartigan
Tri Dinh Nguyen
Phillip Sayers
Sister Leanore Stanton
John Stone
Diane Williams

1989
David L. Asmus
Lois V. Boylan
Ron Cronick
Phyllis Gross
Loeung Khi
Dana Lehrer
Sister Charlotte A. Madigan
William O’Connell
Leo Treadway
Diane Ziegler

1988
Jewell Anderson
Willard A. Brunelle
Dollie D. Foster
Carol LaFavor
Kwame McDonald
Rosita Meehan
Marvin S. Moe
Anastasia Sery
Ray Wilson
Winona Wilson

1987
Robert L. Buckley
Linda Byrne
Mary Jo Copeland
Kathy J. Davis
John Fields
Sandra Huff
Mazi E. Johnson
Lou Anne Kling
Norma P. McDuffie
Pat Schmidgall

1986
Barbara J. Colhapp
San Juana Flores
Bernice E. Genereux
Flo Golod
Louise T. James
Maxine M. Kruschke
Robert Russell
Dana Lee Shato
Vernell Wabasha
Dellie Walz

1985
Ruth G. Andberg
Laurie Colbeck
Aliene Davis
Juanita G. Espinosa
Debra Jones
Elaine La Canne
Grace L. Sandness
Lucille T. Silk
Connie Strandberg
Justina Violette
The McKnight Foundation is committed
to the protection of our environment, a philosophy
that underlies our practice of using paper with
postconsumer waste content, and wherever
possible, environmentally friendly inks. This book
was printed with soy-based inks on recycled paper
containing 30% postconsumer waste.

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About The McKnight Foundation

The McKnight Foundation is a charitable foundation that seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations. The Foundation supports efforts to improve outcomes for children, families, and communities; contributes to the arts; encourages preservation of the natural environment; and promotes scientific research in selected fields. The Foundation’s primary geographic focus in its human services and arts grantmaking is the state of Minnesota.

Founded in 1953 and endowed by William L. and Maude L. McKnight, the Foundation has assets of approximately $1.6 billion and granted about $87 million in 2002. Mr. McKnight was one of the early leaders of the 3M company, although the Foundation is independent of 3M.
In honor of Virginia McKnight Binger

Words and music by Larry Long

Produced by Larry Long and Peter Schimke
Joe Johnson mix and mastering engineer
Benny Weinbeck studio manager

Recorded at Fur Seal Studio, Minneapolis, Minnesota
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Musicians:
Larry Long lead vocal, 12-string guitar
Latonia Hughes backup vocals
Estaire Godinez percussion
Peter Schimke piano, Hammond organ
Kenny Horst drums
Billy Peterson bass

The McKnight Foundation • Minneapolis, Minnesota