

2003

VIRGINIA McKNIGHT BINGER  
AWARDS IN HUMAN SERVICE

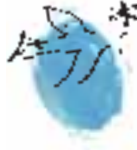


THE McKNIGHT FOUNDATION



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PROGRAM

Cal Appleby

James Dodge

Jayne Frank

Linda Jemison

Cindy Johnson

Nathaniel Khaliq

Nancy Meyers

Rajiv Shah

John Siegfried

Char Thompson

2003  
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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, TENNSTRIKE

Tony Looking Elk, MINNEAPOLIS

Deborah Montgomery, ST. PAUL

Sheldon Olkon, MINNETONKA, CHAIR

Juan Rangel, WEST ST. PAUL

# Gifts from the Heart

Noa Staryk

*Chair, The McKnight Foundation*

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.





# *I Do You*

FOR VIRGINIA MCKNIGHT BINGER

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

*“Cal’s philosophy of life is based on the principles of selfless action—action performed calmly, with wisdom and great awareness.”*

—Laurie Savran

## *Cal Appleby*

MINNEAPOLIS

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.”





*“Jim is totally committed to the service of others, with great vision and leadership.”*

—Bonnie Esposito

# *James Dodge*

MINNEAPOLIS

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

# Linda Jemison

ST. PAUL

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

## *Cindy Johnson*

ST. PAUL

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

## *Rajiv Shah* MINNEAPOLIS

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  
AWARDS 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

2001

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

2000

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

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

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

1997

Marjory Aldrich  
Jim Christy  
Dianne Kimm  
Allan Law  
Sue Liedl  
Larry Cloud Morgan  
William Radueg  
RaeAnn Ruth  
Frankie and Velma Tyson  
Peggy Wells



#### 1996

Vivian Blount  
Cynthia Hawkins  
Gregory Horan  
Dale Hulme  
Joe LaGarde  
Percy and Lillian Olson  
Joan Peterson  
Jody Porter  
Dave Ronning  
Georgia Theis

#### 1995

Laurice Beaudry  
Dianne Binns  
Leonard Gloeb  
Fran Heitzman  
Algjuan Hixon  
Bruce Lubitz  
Mary Robillard  
Bill Rowe  
Pat Schwartz  
Jamie Slattery

#### 1994

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

#### 1993

Eileen Bohn  
Francisco Caballero  
Sandra Gessler  
Frank R. Johnson  
David Lund  
Don Mooney  
Tyrone Smith  
Art Stoeberl  
Sheila WhiteEagle  
Eleanore Whitmyre

#### 1992

Peggy Holmes  
Bellecourt  
Dorothy Bilheimer  
Jane Blattner  
Eugene Chelberg  
Dr. Kenneth and  
Grace Covey  
Dorothy Haynes  
Norma Schleppegrell  
Roger and Donna  
Urbanski  
Quang Vu  
Glen Wilfong

#### 1991

Cynthia Ann Barry  
Shirley Benitez  
Julia Dinsmore  
Dan Edgar  
Terry Ford  
Alice McHie  
Kouthong Vixayvong  
Walter White  
Marie Wing  
Mary Stier Winkels



#### 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  
Alieene Davis  
Juanita G. Espinosa  
Debra Jones  
Elaine La Canne  
Grace L. Sandness  
Lucille T. Silk  
Connie Strandberg  
Justina Violette



HUMAN SERVICE AWARDS

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