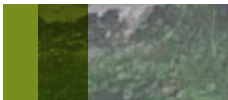
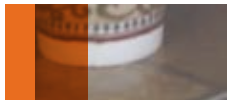
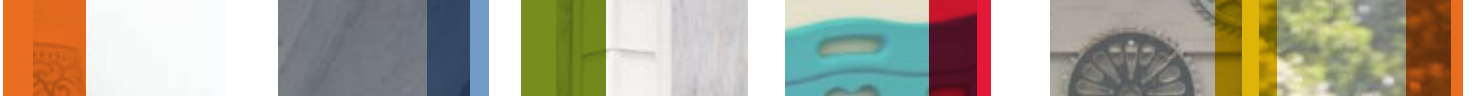


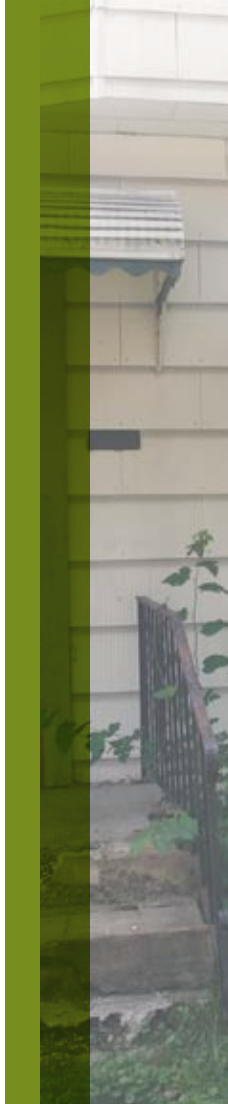
2010 VIRGINIA MCKNIGHT BINGER
Awards in Human Service

THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION





The McKnight Foundation, a Minnesota-based family foundation, seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations. Through grantmaking, coalition-building, and encouragement of strategic policy reform, we use our resources to attend, unite, and empower those we serve.



ABDI ALI *Minneapolis*

JERRY FLEISCHAKER *Minneapolis*

DAN HUNT *St. Paul*

PEG JOHNSON *Duluth*

CYNTHIA MCARTHUR *St. Paul*

BERLYN STASKA *Owatonna*



Statement by Board Chair

Making a positive difference in another person's life is something for which we all strive.

Every year, the Virginia McKnight Binger Awards in Human Service celebrate six individuals who give selflessly of themselves to do just that, many times over, helping others without expectation of material reward. Our honorees understand that making a difference for one day can be crucially important, but *making a difference that lasts* is what really counts.

As in past years, our 2010 awardees provide models for fostering lasting change in all our communities. One seeks out strangers who need a steadying hand on some of their hardest days. Another redefines the notion of freedom while empowering others to pedal toward it. Collectively, they call attention to inequities and implement solutions to resolve them. They create opportunities for respect and dignity that might otherwise go unnoticed.

In their own unique ways, these six awardees demonstrate that each of us holds the power and the responsibility to help cultivate resilient, robust communities throughout Minnesota. They invite us to look beyond our own comfort zones to find those around us who may have never known such comfort. They remind us that lending a hand to a neighbor in need is one of the surest ways to strengthen our entire neighborhood.

Each awardee puts a personal touch into everything they do, offering special gifts that gain value only when shared: compassion, support, open arms, or a leg up. These are the types of gifts that endure to create real, lasting change for individuals and for communities around our state.

These remarkable people reflect the values behind all McKnight's work, and our belief in the individual as the foundation on which all successful societies rest. On behalf of The McKnight Foundation and the awards committee, I commend these awardees for their boundless compassion and humble work on behalf of others.

ROBERT J. STRUYK
CHAIR, THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

About the Awards

The Virginia McKnight Binger Awards in Human Service are an annual tradition at The McKnight Foundation. The awards reflect the Foundation's deep belief in the virtue and power of compassion. Since its inception, this honor has gone to 259 Minnesotans, including this year's group. Each recipient has given time and effort to help others with no expectation of material reward. Each exemplifies the life-changing difference one person can make through service.

In 1985, the Foundation created the Awards in Human Service, which were renamed 10 years later in tribute to Virginia McKnight Binger. Mrs. Binger served the Foundation for nearly 50 years as a board member, as president from 1974 to 1987, and then as honorary chair until her death in 2002. Although William L. and Maude L. McKnight established the Foundation, it was the compassion and personal generosity of their daughter that set the standard for such work.

Like Virginia McKnight Binger in her time, the recipients of these awards are acutely aware of others' needs. Each was nominated in confidence by someone familiar with their work. Nominees live and volunteer in Minnesota and show commitment to helping others achieve a better life. All nominations were researched and independently evaluated.

The Foundation invites nominations annually. Beginning in April, a committee of volunteers who are active in various human service fields evaluates the nominations and recommends finalists to the Foundation's board of directors. Each approved awardee receives \$10,000. For more information about the program, visit the Foundation's website at www.mcknight.org.

PROGRAM

The McKnight Foundation
710 South Second Street, Minneapolis
12:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 25, 2010

Welcome

Kate Wolford, PRESIDENT
Erika L. Binger, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Jolene Anderson, AWARDS COMMITTEE

Presentation of Awards
Erika L. Binger

Awards in Human Service Committee
Jolene Anderson, ST. PAUL
Linda Lares, ALBERT LEA
Patrick Moore, MONTEVIDEO
Diane Rauschenfels, DULUTH
Angie Theisen, WAITE PARK
Dan Wilson, CROOKSTON

Asti Asti



In 2004, Abdi Ali met a young Somali woman and an Oromo teenager at a homeless shelter in north Minneapolis. Their stories changed the focus of his life. He recognized the gaps in services available to African immigrant youth, especially with the significant cultural differences they face. In 2006, Abdi launched a study to explore the causes of homelessness for Somali youth and the cultural competency of organizations working with them. The findings of this study led Abdi to create the Center for Multicultural Mediation and Restorative Justice Program, combining principles of restorative justice and the indigenous values of East Africans to address the needs of Somali youth in crisis.



“Our Center receives referrals from many sources, often from the criminal justice system after a youth has committed a crime,” said Abdi. “By taking the youth and their parents through a consultative process, we hold the youth accountable for their actions, reaching consensus agreements about what needs to be done and how it will be achieved.”

With its emphasis on parental involvement, the Center has also become a first call for help for Somali parents in conflict with their children. Abdi often spends his evenings and weekends responding to parents’ requests for intervention. The Center provides cultural training to help service providers understand the bicultural world in which African immigrant youth are growing up, and also trains mediators who speak the native languages and can work across cultural boundaries.

A proven coalition builder, community organizer, and leader, Abdi displays a relentless passion for peace, tolerance, and social justice. “All youth deserve to be loved and to succeed with the support of their parents,” said Abdi. “My goal through the Center is to provide pathways for Somali youth to find success, give parents in crisis situations avenues where they can get the help they need, and build the capacity of service providers to serve African youth and families better.”

“Abdi believes that everyone is capable given the opportunity and that peaceful co-existence is possible among our communities.”

—Hussein Hashi

Jerry Fleischaker



Shortly after Jerry Fleischaker's wife died of Alzheimer's disease in 2002, he read a newspaper article about an agency working with homeless individuals suffering from mental health issues. The article struck a chord with Jerry. "I remembered the care my wife needed," he said. "I was haunted by the thought of what her life would have been like if she had been homeless."

From that point on, Jerry became interested in the issue of homelessness. In 2008, he learned about St. Stephen's Human Services Street Outreach program. According to the program's director Monica Nilsson, about 400 people are unsheltered in Minneapolis each night. Today, Jerry volunteers fulltime for St. Stephen's, spending at least three shifts each week on the streets, striving to end homelessness. Just in the past eight months, Jerry has placed 23 individuals in permanent housing.

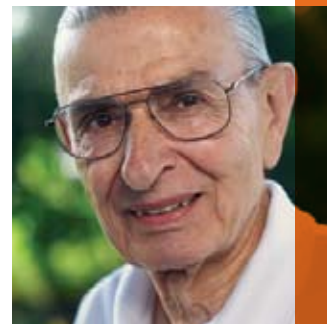
Among his greatest successes was helping a man with developmental challenges who many doubted could maintain stable housing. Jerry had faith and wanted to give the man a chance. He worked with an agency to find a suitable apartment, and the individual now lives successfully on his own, paying his bills on time and thriving. "It changed his life," said Jerry. "He's happy now. He's really a different person."

In another instance, Jerry found housing for a homeless man who is blind, steadfastly walking with him around his apartment complex and neighborhood to help the client acclimate to his new home so he could live independently.

Once a client is safely on his own, Jerry is back on the street with his outreach partner, checking the freeway exits, under bridges, or in the IDS Crystal Court for the next person in need. "Everyone deserves to be housed," said Jerry. "No one deserves to be on the street."

"Jerry spends each day ending homelessness. He has confidence that if people are given some help, they can do the rest on their own."

—Monica Nilsson St. Stephen's Human Services Street Outreach



Dan Hunt



Dan Hunt has served as director of housing for Urban Homeworks for eight years with responsibility for leasing 53 units in Minneapolis and St. Paul, maintaining the properties and supporting families in need of low-income housing. However, Dan's relationship with the tenants goes far beyond that of a typical landlord. His impact in the lives of the families served by Urban Homeworks can be seen each time he shows up at their doorstep.

While many tenants could tell stories of Dan's empathy, dedication, and commitment, Sherry Hanson may have the most inspiring story to tell. "I was living with kidney failure," said Sherry. "Three times per week I needed to undergo dialysis. I was constantly fatigued."

One day while Dan was working in Sherry's building on a project, Sherry told him that she had found a kidney donor, but the donor had backed out. Without pause, Dan asked, "What if I got tested, and if I'm a match you can have my kidney?" He followed through on his promise, and in February, Dan donated his kidney to Sherry. Today, the kidney is working and Sherry is completely free of dialysis.

"I genuinely care about what happens to our clients and their families," said Dan. "We can go through life thinking that it's all about us, but the things we are given are intended for purposes beyond us. It is so much more fulfilling to give away than to keep, and I believe I was given two healthy kidneys so I could give one to Sherry."

"Dan embraces what it means to be a friend and a neighbor. He goes above and beyond to make low-income families feel important."

—Ryan Petersen Urban Homeworks



Peg Johnson



When parents drop off their children at Little Treasures Childcare and Family Center, they often stop to visit with Peg Johnson. Most are low income and receive child care assistance. Some are in chemical treatment programs, seeking employment or trying to regain custody of their children. Many are overwhelmed with their financial and personal issues. These are just the people Peg had in mind when she founded Little Treasures, a nonprofit, enriched early care and education center, in 2000.

“Our mission is to serve families who are at risk or facing additional stress in their lives,” said Peg. “We never want childcare to be the barrier for families when they are moving from welfare to work.”

Peg has donated countless hours to keep the center running in hard times. One minute she’s on the phone with a donor or writing a grant request; the next minute she is holding a crying infant or sitting down with a young father who is repairing a sink at the center in exchange for his copayment, talking with him about parenting and his child’s need for a dad. She goes far beyond a typical childcare director, willingly driving parents to appointments, mentoring them, and sometimes being the mom they themselves never had.

Under Peg’s leadership, dedicated staff, board members, and volunteers relocated the entire program to new facilities last year. They worked in the evenings, moving one classroom at a time, to avoid a gap in service for families. In addition, Peg has developed partnerships with Success by Six, the Parenting Alliance, the statewide Minnesota Thrive Initiative, and the Duluth Head Start program.

“We do everything we can to help our children succeed,” said Peg. “If there are behavior issues, we don’t turn the child away. We know something is causing it, so we focus on helping the child, working with the parents to get them the support they need.”

“Peg works tirelessly for children and families; it is her 24x7 vocation and avocation.”

—Kathy Keeley



Cynthia McArthur



When George was a client of the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) he received a bike from Cynthia McArthur, a 14-year volunteer with CVT who rehabs bikes for clients. The bike transformed his life. He was less dependent on public transportation and found the exercise invigorating.

When George noticed several unclaimed bikes in his apartment storage area, he knew they could be used by other CVT clients. After speaking with the apartment manager, he arranged to donate the bikes to CVT, giving Cynthia another eight bikes to restore for other clients. While Cynthia can no longer ride a bicycle herself due to a chronic illness, she takes joy in sharing her gift with others.

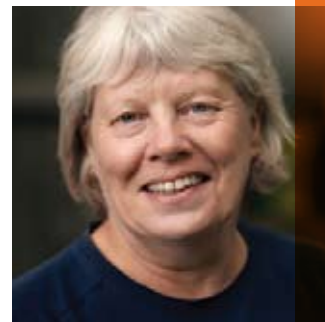
“My gift is fixing bikes,” said Cynthia, who worked as a bike mechanic for five years in the 1970s. “For our clients, bikes are not just a form of transportation, but a medium that helps them heal.”

Cynthia created CVT’s “Bikes for Clients” program in 1998. The program has grown each year since, and in 2009, she obtained, repaired, and arranged delivery of 50 bikes for CVT clients and their family members. Cynthia recently got a thank-you note from a client who received asylum in the United States after being tortured in prison for 12 years for his political beliefs. The note read: “If I had a home, I would invite you into it like you were my sister. When I ride my bike, I can go east or west, north, or south. When I get tired, I can lie in the grass and look into the sky.” For this man, his bike represented freedom.

“That is why bikes are important—it’s a literal and metaphorical part of the healing process,” said Cynthia. “When you donate a bike to CVT, you’ll never meet the client, but you need to trust that you are part of healing of the crime of torture.”

“The simple gift of a bike means so much to clients who have experienced unimaginable trauma and loss. The success and vitality of this program is a tribute to Cynthia’s skill, heart, and dedication.”

—Beth Wickum Center for Victims of Torture



Berlyn Staska



Ever since enrolling in the Air Force and serving four years of active duty in the Korean War in the early 1950s, Berlyn Staska has been giving back. “My involvement as a bugler with the VFW and American Legion Honor Squad began in 1975,” said Berlyn. “It’s a great honor to pay respect to the veterans who served, just as I did.” While he hasn’t kept track, Berlyn estimates that he has played at more than 1,700 veteran funerals during the past 35 years.

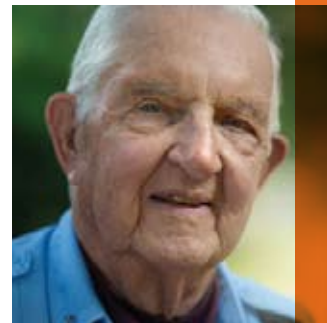
He has also directly impacted the lives of dozens of families in the Owatanna community through his volunteer roles. In 1992, Berlyn was instrumental in organizing the start-up of a local Habitat for Humanity affiliate for the Steele-Waseca area, for which he has served as the volunteer building coordinator for the past 17 years. During this period, the Habitat affiliate has built 16 homes for people in need, and Berlyn has logged more than 15,000 volunteer hours. Not one to stay at home, Berlyn and his wife Kathy have also traveled with various mission groups to assist with building projects in Minnesota and elsewhere across the United States.

Berlyn’s other volunteer activities include delivering meals through Meals on Wheels, serving on many church committees, serving on the Board of Senior Place, and founding and playing in the Owatanna Community Band.

Berlyn credits his wife for his volunteer spirit: “She always volunteered and encouraged me to get involved too. I soon realized that you don’t need to get paid for everything. You get paid back by the satisfaction of helping people and getting to know some really great people in the community.”

“Even at age 82, Berlyn is always ready to lend a hand. He has never been compensated in any manner, not even vehicle mileage.”

— Jim Gauss Habitat for Humanity of Steele-Waseca Area



Previous Recipients

Since 1985, The McKnight Foundation has honored 259 recipients of the Virginia McKnight Binger Awards in Human Service, including this year's honorees. The recipients from the past 25 years are listed below:

2009

Nancy Guenette
Mohamed Hassan Osman
Ken Porwoll
John Poupart
Linda Riddle
Renee Tomatz

2008

Ibrahim Aye
Isaac Combs
Robin and Starla Krause
Jimmy Longoria
Patricia Melody
Steve O'Neil

2007

Ada Beh
Johanna Christianson
Virginia Clark
Bernice Cowl Gordon
Charlitta Ellis
Rachel Kincade
Darcy Knight
Barbara Lewis
Mary F. Nelson
Mark Ochu

2006

Dee Cotten
May Pa Heu
Russ Irvin
Shegitu Kebede
Sarah Mollet
Vivian Peterson
Erik Rodriguez
Jim Soderberg
Jodi Townsend
Patrick Wood

2005

Said Salah Ahmed
Linda Brown
Wafiq Fannoun
Melvin Giles
Ora Hokes
Beth Holger
Curtis Levang
Larry and Noreen Luck
Sister Jean Thuerauf
Hedwidge "Hedy" Tripp

2004

James Andre
Elsie Dugar
Mahmoud El-Kati
Donna Gillen
Mary Gnerer
Daniel Hawkins
Rayome Clark Koehler
Mary Maas
Margaret McBride
Christine Norton
Kay Trainor
Carol Voss

2003

Cal Appleby
James Dodge
Jayne Frank
Linda Jemison
Cindy Johnson
Nathaniel Khaliq
Nancy Meyers
Rajiv Shah
John Siegfried
Char Thompson

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
Darlene Edwards
Denise Gubrud and
Margarita Reese
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
Tyron Smith
Art Stoerberl
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
 Alicene Davis
 Juanita G. Espinosa
 Debra Jones
 Elaine La Canne
 Grace L. Sandness
 Lucille T. Silk
 Connie Strandberg
 Justina Violette

VIRGINIA MCKNIGHT BINGER AWARDS IN HUMAN SERVICE

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR: Tim Hanrahan

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DESIGN: 5 by 5 Design

PHOTOGRAPHY: Mark Luinenburg

PRINTING: Bolger

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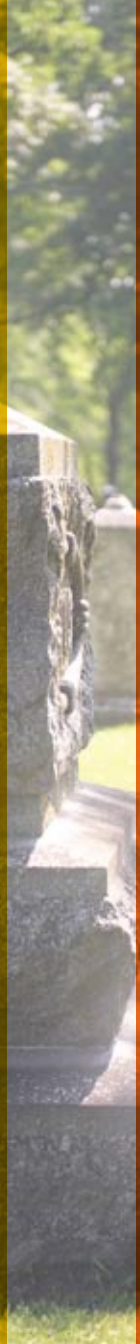
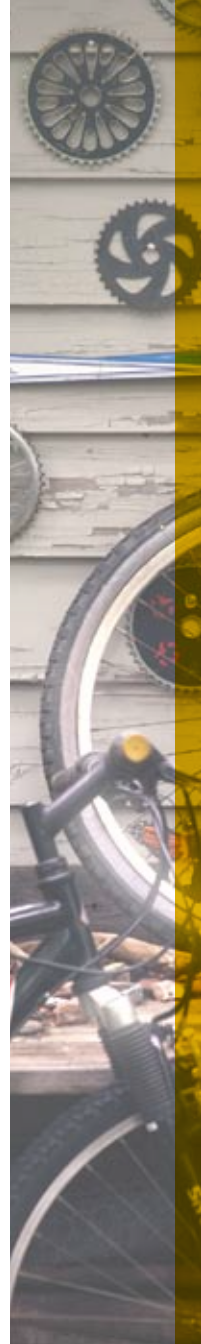
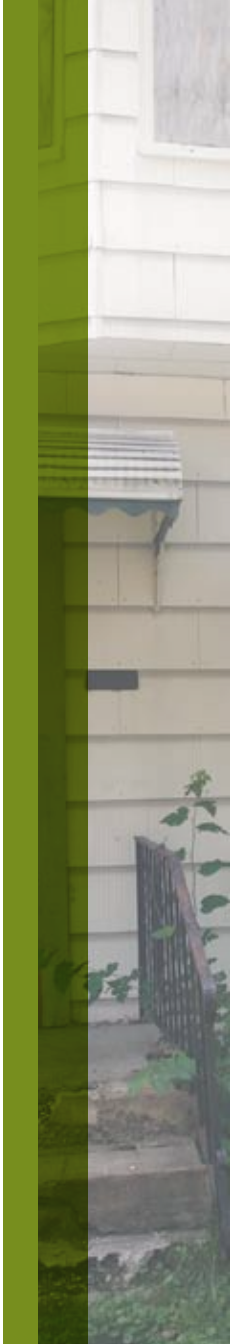
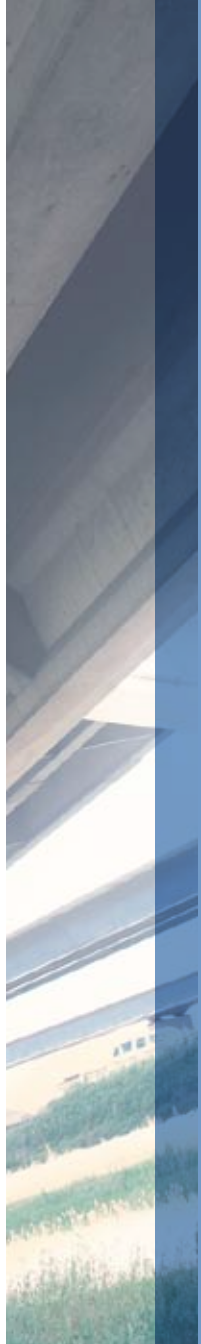
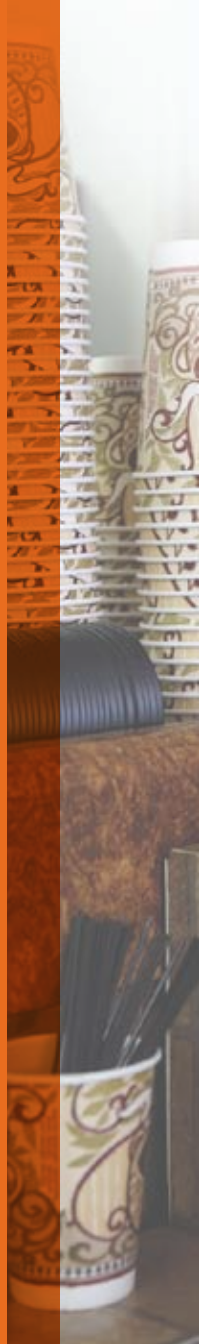
Robert J. Struyk, CHAIR

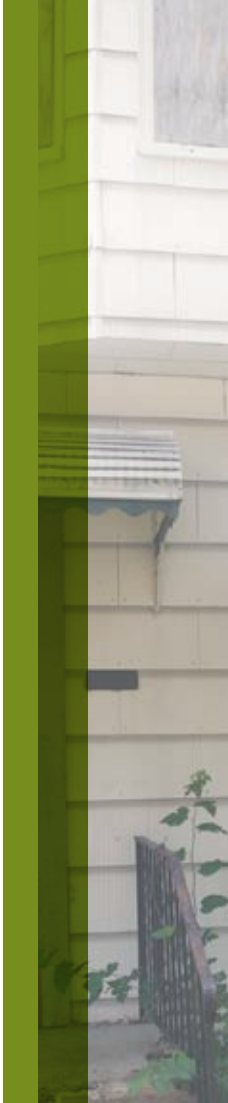
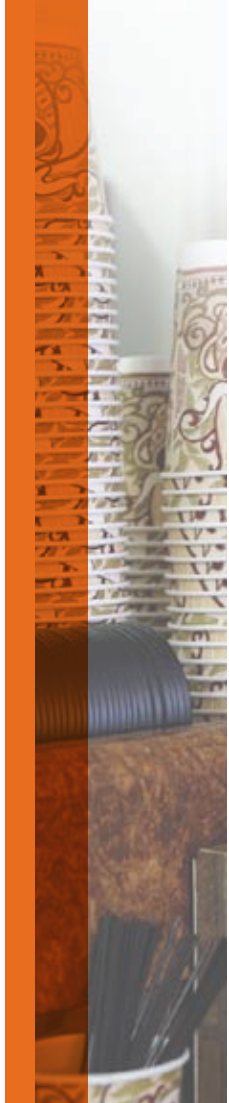
Bill Gregg

ABOUT THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

The McKnight Foundation, a Minnesota-based family foundation, seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations. Through grantmaking, coalition-building, and encouragement of strategic policy reform, we use our resources to attend, unite, and empower those we serve. The Foundation's grantmaking priorities include support of child and youth development, the region and communities, the arts, the environment, and scientific research in selected fields. The Foundation's primary geographic focus is the state of Minnesota.

Founded in 1953 and endowed by William L. McKnight and Maude L. McKnight, The McKnight Foundation had assets of approximately \$1.8 billion and granted about \$98 million in 2009. More information and program-specific grantmaking guidelines are available at www.mcknight.org.





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THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

