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**The Minneapolis Foundation and Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board
announce \$40,000 in grant funding available
for youth-led programs to prevent violence; proposals due Dec. 29**

Young people - from YCB's Minneapolis Youth Congress and Minneapolis Community Education H.Y.P.E. program - will decide which projects will be funded

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 16, 2010 -- The Minneapolis Foundation and the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board (YCB) are engaging young people to help address youth violence, through the launch of a new **(612) YEP (Youth Engagement Philanthropy) fund**. The fund is the first of its kind created by the two organizations, in which young people will choose which projects receive financial support. The fund is now accepting applications for projects and activities that reflect the goals of the City of Minneapolis' "Blueprint for Action: Preventing Youth Violence." Only projects involving youth leadership will be eligible for funding. Grants will range in size from \$1,500 to \$3,500; a total of \$40,000 is available.

"The Minneapolis Foundation and YCB joined forces because we both understand the importance of young people's involvement in the community, especially around this critical issue," said **Ann DeGroot**, YCB's executive director. "This joint effort combines YCB's expertise in working with youth, with the grantmaking expertise of The Minneapolis Foundation, while providing an opportunity for young people to understand another facet of civic life and invest in solutions they believe in."

The (612) YEP fund was created through \$25,000 from YCB, and \$15,000 from the Minneapolis Foundation. Funding will be used to support projects that address the goals of the Blueprint for Action: Preventing Youth Violence in Minneapolis, which are to:

- connect every youth with a trusted adult,

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- intervene at the first sign that youth are at risk for violence,
- restore youth who have gone down the wrong path, and
- unlearn the culture of violence in our community.

“The Minneapolis Foundation is deeply committed to preventing youth violence,” said **Karen Kelley-Ariwoola**, vice president of community philanthropy for The Minneapolis Foundation and a co-chair of the steering committee that created the Blueprint for Action. “We’ve funded a variety of violence prevention efforts, partnered with the City in developing and implementing the Blueprint, and engaged youth to let us know what strategies they believe work best and what we, as a community, can do better. The (612) YEP is an extension of that work, empowering young people to design and select the projects they believe will make the greatest difference on an issue that directly affects their lives.”

Eleven young people, eight who are part of YCB’s Minneapolis Youth Congress and three who are part of the Minneapolis Community Education H.Y.P.E. program, will decide which projects receive funding. The youth developed the fund’s (612) YEP name; they also received training from The Minneapolis Foundation on how to review grant applications, including how to evaluate them and the types of questions to ask.

“In the training, I learned the value of looking at organizations’ mission statements and overall budgets to understand how a potential grant project fits into their programming,” said **Davi Singer**, 17, a senior at Southwest High School, and a member of H.Y.P.E. “We also learned that we will need to respect our differences and figure out how to prioritize which groups we will fund and how much, and why. We’re all there for a variety of reasons, but my main hope is that through the projects we fund, kids will have positive activities available and that violence will decrease next summer.”

“I think sometimes issues involving youth happen because kids are sometimes in the wrong place at the wrong time,” said **Miiko Taylor**, a senior at South High School, who has been a member of the YCB Minneapolis Youth Congress since 2008. “I would love to see programs get supported that can help keep kids active and off the streets, whether that is through after school programs, community service or other activities. I am 17 years old, and I feel really honored to be asked to do something like this that could have a big impact on my community,” said Taylor.

Eligible organizations include 501(c)(3) nonprofit youth-serving agencies and public institutions that work with youth. Grant applications must be youth-led (middle and high school age Minneapolis youth), with youth involved in the design and implementation of the program / activities, as well as in

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development of the grant proposal itself. Grant applications are available to download from The Minneapolis Foundation website, www.MinneapolisFoundation.org, or the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board website, www.ycb.org. Further information on eligible organizations, examples of projects and details on submitting proposals are also available online.

Grant proposals are due no later than 2:00 p.m. on December 29; proposals will be reviewed in January. Applicants may be asked to make a presentation about their grant request in February. Funding decisions will be announced in February. The projects are to take place during summer 2011 – with final reports on the results of the project due by Sept. 30, 2011. For more information, contact **Valerie Lee**, community philanthropy officer, The Minneapolis Foundation, at (612) 672-3849.

About The Minneapolis Foundation

Established in 1915, The Minneapolis Foundation (www.minneapolisfoundation.org) is one of the oldest community foundations in the nation. It was created to help individuals accomplish their charitable goals and to work with others to strengthen the community. The Minneapolis Foundation manages more than \$500 million in assets and manages more than 1,000 charitable funds created by individuals, families, and businesses in Minnesota. In accordance with donors' wishes, the Foundation distributes more than \$30 million in grants each year, and through an endowment distributes an additional \$6 million in grants annually to serve community needs. In addition, The Minneapolis Foundation works with other community leaders to improve the quality of life in our region and serve as a catalyst for discussion and action on critical issues.

About the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board

The Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board (www.ycb.org) champions the well-being and healthy development of Minneapolis children and young people. It is a collaborative effort of the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, and the Minneapolis Public Schools. Established in 1985, the YCB identifies community strengths and needs, coordinates resources, and promotes policy, actions and community engagement to benefit the health, safety, education and development of Minneapolis' children and young people. The YCB has initiated and spun off programs such as Way to Grow and Step Up. Current initiatives include the ongoing Minneapolis Youth Congress, Youth Are Here free circulator bus service, collaborative work on the We Want You Back campaign, an annual youth-led public policy agenda, and other programs. In 2009, YCB issued a Call to Action and Children's Report Card, which can be found online, outlining goals for 2020.

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