



For Immediate Release
July 21, 2010

Kate Sattler, Communications Manager
(612) 672-3835 / ksattler@mplsfoundation.org

The Minneapolis Foundation Awards \$2.8 million in Community Grants

Minneapolis, Minn. — The Minneapolis Foundation recently awarded 58 Community Grants totaling \$2,895,000 to organizations under its three areas of focus for community impact – transforming education, promoting economic vitality, and building social capital. The grants, announced to the recipients in July 2010, are the second round awarded under the Foundation's new strategic plan and will help achieve a set of key results for Minneapolis residents, ultimately leading to greater social, economic, and racial equity.

These grants are awarded from an endowment to meet critical community needs as identified by the Foundation's board of trustees. The endowment is funded by Minnesotans who want to make a greater community impact by combining their charitable gifts (either planned or direct) with those of other civic-minded individuals and families.

"We're committed to making our community a fair, vibrant, and sustainable place in which everyone has the power to build a positive future for themselves, their families, and their community," said Sandy Vargas, president and CEO of The Minneapolis Foundation.

The following is a breakdown of the grant totals in each focus area, a list of grantee recipients, and a sample grant. Visit www.MinneapolisFoundation.org for a complete list of recent Community Grant awards, descriptions, and application information. The next application deadline for Community Grants is September 1, 2010.

Transforming Education 19 grants totaling \$1,075,000

High-quality education that enables all young people to learn and thrive is essential to individual well-being and regional prosperity. Our investment in this area focuses on three key results: student success, effective public education, and community and parent engagement. \$1,075,000 in grants will support education through a variety of programs whose efforts include increasing parent engagement, improving child care systems and access to child care, and supporting early childhood, youth, and college school-readiness.

-more-

List of Education Grants

A Chance to Grow \$35,000	Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention, and Parenting \$30,000
Athletes Committed to Educating Students \$60,000	Patchwork Quilt \$30,000
Children's Law Center of Minnesota \$60,000	Plymouth Christian Youth Center \$60,000
Family Housing Fund \$50,000	Resources for Child Caring \$70,000
Genesys Works \$50,000	Stages Theatre Company \$40,000
Greater Twin Cities United Way \$100,000	The Best Academy Inc. \$60,000
Itasca Project \$125,000	Upstream Arts Inc. \$60,000
Joyce Preschool \$30,000	Way to Grow \$50,000
Minnesota Immigrant Freedom Network \$45,000	Wilderness Inquiry \$50,000
Minnesota Minority Education Partnership \$70,000	

Promoting Economic Vitality

19 grants totaling \$865,000

It is critical to develop pathways to help all Minnesotans move out of poverty and into active participation in our community, which will improve the overall health and vitality of our region. Our investment in this area focuses on three key results: stable families, a prepared workforce, and community wealth. Grant awards totaling \$865,000 will work toward assisting economic development in low-income areas, providing housing and services to low-income families, advocating for affordable housing in Minnesota, and supporting job training and employment programs.

List of Economic Vitality Grants

AccountAbility Minnesota \$50,000	Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers \$50,000
Aeon \$50,000	Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce \$40,000
Affirmative Options Coalition \$40,000	Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy \$35,000
African Development Center of Minnesota \$50,000	Minnesota Housing Partnership \$50,000
Build Wealth Minnesota, Inc. \$35,000	Neighborhood Development Center \$40,000
Community Reinvestment Fund, USA \$50,000	Summit Academy OIC \$50,000
Emerge Community Development \$40,000	The Bridge for Youth \$50,000
Goodwill Industries / Easter Seals Minnesota \$45,000	Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity \$50,000
Housing Preservation Project \$50,000	Twin Cities RISE \$40,000
Latino Economic Development Center \$50,000	

Building Social Capital 20 grants totaling \$955,000

The Minneapolis Foundation supports efforts by people affected by community problems to define the challenges and find solutions, and make sure institutions are representative of, and responsive to, the communities they serve. Our investment in this area focuses on three key results: communities speak and act for themselves, responsive organizations, and effective leadership. \$955,000 in grants will build social capital by supporting mentoring and youth engagement programs, civic engagement, racial and gender equity, and equality for people with disabilities and minority communities.

-more-

List of Building Social Capital Grants

Access Press \$30,000	Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center \$50,000
Refugee and Immigrant Women for Change \$50,000	Native American Community Development Institute \$50,000
Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota \$60,000	Organizing Apprenticeship Project \$60,000
Courage Center \$50,000	Pangea World Theater \$75,000
Harrison Neighborhood Association \$35,000	Project 515 Education Campaign \$30,000
Headwaters Foundation for Justice \$50,000	Somali Action Alliance \$50,000
Hope Community \$45,000	The Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota \$35,000
KFAI, Fresh Air \$60,000	Twin Cities Community Voice Mail \$55,000
Kwanzaa Community Church \$50,000	WATCH \$50,000
Minneapolis Beacons Network \$35,000	youthrive \$35,000

Established in 1915, The Minneapolis Foundation 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 administers 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.

###