



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact:**  
Sarah Lemagie  
PR & Communications Officer  
(612) 672-3877  
[slemagie@mplsfoundation.org](mailto:slemagie@mplsfoundation.org)

## **The Minneapolis Foundation Names Five New Trustees**

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — The Minneapolis Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of five new members to its Board of Trustees. **Julie Baker, Mary Grove, Sara Lueben, Becky O’Grady** and **Sharon Pierce** joined the board at a meeting this week.

“These new Trustees bring a wide range of perspectives, deep experience in their fields and a shared commitment to strengthening this community, and I look forward to their contributions on our board,” said R.T. Rybak, President and CEO of The Minneapolis Foundation.

The Board of Trustees is composed of three dozen residents of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metro area who are leaders in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Baker, Grove, O’Grady and Pierce have been appointed to four-year terms on the board. Lueben will serve for two years as a representative of The Minneapolis Foundation’s Fourth Generation program.

The new Trustees are as follows:

**Julie Baker** serves on the Greater Twin Cities United Way’s Board of Directors, sitting on its Executive Committee. She also serves as an Emeritus member of the Board of Directors for Way to Grow, an agency that works to ensure that young children in Minneapolis’ most isolated families are healthy and ready for school. She also serves as a mentor volunteer at Edina High School.

**Mary Grove** is Co-Founder of Silicon North Stars, a nonprofit whose mission since 2013 is to inspire young Minnesotans from economically underserved communities toward futures in tech. She spent 15 years at Google in Silicon Valley, New York City, and Zurich. Mary was the founding Director of Google for Entrepreneurs and led the company's global efforts to support entrepreneurs and startup communities in more than 130 countries. She also led over 100 partnerships for Google as part of New Business Development and worked on the company's IPO deal team. Mary is a Partner at Revolution's Rise of the Rest Seed Fund, where she invests in early stage companies outside of Silicon Valley, New York, and Boston. She has served on the Boards and Advisory Boards of the Techstars Foundation, Stanford Alumni Association, UP Global, and Astia. Mary earned her B.A. and M.A. from Stanford University. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband Steve and their three-year-old twins.

**Sara Lueben** is the Community Engagement Coordinator at NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center, where she has worked since 2015. She has spent the last 13 years working for nonprofits in North Minneapolis, learning much in that time about tenacity and resilience from individuals overcoming barriers to gain personal success and support their families. She has also seen the inequities, gaps and scarcity of resources to support people on this journey. In addition to her work at NorthPoint, Sara volunteers with Fourth Generation, a grantmaking group of young professionals who explore equity, philanthropy, and community to increase their collective impact. She has participated with Fourth Generation for four years, including two years on the group's advisory board as Equity Chair, Grantmaking Chair and now Board Chair.

**Becky O'Grady** is a retired General Mills senior executive, where she spent almost 30 years in marketing and general management roles across leading global brands. As a founding member of General Mills' Women in Marketing and Women in Leadership networks, and a senior advisor to the Hispanic Employee Network, she was an active sponsor and advocate for diversity and inclusion efforts. She currently serves as an independent director on several corporate boards, including La-Z-Boy, HALO, Ripple Foods and Tropicale. She is also committed to education initiatives, including policy, practice and accessibility programs. She serves on the board of Breck School, where she is Past President and chair of the Governance Committee. She is also a Regent for Northwestern University.

**Dr. Sharon Pierce** is leading the efforts to provide transformative student experiences at Minneapolis College. Sharon, who began serving as president in July 2016, embodies the institution's mission, vision and values. She guides the President's Council in making important

decisions and setting the strategic direction of the College with input from stakeholders on and off campus. Within her first two years leading the College, Sharon has developed strong partnerships with many of its stakeholders, including area businesses, Minneapolis Public Schools, higher education and workforce agencies as well as colleagues from across the 54 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities campuses.

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***About The Minneapolis Foundation:*** For more than 100 years, The Minneapolis Foundation has connected people, resources, and ideas to improve lives in Minnesota and beyond. The Foundation manages \$900 million in assets, providing customized and tax-smart giving solutions that result in the average annual distribution of more than \$70 million in grants. The Foundation brings people together to unite behind common goals and spark positive change in our community. [www.minneapolisfoundation.org](http://www.minneapolisfoundation.org)