

Strong Communities  
**CONNECTOR**  
news from  
**MACC**  
Alliance of Connected Communities  
formerly the Metropolitan Alliance of Community Centers

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**JUNE 2007**



Pictured above is the Commonwealth Board (clockwise from top left): Jan Berry, MACC President; Molly Greenman, Family & Children's Service CEO; Deb Renshaw, The Link Executive Director; Stan Birnbaum, Commonwealth President; Barbara Milon, Phyllis Wheatley Community Center Executive Director; Anne Long, Plymouth Christian Youth Center Executive Director; Dan Ursin, Commonwealth Finance Director; LeRoy Martin, Family & Children's Service Board; Carl Mohn, PCYC Board; Mike Johnson, Commonwealth Human Resources Director. (Not pictured: Michelle Klemz, Phyllis Wheatley Board; Fred Quirsfeld, Pillsbury United Communities Board; Tony Wagner, Pillsbury United Communities President.)

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## MACC NEWS

### [Commonwealth Continues its Progress](#)

**MACC CommonWealth** continues to make excellent progress on its work integrating the “back room” operations of its first five members. We have experienced significant success with each of our three focus areas (finance, human resources and information technology).

At this time, all of our members are operating on a common platform. In addition to converting all users to the Microsoft Dynamics financial platform, we have trained a dozen managers to use the on-line tools for financial inquiry—one of the most powerful features of this platform. This training will continue throughout the summer. We have mastered the learning curve of our members’ operations, completed half a dozen audits, and are smoothing our process to deliver on-time, high quality financials to our members. Among other “wins,” we have received positive feedback from our boards as they work with the new financial report formats.

All of our organizations are now on the same state-of-the-art ADP payroll platform, integrated with the Stromberg time reporting system. Staff at all organizations enter time on-line, vacation requests, etc. Supervisory review, including vacation approvals are handled on-line through the outstanding workflow capacity of the Stromberg system. Our implementation has also substantially decreased the burden of time reporting for our one member who previously used a competing time-reporting product. In addition to our work on pay systems, we have also just implemented a common set of tool for staffing positions, starting with creating a job order and ending with orienting the employee to their new organization.

We are launching the second wave of information technology integration, including designing our new wide-area network, building our central computer room and implementing a large voice-over-IP telephone system (VOIP). This area has demonstrated one of the key financial benefits of the CommonWealth. In many cases, our best opportunity to save comes with some of the costs that are outside our core “back room” areas. For example, we are procuring wide-area service (T-1 lines) at a cost about 20% lower than our members’ cost before this project. Likewise, the cost of our telephone system should come in 15% lower than the costs each of our members could find individually. We have also arranged for no-interest financing from Cisco to help our members afford this equipment. Total savings from this volume deal, along with value of no-interest financing, is over \$100,000.

During the summer, we will work closely with all of our boards on securing common audit and banking solutions—it’s exciting and rewarding to watch this collaborative process spread from the staff and CEO level to the board level as well. We are truly working together to solve problems none of us can solve individually.

We are also in conversation with a couple of organizations interested in joining the CommonWealth. If your organization is interested, or would like to learn more, please contact Jan Berry at 612-791-2635 or Stan Birnbaum at 612-341-1630.

### [MACC & Members host UNCA and Alliance of Children & Families](#)

UNCA and the Alliance of Children & Families leadership met with representatives from about 20 Twin Cities agencies at **Neighborhood House** on June 1. Peter Goldberg, Susan Dreyfus, Patrick Lester and Ian Bautista provided a Regional Membership Briefing on the recent work and services provided by the Alliance and UNCA. Public Policy Director for the Alliance, Patrick Lester distributed the Alliance policy agenda and reviewed the process for identifying policy priorities.



Peter Goldberg, Susan Dreyfus, Patrick Lester and Ian Bautista

Issues and policy positions on the public policy agenda are prioritized according to the following criteria:

- Timeliness.
- Impact on member organizations and the populations they serve.
- Alignment with the long-term objectives of the Alliance, UNCA, member agencies, and the nonprofit human services sector.
- Substantial agreement among members on policy positions.
- Lack of adequate coverage by allied organizations.
- Ability to achieve a meaningful policy outcome.

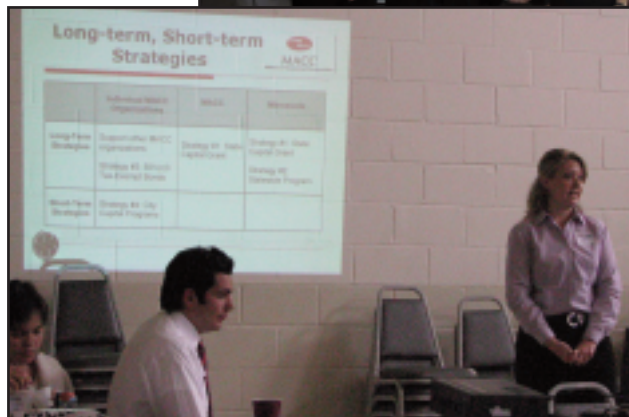
In 2007, the Tier One issues that the Alliance and UNCA will exercise leadership on are (1) Child Welfare and (2) Education (K-12) and federal funding priorities and (3) Behavioral health. In addition to these issues, the Alliance and UNCA will lend support to a number of issues that are critical to families and communities including housing, immigration, minimum wage levels, and others.

### Capstone Project results presented to the MACC board

Humphrey Institute students Mandy Bai, Stephanie Jacobs, Christopher Klisch, Valerie LeGrand, and Gulnara Minnigaleeva presented their findings from a six-month study to the MACC Board of Directors on May 15. Their focus was the question, “What’s the possibility of achieving 2008 legislation that provides for the State of MN to set aside \$50 million in every bonding bill for the next ten years for the construction of community centers throughout the state?” In the process of exploring the feasibility of government support for nonprofit infrastructure, this team developed a roadmap for success in substantially increasing funding for nonprofits.

Their research explored the current need for such facilities, timing considerations, and currently relationships with the legislature and other professional partnerships that would assist this process.

An adhoc MACC committee will continue to explore this topic and these research findings. Many thanks to this group of scholars for their fabulous work on behalf of MACC!  
Humphrey Institute students Mandy Bai, Stephanie Jacobs, Christopher Klisch, Valerie LeGrand, and Gulnara Minnigaleeva.



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## VALUE TO MEMBERS

### MACC Youth Group Exploratory Team visits Camp Bovey

A team from the MACC Youth Affinity Group made the trip up to Gordon, Wisconsin to visit **East Side Neighborhood Services’** Camp Bovey in late May. East Side team: Jessica Compton, Jazmin Danielson, and Jessica Paulus, provided a tour and introduction to camp for Sharon Haas (MACC), Shannon Siegfried (**Loring Nicollet-Bethlehem**), Jill Smith (**The Link**), and Vant Washington (**Family & Children’s Service**). We found out that this was a hearty crew when the temperature dropped to 38 degrees on our overnight stay! This trip was the first step in laying plans for a MACC agency youth camp week in the summer of 2008. MACC agency youth programs that are interested in finding out more, please contact Sharon at haass@puc-mn.org.



From top left (counter clockwise): Jazmin Danielson (East Side), Sharon Haas (MACC), Jessica "Shorty" Paulus (Camp Bovey), Vant Washington (Family & Children's Service), Shannon Siegfried (LNB Community Centers), & Jill Smith (The Link).

## [HR Team hosts seminar on Dealing with Conflict](#)

A few dozen MACC agency supervisors and managers learned tools and skills for dealing with conflict in a June 20 workshop hosted by **East Side Neighborhood Services** and sponsored by the MACC HR Team working with Optum.

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## PARTNERSHIPS

### [Hold the date for the Alliance National Conference, October 17-19](#)

Join the best national peer network of nonprofit human service leaders at the Alliance's premiere event in Anaheim Marriott, October 17-19, 2007. This conference promises to expand your national peer connections and equip you, your senior management team and your board with knowledgeable solutions to the many timely issues and opportunities facing the nonprofit human services sector. The **United Neighborhood Centers of America (UNCA)** Mini Conference, in partnership with the Alliance, will be held on Friday, October 19th.

### [MACC says good bye to two agency leaders](#)

In June, MACC said good bye to board members Greg Wandersee, President of **Keystone Community Services**, and Dan Hoxworth, **Neighborhood House** President. Greg Wandersee retired from Keystone Community Services after 17 years as President. He served in a leadership capacity on the MACC Executive Committee for a number of years, including recently as Board Chair. Dan Hoxworth served as President of Neighborhood House for ten years and in executive leadership for MACC, most recently as Board Vice Chair. Their insight and skillful leadership will be missed. MACC welcomes to the board Eric Nyberg as Interim President at Keystone and Kari Niedfeldt Thomas, interim President at Neighborhood House.



MACC President Jan Berry and MACC Board Chair Anne Long with departing MACC past board chair Greg Wandersee.

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## Member News...

- **Pillsbury** affiliate, **Emerge**, a nonprofit organization that connects low income or disenfranchised Twin Cities residents to employment, training and housing opportunities, opened its new headquarters at 1101 West Broadway in April. The opening is cause for celebration not only for Emerge, but for North Minneapolis and the West Broadway corridor. The 100-year-old, two story building had been vacant for more than a decade. Its re-opening, with Emerge as its anchor tenant, is a plus for the neighborhood & provides a valuable service to area residents.
- **Arc Greater Twin Cities** has moved! Arc is now located at 2446 University Avenue West, Suite 110, St. Paul, MN 55114-1740, on the southwest corner of University Avenue & Pelham Boulevard. Arc's phone number and website address remain the same: 952-920-0855 at [www.arcgreatertwincities.org](http://www.arcgreatertwincities.org)
- Effective July 1, 2007, **Tubman Family Alliance** and **Chrysalis** will merge operations to better and more effectively serve women, families, and communities. The boards of both organizations approved the merger in May. Visit [www.tubmanfamilyalliance.org](http://www.tubmanfamilyalliance.org) for more details.
- **Family & Children's Service** was honored with the **Rainbow Families** Award in May. This prestigious award acknowledges and pays tribute to an organization that has made a significant contribution in strengthening the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community and/or advocating on their behalf. Congratulations to our colleagues!
- The **Sabbathani** Food Shelf, renamed Walker's Market has launched a "Feed our Neighbors Food Drive." Drop off your bags of groceries at Walker's Market now through September. You can help meet the 20,000 pounds summer

goal. Each person who donates a bag of groceries will be entered in a drawing for great prizes. Winners will be announced in September. Contact Trudy, 612-821-2303 for more information about what to donate.



Youth with Minneapolis Mayor RT Rybak.

■ **Pillsbury United Communities'** Minneapolis Youth Empowerment Council was invited to sit down with Minneapolis Mayor RT Rybak to talk about youth related issue facing MPLS teens. The Council spent over an hour with our Mayor posing questions about youth/gang violence, schools, and resources available for teens in our city. The Mayor stated several times how impressed he was the depth and variety of questions posed by the teens. He encouraged them all to spread the word about Minneapolis Promise and the Power of You to ensure all MPLS teens can afford college no matter their financial situation.

The Pillsbury United Communities Minneapolis Empowerment Council was founded in 2006 to bring together elected Teens from each of the four neighborhood centers (and Folwell Park FANS) to receive leadership training in regards to service-learning. The Council has led two Citywide service-projects raising awareness about Youth Development in Third-World countries while showcasing the talents of MPLS youth working for social change. They have also facilitated community projects in their own neighborhoods including clean-ups, murals, working with elderly and play productions.

■ On Friday, August 10, **East Side Neighborhood Services** will host the 12th Annual Mill City Golf Tournament. For more information, [visit www.esns.org](http://www.esns.org)

■ **Merrick Community Services** and the Maplewood Oakdale Lions Club will host their 3rd Annual Golf Tournament on July 9, 2007. For more information, contact Merrick at 651-771-8821.

■ July 16 – August 17, 10-4pm weekdays, **Plymouth Christian Youth Center** offers a tremendous opportunity to area kids ages 9-13 who want to sing, dance and perform an original musical play this summer. For more information about cost and registration, contact Jessie Bester at 612-522-6501 or [jbester@pcyc-mpls.org](mailto:jbester@pcyc-mpls.org)

■ On Tuesday, August 7, in conjunction with National Night Out, **West 7th Community Center** will host an evening of neighborhood activities from 5-9pm. Come get to know your neighbors and enjoy an evening of fun!

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#### **PLEASE FORWARD THIS MEMO TO A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE**

To directly receive the monthly MACC email news memo, e-mail your request to [shaas@maccalliance.org](mailto:shaas@maccalliance.org). To be removed from the list, use the same contact address. Joining or leaving the Memo distribution list is the individual responsibility of people requesting the Memo.

The **MACC Alliance of Connected Communities** is the alliance 21 Twin Cities-based human service organiza-

tions. MACC's mission is "Unleashing the connective power of communities to build their own futures. Contact MACC director of operations, at (612) 302-3432 or shaas@maccalliance.org

#### **MACC MEMBER AGENCIES**

**Arc Greater Twin Cities** [www.arcgreatertwincities.org](http://www.arcgreatertwincities.org)

**City, Inc.** [www.thecityinc.org](http://www.thecityinc.org)

**Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota** [www.cscmn.org](http://www.cscmn.org)

**East Side Neighborhood Services** [www.esns.org](http://www.esns.org)

**Family & Children's Service** [www.everyfamilymatters.org](http://www.everyfamilymatters.org)

**Hallie Q. Brown/Martin Luther King Center** phone: 651-224-4601

**Hennepin County Department of Human Services and Public Health** [www.co.hennepin.mn.us](http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us)

**Keystone Community Services** [www.keystoneservices.org](http://www.keystoneservices.org)

**LDA of Minnesota** [www.ldaminnesota.org](http://www.ldaminnesota.org)

**The Link** [www.thelinkmn.org](http://www.thelinkmn.org)

**Loring Nicollet-Bethlehem Community Centers** [www.lnbcc.org](http://www.lnbcc.org)

**Merrick Community Services** [www.merrickcs.org](http://www.merrickcs.org)

**Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center** [www.miwrc.org](http://www.miwrc.org)

**Neighborhood House** [www.neighb.org](http://www.neighb.org)

**Phyllis Wheatley Community Center** [www.phylliswheatley.org](http://www.phylliswheatley.org)

**Pillsbury United Communities** [www.puc-mn.org](http://www.puc-mn.org)

**Plymouth Christian Youth Center** [www.pcy-cmpls.org](http://www.pcy-cmpls.org)

**Sabathani Community Center** [www.sabathani.org](http://www.sabathani.org)

**Tubman Family Alliance** [www.tubmanfamilyalliance.org](http://www.tubmanfamilyalliance.org)

**Way To Grow** [www.mplswayatogrow.org](http://www.mplswayatogrow.org)

**West Seventh Community Center** [www.west7th.org](http://www.west7th.org)

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- F. R. Bigelow Foundation
- Otto Bremer Foundation
- Bush Foundation
- RBC Dain Rauscher Foundation
- Richard and Joyce McFarland Family Fund
- The McKnight Foundation
- Northwest Area Foundation
- Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation
- Carl and Eloise Pohlads Family Foundation
- Saint Paul Foundation
- St. Paul Travelers Foundation
- Southways Foundation
- 3M Foundation
- Warren F. Weck, Jr., Charitable Trust
- Wells Fargo Minnesota Foundation