

Strong Communities

CONNECTOR

news  from

MACC

Alliance of Connected Communities

formerly the Metropolitan Alliance of Community Centers

December 2007



MACC members on the move: LEFT: Gene Martinez, Arc Greater Twin Cities Senior Advocate, Public Policy; Peggy Smith, Arc Greater Twin Cities Board Member; and Kim Keprios, Arc Greater Twin Cities Chief Executive Officer, at the open house for new offices of Arc Greater Twin Cities in St.Paul; CENTER: Carolyn Smallwood in front of the new Way to Grow offices on Broadway in Minneapolis; RIGHT: Executive Director Deb Renshaw with Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman at The Link's open house for its new offices on Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis.

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MEMBER NEWS...

MACC NEWS

Update on Unleashing the Power Campaign

MACC launched a campaign in 2006 to address the changing face of the nonprofit sector by creating new collaborations, empowering community residents, assisting low-income residents with wealth creation, and preparing nonprofit leaders for the challenges ahead.

Called Unleashing the Power, this campaign set out to raise \$1,700,000 capacity-building and program development dollars over three years. At the end of its second year, we're pleased to announce that the campaign has raised 79% of its goal with another year to go. Thanks to all who have contributed to this groundbreaking initiative! All of our funders are listed at the end of this newsletter.

MACC celebrates the year's accomplishments at a December reception

On December 12, from 4-6 pm, MACC celebrated its 2007 accomplishments at an Annual Meeting Reception at Loring Pasta Bar in Dinkytown. Some of the year's highlights included:

- MACC investigated options for capital bonding to rebuild community center infrastructure through the work and research conducted by six public policy graduate students from the Humphrey Institute. Their findings were presented to the MACC board in May.
- MACC introduced its work and its potential to over 20 legislators when MACC board members met at the State Capitol in March.
- MACC is making plans for MACC Camp Adventure Weeks in 2008 following an exploratory visit to Camp Bovey last May by the Youth Affinity Group.

MACC will distribute its Annual Report with a more complete listing of highlights and accomplishments at the beginning of 2008.

Commonwealth ends a successful first year on a high note

MACC CommonWealth ends a very successful first year by welcoming its first new members. **LDA of Minnesota** and **Neighborhood House** joined us as Associate Members, electing to use our information technology services (Associate Members participate in just part of our service offerings). We're also talking to a handful of additional organizations that have expressed interest in membership.



We're pleased with the on-going growth and capability of our services. The sometimes rocky road that goes with new ventures is now behind us--our core products and services have matured significantly. Our team has developed all year, gaining real expertise in the activities and practices of our members.

We also find that our collaboration continues to deepen. For example, we worked with all of our members' boards this summer and fall to select a single auditor for both MACC CommonWealth and our member organizations. In addition to reducing our cost for audit services, we are lowering the overhead to support multiple audits.

Our budget for 2008 calls for healthy growth due to the addition of new members and the development of new services. We're confident that 2008 will be marked by both enhanced services to our members and continuing growth as an organization.

NOTICE TO MACC MEMBERS

Survey of MACC member staffs set for Jan 3 to 10

We believe the collective knowledge and experience of the staff members of MACC agencies are valuable and important to share. So we will be asking agencies to invite their staffs to complete an online survey to help us get their current perception of the status of our communities. The survey will be conducted from Jan. 3 to 10, and cover the three primary program areas of MACC members: essentials (health, housing, transportation, food), civic engagement (culture, new immigrants, community engagement) and opportunity (family and youth services, education, jobs). A preliminary draft of the results will be available for our meeting at the capitol with legislators on January 15.

Please help this process stay on the fast track by encouraging all your peers to participate in the online survey. The more folks we have, the better our validity. For administrators, we will provide email notices that you can forward to your staff.

Thanks.

VALUE TO MEMBERS

MACC Leadership Groups

In 2007, MACC facilitated two monthly Leadership development groups with MACC agency vice presidents and program directors. During these interactive sessions, participants engaged in a reflective practice process, facilitated by MACC President, Jan Berry. Interest is so high in this type of learning exchange that MACC will hold two Leadership groups again in 2008 -- one made up of MACC agency leadership from the 2007 groups. The second group is open to MACC agency staff members who are interested in developing their leadership skills. Contact Sharon at shaas@maccalliance.org for more information.

MACC will offer a Supervisor course in 2008

MACC is pleased to announce that we will again be offering the Essentials of Supervision with course instructor, Jackie Hill. This is a six-session course that will be offered to MACC agency supervisors on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in May. Course topics include the supervisor's role in management, regulatory considerations, recruitment & hiring, managing conflict, and much, much more.

The MACC Staff Development Team is making plans for a range of staff development opportunities for MACC staff in 2008. A more complete schedule will be announced in the new year.

PARTNERSHIPS

Educating Minnesota's Immigrant Students Report now available

During the latter half of 2006, a Study Committee on Immigration and Higher Education held several meetings to provide their input and insights to the topic. This effort was a joint project of the **Citizens League** and the MACC Alliance of Connected Communities. Our partnership helped to insure a wide variety of stakeholder participation in this study, including immigrant families and the community organizations that touch their lives. We're pleased to announce that a report on Phase I of this project is now available at the Citizens League. To find out more about this study and its findings, go to www.citizensleague.org.

Congratulations to MACC Youth Work Evaluation Fellows & thanks to U of M Child, Youth & Family Consortium

Three MACC agency leaders are among the 22 Evaluation Fellows chosen from a pool of 40 to participate in a year-long learning opportunity. Karen Goodenough, **PCYC**; Jaime Kambiri, **The Link**; and Shannon Siegfried Floe, **LNB Community Centers** will spend the 2007-08 school year studying youth program outcomes with colleagues from the public policy sector, funders, and community agency leadership, as part of the Evaluation Fellows Program. This program is coordinated by the Child, Youth and Family Consortium with 2007-08 Coordinator, Rebecca Saito. Some of the

topics they will explore include: the role of cultural competency in reaching youth and increasing family involvement; appropriate assessment tools; using data to impact organizational effectiveness; and many others. They will also attend seminars with presenters Dr. Heather Weiss, Dr. Michael Quinn Patton, Dr. Karen Pittman and more. Congratulations fellows!

[Meet MACC Database Group facilitator, Bina Nikrin from Hennepin County Planning Department](#)

"I always get a kick out of being in a room with people who are sharing what they do and discovering what others are doing." That's what Bina Thompson Nikrin from the Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department - Planning, Policy, and Quality Assurance (PPQA) likes about her role of facilitating the MACC database group.

The group is exploring the possibility of a common MACC agency data set. "We need some agreement about what we measure and what would work best for most MACC agencies," she says. The challenge is to find areas of information that will be valuable to measure for all agencies, and to identify what information will need to be left to individual agencies to identify.

"We decided to look at food shelf programs first (youth programs will be next)," says Bina, "to see what is already being measured and what differences there are among programs." For example, while all food shelves might find customer satisfaction information to be helpful, they approach it in different ways, like using a feedback card or tracking culturally-specific food requests. The group is sorting through what data are common and what are unique. The goals, starting with the food shelf area, are to first identify what data would be most meaningful for MACC to report collectively and second to ultimately identify a data system that would support this.

The database group is a counterpart to the evaluation group, and the two groups have met together to coordinate efforts. Bina facilitates the other members of the group: Art Serotoff, **Sabathani Community Center**; Barbara Merrill, **Neighborhood House**; Claudia Waring, **Pillsbury United Communities**; Eric Nyberg, **Keystone Community Services**; Vang Lo, **Merrick Community Services**; James Worlobah, **East Side Neighborhood Services**; and Jan Berry, MACC.

MEMBER NEWS...

- On February 23rd at Long Lake Regional Park in New Brighton, **East Side Neighborhood Services** will host its 3rd annual Snow Shoe Shuffle. This 5K and 10K race is for all ages and all abilities. The \$35 entry fee includes registration, a long sleeve knit shirt & warm up bowl of chili at the end of the race. For more information, visit www.esns.org and go to Events.



Family & Children's Service staff (left to right): Laurie Lindblad, Mesha Davis, Jennifer Blevins, Molly Greenman, & John Till with Peter Goldberg (2nd from right)

The Board of Directors of **Keystone Community Services** has named interim president Eric Nyberg, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W., as president of the agency, succeeding Greg Wandersee who retired in May. Nyberg has been on the staff at Keystone (and its predecessor agency, Merriam Park Community Services) since 1984, most recently serving as vice president and chief program and development officer. In this position, Eric will serve on the MACC board of directors. The MACC board extends a warm welcome to its new member, Eric Nyberg.

- Congratulations to **Family & Children's Service**, which was chosen to receive the 2007 National Family Week Connections Count Award. This award was given to FCS for exemplifying how children live better lives when their families are strong, when they living in communities that connect them to economic opportunities, social networks, and services. This is National Family Week's premise. The Alliance for Children and Families presented this award to Family & Children's Service at its National Conference in October at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel, Anaheim, CA.
- On November 19, **Loring Nicollet-Bethlehem Community Centers** and Project for Pride in Living announced that they will merge in order to better serve low income individuals and families. In separate meetings, both boards of directors voted to approve the merger, which goes into effect on January 1, 2008. Visit www.lnbcc.org for more information. LNB Community Centers will say good bye to their leader of 12 years, Brad Englund, who will retire at the end of 2007. The MACC board said their farewells to Brad at its Annual meeting in December.
- Congratulations to **Pillsbury United Communities'** Fathers and Children Together (FACT) program for being a Family Strengthening \$20,000 Award Winner. This Families Count Award, granted by the United Neighborhood Centers of America (UNCA) and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, honors three winners with a \$20,000 award and two with \$5,000. Award winners demonstrate the most comprehensive, results-oriented and sustainable strategies of those submitted.
- MACC members, **Phyllis Wheatley Community Center** and **Hallie Q. Brown / Martin Luther King Center** are featured in the MN 150 at the Minnesota

History Center in St. Paul. The state of Minnesota marks its 150th year on May 11, 2008. Visit www.mnhs.org to learn more about this exhibit.



Doug Haining and Charmin Michelle, along with the Twin Cities Seven ensemble, performed A Copasetic Christmas on Dec. 15 and 16 at Plymouth Christian Youth Center's Capri Theater.

Plymouth Christian Youth Center's Capri Theater presents a Legends series of jazz performances by Twin Cities greats. The four remaining concerts extend to June, including the December 15 and 16 performance of a Copasetic Christmas. For tickets and more information about these concerts, visit www.thecapritheater.org.

- On November 14th, **The Link** celebrated its move to a new space with an open house celebration. The Link is now located at
1210 Glenwood Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55405
Visit www.thelinkmn.org to find out more.
- **Way To Grow** has also moved! Located on Broadway, not far from the river, Way To Grow can now be found at
125 West Broadway
Suite 110
Minneapolis, MN 55411.
Visit www.mplswayatogrow.org to learn more.
- **Arc Greater Twin Cities** welcomed the community to its new location during an Open House celebration on November 13th. Earlier this year, Arc moved to
2446 University Avenue West,
Suite 110
St. Paul, MN 55114
For details, visit www.arcgreatertwincities.org.
- Most every MACC member agency has a holiday gift program. Please visit member agency websites or call to find out more about ways you can participate or contribute to Minnesota families during the holidays.

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. 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 organizations. 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; 952-920-0855; www.arcgreatertwincities.org
- City, Inc.; 612-377-7559; www.thecityinc.org
- Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota; 612-338-5282; www.cscmn.org
- East Side Neighborhood Services; 612-781-6011; www.esns.org
- Family & Children's Service; 612-339-9101; www.everyfamilymatters.org
- Hallie Q. Brown/Martin Luther King Center; 651-224-4601
- Hennepin County Department of Human Services and Public Health; www.co.hennepin.mn.us
- Keystone Community Services; 651-645-0349; www.keystoneservices.org
- LDA of Minnesota; 952-922-8374; www.ldaminnesota.org
- The Link; 612-871-0748; www.thelinkmn.org
- Loring Nicollet-Bethlehem Community Centers; 612-871-2031; www.lnbcc.org
- Merrick Community Services; 651-771-8821; www.merrickcs.org
- Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center; 612-728-2000; www.miwrc.org
- Neighborhood House; 651-789-2500; www.neighb.org
- Phyllis Wheatley Community Center; 612-374-4342; www.phylliswheatley.org
- Pillsbury United Communities; 612-302-3400; www.puc-mn.org
- Plymouth Christian Youth Center; 612-522-6501; www.pcyo-mpls.org
- Sabathani Community Center; 612-827-5981; www.sabathani.org
- Tubman Family Alliance; 612-825-3333; www.tubmanfamilyalliance.org
- Way To Grow; 612-874-4740; www.mplswayatogrow.org
- West Seventh Community Center; 651-298-5493; www.west7th.org

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- Ameriprise
- Bigelow Foundation
- Otto Bremer Foundation
- Bush Foundation
- Campbell Foundation
- Richard and Joyce McFarland Family Fund
- McKnight Foundation, The
- Northwest Area Foundation
- Phillips Family Foundation, The Jay and Rose
- Carl and Eloise Pohlada Family Foundation
- RBC Dain Rauscher Foundation

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