

STRONG COMMUNITIES  
**CONNECTOR**  
MONTHLY EMAIL NEWS MEMO FROM  
Metropolitan Alliance  
**MACC**  
of Community Centers

**May 2005**



Casino day for these East Side women comes 'round every couple weeks at Merrick Community Services (East Side Neighborhood Center) and leaves smiles on many faces regardless of win or lose.

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MACC NEWS

## **MACC Welcomes two new members!**

**Life's Missing Link** became MACC's newest member at the April board meeting. Established in 1991 by Viking football players Jim Marshall and Oscar Reed, its original name was Professional Sports Linkage. Working with inner-city youth, the agency's mission is "Transforming the lives of troubled youth and their families by providing health realization training, case management, role modeling and life skills training, which result in greater success in school, more stable families, healthier youth and safer, more supportive communities."

**Hennepin County Department of Human Services and Public Health** also joined MACC in April 2005 as the first Associate Member. Associate County Administrator for the Department, Dan Engstrom, stated in a letter to MACC "I want to thank you for creating this opportunity for us to be involved in a most outstanding collaborative of community programs." Bob Olander, HC Director of Chemical Health Division, will serve as their representative to MACC.

Welcome new members!

NOTE: As new members have joined, we have also lost a member. Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council recently withdrew its membership in MACC, but has valued the relationship and will continue to be in contact..

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WORKING TOGETHER

## **Public Policy focus at MACC member agencies**

Several public policy issues have been the focus or caught the attention of MACC member agencies this past month.

- Several MACC agencies signed on to an effort headed up by **Family and Children's Service** to oppose efforts to reduce the Renters' Credit. The Renters' credit provides tax relief and housing assistance to Minnesotans whose rent is high relative to their income. Please contact Susie at FCS, 612-341-1615 for more information.
- **ARC Hennepin-Carver** has put its efforts into several bills that support rights, safety and accessibility for people with developmental disabilities this past month. Go to the Arc website for more information [www.archennepin-carver.org](http://www.archennepin-carver.org)
- **Pillsbury United Communities** is in the process of establishing a Community Engagement Initiatives Unit as part of its new Strategic Plan. The Initiatives Unit will expand and deepen the network of connections that help staff further the mission of the organization, as well as help residents to take initiative on their own behalf.

MACC partner and colleague, the **Minnesota Council of Nonprofits**, reminds the human service community that many policy and funding decisions are about to be made as the state legislature heads towards adjournment in mid-May (go to [www.mncn.org](http://www.mncn.org) for more information).

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WORKING TOGETHER

## **International Federation of Settlements: connecting globally**

MACC Board member Tony Wagner presented compelling reasons to participate in the International Federation of Settlements (IFS) at a recent gathering of United Neighborhood Centers of America in San Diego (see the April 2005 *Strong Communities Connector*) Those reasons:

- We live in a smaller world.
- There is a certain excitement and adventure in traveling to learn about other peoples, cultures and systems of response to human need. Such contact increases one's repertoire of skills and ideas.
- For us in the U.S., it is often a humbling experience and puts U.S. poverty in an entirely different light.
- It is inspiring to see the strengths and quality of commitment to service that others exhibit when operating under the most difficult of circumstances.
- With greater involvement and strength, IFS can play a more dominant role in helping to influence such organizations as the United Nations, the European Union and many others.
- As U.S. cities become increasingly diverse, in large part because of influx of new immigrants, we can serve better by knowing more and connecting with people's countries of origin.

IFS is an association of national, regional and local organizations working to strengthen communities. Its membership includes multi-purpose community based organizations all over the globe, from North America and Europe to South America, the near and Far East.

IFS aims to promote practical cooperation among community organizations in different countries. Since 1926, the members of IFS around the world have pioneered a wide variety of services responding to local needs in providing better care for children, improved rights and provision for poor people, education and culture in order to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods and to promote a fair society. MACC is a member of the International Federation of Settlements as are some of its members, including Pillsbury United Communities and Neighborhood House.

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## VALUE TO MEMBERS

### **Two MACC trainings offered**

MACC begins a second session of **Essentials of Supervision** - April 19 with registrants from East Side Neighborhood Services, Keystone Community Services, Learning Disabilities Association, Life's Missing Link, Merrick Community Services, and Neighborhood House! Classes are being held at Tubman Family Alliance.

On June 30, 8:30am - 12pm, MACC will offer **Fostering Resilience in Challenging Youth and Teens**, a Health Realization workshop with instructor, Cindi Claypatch. For more information, contact Sharon at haass@puc-mn.org.

### **Alliance for Children and Families CEO to visit MACC**



**Peter Goldberg, chief executive officer of the Alliance for Children and Families and its parent holding company, Families International, Inc.**

MACC hosts Twin Cities visitor **Peter Goldberg**. President and CEO of the **Alliance for Children and Families**, Peter Goldberg will engage in a conversation with MACC leadership during a breakfast reception and discussion on Wednesday, June 15, 8:30am - 10:30am at Family & Children's Service Lake Street office. Mr. Goldberg is CEO of the Alliance for Children and Families, based in Milwaukee, and its parent holding company, Families International, Inc. The Alliance for Children & Families formed in 1998 when Family Service America (established in 1911) and the National Association of Homes and Services for Children (established in 1975) merged.

The Alliance, an international nonprofit association, represents more than 300 nonprofit child and family serving organizations. Alliance members serve millions of individuals annually in thousands of communities, providing a vast array of services ranging from residential care for children to community centered prevention and intervention programs.

## Home Ownership initiative update

**MACC's Strong Communities Home Ownership Initiative** in partnership with **Edina Realty** is identifying a Spanish-speaking response network for inquiries from folks interested in buying a home. Other subjects addressed at the group's April meeting:

- upcoming home ownership fairs
- financing options for undocumented folks are taking shape
- the need for a marketing and communications framework that will become the key resource for people seeking to buy a home and build their personal assets



## ONGOING...

The Paul & Sheila Wellstone Center for Community Building in St. Paul as it looked on 24 April.

**The Paul & Sheila Wellstone Center for Community Building** (future site of **Neighborhood House**) is moving ahead and tours of the construction site are scheduled for Thursday, May 5, at 1pm and Wednesday, May 18, at 8:30am (wear footwear that can accommodate mud.) Contact Keri Kowski at 651-789-2538, [kkowski@neighb.org](mailto:kkowski@neighb.org) or go to the Neighborhood House website [www.neighb.org](http://www.neighb.org)... ■ Join **East Side Neighborhood Services** for their Ninth Annual Wine Tasting event at Nicollet Island Pavilion on May 12 from 5-8pm. Call 612-781-6011 for more information about this fabulous community event or go to [www.esns.org](http://www.esns.org). ■ **Plymouth Christian Youth Center** hosts Taste of PCYC lunches every third Wednesday of the month. Learn first-hand how PCYC is enriching the skills, prospects and spirits of North Minneapolis youth ...and how you can help! 12pm – 1:15. All are welcome but please RSVP to Carl Griffin at [cgriffin@pcyc-mpls.org](mailto:cgriffin@pcyc-mpls.org) or visit [www.pyc-mpls.org](http://www.pyc-mpls.org)... ■ On Saturday, June 11, **Tubman Family Alliance** will host its Fourth Annual Family Peace Ride, a motorcycle event to support peace for families. Contact Tubman's Development Department 612-825-3333 to register; or visit [www.tubmanfamilyalliance.org](http://www.tubmanfamilyalliance.org) for more information... ■ **Arc Hennepin-Carver** will host its 11th Annual Golf Scramble on Monday, June 13, at Chaska Town Course. Space is limited – register by June 3. For more information, go to [www.archennepincarver.org](http://www.archennepincarver.org)... ■ **LDA**'s first annual Helping Minds Grow fundraising breakfast will be Thursday, May 12 at the Metropolitan Ballroom (394 and Hwy 100) in St. Louis Park. RSVP to Martha Moriarty at 952-922-8374 or [mm@ldaminnnesota.org](mailto:mm@ldaminnnesota.org)... ■ **Tubman Family Alliance** and TPT (Twin Cities Public Television) co-produced and presented "Family Matters: Breaking the Cycle Now" on April 17 on channel 17. The program highlighted a partnership of 12 community organizations working on family issues. For information, visit [StopFamilyViolence.com](http://StopFamilyViolence.com)... ■ MACC members are assembling a 2004 documentation of funding cuts and their impact on communities they serve... ■ The **MACC Human Resources Team** will discuss an update on benefits/ services offering to MACC member employees with Scott Stankiewicz, **Mutual of America** and Tyler McIntosh and Lora Nelson from **OutSource One** at its meeting on May 18, 3-4:30pm

## MEMBER PROFILE

### **Learning Disabilities Association**

#### **LDA of Minnesota builds parents' confidence**

Parents, children and schools are all part of the partnership required to “maximize the potential of children, youth and adults with learning disabilities (LD) or related learning difficulties so that they and their families lead more productive and fulfilled lives,” as the mission statement of LDA states. And one such program that exemplifies LDA is its *Parents as Partners Project*.

Parents are not always seen as partners in their children’s academic process. *Parents as Partners* helps parents of a school-age child take action in answering the critical questions they ask:

- How well is my child reading and how can I help?
- What can I do to help my child with homework?
- How can I have an effective conference with my child’s teacher?
- What do schools expect from me?
- How can I help my child get ready for the Basic Standards Tests?
- Does my child have a learning problem?

This project is designed to help parents answer these questions and support their children’s academic needs, communicate with teachers, and finding resources to help with their children’s academic life. An Americorps \*VISTA volunteer helps LDA provide parent workshops on helping their child succeed academically; parent mentor training and coordination to help parents connect with one another and create mentorship networks, resources and information for parents about learning disabilities and related learning difficulties.

LDA develops many partnerships as part of its work. One reason LDA became a MACC member organization was to connect with community and neighborhood centers that serve the population who can benefit from LDA's services. Another LDA partnership is with LNB's Homework n'Hoops after-school program. LDA delivers ongoing monthly information sharing and skills development sessions to parents while their children participate in LNB Homework & Hoops programming. Delroy Calhoun, LNB's Youth Services Director, said recently, “LNB's program is stronger for the collaboration. LDA brings expertise and knowledge to our Homework N' Hoops program that we wouldn't have otherwise.” LDA is also partnering with Andersen Elementary School, La Oportunidad, Family & Children's Service, CommonBond Communities, Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, and Eastside Family Center, among others. (Information about Parents as Partners Project is available from Lindsey Johnson or Victoria Weinberg at 952-922-8374.)

LDA's services include diagnostic assessments, tutoring, consultations, family literacy activities, school-to-work transition programming, parent and professional training, public education, and high-quality educational products. All of LDA's programs fall into five result areas:

- Providing academic success for at-risk learners.
- Training educators to improve teaching and learning.
- Empowering youth to become self-sufficient adults through school-to-work transition.
- Strengthening families and communities to support individuals with learning disabilities.
- Helping individuals understand how they learn and strategies to improve their learning.

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## RESOURCES

### **Job Postings**

**Employment Facilitator II:** call Jaci Dukowitz, Human Resources Manager, Pillsbury United Communities at 612-302-3439

**Housing Specialist;** Pillsbury United Communities, Waite House, 2529 13th Ave. S., Minneapolis; applications available at Human Resources Department, 1201 37th Ave North, Minneapolis, or Waite House; email [hr@puc-mn.org](mailto:hr@puc-mn.org) or [www.puc-mn.org](http://www.puc-mn.org)

**Director of the Chicago Avenue Project** at Pillsbury House Theater. Contact [hr@puc-mn.org](mailto:hr@puc-mn.org) for an application form or go to the Pillsbury website [www.puc-mn.org](http://www.puc-mn.org).

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

**COMPUTER LAB STAFF** needed at Merrick Community Services for 2 hour shifts Monday - Thursday, 3:30 - 5:30pm, in East St. Paul. Contact Anthony Scott at 651-771-9339 or [ascott@merrickcs.org](mailto:ascott@merrickcs.org)

**Receptionist** - at our JLT/Comcast Location. Various Shifts available Volunteer receptionist needed at our JLT/Comcast Location. Volunteers are needed 8 am-6 pm Monday-Friday.

**Food Shelf Assistant** Shifts available Monday-Friday from 9:30-4:30, number of days, hours, etc can be flexible within this time frame.

**Data Base Maintenance/Entry** Shifts available Monday - Friday 8 am-5 pm. Possible weekend hours as well.

**Organizer/Filer for Executive Office** Shifts available Monday - Friday 8 am-4:30 pm.

In addition, we currently have **on-going volunteer positions** working with Youth, Case Management, English Language Learners, Young Children, Fundraising, Administration and more! Contact Patti Sinykin, Volunteer Coordinator, at [psinykin@neighb.org](mailto:psinykin@neighb.org) or 651.789.2514.

**Sewing Project Leader**

**Knitting Project Leader**

**Digital Photography Project Leader**

**Art Project Leader**

**Let's Eat Project Leader** (10am-1pm ONE day per week)

For Loring Nicollet-Bethlehem Community Center's Summer Educational Enrichment Day Camp — JUNE 20- AUGUST 11 (Choose one or two weeks on Monday-Wednesday, 12-3pm. Contact Maurie Clipperton at 612-872-2773.

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The Metropolitan Alliance of Community Centers (MACC) is the alliance 18 Twin Cities-based human service organizations. MACC's mission is to assist individuals and families in achieving greater self-sufficiency by strengthening the capacity of community-based organizations.

**Contact MACC director of operations, at (612) 302-3432 or [haass@puc-mn.org](mailto:haass@puc-mn.org)**

Arc Hennepin-Carver [www.archennepincarver.org](http://www.archennepincarver.org)

The 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.fcsmn.org](http://www.fcsmn.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)

Learning Disabilities Association [www.ldaminnesota.org](http://www.ldaminnesota.org)

Life's Missing Link [www.lifesmissinglink.com](http://www.lifesmissinglink.com)

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

Merrick Community Services [www.merrickcs.org](http://www.merrickcs.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.pcyo-mpls.org](http://www.pcyo-mpls.org)  
Sabathani Community Center [www.sabathani.org](http://www.sabathani.org)  
Tubman Family Alliance [www.tubmanfamilyalliance.org](http://www.tubmanfamilyalliance.org)  
West Seventh Community Center [www.west7th.org](http://www.west7th.org)

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To submit news items for the monthly MACC email news memo, please send an e-mail to [haass@puc-mn.org](mailto:haass@puc-mn.org)

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