

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

JULY 2005



Peter Goldberg, Executive Director of the Alliance for Children & Families, right, with Tony Wagner, President of MACC member **Pillsbury United Communities**, discuss with other MACC members some of the factors critical to their futures at a meeting last month. (See **WORKING TOGETHER** below)

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MACC NEWS

[MACC welcomes another new member - Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center!](#)

The **Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center** (MIWRC) became MACC's newest member in June. Established in 1984, MIWRC works with individuals, families and the community, to bring positive changes for American Indian women and their families. You will learn more about our new member in future issues of Strong Communities Connector. We welcome the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center to MACC!



Peter Goldberg, left, with some of the MACC members at the meeting, right.

WORKING TOGETHER

[Conversation among Peter Goldberg and MACC members yields sharp points on strategic issues](#)

Peter Goldberg, Executive Director of the Alliance for Children & Families, brought a national perspective to MACC members at a discussion on June 15 at Family and Children's Service Lake Street office. The discussion surveyed strategic issues that sit in front of most community leaders today, from the structure of organizations to budget pressures and political influences.

The Alliance for Children and Families is a merger of organizations that is now focusing on more comprehensive services to children, families and neighborhoods. Its holding company, Families International, has three operating units: The Alliance, which brings together several hundred individual agencies from across the country that maintain their own identities and operations; Ways to Work, a loan fund that has provided \$16 million to 54 employment program sites; and The Employee Assistance Program, a for-profit provider of employee assistance programs for core members plus crisis management contract services to airlines, hotels and other corporations.

Here are some highlights of points made by Goldberg and MACC members attending:

- Today it is valuable for agencies to be big, or connected to a larger body. We need to focus on the value of getting stronger together instead of getting weaker apart. We don't have the capacities individually to meet financial and public policy challenges.
- There is currently low public sympathy for providing human services at the same time the gap between rich and poor is growing dramatically.
- Funders are supporting only what they can measure, which is not always what needs to be done.
- Nonprofits will ALWAYS be valued by the community. But they have been making more withdrawals than deposits from their good will accounts in recent years. We need to convey our value to our supporters as well as our detractors.
- We have an opportunity to blend traditional human services with community development and economic opportunities.
- We have to shape national standards - indicators - for a strong, healthy community.

- BE STRATEGIC in the choices you make.
- Pay attention to perceptions of young people. While we (over 40) perceive things to be changing fast, they don't. Young people's perceptions are valuable to us; we can be the employment opportunity for best and brightest young:
 - We need to be capturing the imaginations of young people!
 - We're not positioned as "Change Agents."
 - We need to be an experience that they can't get in another place.
- We need to guard against political arrogance that keeps us from hearing or appreciating another's perspective.
- There's diversity in political thinking all around us. We need to develop genuine, trusting relationships across political perspectives.
- We need financial models that achieve better leveraging of funds. We need new ideas for how to finance the sector.
- The Alliance - UNCA affiliation is moving ahead.

MACC members represented at this meeting included **East Side Neighborhood Services, Family & Children's Service, Learning Disabilities Association, Loring Nicollet-Bethlehem Community Centers, Neighborhood House**, and **Pillsbury United Communities**.

VALUE TO MEMBERS

[Last chance to register!](#)

Deadline for MACC's third Essentials in Supervision Course is July 8, so please contact us if you are interested. This 18-hour course, on Tuesdays August 2, 9 and 16 with instructor Jackie Hill is \$100 for MACC member agency staff. Contact: Sharon at haass@puc-mn.org for more information.

PARTNERSHIPS

[International Federation of Settlements will meet in Minnesota in September and other news](#)

In May, the **International Federation of Settlements** (IFS) moved its headquarters from Toronto to Minneapolis. Sharon Haas began working with IFS as a part-time Operations Director, splitting time between MACC and IFS since that time.

In October, the International Board of Directors of the IFS will meet in Minneapolis, in conjunction with the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups' International Conference. For more details on that conference go to www.aaswg.org.

For more information about IFS Membership, contact Sharon at ifs@puc-mn.org. In 2005, local agencies have the opportunity to join IFS at a Special Offer rate. New members can join IFS for \$100 / year for 4 consecutive years before the regular \$600 annual membership rate applies.

EFFECTIVENESS

[CFOs Exchange Learnings and Ideas](#)

MACC Chief Financial Officers are meeting together to exchange ideas and expertise. In early June, a group from **East Side Neighborhood Services, Merrick Community Services, Neighborhood House, Pillsbury United Communities, Plymouth Christian Youth Center** and **West 7th Community Center** met to share best practices for allocating administrative costs. Several approaches and strategies were discussed that relate to heightening efficiency and streamlining current processes. This group meets every other first Thursday for breakfast to exchange their experience and ideas with one another. All MACC member CFOs are welcome!

[EvaluLEAD Pilot](#)

In May, MACC wrapped up its first project for an Evaluation pilot using EvaluLEAD, by reporting back to the MACC Board on findings. The EvaluLEAD structure's purpose is to capture not only the intended outcomes of a process or project, but also the unintended "evocative" changes that result from an action. The pilot's goal was to measure change brought about by involvement with MACC, with some encouraging findings. An Evaluation Work team from **East Side Neighborhood Services, Learning Disabilities Association, Merrick Community Services, Neighborhood House, Plymouth Christian Youth Center, Pillsbury United Communities** and **Tubman Family Alliance** took part in this pilot.

The MACC Evaluation Work Group re-convened on Solstice Tuesday, to hear the results of the EvaluLEAD pilot and to hone in on their next projects together. Those present decided to continue their work together by conducting an Evaluation Capacity and Needs Assessment with help from Jean King. Their goal is to further integrate evaluation into agency culture and practice.

[HR Team to view OutSource WebOne updates!](#)

On Wednesday, July 20, 3pm at **Brian Coyle Community Center (Pillsbury United Communities)**, MACC's Human Resources Team will view a demonstration of OutSource One's updates and improvements to the MACC benefits website on WebOne. Several MACC agencies have a common ancillary benefits package together, which is administered on-line through a partnership between Acordia and OutSource One.

ONGOING

[Member activities](#)

Silver Angel Thrift Store, a program of East **Side Neighborhood Services**, has relocated to 1900 Central Avenue #108. Its non-profit mission is to assist emergency and crisis needs for at-risk families. Clients referred by social service agencies receive clothing, linens, household necessities and some personal care items. Donations - AND purchases welcome. Store hours: Tue.-Fri. 11am.-6pm and Sat. 10am-4pm. 612-789-0600. ■ Camp Bovey, **East Side**

Neighborhood Services' resident camp in Wisconsin, has openings for its sessions in July. Fees are based on a sliding scale according to family size and income. It's a great program to refer clients to. Call 612-781-6011. ■ Spots are filling up fast for the 9th Annual Golf Lovers Classic, A Benefit for City Kids! August 22, 2005 at the Edina Country Club. Register a foursome for the golf tournament and your spouse or special friend for the dinner; join us on August 22, 2005, for golf at the Edina Country Club; attend the dinner and win prizes in the silent auction for your loved ones or yourself. The cost is \$250 per person and includes a buffet lunch, practice range, golf with cart, and dinner. All proceeds benefit the youth programs of **Pillsbury United Communities**. Call 612-302-3431 for more information or visit our website at www.puc-mn.org and visit the "News" page to download a registration form. ■ Cirque Du Soleil Performance to Benefit Family & Children's Service - Experience the wonders of Cirque du Soleil and make a difference in the lives of children and families in the Twin Cities. Cirque du Soleil has donated a block of tickets to Family & Children's Service for their performance of "Corteo" in Minneapolis. Premier seating is available on Friday, September 30 at 8 p.m. under the Grand Chapiteau at The Parade (Next to the Walker Art Center Sculpture Garden). Tickets are \$100, and all proceeds go directly to Family & Children's Service. These tickets sell quickly, so call the ticket hotline at 612-341-1605 or email jclark@fcsmn.org or visit www.fcsmn.org. Thank you for supporting Family & Children's Service!



MEMBER PROFILE

Life's Missing Link opens Lindquist Apartments



Lindquist Apartments, home of Life's Missing Link's truancy intervention program that provides case management, role modeling, and health realization training to youth at high risk for delinquency and drop out

Life's Missing Link is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization started in 1991 by Jim Marshall and Oscar Reed, two former Minnesota Vikings football players. At that time, the organization was known as Professional Sports Linkage and worked with at-risk youth in public housing in North Minneapolis. The agency has since evolved into a twelve staff (soon to be 20), 15 Board members run agency that now serves over 650 people annually providing truancy intervention services, family support, community outreach and trainings, after-school and summer groups for youth and supportive housing for youth.

In addition to Lindquist Apartments, Life's Missing Link has three program areas. The Truancy Intervention Program provides case management, role modeling, and Health Realization training to youth at high risk for delinquency and drop out. Building Supportive Communities provides support and training to students, parents, teachers, and social service providers to reduce truant behavior and stress while increasing individual responsibility and empowerment. The Community Outreach Developer matches volunteers to client/agency needs, develops a resource database for use when making client referrals, and builds community partnerships.

Lindquist Apartments, named after Leonard E. Lindquist, founder of Lindquist and Venum Law Firm and founding board member for Life's Missing Link (LML), is an efficiency unit based independent living program providing subsidized apartments with paid utilities, furniture, household items, and on-site management and support services with staff available 24/7.

Lindquist Apartments will house 24 young adults - ten of whom are homeless and the rest who have recently left the foster care system or are transitioning from other situations to independence. It is considered permanent housing as residents will be allowed to live there as long as they need the services and are abiding by the rules. The hope is that in time, they will have learned independent living skills, will have a high school diploma or GED and will be employed. At that juncture, residents may choose to move into a further independent type of housing. LML hopes Lindquist will be a learning environment and a stepping-stone in their journeys to self-sufficiency. Staffing the complex 24 hours a day, LML will provide on-site services to help residents transition to independence.

LML's supportive housing will provide case management including advocacy and case coordination, independent living skills training, and financial management. Other services will include assessment and linkage to needed services such as medical services, mental health services, education and job training. Support services will be flexible and based upon individual resident needs. The purpose of services is to help residents meet educational, employment, housing and other self-sufficiency goals as well as to remain drug and alcohol free. Goals will be determined jointly by the resident and case manager with input from family, probation officer, therapist or other professionals involved in the youth's life.

In addition to the above goals, LML staff will infuse Health Realization training into all of its work with residents. As it is the foundation of LML's work, staff will work to instill residents with a sense of hope and a solid set of skills that will result in improved communications and relationships, reduced anger, and a greater willingness to accept responsibility for the choices they will make once they transition out of Lindquist.

An estimated 10,000 to 12,000 Minnesota youth under 18 years of age are thought to have experienced at least one episode of homelessness on their own - that is, not with their families - during 2003. On any given night in 2003, between 500 and 600 youth 17 years old and under (1,000 that are 21 years old and under) in Minnesota were homeless. On October 23, 2003, 129 of these youth were interviewed in shelters, other temporary housing programs, and places not intended as housing. As difficult as it is for adults to find housing, it can be impossible for young people who have no rental history or have been homeless. Their situation is desperate. Life's Missing Link's vision is to provide supportive housing and services to 24 young adults at Lindquist Apartments in North Minneapolis - a complex whose doors will open on August 8, 2005.

Life's Missing Link is a proud member of MACC. For more information or for contact information, visit: www.lifesmissinglink.com.

RESOURCES

Employment

Executive Assistant - to the President of **Neighborhood House**. Oversee the smooth functioning of the Executive Offices to maximize efficiency and effectiveness of the President. Assist the President, Senior Leadership and Board of Directors in fulfilling the agency's mission. Contact Human Resources at 651-227-8734 or email humanresources@neighb.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

Family & Children's Service volunteer positions:

Children's Activity Leader - to provide children's activities while parents attend support or parenting groups.

Volunteers needed for the Family Education Program, Tuesday evenings (Jan - March); for Latino Family Nights (2 times / month, 6-8pm), Bridget's Parenting Group (1 time / month, 6:30-8pm) and Pride Program (2 times / week, Mondays 5:30-7:30 and Wednesdays 3-5pm).

Communications Intern or Volunteer - Family & Children's Service marketing department needs help with a variety of marketing projects. This is a great opportunity to gain insight on PR strategy, media relations planning, developing an advertising campaign and learning about marketing for one of the Twin Cities' oldest nonprofit organizations.

Computer Technology Volunteer - Family & Children's Service Information Technology Department needs help with a variety of computer projects including new computer rollouts, and deploying and maintaining hardware and software.

For more information about the FCS volunteer opportunities above, contact Jacqueline Scott at 612-341-1611, jscott@fcsmn.org or visit www.fcsmn.org

PLEASE FORWARD THIS MEMO TO A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE

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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

Arc Hennepin-Carver, Inc. www.archennepin-carver.org
Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota www.cscmn.org
East Side Neighborhood Services www.esns.org
Family & Children's Service 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
Keystone Community Services www.keystoneservices.org
Learning Disabilities Association www.ldaminnesota.org
Life's Missing Link www.lifesmissinglink.com
Loring Nicollet-Bethlehem Community Centers www.lnbcc.org
Merrick Community Services www.merrickcs.org
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center www.miwrc.org
Neighborhood House www.neighb.org
Phyllis Wheatley Community Center www.phylliswheatley.org
Pillsbury United Communities www.puc-mn.org
Plymouth Christian Youth Center www.pcyo-mpls.org
Sabathani Community Center www.sabathani.org
Tubman Family Alliance www.tubmanfamilyalliance.org
West Seventh Community Center www.west7th.org

MACC is funded by its members and by
The Otto Bremer Foundation
Bush Foundation
B.C. Gamble and P.W. Skogmo Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation
The Greater Twin Cities United Way
The McKnight Foundation
The Laura Jane Musser Fund
The Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation
Public Health Institute - EvaluLEAD Pilot
The Saint Paul Foundation
Warren F. Weck Charitable Trust

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