

A sepia-toned photograph of two hands cupping a small tree with soil. The hands are positioned at the bottom, with fingers curled to hold a mound of dark, rich soil. A small, young tree with dense, needle-like foliage grows out of the soil. The background is dark and out of focus. A horizontal white band across the middle of the image contains text. On the left edge, there is a vertical red bar with five white circular punch holes.

2007 VIRGINIA McKNIGHT BINGER

AWARDS IN HUMAN SERVICE

THE McKNIGHT FOUNDATION



ADA BEH

JOHANNA CHRISTIANSON

VIRGINIA CLARK

CHARLNITTA ELLIS

BERNICE COWL GORDON

RACHEL KINCADE

DARCY KNIGHT

BARBARA LEWIS

MARY F. NELSON

MARK OCHU

EVERY YEAR, I AM AMAZED BY THE DEPTH OF PROFESSIONALISM

and passion the recipients of the Virginia McKnight Binger Awards demonstrate in their work, and by the variety of the services they provide. This year's honorees once again illustrate that there is important human service work to be done in many areas of our lives and communities, in support of immigrants and youth, diverse communities, and the disenfranchised.

As varied as the awardees' individual efforts are, I find myself especially moved by the threads that unite them. In our search for ways to make a difference in the lives of others, one such common thread is worth noting.

Running through the stories of several of this year's awardees is a theme that the work they do today — work done selflessly, without desire for recognition, and for little or no pay — often arose from their own personal experiences with adversity. In fact, at first glance, one might mistake our 2007 awardees for those in *need* of service: people suffering the loss of loved ones, survivors of abuse, struggling entrepreneurs, and immigrants from foreign lands.

Yet these 10 outstanding individuals have turned their challenges — hardships not unlike many of our own — into opportunities to help others. They have channeled their learning into curriculums to teach. They have transformed their heartache into heartfelt support. Strengthened by overcoming obstacles themselves, they have drawn on that strength to empower others.

We all face adversity. In loving memory of my grandmother, Virginia McKnight Binger, for whom these awards are named, I encourage all of us to closely examine the challenges we have met and consider what we have learned from those challenges that could be used to help others.

Helping humanity — strangers and neighbors alike — is personal work. This year's awardees show us with grace and creativity what a valuable impact can be made. On behalf of the Foundation and the awards committee, I extend sincere gratitude to each of our awardees for their boundless compassion and humble work on behalf of others.

Erika L. Binger
Chair, The McKnight Foundation

THE VIRGINIA MCKNIGHT BINGER AWARDS IN HUMAN SERVICE, AN ANNUAL

tradition at The McKnight Foundation, reflect the Foundation's deep belief in the virtue and power of compassion. Since its inception, the award has gone to 240 Minnesotans, including this year's group, who have selflessly given time and effort to help others with no expectation of material reward. Each recipient exemplifies the life-changing difference one person can make through service. This booklet announces the 2007 award recipients and describes their work.

The Foundation created the Awards in Human Service in 1985. The awards were renamed 10 years later as a tribute to Virginia McKnight Binger, who served the Foundation for nearly 50 years as a board member, as president from 1974 to 1987, and then as honorary chair until her death in 2002. Although her parents, William L. and Maude L. McKnight, established the Foundation, Mrs. Binger's personal compassion and generosity set the standard for the Foundation's work.

Like Virginia McKnight Binger in her time, those who receive these awards are acutely aware of others' needs. They are nominated in confidence by someone familiar with their work, and the nominations are researched and evaluated independently. To qualify, nominees must live and volunteer in Minnesota and show commitment to helping others achieve a better life, while receiving little or nothing for their own efforts.

The Foundation invites nominations each spring. Beginning in August, a committee of volunteers who are active in various human service fields evaluates the nominations and recommends finalists to the Foundation's board of directors. Each approved awardee receives \$7,500. For more information about the program, visit the Foundation's website at www.mcknight.org.

PROGRAM

THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

710 South Second Street, Minneapolis

2:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 15, 2007

WELCOME

Kate Wolford, PRESIDENT

Erika L. Binger, CHAIR, THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Erika L. Binger

AWARDS IN HUMAN SERVICE COMMITTEE

Liliana Espondaburu, ST. PAUL

Eva Song Margolis, ST. PAUL

Anni O'Neill, OWATONNA

Anita Patel, MINNEAPOLIS

Mary Robillard, DULUTH

Cindy Toppin, ST. PAUL



“No service is too small for Ada to provide for the families that come her way.”

— Melissa Nembang

ADA BEH, who emigrated from Liberia to Minnesota 20 years ago, feels called to serve as an advocate, a mentor, and a community volunteer. Employed as a transitional housing advocate, Ada directs her volunteer efforts to help recently arrived African women and their families adjust to their new environment, secure housing, and move toward economic self-sufficiency. Six years ago, Ada co-founded the Minnesota African Women’s Association (MAWA), a social service organization with a culturally aware staff who serve women from all African countries. Since then, she has worked as an unpaid volunteer and board chair at MAWA; currently, she works part-time as the agency’s social service outreach coordinator, connecting families with resources and support. A single mother of two girls, Ada continues to pursue her education in social work because, she says, “I felt really isolated when I came here. I missed home, I missed family. I didn’t know where to turn. I’ll do anything to help others not go through that.”

With grant assistance from the Minnesota Council of Churches, Ada helps locate and directly place refugees in housing. She also acts as a family mediator when needed, and she attends virtually all gatherings of the area’s growing African community. Ada also coordinates transportation around the region for many African women and youth, who would otherwise miss out on programs and opportunities. Working seven days most weeks, Ada goes the extra mile by supplying her time and personal truck to help move refugees into new homes. She is committed to doing whatever is needed to serve, from cleaning MAWA’s offices to teaching needlework to its program’s young participants. As Ada strives to ensure the success of MAWA, she also enables the success of those it serves.

As a newlywed, **JOHANNA CHRISTIANSON** moved from Amsterdam to Pelican Rapids in 1976. Today, she volunteers full time in support of her adopted hometown. A mother of three, Johanna has experience that includes establishing a volunteer program for parents and community participants at the local elementary school, and facilitation work with a student-led peer support group. She serves as board chair of her local food shelf, and she volunteers at a nonprofit secondhand store that invests its earnings in the surrounding community. Johanna has participated in the city’s Campfire Girls, the Global Volunteers, and the Women’s Civic Club, and she is active in her church. She shares the position of adult mentor for the Youth Crew, a group of high school students who donate time to community service.

For 12 years, as Pelican Rapids’ population has become increasingly diverse, Johanna has served as president of the city’s Multicultural Committee. Through the committee, she sponsors focus groups to discuss the gifts offered and challenges faced by the town’s newcomers. Since 1998, she has coordinated the International Friendship Festival, celebrating ethnic diversity through music and food. In late 1996, when more than 100 Bosnian and Sudanese refugees arrived with only the clothes on their backs, Johanna organized clothing and goods drives and helped connect each family to friends and social services. Johanna extends her helping hand to everyone, visiting with the elderly, driving those in need to nearby towns for services, and inviting people with no family nearby to her own holiday celebrations. “Once I was a stranger, and people welcomed me,” says Johanna. “I know in my heart it’s my turn to do the same.”



“Johanna has challenged Pelican Rapids to grow into a healthy, thriving global village. She has led us to respect each other’s differences and to recognize our similarities.”

— Joan Ellison

When **VIRGINIA CLARK** lost her daughter in 1993, in addition to nearly unbearable grief, she found herself with unexpected new responsibilities as the sole caregiver for her toddler granddaughter. Alone and without resources for support, she provided a stable home for her granddaughter, and her firsthand experience helped shape a network of statewide support for similar kinship families. While raising her granddaughter, and in collaboration with existing efforts large and small, Virginia co-developed the Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association (MKCA). Now a national model of support for kinship families, MKCA is Minnesota's only nonprofit focused exclusively on such issues. Over time, Virginia has volunteered on its board as both president and secretary, and she continues to attend support group meetings.

While raising three children of her own, Virginia worked for 25 years as an executive secretary for the Minneapolis Public Schools. Today, committed to education and community involvement, she reads to students at local schools and she participates in the Cultural Wellness Center grandparent support group, the Minneapolis NAACP, and the Urban League Guild. Active in the seniors program at the Sabathani Community Center, she also serves as treasurer of the St. Thomas Episcopal Church Women's Group and the Sabathani AARP chapter. A devoted mentor to those facing the challenges of raising children "the second time around," Virginia makes a point of reassuring caregivers that they are not alone. Because many grandparent caregivers live on Social Security, without access to the government funding that would go to foster parents, Virginia has also become an increasingly outspoken advocate of new policies to support grandparents bearing the financial burdens of unexpected child-rearing.



"Charlnitta truly is the voice for those who do not have a voice.
She is a symbol of hope for the inner-city communities where she works."

— Marni Harper



"In her mid-70s and standing under five feet tall, Virginia is looked up to by all who know her."

— Sharon Durken

CHARLINITA ELLIS knows that sometimes those issues *hardest* to discuss are exactly the ones we *must* discuss. Having devoted her life to informing young people about the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases, Charlnitta served 15 years as director of the HIV/AIDS/STDs (HAS) prevention and awareness program at The City, Inc. When a cut in state funding forced the program's closure in 2006, Charlnitta shifted to the role of behavior specialist at the organization. The new role has allowed her to continue her direct work providing education and outreach to youth, capitalizing on invaluable relationships she has forged over time with hard-to-reach (and hardly reached) youth, while she eagerly searches for new funding to reopen the doors to the HAS program.

For years, Charlnitta has provided direct, daily outreach to thousands of inner-city youth on the street, in gangs, and in area schools. Invariably, the kids refer to her as "Mama Chi" (pronounced *shy*), because she treats them all as if they were her own children. "All the 'rules' tell you not to get too involved," explains Charlnitta, "but this isn't work for me. This is how I live." Beyond individual and group interventions and community events, she has assisted in hundreds of referrals for sexually transmitted disease testing. Armed with information, young people are encouraged by Charlnitta to share their knowledge with their peers. She also sits on several boards, including those of the Midwest Health Center for Women and the Legal Rights Center, and she advocates in the community and at the legislature in support of school curriculums that address sexually transmitted disease prevention.



“Bernice brings comfort, connection, and hope to individuals facing illness and isolation.”

— Judy Marcus

At age 91, **BERNICE COWL GORDON** has volunteered with healthcare facilities for more than two decades, keeping company, playing piano, and reading aloud. During visits to see her husband at a local care center throughout the 1980s, Bernice found herself also reaching out to his neighbors and to their families. Just two weeks after her husband passed away, Bernice felt called to resume her daily visits to the care center in his memory. Upon request, she eventually expanded her stops to include several additional local care and assisted living centers. At age 78, Bernice joined the Twin Cities Jewish Healing Program, where she received intensive training to increase her effectiveness in serving the sick.

In 1996, Bernice served as a volunteer advisor to the Minnesota Historical Society and the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest (JHSUM) for the exhibit “Unpacking on the Prairie: Jewish Women in the Upper Midwest.” Formerly a kindergarten teacher for 20 years, she spent hours discussing the exhibit with schoolchildren from around the region. Inspired by the power of storytelling, Bernice established the Dr. Moses and Bernice Cowl Gordon Journal Endowment Fund at JHSUM, to help publish a biennial journal documenting Jewish history in the region. A mother of two (and great-grandmother of 12), Bernice also created a tuition fund at St. Louis Park’s Beth El Synagogue to enable new Russian immigrants to attend preschool and extracurricular programs. Bernice has called her volunteer work “a blessing which has given my life structure, motivation, healing, and enrichment. I know I have received more than I have given.”

Sixteen years ago, single mother **RACHEL KINCADE** began her outreach to homeless youth with special needs. As the executive director of Life House in Duluth, Rachel now serves 700 low-income and homeless youth annually, ensuring them access to housing, education, and employment opportunities. Under her leadership, the city’s supervised housing for homeless youth has expanded threefold, and in partnership with others, Life House has helped establish one permanent and three transitional housing facilities for homeless youth. Rachel’s team also provides these youth, who are seldom seen as community assets, with opportunities for community involvement in Duluth’s Juneteenth festival and Take Back the Night, and fundraising activities for various charities. Through good times and bad, Rachel is committed to constantly reminding these youth that they are loved and their lives matter. “It’s an awesome responsibility,” says Rachel. “The things you say, or *don’t* say, and how it affects people’s lives.”

Rachel has a personal connection to many of the challenges her clients face. Years ago, after freeing herself from an abusive relationship, she lived through a harrowing period of substance abuse and criminal activity; following her treatment and recovery, Rachel fought to regain custody of her baby daughter from the state. Newly determined to succeed, Rachel earned her GED certificate and entered college. In addition to her work today at Life House, Rachel’s community contributions include participation in the Minnesota Coalition for Homelessness, Duluth’s Affordable Housing Coalition, the Governor’s Working Group to End Long-term Homelessness, the St. Louis County “Ending Homelessness in Ten” plan, and the Northland Foundation’s board of trustees. Rather than allowing her burdens to hold her back, Rachel — now a grandmother — is using the lessons from her past to teach and empower others.



“Rachel lives her belief that nobody is beyond hope. By overcoming barriers from emotional walls to bureaucratic red tape, she’s changed thousands of lives.”

— Herb Bergson

Urban arts pioneer **DARCY KNIGHT** has a gift for spotting opportunities others might overlook. In the 1980s, she saw promise in an abandoned 20,000-square-foot building in south Minneapolis, which she subsequently purchased, renovated, and reopened as the Old Arizona center for performing and media arts. In 1993, Darcy established the Arizona Bridge Project, offering mentoring and gender-specific activities to young women. Since 1995, the center has provided free arts-related classes to more than 1,200 teenage girls. Having benefited herself from the past advice of wise women, Darcy believes, “It’s pretty much my responsibility to pass their wisdom along.” Devoted to the success of Old Arizona’s surrounding community, Darcy has served on the Strategic Planning Committee of the Whittier/Phillips Neighborhood Initiative and on the Whittier Alliance board of directors.

Darcy also helps emerging artists in need of lower rental costs by providing artist-friendly rental arrangements for the center’s 125-seat theater. A career in Hollywood as a professional makeup artist for film and television led eventually to her co-ownership of the first school in the Midwest to train and represent professional makeup artists and hair stylists. Darcy subsequently founded the first woman-owned commercial production studio for film and video in the Midwest, and she has served on the Minnesota Film and TV Board. To better understand the issues facing the region’s youth, at-risk communities, and juvenile female offenders, Darcy has pursued training through the U.S. Department of Justice and the Minnesota Department of Corrections, among others. She has also served on the interagency adolescent female subcommittee at the Minnesota Department of Corrections and the Governor’s youth and family enrichment initiative.



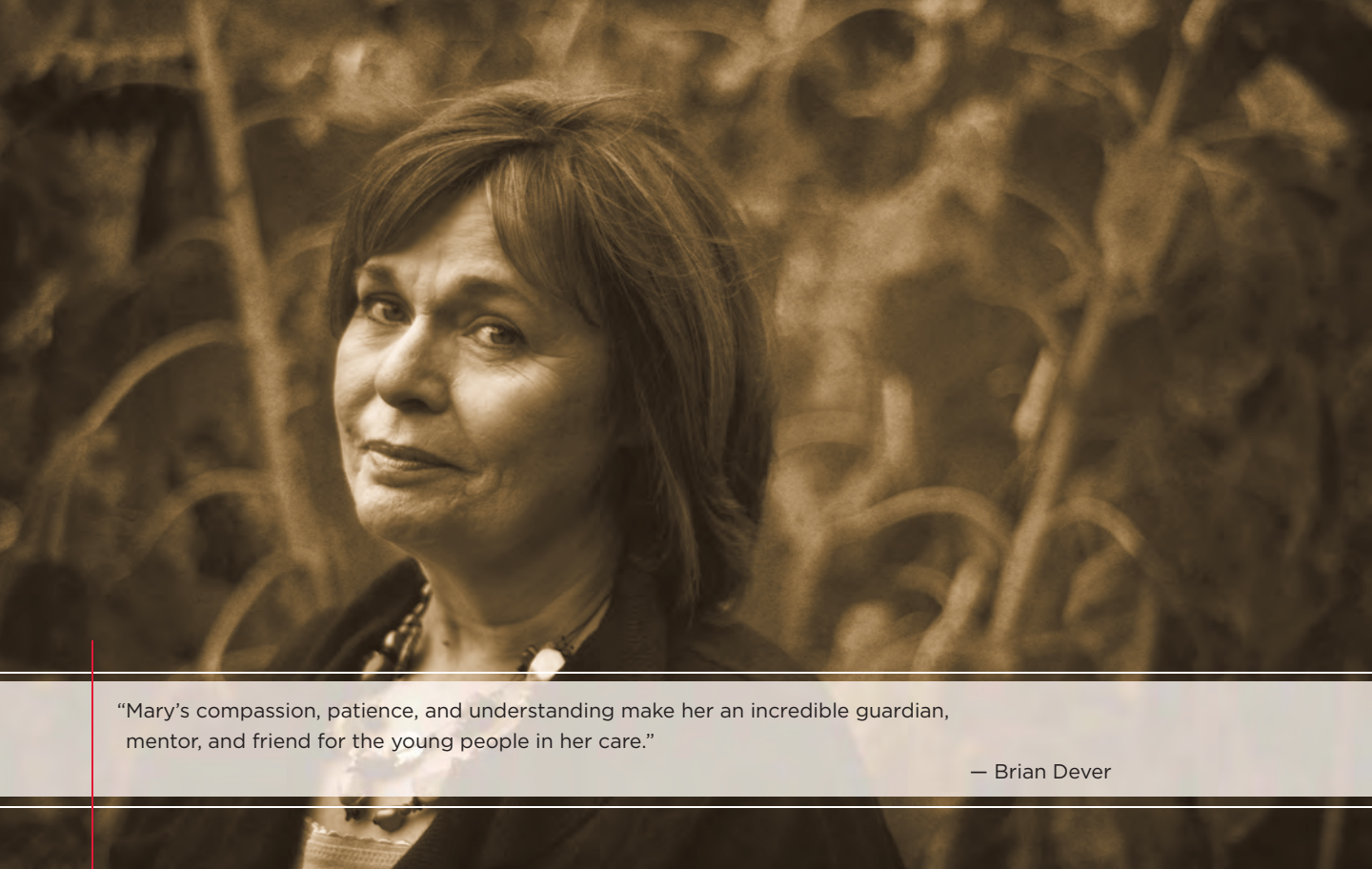
“Darcy has the energy of a child and the wisdom of an elder ... She inspires by example.”
— Elizabeth Trumble



“Barbara gives her all without hesitation ... She is a wonderful person to be around, always helping when she is needed.”
— Tonodus Howard

Herself a survivor, **BARBARA LEWIS** now helps others facing domestic abuse. As an advocate with the Domestic Abuse Project in Minneapolis, Barbara directly serves women and children in abuse situations by placing them in permanent safe housing and attending legal proceedings when needed. She also provides resources and referrals to abusers looking for help. After work, her own program, Operation Change, provides a safe house and resources during the evening hours, when fewer programs offer services. Offering support beyond a safe place for survivors to sleep, Barbara frequently holds community meetings to spread the word about domestic abuse prevention. Throughout, she strives to teach the women and children their true value, countering negative messages they may have learned from their abusers.

Barbara grew up in a family of 16 in Chicago’s troubled Robert Taylor housing project. Having left school in junior high, she earned her GED certificate at 38, followed later by a BA from the Minnesota Graduate School of Theology and certification in community health work from the Minneapolis Community and Technical College. A mother of six, Barbara raised her two daughters as strong and independent women, gifting them with the same courage she instills in those she serves. Explains Barbara, “When I was being abused, there was nowhere to go. I was determined that one day I would help other women.” Active in her own community, Barbara was recently elected to the board of arms at Heritage Park, a 900-unit, mixed-income, culturally diverse development in north Minneapolis. From buying holiday gifts for charity to helping enact protection orders for clients, Barbara is happy to lend a helping hand to those who would otherwise be alone.



“Mary’s compassion, patience, and understanding make her an incredible guardian, mentor, and friend for the young people in her care.”

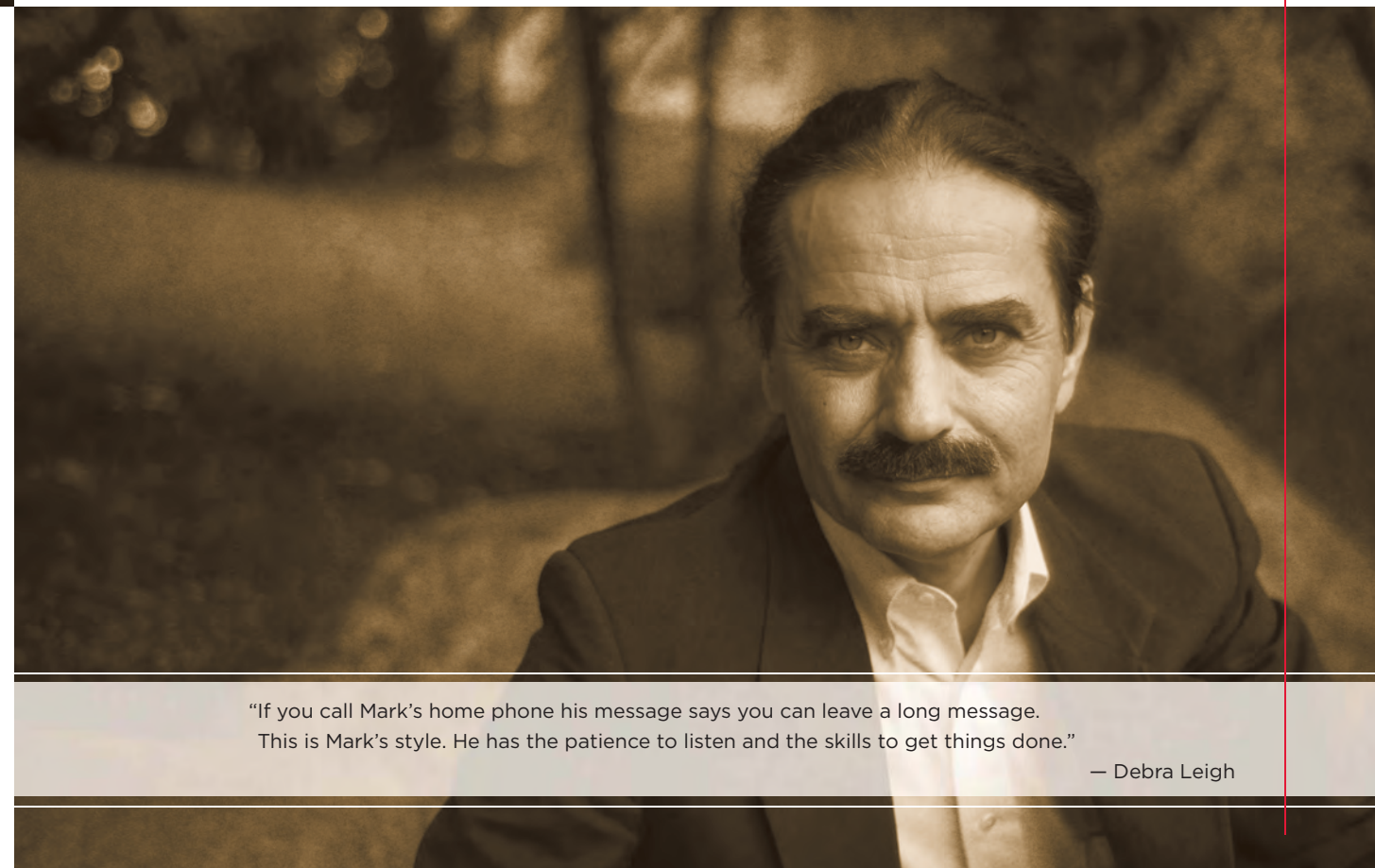
— Brian Dever

From her mother, a landscape painter, **MARY F. NELSON** acquired skills and an appreciation for the power of art. When she was a young mother herself, she edited and designed parenting books as director of publications at MELD, a nationally recognized social service organization offering parenting and child development programs. Soon after the Northfield Union of Youth recruited Mary for her skills, she led a graphic design mentorship and entrepreneurship program for high schoolers; since then, the organization has called on Mary to serve in many roles, from student mentor to interim director. In addition to her history of community work, Mary has opened her home and heart as a foster parent. Since 1992, she has housed and befriended upward of 75 children, generally teenage boys and sometimes five at a time; several current and former foster kids helped initiate her award nomination.

As a site specialist at Bridgewater Elementary School, Mary unites students, parents, and the community, recognizing that kids learn best when they feel connected and comfortable at school. Of her hometown, Mary says that whenever she notices a problem, “We just need to ring the bell loud enough ... This community doesn’t allow problems to go unseen. Once we commit to a solution, we are tenacious.” She has volunteered as a member of Northfield’s Healthy Communities Initiative; a trainer for new foster, adoptive, and kinship care providers; a member of the Mayor’s Task Force on Youth Alcohol and Drug Use in Northfield; and a member of the Children’s Justice Initiative, ensuring that youth are always treated respectfully by the state’s judicial system. Mary has dedicated herself to improving lives and addressing the unique needs of at-risk children and youth in her community.

With **MARK OCHU** at the keys, a piano becomes a tool to decipher and celebrate the connections between life and music. Mark explains, “My work started with music, and tying music to social concerns to help transform people’s lives.” As a founding member of St. Cloud State’s Community Anti-Racism Education (CARE) initiative, Mark helped analyze embedded institutional racism. The findings led to discussions identifying strategies for lasting changes, to help the university fully embrace an anti-racist identity. Mark also served on the board of Create CommUNITY, a collaborative of organizations working to reduce racism. He was president of the St. Cloud NAACP for three years and, while there, Mark secured new office space and equipment for the organization. The branch also established a new community youth council and a college chapter at St. Cloud State, and brought several national NAACP programs to the area. The local memberships nearly doubled.

During his tenure at the NAACP, Mark personally assisted people in filing rights violation complaints with the U.S. Department of Justice, the FBI, the City of St. Cloud Human Rights Office, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the State Human Rights Office, resulting in some complainants winning financial settlements. A world-class concert pianist by training, Mark often contributes locally and internationally by sharing his music in private homes, churches, and concert halls, integrating performances with lectures on the history of music and various composers. Recently, he presented a program illustrating composer George Gershwin’s critical role in recognizing the contributions of African American culture. Mark’s commitment and creative expression have made him a community model for advocacy of both the arts and social justice.



“If you call Mark’s home phone his message says you can leave a long message. This is Mark’s style. He has the patience to listen and the skills to get things done.”

— Debra Leigh

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

SINCE 1985, The McKnight Foundation has honored 240 recipients of the Virginia McKnight Binger Awards in Human Service, including this year’s honorees.

The recipients from the past 22 years are listed below:

2006

Dee Cotten
May Pa Heu
Russ Irvin
Shegitu Kebede
Sarah Mollet
Vivian Peterson
Erik Rodriguez
Jim Soderberg
Jodi Townsend
Patrick Wood

2005

Said Salah Ahmed
Linda Brown
Wafiq Fannoun
Melvin Giles
Ora Hokes
Beth Holger
Curtis Levang
Larry and Noreen Luck
Sister Jean Thuerauf
Hedwidge “Hedy” Tripp

2004

James Andre
Elsie Dugar
Mahmoud El-Kati
Donna Gillen
Mary Gnerer
Daniel Hawkins
Rayome Clark Koehler
Mary Maas
Margaret McBride
Christine Norton
Kay Trainor
Carol Voss

2003

Cal Appleby
James Dodge
Jayne Frank
Linda Jemison
Cindy Johnson
Nathaniel Khaliq
Nancy Meyers
Rajiv Shah
John Siegfried
Char Thompson

2002

Andrew Benjamin
Martha Cardenas
Bonham Cross
Mohamed Essa
Ann Hooley
Jacqueline Kavanagh
Ed and Fern Ostberg
Ron Schwartz
Margaret Smith
Gail Weigle

2001

Susan Baxter
George Failes
Bertha Givins
Maria Inés Hitateguy
Barb King
Marge Melich
Kristine Reiter
Muriel Simmons
V.J. Smith
Sang Vu

2000

Jean Andrews
Melvin Carter, Jr.
Sylvia Carty
Richard Endres
John and Julie Funari
Hazel Jacobson
Raleigh Kent
George Nelsen
Delroy Schoenleben
Manuel Zuniga

1999

Henry Bruns
Ernesto DelVillar, Sr.
Marcelle Diedrich
Denise Gubrud and Margarita Reese
Darlene Edwards
Phoenix Hill
Geraldine Hull
Ardis Knutson
Yako Myers
Joyce Segelbaum

1998

Christine Barich
Dawn Glaser-Falk
Joe Huber
Michael Kirk
Kevin L. Perez Rodriguez
Edwin Reich
Scott Schlaffman
Choua “Mindy” Thao
Georgeanna Toftum
Clorasteen Wilson

1997

Marjory Aldrich
Jim Christy
Dianne Kimm
Allan Law
Sue Liedl
Larry Cloud Morgan
William Radueg
RaeAnn Ruth
Frankie and Velma Tyson
Peggy Wells

1996

Vivian Blount
Cynthia Hawkins
Gregory Horan
Dale Hulme
Joe LaGarde
Percy and Lillian Olson
Joan Peterson
Jody Porter
Dave Ronning
Georgia Theis

1995

Laurice Beaudry
Dianne Binns
Leonard Gloeb
Fran Heitzman
Algjuan Hixon
Bruce Lubitz
Mary Robillard
Bill Rowe
Pat Schwartz
Jamie Slattery

1994

John Bobolink
Lori Ellis Boswell
Bill Driscoll
Janet Gostanczik
Shirley Ellen Jensen
Art Johnson
James Francis Kelly
Katherine G. King
Forrest R. Osterholm
Fred Rupp

1993

Eileen Bohn
Francisco Caballero
Sandra Gessler
Frank R. Johnson
David Lund
Don Mooney
Tyrone Smith
Art Stoeberl
Sheila WhiteEagle
Eleanore Whitmyre

1992

Peggy Holmes Bellecourt
Dorothy Bilheimer
Jane Blattner
Eugene Chelberg
Dr. Kenneth and Grace Covey
Dorothy Haynes
Norma Schleppegregell
Roger and Donna Urbanski
Quang Vu
Glen Wilfong

1991

Cynthia Ann Barry
Shirley Benitez
Julia Dinsmore
Dan Edgar
Terry Ford
Alice McHie
Kouthong Vixayvong
Walter White
Marie Wing
Mary Stier Winkels

1990

Ruby Alexander
Dan Celentano
Cheryl Ford
Muriel Gaines
Patrick Hartigan
Tri Dinh Nguyen
Phillip Sayers
Sister Leanore Stanton
John Stone
Diane Williams

1989

David L. Asmus
Lois V. Boylan
Ron Cronick
Phyllis Gross
Loeung Khi
Dana Lehrer
Sister Charlotte A. Madigan
William O’Connell
Leo Treadway
Diane Ziegler

1988

Jewell Anderson
Willard A. Brunelle
Dollie D. Foster
Carol LaFavor
Kwame McDonald
Rosita Meehan
Marvin S. Moe
Anastasia Sery
Ray Wilson
Winona Wilson

1987

Robert L. Buckley
Linda Byrne
Mary Jo Copeland
Kathy J. Davis
John Fields
Sandra Huff
Mazi E. Johnson
Lou Anne Kling
Norma P. McDuffie
Pat Schmidgall

1986

Barbara J. Colhapp
San Juana Flores
Bernice E. Genereux
Flo Golod
Louise T. James
Maxine M. Kruschke
Robert Russell
Dana Lee Shato
Vernell Wabasha
Dellie Walz

1985

Ruth G. Andberg
Laurie Colbeck
Alicene Davis
Juanita G. Espinosa
Debra Jones
Elaine La Canne
Grace L. Sandness
Lucille T. Silk
Connie Strandberg
Justina Violette

VIRGINIA McKNIGHT BINGER AWARDS IN HUMAN SERVICE

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The McKnight Foundation is committed to the protection of our environment, a philosophy that underlies our practice of using paper with postconsumer waste content, and where possible, environmentally friendly inks. This book was printed with soy-based inks on recycled paper containing 20% postconsumer waste.

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ABOUT THE McKNIGHT FOUNDATION

The McKnight Foundation, a Minnesota-based private philanthropic organization, seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations. Through grantmaking, coalition-building, and encouragement of strategic policy reform, we use our resources to attend, unite, and empower those we serve. The Foundation's grantmaking priorities include support of children and families, the region and communities, the arts, the environment, and scientific research in selected fields. The Foundation's primary geographic focus is the state of Minnesota.

Founded in 1953 and endowed by William L. McKnight and Maude L. McKnight, The McKnight Foundation has assets of approximately \$2.2 billion and granted about \$93 million in 2006. McKnight is an independent private foundation. More information and program-specific grantmaking guidelines are available at www.mcknight.org.

THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

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