



**Mardag Foundation**

*A family legacy. A partner for Minnesota.*



Celebrating  
40 years  
of investing  
in Minnesota



2009 Annual Report

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**The Mardag Foundation makes grants  
to nonprofit organizations that improve  
the quality of life in Minnesota for  
children, seniors and other at-risk populations  
and for programs in education and arts.**

The images on the cover are from the following organizations:

Top left—Arts Center of Saint Peter

Top right—Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area

Bottom left—Human Services, Inc of Washington County Minnesota

Bottom right—White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

1969. Richard Nixon began his first year as president of the United States. Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. Half a million people gathered on Max Yasgur's farm in Woodstock, N.Y., for a three-day festival. Boeing celebrated the first flight of its new 747, which carried 191 passengers from Los Angeles to New York. It was, to say the least, a very interesting time.

Amidst all the turmoil and energy of that year, the Mardag Foundation began as the Ober Charitable Trust with an initial gift of \$5 million from the estate of Agnes Elmer Ober. In August, the Trust made its first three grants—including a capital grant to the YMCA to help build a swimming pool—and granted a total of \$215,000 in its first abbreviated year. In 2009, its 40th year, Mardag made 83 grants, totaling more than \$1.6 million, throughout Minnesota.

Over these 40 years, the Mardag Foundation has worked to model the compassion and caring that so filled the life of its founder, Agnes Ober. The Foundation's board of directors has reaffirmed our grantmaking focus on activities in Minnesota that improve the quality of life for children, seniors and other at-risk populations, and on programs in education and the arts. In light of the ongoing recession, we curtailed giving to many capital campaigns and sharpened our focus on programs that have a direct impact on our core constituencies of children and seniors. In response to the economic crisis, one of our largest grants this year was to help launch the Community Economic Relief Fund with The Saint Paul Foundation and the F. R. Bigelow Foundation.

In the 40 years of our existence, Mardag has contributed more than \$51 million to further the causes of many nonprofits, improve the lives of children and seniors, and enhance the quality of life for all those living in Minnesota—a nice return on Agnes's original investment of \$5 million. However, as original trustee Steve Ober said in the Foundation's 1977 annual report, "The Mardag Foundation wishes to remind our friends that success in areas where the Foundation has offered financial support is due in large part to the grantees.... They are the people who develop the new senior centers, plan and execute relief for abused children and their families, and provide the cultural and educational facilities and programs that make Minnesota a vital and responsible place to live. We thank those inventive and caring program-makers who have invited the Mardag Foundation to participate in their efforts."

Thank you for all that you do and for your interest in the Mardag Foundation.

Timothy M. Ober  
President

Celebrating  
40 years  
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in Minnesota

## Ready for school

### **Alliance of Early Childhood Professionals: Hands-on Teach-to-Learn Program**

The Alliance of Early Childhood Professionals advocates for culturally diverse, high-quality early education for children in Minnesota. Its Hands-on Teach-to-Learn program, piloted in 2008, helps immigrant child-care providers learn how to ensure that the children they care for have the skills necessary to start kindergarten. For the program's second year, the Alliance envisioned an expansion of the pilot program in the East Metro that focused on teaching child-care providers to present reading and math concepts to preschoolers in the Somali, Latino and Hmong communities. Early intervention is key, especially for the English-language learners who make up 40 percent of students in the Saint Paul Public Schools. The Mardag Foundation helped fund the Hands-on Teach-to-Learn expansion in the East Metro area through a \$10,000 grant to the Alliance of Early Childhood Professionals. The grant provides for the training of three separate groups of informal child-care providers, some of whom will mentor other providers to increase the program's reach.



## The art of building community

### **Arts Center of Saint Peter: Full-Time Executive Director**

One of Greater Minnesota's most active arts centers, the Arts Center of Saint Peter, has always been operated by volunteers and a few part-time staffers who coordinate workshops, performances and exhibits—but board and staff members have long felt that a full-time executive director would enable the center to play a stronger role in Saint Peter's growth and development. With a full-time executive director at the helm, the center can expand its outreach to schools, develop more culturally diverse arts programs, coordinate and centralize arts resources for residents and artists, and collaborate closely with local businesses and city officials to bring more art into the community. To provide support for the position and encourage the arts center to cultivate local sources of funding, the Mardag Foundation approved a matching grant to help fund a full-time executive director's salary. Mardag will match every dollar up to \$15,000 that the Arts Center of Saint Peter raises from other sources.



## Kids take center stage

### Duluth Playhouse, Inc.: Children's Theatre Arts Program

Shrinking school budgets mean that many schools no longer offer arts-related classes, which can be important social outlets for young people who do not participate in activities like athletics. In Duluth, youth who are interested in the performing arts have a community-supported option: the Children's Theatre Arts program at the Duluth Playhouse, the largest nonprofit theater in northeastern Minnesota. More than 500 young people (including about 75 who receive full scholarships) participate in the playhouse's classes, camps and productions each year, but the program's popularity has made it difficult to serve all the youth who want to take part. Two new initiatives for young people ages 8–18 who already have theatrical experience will enable the playhouse to serve an additional 90 youth annually. The Mardag Foundation approved a grant of \$12,500 to support this expansion.



## Safe space for teens

### Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area: Teen Center

An increase in juvenile crime, gang activity and illegal drug and alcohol use in the Bemidji area prompted local leaders to establish the Boys & Girls Club in 2002. Open after school and on weekend nights, the club is the only youth-oriented facility of its size in Beltrami County, which has long struggled with poverty and low high-school graduation rates. After a full-time teen director was hired in 2006 and increased outreach efforts, more teens began to use the club—a great development for the community, but one that put a strain on the club's capacity. A proposal to renovate a currently unoccupied space for teen use got an enthusiastic response from the club's teen members, who held three fundraising events that garnered \$2,000. To help the Boys & Girls Club finish its teen center expansion, the Mardag Foundation approved a grant of \$25,000.



## On PACE for successful college careers

### **Century College Foundation: Preparing to Achieve a College Education**

Many of Saint Paul's inner-city high-school graduates choose to continue their educations at Century College, which offers technical and occupational programs as well as degrees designed to prepare students to transfer to four-year colleges. In response to a 2004 Citizens League report that recommended at least two years of post-high-school education for all Minnesota students, Century College created the Preparing to Achieve a College Education (PACE) program. PACE gives low-income juniors at five Saint Paul high schools the chance to take Century College classes for credit while receiving academic counseling and tutoring. These students, many of whom are immigrants or have never had a family member attend college, are selected because they have the potential to succeed in college but need extra support. So far, all students in the pilot program have remained in high school, with 97 percent of them completing their college classes. The Mardag Foundation approved a grant of \$10,000 to the Century College Foundation to help finance PACE.



## Independent study

### **Freeport West:** Youth Services, Education and Development

Founded in Minneapolis in 1970 as a shelter for runaway teens, Freeport West has grown into a multifaceted human-services organization that works with youth and families that are at risk or in crisis. In recent years, Freeport West staff began to notice increasing numbers of teens traveling from Ramsey County to Minneapolis to receive human services; in response, Freeport West opened a site in Saint Paul's Selby-Dale neighborhood in 2008. The Youth Services, Education and Development program offered at the site helps homeless teens learn essential skills for managing money, finding and keeping employment and housing, getting an education and staying healthy. Case managers work individually with more than 400 youth between the ages of 13 and 21 each year, referring them to other resources as needed and helping them move toward self-sufficiency. The Mardag Foundation approved a grant of \$15,000 to help finance the Youth Services, Education and Development program.



## Helping seniors stay in their homes

### Human Services Inc in Washington County Minnesota: Resources for Eldercare

For more than 40 years, Human Services Inc has offered Washington County residents services that range from transportation to chemical-abuse and mental-health treatment to counseling for domestic abusers. One of its most in-demand programs is Resources for Eldercare, which helps seniors continue to live in their homes by providing services like meal delivery, adult day care and caregiver-respite options. Like other nonprofits, Human Services Inc has experienced budget cuts, with a 34 percent reduction in county funding over the past several years; at the same time, demand for its services has grown. While the average Social Security payment for a single Minnesota retiree is too low to ensure economic security in any of the state's counties, Washington County is one of the four most expensive counties in which to live. The Mardag Foundation approved a grant of \$25,000 to help finance the budget of Resources for Eldercare.



## Keeping families on track for success

### **Lifetrack Resources Inc.: Enhanced Home Visiting Pilot**

Lifetrack Resources Inc. helps low-income and hard-to-employ people gain employment skills and ensure that their children develop and thrive. Its Families Together program provides early intervention for highly stressed, abused and neglected children through enrichment-focused therapeutic preschool, home visits and therapy. Inspired by the success of Families Together, which resulted in 98 percent of enrolled children improving their development and 100 percent of parents increasing their knowledge of community resources, Lifetrack is testing an enhanced home-visiting program that targets high-risk families who fall outside the eligibility guidelines for Families Together. The enhanced program will use the same research-based assessment tools that Families Together uses to support and track the development of children and parents. With this expansion, Lifetrack hopes to reach 50 percent of Ramsey County's most at-risk children between infancy and age 5. The Mardag Foundation approved a grant of \$25,000 to help Lifetrack Resources finance its Enhanced Home Visiting pilot.



## A place to gather

### Senior Leech Lakers, Inc.: Capital Campaign

A senior center that serves Walker, Minnesota, and its surrounding area, Senior Leech Lakers helps seniors live independently in their homes by providing them with meals, social activities, health-care clinics, transportation and referrals to social services. In 2008, the center was displaced from its building when the city of Walker took the site to build a parking lot. Temporary quarters at the American Legion were available for a few months, but Senior Leech Lakers needs a facility that will accommodate current and future needs of the area's senior population, which is expected to grow by 20 percent over the next decade. In particular, Senior Leech Lakers staff want to start a senior day-services program and build a commercial kitchen to accommodate increasing demand for its congregate dining and Meals on Wheels programs. The Mardag Foundation approved a grant of \$30,000 to help finance the capital campaign to build the new senior center.



## Respecting—and nourishing—elders

### **White Earth Reservation Tribal Council: Elderly Nutrition Program**

When the White Earth Tribal Council surveyed its elders in 2007, the results indicated that most were not eating nutritious meals: they had too few fruits and vegetables in their diets, many lacked enough money to buy food and were eating fewer than two meals per day, and many were not physically able to shop, cook or feed themselves. The Council's Elderly Nutrition program provides daily home-cooked, nutritionally balanced meals, either in group settings or delivered to elders' homes by volunteers. As demand for the program grows, the Tribal Council has a plan to reduce its program costs and focus more funding on buying healthy food, in part by purchasing reusable kitchen supplies instead of the disposable trays and bowls currently used. The Council would also like to begin reimbursing its volunteer drivers for their mileage expenses, which can be significant given the reservation's size. The Mardag Foundation approved a grant of \$17,250 to help finance the budget of the Council's Elderly Nutrition Program.



## 2009 GRANTS

	UNPAID ON 1/1/09	APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION	PAID IN 2009
<b>Improving the lives of at-risk families and children</b>			
<b>360 Communities</b>			
Lakeville, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Virtual Immigrant Resource Center		\$20,000	\$20,000
<b>Advocates for Family Peace</b>			
Grand Rapids, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget to renovate and expand its facility	20,000		
<b>Alliance of Early Childhood Professionals</b>			
Minneapolis, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget to expand the Hands on Teach-to-Learn Program to the East Metro area		10,000	10,000
<b>Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Inc.</b>			
Virginia, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget for construction of the Virginia Youth Foyer		50,000	50,000
<b>Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget for piloting new curriculum and expansion strategies for its Education and Enrichment Program		10,000	10,000
<b>Bolder Options</b>			
Minneapolis, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the program expansion in Saint Paul		20,000	20,000
<b>Boys &amp; Girls Club of the Bemidji Area</b>			
Bemidji, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Teen Center Capital Project		25,000	25,000
<b>Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of the White Earth Reservation</b>			
Naytahwaush, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Callaway Club Site		26,500	26,500
<b>Boys and Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities</b>			
Minneapolis, Minnesota			
For the Bridge to the Future Capital Campaign, with the understanding that this grant will be used exclusively for renovations at its three branch sites in Saint Paul	110,000		40,000
<b>Casa De Esperanza</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of Meeting Critical Concerns of Latinas Experiencing Domestic Violence		15,000	15,000
<b>Center for Hmong Arts &amp; Talent</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Youth Leadership Group		10,000	10,000
<b>Century College Foundation</b>			
White Bear Lake, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Preparing to Achieve a College Education Program		10,000	10,000

	UNPAID ON 1/1/09	APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION	PAID IN 2009
<b>Childrens Dental Services</b>			
Minneapolis, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget for providing dental services to children in Duluth		\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>CommonBond Communities</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
For Campaign 4000: Building Homes, Hope and Community, with the understanding that this grant will be used exclusively as part of the Housing Investment Fund to invest in the development of properties in the East Metro area of Dakota, Ramsey and Washington counties	110,000		40,000
<b>Community Design Center of Minnesota</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Youth Enterprise in Food and Ecology Program		10,000	10,000
<b>East Side Arts Council</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of KidVenture		8,000	8,000
<b>East Side Neighborhood Development Company, Inc.</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the East Side Family Center		25,000	25,000
<b>Evergreen House</b>			
Bemidji, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Street Outreach Drop-In Center		20,000	20,000
<b>The Family Place</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the development program		10,000	10,000
<b>FamilyMeans</b>			
Stillwater, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget to provide youth programs at Cimarron		15,000	15,000
<b>First Children's Finance</b>			
Minneapolis, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget to provide business assistance to child care programs in Blue Earth and Nicollet counties		5,750	5,750
<b>Freeport West</b>			
Minneapolis, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Youth Services, Education and Development Program in Saint Paul		15,000	15,000
<b>Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys, Inc.</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To finance opportunities for Girls Scouts from low income families and underrepresented groups to attend summer camp		10,000	10,000

## 2009 GRANTS

	UNPAID ON 1/1/09	APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION	PAID IN 2009
<b>Kinship Partners, Inc.</b> Brainerd, Minnesota To help finance the budget of the Mentor Recruitment Program		\$15,000	\$15,000
<b>Lifetrack Resources Inc.</b> Saint Paul, Minnesota To help finance the budget of the Enhanced Home Visiting Pilot		25,000	25,000
<b>Little Treasures Center, Inc.</b> Duluth, Minnesota To help finance the budget of the Transitions Into New Settings Project		10,000	10,000
<b>Minnesota African Women's Association</b> Minneapolis, Minnesota To help finance the budget of the African Girls Initiative for Leadership and Empowerment Program in Saint Paul		12,500	12,500
<b>Minnesota Fathers &amp; Families Network</b> Saint Paul, Minnesota To help finance the budget of the Greater Minnesota Fatherhood Leadership Circles		10,000	10,000
<b>Montessori Training Center of Minnesota Inc.</b> Saint Paul, Minnesota To help finance the budget of the Cornerstone Montessori School component of the Timeless Education for a New World Campaign	30,000		15,000
<b>New Foundations Inc</b> Saint Paul, Minnesota To help finance the budget of the Crestview Community Children's Program		25,000	25,000
<b>North Shore Horizons, Inc.</b> Two Harbors, Minnesota To help finance the budget of the New Beginnings Supportive Housing Project		10,000	10,000
<b>Northland Foundation</b> Duluth, Minnesota To help finance the budget of the Reflective Practice Pilot Project		20,000	20,000
<b>Northwoods Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Program</b> Bemidji, Minnesota To help finance the budget of the First City Visitation Project		20,000	20,000
<b>Ours to Serve House of Hospitality Inc</b> Bemidji, Minnesota To help finance the budget for the purchase of furniture for the new homeless shelter		10,000	10,000
<b>Project FINE</b> Winona, Minnesota To help finance the budget of the Diversity Youth Quest Initiative		15,000	15,000
<b>Project for Pride in Living</b> Minneapolis, Minnesota To help finance the budget for expansion of programs in Saint Paul		25,000	25,000

## 2009 GRANTS

	UNPAID ON 1/1/09	APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION	PAID IN 2009
<b>The Refuge Network</b>			
Cambridge, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Black Dog Hill Domestic Abuse Shelter Program		\$35,000	\$35,000
<b>The Saint Paul Foundation</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
For the Community Sharing Fund		1,000	1,000
For expansion of Words Work!		75,000	75,000
<b>Someplace Safe</b>			
Glenwood, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget to remodel a house for use as a domestic abuse shelter		50,000	50,000
<b>Tubman</b>			
Minneapolis, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget for expansion of Sustainability Services to Ramsey and Washington counties		15,000	15,000
<b>Volunteer Lawyers Network</b>			
Minneapolis, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Greater Minnesota and East Metro Bankruptcy Services Program		20,000	20,000
<b>Young Women's Christian Association of Duluth, Minnesota</b>			
Duluth, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget for making repairs to the Trepanier building's roof		15,000	15,000
<b>Young Womens Christian Association of St. Paul</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of Journeys		15,000	15,000
To help finance the budget of the Academic Enrichment Services Capacity Building Initiative		25,000	25,000
<b>TOTAL GRANTS IN IMPROVING THE LIVES OF AT-RISK FAMILIES AND CHILDREN</b>			
	<b>\$270,000</b>	<b>\$773,750</b>	<b>\$868,750</b>

## 2009 GRANTS

	UNPAID ON 1/1/09	APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION	PAID IN 2009
<b>Supporting seniors to live independently</b>			
<b>Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis</b>			
Minneapolis, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Homeless Elders Project		\$25,000	\$25,000
<b>Human Services Inc in Washington County Minnesota</b>			
Oakdale, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of Resources for Eldercare		25,000	25,000
<b>Koochiching Aging Options</b>			
International Falls, Minnesota			
To help finance the position of program specialist		25,000	25,000
<b>Lake of the Woods County Senior Citizens Council Inc</b>			
Baudette, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget to renovate the kitchen of the Baudette Senior Activity and Nutrition Center		18,000	18,000
<b>Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly</b>			
Minneapolis, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Among Friends Challenge Campaign	25,000		25,000
<b>Living at Home/Block Nurse Program, Inc.</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Enhanced Model Service Project		21,000	21,000
<b>Metro Meals on Wheel</b>			
Minneapolis, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget to build the capacity of the development program		10,000	10,000
<b>New American Community Services</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Older New Americans Project		10,000	10,000
<b>Rebuilding Together-Twin Cities</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Safe at Home Program		15,000	15,000
<b>Senior Leech Lakers, Inc.</b>			
Walker, Minnesota			
For the Capital Campaign		30,000	30,000
<b>Store to Door</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Food Support for Homebound Seniors Pilot Project Part II		18,500	18,500
<b>Twin Cities Public Television, Inc.</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of Getting There: Information, Connection and Local Resources for Older Minnesotans		25,000	25,000

	UNPAID ON 1/1/09	APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION	PAID IN 2009
<b>Urban Partnership and Community Development Center</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance Supporting Living Among Seniors		\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Elder Circle Project		10,000	10,000
<b>White Earth Reservation Tribal Council</b>			
White Earth, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Elderly Nutrition Program		17,250	17,250
<b>TOTAL GRANTS IN SUPPORTING SENIORS TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$259,750</b>	<b>\$284,750</b>

### Promoting arts and humanities

#### aMaze

Minneapolis, Minnesota

To help finance the budget of the Families All Matter Preschool Program Phase II

\$10,000 \$10,000

#### American Composers Forum

Saint Paul, Minnesota

To help finance the budget of Music by Kids Tours Minnesota

20,000 20,000

#### Arts Center of Saint Peter

Saint Peter, Minnesota

To help finance the position of executive director

15,000 1,850

#### Children's Theater Company and School

Minneapolis, Minnesota

To help finance the budget for expansion of the Neighborhood Bridges Program to East Metro Schools

10,000 10,000

#### Duluth Playhouse, Inc.

Duluth, Minnesota

To help finance the budget of the Children's Theatre Arts Program

12,500 12,500

#### Mankato Ballet Company

Mankato, Minnesota

To help finance the budget for the positions of artistic director and administrative assistant

15,000 15,000

#### Mankato Symphony Orchestra Association Inc

Mankato, Minnesota

To help finance the position of education project director

11,500

#### Minnesota Association of Community Theatres

Minneapolis, Minnesota

To help finance the position of executive director

15,000

## 2009 GRANTS

	UNPAID ON 1/1/09	APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION	PAID IN 2009
<b>Minnesota Public Radio</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget for start-up and production of Performance Today and SymphonyCast	\$50,000		\$50,000
<b>North House Folk School</b>			
Grand Marais, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Red Phase of the Raise The Roof Campaign	10,000		
<b>Ordway Center for the Performing Arts</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Organizational Effectiveness in Fundraising Initiative		20,000	20,000
<b>Penumbra Theatre Company Inc.</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the New Era Campaign	20,000		20,000
<b>Public Art Saint Paul</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
For the Public Art Program Fund	25,000		25,000
<b>The Saint Paul Foundation</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
For the Arts Partnership Campaign	245,000		150,000
To help finance the budget of ArtsLAB II	50,000		50,000
<b>Springboard for the Arts</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget for expansion of the Adjunct Career Counselor Program in Greater Minnesota		10,000	10,000
<b>Twin Rivers Center for the Arts</b>			
Mankato, Minnesota			
To help finance the positions of executive director and program assistant	15,000		15,000
To help finance the budget for the positions of executive director and program assistant		15,000	15,000
<b>TOTAL GRANTS IN PROMOTING ARTS AND HUMANITIES</b>	<b>\$426,500</b>	<b>\$142,500</b>	<b>\$424,350</b>

	UNPAID ON 1/1/09	APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION	PAID IN 2009
<b>Addressing human service needs of at-risk populations</b>			
<b>Admission Possible</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Alumni Services Pilot Program		\$15,000	\$15,000
<b>American Oromo Community of Minnesota</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget for two staff positions		15,000	15,000
<b>Citizens for Backus AB</b>			
International Falls, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget for construction of the community kitchen		10,000	10,000
<b>Face to Face Health &amp; Counseling Service</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the SafeZone Center		25,000	25,000
<b>Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines</b>			
Duluth, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Willmar Outreach to At-Risk Girls Project		15,000	15,000
<b>Heartland Community Action Agency, Inc.</b>			
Willmar, Minnesota			
For renovation of the exterior of its building		15,250	15,250
<b>Hmong American Partnership</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget to purchase and develop a centralized database and client intake software		15,000	15,000
<b>Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota Inc.</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget for providing legal services to immigrants in Worthington Minnesota		20,000	20,000
<b>Inver Hills Community College Foundation</b>			
Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of Project Breakthrough		\$25,000	\$25,000
<b>Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, Inc.</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of the Women of Color and Native Women's Leadership Project		20,000	20,000
<b>Minnesota Community Foundation</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
For the Economic Recovery Statewide Fund to make grants to nonprofit organizations that provide critical services to those in Greater Minnesota most negatively affected by the current economic decline		170,000	170,000
<b>Minnesota Literacy Council, Inc.</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget for expansion of Adult Basic Education on Saint Paul's East Side		20,000	20,000

## 2009 GRANTS

	UNPAID ON 1/1/09	APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION	PAID IN 2009
<b>Northern Communities Land Trust</b>			
Duluth, Minnesota			
To help finance construction of the Duluth Veteran's Home Supportive Housing Project	\$20,000		
<b>The Saint Paul Foundation</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
For the Management Improvement Fund		50,000	50,000
To help finance the budget of the Community Sharing Fund		50,000	50,000
<b>Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank</b>			
Duluth, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget for facility expansion	10,000		10,000
<b>St. Paul Youth Services Inc</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget for expansion of the Second Chance Initiative		25,000	25,000
<b>United Family Practice Health Center</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
To help finance construction of a new facility	75,000		50,000
<b>Volunteers of America of Minnesota, Inc.</b>			
Minneapolis, Minnesota			
To help finance the budget of Transitional Housing for Homeless Women Program		10,000	10,000
<b>Amherst H. Wilder Foundation</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
For construction of the Wilder Center	150,000		150,000
<b>TOTAL GRANTS IN ADDRESSING HUMAN SERVICE NEEDS OF AT-RISK POPULATIONS</b>	<b>\$275,000</b>	<b>\$480,250</b>	<b>\$710,250</b>

	UNPAID ON 1/1/09	APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION	PAID IN 2009
<b>Supporting community development throughout Saint Paul</b>			
<b>Como Friends</b>			
Saint Paul, Minnesota			
For the Campaign for Como Park Zoo and Conservatory	\$250,000		
For the Polar Bear Odyssey		2,000	2,000
<b>TOTAL GRANTS IN SUPPORTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT SAINT PAUL.</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Other</b>			
<b>Hazelden Foundation</b>			
Center City, Minnesota			
For general operating		\$2,000	\$2,000
<b>Minnesota Council on Foundations</b>			
Minneapolis, Minnesota			
For general corporate purposes		5,555	5,555
<b>TOTAL GRANTS IN OTHER</b>		<b>\$7,555</b>	<b>\$7,555</b>
<b>TOTAL GRANTS IN ALL FIELDS</b>	<b>\$1,246,500</b>	<b>\$1,665,805</b>	<b>\$2,297,655</b>
<b>TOTAL CANCELLATIONS AND RETURN OF GRANTS APPROVED IN PRIOR YEARS</b>		<b>(\$119,406)</b>	<b>(\$119,406)</b>
<b>83 Grants – Grand Totals:</b>	<b>\$1,246,500</b>	<b>\$1,546,399</b>	<b>\$2,178,249</b>

## Using Revised Mardag Foundation Priorities

PRIORITY	DOLLARS		GRANTS	
	Total Dollars	% of Total Dollars	Total Grants	% of Total Grants
Improving the lives of at-risk families and children	\$773,750	46.4%	41	49.4%
Supporting seniors to live independently	\$259,750	15.6%	14	16.9%
Promoting arts and humanities	\$142,500	8.6%	10	12.0%
Addressing human service needs of at-risk populations	\$480,250	28.8%	15	18.1%
Supporting community development throughout Saint Paul	\$2,000	0.1%	1	1.2%
Other	\$7,555	0.5%	2	2.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,665,805</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Using Minnesota Council of Foundations Categories

PRIORITY	DOLLARS		GRANTS	
	Total Dollars	% of Total Dollars	Total Grants	% of Total Grants
Arts, Culture and Humanities	\$165,500	10.0%	11	13.3%
Public, Societal Benefit	\$296,555	17.8%	6	7.2%
Educational Institutions and Related Activities	\$230,000	13.8%	12	14.5%
Environment and Animals	\$2,000	0.1%	1	1.2%
Health	\$22,000	1.3%	3	3.6%
Human Services	\$949,750	57.0%	50	60.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,665,805</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Using Mardag Foundation Geographic Areas

PRIORITY	DOLLARS		GRANTS	
	Total Dollars	% of Total Dollars	Total Grants	% of Total Grants
Greater Minnesota	\$589,250	35.4%	33	39.8%
East Metro Area	\$736,000	44.2%	42	50.6%
Greater Minnesota/East Metro Area Combined	\$340,555	20.4%	8	9.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,665,805</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 2009 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	DECEMBER 31, 2009	DECEMBER 31, 2008
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Market Value	\$45,163,921	\$40,181,057
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administrative Expenses	\$262,244	\$266,878
Federal Excise Tax	\$7,467	\$(98,974)
<b>GRANTS</b>		
Grants Paid	\$2,297,655	\$2,710,575
Grant Expense Per Financial Statements	\$1,578,782	\$2,586,382
Grant Commitments	\$1,665,805	\$2,332,075
Number of Grants	83	89

## 2009 GRANTS GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

The Mardag Foundation makes grants to nonprofit organizations and public entities located within and serving residents of Minnesota. The geographic focus of our grantmaking is the East Metro area of Dakota, Ramsey and Washington counties, as well as Greater Minnesota.

### GUIDELINES FOR GRANTS

The Mardag Foundation has established five priority focus areas and will consider proposals which address one or more of the following:

- Improving the lives of at-risk families and children.
- Supporting seniors to live independently.
- Promoting arts and humanities.
- Addressing human service needs of at-risk populations.
- Supporting community development throughout Saint Paul.

The Foundation **will** consider grant applications for:

- Capital projects, program expansion and special projects of a time-limited nature.
- Start-up costs for promising new programs that demonstrate sound management and clear goals relevant to community needs.
- Support for established agencies that have temporary or transitional needs.
- Funds to match contributions received from other sources or to provide a challenge to raise new contributions.

The Foundation **will not** consider grant applications for:

- Programs serving Minneapolis and the surrounding West Metro area.
- Scholarships and grants to individuals.
- Ongoing annual operating expenses.
- Sectarian religious programs.
- Medical research.
- Federated campaigns.
- Conservation or environmental programs.
- Events and conferences.
- Programs serving the physically, developmentally or mentally disabled.
- Capital campaigns of private secondary schools.\*
- Capital and endowment campaigns of private colleges and universities.\*

*\* The Foundation will review, on their own merits, grant applications received from private secondary schools and private colleges and universities for purposes not excluded above.*

Prior to submitting a grant request, applicants should obtain the Foundation's Application Packet, which includes the Grant Application Cover Sheet, Proposal Narrative Guidelines, Proposal Checklist, and optional Organization and Project or Program Budget Forms. This information is available in downloadable file format from the Foundation's website at [www.mardag.org](http://www.mardag.org).

### APPLICATION PROCEDURES

To see if a project fits the guidelines and interests of the Foundation, applicants may submit a letter of inquiry describing the proposed project prior to preparing a full proposal. This letter should be limited to two to three pages, with less detail than a full proposal, and address the information included in the Proposal Narrative Guidelines.

Letters of inquiry and full proposals must be in writing and addressed to:

Grants Manager  
Mardag Foundation  
55 Fifth Street East, Suite 600  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-1797

Proposals will not be returned to applicants. Please submit only one copy. Do not send applications in binders or folders or include videotapes, audiotapes, CDs or DVDs. Acceptance for review by the Foundation, of either a letter of inquiry or a full proposal, does not ensure that a grant will be awarded.

The Mardag Foundation's grantmaking meetings are held in April, August and November. Full proposals must be received by the following dates to be considered for a grant:

Application Deadline– Postmark Date	Board Meeting Date
December 31	April
May 1	August
August 1	November

Applications that are not received in time for a grantmaking meeting are carried forward to the next one. Please contact the Foundation at 651.224.5463 or e-mail [inbox@mardag.org](mailto:inbox@mardag.org) with any questions about grant applications.

The Mardag Foundation's IRS Form 990-PF is available upon request.



### History

Through the terms of her will, Agnes Elmer Ober established what is known today as the Mardag Foundation. Since its beginning in 1969, the Mardag Foundation has become a vital member of Minnesota's philanthropic community. Today, grants are made in the areas of arts and humanities, civic affairs, education, health, and human services.

The work of the Mardag Foundation began with the birth of Agnes Maas on June 16, 1887, in Saint Paul, Minnesota. This remarkable woman began her life in painful poverty and ended it as a wealthy, compassionate woman with a lifelong concern for children and the elderly. Her legacy continues today through the Mardag Foundation.

### Directors

Janice K. Angell  
 Gretchen D. Davidson  
 Cornelia O. Eberhart  
 Phyllis Rawls Goff  
 James R. Heltzer  
 Gayle M. Ober  
 Richard B. Ober  
 Timothy M. Ober  
 Wilhelmina M. Wright

### Program and Administrative Services provided by The Saint Paul Foundation

John G. Couchman, Administrative Director  
 Christine K. Searson, Finance Director

### Community Investment Group Representative

Janice K. Angell

### Nominating Committee

Tim Ober, Chair  
 Cornelia Eberhart  
 Gayle Ober  
 Richard Ober  
 Wilhelmina Wright

### Legal Counsel

Darlene Cobian, Briggs & Morgan  
 Saint Paul, Minnesota



## **Mardag Foundation**

*A family legacy. A partner for Minnesota.*

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[www.mardag.org](http://www.mardag.org)