

Governor's Council on



Faith and Community Service Initiatives

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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FAITH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVES PRESENTS BEST PRACTICES AWARDS TO MINNESOTA ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FOR VETERANS (MAC-V)

~Presented at the Minnesota Faith-Based and Community Forum~

~ Models and Programs for Reentry- ~

~ Programs Supporting Families and Children ~

St. Paul – The Governor's Council on Faith and Community Service Initiatives presented the 2009 Best Practices Awards to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MAC-V) on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at the Progressive Baptist Church Family Life Center, 1505 Burns Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota. The awards were presented by Lee Buckley, Special Advisor to Governor Tim Pawlenty, Windell Clint Calvert, Acting Chair of the Governor's Council and Joan Fabian, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Accepting the award on behalf of Kathleen Vitalis, Executive Director for MAC-V was Regional Director, Jimmy Collier.

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) is a 17 year-old 501(c) 3 non-profit social services organization that exclusively serves veterans in crisis and those who are experiencing homelessness. Each month more than 500 contacts, inquiries, and requests are made to MACV across the state, and that number reached over 10,000 in 2008. Last year, MACV comprehensively served over 870 veterans (and their families) throughout Minnesota - and this number is rising. In addition to its administrative location in St. Paul, MACV operates three regional offices located in Minneapolis, Duluth and Mankato. MACV is the only organization of its kind in the state dedicated to serving the needs of veterans. MACV owns and operates 8 homes for transitional housing in Minneapolis and St. Cloud. MACV also owns 11 units of permanent housing for disabled veterans in Mankato. In addition to direct housing, MACV assists many veterans with rental/mortgage assistance to prevent their homelessness.

The awards were presented during the Minnesota Faith-Based and Community Forum which focused on programs supporting the reentry of ex-offenders, programs for families and children, and collaborative service initiatives.

The Governor's Faith and Community Service Initiatives Best Practices Awards program was established by this Council in 2006 to recognize grassroots faith and community organizations

with best practices models for collaborating with a variety of resources and that have positively impacted a social condition and changed the lives of individuals.

The eight other recipients of the 2009 Governor's Faith and Community Service Initiatives Best Practices Awards are:

Inspired to Serve – Youth Led Interfaith Action – Saint Paul, MN
Jordan New Life Hub – North Minneapolis, MN
**Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council – Communities Empowering Youth
Nonprofit Capacity Building Program – Brooklyn Center, MN**
Pine River Backus Family Center – Pine River, MN
Q Health Connections – Minneapolis, MN
Samuel Simmons Consulting – Minneapolis, MN
West Central Youth For Christ – Willmar, MN
YouthCARE – Minneapolis, MN

The Minnesota Faith-Based and Community Forum featured presentations from 23 individuals representing 16 organizations from across the Twin Cities, Rochester and Duluth. It also included an update on the White House Office for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships from Peg Chamberlin, Executive Director of the Minnesota Council of Churches, President Elect of the National Council of Churches and newly appointed to the President's Advisory Council for the White House Office for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Together these representatives from state and local government, and nonprofit and faith-based organizations presented successful service programs and models that support youth, fathers and families and the reentry of ex-offenders. Models that build the capacity of organizations and communities were also presented.

Governor Tim Pawlenty created the Governor's Council on Faith and Community Service Initiatives in 2005 to develop a closer connection between state government and faith and community organizations by increasing access to existing resources, reducing barriers to the delivery of services and promoting best practices.

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