

# giving matters

SPRING 2008

A publication for supporters of  
health-related research and education  
at the University of Minnesota



PHOTO: MIKE HABERMANN

Masonic Cancer Center director Douglas Yee, M.D., and deputy director Philip McGlave, M.D., reveal the center's new name at an April 10 news conference announcing the Masons' \$65 million gift. In the background are Worthy Grand Matron Helen Johnson, Order of the Eastern Star; and then-Grand Master of the Minnesota Masons Raymond Christensen, M.D.

"Our desire is to be a catalyst in finding a cure or cures for cancer, to eliminate cancer as a scourge of mankind."

— ERIC NEETENBEEK, PRESIDENT AND CEO,  
MINNESOTA MASONIC CHARITIES

## A historic gift

Masons pledge a record-breaking \$65 million for cancer research

When the Minnesota Masons made their first gift to the University of Minnesota in 1955, cancer was a death sentence. So to provide a place for people with cancer to receive palliative care, the Masons gave \$1 million to build the Masonic Memorial Hospital.

Now, five decades later, new therapies are constantly being developed at the University to help people live with cancer. The Masons have had a major role in this success, contributing millions more over the years to build state-of-the-art facilities and fund leading-edge research and care at the University.

Still, the Masons believe more is possible. "Our desire is to be a catalyst in finding a cure or cures for cancer, to eliminate cancer as a scourge of mankind," says Eric Neetenbeek, president and CEO of Minnesota Masonic Charities, the philanthropic arm of Minnesota Masonry.

That's why Minnesota Masonic Charities in April pledged \$65 million to the University of Minnesota Cancer Center over 15 years. It is the largest gift the University has ever received.

It's also a new milestone in the Masons' 53-year history of supporting cancer research

and care at the University, bringing their total giving to \$100 million. In recognition of this support, the University of Minnesota Cancer Center is now called the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota.

"The Masons' legacy of supporting cancer research and care at the University of Minnesota has transformed our ability to find cures and better ways of preventing, diagnosing, and treating cancer," says University President Robert Bruininks, Ph.D.

### The right time and place

Masonic Cancer Center director Douglas Yee, M.D., says the Masons' \$65 million gift will take cancer research at the University to the next level.

"This is the right time and place to really make an impact," Yee says. "Our members are making new discoveries almost daily, and with this gift, we will be able to significantly expand our scope in cancer research and treatment."

continued on back page

# giving matters





This issue of Giving Matters celebrates milestones — starting with our cover

story about Minnesota Masonic Charities' \$65 million gift to support cancer research at the University. This remarkable gift, the largest the University has ever received, will transform cancer research at the newly renamed Masonic Cancer Center.

Our page-3 story describes the landmark Minnesota's Future Doctors program, which recently received its first major gift, a \$1 million anonymous donation. This joint program of the University of Minnesota and Mayo Medical Schools aims to create a more diverse pool of doctors by preparing undergraduates from underserved, rural, and ethnically diverse groups for medical school.

Bob Calmenson is celebrating a personal milestone: his 60th birthday — especially notable because Bob was born with a life-threatening congenital heart defect and not expected to make it to his 20s (see story, page 4). Surgery performed at the University when he was an adolescent has allowed him to enjoy a full life. In gratitude, Bob and his parents, Ben and Vivian Calmenson, have established funds that support pediatric cardiology research and other programs at the University.

The University's Program of Mortuary Science is celebrating a birthday, too — its 100th — as well as a momentous \$200,000 gift from Leo Hodroff, of Hodroff and Sons Chapels in the Twin Cities (see story, page 4).

Finally, don't miss the adjacent story about alumna Mary LaDue Pickworth. Born in 1907 and ahead of her time, Mary learned to invest and manage her own money while still in her teens. She died last fall at age 100, leaving a \$4 million estate gift that benefits our Medical School and honors the life she shared with her husband.

Your gifts have been important milestones as well — whether as personal tributes to loved ones or critically needed support for a specific program. Thank you for all that you do to support health-related programs at the University of Minnesota.

Becky Malkerson

President and CEO  
Minnesota Medical Foundation

## A lifelong investment

Alumna's estate gift to U Medical School honors life she and her husband shared

Born in 1907 in Browns Valley, Minnesota, near the South Dakota border, Mary LaDue was ahead of her time. An independent-minded young woman, she graduated from high school at age 15 and completed her degree at the University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts

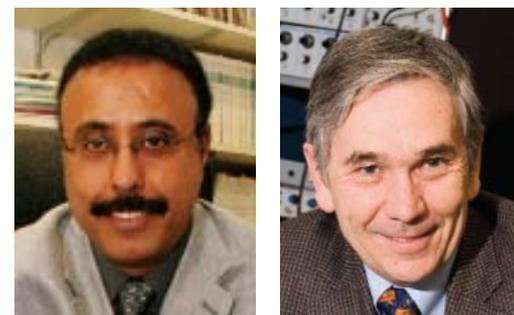
in three years. Her father encouraged the teenager to learn about financial matters and gave her \$2,000 to invest — a skill she honed over her lifetime and ultimately used to benefit others.

Mary met her future husband, Max E. Pickworth, at a University dance, fell in love, and in 1932 eloped without her father's knowledge. (Later, in a letter to Mary, her father lamented missing the chance to walk his only daughter down the aisle but enclosed \$5,000.)

A 1930 graduate of the University of Minnesota Medical School, Max was a director of medical surgery for the U.S. Air Force during World War II, then opened one of the first private surgical practices in San Jose, California. Tragically, he died of a massive heart attack at age 49.

Mary, who died last fall shortly after her 100th birthday, never remarried. She honored her late husband by leaving an estate gift of more than \$4 million to the University of Minnesota Medical School. The Max E. and Mary LaDue Pickworth Endowment Fund will create a permanent source of income to advance medical education and research at the Medical School.

"One reason this gift is so remarkable is that Mary Pickworth did not prescribe



Mustafa al'Absi, Ph.D.

Timothy Ebner, M.D., Ph.D.

how to use her money," says Medical School Dean Deborah Powell, M.D. "She simply recognized the need and allowed us to choose how to invest — a rare opportunity for our Medical School."

Powell has created two endowed chairs with the gift. With a match from the Permanent University Fund, she has established the Max E. and Mary LaDue Pickworth Endowed Research Chair, which will be held by Mustafa al'Absi, Ph.D., a professor of behavioral science and director of the new Duluth Medical Research Institute at the Medical School–Duluth Campus.

Al'Absi is internationally known for his research on the links between stress, pain, and addiction.

The Pickworth gift also will fund an endowed chair in neuroscience to be held by Timothy Ebner, M.D., Ph.D., professor and head of the Department of Neuroscience, on the University's Twin Cities campus. Ebner studies how the brain communicates with the body to control movement.

Beverly Bourbon, Mary LaDue Pickworth's friend and personal representative, says Pickworth was "intelligent, caring, and feisty" and proud to be a woman of her generation who not only understood finances but also handled all of her own investments.

"Many times, Mary would regale me with stories of her investments," Bourbon recalls. "She wanted to put her money to best use at the Medical School, and she wanted to leave a legacy that reflected the life of giving and caring that she and Max had shared."

– MICHELLE JUNTUNEN



PHOTO: SUBMITTED

The late Mary LaDue and Max Pickworth (Medical School Class of 1930) met at a University dance and later married. Today, an estate gift Mary established in their names helps to fund two new endowed chairs in the Medical School.



PHOTOS: SCOTT STREBLE

## Anonymous gift boosts Minnesota's Future Doctors program

Growing up in a household of modest means, Clemon Dabney had always wanted to be a role model for his siblings. Now he's preparing to become a doctor, showing his brothers and sisters that they all can make a difference in the world.

Georgette McCauley's family fled war-torn Liberia in 2001. Today McCauley is a college student studying to become a doctor so she can help other refugees become more comfortable with Western medicine.

Wanda Vue, the only girl in her Hmong family of six children, became interested in medicine when she started accompanying her father on doctor's office visits. A first-generation high school and college student, Vue now aims to be the first in her family to attend medical school.

Dabney, McCauley, and Vue are among the first 23 students in a program called Minnesota's Future Doctors, which targets promising undergraduates from communities that are underrepresented in medicine and equips them with the skills to become strong applicants for medical school.

Program director Jo Peterson, Ph.D., says their classmates are equally inspiring.

"We've found lovely, brilliant people with depth and compassion," she says. "These young people are the whole package, the type of student we want and need in our medical schools if we are to prepare the next generation of physicians — doctors who can relate to the increasingly diverse population in our state."

Students in the first group of Minnesota's Future Doctors started their training last summer, and already the program — a collaboration between the University of Minnesota

Medical School and the Mayo Medical School — has a faithful group of believers.

One of those believers recently made a \$1 million anonymous donation to help sustain the program's educational vision. The donor has confidence in the power of education and its ability to transform the future.

"This generous gift will help us maintain the program's momentum and continue to reach talented students across the state who might otherwise consider medical school a dream beyond their reach," Peterson says.

Minnesota's Future Doctors was the brainchild of two University medical students who noticed that the faces in their classrooms did not represent the diversity of Minnesota communities. (Studies of health-care consumers show that people of color and immigrants prefer doctors who share their language, culture, and religion.)

Students selected for the program represent minority, rural, and immigrant groups as well as economically disadvantaged and first-generation college students.

Participants attend three six-week sessions during the summer (another option offers sessions spanning three school years during winter breaks and long weekends). They spend the first and third years of the program at the University and the second year at Mayo, studying biology and chemistry, shadowing physicians, taking part in volunteer activities, and preparing for the Medical College Admission Test.

LEFT Minnesota's Future Doctors program participants Shukri Guled and Fatuma Omer shadow Abdullah Ahmed, M.D., as he talks with a patient at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview.

ABOVE University of Minnesota undergraduate student Wanda Vue says the Minnesota's Future Doctors program provides a straight path to her goals.

To recruit the first group of Minnesota's Future Doctors last year, Peterson drove to almost every community college and state university in Minnesota, asking each school to nominate one student for the program. Those recommendations resulted in meetings with 91 prospective participants, and all 91 applied to the program.

This year, Peterson received 3,600 inquiries from students for the summer class.

As the program continues to garner interest from so many high-quality students, Peterson says she's grateful for the anonymous donor's support.

"Someone just gave these kids a little sunshine, and they've blown me away," she says. "I'm more hopeful than I've ever been about the future of medicine."

Minnesota's Future Doctors is off to a strong start but needs additional funding to sustain it. To learn how you can support the program, contact Cindy Adams Ellis at the Minnesota Medical Foundation at 612-273-8597 or [cae@mmf.umn.edu](mailto:cae@mmf.umn.edu).

### CORRECTION

The winter 2008 Giving Matters story "Honoring a neurosurgery pioneer" erroneously stated that Harry A. Kaplan's estate was placed in Julia Neubart's name. Ms. Neubart was responsible for just one of Dr. Kaplan's funds, which she directed to the University of Minnesota in accordance with his wishes.

## A heartfelt 'Happy Birthday'

St. Paul native and University of Minnesota graduate Bob Calmenson turned 60 on June 2. That's a major milestone for anyone, but especially for Bob, who was born with a life-threatening congenital heart defect — and not expected to make it to his 20s.

After two surgeries at the University's former Variety Club Heart Hospital when he was an adolescent, Bob has been able to live a full life, one that includes family, career, and weekends sailing off the coast of San Diego, his home since the mid-'80s. "I've been fortunate to be on this side of the grass for this long," he says wryly.

Bob's parents, Ben and Vivian Calmenson, credit the first surgery with extending Bob's life. They demonstrated their gratitude — and honored Bob's 50th birthday — in 1998 by establishing the Robert L. Calmenson Pediatric Cardiology Research Fund at the University. Family and friends continue to contribute to the fund, which supports research aimed at preventing and improving the treatment of congenital heart defects. "We don't want to see any other children go through what Bob did," Vivian says.

Calmenson family and friends gathered in Minnesota on Memorial Day weekend to celebrate Bob's 60th birthday — and Ben's 90th — on May 25. Naturally, the get-together included some lively talk about Gopher football and basketball, which Bob still follows avidly. He has fond memories of watching the Gopher football team practice from the top of the Oak Street parking ramp during one of his many stays at the old Variety Club Hospital.

Bob is delighted with the plans for a new facility for the University of Minnesota Children's Hospital, Fairview. Scheduled to open in 2011, the new building will feature more home-like environments and allow greater family interaction than in his day.

"I didn't want to be in the hospital when I was a kid; no child does," Bob says. "But it's exciting to know the new facility will



PHOTO: TIM RUMMELHOFF

Grateful for the pediatric heart surgery that has allowed their son Bob Calmenson to lead a normal life, Ben and Vivian Calmenson created a fund for pediatric cardiology research at the University of Minnesota 10 years ago, when Bob turned 50. This year the family celebrated Bob's 60th birthday — and Ben's 90th.

make the experience as comforting and positive as possible."

Recently, Bob and his father established the Calmenson Family Scholarship through the San Diego chapter of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. The first scholarship will be awarded for the 2009 academic year. Recipients can major in any subject they wish, but who knows? Maybe one will make the next big breakthrough in pediatric cardiology. — MARY VITCENDA

## A monumental gift to mortuary science

Alumnus's gift establishes a 'full-ride' scholarship as mortuary science celebrates its centennial

Alumnus Leo Hodroff has given the University of Minnesota's Program of Mortuary Science an early birthday present: \$200,000 to establish the Leo A. Hodroff Scholarship in the 100-year-old program — the nation's oldest. His contribution is the program's largest gift ever and possibly the largest gift supporting mortuary science scholarships anywhere.

Since graduating from the Program of Mortuary Science more than 70 years ago, Hodroff has contributed immensely to the mortuary science profession and to his community. The family's Twin Cities mortuaries, Hodroff and Sons Chapels, have helped countless bereaved families and friends find comfort while honoring those who have died.

PHOTO: SUBMITTED



Seven decades after graduating from the University's Program of Mortuary Science, Leo Hodroff has given back with the largest gift the 100-year-old program has ever received.

Hodroff, who made the gift last December, attributes much of his success to his education at the University, and for more than 40 years he has supported initiatives, such as lectureships, that ensure that aspiring morticians receive similar opportunities for a world-class education.

Now, with funding from the President's Scholarship Match — a University program that matches the payout of new scholarships established with gifts totaling \$25,000 or more — the Hodroff Scholarship will be the first in the nation to provide a "full ride" to a new mortuary science student. Recipients will receive nearly \$40,000 during their two-year training program as they earn their bachelor of science degree in mortuary science.

The scholarship, which will be awarded every two

years, is especially meaningful because current undergraduates complete their University of Minnesota studies with an average debt of nearly \$25,000.

Michael LuBrant, director of the Program of Mortuary Science, is thrilled by Hodroff's commitment. He shares Hodroff's hope that this monumental gift will inspire others to support mortuary science scholarships at the University and that, eventually, the scholarship will provide full tuition for a new recipient every year.

As LuBrant reflects on Hodroff's generosity, he is reminded of the ancient Hebrew words that Hodroff chose for a plaque hanging in the mortuary science program's new teaching center, established in honor of Hodroff's late father, Abraham Hodroff: "Learning must be sought; it will not come of itself."

"Because of Leo Hodroff's great generosity," LuBrant says, "a seeker of knowledge will have access to a college education. What an incredible gift for advancing knowledge and uplifting the human spirit."

— LESLEY SCHACK

## JUNE

**23 MONDAY 6 P.M.**  
Dean's Scholars Society Dinner  
McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota  
This dinner celebrates members of the Medical School Dean's Scholars Society. By invitation only.  
① Contact Katie Mae Pritchard at 612-625-5682 or k.pritchard@mmf.umn.edu.

## JULY

**21 MONDAY 6 P.M.**  
Rein in Sarcoma Como Park, St. Paul, Minnesota  
Join us for the eighth annual Rein in Sarcoma, a fun-packed summer evening for the whole family. Enjoy music, children's activities, a silent auction, and the always popular Cafesjian's Carousel at this fund-raiser for sarcoma research and education at the University of Minnesota. Proceeds benefit the Karen Wyckoff Sarcoma Research Fund.  
① Contact Sharon Kunau at 612-624-1913 or s.kunau@mmf.umn.edu

**25-26 FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**  
Lightning Run Summit Brewery, St. Paul, Minnesota  
This two-day motorcycle rally benefits the Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation at the University of Minnesota.

Activities include a kick-off celebration with live music, assorted vendors, a silent auction, and a bike show and parade through St. Paul.  
① Contact Valerie Petermann at 612-624-4444 or v.petermann@mmf.umn.edu or visit www.lightningrun.com. (See related story below.)

**29 TUESDAY 5:30 P.M.**  
Children's Cancer Research Fund Presidents Club Reception  
McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota  
This special reception honors donors who have recently met the Presidents Club level of giving to Children's Cancer Research Fund, which supports cancer research at the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota. By invitation only.  
① Contact Katrina Roth at 612-625-0336 or k.roth@mmf.umn.edu.

## SEPTEMBER

**17 WEDNESDAY 4:30 P.M.**  
John H. Kersey Chair in Cancer Research Reception  
McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota  
This event celebrates the fulfillment of the John H. Kersey Chair in Cancer Research and recognizes the appointment of Douglas Yee, M.D., as the inaugural chair holder. By invitation only.  
① Contact Sharon Kunau at 612-624-1913 or s.kunau@mmf.umn.edu.

**26-27 FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**  
Medical School Reunion Weekend  
McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota  
This fall, the Medical School graduating classes of 1948, 1953, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1983, 1988, and 1998 will return to campus, reunite with old friends, and discover what's new at the University of Minnesota.  
① Contact Katrina Roth at 612-625-0336, k.roth@mmf.umn.edu; or Valerie Petermann at 612-624-4444, v.petermann@mmf.umn.edu, to learn more or to volunteer.

## OCTOBER

**20 MONDAY 6 P.M.**  
Minnesota Medical Foundation Annual Dinner  
McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota  
Contributions from generous donors make much of the University of Minnesota's lifesaving work possible. This event honors those who support health-related research, education, and service at the University. By invitation only.  
① Contact Katie Mae Pritchard at 612-625-5682 or k.pritchard@mmf.umn.edu.

go to : [www.mmf.umn.edu](http://www.mmf.umn.edu)

For event descriptions, updates, links, and contact information.

Last year's Lightning Run drew an estimated 1,500 bikers.



PHOTO: ANGIE LILLIE

## Revved up about diabetes

Don't miss the ninth annual Lightning Run, July 25-26

Hundreds of bikers will rev their engines and hit the streets of St. Paul this summer for the ninth annual Lightning Run rally to support diabetes research at the University of Minnesota. The July 25-26 event will feature a full weekend of motorcycles, food, music, and fun to benefit the Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation at the University.

Tom and Melanie Giannetti, owners of the St. Paul Harley-Davidson/Buell dealership, were inspired to find a cure for the disease that afflicts both Tom and their daughter, Angie. They started the annual motorcycle rally in the summer of 2000, encouraging friends, family, and others affected by diabetes to ride for a cure.

Lightning Run participants will be treated to a kick-off party on Friday the 25th that

features live music, numerous vendors, and a silent auction. On Saturday, bikers will gear up at Summit Brewery and ride through St. Paul in an awe-inspiring motorcycle parade viewed by thousands of onlookers.

Since its inception, the event has raised nearly \$1.5 million for the Diabetes Institute, a world leader in advancing pancreas and islet-cell transplants for treating diabetes.

# A special thanks

We'd like to extend an extra thank-you to the following individuals and organizations that have made commitments totaling \$100,000 or more between January 1 and May 1, 2008, to health-related research, education, and service at the University of Minnesota.

Dennis W. and Audrey L. Anderson, Vining, Minnesota, made a generous gift of \$250,000 in support of the Experimental Therapeutics Fund in the Department of Medicine. Established by the Andersons in 2003, the fund supports Dr. Arek Dudek and his colleagues as they work to develop effective treatments for lung cancer.

Children's Cancer Research Fund (CCRF), Minneapolis, made gifts totaling \$1.84 million in support of childhood cancer research in the Department of Pediatrics and the Hedberg Family/Children's Cancer Research Chair in Pediatric Brain Tumor Research at the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota. CCRF has helped advance childhood cancer research at the University for more than 20 years by combining broad-based community support and highly successful fund-raising events.

Children's Respiratory and Critical Care Specialists, P.A., Minneapolis, pledged \$216,700 for the establishment of the Pediatric Pulmonary Fellowship Fund, which will create a new fellowship opportunity in the Department of Pediatrics. Children's Respiratory and Critical Care Specialists provides clinical care to children of all ages who have respiratory problems.

Fairview Health Services, Minneapolis, provided support for the Medical School's research and educational priorities by contributing an additional \$666,666 to the Medical School Dean's Discretionary Fund. Over the years, Fairview has contributed immensely to the University of Minnesota's health-related programs, supporting initiatives from stem cell research to building of the Hope Lodge, a new facility near the University's Twin Cities campus that provides lodging and support to adult cancer patients.

The Fifth District Eagles, Rochester, Minnesota, donated \$130,000 to the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota, through their annual fund-raising event, the Fifth District Eagles Cancer Telethon of Southern Minnesota. Under the leadership of Robert Callier Sr., senior director of the Eagles'

Cancer Fund, the group has raised more than \$500,000 through its telethon for research, education, and equipment in the Masonic Cancer Center.

Dr. William G. and Louise E. French, St. Paul, committed future estate gifts totaling \$400,000 for the establishment of five funds that will help advance health-related research across the University of Minnesota. Their gifts will support studies on stem cell therapies; a vision disorder called retinitis pigmentosa; and Guillain-Barre syndrome, a disorder in which the immune system attacks part of the nervous system. Their gifts will also help accelerate research in the School of Public Health and in the Medical School's Department of Family Medicine and Community Health.

Dr. Robert L. and Katherine D. Goodale, Minneapolis, established a fund to support pancreatic cancer research in the Department of Surgery through a gift of \$100,000 from the Goodale Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation and a pledge to match \$100,000 in gifts from other donors to the fund. Dr. Goodale, an alumnus of the Medical School and past recipient of the prestigious Harold S. Diehl Award, served on the Department of Surgery's faculty and is highly regarded for his pioneering work in gastrointestinal endoscopic surgery. In 2003, he and his wife, Katherine, established the Robert and Katherine Goodale Chair in Minimally Invasive Surgery.

Robert L. Hart, Minneapolis, was so impressed by the care he received as a patient at the University of Minnesota that he established the Robert Leonard Hart Endowment in Internal Medicine. The endowment — made possible by Mr. Hart's future estate gift of \$2 million, \$125,000 pledge, and commitment of continued support throughout his lifetime — will fund scholarships for University medical students interested in internal medicine.

The Healthier Minnesota Community Clinic Fund, St. Paul — an advocate for low-income people, communities of color, and medically underserved individuals — contributed \$150,000 to the Community University Health Care Center (CUHCC) dental clinic. Located in

the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis, CUHCC provides primary care, mental health, and dental services to individuals with limited access to basic health care.

The Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation, St. Paul, added to its long-standing commitment to the University of Minnesota by pledging \$250,000 to the Center for Lung Science and Health in memory of the late Thomond O'Brien, a generous donor who supported the center during his lifetime. An interdisciplinary program affiliated with the Medical School, the Center for Lung Science and Health promotes better lung health and improved care for patients with lung disease through innovative research, education, and outreach activities.

Dr. Arnold S. Leonard, Golden Valley, Minnesota, made gifts totaling \$120,000 in support of surgical research at the University of Minnesota. A Department of Surgery faculty member for more than four decades, Dr. Leonard practiced pediatric surgery and conducted cancer research during his tenure at the University. He has remained an active supporter of the University's health-related programs through his own cancer research and his involvement in Hunt for a Cure, an annual fund-raising event for surgical research.

The Lions Multiple District Hearing Foundation, Monticello, Minnesota, gave \$164,136 to the Department of Otolaryngology to support several research projects in the department. The Lions have been generous supporters of the department for more than 30 years.

Medtronic, Inc., and the Medtronic Foundation, Minneapolis, have made combined gifts totaling \$104,275 in support of various initiatives in the Medical School and School of Public Health. Medtronic — a global leader in products and therapies for cardiovascular diseases and conditions — has partnered with the University for many years to improve the health and well-being of people worldwide.

Minnesota Masonic Charities pledged \$65 million — the largest gift ever made to the University of Minnesota — in support of the University's Cancer Center. The Masons have supported cancer research and care at the University for more than half a century, and their cumulative giving now totals \$100 million. In recognition of their far-reaching commitment, the University has named its Cancer Center the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota (see related story on page 1).

## Welcome new members!

Because of their generous support, the following donors became members, or rose to a higher giving society, of the University of Minnesota Presidents Club between January 1 and May 1, 2008. Their gifts have been designated (all or in part) to the Medical School, School of Public Health, Cancer Center, or other areas served by the Minnesota Medical Foundation.

### REGENTS SOCIETY

(\$500,000 to \$1 million)

+ Edith P. and + Joseph E. Wargo

### TRUSTEES SOCIETY

(\$100,000 to \$500,000)

Drs. Paul R. and Kimberly A. Bohjanen  
Robert Leonard Hart  
Dr. Robert C. Johnson, '62  
Medica and Medica Foundation  
Dr. Rene W., '64, and Barbara A. Pelletier  
Joseph N. and + Leslie R. Shneider

### CHANCELLORS SOCIETY

(\$50,000 to \$100,000)

Dr. Quentin N., '62, and Mary L. Anderson  
AO North America  
Brian T., '71, and Miriam H. Ebeling  
Hope On Wheels Hyundai Dealers, Inc.  
Kerry J. Schrapfer Kincaid  
North Star Charitable Foundation  
Tankenoff Families Foundation  
Dr. Theodore R. and Lynette Thompson

### FOUNDERS SOCIETY

(\$25,000 to \$50,000)

Harper Family Foundation  
Bryson D. and Catherine A. Holliman

The MacLaurin Institute  
Roger and Nancy McCabe Foundation  
Jeanne T. McGahee  
Nidus Laboratories, Inc.  
Peter F. and Carolyn L. Pierce  
Drs. Deborah E. and Ralph D. Powell  
Albert J. Schroeder, M.D.  
Sandra M. Skovlund, M.D.  
Alexandra Statland  
Dr. Halbert F., '74, and Kathleen Harper Wennatz

### HERITAGE SOCIETY

(Future gifts)

Dr. Brian T., '71, and Miriam H. Ebeling  
Dr. William G. and Louise E. French  
Mildred V. Giordano  
Robert Leonard Hart  
Dr. Robert C. Johnson, '62  
Kerry J. Schrapfer Kincaid  
Kathleen A. and + Glen A. Ludwig  
Jeanne T. McGahee  
Kay F. Quam  
Dr. Theodore R. and Lynette Thompson  
Paul T. White, J.D.  
Nancy J. Wick

+ Deceased

Additionally, the Masonic Cancer Center Fund, Inc., a branch of Minnesota Masonic Charities, pledged \$874,729 in support over the coming year to advance the research and clinical care endeavors of Department of Medicine faculty in hematology, oncology, and transplantation who see patients in the Masonic Cancer Clinic at the University.

The Nash Avery Foundation of Minneapolis and Charley's Fund, Inc., of South Egremont, Massachusetts, jointly committed \$1 million for the establishment of two funds that will support collaborative research on Duchenne muscular dystrophy at the University of Minnesota and Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium. In honor of their founders' sons, both the Nash Avery Foundation and Charley's Fund, Inc., raise money for Duchenne muscular dystrophy research with the goal of slowing and eventually curing this disorder.

The alumni association and foundation of the Program in Healthcare Administration, Minneapolis, contributed \$901,000 for the establishment of 14 scholarships for aspiring health-care leaders in the School of Public Health. Since 1948, members of the Program in Healthcare Administration's alumni association and foundation have been outstanding ambassadors for the program by helping to recruit and mentor talented students from throughout the country.

The Randy Shaver Cancer Research and Community Fund, Wayzata, Minnesota, contributed \$190,000 for cancer research across the University of Minnesota. Shaver Community Fund leaders Randy Shaver and Roseann Giovanatto-Shaver have supported cancer initiatives in the community since 1994. Over the last four years, they have directed more than \$500,000 to cancer-related projects at the University through the Shaver Community Fund.

Research to Prevent Blindness, New York, contributed \$110,000 to the Department of Ophthalmology to help advance research on the causes, prevention, and treatment of blinding diseases. Since its inception in 1960, Research to Prevent Blindness has given hundreds of millions of dollars to medical institutions nationwide for research on diseases that damage and destroy sight.

Supervalu Inc., Minneapolis, and its subsidiary Cub Foods, Stillwater, directed their third annual Diamond Awards sponsorship gifts totaling \$317,500 to the University of Minnesota's neurology programs. Diamond Awards,

which brings together the Minnesota Twins and baseball enthusiasts, raises money for research on ataxia, ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), Parkinson's disease, and muscular dystrophy.

Dr. Theodore R. and Lynette Thompson, New Brighton, Minnesota, committed a generous future estate gift to establish the Dr. Theodore and Lynette Thompson Neonatology Fellowship Endowed Fund, as well as a future estate gift and current pledge for the establishment of the Dr. Theodore and Lynette Thompson Endowed Scholarship Fund. Dr. Thompson is a member of the Medical School and School of Public Health faculties and serves on the boards of University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview, and University of Minnesota Physicians. He and his wife, Lynette, have supported health-related programs at the University for more than 20 years.

The 3M Company, St. Paul, continued its long-standing support of the University of Minnesota by contributing \$150,000 to the Ken Wallace/3M Toxicology Research Fund.

A researcher at the University of Minnesota Medical School—Duluth Campus, Dr. Kendall Wallace studies the negative effects of exposure to certain chemicals.

The estate of Edith P. Wargo, Minneapolis, contributed \$400,000 in support of cancer and cardiovascular research at the University of Minnesota. Mrs. Wargo was an alumna of the University of Minnesota Law School (Class of '38), founder of "Lex Alumnae" for women law graduates, and executive at the former Powers Department Store.

Nancy J. Wick, St. Paul, established the John M. Manning Scholarship Fund by committing a future estate gift. The scholarship — established in honor of Mrs. Wick's late father — will support medical students who plan to pursue a career in oncology, with preference given to students who have lost a parent to cancer.

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at the University of Minnesota

The Minnesota Medical Foundation is a nonprofit organization that raises funds for health-related research, education, and service at the University of Minnesota.

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HISTORIC GIFT continued from front page

The Masons' latest gift will allow Masonic Cancer Center physicians and scientists to expand their studies in many areas, including cancer survivorship. And it will help launch important studies of promising new treatments and prevention strategies for several types of cancer.

With a decline in federal grants, Yee says, researchers today need to have solid preliminary data to compete for federal dollars. The Masons' support gives University cancer researchers an edge by allowing them the time they need to gather those data.

Historically, the Masons, who make up the world's oldest and largest fraternity, have directed many of their University gifts to bricks and mortar. Their first gift built the Masonic Memorial Hospital, which admitted its first patient in 1958 and still stands today as a cancer clinic and general research building.

They also contributed \$5 million to construct the Masonic Cancer Research Building, which houses the newly renamed Masonic Cancer Center, one of just 41 comprehensive cancer centers recognized by the National Cancer Institute. This designation is awarded to institutions that make ongoing, significant advances in cancer research, treatment, and education.

PHOTO: EMILY JENSEN



Minnesota Masonic Charities president and CEO Eric Neetenbeek and Masonic Cancer Center director Douglas Yee, M.D., were in high spirits at the event.



PHOTO: MIKE HABERMANN

Then-Grand Master of the Minnesota Masons Raymond Christensen, M.D., celebrated the historic gift with Minnesota Medical Foundation president and CEO Becky Malkerson.

With their latest pledge, the Masons have expanded the scope of their giving. The \$65 million will be used to fund University research focused on better cancer treatments or a cure, Neetenbeek says.

**Measuring impact**

Masonic support over the years is evident throughout the campus's East Bank. Today oncology clinical trials are being conducted in the old Masonic hospital, now known as the Masonic Cancer Clinic, and basic scientists are making important discoveries in the research building that bears the Masons' name.

Yee credits members of the Masonic organization in the early 1950s for realizing that people with cancer needed specialized care and following through on that vision.

"That idea was way ahead of the curve," he says. "Most other places didn't come to that realization until the '70s."

As deputy director of the Masonic Cancer Center and longtime chief of the Department of Medicine's Division of Hematology, Oncology, and Transplantation, Philip McGlave, M.D., has seen firsthand the impact of the Masons' giving.

"The good they have done can't be measured in dollars," he says. "It is measured in the development of young physicians and investigators entering the cancer field, bricks and mortar to house cancer patients and cancer researchers, and improvement in the length and quality of life for people with cancer."

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