

# giving matters

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

WINTER 2008



PHOTO: SCOTT STREBLE

After their daughters' long hospital stays, David Millington and Brian Schepperle decided to help make hospital rooms more kid- and family-friendly.

**"I thought, 'Let's help some families. Let's make an ill child's time on this planet a little bit better.'"**

— BRIAN SCHEPPERLE

## Customized for kids

Two dads have made children's hospital rooms a little more like home with Adopt A Rooms

Brian Schepperle and David Millington have spent a lot of time in hospitals.

Schepperle's daughter, Katelyn Elizabeth, was in and out of the hospital many times during her 10-year battle with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a type of blood cancer, before she died at age 11.

Millington's wife, Dana, once spent 63 consecutive days in the hospital with their daughter, Madison Claire, who had spinal muscular atrophy. The degenerative disease attacks nerve cells in the spinal cord and took Madison's life when she was 2.

Even when hospitals became the center of these families' lives, the patient rooms never had the warm, lived-in quality of home.

Schepperle visited several top children's research hospitals across the country looking for the best care for Katelyn before moving his family from California to Minnesota in 1999. Everywhere he went, he found small, uninviting rooms with no sense of privacy.

"There was a lot to be desired as far as being a home-away-from-home," Schepperle says.

He believed that had to change.

### Motivated and energized

In the fall of 2004, Millington approached Schepperle at a golf club where they are both members, knowing that Schepperle, too, had lost a child to disease. As they talked, Schepperle described his ideas for creating family-friendly hospital rooms for children. The rooms would be colorful, customizable, and bigger—with more space for families.

Millington was instantly energized. That week, he shared Schepperle's idea with his neighbor, Chuck Knight, who worked for the architectural design firm Perkins + Will. Knight's response: "You can't just do a room—you have to do a whole floor."

From there, things moved quickly. Millington and Schepperle asked a group of hospitalized children what they'd want in an ideal room: Better beds, video games, and a way to see outside were among their wishes. Then the two dads raised money through events and secured corporate donations of equipment and resources to help create the first two Adopt A Room prototypes—named to inspire other donors to sponsor additional rooms—at the University of Minnesota Children's Hospital, Fairview.

continued on back page

# giving matters



Minnesota Medical Foundation  
McNamara Alumni Center  
University of Minnesota  
200 Oak Street SE, Suite 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2030

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Minneapolis, MN  
Permit No. 155

## Honoring a neurosurgery pioneer

Lifetime New Yorker continues legacy of a 'Minnesotan in exile'

The story of how Julia Neubart, a 95-year-old New Yorker who has never set foot in Minnesota, came to give half a million dollars to the University of Minnesota Department of Neurosurgery sounds like something from a novel.

Miss Neubart, as she was called throughout her career, worked for nearly 40 years with Harry A. Kaplan, M.D., a neurosurgeon who performed pioneering work in stroke, head trauma, and brain anatomy. Neubart helped Kaplan prepare dozens of papers, three books, and nine book chapters during his career at Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn (part of the State University of New York system) and later at the New Jersey Medical School.

Over the years, the two — neither of whom married — became close friends. Kaplan regularly joined Neubart's family for holidays. But his roots remained firmly in Minnesota. Born in Duluth, Kaplan earned his medical degree at the University of Minnesota in 1938. "He lived in New York for 40 or 50 years, but he was always a Minnesotan in exile," Neubart says.

She recalls that his family gathered every summer at their cabin on Bearskin Lake in northern Minnesota. "I was invited to go many times, but it wasn't my cup of tea," Neubart says. "I was afraid to go up into that wilderness. It was very primitive. They had an outhouse and ate outside."



Ramachandra Tummala, M.D., holds the Harry A. Kaplan Professorship, established by Kaplan's close friend Julia Neubart.

PHOTO: TIM RUMMELHOFF

Neubart continued to look after Kaplan once he retired. When he became ill, Kaplan placed his estate in her name. Now, honoring Kaplan's wishes and his life work, she has given \$500,000 to the Department of Neurosurgery.

"I don't want credit for that," Neubart says. "I was merely the caretaker of his money."

The Harry A. Kaplan Professorship, awarded to assistant professor of neurosurgery Ramachandra Tummala, M.D., last fall, supports work in

Kaplan's areas of expertise. Tummala recently completed fellowship training in surgery for cerebrovascular diseases, aneurysms, arterial venous malformations, carotid artery stenosis, and other causes of stroke.

"It's pretty unusual for someone at the assistant professor level to have an endowed position," notes department chair Stephen Haines, M.D. "Because Dr. Tummala brings new technologies and techniques to the Medical School, this endowment is very important."

In accepting the position, Tummala was happy to return to the department where he had completed his residency. "I learned all the fundamentals of what it takes to be a competent neurosurgeon here," he says. "I am grateful for the opportunity to return as a member of the faculty."

Tummala's clinical practice includes treating patients through the Minnesota Stroke Initiative—a collaboration of the University of Minnesota; University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview; and Hennepin County Medical Center—to provide comprehensive care to people who've had a stroke. The endowment will also help fund Tummala's research on preventing and treating aneurysms and strokes.

Neubart is pleased to know that her gift is supporting Tummala and that he, in turn, is continuing the important work of Harry Kaplan. And she trusts that her long-held image of Kaplan is an equally fitting description of Tummala: "He was a true scholar and scientist," she says. — LEE ENGFER



Two Twin Cities dads, Brian Schepperle and David Millington, both lost young

daughters to devastating diseases. Today they are easing the pain of other families by creating state-of-the-art, homey hospital rooms for children with serious and chronic illnesses.

As you'll read in our cover story, their timing was perfect; leaders at the University of Minnesota Children's Hospital, Fairview, were eager to incorporate Adopt A Rooms into their plans for a new, top-of-the-line facility. Already, the hospital has created two prototype Adopt A Rooms popular with young patients and their families. Now these dads hope others will step forward to sponsor more of these special rooms.

The Adopt A Rooms have generated tremendous excitement, as have plans for the new facility, which will feature the most up-to-date, family-friendly furnishings, design, and equipment. Because the new building will facilitate the rapid transfer of breakthrough discoveries to patient care, it will be instrumental in attracting the best pediatric caregivers, researchers, and faculty to the University.

See page 4 for details about WineFest No. 13, the May premier wine charity event that supports the Department of Pediatrics research that fuels these medical discoveries.

And don't miss the adjacent story about a gift to neurosurgery that upholds the legacy of a 1938 Medical School alumnus — or the page 3 story about near-record scholarship support in the School of Public Health (SPH).

Those scholarship gifts improve the health of our communities by supporting future public health scholars and practitioners. As SPH Dean John R. Finnegan Jr., Ph.D., recently put it: "We search for knowledge, discover it, learn it, teach it, and turn it into impact on human lives today and in the future."

### Becky Malkerson

President and CEO  
Minnesota Medical Foundation



Harry A. Kaplan, M.D., Medical School Class of 1938, became a noted neurosurgeon in New York.

# Supporting students

## Donors share their motivations for giving to SPH scholarships

Whether it's honoring a dedicated educator, "paying it forward," or simply supporting a longtime interest, donors to the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health (SPH) have many reasons for giving to student scholarships.

And in the last fiscal year, SPH Dean John R. Finnegan Jr., Ph.D., has been especially impressed by the outpouring of philanthropic support.

"It was one of the best years the school has ever experienced," Finnegan says. "Donors have stepped forward in major ways, contributing more than \$1.1 million for student scholarships. Many of these scholarships receive matching support from the University—a huge plus for the school."

Here, a few donors share the reasons they've contributed to student scholarships in public health.



PHOTO: TIM RUMMELHOFF

Robert Veninga, Ph.D., and Karen Veninga, M.P.H.

### Honoring a beloved educator

Robert Veninga, Ph.D., arrived at the School of Public Health as an instructor in 1969 and stayed for the next 37 years. Though he held several high-level positions, he always remained an advocate for students.

To celebrate Veninga's career and retirement, former students and colleagues are contributing to a scholarship fund honoring him and his wife, Karen, a 1976 M.P.H. alumna of the school.

SPH alumna Janet Porter (Ph.D., Class of 1993) and her husband, James O'Sullivan, have led the charge by donating \$20,000 to establish the Robert and Karen Veninga Scholarship Fund, which will support international students pursuing M.P.H. degrees. The Veningas soon followed with their own contribution.

"I am thrilled that this scholarship will be given to international students—many of whom would never be able to attend the University of Minnesota without scholarship assistance," says Robert Veninga.

Since the fund was established a year ago, more than 80 people have contributed a total of \$45,000.

"These gifts pay tribute to Bob and Karen and their lifelong commitment to the University and the school," says Porter. "We wanted to recognize the impact they have had on so many lives."

*To learn more about supporting scholarships at the School of Public Health, contact Adam Buhr at 612-626-2391 or a.buhr@mmf.umn.edu.*



PHOTO: SUBMITTED

Peggie Toomey Notarianni and Aldo Notarianni

### Returning the favor

More than 50 years after Peggie Toomey Notarianni graduated from the University's dental hygiene program, she and her husband, Aldo Notarianni, became reconnected with Peggie's alma mater.

The Notariannis learned about the work Traci Toomey, Ph.D., was doing in the Community Health Education (CHE) program in the Division of Epidemiology. Toomey, well known for her research on alcohol use, is the daughter of one of Peggie's cousins.

"I like the idea of getting out in the community and promoting healthful behavior," Peggie says. "Because I was a dental hygienist, it rang a bell with me. It's a need I see in our society."

After learning more about the CHE program, the Notariannis decided to make a \$50,000 bequest gift to establish the Aldo G. and Peggie Toomey Notarianni Scholarship in support of CHE students.

"Aldo and I were so blessed in our early lives," says Peggie, noting that her husband and the couple's four children received college scholarships. "Now it is payback time for all that has been given to our family by earlier benefactors."



PHOTO: SHANE HARBOLT

John R. Pfrommer, M.D., M.P.H.

### Reducing financial barriers to education

Ever since his medical school days at the University in the 1940s, John R. Pfrommer, M.D., M.P.H., has believed that public health just makes sense.

So a few years after he finished his medical training—he specialized in preventive medicine—Pfrommer also obtained a master of public health degree.

Pfrommer feels fortunate that the government paid for all of his education through the U.S. Army and Air Force. Today, he wants to give other students opportunities like the ones he had by supporting scholarships at the School of Public Health.

"I feel very strongly that anyone who has the ability and is willing to work hard, has the right to be educated," Pfrommer says.

In the past six years, he has established three SPH scholarship funds totaling \$170,000: the Dr. John Pfrommer Scholarship, the James Pfrommer Memorial Scholarship, and the Heidi Pfrommer Benson Scholarship. So far, 12 students have benefited from these scholarships, which Pfrommer contributes to annually.



# An international toast to children's health

Tickets now available for WineFest No. 13

What do you get when you cross an Australian vintner with a big-hearted wine lover?  Answer: WineFest No. 13 — A Toast to Children's Health!

Don't miss this premier wine charity event that will bring together community leaders, medical professionals, wine lovers, advocates for children's health, and honorary winemasters from Australia for a two-day celebration to raise money for leading-edge research in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota.

Guests will enjoy exquisite wines, gourmet menus, and enticing auctions while supporting groundbreaking medical discoveries that help children all over the world. Hosted by the University Pediatrics Foundation (UPF), an affiliate of the Minnesota Medical Foundation, the festivities will take place May 9 and 10 at the Depot in downtown Minneapolis.

The fun begins with Friday evening's Wine Symposium, a lively and informative seminar featuring Australian vintners — and their premier and specialty wines.

The Grand Tasting follows, with an opportunity to sample more than 400 wines, savor signature menu selections from top Twin Cities restaurants, and bid on silent auction items, ranging from rare sports memorabilia to wine-country getaways.

Saturday night's Fine Wine Dinner will feature a champagne reception, silent auction, and a multicourse gourmet menu created by top Twin Cities chefs and complemented by a selection of world-class Australian wines. During the dinner program, UPF will recognize



The painting *Heal* by Ta-coumba Aiken will be a highlight of WineFest's live auction.

Adopt A Room (see cover story) and the Children's Cancer Research Fund for their work benefiting children's health. A rousing live auction and dance music by Vanguard will wrap up the evening.

Event cochairs Joanne Jirik Mullen and Yvette Mullen and dozens of committed volunteers and advisers have made WineFest No. 13 a weekend you won't want to miss.

Proceeds from WineFest No. 13 directly support the Department of Pediatrics at the

University of Minnesota. Since its inception, WineFest has raised more than \$6.5 million to support research to treat or cure childhood illnesses and disorders, help launch the research careers of promising junior faculty, and purchase essential medical equipment.

Tickets are on sale now. Reserve your spot, join us as a corporate sponsor, or sign up to volunteer by visiting [www.thewinefest.com](http://www.thewinefest.com) or by calling 612-626-5720.

## CANVAS FOR A CAUSE

WineFest No. 13 — A Toast to Children's Health is honored to present an original, commissioned work by Ta-coumba Aiken. Named Best Local Artist by *City Pages* in 1999, Aiken is a nationally renowned painter, muralist, and maker of mosaics. The art activist mentors young artists and offers painting workshops for neighborhood kids.

An advocate for using art for healing, Aiken has allowed his paintings to be used in materials that spotlight the need to fight AIDS and homelessness and to promote children's health issues. His WineFest No. 13 painting, *Heal*, will be sold during the live auction at WineFest's Fine Wine Dinner.



Artist Ta-coumba Aiken

Here's how the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA), which recently exhibited Aiken's work, describes his paintings: "Aiken's canvases surprise and delight with their swirling patterns and bright colors.... Other images

integrate what Aiken calls 'rhythm patterns' — or images that repeat and connect across the canvas. The lines form patterns and shapes revealed by the eye and mind of the viewer."

Over the years, Aiken has created more than a thousand works that can be found throughout the country. He's shown his work in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and New York City. In the Twin Cities, his work has been displayed at the Walker Art Center, Intermedia Arts, the Museum of American Art, as well as the MIA, and the new Minneapolis Public Library features a ceramic tile fireplace he created.

For more information about Aiken and his work *Heal*, including a video about the painting, visit [www.thewinefest.com](http://www.thewinefest.com).

## MARCH

15 SATURDAY 8 A.M.

### Nickelodeon Universe Grand Opening

Mall of America, Bloomington, Minnesota  
Join us for the Nick Kick-Off Breakfast. The University Pediatrics Foundation (UPF) at the University of Minnesota is the grateful beneficiary of the retheming and grand opening of Nickelodeon Universe, the new park inside the Mall of America. Patrons of this exclusive pre-party will enjoy breakfast, an adventure with favorite Nickelodeon characters, a fun-filled auction, brand-new Nickelodeon rides, and a commemorative tote bag.  
① Contact Christina Newcombe at 612-626-5720 or c.newcombe@mmf.umn.edu or visit www.upf.umn.edu.

## APRIL

10 THURSDAY 6 P.M.

### 2008 Public Health Gala

Nicollet Island Pavilion, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Join School of Public Health alumni and friends for a dinner and celebration to support student scholarships. Former U.S. surgeon general Richard Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., will be the keynote speaker. The gala is part of a full lineup of events for National Public Health Week, April 7–11, at the University.  
① Contact Nichole Marthaler at 612-626-9303 or mart1047@umn.edu.

## MAY

2 FRIDAY 2 P.M.

### Medical School Commencement

Northrop Auditorium, University of Minnesota  
① Contact Linda Reilly at 612-624-9608 or reilloo2@umn.edu.

### 9–10 FRIDAY AND SATURDAY WineFest No. 13 — A Toast to Children's Health

*Wine Symposium:*  
Friday 5:30–7 p.m.  
*Grand Tasting:*  
Friday 6:30–9:30 p.m.  
*Fine Wine Dinner:*  
Saturday 6 p.m.–midnight  
The Depot, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Enjoy exquisite wines, mouthwatering menus, enticing auctions, and exciting entertainment—all while raising funds for groundbreaking medical research conducted by nationally renowned physicians and scientists at the University of Minnesota's Department of Pediatrics. The Midwest's premier wine charity event, WineFest gathers wine

lovers, community leaders, medical professionals, and others invested in children's health for a two-day celebration of wine, food, and children. This year's event features honorary winemasters from Australia.  
① Contact Christina Newcombe at 612-626-5720 or c.newcombe@mmf.umn.edu or visit www.thewinefest.com. (See related story, page 4.)

19 MONDAY 4 P.M.

### School of Public Health Commencement

Northrop Auditorium, University of Minnesota  
① Contact Nichole Marthaler at 612-626-9303 or mart1047@umn.edu.

## JUNE

16 MONDAY 11 A.M.

### Karen's Hope Ataxia Benefit

Oak Marsh Golf Course, Oakdale, Minnesota  
This charity golf tournament, silent auction, and dinner in honor of Karen Frigstad, who was diagnosed with Friedreich's ataxia eight years ago, benefits the Bob Allison Ataxia Research Center at the University of Minnesota.  
① Contact Valerie Petermann at 612-624-4444 or v.petermann@mmf.umn.edu.

### 16 MONDAY 12 NOON Golf Classic "fore"

**Diabetes Research**  
Town & Country Club, St. Paul, Minnesota  
An afternoon of golf to benefit the Golf Classic "fore" Diabetes Research Chair held by David E. R. Sutherland, M.D., Ph.D., at the University of Minnesota's Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation.  
① Contact Kate Roth at 612-625-0336 or k.roth@mmf.umn.edu.

17 TUESDAY

### Heritage Society Banquet

McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota  
This annual banquet hosted by the Minnesota Medical Foundation and the University of Minnesota Foundation recognizes donors who have included the University of Minnesota in their estate or financial plans and their extraordinary support of education and research. By invitation only.  
① Contact Sarah Curtis at 612-626-5470 or s.curtis@mmf.umn.edu.

### 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 For more information, contact Sarah Curtis at 612-626-5470 or s.curtis@mmf.umn.edu.

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

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

## Offering hope and comfort

### New facility provides lodging for adult cancer patients

"If I were a guest, this is where you'd find me," says Mary Wiles, pointing to a cozy nook furnished with overstuffed chairs facing a stone fireplace. This inviting space is one of several created to give a sense of home to the recently opened Richard M. Schulze Family American Cancer Society Hope Lodge, located near the University of Minnesota.

"We want it to be a home away from home," says Wiles, manager of the 40-room facility, which offers free lodging to out-of-town adult cancer patients and their caregivers.

Besides guest rooms, Hope Lodge boasts six fully equipped kitchens, a large dining area, TV lounges and sitting rooms, a library, fitness and meditation rooms, an outdoor patio, computers with Internet access, and laundry facilities.



The recently opened Hope Lodge, at University and 25th Avenues in Minneapolis, provides comfortable, convenient lodging for patients who travel to the Twin Cities for cancer treatment. The facility will hold an open house on April 7.

PHOTO: SHELBY DUNSKI

Wiles describes the project as a community effort. The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation donated \$5 million through a challenge grant to the American Cancer Society to construct the building on land purchased by the University. Funding was also provided by the University of Minnesota Cancer Center; University of Minnesota Physicians; the Fairview Campaign, a workplace giving program; the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview, and its medical staff; University Medical Auxiliary; and University faculty. Several companies

donated products, including high-end appliances and a flat-screen TV.

The Cancer Center continues to seek additional support to fulfill its \$2 million commitment to the facility. For more information, contact Cathy Spicola at 612-625-5192, or visit [www.cancer.umn.edu/development/hopelodgegiving.html](http://www.cancer.umn.edu/development/hopelodgegiving.html).

To find out about volunteer opportunities or accommodations at Hope Lodge, call 612-379-6352.

# 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 September 1 and December 31, 2007, to health-related research, education, and service at the University of Minnesota.

**Adopt A Room**, White Bear Lake, Minnesota, has made a \$100,000 contribution to establish the Adopt A Room fund for the new University of Minnesota Children's Hospital, Fairview (see related cover story). Working with the Minnesota Medical Foundation, Adopt A Room founders will raise funds and secure in-kind donations to create enhanced family-centered patient rooms that offer a "home away from home" for children and their families in the new facility.

An **anonymous donor** is helping to advance the pulmonary health research of Dr. David Ingbar in the Department of Medicine at the University of Minnesota with a \$1 million gift to the Cargill Pulmonary Research Fund, which supports the Center for Lung Science and Health.

The **Children's Cancer Research Fund (CCRF)**, Minneapolis, gave \$881,875 to the Department of Pediatrics, continuing CCRF's longstanding and exclusive support for childhood cancer research at the University.

The estate of **Eva Constantine**, Albuquerque, New Mexico (formerly of Minneapolis), has given more than \$650,000 to the University of Minnesota Cancer Center. Ms. Constantine, a 1953 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts, worked at General Mills, the Creative Learning Center, Campbell Mithun Advertising Agency, and the University of Minnesota.

**Fairview Health Services**, Minneapolis, contributed \$666,566 to the Medical School Dean's Discretionary Fund, which supports the Medical School's most important research and education initiatives. Fairview Health Services is a strong advocate for the University's health-related programs.

**Dr. Ramon B. and Gloria Gustilo**, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, made an additional gift of \$100,000 toward the establishment of the Ramon B. Gustilo Endowed Professorship in Biomechanics Research in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Gustilo, a 1964 alumnus of the orthopaedic surgery residency program, is retired from practice. An orthopaedic innovator, he continues his research and helps train international surgeons in Minnesota and in his native Philippines. Dr. Gustilo also provides two annual research awards for graduating orthopaedic surgery residents.

**Alfred and Ingrid Lenz Harrison**, Wayzata, Minnesota, contributed \$250,000 to the Alfred and Ingrid Lenz Harrison Autism Initiative Leadership Fund as part of their pledge to match \$1 million in gifts received from other donors to the Autism Spectrum Disorders Initiative. Their gift will provide funding for basic research on autism spectrum disorders and will also support the University of Minnesota-based genetic registry and repository of DNA. The Harrisons are longtime advocates for the University of Minnesota and its pediatrics programs. They played major roles in founding the former University Children's Foundation, now the University Pediatrics Foundation, and they also established the Martin Lenz Harrison Land-Grant Chair in Pediatrics in memory of their son.

**Leo and Doris C. Hodroff Foundation**, Minneapolis, gave \$200,000 to establish the Leo A. Hodroff Scholarship Fund in the Program of Mortuary Science. This the largest gift ever made to the mortuary science program in its 100-year history. The Hodroff family has been a key provider of mortuary services to the Jewish community of Minneapolis and St. Paul for many years.

**Hubbard Broadcasting Company**, St. Paul, building on its strong history of support for the Medical School, gave \$300,000 to the John S. Najarian Surgical Chair in Clinical Transplantation and \$400,000 to the B. J. Kennedy Chair in Clinical Medical Oncology. The Najarian and Kennedy chairs honor two of the Medical School's outstanding clinician-researchers and will help provide the University of Minnesota with the means to attract exemplary transplant surgeons and oncologists for years to come.

**Dr. Robert C. Johnson**, Sausalito, California, a 1962 alumnus of the Medical School and former member of the Department of Ophthalmology faculty, has established a \$100,000 charitable gift annuity to benefit the Department of Ophthalmology. After leaving the University of Minnesota, Dr. Johnson practiced ophthalmology in San Francisco for many years until his retirement in 1997.

**Daniel and Constance Kunin**, White Bear Lake, Minnesota, pledged \$200,000 in support of the University's Autism Spectrum Disorders Initiative. Their gift will help investigators better understand and effectively treat autism spectrum disorders.

**Jeanne McGahee**, Edina, Minnesota, has pledged a \$400,000 future gift for the establishment of the Jeanne McGahee Ovarian Cancer Research Fund, which will support the ovarian cancer research program of Dr. Peter Argenta, a surgical oncologist and gynecologic surgeon at the University.

**Elizabeth and John McWilliams**, Long Beach, California, have made medical students the beneficiary of a \$700,000 estate gift. The John and Elizabeth McWilliams Endowed Scholarship Fund will support the next generation of physicians, who the donors hope will carry less debt because of the scholarship support they receive. Mrs. McWilliams is an alumna of the University of Minnesota, having received her bachelor of arts degree in 1949 and bachelor of science degree in education in 1950.

**Donald K. and Kathryn A. Mertz**, Edina, Minnesota, adding to previous contributions, made an estate gift of \$200,000 to the Jon Clement Mertz Endowment for Melanoma Research. The endowment honors the Mertz's son, Jon, who died in 2001 from complications of melanoma.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

# 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 September 1 and December 31, 2007. 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)

Julia Neubart

### TRUSTEES SOCIETY

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

Adopt A Room

Lorraine Jamar

LeJeune Family Foundation

James W. and Renee R. Reagan

### CHANCELLORS SOCIETY

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

Dr. Edward J., '58, and Jane S. Bardon  
+Doris C. Engdahl

### FOUNDERS SOCIETY

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

Arthrex, Inc.

Dr. John C., '71, and Eloise K. Erkkila

La Carolina Foundation

Brian J. Osberg and Jean Marie Hamilton

Troy A. Pearson

Dr. Steven E., '67, and Jeanne C. Prawer

Dr. Albert J. Schroeder, '44

### HERITAGE SOCIETY

(Future gifts)

Anonymous

Dr. Edward J., '58, and Jane S. Bardon

Arne and Susan Carlson

Dr. Joan E. Cloutier, '62

Charlotte E. Gammell

Elizabeth and John McWilliams

Donald K. and Kathryn A. Mertz

Kay F. Quam

Kerry J. Schrapfer Kincaid

Dr. Paul A., '78, and Theresa Severson

+Deceased

**Pfizer Inc**, New York, contributed \$100,000 to the School of Public Health to support Dr. Harry Lando and his work with the 14th World Conference on Tobacco OR Health. The international conference, to be held in India, will explore ways to combat tobacco promotion in third-world countries. Pfizer has a long and generous history of support for programs in the Medical School and School of Public Health.

**Kay F. Quam**, Reston, Virginia, designated \$150,000 in her estate plan to support feline-human bonding research and education at the Center to Study Human Animal Relationships and Environments (CENSHARE). A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Ms. Quam appreciates CENSHARE's dissemination of scientific findings that show the mutual benefits of the human-animal bond.

**David S. Rose**, New York, has made a \$100,000 gift to establish the Paul T. White, J.D., Scholarship Fund in support of medical education. The fund is named for the Medical School's current assistant dean of admissions. Mr. Rose is CEO of Rose Tech Ventures, a company that mentors high-potential entrepreneurs.

**Joseph N. and Leslie Ross Schneider Foundation**, Chanhassen, Minnesota, contributed \$150,000 in gifts to advance health-related research at the University. Nearly \$120,000 will support the lymphoma research of Dr. Bruce Peterson. The gifts were made in memory of Mr. Schneider's late wife, Leslie.

**Vikings Children's Fund (VCF)**, Eden Prairie, made a gift of \$170,000 in support of children's health on behalf of the Minnesota Vikings. Since 1978, VCF has donated more than \$4 million to the University for pediatrics-related research, education, and service. VCF funding is used for research seed grants — money that allows investigators to test promising new ideas — with the hope that these researchers will gather enough data to eventually attract significant funding from the government and other organizations. VCF funding also supports a three-year clinical program, "Vikings Tackling Influenza," that provides flu vaccinations to an underserved population of children.



## Building a better future

Charitable gift annuities are a wonderful way to help others while helping yourself and a loved one.

Your charitable gift annuity to the Minnesota Medical Foundation helps advance world-class health-related research, education, and service at the University of Minnesota while providing substantial tax benefits and a lifetime income for you and your spouse.

To learn more, contact Mark Parsons or Holly McDonough at 800-922-1663, 612-625-1440, or [giftplanning@mmf.umn.edu](mailto:giftplanning@mmf.umn.edu).

Visit our Web site at: [www.mmf.umn.edu/giftplanning](http://www.mmf.umn.edu/giftplanning)

Gift annuities from the Minnesota Medical Foundation are not available in some states.

## MINNESOTA MEDICAL FOUNDATION

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.

### SCHOOLS WE SUPPORT

Medical School  
School of Public Health

### AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

Bob Allison Ataxia Research Center  
International Hearing Foundation  
University Pediatrics Foundation

### STAFF LEADERSHIP

Becky Malkerson  
PRESIDENT AND CEO

Catherine Henry  
VICE PRESIDENT, MARKETING  
AND COMMUNICATIONS

Cindy J. Kaiser  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND  
VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS

Patricia K. Porter  
VICE PRESIDENT, DEVELOPMENT

### 2007–2008 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John M. Murphy Jr. CHAIR  
Susan B. Plimpton VICE CHAIR  
Sidney Kaplan SECRETARY  
George E. Maas TREASURER

Catherine Agee  
Hon. Clyde E. Allen Jr.\*  
Mark Allison\*  
DeWalt H. (Pete) Ankeny Jr.  
Macaran A. Baird, M.D., M.S.\*  
Joel L. Boyd, M.D.  
David M. Brown, M.D.  
Robert H. Bruininks, Ph.D.\*  
Richard A. Carlson, M.D., F.A.C.R.  
Frank B. Cerra, M.D.\*  
James L. Craig, M.D., M.P.H.  
Gary L. Davis, Ph.D.\*  
Wendy Dayton  
Timothy J. Ebner, M.D., Ph.D.\*  
Beth Erickson  
John R. Finnegan Jr., Ph.D.\*  
Barbara L. Forster  
Stanley M. Goldberg, M.D.  
Alison B. Good  
Peter M. Grant  
Susan Gunderson  
Richard E. Kuntz, M.D.  
Richard L. Lindstrom, M.D.  
Fred A. Lyon, M.D.  
Thomas G. Olson  
Philip W. Ordway  
Treva Paparella\*  
Deborah E. Powell, M.D.\*  
Robert N. Schulenberg, M.D.  
Teresa F. Sit\*  
Randolph C. Steer, M.D., Ph.D.  
James P. Steiner  
Richard L. Stennes, M.D., M.B.A., F.A.C.E.P.  
James P. Stephenson  
Mary K. Stern, CFA  
Martin J. Stillman, M.D., J.D.\*  
Roby C. Thompson Jr., M.D.  
Charles F. Wiser Jr.

\*Ex officio members

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Minnesota Medical Foundation  
McNamara Alumni Center  
200 Oak Street SE, Suite 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2030

612-625-1440  
800-922-1663

mmf@mmf.umn.edu  
www.mmf.umn.edu

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

ADOPT A ROOMS continued from front page

The timing was perfect, Millington says. Plans for a new home for the children's hospital were in the works, and those involved were excited about incorporating these state-of-the-art Adopt A Rooms into the plan. But more than that, Schepperle and Millington wanted to create a more positive experience for kids who are seriously or chronically ill—those for whom the hospital is a major part of their lives.

“When a child gets really sick, you want to go to the best place you can,” says Millington. “And most of the time, that is a research hospital like the University of Minnesota Children's Hospital, Fairview.”

### Giving back some control

While other donors financially support research that can lead to better treatments for childhood diseases, Schepperle admits that he doesn't have the patience.

“I wanted to do something that had an immediate payoff,” he says. “I thought, ‘Let's help some families. Let's make an ill child's time on this planet a little bit better.’”

The Adopt A Room suites include large-screen TVs for watching movies, table space for playing games or doing homework, and control of a rooftop zoom camera for exploring the outdoors. Children can control the lighting and color of their rooms from touch-screen computers at their bedsides.

“Children lose control of their lives when they are diagnosed,” says Schepperle. “We wanted to give a little of that control back to them.”

Millington, for one, is proud of how far the idea has come in the three years since he and Schepperle met. “We're just a couple of dads,” says Millington, adding that their wives, Dana Millington and Kristen Schepperle, have been their quiet partners through it all. “This was just what Brian and I had to do to ease our pain.”

All patient rooms in the new children's hospital facility will be private and 390 square feet in size, about 75 percent larger than the hospital's current standard rooms, says Russell Williams, the hospital's vice president of the patient experience. They'll also be family-friendly, with more storage space, in-room office areas, mini-fridges and microwaves, and sleeper



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PERKINS + WILL



A bedside console in the Adopt A Rooms, designed by Perkins + Will, gives children control of the lighting and color of their rooms, while the larger room size gives families more space.

sofas to make overnight stays more comfortable for families.

Transforming a patient room in the new children's facility into an Adopt A Room will cost \$300,000, which includes funding for upgrades and maintenance as well as naming opportunities.

So far, the two prototype rooms have received rave reviews from young patients and their families.

“Children like the control they have in the rooms, and families appreciate being able to stay together during their child's hospitalization,” says Williams. “The kids want all hospital rooms to be like Adopt A Rooms. Working with the Minnesota Medical Foundation and the Adopt A Room dads, we'll aim to grant their wish.”

To learn how you or your company can sponsor an Adopt A Room, please contact Elizabeth Patty at 612-625-6136 or e.patty@mmf.umn.edu.

## giving matters WINTER 2008

Published three times a year by the Minnesota Medical Foundation

Meredith McNab  
EDITOR

Nicole Endres  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Woychick Design  
DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Sexton Printing  
PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION

Reader comments and suggestions are welcome. Please send to:

**Giving Matters**  
Minnesota Medical Foundation  
200 Oak Street SE, Suite 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2030

Or contact the editor directly at 612-625-0657 or m.mcNab@mmf.umn.edu

♻️ Printed on recycled paper using at least 30% post-consumer waste. Please recycle.

© 2008 Minnesota Medical Foundation. All rights reserved.