

Children's Law Center of Minnesota Celebrates Twelve Years of Making Children's Voices Heard

Children's Law Center of Minnesota (CLC) celebrated its 12th anniversary at the Millennium Hotel Minneapolis on October 18, 2007.

Amy Brenneman, co-creator, executive producer and star of *Judging Amy*, received the Rosalie E. Wahl Justice for Children Award presented by last year's award winner, former Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz. In *Judging Amy*, Brenneman portrayed juvenile court as a place "extending to every child a sense of compassion where justice prevails." Brenneman's parents, the Honorable Frederica and Russell Brenneman, accepted the award on her behalf, and Amy sent an acceptance video which was shown at the Benefit.

Another award recipient was Roy Magnuson, a history and social studies teacher at Como Park Senior High School. Magnuson received the Hero for Children Award for his work with a diverse group of students. He went above and beyond the call of duty as a teacher, even offering study sessions on nights and weekends for students planning to take the AP exams, many of whom were not always "typical" AP students.

CLC also honored the law firms of Merchant & Gould, and Zelle Hofmann Voelbel Mason & Gette for their dedication to pro bono legal services for children.
 Zelle Hofmann Voelbel Mason & Gette has had a

partnership with CLC since 2000, and Merchant & Gould lawyers began volunteering for CLC in 2002. Lawyers from both firms have given substantial hours of pro bono representation to children in the foster care system and have helped children to have a voice in proceedings where life-changing decisions are made for them. The quality of their representation has been of the highest caliber and makes a difference to the children.

During CLC's Celebration and Benefit, Michelle, a CLC client who now helps CLC train volunteer lawyers to represent children in the



Actress Amy Brenneman accepts CLC's Rosalie E. Wahl Justice for Children Award by video.

foster care system, shared her experience in the system and explained what lawyers can do to help children.

During the celebration, live and silent auctions featured such items as a weekend get-away to Majorca, Spain, an art commission, and scripts of *Judging Amy* signed by Amy Brenneman. CLC has made a difference in the lives of over 1,200 children since 1995, thanks to hundreds of volunteers, including nearly 270 pro bono lawyers.



Left to right: Gail Chang Bohr, CLC Executive Director, Tom Sheran, volunteer lawyer, former Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz, and Wheelock Whitney.

Inside This Issue

From the Executive Director	2
Volunteer and CLC News	3-5
Donations Received	6-7
Heroes for Children Nominations ...	8
Save-the-Dates	8

From the Executive Director



Gail Chang Bohr

October 2008 marks 13 years since CLC opened for operation and another milepost in our representation of children. The children we started representing in 1997, over ten years ago, are growing up. Many "aged out" of the system when they became 18 years old. Some are in post-secondary education, technical schools or four-year colleges. Youth in Transition conferences and detailed independent living plans helped many to begin to plan for their future so that they could feel they had some control over their lives. However, for many, the path has not been as clear or as straight. They leave foster care without education or job skills or without even the things that children not in foster care take for granted. Things such as a copy of their birth certificate, social security card, identification card, driver's license and medical insurance card remain elusive to many who have left foster care.

Here at CLC, we are always pleased to hear from the children we represented even after the court has dismissed jurisdiction and their lawyer has "closed" the case. Even though the matter has ended and a formal closing letter is sent, the volunteer lawyer often lets the child know that CLC is interested in knowing how things are going for the child. While CLC currently has no formal mechanism for tracking the child after the child has left the system, the number of children who do call their lawyer after the case is closed is remarkable.

The children, now young adults, may be enrolled in post-secondary

institutions or working. They are rightly proud of their success. Their CLC lawyers are pleased to hear from their former clients and are proud of their accomplishments.

We also wonder about those children whose path through the foster care system was not smooth. CLC occasionally gets phone calls from former clients who need a referral to an adult shelter because the child is now over 18 and is homeless.

We know that children in foster care do better if there is a consistent adult in their lives whom they trust. CLC's policy is that clients have the same lawyer for the duration of their case. We believe it is the consistency of the relationship that the lawyer and child client develop that is indispensable to the development of trust. Indeed, the lawyer becomes a trusted adult in their client's life.

Children need to feel that they belong and are connected to others. With the loss of the parental relationship, CLC has always advocated on the individual and systems level for the preservation of the sibling relationship whether it is placement together or continued contact throughout the children's minority if they are placed separately. The sibling relationship will survive the parent-child relationship. Contact agreements between siblings, if they are adopted separately, must be the norm in order to help them maintain their sibling relationship. They need their lawyer to help them formulate and advocate for such contact if their worker does not initiate an agreement to help them maintain contact with siblings.

CLC's legal representation of children is held in high regard due to its standards of excellence and dedicated staff and volunteer lawyers. CLC was honored to be specifically mentioned in the Minnesota Supreme Court Pro Bono CLE Order granting CLE credits for pro bono work. The quality of CLC's work, case management, supervision of lawyers, and accountability to its clients and the courts posi-



Making children's voices heard

Children's Law Center News
is a publication of Children's Law Center of Minnesota, 450 N. Syndicate Street, Suite 315, St. Paul, MN 55104-4106; 651.644.4438; www.clemn.org.

Staff

Gail Chang Bohr
Executive Director

Anne Tyler Gueinzius
Staff Attorney

Angela Montgomery Montez
Staff Attorney

Lori Semke
Staff Attorney

Weida Allen
Staff Social Worker

Dawn Tschida Cockrell
Executive Assistant

Tricia Kiefer
Development Manager

Board of Directors
Thomas Fraser, *President*
Marianne Remedios, *Vice President*,
Finance, Treasurer

Jody Alholinna, *Secretary*
Peter Hendrixson, *Past President*

Lilian N. Ejebi
Lisa Fulton

Gerald Hendrickson
Andrew Horstman

Cyrenthia Jordan
Katie Crosby Lehmann

Robert Leonard
Alan Maclin

Irene M. Opsahl
John Randolph

James Reece
Carlos Rivera

Nancy Wiltgen

tioned CLC for this special mention.

In the area of developing child-client relationships, CLC is on the cutting edge. CLC participated with the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Litigation in the development and production of the teaching DVD, "Interviewing the Child Client." CLC will be presenting this video at the ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference in Minneapolis, May 7-9, 2008.

*Gail Chang Bohr, Esq.
Executive Director*

CLC clients stay in touch with their lawyers



Left: T.H. and Nancy Wiltgen, partner, Leonard, Street and Deinard. The photo was taken in her office in July, 2007, when T.H. surprised her with a visit while in St. Paul visiting former foster parents and

other friends. For Nancy, seeing T.H. again, grown up, taller, but with a face she will never forget, was the highlight of her summer and truly a moment to treasure.

At 11 years old, T.H. contacted CLC for help. His mother's live-in boyfriend repeatedly physically abused him. He and his two older siblings were exposed daily to drug and alcohol abuse in their home. The children also suffered from severe neglect. Frequently, there was no food in the home, no electricity for months, no clean clothes and a generally absent mother. T.H. often sought refuge with neighbors and at the neighborhood community center. T.H.'s abuse and neglect had been reported to child protection authorities without results. When his mother planned to move out of state with the abusive boyfriend, T.H. himself called CLC to represent him.

CLC volunteer attorney, Nancy Wiltgen, Leonard, Street and Deinard,

agreed to represent T.H. She worked quickly to gather information to file a private Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) Petition. Then, T.H.'s mother voluntarily placed him in a shelter and the county declined to proceed with the CHIPS petition. T.H., however, was terrified at the shelter and wanted to stay with neighbors who had regularly cared for him. After six days in the shelter, T.H.'s mother visited him at school and became concerned about T.H. staying at the shelter. She agreed to let him stay with the neighbors.

Wiltgen then filed the private CHIPS petition which was set for a hearing by the court. She also moved for an order placing T.H. in foster care with his neighbors, who were granted an emergency foster care

License, among other requests. All of the relief requested was granted, and a guardian ad litem was appointed.

As the case developed over the year, an aunt and uncle in Georgia were located and expressed a willingness to take custody. After a trial visit with them over Thanksgiving, T.H. moved to Georgia at Christmas-time and custody was formally transferred to them. T.H. lived with his relatives in Georgia for two years and later moved to Chicago to live with another aunt. In June, 2007, T.H. graduated with honors from high school in Chicago and entered college. His goal is to become a social worker who helps children.

CLE Credits for Pro Bono

On January 31, 2008, the Minnesota Supreme Court amended the Minnesota Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Rules to allow CLE credits for pro bono hours. Children's Law Center of Minnesota is specifically mentioned as a legal services provider for whom pro bono hours qualify for CLE credits. The new rules go into effect on July 1, 2008.

Just Released!

Interviewing the Child Client, a new DVD presented by the American Bar Association Section of Litigation Children's Rights Litigation Committee, has just been released. This video provides practical guidance and demonstrations of techniques that can help lawyers work effectively with their child clients. CLC is incorporating this video into its training sessions for new attorneys. Professionals who work with children will find the video a helpful tool in their work. Copies are available from the ABA.

CLC volunteer Gary Hansen wins Pro Bono Award



Gary Hansen, Esq.
Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly

Long time volunteer attorney, Gary Hansen, Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly, is the recipient of this year's Hennepin County Bar Association's Pro Bono Publico Award for Excellence by a Private Sector Attorney. Hansen is chair of Oppenheimer's Business Litigation Practice. He was one of CLC's first volunteers, beginning in 1997, and has given hundreds of pro bono hours representing more than a dozen children. Mr. Hansen has also been a Ramsey County foster parent and a volunteer for Special Olympics.

CLC welcomes new board members

Tom Fraser, partner at Fredrikson & Byron, was recently elected President of Children's Law Center of Minnesota's (CLC) Board of Directors. Tom is also a CLC volunteer lawyer and participated as faculty for CLC's NITA training in 2006. In 2007, he received the Hennepin County Bar Foundation's Pro Bono Distinguished Service Award. The award recognizes an individual for career-long work on behalf of the community. With over 30 years experience, Tom practices principally in corporate and commercial litigation. He has been appointed a special master, referee, receiver, arbitrator and mediator in both federal and state courts. Tom is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Bar Foundation, and is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Jim Reece is a partner at Zelle Hofmann Voelbel Mason & Gette and has been engaged for more than 30 years in complex litigation throughout the United States and other countries. Jim has been a CLC volunteer since 2002. Jim not only helps to recruit volunteer lawyers for CLC, he is often aware of children who are in need of representation and brings them to CLC's attention. Jim has served on committees devoted to juvenile issues and as a mentor to law students. He has worked on various pro bono projects and lectured at law schools and legal seminars.

Nancy Wiltgen is a partner at Leonard, Street and Deinard in the Business and Commercial Litigation and Estates and Trusts Litigation practice groups. Nancy has been a volunteer attorney with CLC since 1997. In 2003, Nancy received the Pro Bono Publico Award for Excellence by a Private Sector Attorney from the Hennepin County Bar Association for her work representing abused and neglected children.

CLC celebrates 12 years



Left to right: Sheila Johnson, Erin McGillivray, Elaine McGillivray, volunteer lawyer, Louise Wilson, and Mary Walker.



Left to right: Peter Hendrixson, past CLC Board President, Honorable Frederica Brenneman, and Professor Richard Bohr.



Left to right: Special guest, Russell Brenneman, father of Amy Brenneman, and Andrew Horstman, CLC Board member and volunteer lawyer.

CLC thanks the generous contributors to our auctions that made the annual celebration and benefit such a success!

Stacey Abdouch, Rocco Altobelli, Bachman's, Ballet of the Dolls, Mark Bender, Bibelot, Gail Chang Bohr, Amy Brenneman, Jessica Brokaw & Kevin Manz, Café Latte, Mayor Coleman, Amy Culbert, Denise Doll-Kiefer, Dorsey & Whitney, Downtown Dogs, Lilian Ejebe, Tom Fraser, Lou and Carol Frillman, Graves 601 Hotel, Great Harvest Bakery, Haskell's, Perri Hite, Andy Horstman, Mark Kuklow, Lisa Fulton, Illusion Theater, Initially Yours, The International Wolf Center, Suzanne Janse-Vreeling, Garrison Keillor, Tom Letscher,

Joan Linck, Alan Maclin, Rachel McDonough, Minnesota Dance Theater, Minnesota Orchestra, Minnesota Roller Girls, Senator Mee Moua, John Randolph, Red Balloon, Deb Randolph, Science Museum of Minnesota, Tricia Schweitzer, Marianne Remedios, Mayor Rybak, Stella's, Smart Woman Company, St. Paul Orchestra, Mary Vasaly, Jill Wald, Walker Art Center, Nancy Wiltgen, YoungQuest.

(CLC regrets if we have inadvertently omitted any names.)

Sibling Connections Matter

It is well known among mental health researchers that the sibling relationship is unique and may in fact be even more influential than the parent-child relationship in contributing to healthy growth and development.¹ Sibling relationships are the longest lasting relationships that most people have, most often even surviving the parent-child relationship. The sibling bond provides its own special support system for children raised in generally well-adjusted families.² That bond may be even stronger for siblings raised in adverse circumstances because siblings are the support system that helps them to cope with problems.³

Indeed, an estimated 56% to 85% of children placed in foster care are members of sibling groups.⁴ National studies indicate that up to 75% of children are separated from at least one of their siblings when placed in foster care.⁵ Siblings separated in foster care are at higher risk for a number of negative outcomes, including placement disruption, running away, and aging out.⁶

For these reasons, Children's Law Center of Minnesota (CLC) advocates for siblings in foster care to be placed together and, when that is not feasible, for them to maintain ongoing contact and visits. Minnesota has laws and rules to reinforce the principle of siblings being placed together. For example, Minnesota requires placing siblings together in foster care whenever possible and appropriate. If siblings are not placed together in care, Minnesota law requires the court to set reasonable visitation for relatives, including siblings.⁷ An exception may be necessary where there is concern that one sibling may pose a safety risk to another, but even in

such cases, contact of some kind can be maintained.

There are six children in the Martin family. CLC was appointed to represent the three older siblings who were adolescents and who, because of their individual special needs, were not placed together in care. In contrast, the three younger siblings were all under the age of eight and were placed together in foster care. Parental rights had been terminated prior to CLC's appointment and the children were wards of the state. CLC's first task was to ensure there were visits among the siblings. Later, when the foster parents of the three younger children wanted to adopt them, there was a request to permanently separate the siblings. CLC represented the older children in this matter. Initially, the three older children objected to the separation and the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) denied the separation request, urging the county to continue its efforts to find a family to take all six children.

Eventually, DHS permitted the separation when the county was not able to locate a prospective adoptive family for all the children. Nevertheless, DHS noted that the county should "recruit adoptive families willing and able to facilitate on-going contact between the siblings as therapeutically recommended." When the younger sibling group was to be adopted, a contact agreement between all the siblings was drafted to ensure that they would be able to maintain their sibling relationship.

Sibling separation is not an issue unique to this family. Where the Commissioner of Human Services has authorized the separation of siblings, CLC works with the county agency and the prospective

adoptive parents to craft a "sibling contact agreement" in order to continue ongoing sibling contact whenever siblings are separated by adoption.

CLC has also advocated for legislation that protects a child's right to preserve his or her sibling relationships. Nevertheless, even with a signed contact agreement, it is still up to the adoptive parents to facilitate the ongoing contacts. Failure to honor the contact agreement means that the siblings are not able to continue their relationship unless they bring an action to enforce the agreement.

It is therefore important for judges to ensure agreements are in place at the time of the adoption. It is also incumbent upon adoption workers to recruit families who understand the importance of the sibling relationship. Moreover, adoption workers must also work to help children, who come into the foster care system with so few healthy family connections, maintain the sibling relationships that can provide them with a sense of identity, continuity, and support.

¹ See Jayne Schooler, *When Siblings Are Separated*, ADOPTIVE FAMILIES, Dec. 1997, at 14-19; Emily Kernan, *Keeping Siblings Together, Past, Present, and Future*, 26 YOUTH LAW NEWS 1 (2005).

² See *supra* note 1.

³ See *supra* note 1.

⁴ University of Minnesota, Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, *Siblings in Foster Care: Maintaining the Ties that Bind*, CASCW PRACTICE NOTES, Issue No. 9, Fall 2000.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Mark E. Courtney, Ada Skyles, Gina Miranda, Andrew Zinn, Eroni Howard, & Robert M. Goerge, *Youth Who Run Away from Out-of-Home Care*, CHAPIN HALL CENTER FOR CHILDREN ISSUE BRIEF #103 (March 2005).

⁷ MINN. STAT. § 260C.201, subd. 5 (2007).



On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff at CLC, thank you, donors and volunteers, for your generosity. Your steadfast support makes it possible for CLC to continue to make Minnesota children's voices heard and to make a difference in their lives.
Tom Fraser and Gail Chang Bohr

**Donations received from
January 1, 2007 through
December 31, 2007
(Names not appearing will
be in the next issue).**

Champion (\$10,000+)
F.R. Bigelow Foundation
Otto Bremer Foundation
Grotto Foundation
Lawyer Trust Account Board
Mardag Foundation
The Minneapolis Foundation
The Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation
Legal Services Advisory Cttee
Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi
The Saint Paul Foundation
James R. Thorpe Foundation

Advocate (\$5,000+)
Dorsey & Whitney
Faegre & Benson
Tom Fraser
Fredrikson & Byron
General Mills
Peter & Carolyn Hendrixson
Lynn and Richard Voelbel Family Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
Zelle Hofmann Voelbel Mason & Gette

Sustainer (\$1,000+)
3M
Peter W. Anson
Norman & Kathy Baer
Best & Flanagan
Hon. Kathleen Blatz & Wheelock Whitney
Richard & Gail Chang Bohr
Briggs and Morgan
C.H. Robinson Worldwide
Michael Dai & Gail Engstrom
Bernard & Kari Dusich
Daniel Enebo & Laura Crosby Flynn, Gaskins & Bennett
C. William Franke
Kermit & Christine Fruechte
Lisa & Bill Fulton
Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty & Bennett

Greene Espel
Richard & Deirdre Abbey Hagstrom
Hennepin County Bar Foundation
Andrew Horstman
Kent Kelley & Mary Louise Beardsley
Kelly & Berens, *in memory of George Ludcke*
Randy & Mary King Leonard, Street and Deinard
Lindquist & Vennum
Alan Maclin
Maslon Edelman Borman & Brand
Peter & Elaine McGillivray Medtronic
Merchant & Gould
MoneyGram
W. Edward & Mary Hester Mullin Fund of the Catholic Community Foundation
Richard & Claudette Nigon Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly Patterson, Thuente, Skaar & Christensen
The Elizabeth C. Quinlan Foundation
Ramsey County Bar Foundation
John Randolph
Jim Reece
Marianne T. Remedios & John R. Wald
Schwegman, Lundberg & Woessner
Siegel, Brill, Greupner, Duffy & Foster
Hon. Richard & Nancy Solum Thomson West
William Mitchell College of Law
Louise & Richard Wilson
Yale Alumni Association of the Northwest Bulldogs on the Lake

Benefactor (\$500+)
Anne & Patrick Byrne
Craig Bower & Deborah Schmedemann
Andrew Carlson & Lisa Hollingsworth

Dennis Daley
Julie Daulton
James R. & Yvonne C. Dorsey
John F. Eisberg and Susan Kline Charitable Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
Dr. Gabriel and Lilian Ejeb
Brad Engdahl
Larry Espel & Cynthia Hasselbusch
Charles & Anne Hayssen Ferrell
Jack & Melinda Fribley
John & Virginia Greenman Hinshaw & Culbertson
Sheila & Ronald Johnson Sam Kaplan
Kennedy & Graven
Denise Kettleberger & Clarence Smith
Paul & Kelly Koziol
Mark & Sara Kronholm
John C. Levy
MADA - CLT
Daniel & Kimberly McDonald
Myers Thompson
David Mylrea
Kathryn Nelson & H.T. Fish
Nancy & Russell Nelson Nelson, Tietz, & Hoye
Karen Reierson
Katherine & Rolf Devries Smith
Robert & Charleen Sprague
John and Susan Steffen Floyd & Mary Lou Stewart
Pam Stewart
William Umsheid & Joanne Strakosch
Nancy Wiltgen

Patron (\$100+)
Frank & Barb Abramson
Advance Consulting LLC
Hon. Stephen Aldrich
Jody Alholinna
David Anderson
Patrick & Catherine Minor Atanalian
Janalee Aurelia & Eric Anderson
James Backstrom
Douglas & Lisa Pritchard Bayley
Joseph Beckman
Tom Beddow
Elizabeth & Peter Belfiore
Frank & Kathleen Berdan
Bertelson Law Offices
Hon. Robert & Linda Birnbaum
Kristin L. Boetticher
Angela Bohmann & Jonathan Riehle
John & Dawn Bowden

Robert & Lisa Brabbit
Martha Brand
Rochelle Brandl
Hon. Tanya Bransford
Hon. Frederica S. Brenneman Amy Brosnahan
Jennie & Walter Brown David Bunker, *in memory of George Ludcke*
Walter Burk
Mark Carpenter & Ann Kraemer
Carolyn Chalmers & Eric Janus Dr. Elizabeth Chang
Hon. Regina M. Chu Andrew & Sandra Clark Community Health Charities Fund
Hon. John & Phebe Connolly R. Kirkland Cozine & Elizabeth Short
Jan Cronquist Kristin & Clinton Cutler J. Michael Dady
Davidson Law Office Peter J. Diessner
Dodd Law Office Dodd Law Office Jeff & Dena Ehrich
The Finzen-Clark Family Foundation Caren Fitzgerald
Paul & Donna Floyd Margaret Flynn & Richard Brody, *in memory of George Ludcke*
James L. Forman Kristina & William Foudray
Don & Arvonne Fraser Roger Frommelt
Jan Gibson & Richard Talbot Hon. Allen Giles & Lisa Brosseau
Lorna & Tom Gleason, *in memory of George Ludcke*
John Goetz Paula F. Goldberg
Candee Goodman Anne Greer, *in memory of George Ludcke*
Jon M. Guttmann Mark Hallberg
Carolyn Ham Jana Uve & Neil Hamilton
Ann Marie Hanrahan Lowell Hansen
George E. Harding Roger Heegaard & Cheryl Thomas
Carrie A. Hefte & James J. Hanton
Gerald T. Hendrickson Thomas R. Hipkins
Christine Hove

Kathryn Howard
 Margaret Hubbs
 Christopher & Sheryl Hunt
 Ronald & Renee Hunter
 Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
 Geoffrey & Lezlie Jarpe
 Marlene Johnson
 Robert & Nichole Johnson
 Hon. Alexander "Sandy" Keith
 Todd Kenyon
 Jan Kitchin
 Hon. Mary Louise Klas
 Lindsey Lange
 Frederick & Kay De Sam Lazaro
 Seale & Robert Lea
 Katie Crosby Lehmann
 David Lillehaug
 Joan Linck
 Steve & Colleen Short Lucke
 Gerald E. Magnuson
 Mary Magnuson
 Richard & Finnette Magnuson
 Maureen Rose & George Francis Mahowald
 Mall of America - Pond Fund Seymour and Susan Mansfield Family Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
 Mansfield, Tanick & Cohen Hon. Elizabeth Martin
 Janet Martin
 Leroy & Karen Maunu
 Thomas & Mona Mengler
 David & Lynn Meyer
 Thomas & Susan Mielenhausen
 Mary E. Miller
 William Miller
 Minnesota Women Lawyers Hon. Ann Montgomery & Theodore Smetak
 Julia Morgan
 Michael Morrow & Katherine Mackinnon
 William E. Mullin
 Hon. Rosanne Nathanson
 Richard & Kathryn Nelson
 Michael Nowotny
 Steven & Sara Olson
 Sherrill Oman
 Dr. Vivian Orey
 David & Mary Pat Oslund
 John O'Toole
 Hon. Edward Parker
 Rich & Suzanne Pepin
 James Perunovich
 Warren E. Peterson
 Robin L. Phillips
 James Pielemeier
 Alan Pitts
 Candace Prigge
 James & Nancy Proman

Deborah Randolph
 Melissa Raphan & Thomas Rock
 Kent & Susan Richey
 Julie Rohovit & William Hefner Dr. Franklin & Kathleen Saksena
 Hon. Heidi S. Schellhas Kurt & Nelda Schreiber Susan Segal
 Nadine Sehnert Margaret & Dan Shulman Jerry & Katherine Snider Nancy Speer Susan D. Steinwall John A. Taft Sarah Taylor Jon Theobald Dale Thornsjo & Mary Kohl Brad & Madge Thorsen Becky Thorson Lica Tomizuka University of St. Thomas Law School Michael & Roxann Van Dusen Mary Vasaly Frank Vogl, *in memory of George Ludcke*
 Mary Walker Walling, Berg & Debele James E. Wilkinson III Debra A. Wilson Mark & Kathy Wisser Richard Kyle & Elizabeth Wittenberg Rolfe Worden

Sponsor (up to \$99)

Michael Belfiore & Wendy Kagan, *in honor of Peter & Betty Belfiore*
 Richard & Gail Chang Bohr, *in memory of George Ludcke*
 Larry Borgen, *in memory of George Ludcke*
 Denis J. Boyd Philip & Ellen Bruner Margaret H. Chutich Daniel Cohan & Erica Brown Toni Crockett, *in memory of George Ludcke*

William Davidson & Claire Olson
 Robert Distad Steve Eide John & Amelia Engberg Rachel Evenson Mike Fahey for Carver County Attorney Jean L. Findorff William Flynn Roma Foti Margo & David Fox Anthony Fryer Liz Gagnen Robert & Cynthia Gilbertson Lawrence & Carol Goode Kathleen Graham Mary Grau Michelle Grey Anne Gueinzius Jeff & Ronalee Haugen Dianne Heins Joan Higinbotham Cam Hoang Holahan Family Kathleen Holland Ann Jaede Nancy Jones David Kelley, *in memory of George Ludcke*
 Craig D. Klausing Dora Kripapuri Mark & Michelle Krug Roderick & Helen Lawson Tina Liebling Greer & Mary Lockhart Terry Louie Chris Manahan Lynn Martin, *in memory of George Ludcke*
 Molly McClellan Mark Merrill & Suzanne Dustrude Starr Chris & Joanne Messerly Alison J. Midden Kristen Nelson Peder Nestingen Steven & Juliane Nilsson Dan & Lynne O'Connell William M. Orth Mark & Carol Ponsolle

Jim & Andrea Rubenstein Frank & Elizabeth Russomanno James & Amy Leclaire Sachs Thomas & Sheva Sanders Mark Sarenpa Ellie Schefer Hon. Gary & Lynn Schurrer Katherine Seager & Andrew Fuller Ellen Seesel Lori D. Semke Loretta Smith Leo G. Stern Alec & Kay Valentine Hon. John & Deanna Van De North James & Ellen Van Iwaarden Philip Walter & Karen McDaniel Arlene Wegener Hon. Mark Wernick Karl Wied, *in memory of George Ludcke*
 David & Mary Woodward Carrie Zochert

In-Kind Donations

Ivy Chang April Erickson Michael J. Fox Fredrikson & Byron Lou & Carol Frillman Millennium Hotel Minneapolis Minnesota Lawyer MLB Printing Mod & Company Richard Nigon Northwest Airlines Melanie Olson Dhiraj Pant Tracy Weil

Company Matches

3M ATK Community Investment Foundation Ameriprise Financial Wells Fargo

Worth the wait . . .



Elaine McGillivray, CLC volunteer lawyer, and Maria

CLC lawyer Elaine McGillivray represented Maria, 12, for the Child in Need of Protection or Services petition and then for the Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) proceedings. As her advocate, Elaine gave Maria continuous support during 12 out-of-home placements following the TPR. While many of the adults in Maria's life left her, Elaine was the one consistent adult in her life. Maria knew she could call Elaine during a crisis or just to check in. Finally, thanks to the hard work of her team - social worker, guardian ad litem, CLC lawyer and the Homecoming Project worker - Maria was adopted just before her 18th birthday.

Nominate a Hero for Children

Children's Law Center of Minnesota (CLC) is accepting nominations for its Heroes for Children Award. This award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the well being of Minnesota's children in either a career or volunteer position. The nominee may work with children in any area; for example, teaching, health care, legislation, advocacy, physical, spiritual, social, or emotional well being.

Past winners of the Heroes for Children Award include: Mike Windey, St. Paul Parks and Recreation; Alice Neve, St. Paul Public Library; Dave Moore, Boy Scout Troop 100; Raeann Ruth, The Portage for Youth; and Roy Magnuson, St. Paul Public Schools.

Nominators must submit a one to three page narrative about the nominee's qualifications, why the nominee deserves the award, and contact information. Please send the award nomination to CLC by July 1, 2008. Please call 651.644.4438 if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Open House

Please join CLC staff and Board of Directors on Friday, May 16, 2008 from 4 - 6 p.m. CLC office, 450 North Syndicate Ave., #315, St. Paul, 55104.

SAVE THE DATE

Children's Law Center of Minnesota 13th Anniversary Celebration & Benefit

Awards given:
Rosalie E. Wahl Justice for Children Award
Distinguished Service for Children Award
Heroes for Children Award

Foster youth share their stories
Silent/Live Auctions

**Wednesday, October 1, 2008, 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Millennium Hotel Minneapolis**

SAVE THE DATE

4th Annual "The Lud" Golf Outing Columbia Golf Course

Thursday, September 18, 2008, 1:00 p.m.

In memory of George Ludcke, a volunteer lawyer at Children's Law Center of Minnesota.

Donations to CLC in George's name are welcome.
Watch for Details

Annual ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference comes to Minneapolis May 7 to 9, 2008

Plan to attend the National Legal Aid & Defender Association and the American Bar Association (ABA) Equal Justice Conference May 7 to 9, 2008, at the Hilton Minneapolis. Civil legal aid staff, pro bono coordinators, bar association leaders, private attorneys and members of the judiciary and civil rights organizations will come together to discuss equal justice issues as they relate to the delivery of legal services to low-income people. Children's Law Center of Minnesota and the ABA Section of Litigation Children's Rights Litigation Committee will conduct a workshop on "The Challenges of Children." For more information, please visit www.nlada.org/training or call 202.452.0620.



Making children's voices heard

450 N. Syndicate Street, Suite 315
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104-4106

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 2334
St. Paul MN