



2002



2005



2006



2007



2008



2009

2010



2011



2012



Gala-TIME

Minnesota Life College
Annual Report JULY 1, 2010 - JUNE 30, 2011



Fun(d)raising

Dear Friends of MLC,

As I reminisce over the past year I am in awe of the accomplishments and the growth in our programs for undergraduates and the Graduate Living Community. What I continue to see is our unique ability to expand, adapt and enhance our program while meeting the individual needs of our participants.

In 2010, Minnesota Life College identified and began working on Strategic Goals in five areas: Program, Growth, Business Initiatives, Culture and Fund Development.

In the PROGRAM initiative we launched the Community and Technical College Experience, giving our undergraduates the opportunity to try a post secondary academic experience. We

had twelve students and graduates participate and four students continued into college level courses. We created the Healthy Initiatives Program (HIP) to increase a healthy lifestyle. That includes an emphasis on nutrition and physical exercise, along with a focus on students' mental health needs.

The GROWTH initiative is focused on the Graduate Living Community. A plan was designed to define the needs of a program as it grows and a program audit was started.

The BUSINESS INITIATIVES were created to include revenue-generating products and services that would increase the financial flexibility of our program. We launched our first campus business and volunteer internship site, "Real Biscuits for Real Dogs". Another successful component to the Business Initiatives was a Summer Internship Program for young students between the ages of 17 – 20. This mini-version of the undergraduate program was such a great success that we will offer two three-week sessions in the summer of 2012.

The CULTURE initiative is to create an organizational culture that provides employees with the opportunity to develop professionally and personally. We initiated a formal employee recognition program, delivered management training to all managers and high potential employees and focused on hiring and retaining the "right people on the bus".

The FUND DEVELOPMENT initiative is tied to achieving our contributed revenue goal. We were able to achieve that goal as a result of our tremendous support and our annual Gala fundraiser. The gala is the number one resource for scholarships and program enhancements and has always been about bringing the community together.

The momentum of MLC is bursting with energy and it is so exciting to be part of an organization that changes lives while it expands the circle of community that supports the process. It has truly been a privilege to be part of this phenomenal growth.

*Kathryn Thomas, M.Ed.
Executive Director*



Fun(d)raising

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*Kathryn Thomas, M.Ed.
Executive Director*

Gala Beginnings

Purpose

Since 1996, Minnesota Life College (MLC) has been transforming the lives of some extraordinary young adults; the need for programs like ours has never been greater. In the spring of 2004, and after some reflection on MLC's growth as an organization, the board, families and staff realized that over half of our student families rely on additional support to be able to attend Minnesota Life College.

MLC wanted to find a meaningful way to grow community awareness, recognize past, and cultivate future donors and supporters while raising funds for student scholarships. With just six weeks to prepare, our staff and all-volunteer committees jumped right in, and the annual Gala was born. The first Gala saw sell-out numbers with over 220 guests in attendance. New collaborations were formed and with the generous support from our sponsors, donors, and community partners, the 2004 Gala raised over \$115,000 for student scholarships and programs.

Although the Gala continues to grow each year, MLC remains grounded by our mission to prepare young adults for lives of independence. We are humbled by and continue to recognize all that has brought us to where we are today.



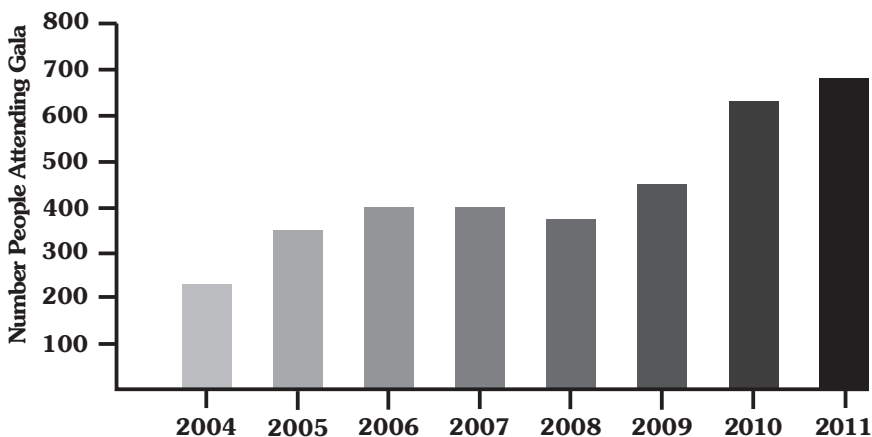
Growth & Support

MLC changes the lives of young adults as they learn the skills to be personally and financially self-sufficient; the annual Gala helps make this possible. Over the past eight Gala events, our growing circle of support has seen over \$1.3 million scholarship dollars raised; what started as a couple hundred attendees, has grown to nearly 700; our sponsorships and event donations are flourishing.

Program participant speeches center on life challenges, experiences, and successes, all told in their own words. Our students are the reason MLC and the Gala exist, serving as the inspiration for our Gala themes and logos. Each year as our students and graduates see and learn new things,

they also understand more about themselves. The "eyes" on our Gala logos are the young adults' eyes, and Minnesota Life College is their lifelong partner who helps them see all that they can be.

Each of our students is as unique as every Gala. Now known for being one of the most casual, fun, themed-dress code, and fast-paced events around, the annual celebration enjoys family- and corporate-sponsored silent and live auction items, fabulous food, games, raffles, prizes and pledge drives—each of which gives hope to and raises funds for our students; supporting them on their paths of independence.





Impact

The scholarship funds raised from our Gala events have made it possible for more students to attend the program. The event continues to raise the awareness of MLC to the local community nonprofits and area organizations, as their participation in the Gala has evolved into job offers,

donations, strategy, and support. MLC is grateful for all the help we receive from our partners.

Each year through our programs, fundraisers, and Gala events, we continue to demonstrate how collaborations of all sorts can change lives for the students and families we serve.

Our Student Speaker from Gala 2011...

"At MLC I've learned how to speak up for myself. The staff at MLC really helped me find ways to advocate for myself and get what I need and want. This has made all the difference.

I can take care of my apartment, cook for myself, take the bus where I want to go, and make friends. MLC really has changed my life. I am better at communicating. I am happier. And I have more confidence."

—Jeffery Monzingo, 2011 graduate



The MLC Gala logo. What it all means.

In 2004, the board and staff at Minnesota Life College decided to take on the enormous challenge of holding a fundraising benefit. Early in the project, they contacted me to design a logo to appear on all the Gala materials.

To the delight of all, it was a huge success.

The committee wanted the logo to be fun and colorful to reflect the atmosphere of the Gala. They also wanted to echo the theme and venue. The first theme was 'It's A Jungle Out There' and was held at the Minnesota Zoo. But the most important element of the logo, was that it needed to capture the spirit of MLC students. The Gala is for the students and graduates. Since then, seven more Gala events have been held, each one utilizing a logo based on the original, but modified for the theme and venue. The 2012 gala is well underway with a new, exciting theme.

The consistent elements of the logo that appear each year are the searching, inquisitive eyes which represent the students' exploration of a new world opened up to them through MLC. A small fingerprint appears in the background symbolizing the uniqueness of each individual student and his or her way of learning, and the special potential that each one has.

It's been a joy to design the image of MLC's Gala over the years.

—Nancy Lavander Seeger
graphic designer at Graphic Answers

Always Giving:

Our Most Distinguished Donors

Real Skills for Real Life® **\$1,000,000 and above**

Beverly & Roe Hatlen and the
Hatlen Foundation

Achieving Personal Success **\$500,000 - \$999,999**

Buffets, Inc.

Strength and Determination **\$250,000 - \$499,999**

Coca-Cola Company
Phillip and Jill Lighty, II

Partnership for Independence **\$100,000 - \$249,999**

Caliber Foundation
Jerry and Jean Marie Foss and Family
John Lavander and Nan Owen
United Way
US Food Service, Inc.

Transforming Lives **\$50,000 - \$99,999**

Geoff Barnard and Diane Vosick
Blake and Nancy Barnes
Dale E. and Jolita D. Benson
Paul and Julie Gulstrand
Clifford Hoffman
Rich Family Foundation
Sara Lee Coffee and
Tea Foodservice
Suzanne & Walter Scott Foundation
Howard and Marlies Terprning

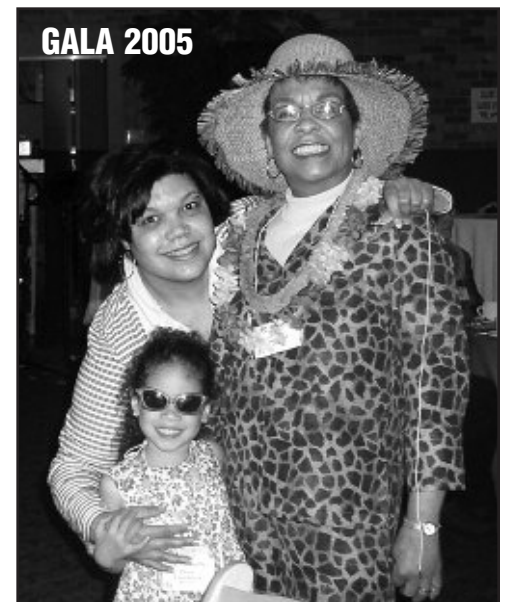
Learning by Doing **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

Jerry and Judy Alyea
Anonymous
BBDO Minneapolis
Michael Bono and
Katherine Constantine
Dorsey & Whitney Foundation
Charles and Mary Jungmann
Otto Bremer Foundation
Sealord North America, Inc.
J.W. Vosick

Integrity
Partnerships
Team work

Fun

Community
Experiential Learning



Lifetime Giving through June 30, 2011



The Hatlen Leadership Circle

This donor program recognizes the leadership and philanthropic support of individuals and organizations that have demonstrated their outstanding commitment to the program through private gift support. It was Roe and Beverly Hatlen who had the courage to dream big, and the passion to



make their dream come true and establish a place where "young adults with learning differences will have a place to go, to be accepted and to grow and mature, just as our other children have when they go off to college".

Our Student Speaker from Gala 2005...

“MLC taught me the importance of doing things on my own, how to listen to others, and not taking the easy way out. MLC has taught me some valuable lessons on how to deal with this daily stress. I was also able to learn household management, cooking, the required skills for keeping a job, getting to work on time, calling in sick, things like that—vocational, and other independent living skills. Through activities and meetings, I have stayed and maintained [my] friendships. MLC has been valuable for all of my friends, maintaining independence and having a system of support in place for life.”

— Sarah Owen, 2003 graduate

Annual Giving through June 30, 2011

Transforming Lives Advocate **\$50,000 - \$99,999**

Phillip and Jill Lighty, II

Learning by Doing Advocate **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

Jerry and Jean Marie Foss and Family
Suzanne and Walter Scott Foundation

Integrity Advocate **\$15,000 - \$24,999**

Beverly and Roe Hatlen and the
Hatlen Foundation

Partnership Advocate **\$10,000 - \$14,999**

Dale E. and Jolita D. Benson
Paul and Julie Gulstrand
Frances Holden

Team Work Advocate **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Sherryl and Dan Bandt
Geoff Barnard and Diane Vosick
Best Buy - INCLUDE GROUP
Michael Bono and Katherine Constantine
Buffets, Inc
Cunningham Group Architecture, P.A.
DiaSorin, Inc.
Dorsey & Whitney Foundation
Dr. Robert and Tracy Hibbard
Sandra Hinkley
Clifford Hoffman
John and Shirley Horn
David and Nancy Kath
J.W. Vosick

Fun Advocate \$1,000 - \$4,999

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Mary Bolkcom
Bremer Bank
Caliber Foundation
John and Peggy Collins
Kay Constantine
Dr. Charles Crutchfield
Dave and Jodi Dent
E. Eugene and Sara Englebert
Razoo Foundation
Mandy Frederickson

Steven and Jeanette Frederickson
Daniel and Karen Goedken
Marvin and Maureen Goergen
Jennifer Greene
Kai Gudmestad and Amy Steele Gudmestad
Dean and Lynda Hanson
Steve Hargarten and Janis Cohn
Healthtel, LLC
Steve and Shannon Heim
Joseph and Jayna Heinemann
Fairview Southdale Hospital
Charles and Mary Jungmann
Mark and Sonia Lager
Jodi Lang
John Lavander and Nan Owen
Richard Libby and Margaret Saline
Larry and Kimberly Lubeck
Stuart and Mary Lou McClellan-Johnson
Mark Milberger
Harlan Newell
James D. and Beatrice L. Oberg
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Otness Management
Beverly Ottum
Kurt and Ann Owen
Todd and Ann Parriott
Dr. William and Suzanne Payne
Glen Person
Primp, LLC
Rabbit Creek Interiors, LLC
Kathryn Raymor
Thomas and Susan Roberts
James J. and Ann Ryan
Scott and Anne Saveraid
Jim Schagh and Nancy Kipp
Steven and Pamela Schupbach
David and Janis Silverberg
Ron Skoronski
Kirk Sorensen and Peggy Herum
Mark Stoering
SUPERVALU Foundation
Brad and Ann Swanson
Tealwood Asset Management
Howard and Marlies Terpning
Jeff and Susan Thayer
The Shopko Foundation
David and Kathryn Thomas
Bruce and Susan Trulson
University of St. Thomas
Douglas and Gayle Willey



**Community Advocate
\$250 - \$999**

Cheryl and Tommy Adams
 Karen W. Armour
 Robert and Katherine Baarsch
 Becky and Lance Barnes
 Russell Belk
 Karen and Mark Beltz
 Charles and Sheri Bolkcom
 Bruce and Jane Brabec
 Jan Brenk
 Jay Bruber
 Royal Cup Coffee
 Kyle and Suzanne Crowe
 Bradley and Lori Determan
 Doug & Martha Miller Foundation
 Gordon and Marilyn Eid
 Ken Pengelly and David Engen
 Michael Erickson and Joday Anderson
 David and Diana Ficocello
 Pat and Paula Fleming
 John and Julie Frailey
 Gary and Lael Gerding
 Matt Greer
 Victor and Kimberly Grizzle
 Jan Gruman
 Rolf Haarstad
 Philip and Jeanne Habeck
 Brian and Mary Hassinger
 Erik Hatlen
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 Nick Heinemann
 Margaret and Stephen Heinz
 Doris Higgins
 Brad Holmgren
 Roger and Ricka Holmgren
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 Thomas Hoskens
 Jim and Kathryn House
 Daniel Japuntich and Dorothy Edelson
 Lance and Janet Johnson
 Mark and Jennifer Johnson
 Gary and Marianne Josephson
 Jodi Julseth
 Betsy Keyes
 Fran Kraft
 Jane Kuhn
 John and Jennifer Lammert
 Ray Langenberg and Christy Kay Krames
 Jeff and Sondra Lazer
 Norman and Sharon Ledebor
 Diane Bawek and Brian Leuning
 Nancy Prosser and Arthur Lorton
 Judy Mahle Lutter
 Robert and Cheryl McLean
 Marie Meglen
 Dale C. and Kristi P. Mensch
 Arthur and Christine Monzingo
 Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Monzingo
 Steve Mortland
 Aileen and Ronald Motz
 Antoinette Muma
 Theresa Munoz and Greg Rue
 Keith and Patricia Myhre
 Theodore and Judy Nagel
 Anne Ness
 Cindy Nollette
 Peter and Judy Obermeyer
 Daniel and Patricia O'Leary
 David and Gloria Olsen
 Gerald and Cheryl Orn
 Osprey Enterprises, Inc



GALA 2009



GALA 2008



GALA 2006



GALA 2010

John and Cheryl Ossenfort
 Geoff Paine and Elizabeth Kessler
 Gail Pashek
 Jon and Mary Peterson
 Edward J. and Peggy L. Pluimer
 Abby Prawdzik
 Private Bank Minnesota
 James and Martha Ramuta
 Frank and Diane Reiter
 Richfield Bloomington Honda
 Optimist Club of Richfield
 Richfield/Bloomington Credit Union
 Kevin and Dede Ries
 Michele Rifkin
 James W. Rustad
 Dan Schoengardt
 Maureen Scholl
 Edward and Judy Schuck
 Mari Scotch
 Ray Seeger and Nancy Lavander Seeger
 Simek's Inc.
 Sirna & Sons, Inc. (Sirna & Sons Produce)
 Beverly Slocumb
 Kathleen Smith

**Our Student Speaker
from Gala 2009...**

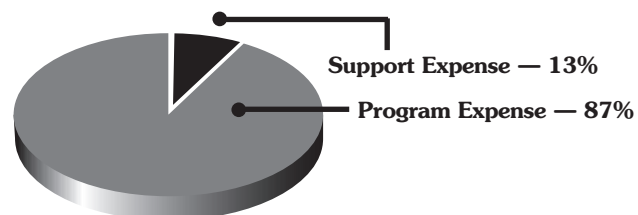
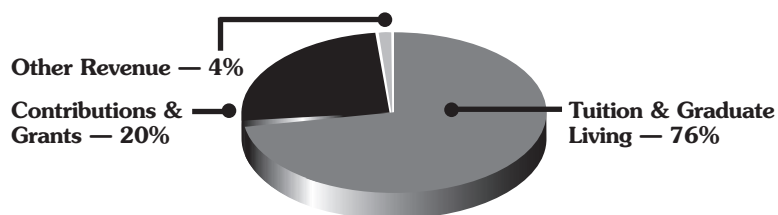
"With all I went through before MLC, I wish all young adults with learning differences could have had a chance to experience the greatness MLC has to offer. I wouldn't have come as far as I have in all that I have done personally and professionally. I am very fortunate to have had MLC as one of the contributors of my independence. By further developing my social skills, finding [my wife], and getting to know my neighbors, MLC has profoundly given me the opportunity to serve and be successful in all my life's adventures."

— Eric Ostlie, 1999 graduate

John Behr and Pamela Smuda-Behr
 Douglas A. and Wendy L. Steele
 Steven and Lori Stein
 Scott and Cynthia Stillwell
 Mark C. Taylor and Jane Mercier
 Corrine Tekavec
 The Walmart Foundation
 Kay A. Thomas
 John F. and Jill L. Thompson
 Jean Thomson
 Lyle and Gail Torgerson
 Robert and Ardelle Torkelson
 Kent and Loretta Trulson
 Brandt Uthus
 Mike and Robin Vaughan
 Cheryl Vogel
 Jerry and Jody Warring
 Lew and Laura Webb
 Brad and Wendy Whitmore
 Derek and Sarah Wippich
 Sally Witham
 J. Stavely and Ellen Wright
 Xcel Energy Foundation Matching Program

Statement of Activities / July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Revenue and Support			
Contributions and Grants	\$ 99,562	\$ 25,000	\$ 124,562
Gala (net)	221,117	-	221,117
Tuition and Fees	1,385,800		1,385,800
Interest Income	5,420		5,420
In-Kind Donations	53,001		6,935
Miscellaneous Income	6,935		12,687
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	55,000	(55,000)	-
Total Revenue and Support	\$ 1,826,835	\$ (30,000)	\$ 1,856,835
Expenses			
Program	\$ 1,593,313		\$ 1,593,313
Support/Fundraising	242,008		242,008
Total Expenses	\$ 1,835,321		\$ 1,835,321
Change in Net Assets	\$ (8,486)	\$ 30,000	\$ 38,486
Net Assets			
Beginning of Year	\$ 1,045,490		\$ 1,045,490
End of Year	\$ 932,004	\$ 75,000	\$ 1,007,004



Minnesota Life College - Balance Sheet

	<u>June 30, 2011</u>	<u>June 30, 2010</u>
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 688,782	\$ 839,836
Certificates of deposit	250,964	59,116
Accounts and grants receivable	103,280	106,809
Prepaid expenses	28,970	33,291
Security deposits	4,650	4,950
Total current assets	1,076,646	1,044,002
Grants receivable, long term	25,000	50,000
Property and equipment, net	102,168	55,844
Total assets	\$ 1,203,814	\$ 1,149,846
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 36,035	\$ 20,974
Prepaid tuition and fees	108,593	42,591
Accrued payroll	43,228	30,791
Student security deposits	8,954	10,000
Total current liabilities	196,810	104,356
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets		
Undesignated	626,127	645,613
Designated	305,877	294,877
Total unrestricted net assets	932,004	940,490
Temporarily restricted net assets	75,000	105,000
Total net assets	1,007,004	1,045,490
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 1,203,814	\$ 1,149,846



2010-2011 Staff, Boards and Partners

Administrative Staff

Erin Boe, *Executive Assistant*
 Marty Danielson, *Marketing Assistant*
 Denise Ciola, *Accountant*
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 Amy Gudmestad, *Director of
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 Lori Johnson, *Marketing Assistant*
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 Human Resources*
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Director of Programs
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 Trisha Lee, *Job Coach Specialist*
 Karen Remer, *Emergency On-call
 Liason*
 Marnie Sanders, *Graduate Living
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 David Swenson, *Job Coach*
 Kelly Ulrick, *Independent Living
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 Rich Youngberg, *Campus and
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 Alan Garelick
 Sheila Kevitt
 Debbie McGovern
 Meng Moua
 Jason Smith
 Jodie Watkins
 Genevieve West

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 Fresh Marketing, *Social Media
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 Graphic Answers, *Graphic Designer*
 Intrinsic Management, *Gala
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 Brandt Uthus

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 Cheryl Vogel, Wisconsin

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 Pamela Mills
 Greg Patnode
 Jeff Thayer

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Arc's Value Village Thrift Store
 Babies R Us
 Best Buy
 Bioscrip
 Byerly's
 CSM – The Depot
 Chelsea's Café
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 Kowlaski's
 Lifeworks
 Mainstreet Assisted Living
 Minnesota Masonic Homes
 Mount Olivet Nursing Home
 Opportunity Partners
 Richfield Bloomington Honda
 Surdyk's
 Walgreens
 Walker Elder Suites
 Wilderness Inquiry

National Advisory Board

Our National Advisory Board is comprised of experts in the fields of learning differences, vocational/employment skills and program evaluation and research. Members come from all parts of the country; they have visited the campus, understand the program and believe that what we are doing at Minnesota Life College is making a difference for the future of those with learning differences and autism spectrum disorders.

John Belew, PhD, M.S., R.N., C.D.D.N.
 Kari Dunn Buron, M.S.
 Paul Gerber, PhD.
 Joan Gerring, M.D.
 Karen Goedken, P.H.N., M.S.
 Stephen Hargarten, M.D., M.P.H.
 Beverly Hatlen, M.P.H, P.H.N., R.N.

Brenda Smith Myles, PhD.
 Cindy Nollette, M.A., L.P.
 Cheryl Ossenfort, PhD.
 Valerie Paradiz, PhD.
 Ann Ryan, PhD.
 L. Lynn Stansberry-Brusnahan, PhD.

Experiential Learning Advocate
\$1 - \$249

Stu and Ann Ackman
Deb Albersman
Cindy Allen
Jerry and Judy Alyea
Ameriprise Financial Employee
Giving Campaign
E.J. Anderson
Steven A. Anderson
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Peter and Paula Baggerman
Debra and Kevin Ball
Ralston and Carolyn Barnard
Blake and Nancy Barnes
Cory Barnes
Laura Beal
William and Janet Beckman
Terry Beller
Thomas and Pamela Beltrand
Stephen and Kirstin Bengtson
Ken Benson
Gilbert and Mary Bernal
Drew Beson
Randolph and Cheryl Bias
T. and W. Bieser
Brad Blackett
Kathleen Blair
Bryan Blissenbach
Erin Boe
Craig A. Bonde
Julius and Sarah Bonello
Raymond Borens and Kristin Sigford
Boyum and Barendsheer, PLLP
Kevin and Debra Braaten
Colleen Bracy
Susan Bradshaw
Kay Tally and Debra Branson
Bremer Bank
Julie Brewster
Kenneth Broin
Scott and Kerry Brons
Cherie Browne
Steve and Hala Buck
Crystal Buckhalton
Lucius and Donna Bunton
John and Sheree Bylsma
Michael and Barbara Byrne
Jeffrey and Jennifer Cadwell
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Bill Cedarleaf and Linda Rolontz
Denise Ciola
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Christine and Josh Cleveland
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Tammy Ecklund



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Andrea and John Fagan, Jr.
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Julianna Finzen
Vernon P. Fischbach
Leila Fischer
Peg Flanagan
Connie R. Fleming
Dennis and Linda Ford
Wesley C. Frank
James and B.J. Freeman
Richard and Raleigh Fromstein
George and Rose Funk
Julie Gabriel
Joseph and Laurie Geisel
Christina A. Geng
Faye and Lawrence Gibis
Joel and Sara Ginsberg
Anthony and Rachel Giunta
Sean P. Gleeson
Deborah Goettel
Marjorie Goldberg
Alice Govig
Robert and Susan Greenberg
Fern Gudmestad
Kim and Kay Gudmestad
Gustavus Adolphus College
Adam & Eve Hairstyling
Lucinda Hallet
Thomas and Julie Harber
Jamie Harmon
Scott Harmon
Dwight Zulauf and Kathryn Harris
Paul and Bonnie Hayes
Mary Jo and Jerry Helmbrecht
Linda A. Hermanson
George Hertz
Timothy K. Hibbard
Maureen Higgins
Amy Hobday
Jerry and Phyllis Hoffman
Joseph Holan
Leif and Ida Mae Holter

Christine Huesers
Patrick and Stephanie Huss
Independent Service Company
Inspiring Web of Women
C. James and Cynthia Irvine
Michael and Katherine Jacobs
Christopher and Kathleen James
Kristin and Trevor James
Gary and Jackie Johnson
Lori and Joel Johnson
Bradley and Margaret Johnston
Rusty and Adrienne Jonas
J. Woodfin Jones
Arthur and Elizabeth Jurchisin
Mary Justice
Kenton Kalamaha
Ronna Kaplan
Scott and Pamela Kaplan
Andrew Kellermann
Jane Stein Kerr
Ronald and Pamela Ketchem
Brant Kingman
Roger Kipp
Martin Kirsch
Pamela Knous
Stephen and Laura Kolar
Michael Kraft
R. Michael and Janet Kroeger
Nicole Krolikowski
Gene C. Kuehne
Cindy and John Kuhne
David and Barbara Kutz
Jerome and Valerie Kylo
Thomas Kylo
J.M. and R.J. LaMere
Linda Lane
Julie Lang
Joshua Larson
Susan Larson
Laurie Lavigne
Thomas and Barbara Lee
John and Ann LeGray
Arthur and Marcia Lowell
Mary Beth Lynch Crandall
William and Jodie Mackintosh
Charles and Teresa Mahar
Mannequin in Motion
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Our Student Speaker from Gala 2007...

"I have developed skills that I once thought were impossible. I have risen above the flood waters and life has never looked better. MLC helps students get their lives into focus. MLC helped me to sharpen the picture, and to see all that was possible."
 — *Evan Tulman, 2006 graduate*

Annual Giving
 through June 30, 2011



MLC Partnership Program In Kind Support

July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011 This program is an important source of operational support; the MLC Partners provide assistance in the form of in-kind donations and services.

Our Student Speaker from Gala 2010...

"It is wonderful to have good friends. I am not afraid to live by myself. I see myself as pretty financially and emotionally independent because of the support of my parents, the MLC staff, and the Graduate Living Community Program. I look forward to continuing with work and participating in the GLC program – and a BIG thank you for your unwavering support.

— *Anna-Lisa Oberg, 2003 graduate*



Our Student Speaker from Gala 2011...

"At MLC I learned how to be sociable and how to live on my own and stay healthy. I learned to buy groceries and cook for myself. I learned how to stand up for myself, how to be assertive. I also learned that I do know how to go out and do things with other people. MLC teaches students about the importance of physical fitness and regular exercise. To sum it all up, MLC teaches you how to get ready for the real world. I am proud to be independent—MLC is a great place!"

— *Cory Barnes, 2004 graduate*

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July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

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Thank you to our Gala 2011 Sponsors!

April 30, 2011 was another hugely successful evening of raising dollars for the scholarships and programs for Minnesota Life College. A special thanks to the sponsors that supported this event.



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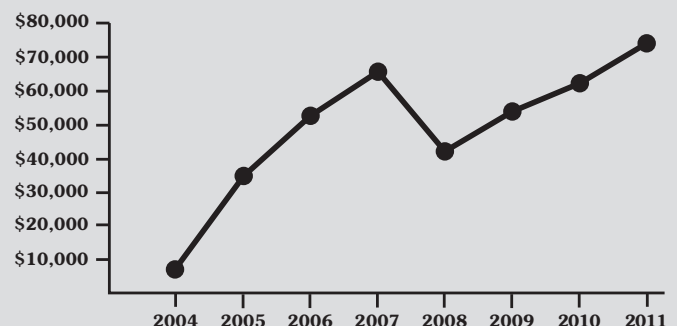
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Generous Sponsors Over the Years...

Corporate and family sponsorship dollars have grown nearly 1000% in eight years! This reflects the generosity of our corporate and family givers and the increasing awareness of MLC's work in the community.



Gala Beginnings

Purpose

Since 1996, Minnesota Life College (MLC) has been transforming the lives of some extraordinary young adults; the need for programs like ours has never been greater. In the spring of 2004, and after some reflection on MLC's growth as an organization, the board, families and staff realized that over half of our student families rely on additional support to be able to attend Minnesota Life College.

MLC wanted to find a meaningful way to grow community awareness, recognize past, and cultivate future donors and supporters while raising funds for student scholarships. With just six weeks to prepare, our staff and all-volunteer committees jumped right in, and the annual Gala was born. The first Gala saw sell-out numbers with over 220 guests in attendance. New collaborations were formed and with the generous support from our sponsors, donors, and community partners, the 2004 Gala raised over \$115,000 for student scholarships and programs.

Although the Gala continues to grow each year, MLC remains grounded by our mission to prepare young adults for lives of independence. We are humbled by and continue to recognize all that has brought us to where we are today.



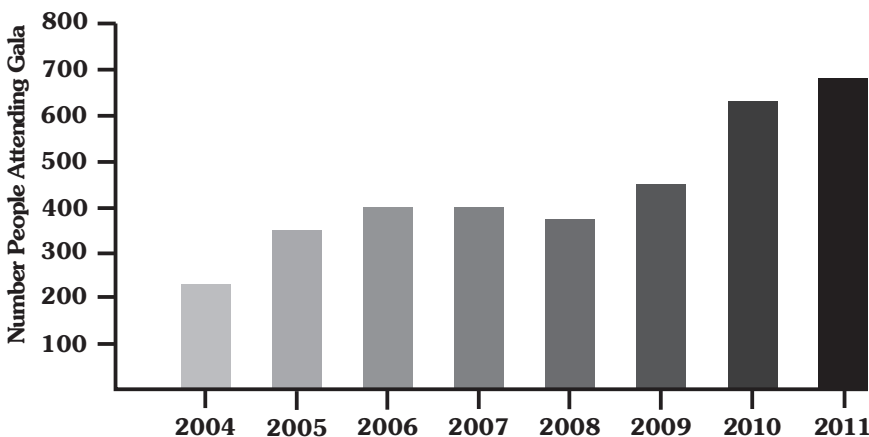
Growth & Support

MLC changes the lives of young adults as they learn the skills to be personally and financially self-sufficient; the annual Gala helps make this possible. Over the past eight Gala events, our growing circle of support has seen over \$1.3 million scholarship dollars raised; what started as a couple hundred attendees, has grown to nearly 700; our sponsorships and event donations are flourishing.

Program participant speeches center on life challenges, experiences, and successes, all told in their own words. Our students are the reason MLC and the Gala exist, serving as the inspiration for our Gala themes and logos. Each year as our students and graduates see and learn new things,

they also understand more about themselves. The “eyes” on our Gala logos are the young adults’ eyes, and Minnesota Life College is their lifelong partner who helps them see all that they can be.

Each of our students is as unique as every Gala. Now known for being one of the most casual, fun, themed-dress code, and fast-paced events around, the annual celebration enjoys family- and corporate-sponsored silent and live auction items, fabulous food, games, raffles, prizes and pledge drives—each of which gives hope to and raises funds for our students; supporting them on their paths of independence.





Our Student Speaker from Gala 2011...

"At MLC I've learned how to speak up for myself. The staff at MLC really helped me find ways to advocate for myself and get what I need and want. This has made all the difference.

I can take care of my apartment, cook for myself, take the bus where I want to go, and make friends. MLC really has changed my life. I am better at communicating. I am happier. And I have more confidence."

—Jeffery Monzingo, 2011 graduate

Impact

The scholarship funds raised from our Gala events have made it possible for more students to attend the program. The event continues to raise the awareness of MLC to the local community nonprofits and area organizations, as their participation in the Gala has evolved into job offers,

donations, strategy, and support. MLC is grateful for all the help we receive from our partners.

Each year through our programs, fundraisers, and Gala events, we continue to demonstrate how collaborations of all sorts can change lives for the students and families we serve.



The MLC Gala logo. What it all means.

In 2004, the board and staff at Minnesota Life College decided to take on the enormous challenge of holding a fundraising benefit. Early in the project, they contacted me to design a logo to appear on all the Gala materials.

To the delight of all, it was a huge success.

The committee wanted the logo to be fun and colorful to reflect the atmosphere of the Gala. They also wanted to echo the theme and venue. The first theme was 'It's A Jungle Out There' and was held at the Minnesota Zoo. But the most important element of the logo, was that it needed to capture the spirit of MLC students. The Gala is for the students and graduates. Since then, seven more Gala events have been held, each one utilizing a logo based on the original, but modified for the theme and venue. The 2012 gala is well underway with a new, exciting theme.

The consistent elements of the logo that appear each year are the searching, inquisitive eyes which represent the students' exploration of a new world opened up to them through MLC. A small fingerprint appears in the background symbolizing the uniqueness of each individual student and his or her way of learning, and the special potential that each one has.

It's been a joy to design the image of MLC's Gala over the years.

—Nancy Lavander Seeger
graphic designer at Graphic Answers

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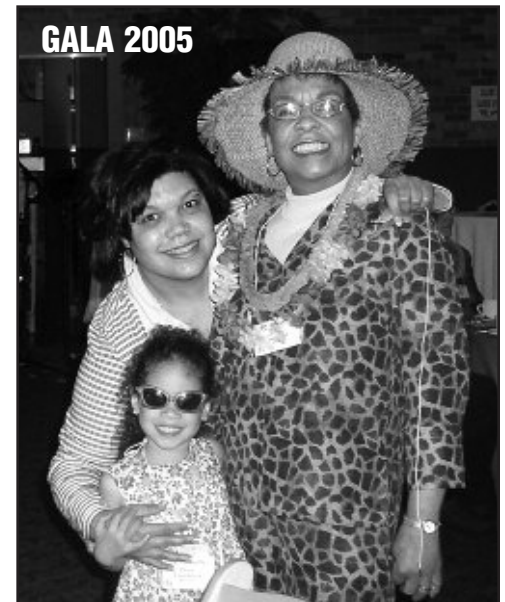
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Integrity
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Team work

Fun

Community
Experiential Learning



Lifetime Giving through June 30, 2011



The Hatlen Leadership Circle

This donor program recognizes the leadership and philanthropic support of individuals and organizations that have demonstrated their outstanding commitment to the program through private gift support. It was Roe and Beverly Hatlen who had the courage to dream big, and the passion to



make their dream come true and establish a place where "young adults with learning differences will have a place to go, to be accepted and to grow and mature, just as our other children have when they go off to college".

Our Student Speaker from Gala 2005...

“MLC taught me the importance of doing things on my own, how to listen to others, and not taking the easy way out. MLC has taught me some valuable lessons on how to deal with this daily stress. I was also able to learn household management, cooking, the required skills for keeping a job, getting to work on time, calling in sick, things like that—vocational, and other independent living skills. Through activities and meetings, I have stayed and maintained [my] friendships. MLC has been valuable for all of my friends, maintaining independence and having a system of support in place for life.”

— Sarah Owen, 2003 graduate

Annual Giving through June 30, 2011

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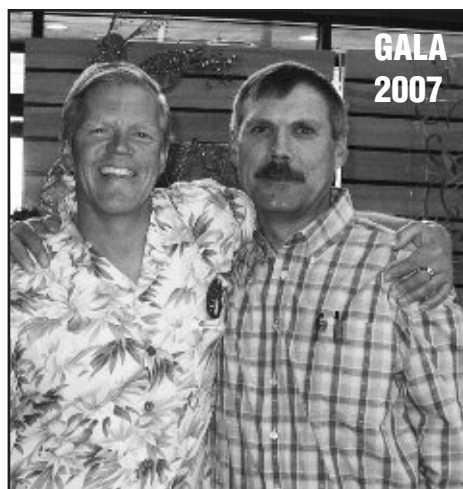
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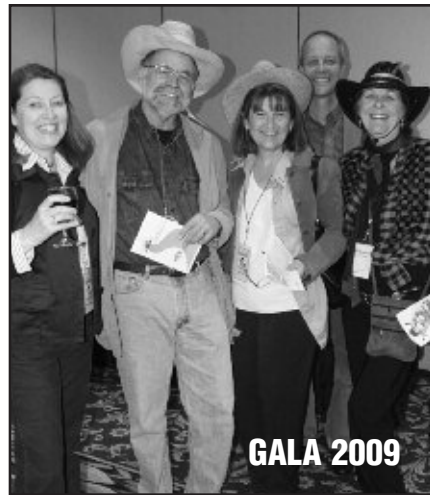
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**Our Student Speaker
from Gala 2009...**

"With all I went through before MLC, I wish all young adults with learning differences could have had a chance to experience the greatness MLC has to offer. I wouldn't have come as far as I have in all that I have done personally and professionally. I am very fortunate to have had MLC as one of the contributors of my independence. By further developing my social skills, finding [my wife], and getting to know my neighbors, MLC has profoundly given me the opportunity to serve and be successful in all my life's adventures."

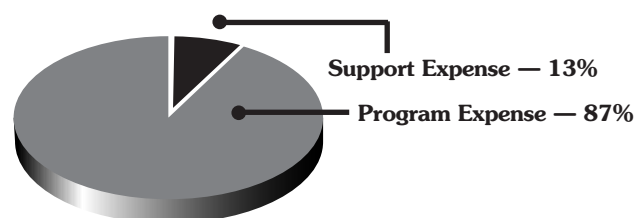
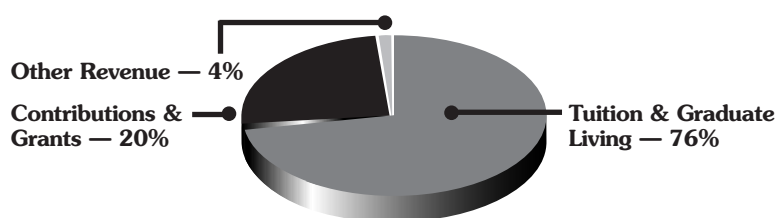
— Eric Ostlie, 1999 graduate

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Statement of Activities / July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Revenue and Support			
Contributions and Grants	\$ 99,562	\$ 25,000	\$ 124,562
Gala (net)	221,117	-	221,117
Tuition and Fees	1,385,800		1,385,800
Interest Income	5,420		5,420
In-Kind Donations	53,001		6,935
Miscellaneous Income	6,935		12,687
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	55,000	(55,000)	-
Total Revenue and Support	\$ 1,826,835	\$ (30,000)	\$ 1,856,835
Expenses			
Program	\$ 1,593,313		\$ 1,593,313
Support/Fundraising	242,008		242,008
Total Expenses	\$ 1,835,321		\$ 1,835,321
Change in Net Assets	\$ (8,486)	\$ 30,000	\$ 38,486
Net Assets			
Beginning of Year	\$ 1,045,490		\$ 1,045,490
End of Year	\$ 932,004	\$ 75,000	\$ 1,007,004



Minnesota Life College - Balance Sheet

	<u>June 30, 2011</u>	<u>June 30, 2010</u>
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 688,782	\$ 839,836
Certificates of deposit	250,964	59,116
Accounts and grants receivable	103,280	106,809
Prepaid expenses	28,970	33,291
Security deposits	4,650	4,950
Total current assets	1,076,646	1,044,002
Grants receivable, long term	25,000	50,000
Property and equipment, net	102,168	55,844
Total assets	\$ 1,203,814	\$ 1,149,846
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 36,035	\$ 20,974
Prepaid tuition and fees	108,593	42,591
Accrued payroll	43,228	30,791
Student security deposits	8,954	10,000
Total current liabilities	196,810	104,356
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets		
Undesignated	626,127	645,613
Designated	305,877	294,877
Total unrestricted net assets	932,004	940,490
Temporarily restricted net assets	75,000	105,000
Total net assets	1,007,004	1,045,490
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 1,203,814	\$ 1,149,846



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Our National Advisory Board is comprised of experts in the fields of learning differences, vocational/employment skills and program evaluation and research. Members come from all parts of the country; they have visited the campus, understand the program and believe that what we are doing at Minnesota Life College is making a difference for the future of those with learning differences and autism spectrum disorders.

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Our Student Speaker from Gala 2007...

"I have developed skills that I once thought were impossible. I have risen above the flood waters and life has never looked better. MLC helps students get their lives into focus. MLC helped me to sharpen the picture, and to see all that was possible."
 — *Evan Tulman, 2006 graduate*

Annual Giving
 through June 30, 2011



MLC Partnership Program In Kind Support

July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011 This program is an important source of operational support; the MLC Partners provide assistance in the form of in-kind donations and services.

Our Student Speaker from Gala 2010...

"It is wonderful to have good friends. I am not afraid to live by myself. I see myself as pretty financially and emotionally independent because of the support of my parents, the MLC staff, and the Graduate Living Community Program. I look forward to continuing with work and participating in the GLC program – and a BIG thank you for your unwavering support.

— Anna-Lisa Oberg, 2003 graduate



Our Student Speaker from Gala 2011...

"At MLC I learned how to be sociable and how to live on my own and stay healthy. I learned to buy groceries and cook for myself. I learned how to stand up for myself, how to be assertive. I also learned that I do know how to go out and do things with other people. MLC teaches students about the importance of physical fitness and regular exercise. To sum it all up, MLC teaches you how to get ready for the real world. I am proud to be independent—MLC is a great place!"

— Cory Barnes, 2004 graduate

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July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

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