

# TRENDING

## #REALLIFE@MLC



### INSIDE:

#1 a blueprint for the future #2 campus improvement #7 program reinforcements  
#8-9 adding it all up #10-16 stronger through your support! #17 meet the crew

# #RealSkillsForRealLife

**Our Vision:** A world where individuals on the autism spectrum and with learning differences thrive and are valued.

**The mission of MLC** is to **transform** the lives of individuals and families affected by autism spectrum and learning differences.

We **educate** individuals in **Real Skills for Real Life™** so that they may achieve sustained independent living, rewarding employment, financial security, personal growth, and responsible citizenship.

We **adapt, evaluate, and continuously improve** our methods, recognizing and valuing each individual's skills, contributions, and dreams.

We **champion** our students and graduates, carry their successes into the world, and collaborate with others in service of our vision.

## **OUR VALUES:**

**EXPERIENTIAL  
LEARNING**

**COMMUNITY**

**FUN**

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

**TEAMWORK**

**PARTNERSHIPS**

**INTEGRITY**



did  
you  
know

Individuals with ASD and LD do not have shorter life spans as found with other disabilities, meaning these individuals will likely outlive their parents.

# #ExecutiveDirectorsDesk

*I am so proud of the work that MLC is achieving!*



The combined efforts of our families, employees and board of directors over the years have helped us consistently deliver high-quality programs, while evaluating and continually improving our work. This year we worked to enhance our curriculum, refine our measurement tools, and improve job development outcomes for our students and CLP members.

As a result of this work, we are growing. **We are now directly serving 90 individuals and 270 family members** in our Community Living and Undergraduate programs.

Our measurement and assessment work has evolved over the last decade, and we are now able to **clearly show the results of our work** with solid data. Undergraduate students are evaluated at the end of each semester using competencies in six skill areas we believe are critical for successful independent living. We are excited to have this data at our fingertips to ensure that the work we do is truly making a difference.



I was thrilled this summer when Heather Dupont, our Measurement and Outcomes Coordinator, shared the results of the 2014-15 Undergraduate Program Evaluation with me. The seniors who graduated in May 2015 demonstrated a **56% increase in their independent living skills** from their freshman to senior year. Congratulations, Class of 2015!

Looking forward, the **MLC2024** strategic plan calls for the organization to prepare our Work Readiness program to stay current with workplace trends; expand accessibility to our programs in all areas; and identify the support needs of individuals we serve as they age, including Community Living Program members. **We believe that all individuals on the Autism Spectrum and with learning differences should have the chance to learn** in environments and with methods that support their unique ways of approaching our world.



Finally, I want to commend the community that makes up MLC, the individuals we serve, their families, our employees, our volunteers, and the outside professionals and employers who engage with our work. Your commitment to our belief that everyone should have the opportunity to participate in a full life has opened a space for our young adults to be employed. This access to employment has given them a place in our community, the ability to contribute, and live as independent a life as possible.

Let's continue to listen, learn, and improve together!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Amy Gudmestad".

Amy Gudmestad  
Executive Director

did  
you  
know

500,000 individuals with ASD and LD in the United States will graduate from high school over the next 10 years.

# #Noteworthy

2014-15 was a year of milestones at MLC. In addition to the many “firsts” noted here, the organization was also bestowed with several awards recognizing its commitment to students, staff, and the community. See page 16 to learn more.

- July** Four students landed new paid summer camp internships through True Friends.
- August** MLC launched a newly created performance development system for employees.
- September** CLP developed a new activities program to increase social engagement for members.
- October** The estate of Fran Holden notified us of our first planned gift.
- November** Our annual John Lighty Interagency event, in partnership with AuSM and the University of St. Thomas, drew over 200 people.
- January** A 403(b) match was offered to our staff for the first time, signaling financial strength.
- February** Executive Director Amy Gudmestad was chosen for *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal's* “BizWomen Mentoring Monday.”
- March** Our annual Gala benefit drew a record crowd of over 800 guests and netted over \$330,000.
- April** A *Sun Current* article featured MLC students and their involvement in the community. MLC staff gave a national presentation at the prestigious Marbridge Symposium in Texas.
- May** Congratulations to eight seniors, seven of whom were employed upon graduation!
- June** The Undergraduate Program completed a comprehensive update of its curriculum. MLC received a grant from the Rotary Club of Edina for staff mental health training.



# #RealTalk

*Trevor Pettigrew's Gala speech was a trending topic during the March event and for weeks afterward. We chose some special excerpts from his speech to share here. Be prepared to LOL.*



Hello. I don't know if any of you remember, but last year, Rowan's mom gave a speech. It was heartfelt, genuine, and said so much in just six minutes. My expectations were high for this year's speech giver. I wholly anticipated that they'd settle for nothing less than a brilliant, groundbreaking genius.

But instead they picked me.



While you come to terms with that, I'll tell the story of my MLC odyssey. Learning is different at MLC. We learn people skills, such as how to get a job, how to get a place to live, and how to socialize. These useful skills aren't as straightforward as everyone thinks, and yet everyone just expects you to know them. **They don't teach you these things in high school or "regular" college.** At MLC we learn to be independent. At first, I thought it simply meant doing all the routine stuff—like chores, shopping, and homework—without being told. I've often been told how fortunate I am that I can already do those things, but for many people it's a struggle. I didn't get why at first, but I learned that everyone struggles with different things. I mean, I've done lots of volunteer work, but **I don't have a paying job yet, and I find the process of obtaining one to be needlessly tedious, convoluted, and frustrating.**



Since coming to MLC, I have changed. I often beat myself up over mistakes because I have the "I have to be perfect" mindset. It has definitely lessened, but it's still there. I felt like I had to live up to my little brother. He was just perfect, and everything always seemed to go well for him. I know that's not true, but that's just how it seemed. At MLC I gained some perspective. I have friends who like me for me. I have my own merits that I'll use to my advantage. I have a genuine desire to improve myself, and I'll continue to do so at my own pace. **I'm not inferior. I'm me.**

After I overcame a small problem recently, my advisor Dylan handed me a notebook and asked me to keep track of my successes and moments of happiness. I agreed to give it a try, and that alone shows how far I've come. The old me would have immediately dismissed the idea as a sign of weakness. And he would've missed out on something life-changing. I began to record things in the journal and share them in advisory. Before long, I was student of the month for November, and **here I am conquering crippling stage fright to give a speech to hundreds of people.** It's amazing what one little book can do, isn't it?

In the future, I want to help others learn and grow. Lots of people teach me things and give me enlightening talks, but I want to do that for other people. Well, who knows? Maybe for a few of you, I just did. Thanks for listening.

**Trevor Pettigrew, Class of 2015**

did  
you  
know

For the third year in a row, MLC's employment rate was over 90% in 2014-15.

# #EveryStage

## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM UG

The three-year Undergraduate Program (UG) focuses on building fundamental living and employment skills. Our holistic, strengths-based model encourages students to learn using the methods most effective for them and practice their skills in a safe and supportive environment. During the first two years of the program, students are introduced to a vocational curriculum and volunteer work opportunities where they gain work and social experience in a “real world” setting. They learn and practice job skills, personal financial management, self-management, social skills, self-esteem building, leadership development, and fitness and nutrition. During their senior year, students continue practicing their skills and begin the transition to independent living by participating in internships or attending traditional postsecondary educational institutions. Upon graduation, our students are prepared to enter the workforce and take their next steps toward independence.

## COMMUNITY LIVING PROGRAM CLP

The Community Living Program (CLP) was designed for qualified MLC graduates to continue to stay connected to us as they pursue independent living in the surrounding communities. Established in 2005, the CLP’s unique and flexible structure provides individual services to those who have completed the undergraduate program successfully, live within close proximity to the Colony Apartment Complex, and are employed and/or continuing their education. CLP members work closely with our staff to maintain active, meaningful lives. The program can be customized to meet individual and family needs while fostering social activity and independence through a wide variety of educational, healthy living, and social activities. Professionals are available to assist members with employment, independent living, and interpersonal skills as needed. This unique, life-long opportunity promotes healthy, happy, successful living.

## SUMMER PROGRAMS SIP & POP

High school and transition-age students from across the country come to MLC each summer to live independently away from home during our three-week Summer Internship Program (SIP). Students practice work skills at local employer internships, learn how to live with roommates and manage an apartment, and make lifelong friends while exploring the active and vibrant Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Participants leave the program with a solid understanding of their strengths, skills, and abilities, and a new outlook for their potential. Our week-long Pre-Orientation Program (POP) is designed for students who have ASD (or other learning differences like ADD, ADHD, or anxiety) who are enrolled or interested in attending a traditional college or university. The POP program helps these students prepare for campus life, orientation programs, and other important resources they may need to make their first campus experience fun and successful.



# #MeasuringUp

For nearly 20 years, Minnesota Life College has been transforming the lives of individuals and families impacted by the autism spectrum and learning differences. Our holistic *Real Skills for Real Life*™ model ensures that young adults, starting at age 17, can learn the skills needed to live independent, self-sufficient, whole lives. The impact of our program can be seen beyond those individuals we serve, as MLC also serves the families of each participant.

## INDIVIDUALS SERVED

# 365

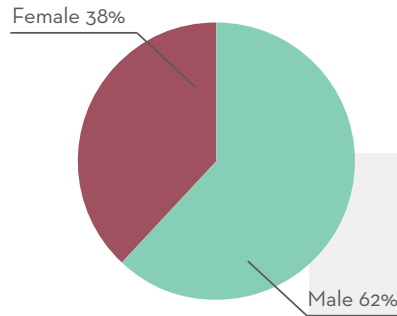
## #REALRESULTS

In 2014-15, students completed a total of **7,700** hours of work-readiness vocational training, including on-the-job Training Internship Hours.

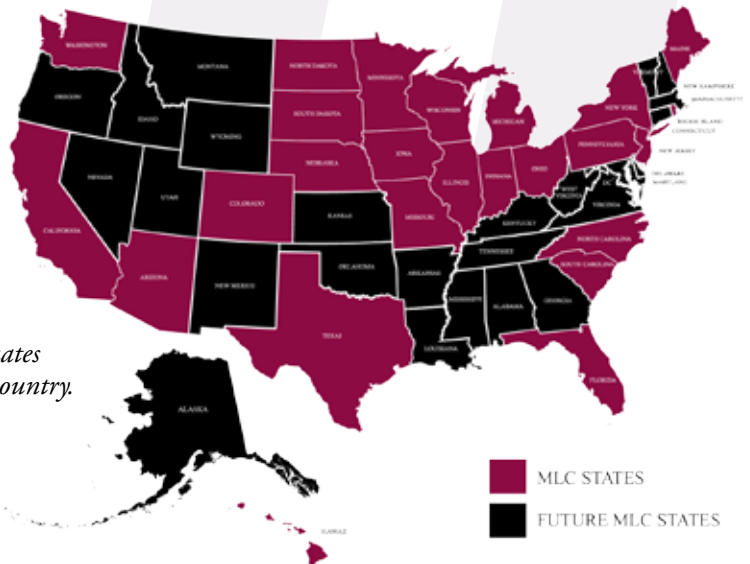
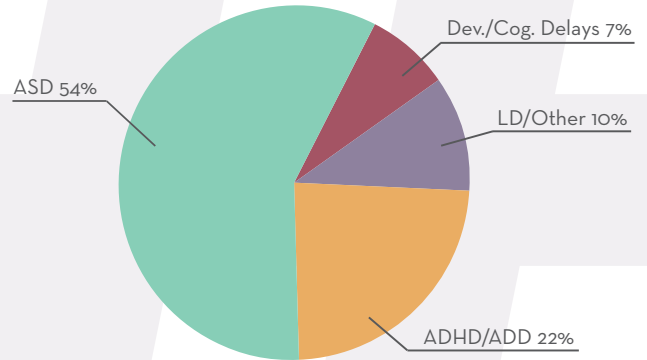
In the same year, we saw an improvement of **77%** in our students' ability to develop positive relationships and find support outside of their family to help with money management and other independent living necessities.

**91%** of parents surveyed in 2014-15 believe their students know where to get help when they need it. Our **1 to 4** staff-to-student ratio makes it easy for undergraduates to find that assistance, day or night.

### GENDER



### PRIMARY DIAGNOSES



*Our students and graduates come from all over the country. In 2014-15 alone, 25 states were represented.*

did you know?

The typical MLC freshman is a 21-year-old male with an IQ of 85.

# #Champions

**We love our community partners.** The success of our students and graduates depends upon collaboration with individuals, organizations, and businesses. Meet our 2014-15 Community Champions, chosen for their dedication to MLC's mission:



## **Jim Shagh - Individual Award**

Jim has volunteered countless hours over the last decade as a dedicated member of the MLC Board of Directors, most recently serving as Board Treasurer. His diligent oversight of MLC's finances has been a tremendous value to our organization. Jim does not have a son or daughter involved in the program; his work has purely been from his heart and his passion for our mission. Thank you, Jim!



## **The Conflict Resolution Center - Organization Award**

The Conflict Resolution Center (CRC), in operation for over 30 years, provided training to give our staff the knowledge and skills to start our own Resolution Team and bring the core principles of restorative justice to MLC. They selected mediators who were perfect matches, to help our students resolve conflicts. CRC helped us implement the circle process to facilitate better communication among students and staff. We are so grateful for CRC!



## **Walgreens - Corporate Award**

Walgreens has hired several MLC graduates (Anna Lisa and Cory, at left, have worked at the Edina store on York Avenue for over 12 years each!) and provides retail training and internships to many of our students. Ross Hotovec, the regional manager at the Yorktown Walgreens, even traveled to Chicago last summer to help MLC present at a national conference. We are indebted to Walgreens for championing our students and graduates and giving them a chance to thrive in the community.

## **INTERNSHIP SITES**

Alzheimer's Association  
Arc's Value Village  
Catholic Eldercare  
Emerson Industrial Automation  
MLC Welcome Center  
Minneapolis Central Library  
Minnesota Masonic Homes  
Mission Outpost  
Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly  
Real Biscuits for Real Dogs  
Residence Inn Marriott -  
Bloomington  
Southdale YMCA  
Walgreens  
Wooddale Academy

## **Please join us in recognizing our other valued partners and employers in 2014-15:**

9th Planet	Dorsey & Whitney, L.L.P.	Otness Management
Allina Health Richfield Clinic	Edina Chamber of Commerce	Richfield Police and Fire
AMF Southtown Lanes	Edina Rotary	Richfield Bloomington Honda
The Arc Greater Twin Cities	Fairview Southdale Hospital	Richfield Chamber of Commerce
Autism Law & Advocacy Center, L.L.C.	Hennepin County	Southdale YMCA
Autism Society of Minnesota	Metro Mobility	TCF Bank
B.E.R. Food Consortium	Metro Transit	TopLine Federal Credit Union
Best Buy	Metropolitan Airports Commission	Tri City Health Partnership
Artistry at Bloomington Center for the Arts	Minneapolis Community and Technical College	True Friends
The Conflict Resolution Center C.O.P.E.	myHealth for Teens and Young Adults	United Educators Credit Union
CSM Corporation	Northern Tier Energy	University of St. Thomas
City of Bloomington	Nutritional Weight & Wellness	University of Minnesota Institute for Community Integration
City of Richfield	Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly	University of Minnesota School of Public Health
The Depot Minneapolis	Opportunity Partners	University of Wisconsin-Stout
		Woodlake Lutheran Church

did  
you  
know

For the third year in a row, MLC's employment rate was over 90%. Nine new employers provided jobs. Every senior, and even some juniors, got at least one paycheck by May's graduation ceremony!



# #Impact



The true success of our three-year Undergraduate Program is measured in those who complete it and go on to live a life of independence with a little help from a strong network of friends, service providers, and family members.

2014-15 was the first official year of the Community Living Program, or CLP (formerly the Graduate Living Community), which renewed its dedication to providing a framework to foster independence and enable our graduates to lead a fulfilling life. To help seniors integrate into CLP early in their final year, we revamped the Positive Transitions class to discuss life after graduation. All but one of our graduating seniors opted to become a part of our community, with one intrepid individual setting off to pursue a degree in a specialized area of study. We also welcomed back two graduates who had previously moved away, then opted to return to the new CLP.

2014-15 saw an enhancement of CLP's wellness programming. Collaborating with healthcare interns and community partners, we were able to tackle head-on some of the unhealthy habits that remain a common struggle for those who learn differently.

As part of a capstone project for his master's in nursing at the University of Minnesota, Health and Wellness Specialist Tyler Roenicke created the *Biggest Achiever* program. This innovative challenge, based on a popular weight loss show, was aimed at creating social interest in wellness, promoting changes in thought processes and behaviors, and using healthy competition in an engaging environment. Participants lost more than 50 pounds collectively, and members continue to strive to meet their wellness goals.

CLP knows social engagement is a major factor in overall wellness. We increased the number and variety of activities for members, and in 2014-15 we offered an average of 85 opportunities per month. Some popular activities include: CLP's 5K Club; *Food for Thought* Healthy Cooking Class; *Kingdom Quest* Fitness Competition; and *Lunch with Leadership*, a chance to socialize with director-level staff. Trips to Chicago and the beaches of Florida provided some much-needed R & R .

## #CLPHIGHLIGHTS

In 2014-15, **83%** of CLP members chose to live in the Colony Apartment complex, where they have built lasting friendships.

**71%** of CLP members took part in at least two activities every month, and a few averaged over 15 per month!

At the end of last year, **88%** of graduating seniors had a paying job, allowing them to take a big step toward true independence.



CLP membership surpassed Undergraduate Program enrollment in 2014.

# #OnTheBooks: Financial Statements

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<u>ASSETS</u>	June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 392,562	\$ 651,609
Accounts receivable, net	29,288	15,448
Pledges receivable, short-term	95,864	117,969
Prepaid expenses	69,601	51,505
Total current assets	587,315	836,531
Investments	1,419,846	789,703
Property and equipment, net	251,528	291,423
Non-current assets		
Pledges receivable, long-term	500	38,433
Security deposits	6,100	5,900
Total non-current assets	6,600	44,333
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 2,265,289</b>	<b>1,961,990</b>
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 30,499	\$ 30,912
Accrued payroll and other liabilities	63,096	61,172
Security deposits payable - students	26,042	22,158
Unearned tuition and fees	192,975	251,842
Other current liabilities	135,000	-
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>447,612</b>	<b>366,084</b>
Net assets		
Unrestricted net assets		
Undesignated net assets	272,474	113,518
Board-designated net assets		
Operating reserve	565,625	480,000
Minnesota Life College endowment	350,000	350,000
Expansion reserve	250,000	250,000
Capital reserve	125,000	125,000
Leasehold reserve	105,000	100,000
Opportunities reserve	100,000	100,000
Total unrestricted net assets	1,768,099	1,518,518
Temporarily restricted net assets	49,578	77,388
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,817,677</b>	<b>1,595,906</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 2,265,289</b>	<b>\$ 1,961,990</b>

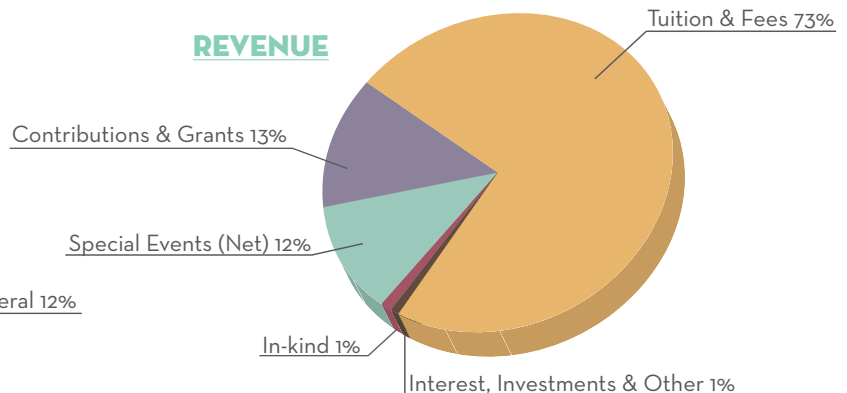
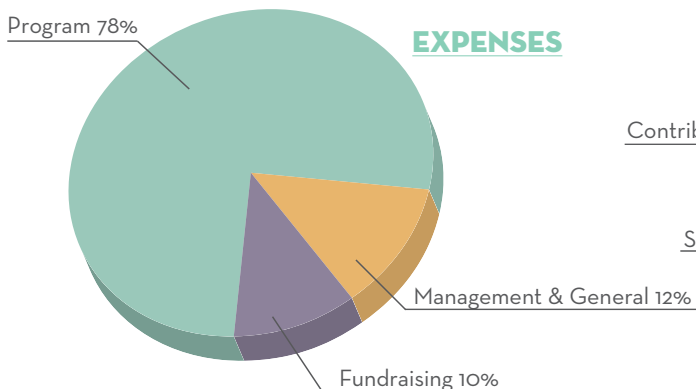


## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES: JULY 01, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
Pledges and contributions	\$ 317,184	\$ -	\$ 317,184
Foundation grants	10,000	31,750	41,750
In-kind contributions	36,653	-	36,653
Special events (net)	332,925	6,400	339,325
Tuition and fees	2,057,232	-	2,057,232
Investment gain (loss)	(2,944)	-	(2,944)
Interest income	24,031	-	24,031
Other revenue	7,646	-	7,646
Net assets released from restrictions	65,960	(65,960)	-
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 2,848,687</b>	<b>\$ (27,810)</b>	<b>\$ 2,820,877</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Programs	\$ 2,024,303	\$ -	\$ 2,024,303
Management and General	313,272	-	313,272
Fundraising	261,531	-	261,531
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 2,599,106</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,599,106</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 249,581</b>	<b>\$ (27,810)</b>	<b>\$ 221,771</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Beginning of year	\$ 1,518,518	\$ 77,388	\$ 1,595,906
End of year	\$ 1,768,099	\$ 49,578	\$ 1,817,677

## SUMMARY OF EXPENSES: JULY 01, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

UG	CLP	SIP	Management & General	Fundraising
\$ 1,576,254	401,942	46,107	313,272	261,531



# #Changemakers: Our Donors

## MOST DISTINGUISHED DONORS: CUMULATIVE GIVING

### **Real Skills for Real Life™**

**\$1,000,000 and above**

Beverly and Roe Hatlen, and the Hatlen Foundation

### **Achieving Personal Success**

**\$500,000 - \$999,999**

Buffets, Inc.

Phillip Lighty II and Jill Lighty



### **Strength and Determination**

**\$250,000 - \$499,999**

Coca-Cola Company

Jerry and Jean Marie Foss and Family

### **Partnership for Independence**

**\$100,000 - \$249,999**

Geoff Barnard and Diane Vosick

Dale E. and Jolita D. Benson

Caliber Foundation

Paul and Julie Gulstrand

Frances Holden's estate

John Lavander and Nan Owen

Suzanne and Walter Scott Foundation

United Way

US Foods, Inc.

### **Transforming Lives**

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

Blake and Nancy Barnes

Mike Bono and Judge Katherine Constantine

Dorsey & Whitney Foundation

Clifford Hoffman

Mark Milberger

Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly

The Rich Family Foundation

Sara Lee Coffee and Tea Food Service

Howard and Marlies Terping

*Parents report a noticeable increase  
in their child's confidence,  
independence, and resilience  
throughout their time at MLC.*

*#RealResults*

### **Learning by Doing**

**\$25,000 - \$49,999**

Judy Alyea

Anonymous

Autism Speaks

Kay Constantine

Doug and Julie Craven

DiaSorin, Inc.

Jim and Mary Frey

Kai and Amy Gudmestad

Kirk Sorensen and Peggy Herum

Dr. Robert and Tracy Hibbard

Glenn and Dr. Susan Isensee

Charles and Mary Jungmann

Glen and Sally Klemp

Northern Tier Energy

Otto Bremer Foundation

Kurt and Ann Owen

James J. and Ann Ryan, Ph.D.

Sealord North America, Inc.

Jeff and Susan Thayer

J. W. and Jane\* Vosick

\*Deceased

## ANNUAL GIVING: JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015



### ***Transforming Lives Advocate***

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

Jerry and Jean Marie Foss and Family  
Phillip Lighty II and Jill Lighty

### ***Learning By Doing Advocate***

**\$25,000 - \$49,999**

Autism Speaks

### ***Integrity Advocate***

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

Geoff Barnard and Diane Vosick  
Caliber Foundation  
Doug and Julie Craven  
Paul and Julie Gulstrand  
Beverly and Roe Hatlen,  
and The Hatlen Foundation

### ***Partnership Advocate***

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

Northern Tier Energy  
Kurt and Ann Owen

### ***Teamwork Advocate***

**\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Evan and Sarabeth Ackerman  
Best Buy  
Marnie Elizabeth Evelyn Buckner  
Colby and Amy Carlson  
Charter Oak Foundation  
Kay Constantine  
Dellora A. and Lester J. Norris  
Foundation  
Dorothy M. and E. Milton Kleven  
Family Foundation  
Dorsey & Whitney Foundation  
Kai and Amy Gudmestad  
Frederick and Jennifer Harris

Erik Hatlen  
Jack and Leigh Helmick  
Stephen and Jennifer Jenkins  
June and Julian Foss Foundation  
Mark Milberger  
Teri and Bill Popp  
D. Ward and Shotsy Johnson  
Mark David and Mary Beth Ziegler

### ***Fun Advocate***

**\$1,000 - \$4,999**

Amerect, Inc.  
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, L.P.  
Blake and Nancy Barnes  
Brad and Gwen Beard  
Dale E. and Jolita D. Benson  
Tony and Lucy Bergmann  
Mike Bono and Judge Katherine  
Constantine  
Bremer Bank  
Jay Bruber  
Duggan Foundation  
Edina Rotary Club Foundation  
Fairview Southdale Hospital  
Fireside Hearth and Home-Minnetonka  
Peter and Chris Garretson  
Gary and Lael Gerding  
Jennifer and Damon Greene  
Kim and Kay Gudmestad  
Dean and Lynda Hanson  
Richard and Kate Hartfiel  
Healthtel, L.L.C.  
James and Lonnie Henderson  
Clint and Sandy Hetchler  
Dr. Robert and Tracy Hibbard  
Hickory Chair Showroom  
Clifford Hoffman  
John and Shirley Horn  
Marygrace and Michael Horner  
Glenn and Dr. Susan Isensee  
Katherine Sharp John  
Robert Karls and Bonita Girard  
Richard E. and Deborah Kay Karulf  
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Stephen McKenna  
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Betty Milberger  
Donald Miller and Debrah Glennen  
Arthur and Christine Monzingo  
Doug Neisen  
Stacey Newstrum  
John and Cheryl Ossenfort  
Beverly Ottum  
Geoff Paine and Elizabeth Kessler  
Dr. William and Suzanne Payne  
Glen Person  
Shawn Raiter and Larson King  
Frank and Diana Reiter  
Tom Richey  
Richfield/Bloomington Credit Union  
Jen and Chris Romans  
Thomas and Linda Rundle  
S. C. Johnson and Son, Inc.  
Jim Schagh and Nancy Kipp  
Steven and Pamela Schupbach  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
David and Janis Silverberg  
Barbara M. Spokes  
Byron and Connie Starns  
Douglas and Wendy Steele  
Joanie Swanson  
Eric Taubenberger  
Katherine Taylor  
Howard and Marlies Terpning  
Naomi and David Tetzlaff  
Jeff and Susan Thayer  
Suellen and David Thompson  
Robin Wagner  
Ginny and Michael Walters  
Corinne and Richard Zabinski  
Michael Zalk  
Idella Ziegler



# #Changemakers: Our Donors

**ANNUAL GIVING: JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015**

## **Community Advocate**

**\$250 - \$999**

Martin and Karole Abelovitz  
Advanced Dermatology Carew  
All In One Accounting, Inc.  
Carolyn and Brian Anderson  
Michael Erickson and Jody Anderson  
Steven and Jill Anseth  
Kari Augdahl  
Carl and Mary Bandt  
Sherryl Bandt  
Blake and Nancy Barnes  
Rob and Nancy Bass  
Nola and Edward Becher  
Karen and Mark Beltz  
Wendy and Howard Bennis  
Joel Berman  
Sharon Bischofshausen and Louis  
Rishkofski  
Haydn Brockman  
Scott and Kerry Brons  
Trina and Pat Bryant  
Ken and Virginia Bureau  
Alli Carpentier  
Thomas Cherry and Darlene Hafner  
Jeff and Pam Clarkin  
Debra Coleman  
Sally Combs  
Daniel Cummings and Katie Rasinski  
Martha and Dan Cummings  
Cunningham Group Architecture, P.A.  
Joan Dauphinee  
Erin Davenport  
C. J. Soren Design  
Brian and Elizabeth Dillon  
Dawn Erdman



Scott and Laura Erickson  
Steve Erickson  
John T. Everett and Kim L. Keprios  
Experience Life Magazine  
Fairbault Woolen Mill Co.  
Patricia Floyd  
Squire and Suzy Fridell  
Friends of MLC  
Kristin Galeone  
Luisa Gerasimo and Mike Helfman  
Sue Glimsdale  
Daniel and Karen Goedken  
Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance  
Company  
Greenhaven Printing  
Darian and Darcy Hala  
Robert and Jane Hamblen  
Joe and Joan Hammell  
Peter and Heather Hannsen  
Brian and Mary Hassinger  
Doris and Dan Higgins  
Michael Hoffman  
Roger and Ricka Holmgren  
Hub Jewelers  
Scott and Penny Hults  
Karen and Tim Jacobson  
Bradley J. and Cindy M. Johanson  
Gary and Marianne Josephson  
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***88% of seniors had a job  
at graduation in 2015.***

***#RealResults***

*We saw a 51% uptick in healthy living behaviors among students in the 2014-15 school year, including stress management, meal planning, and hobby development.*

*#RealResults*

Anne Schuerger  
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Denise Ciola  
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*90% of parents surveyed  
said they believe there  
is a sense of community  
here at MLC.*

*#RealResults*



## IN-KIND GIVING: JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

Joe and Julie Abelovitz  
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Jane Kuhn and Robert Bensch  
Lakeside Wines and Spirits  
Randi and Larry Larson  
John Lavander and Nan Owen  
Donna Lawton  
Caroline Lee  
Richard Libby and Margaret Saline  
Pizzeria Lola  
Christopher and Susan Lyons  
Charles and Teresa Mahar  
Mall of America  
McMillan Electric Co.  
Donald Miller and Debrah Glennen  
Minnesota Swarm  
Minnesota Twins  
Minnesota Vikings  
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Mark Moeller  
Michael and Susan Nigbur  
O'Neil Dental Center  
Geoff Paine and Elizabeth Kessler  
Park Tavern  
Peace Coffee  
Gretchen Peck  
Glen Person  
Linda Pettigrew  
PostNet  
Real Biscuits for Real Dogs  
Red Barn Farm  
Susan Richey  
Richfield Dentistry  
Riverview Theater

Eric and Lynn Rudolph  
Thomas and Linda Rundle  
Saint Paul Saints Baseball Club  
Nancy Schreiber  
Ray Seeger and Nancy Lavander Seeger  
Barbara M. Spokes  
Jeff and Valerie Stone  
Joanie Swanson

*In 2014-15 we saw an improvement of 83% in our students' ability to safely navigate in the community using public transportation to get to work and appointments on their own.*

**#RealResults**

Sweet Harvest Foods  
Tangletown Gardens  
Chaim and Evelyn Teitelbaum  
Jeff and Susan Thayer  
Suellen and David Thompson  
Jacob Thull  
TopLine Federal Credit Union  
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Kearney and Janis Triplett  
Mark and Kelly Ulrick  
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Bill and Mary Jane Turner

### *In honor of Graham Wagner*

John and Jill Stefani Wagner

### *In memory of Lee Zulauf*

Dwight Zulauf and Kathryn Harris

# #ForTheWin

The people who make the magic of MLC happen on a day-to-day basis are some of the most talented, skilled, and dedicated professionals in the field of education and related services. This opinion is shared throughout the leadership team, and MLC goes to great lengths to make employee appreciation a priority. We regularly gather employee feedback and are proud of achieving a score of 4.08 out of 5 in overall staff satisfaction in a 2014-15 survey.

**Sometimes, though, it's nice to hear from others that we're doing a great job.** In 2014-15, the organization was recognized with three significant awards from the community:

### **Metro Transit Commuter Choice Award - Organization**

In April 2015, Minnesota Life College was chosen by Metro Transit and its partners as the top organization in Minnesota for our sustainable transportation practices.

### **Richfield Small Business Hall of Fame**

Nominated by our Richfield Chamber of Commerce peers Richfield Bloomington Honda and Arc's Value Village, MLC was selected unanimously for this prestigious award for our work with students and graduates and for our contributions to the business landscape.

### **Star Tribune's Top 150 Workplaces**

Following a comprehensive and anonymous survey of our staff, the *Star Tribune* and WorkplaceDynamics chose Minnesota Life College as one of the "Top 150 Workplaces in Minnesota" for 2015! We were very honored to be named among the best employers in the state and look to raise our position in next year's rankings.



## **STAFF 2014-2015**

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# 2014-15 Annual Report



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