



# NewsLight

A newsletter for contributors and friends of the Virginia Community Foundation

Spring/Summer 2008

Vol. 13, No. 1

## INSIDE

- Message from the Chair  
page 2
- Community Grants in Action  
page 2
- New Board Members  
page 3
- Crisis on Chestnut  
page 4
- Farewell to Board Members  
page 5
- Two New Funds  
page 6

## NewsLight

NewsLight is the official semi-annual publication of the Virginia Community Foundation.

### Board Members

Donna Leese, Chair  
Loy Gotham, Vice Chair  
Brandon Seppala, 2nd Vice Chair  
Nancee Norri, Secretary  
Keith Harvey, Treasurer  
Micheal Appelwick  
Stephanie Arduser  
Rudy Harvey  
John Kohlhase  
Erik Peterson  
Deanne Polski  
Jennifer Pontinen  
Robert Prittinen  
Brenda Suihkonen

Linda Niskanen, Executive Director  
Deb Luoma, Administrative Assistant

Questions, comments or donations may be sent to:  
Virginia Community Foundation,  
P.O. Box 559, Virginia, MN 55792  
218-749-8239



[www.virginiafoundation.com](http://www.virginiafoundation.com)

## Join the fun!

*Share your time. Share your talents.*

Registrations are rolling in for the Great Virginia Get-Together, and planners are busy (very busy!) putting the final touches on an event-filled week. Celebration events are open to all VHS alumni and Virginia residents, current and past.

The week-long celebration has been planned and coordinated by volunteers, and now additional volunteers are needed to participate in and assist with events. If you have a talent to share or are willing to volunteer your time during the event, the

planning committee would like to hear from you. Residents and alumni are encouraged to sign up.

"This week is more than just a reunion. It is an opportunity for us to come together as a community, working side-by-side on an event that

will have a long-lasting, positive impact on Virginia's future," said Carol Sundquist, event chairwoman.

Here are some ways you can help.

**Event volunteers:**  
Many events are

*continued on page 5*



**The Great Virginia Get-Together**  
All-Class & Community Celebration \*July 1-6, 2008

## *Belly up to Steve's burgers!*

As part of the Great Virginia Get-Together, the Quad-Cities Rotary will recreate the historically popular Steve's Hamburger experience. Rotarians and staff from Virginia's Target store will cook and serve burgers just like Steve's, right down to the recipe and condiments (Steve never served catsup!). You'll find "Steve's Hamburgers" at his last location on Bailey's Lake (near the food co-op).



# Message from the Chair



Since the Virginia Community Foundation's inception in 1990, many have come before me and served on this Board. I am

honored to be this year's Chair and am looking forward to continuing the mission set forth by the Foundation years ago – to continue to grow the permanent endowment for the betterment of our community.

With summer just around the corner, much anticipation is building for the upcoming "Great Virginia Get Together." It will be a time to reminisce with old friends, reconnect with family, and participate in many fun and exciting activities planned by the GVGTT committee, who have worked countless hours to make July

1-6 spectacular. The Foundation hopes it will be a truly memorable week for everyone.

For those of you who will be visiting Virginia for the first time in many years, we hope you will appreciate and recognize the efforts put forth by so many groups, individuals, and organizations throughout the community who have helped to preserve and continue to revitalize our community. Without the Foundation's support, many of these projects may not have been realized. That's why, every donation is important to the endowment – no matter how large or small. It all adds up!

The Foundation is currently focusing on the improvement of our downtown area and is working in conjunction with other city organizations, businesses, and government on this issue. Our

downtown is truly the "Heart" of Virginia and needs to be preserved for our future generations. Just imagine the possibilities if a designated fund were established for Chestnut Street? To become a designated fund through the Virginia Community Foundation requires \$10,000. Currently, our designated funds include the Blue Pride Fund, the Virginia Public Library Fund, and most recently, the Mesabi Range Youth for Christ and Virginia Education Funds.

The Board would also like to welcome new members, Jennifer Pontinen, Stephanie Arduser, and John Kohlhase to our Foundation family. If you would like any information on the Foundation, our volunteer opportunities, or a "wish list" of items needed for the Foundation office, please contact us at (218) 749-8239.

Your gifts are truly an investment in the future of our community.

## *Community Grants in Action*

Plans are underway for Virginia's first mural in conjunction with the Great Virginia Get Together. The Virginia Mural Project is part of other long-range plans to improve the aesthetics of Virginia's downtown. Project leader and former foundation board member, Marieta Johnson, was successful in securing funds from the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission's Grant Program. The foundation, local business owners, and the city of Virginia are joining forces to commemorate Virginia's history in the murals.

A foundation grant was recently awarded to replace the Chestnut Street



hanging flower baskets that bring a special touch of beauty to our downtown. The foundation also stepped forward to support the Imagination Library through the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota. Virginia's children will be better prepared for kindergarten as a result of having access to books in their homes. Children up to five years of age are eligible to receive books each month.

Renovations to the B'nai Abraham Synagogue are progressing at a feverish pace. The Friends of the B'nai

Abraham Synagogue, a very dedicated group of volunteers, have restored the sanctuary/assembly hall and are also working on the lower level. Grants of \$210,000 from various sources and more than \$50,000 in personal contributions will enable the space to be readied for community use. President of the Friends group, Marjorie Ostrov, said that the Virginia Community Foundation grant of \$2500 aided in procuring additional grants from local and state agencies. The Virginia Area Historical Society will be assisting with management of the building as well as using the space for programming and exhibits.



# Foundation Welcomes New Board Members



**Front row: Deanne Polski, Stephanie Arduser, Linda Niskanen (Executive Director), Deb Luoma (Administrative Assistant), Brenda Suihkonen**  
**Back row: Jennifer Pontinen, Keith Harvey, Micheal Appelwick, Donna Leese, Rudy Harvey, Brandon Seppala, John Kohlhase, Nancee Norri**  
**Not pictured: Loy Gotham, Erik Peterson, Robert Prittinen**

The Virginia Community Foundation would like to welcome three ambitious community volunteers to the Board of Directors.

John Kohlhase is a Virginia High School graduate and a second generation board member. John brings 25 years of advertising and marketing experience to the Virginia

Foundation Board. He is a partner of W.A. Fisher Advertising and Printing, and in addition he is serving on the advisory boards of Mesabi Range Community and Technical College and Hibbing Community College. John currently resides in Mt. Iron with his wife, Lynn, and their four children, Katy, Jake, Sarah and Josh.

Stephanie Arduser considers

Virginia “home”, although she is originally from Des Moines, Iowa. She and her husband, Paul, along with their two sons Avery and Tyson, moved to the area nine years ago. As a family, they were drawn to the area because of the quality of life, recreational activities and attention to family inherent in the community. Stephanie is employed with DeCare Dental and also sells real estate for Culbert Realty. She is actively involved with the schools and volunteers her time throughout the community.

Jennifer Pontinen is a recognized community leader and brings a variety of volunteer experience to the Virginia Community Foundation. Jennifer has been involved with community organizations including the Iron Range Economic Alliance, Laurentian Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Rotary Club, and East Range School to Work Tech Prep Partnership. She is a Business Consultant with the UMD Center for Economic Development and resides in Virginia with her husband, Todd, and their children.

The Virginia Community Foundation would like to applaud these individuals for their valuable time and commitment.

## Foundation Office Gets Face Lift

Visitors to the Foundation office at 519 Chestnut Street will be surprised by a new look. Thanks to a generous donation of carpet from Floor to Ceiling, paint and supplies from Pohaki Lumber, and painting and repair done by board members and staff, the office has a fresh new look. The foundation board and staff are especially appreciative of Northern State Bank's continued donation of office space.



# Crisis on Chestnut Street

With burnt out buildings, empty lots and vacant or under-utilized storefronts, the downtown of the Queen City has a king-sized problem. As Virginia plans its first all-class and community reunion this summer, organizers and City officials are well aware that returning alumni are going to be asking, "What has happened to our beautiful downtown?"

The problem is complex, and solutions are likely to be very expensive for a small town with a shrinking tax base. Most of the buildings downtown are more than a century old. As is the case with many communities our size, new retail development has taken place along major traffic corridors. Small, family-owned businesses downtown find it increasingly difficult to compete with national chain stores. As a result, downtown business owners are hard-pressed to invest in capital improvements to their businesses, including their aging buildings. In many cases, the costs of building improvements may exceed the value of the buildings.

To make matters worse, a number of fires including acts of arson, have gutted several of the old downtown buildings. Most of the burnt out buildings have been demolished, but the exposed walls of those buildings



**One of the vacant lots on the 300 block of Chestnut Street**

located adjacent to the empty lots are an eyesore, and the owners of those buildings can ill afford the tens of thousands of dollars required to resurface the walls. Of course, the best solution for the vacant lots would be the construction of new buildings to house thriving new businesses, but the move of the city's retail center to highway 53 and decades of marginal economic growth make new downtown developments unlikely in the immediate future.

As difficult as the downtown decay problem is, momentum is building to find and fund solutions. The Virginia Community Foundation is taking an active role. According to the Foundation's Chestnut Lots Committee chair, Brandon Seppala, "The goal of

the Foundation in regards to the downtown issue is to pull people together to turn things around." The Foundation will work with the City, the Virginia Eveleth Economic Development Agency and Virginia's business community to develop short- and long-term solutions and to raise funds necessary for improvements.

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**Although progress is being made, the need is great. The Virginia Community Foundation asks for your help.**

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According to Brandon Seppala, the Foundation is actively negotiating with the owner of a site that has long been referred to as a symbol of decay. In addition, the Virginia Mural Project is part of other long-range plans to improve the aesthetics of Virginia's downtown. Project leader and former foundation board member, Marieta Johnson, was successful in securing funds from the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission's Grant Program. The foundation, local business owners, and the city of Virginia are joining forces to commemorate Virginia's history in the murals.

In order to address the long-term development of the City's downtown, the Foundation is researching the



**The most recent site of a fire**

***continued on page 6***

# Farewell to Board Members

Board member service is a vital part of the Virginia Community Foundation. At year's end of 2007, we bid farewell to two individuals and thanked them for the dedication, guidance, and insight they both brought to the foundation during their eight years of service.

Jody Vest joined the Foundation in 1999 to donate her time and resources in a way that would impact the lives of Virginia residents. Through the years, Jody's expertise has been invaluable to the committees she has served on including chairing the grants committee, participating on the marketing committee, and



**Jody Vest**

accepting the leadership role of board chair. Jody has been instrumental in fulfilling the mission of the foundation while creating a lasting impact with her goodwill.

In 1999, shortly after returning to Virginia, Alicia Cope accepted a position on the Virginia Community Foundation board. Alicia's energy, enthusiasm, and ambition have been a tremendous asset to the board and the committees she has served. Alicia was involved in implementing the "We Believe" Campaign while serving on the marketing committee, as well as participating on the finance committee



**Alicia Cope**

and performing her role as board chair. Alicia has a true passion for Virginia. She believes "success enjoys company" and she attributes great things happening during her term because of that ambitious company.

In February, Bob Baldrice completed a four-year term on the foundation board, during which time he was active with planning the Foundation's golf events and the annual fall fundraisers. Karl Sundquist, a board member since 2004, left the board to focus on his young family and busy career. Bob and Karl plan to continue serving the foundation in other volunteer capacities.

The Virginia Community Foundation board would like to express their gratitude to Jody, Alicia, Bob and Karl for their years of leadership, commitment, and generosity.

*continued from front page*

## The Great Virginia Get-Together, Join the Fun

scheduled including a celebration parade, dance, lumberjack show, classic car show, outdoor movie, family activities at Olcott Park, a street dance, 5K run, golf and tennis events, and much more...and your help is needed. Opportunities to volunteer abound! Visitors and residents are welcome to help out. You can volunteer to assist with registration, V-store sales, picnic hosts, ushering, event set-up, clean-up, etc. Many hands make light work. For a complete list of volunteer opportunities, contact Chris Springhetti, 218-741-1359.

**The celebration marching band, concert band, orchestra or choir:** All musicians and vocalists are welcome, those alumni who were in VHS music programs as well as Virginia residents (past and present) with musical talents. The Reunion Concert is on Saturday, July 5, at 7:30 p.m. For more information on the musical events and schedules, please contact Bob or Barb Baldrice, 218-741-6070, baldrice@webtv.net

**Garage Bands:** On the evening of

Wednesday, July 2, Virginia will rock to the sounds of garage bands playing in garages and driveways throughout the town. You can pull together your old band or create a new one for this night of music for young and old. For more information or to register your band, contact Karl Sundquist, 218-741-2877, ksundqui@hotmail.com

### **Parade entries and volunteers:**

On Friday, July 4, at 9 a.m., the Virginia Marching Blues and a reunion marching band will lead a patriotic Great Virginia Get-Together parade down Chestnut Street. Parade units from VHS reunion classes, community groups, businesses, individuals, etc. are invited to participate. For more information or to register your unit, contact Rudy Harvey, 218-741-2040, rharvey@qcfb.com

**Neighborhood picnics:** These picnics truly make this an all-community celebration, where friends, young and old, will enjoy meeting and reminiscing about good times in their Virginia neighborhoods. Picnics will be scheduled throughout the week for neighborhoods with a minimum of ten

registrants. Registrations received by June 17th will determine which neighborhoods qualify. A picnic schedule will be available at Registration Central. To volunteer as a picnic host or to assist with your neighborhood picnic, contact Kathryn Cremers, 218-741-8717, kathryn.cremers@afscmecouncil65.org

Call today!

Thank you for supporting this community-wide event!

The Great Virginia Get-Together Committee  
Roz Whalen, Publicity Chair

*The Great Virginia Get-Together: All-Class and Community Celebration is sponsored by the Virginia Community Foundation. For more information or to register, go to [www.virginiafoundation.com](http://www.virginiafoundation.com).*



# Foundation's Family Grows with Two New Funds

Charter members of the Virginia Education Fund donated the initial investment to open the third designated fund of the Virginia Community Foundation. The fund is established to create community connections, enhance available resources, enrich experiences and provide the best educational opportunities for all students in Virginia's public schools. Donations to the Virginia Education Fund will be used specifically to support education at the Virginia Public Schools. Seventy percent of each contribution will go to their endowment fund and 30% of each donation will be available to meet current needs. Craig Nordling, a member of the organizing committee said, "The Virginia Education Fund is a vehicle for alumni and other interested people to provide additional support for Virginia's education system above and beyond what the normal tax-supported funding can provide."



**Future leaders of the Virginia Education Fund**

Virginia educators, students, parents and community partners will be encouraged to develop proposals for innovative learning opportunities for students.

Board members of Mesabi Range Youth for Christ have taken a giant step to ensure that area youth will be served into the future. The group secured contributions to establish a permanent endowment fund with the foundation. Donations to the Mesabi Range Youth for Christ Fund will be invested permanently and will generate income to be used specifically to support ministry to area youth. A gift to the Youth for

Christ Fund is an investment in the future of our community.

In addition to the two new funds, the foundation's family of named funds includes the Blue Pride Fund and the Virginia Public Library Fund. Gifts to the Foundation's general endowment will continue to support a broad range of community needs.

Donations to the general endowment or any of the named funds may be sent to the Virginia Community Foundation at PO Box 559, 519 Chestnut St, Virginia, MN 55792. Questions may be directed to (218)749-8239 or by email to [director@virginiafoundation.com](mailto:director@virginiafoundation.com)



**Mesabi Range Youth For Christ**

*continued from page 4*

## Crisis on Chestnut Street

possibility of hiring a planning consultant to create a comprehensive development plan with a particular focus on the Chestnut Street and Silver Lake developments. The cost of the proposed plan is expected to exceed \$75,000.

Virginia alumni are stepping up to the plate to turn things around downtown. The Koski brothers, who built their fortune with a hardware

business in downtown Virginia, left their entire fortune of one million dollars to the Virginia Community Foundation with the expressed desire of improving the downtown of their beloved hometown. A more recent donor, who has requested anonymity, has offered \$50,000 to the Foundation with the condition that the money be used to improve the downtown.

Although progress is being made,

the need is great. The Virginia Community Foundation asks for your help. Please consider volunteering your time and/or making a donation to the Foundation to help us put the sparkle back in the crown of the Queen City. To find out how you can help, please call the Foundation at 218-749-8239.

# Virginia Public Library Fund Contributions

(since our last newsletter)

Anonymous  
Elizabeth Burge  
Library Employees  
*In memory of Jean Prout*  
Bill & Deb McCormick  
*In memory of Ralph Harvey*  
Marcia Poarch  
Township of Wuori  
John & Virginia Trucano  
*In memory of Florence Konu*  
William & Barbara Vice  
*In memory of Florence M. Konu*

## Named Gifts

(since our last newsletter)

Bob & Barbara Baldrice  
*In honor of Marshall Johnson's retirement*  
Michael & Neysa Bonner  
*Holiday gift in honor of Elizabeth Bonner*  
Keith & Elizabeth (Bit) Clark  
*Holiday gift in honor of Mrs. Robert Bonner*  
Terry, Linda & Josie Hughes  
*In honor of the marriage of Dan & Rosemary Lynn*  
Peter & Colette Johnson  
*Holiday gift in honor of Peter G. & Marieta Johnson*  
Audra Keller  
*Holiday gift in honor of friends Judy & David Adolfsen,  
Sandy & Darrell Dankert, Fran Maher & Brian Coffey,  
Colette & Peter Johnson, Karen & Leo Ducharme, Carol  
& Jack Kaemper, and Judy Turner & Jack Elias*  
John & Sue Kelly  
*Holiday gift in honor of Elizabeth Bonner*  
Eric & Lori Kishel  
*In honor of Dr. Gene & Brynbild Kishel*  
Chuck & Linda Niskanen  
*In honor of Roger Suibkonen's retirement*  
Jean & Joseph Rozinka  
*In honor of Florence Clark Tuomela*  
Robert & Beth Skalko  
*In honor of Roger Suibkonen's retirement*  
William & Marilyn Somero  
*In honor of Carole & Dennis Hendricks' 25th  
Anniversary*  
Greg & Barb Thorne  
*In honor of their three children attending Virginia  
schools*  
Phil & Mary Kay Troutwine  
*In honor of Roger Suibkonen's retirement*

# Virginia Education Fund

(since our last newsletter)

Virginia Askew	Willard & Arlien Miller
Paul & Laura Bachsneider	Brian & Julia Nordling
Tom & Tracy Baldrice	Criag & Beth Nordling
John & Murreta Beste	Bobby & Nancee Norri
Paul & Kathy Brinkman	John & Susan Pearsall
Gary Cerkenik & Kim Stokes	Perpich TV & Music
Paul Cerkenik & Kathleen Murray	Erik & Carol Peterson
Alicia Cope & Brent Robinson	Renold & Helen Pettinelli
James Cope	Mark & Patty Phillips
Gary & Tracy Cornell	Jerry & Tammie Pietrini
Dale & Kathryn Cremers	Kevin & Beth Pietrini
Tim & Kathi Croft	Polly Podpeskar
Frank & Peggy Fabish	Jim & Jeanne Prittinen
LeRoy Gerchman	Mike & Nancy Ralston
Patricia Hamalainen, In memory of Hershel Cope	Roger & Nancy Ralston
Keith & Laurie Harvey	Nancy Salmi
Ralph & Ruth Harvey	Brandon & Heather Seppala
Dennis & Carole Hendricks	Chad & Kathy Seppala
Chris & Barb Johnson	Matt & Cheryl Seppi
David & Jeanette Johnson	Ron & Sandi Shoden
Peter & Colette Johnson	Dr. Don & Joann Sipola
Louis & Doris Knoll	Edward & Marian Skalko
Mike & Judy Krebsbach	Mike & Vicki Skubic
Bernie & Rose Marie Lacher	Thomas Smith
Mark & Donna Leese	Will & Beth Spelts
Kent & Nancy Maki	Daniel & Frances Sundberg
John & Shannon Malovrh, In memory of Lucy Pocnich	Kurt & Carol Sundquist
Roberta Margo	Michael & Gail Swor
Madelyn Mesich	Thomas Teasck
	Rob & Patty Tomassoni
	John & Linda Vukmanich
	WA Fisher
	Walker, Giroux & Hahne
	Ed & Shelley Zeidler

## Virginia Education Fund Gifts

(since fund was established December 14, 2007)

Mike & Debbie Appelwick	Andrew & Kathryn Peterson
Bill & Chris Culbert	Tim & Kathy Riordan
Greg & Jane Gilness	Robert & Beth Skalko
William & Judith Hafdahl	SOS Committee
Bruce & Holly Lundgren	Robert & Iris Teasck
Robert & Wendy McAllister	



# Contributors to the Virginia Community Foundation

(contributions since our last newsletter)

Nancy Aho	Michael & Neysa Bonner	Carolyn & Terry Dinneen	Jack Grande	Robert & Penny Joelson
Steph Aho	Florence & Tom Bowen	Anna Mae Dlouhy	Grant Construction & Supply	Hugo Johnson
Willard Aho	Wilfrid & Mary Jo Bradach	Donald Dobb	Robert Greene	Ken Johnson
Lynda & Darwin Alar	Kathy Brinkman	Rocci Donofrio	Bobbi Greenwalt	Paul & Sally Johnson
Ruth & Charles Allen	George & Barbara Briski	Duluth Clinic, Virginia	Mary Gregorich	Peter & Colette Johnson
Alpha Psi Chapter 2500	Virginia & Lucia Brunetta	Jim Eaton	David Grigal	Peter (Chipper) & Marieta Johnson
Edna & Edward Alto	Michael & Diane Buccanero	Loisann Eaton	Patricia Grigal	Phil Johnson
Edward & Linda Alto	Kathy & Michael Bukvich	Jim Eberius	Connie & Scott Guinty	Richard Johnson
Mary Ann Altobell	Bob Buntrock	Allene Edelstein	Dale & Shannon Gunderson	Robert & Audrey Johnson
Susan Altobell	Reginald Burchell	Brian Elg, Sr	David & Amy Gunderson	Deb & John Jokinen
Craig & Cheryl Aluni	Julie Burns	Darin & Ann Christin Elvemo	Richard & Diane Gunderson	Chris Jones
Harvey & Marcia Aluni	Billie Burritt	Virginia Engman	Arnette & Daniel Gustafson	James & Michelle Jones
Angie Anderson	Anna Bussey	Fred & Vickie Entner	Don & Leslie Gustafson	Katherine Jones
David & Rochelle Anderson	Dan & Maxine Buvarp	Donald & Lucy Erchul	Jody Guy-Krulc	Bob Judnick
Helen Anderson	Julie Cadeau	Carol Erickson	Helen Haapala	Bob & Barbara Judnick
Joel & Tiffany Anderson	Mike Callister	Clayton R. (Toby) Erickson	Robert & Donna Haapala	Jeff & Lynne Judnick
Thomas & Koni Anderson	Polly Callister	Leon & Sharon Erickson	William Hafdahl	Susan Kahtava
Nancy Andrews	Lois & Margaret Cameron	Phil Erickson	Mary Haman	Margaret Kajala
James & Carrie Andrick	Marcia & Gordon Campbell	Warren H. Erickson	Bob Hansen	David & Darlene Karakas
Anonymous Donor	Michael & Deborah Carey	Nathaniel & Carrie Ezell	Dale Hansen	Clara Kardell
Alice Appel	Katy Carlon	Bill & Rita Falkowski	Anthony & Robin Harkonen	Judie Kauchick
Paul & Stephanie Arduser	Jay & Ruth Carlsgaard	Jamie & Mark Falkowski	Sandra Harris	Marlene Kauppinen
Brian Aronen	Dan & Diane Carlson	Larry & Janet Falkowski	Cindy & Scott Harrison	John & Susan Kelly
Betty Babich	Sandy Carlson	Steve & Deb Falkowski	Ross & Rudy Harvey	Robert Kerze
Cathy Babich	John & Donna Cashen	Rich & Patti Fenda	Diana & Michael Hauber	Byron & Mary Kesanen
Frank Babich	Barry Cashman	John & Joan Ferkul	Grace Hauglid	Brian Keute
Cindy Babinski	Amy Cazin	Dennis & Mary Lou Feroni	Trevor Hawkins	Diana Killian
Randall & Theresa Babiracki	Joseph & Agnes Chopp	Dave & Patty Ferrel	Kay Helgeson	Tim Kishel
John & Becky Bachman	Joyce Chopp	Chester & Pamela Fields	Laura Helm	Doris Klymala
Lloyd & Donna Bachman	Dr. David Choquette	Darleen & Carmen Figliola	Mary Beth Henderson	George & Jeanette Knabe
Laura & Paul Bachschneider	Bernadine & Wayne Christiansen	Audra & Dave Fink	Robert & Idell Henderson	Matt Knapp
Walter & Helen Backman	Edward & Diane Clark	Paul & Virginia Fischer	Dennis & Carole Hendricks	Marlene Kobal
Juliane Badanjak	Connie Claviter	Gary Flaim Family	Dr. Robin & Andrea Hendricks	Jennifer & Shawn Kober
Frank Bailey	Shirley & Owen Coe	Mary Kay Flament	Bronco & Sandra Herian	Audrey Kohlhase
Robert & Barbara Baldrica	Bill Cogger	Joseph & Joyce Fleming	Judy Hildreth	Richard Kohlhase
Charles & Gail Baribeau	Rick & Joyce Collins	Floor to Ceiling	Evelyn & Brian Hill	Sharon Kolari
Jon Bartovich	Linda & John Constantine	Darnell & Brad Foix	Gail Hill	Charlene & Gary Komula
Irma Becker	Alicia Cope & Brent Robinson	Gerald & Lola Folman	Marvin & Margaret Hill	Harold & Kristin Koskela
Ottie Beito	Gary Cornell	Deborah Fontela	Scott Hinrichs	Jene Kotchevar
Paul & Katherine Belobaba	Carolyn Cowan	Thomas & Brenda Foosness	Mary Hjelle	Joseph Kraker
Phil & Jan Belpedio	Mary Colleen & Daniel Crawford	Debbie Fort	Marian Holmes	Peter & Mary Jo Krasaway
James Bennetts	Tom Creighton	Bob & Bonnie Forte	Brian Holzer	Mike & Judy Krebsbach
Bruce & Marie Bergman	Edward Cremers	Dorothy Foss	Deb Horning	William Krisak
Elmer Bergman	Laverne Cremers	Wendy & Will Frederickson	Janet Horoshak	Daniel & Kathryn Kuehn
Jeanette (Jay) Bergman	Timothy Cremers	Sara Freese	Barbara Horvat	Tracy Labarge
Robert & Bernice Berlin	Tim & Kathi Croft	Clarice Frider	Brian Horvath	Ron Lakner
Christopher & Alyson Bialke	Tim & Kathi Croft	Chris Frosaker	Valerie Horvath	Joy Lamourea
Anne & John Bicanich	Culbert Realty & Appraisal	Dave Galaski	Marvin Hotakainen	Harry & Joan Lamma
Kerry & Ann Bidle	Betty Cunningham	Frank & Theresa Galaski	Denise Hove	Frederick & Vida Lanari
Allan & Anne Bier	David & Cyndy Cuoco	Jim "Jet" Galonski	John & Linda Husnik	Don Larson
Cynthia & Donald Bird	Lora Lee Curtiss	Gary Gardeski	Herman Hyvonen	Lisa & Eric Larson
Katie Bird	Barbara DaRonco	Cynthia Garson	Eila Isaacson	Steven & Maria Larson
William & Elizabeth Birnstihl	Dave's Pizza	Luan Gentilini	Jon & Darlys Jacobson	Laurentian Medical Center
Michael & Susanne Blaeser	Deron & Sheila Davidson	John & Karen Germ	Ronald M. Jacobson	Dennis & Lynn LaVigne
Bennet & Joyce Bloomquist	Mary Davies	Connie Germann	Dorothy & Kevin Jalonen	Janet LaVigne
Britta Bloomquist	Peter Delcaro	Greg & Jane Gilness	Helene Jaminski	Harrison E. Law, M.D.
Jerry & Karen Bodovinitz	Deli-icious	Lowell Gordon	JayBee Travel	John Leblanc
Lillian Bonkosky	Judith Demarchi	Loy Gotham	Daniel & Debra Joelson	Edmund & Arlene Leese
Elizabeth Bonner	Sandie Dingman	Debi Grabau	Patricia & Richard Joelson	Mark & Donna Leese
Jennifer & Stephen Bonner		Louise Grams		Gerald & Sharon Lemieux
Kelly & Hugh Bonner				



# Contributors to the Virginia Community Foundation

(contributions since our last newsletter)

Richard & Patricia Lenci	June Merkel	Gaylene Peterson	Paul & Jill Ruthenbeck	Cyndy & David Stromberg
Melody & Rich Lentsch	Bonnie Mickelson	J. J. Peterson	Nancy Ryman	Nona Sulentic
Eva & Steve Lepisto	Gerald & Esther Miettunen	Roger Peterson	William & Linda Saari	Lyle & Carole Summers
Carrie & Ted Lewis	Alicia & Daniel Milbridge	Tim Peterson	Patricia Sabin	Wendy Summers
Michele Lina	Elden & Sharon Milbridge	Tracy Peterson	Americo Sacchetti	Kurt & Carol Sundquist
Rene Lind	Minnesota Power	Jeff & Kay Petrack	Angelo & Kay Sacchetti	Super One
Roger & Judy Linden	Les Minter	Grace Petri	James Sadar	Willis & Marlyn Swanson
Betty Lindgren-Young	Margaret Mohar	Kim Pettinari	Les Samuelson	Thomas & Mona Tammara
Diana & Michael Lislegard	Joann & Robert Mohn	Renold & Helen Pettinelli	Judith Sanders	Target
Lloyd Lofback	Jon & Patricia Monacelli	Jessica & Chaya Phat	Lawrence & Kathryn Sandnas	Bob & Iris Teasck
Bernard & Angela Lomsak	Jeanne Moore	Jody Phenning	Susan & Roger Sandstrom	Judy & Bob Theis
Beatrice Longpre	Richard & Mary Moore	Ann Phillips	Dave & Debbie Santelli	Michael & Susan Thomas
Nancy Lovallo	Byron Moren	Mark & Patty Phillips	Mo & Greg Schaffer	James & Ann Marie Tieberg
Mary Lund	Tom Morgan	Jerome & Tammie Pietrini	Larry Schechinger	Jeanette Tieberg
Richard & Patricia Lund	Jay Mott	Rita Pineo	Donald Schibel	Cissy Toivari
Barbara Lundberg	Jane Mozzetti	Lynn Pinske	Robert & Linda Schibel	Robert & Patricia Tomassoni
Cheryl Lundberg	George & Marlene Munig	Brian & Cindy Plesha	Joan Schmaltz	Mark Toot
Barbara Lundgren	Tom Musich	Pohaki Lumber	Harold Schmitke	Town of Wuori
Bruce & Holly Lundgren	National Carpet Brokers	Barbara Politano	Bruno Scipioni	Albert & Pauline Trucano
Lundgren Motors Inc	Norma Nekich	David & Renee Pollock	Deena Scofield	Richard & Paula Trunzo
Pamela Lundstrom	Keith & Ann Nelson	Craig Polski	Chad & Kathy Seppala	Joseph Urbiha
Ray & Deb Luoma	Kelly Nelson	Deanne Polski	Rod & Sarah Seppala	Thomas & Karon Urick
Jennifer & Seth Lupich	Virginia Nelson	Jennifer Pontinen	Helen Seppi	Richard & Sheila Vandervort
Jack & Donna Luzovich	Eric & Cybelle Nelson	William Pontinen	Val & Erveen Serra	Amos Vaughn
Rose MacDonald	Nelson-Collie Electric	Ron & Molly Poole	Janet Shere	Burton & Audrae Venaas
Allan Mackie	Floyd & Joann Nesbitt	Rudolph Popovich	Frances Shimmin	David Verville
Mike & Mary Madden	Kenneth Nielsen	Poppers Bar	Ron & Sandi Shoden	Chris & Jody Vest
Gary & Jean Majeski	Tony & Joyce Nigro	John Pouchnik	Lee & Louise Shoquist	Linda Viita
Charles & Bertha Maki	Brian Nordling	Peter Pozniak	Fred & Nancy Shusterich	Virginia Champion Auto Stores
Ernest & Marsha Maki	Bernice (Bunny) Norlander	Bob & Elaine Prittinen	April Sieler	Virginia Surplus
John & Jean Maki	Susan Norlander	Jim & Jeanne Prittinen	Silver Lake Floral Co	Martin & JoAnn Virshek
Kent & Nancy Maki	Nancee Norri	Julie & Mike Przybylski	Joe Simich	Rudolph Voxland
Lila Maki	North Country Heating & Cooling	Daniel Rabideaux	Ken Simonson	Jack & Violet Vuckovich
Lori Maki	Northeast Technical Services	Linda Rakovetz & Patrick Molick	Margaret Simonson	Alison Vuicich
Elizabeth Malsed	Northern State Bank	Roger & Nancy Ralston	Richard Sjoberg	Mary Walker
Linnea Manning	Sophie Novakovick	Greg & Rose Ranta	Rosalee Skaudis	Archie Ward
Don Manseau	Michael & Theresa Nystrom	Charles Rantala	Steve & Sue Skaudis	Cullen, Shannon, Will & Ava Warren
Jay Maratta	Lyle & Sue Okland	Robin Raplinger	Anita Skenzich & Joe Ahlin	Ken & Mary Waschke
Roberta Margo	Mary Ann Okoren	John Rekonen	James & Roberta Skinner	Jerry Wedge
Annette Mariucci	David Olivanti	Ada Renzaglia	Peter & Brenda Skorich	Weiberg's Campground & Landing
Sandra Markovich	Caroline Olson	Ronald Rhode	John & Susan Skube	RC & Maureen Weidner
Jerry & Darlene Marks	Mark & Donna Olson	Robert & Katherine Rice	James & Cynthia Skubic	Wells Fargo
Gilbert & Mary Marquis	Ray & Audrey Olson	Nancy Richter	Theodora Skubic	Betty Westby
Clifford Marwick	Al & Barb Omarzu	Tim & Kathy Riordan	Sam Slade	Bobbi & Ron Westerbur
Shannon Matteson	Dr. Charles & Marjorie Ostrov	Marion Rivard	Brenda & Timothy Slattery	Cindy Westin
Clarence & Mary Ann Mattson	Thomas & Barbara Pakkala	Brent & Kelly Robillard	Pat Sleeman	Margaret & Tom Wiklund
Robert Mattson	Jill Papin	Mary Ann & Richard Robinson	Jim & Jodi Smith	Mary Kay Wildes
Robert & Wendy McAllister	John & Jennie Parden	Ryan Rolando	Mark & Mary Jo Smith	Ron & Angie Williams
Virginia McBride	John Parise	Richard Romer	Julie Snodgrass	Margaret (Peggy) Wright
Edward McCall	Dorothy Parish	Marguerite Rooney	Joyce Snyder	George & Mary Yapel
Bill & Deb McCormick	Bruno Pazzelli	Maureen & Richard Rooney	Michael & Stacey Socha	John & Kathy Young
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John McKillop	Jan Pepelnjak	Mary Lou Roskoski	William & Marilyn Somero	Willie Spelts & Beth Carlson-Spelts
Tracy & John McMorro	Joyce Pepelnjak	Betty Rossman	Willie Spelts & Beth Carlson-Spelts	Jeff Spolar
Dixie Lorraine Meek	William N. & Julie Pepelnjak	Sharon Rowbottom	Jeff Spolar	Laverne Spolar
Aaron & Kris Mehrkens	Charles & Brenda Perpich	Byron & Luann Rowell	Laverne Spolar	Paul & Annalisa Starkovich
Steve & Pat Meinzer	Linda & David Peters	Tina Royer	Paul & Annalisa Starkovich	Luke Stevens
Diane & Rick Melander	Darryl & Diane Peterson	Mark & Mary Rozier	Luke Stevens	Emil & Bernice Stimac
Jean Mell	Erik & Carol Peterson	Jean Rozinka	Emil & Bernice Stimac	
William & Helen Mell				

# Memorials

(since last newsletter)

## *In memory of Dr. Hershel Cope*

Alicia Cope & Brent Robinson  
in memory of Grandpa (Hershel) Cope

Amelia, Sydney, Rory & Nolin Cope-Robinson  
in memory of Great Grandpa (Hershel) Cope

Andrew, Kathryn & William Peterson  
in memory of Grandpa Cope

From his "neighbor kids",  
Bill Koski, Don Koski, Janet Koski, Carolyn Olsen

Phil & Eleanor Anshus, Brian & Robin Aronen, Juliane Badanjak, Steve & Jennifer Bonner, Gary Carlson, Joseph & Katheran Caulfield, Chestnut Collision Center, Cope & Peterson Employees: Karen, Merella, Jo, Kim G., Marla, Carleen and Ronda, Dale & Kathryn Cremers, Jim Grummett & Janet Eichholz, Ray & Linda Erickson, Lucille Fiola, Donovan & Kathy Frank, Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, Attorneys at Law, Luan Gentilini, Gary & Kaye Giroux, Loy Gotham, Marguerite Grams, Edward & Maureen Gregorich, Larry & Barbara Groves, George & Phyllis Harvey, Peter J. & Colette Johnson, Arthur & Judy Jytyla, Margaret Kajala, Dan & Shelby Karakas, Mike & Nancy Kearney, Mark & Donna Leese, Ray & Deb Luoma, Susan Marvel, John & Tracy McMorrow, James & Christine Nelson, Chuck & Linda Niskanen, Bobby & Nancee Norri, Judy Norri, Joe & Dana Pahkala, Dorothy Parish, Julie Staver & John Pepelnjak, Dr. Duane & Mary Person, Carol & Courtney Peterson, Erik & Carol Peterson, John & Carol Peterson, Jeff & Kathleen Petrack, Jerry & Paulette Pfremmer, Mark & Patty Phillips, Tom Butorac & Deanne Polski, Bob & Elaine Prittinen, Jim & Jeanne Prittinen, Mary Ann & Richard Robinson, Ryan-Kasner-Bialke LLC, Tony & Kathy Sacchetti, John (Jack) Skoog, Mike & Vicki Skubic, Mindy Edelstein Sloo, Don & Pam Stauty, Roger & Brenda Suihkonen, Scott Swanson & M.J. Dempsey-Swanson, Michael Swor, Ron & Jackie Walkky, Scott & Cheryl Weappa, and Rosella Wolfe

## *In memory of Ralph Harvey*

Bob & Barbara Baldrice, Ruth Harvey, Ralph's Friends & Family, Mike & Nancy Kearney, Sharon Lager, Barbara Lundberg, Todd & Wanda McGillivray, A. Russell & Gayle Miller, Linda & Chuck Niskanen, Bobby & Nancee Norri, Judy Norri, H. Jeffrey & Nancy Peterson, Tony & Kathy Sacchetti, Peter & Brenda Skorich, and Roger & Brenda Suihkonen

Jean Abramson in memory of  
Dr. & Mrs. Don Rautio (Faye Tritchler) class of 1960

James & Audrey Amundson  
in memory of Barbara Agamenoni Wiklund

James & Mary Anderson  
in memory of Robert R. Leiviska and Thomas R. Reagan

Brian & Robin Aronen  
in memory of Hugo Aronen and Karen Saxhaug Walden

Lloyd & Donna Bachman in memory of Mabel A.  
MacKenzie

Bob & Barb Baldrice in memory of  
Bill Geiselman, Mary Raukar, and Marlyne Morris

Nicole Belpedio in memory of  
Isaac Zupetz and Brian Erickson

Dawn Berg in memory of John J. Haataja  
Maggie Bezek in memory of Stanley Bezek, Sr.

Biss Lock, Inc. in memory of Dick Lepisto

The family of Mike & Sue Blaeser  
in memory of Elizabeth Wernecke

Kathryn Alar Blanchard  
in memory of brothers & sisters Emil Alar, Peter Alar,  
Mary Alar Mastnik, and Mandy Alar Johnson

Steve & Jennifer Bonner in memory of Stan Bezek, Sr.

Dan & Susan Branstad in memory of Vic Lager

The Broughton Group-M.Lynch in memory of Pat Foschi

Norman Carlson in memory of Bill Geiselman

Alicia Cope & Brent Robinson in memory of  
Grandma (Dorothy) Dargan and Helen Ahlstrand

John & Linda Cope in memory of Helen Ahlstrand

Kathryn DeLuca in memory of Rudy DeLuca

Ray & Linda Erickson in memory of Mille Kirsch

Gary, Linda, Giles, Evan & Jace Friedlieb  
in memory of Pat Foschi

Lois Geiselman in memory of Bill Geiselman

Jack & Carolyn Gentilini  
in memory of Stella Plotnik and Felicia Matkovich

"From her family" Mike & Melissa Hahne, Samuel Slade,  
James Hahne, and Mary Terch  
in memory of Sally Hahne Slade

Mary A. Harrington, Joseph D. Harrington, John M.  
Harrington, Thomas P. Harrington, Margaret Harrington  
Conroy, Mary E. Armstrong, and Paul A. Harrington  
in memory of Charles P. Harrington

Ed & Cora Hawkinson  
in memory of Herbert "Hubba" Lind

Bob & Dawn Heisel in memory of Robert Nelson

Jerry & Kay Elias Helgeson  
in memory of Don & Faye Rautio

Gladys Helland  
in memory of Barbara Agamenoni Wiklund

Virginia Hokkanen in memory of Roy Hokkanen

Marlene Jarvi  
in memory of her parents, Duke & Flo Oklobzija  
Michael & Dawn Johnson in memory of Elda Pappone

Peter G. & Marieta Johnson  
in memory of Stanley Bezek, Sr.

Greg Johnson, M.D. in memory of Mary Segog Dean  
Raymond & Ruth Jokinen in memory of Florence Konu

All Blue Pride Fund donations are recognized in the Blue Pride Fund Annual Newsletter.

# Memorials

(since last newsletter)

Harriet S. Joseph in memory of Irene Schibel, David Schibel,  
and Rita Schibel Marks

Lyle & Marilyn Kiral  
in memory of Ermi (Maki) Pesola Ronbuck

Donald & Shawna Kishel in memory of Rudy DeLuca

Sharon Lager in memory of J. Victor Lager,  
Elizabeth Thompson, and Helen Ahlstrand

Mark & Donna Leese in memory of Phyllis Tekautz

Ernest & Marsha Maki  
in memory of Marie Hejda and Jedson Hejda

Mary Ann Nelimark in memory of Dr. D.R. Nelimark

Judy Norri in memory of Ed Dummer

Shirley S. Olson in memory of Herbert "Hubba" Lind

H. Jeffrey & Nancy Peterson in memory of Helen Ahlstrand

Barbara Politano in memory of Stella Plotnik

Brandon, Heather, Ali, Brady, & Ava Seppala  
in memory of Grandma (Dorothy) Dargan

Pete Bertolas/Ski View, Inc. in memory of Betty Bertolas

Mike & Vicki Skubic in memory of Stan Bezek, Sr.

Theodora Skubic in memory of Stan Bezek, Sr.

Robert & Christine Springhetti in memory of Francis Ferguson

Roger & Brenda Suihkonen in memory of Karen Saxhaug  
Walden, Helen Ahlstrand, and Eleftheria "Lefty" Demorlis

Robert & Iris Teasck  
in memory of their parents Teasck & Whitmarsh

Bob & Lois Vidmar in memory of Bob Plunkett class of 1963

Cheryl & Scott Weappa in memory of Ben Stavseth

Don & Karen Welander  
in memory of August Gentilini and Creighton Koski

Al & Mary Williams in memory of Lucille O'Malley

# Crown Jewel Donors

(new or cumulative gifts since last newsletter)

## Ruby Givers \$500 to \$999

Elizabeth Burge  
Matilda Byrne  
Dale & Kathryn Cremers  
Myra DeByle  
Mike & Melissa Habne  
Patricia Hamalainen  
Richard & Nancy Harvey  
John & Shannon Malovrh  
Richard & Marlys Olson  
John & Susan Pearsall  
Mike & Nancy Ralston  
Karl & Mary Lou Sharp  
Dr. Don & Joann Sipola  
Michael & Gail Swor

## Emerald Givers \$1,000 to \$4,999

Joseph & Jacqueline Ault  
Tom & Tracy Baldrice  
Coates Plaza Hotel  
Jeff Collie & Kerry Waschke-Collie  
Fortune Bay Resort Casino  
Ruth Harvey  
Keith & Laurie Harvey  
David & Jeanette Johnson  
Eric & Lori Kishel  
Chuck & Linda Niskanen  
Craig & Beth Nordling  
Polly Podpeskar  
Patrick Roche  
Roger & Brenda Suihkonen

## Diamond Givers \$5,000 & above

Short Stop Stores  
UBS Financial

## We appreciate gifts of all sizes – Thank You!

These lists have been prepared with care, but if your name has been omitted or is in error,  
please inform us of the oversight in order that we may correct our records.

## Yes, we believe in building the health and vitality of Virginia!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- Check here for a change of address.
- Send me information about Automated Giving.
- Send me information about establishing a fund in my name or my family's name.
- Send me information about how to leave a bequest to the Virginia Community Foundation.
- Have a foundation representative call me.

I hereby pledge a sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
payable annually or as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my major Credit Card:

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bill me: \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is in memory/honor (please circle one) of:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



make checks payable to:  
**Virginia Community  
Foundation**

P.O. Box 559  
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Virginia, MN 55792

(218) 749-8239

www.virginiafoundation.com

# Register today!

Register by June 10th and receive a 20% V-Store discount coupon. The reunion V-Store will be located at Reunion Central and stocked with t-shirts, hoodies, polos, flip flops, tote bags....and much, much more! You can select items with our new reunion logo or enjoy an item with a new Virginia light standard logo. There is something for everyone!

To register, go to [www.virginiafoundation.com](http://www.virginiafoundation.com), pick up registration forms at the Virginia Public Library or the Foundation Office at 519 Chestnut Street, or call 218-749-8239.

*\*Alumni attending class gatherings must register no later than June 21 to allow ample time for meal planning.*

## Registration Includes:

- Reunion commemorative wristband & registration bag
- Admission to all reunion events
- Prime seating at all events (while space allows)
- Outdoor movie at Ewens Field
- Saturday evening concert
- Two Saturday evening dances
- Business Give-aways to those wearing the commemorative wristband
- Free Quad Cities Optimal Fitness aerobic classes throughout reunion week
- Class gathering meal with alumni package\*



**The Great Virginia Get-Together**  
All-Class & Community Celebration \*July 1-6, 2008

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