



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ St. Paul, MN 55155

May 13, 2011

Bethel Seminary
Community Ministry Leadership Awardees

Dear Community Ministry Leadership Awardees,

In 1831, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote glowingly of America's commitment to voluntary action on behalf of the common good. "America is great," he said, "because she is good."

Today, that still rings true, as across our nation Americans of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities are giving their time and talents to meet needs in their communities and serve a purpose greater than themselves. Among all of the 50 states and DC, Minnesota ranks behind only two other states in terms of volunteer rates overall. And among large cities, Minneapolis/St. Paul ranks number one in the nation for the percentage of our citizens who volunteer. You, through your service, are part of that noble number.

This award recognizes your valuable role in serving those in your community. Through your actions, you have helped meet the needs of your neighbors physically, socially and spiritually in long- and short-term ways. You have taken what was in your hand, and have invested it for the benefit of others. You have served without thought of reward, but gave of your time and resource simply because it was within your power to give, and you knew it was right to do so.

We of the State of Minnesota applaud your generosity of spirit and thank you for your service on behalf of others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton".

Mark Dayton
Governor