

# 2008 Annual Report

## Project FINE

Focus on Integrating Newcomers through Education

*Strengthening and  
enriching our  
community by  
facilitating the  
integration of people  
who are ethnically  
diverse.*



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# Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
About Project FINE	4
Executive Director's Message	5
Board President's Message	6
Programs and Services	
New Programs and Projects	7
Ongoing Programs and Services	9
Community Involvement and Events	11
Recognition	13
Financial Summary for 2008	14
2008 Partnerships	15
Special Recognition of Partners	16
Volunteer Information	17
Board Members and Staff	18



# About Project FINE

Project FINE is a private, non-profit organization based in Winona, MN, dedicated to easing the integration of ethnically diverse people into the local community. To accomplish this goal, we provide interpreters and translators as well as opportunities for education, information, referral and empowerment for immigrants and refugees. Much of our work is accomplished through a volunteer board of directors, a small staff, students and other volunteers who serve as interpreters, and extensive collaboration with local service providers, businesses and government agencies

## Mission:

To strengthen and enrich our community by facilitating the integration of people who are ethnically diverse.

## Vision:

To create a respectful and sensitive community.

## Values:

### People

We treat everyone as individuals and appreciate each person's uniqueness.

### Family

We support and assist families through the process of building new lives in our community.

### Cultural Sensitivity

We serve multi-ethnic community, businesses, organizations and individuals to assist our clients and to build a sensitive community.

### Respect

We serve our clients with dignity and respect; we are compassionate and sensitive to their needs.

### Diversity

We honor and celebrate diversity.

### Collaboration

We create partnerships with the community businesses, organizations and individuals to assist our clients and to build a sensitive community.



# Executive Director's Message

Dear friends,

It is a great honor and privilege to share with you this report about the activities of Project FINE during 2008. These last three years at Project FINE have been wonderful and exciting for me; I have seen the organization grow from a language service provider into a resource center for building a community that welcomes newcomers and respects and embraces diversity.

In the past year, we have strengthened many existing partnerships and have built new ones to meet the growing needs of the immigrants and refugees who have chosen to live among us. We have reached out to people in neighboring counties and states who want to assist newcomers. We have shared with them our expertise and experience in working with diverse populations, and helped them build local organizations to encourage respect for diversity in their community.



The tremendous support that we have received from our partners, volunteers and friends makes it possible for us to do what we do, and keep doing it. In 2008, Project FINE benefitted from the exceptional individuals who served on the Board of Directors, and with the blessing of a strong and committed staff and the work of more volunteers than in any other year, Project FINE renewed its commitment to make our community the best it can be for all who call Winona "home."

I invite you to share in our journey and in the successes of 2008; It was a wonderful experience, and the road ahead is equally promising for Project FINE and for Winona.

*Fatima Said*

Fatima Said  
Executive Director

"Project FINE has continued to be a valuable resource for the courts in 2008. We are able to get competent interpreters quickly. Project FINE also now provides interpreter services for the Department of Corrections-Courthouse Unit. Director Fatima Said has served as a member of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) and contributed greatly to the ongoing goals of the CJCC's Community and Outreach Committee. I participated in an educational training of the criminal justice system that she and her staff recently organized. It was well attended by the Hmong and Hispanic communities. It was time well spent for both presenters and the audience members."

- Sally Cumiskey, Court Administrator, Winona County Court

# Board President's Message

When I first joined the board of Project FINE, I rarely read the organization's name in the paper. Now, I see it periodically, sometimes accompanied by some outstanding photographs of an event. When I went to meetings in town, few had heard of Project FINE. The organization's name rarely came up in conversation.

Now, almost every conversation among nonprofit agencies about the future of Winona includes talk of immigrants and refugees, the challenge of providing services to them and finding a role for Project FINE. Just as one example, when the community talked about recovery from the flood, there was concern that immigrants and refugees might have suffered losses - how do we contact them, how do we help them? Simple, call Project FINE. Our mission - helping immigrants and refugees who have chosen to live in Winona while also helping to sustain Winona as a community that welcomes diversity - now is much more visible. Why?



I think there are two reasons. First, the Board of Directors made an inspired decision when it selected Fatima to be Executive Director of Project FINE. Fatima brings a tremendous range of talents and skills to the position. Equally important, she brings passion for the mission and vision of Project FINE. Then, Fatima has chosen and manages an outstanding staff that brings its own gift sets to the table as well as the same passion and commitment that they see in their leader.

I also credit the leadership of the community. These men and women from all parts of the community - business, government, nonprofit, educational, faith - are sensitive to the needs of people from different cultures, they understand the contributions that newcomers can make to life in Winona, and they lead others to follow their example. I am especially grateful to our leaders who tell us that intolerance and prejudice are not part of the fabric of Winona: you have had a major impact on our lives.

Today, Project FINE recognizes and thanks all of its partners. We particularly appreciate the many people in our community who disavow bigotry and prejudice and speak up for diversity. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of Project FINE, and especially our clients, I thank you for your courage. Because so many people in Winona embrace the ideals and the principles of our nation, Project FINE and its mission both thrive in our community.

Sincerely,

*Justin Green*

Justin Green  
President, Board of Directors

"Project FINE is our catalyst in Winona County for building an inclusive community instead of just talking about it. Our community belongs to all its citizens; Project FINE and its tireless director Fatima Said makes sure we never lose sight of that immutable truth."

- Charles MacLean, Attorney, Winona County Attorney's Office



# Programs and Services

## New Programs and Projects

### Entrepreneurship Classes



This series of classes and field trips was developed by Dr. Gabriel Manrique of Winona State University with the support of Winona National Bank and the Southeast Minnesota Initiative Fund. Many of the immigrant families in the Winona area are ready to move into the next stage of their lives and, for many, that means starting their own business. Immigrants and refugees who attended these classes learned how to start a small business, and heard tips for business success from local experts. Of the 62 newcomers who attended, at least 24 have begun to plan their own business.

### Multicultural Issues

In collaboration with Winona State University Professors Christi Nowland and Arlen Carey, Project FINE and 18 Winona State University Social Work students have assisted six Hmong and Hispanic families with services to meet their specialized needs. With the help of Project FINE staff and interpreters, the WSU students made home visits, assisted the children with homework, and helped parents access community resources to meet family needs. The students learned about new cultures, the families learned more about life in their new home.



### Healthy Futures



Project FINE formed a collaboration with the administration, staff and teachers at Winona Middle School and Winona Senior High School to develop healthy attitudes about education in students who are at great risk of dropping out of school or not continuing their education. The program engaged students in conversations about the economic and personal gains that come from earning a diploma and entering post-secondary education programs. It also identified sources of financial and education support that would help them succeed. Parents and local community organizations assisted in the program.

"I appreciate the partnership with Project FINE and the Saint Charles Public Schools. Goals are same to help newcomers in community to be successful, and it's an excellent partnership that will be really beneficial to the future success of the St. Charles community."

— Allen Rasmussen, Principal, Saint Charles Elementary School

# Programs and Services

## New Programs and Projects

### Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)



In partnership with the St. Charles School District, Project FINE assisted the Early Childhood Family Education staff at Saint Charles Elementary School to offer several classes tailored to meet the needs of immigrant and refugee parents with children of preschool age. The classes were organized around the many queries that Project FINE volunteers and staff received from newcomer parents, and gave the parents and school authorities an opportunity to come together, build relationships and share information and resources on childcare and parenting. More than 16 families attended the two meetings in 2008, and more meetings are planned for 2009.

### Understanding the Criminal Justice System in America



The contrast between the US system of criminal justice and the legal process in the countries from which most immigrants and refugees in the Winona area have moved often confuses and scares newcomers. Supported by a grant from the Minnesota State Bar Foundation and with the endorsement of the Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Winona County District Court, the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the Winona Police Department, the Winona County Attorney and the Public Defenders Office, Project FINE provided a one-day session to help newcomers understand the court system, law enforcement and corrections facilities and processes.

Newcomers learned about their rights and responsibilities as new residents in the United States and how to exercise them in the Greater Winona Area. More than 60 newcomers attended this session.

"We in Winona sometimes wonder where the next generation of entrepreneurs will come from. Throughout this area's history, immigrants have been an important source of entrepreneurial initiative and we can remain hopeful that such a tradition will continue. The work of Project FINE in fostering entrepreneurship among our recent immigrants, in partnership with Winona-area businesses and organizations, will pay significant dividends in the future. We can count on that as we have counted on the contribution of immigrants to this area for more than a hundred years."

- Dr. Gabriel Manrique, Professor of Economics and Finance, Winona State University

# Programs and Services

## Ongoing Programs and Services

### Professional Language Services

Project FINE is the only organization in Winona County that provides professional interpretation and translation services for individuals and businesses. With a roster of over 55 trained interpreters who can work in 22 different languages, Project FINE helps local businesses make the connections they need with prospective clients and customers, and lets them hear the voices of their limited-English-speaking patrons. The medical interpreter services are credentialed by the State of Minnesota, and Project FINE has developed special expertise in the areas of legal documents and procedures including trials. Languages for which services are available include:

Arabic	Hmong	Sign Language
Bosnian	Italian	Somali
Bulgarian	Japanese	Spanish
Cambodian	Korean	Swahili
Cantonese	Laotian	Tibetan
Dinka	Mandarin	Vietnamese
French	Portuguese	
German	Russian	

Project FINE screens interpreters for their ability to translate and interpret and trains them on ethical and legal issues that they may confront. Continuous assessments and evaluations assure a high level of service.

In 2008, Project FINE renewed almost all language service contracts, and signed several new agreements. The organization provided more than 2850 hours of interpretation and translation services throughout the year. Project FINE expanded its services by establishing an emergency contact number thereby, for the first time, making services accessible to the community and businesses after office hours and on weekends and holidays.

Project FINE would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank its many interpreters and translators for their hours of service and contribution to our mission and the community.

### Building Cultural Competency Diversity Training

To increase community awareness and sensitivity to the increasingly diverse population and workforce in the Winona area, Project FINE offered "Building Cultural Competency" training sessions to schools, businesses, government agencies and social service providers. The program helps participants understand how culture and tradition affects their relationships with immigrants and refugees.

In 2008, Building Cultural Competency training sessions were provided under contract to:

Winona Area Catholic Schools	Winona County
Cotter High School, Winona	Winona Housing and Redevelopment Authority
City of Winona	Winona Health
SEMCAC Head Start	Winona National Bank
Three Rivers Community Action	Winona Public Schools – District 861
Western Dairyland Community Action – Independence, WI	Winona State University





# Programs and Services

## Ongoing Programs and Services

### Advocacy & Information Referrals

Project FINE advocacy and information services assist newcomers by connecting them to government social service agencies and by helping them in their interactions with school authorities, health care providers, law enforcement officers, and other government agencies. In 2008, Project FINE provided 4,422 hours of service to more than 1285 newcomers.

### Navigating Community Systems

With funds allocated by the United Way of the Greater Winona area, Project FINE and its business partners provide information to newcomers about distinctively American social and structural systems, such as banking, housing, health care and employment. New and ongoing programs that have grown from these initiatives include *Childbirth Classes*, *Banking Classes*, *Entrepreneurship Classes* and *Understanding the Criminal Justice System in the US*.

### Diversity Youth Quest

Launched in 2007 with budget reserves, Diversity Youth Quest (DYQ) has grown substantially in size and attracted significant grant support. DYQ assists middle and high school students of immigrant families overcome the challenges of growing up in their new environment without the benefit of parents who are knowledgeable about American society and culture. The program consists of activities to build self-esteem and talks from positive role models and local professionals. Activities and presentations are held once or twice monthly at both the Winona and St. Charles locations, and are tailored to help participants meet the physical, emotional, social, cultural, health and academic challenges of their young lives. Grants from the Blue Plus Foundation of Minnesota and the Winona Community Foundation will support Diversity Youth Quest for another year.

### Childbirth Classes

With the assistance of Project FINE, these classes provided through Winona Health assists expectant immigrant Hispanic mothers by providing them with culturally appropriate materials in Spanish on maternal health, nutrition and fitness during pregnancy and post-partum, and on the care of their newborn. In 2008, 10 more expectant mothers attended these classes, bringing the total to 50 since its initiation in 2006.

### Citizenship Classes

In collaboration with the United Way and the Winona Community Foundation in 2007, Project FINE provided classes for immigrants who were eligible to take the U.S. citizenship exam. Six of the forty-seven participants have become U.S. citizens and more are planning to take the test. In 2008, Project FINE continued the program by providing information about eligibility for the test and required documentation and referrals to sources of assistance.

### Employment Services

Working with the Winona Workforce Center and local employers, Project FINE helps newcomers obtain employment by providing personal assistance with job applications, resumes, interviews, orientations and training.



# Community Involvement and Events

## Winona State Showcase

Project FINE participated in this event on January 31 that was organized by Winona State University to showcase the range of services provided by non-profit, community and family-based service providers and organizations in the Winona area and to establish relationships with program staff members.



## Annual Report to the Community for the year 2007

Each year, Project FINE holds this event to report on the organization's activities during the preceding year and especially how it has used the many gifts and resources offered by the community. The event and the Annual Report provide Project FINE with the opportunity to recognize and thank its partners and benefactors who have helped bring the organization closer to achieving its mission.



## Open House for St. Charles

The St. Charles Welcome Center opened in the first week of January 2008, and the formal opening celebration was held on April 10. Project FINE partnered with the City of St. Charles and the Diocese of Winona to provide this resource for the immigrant and refugee community in rural Winona County.

## State Legislative Visit, Minneapolis

In partnership with the Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, representatives of Project FINE participated in a visit to Capitol Hill, St. Paul, in April.



## New Faces of Winona

This display of the many faces of immigrants and refugees in the Winona Area was part of the Luxembourg - USA Migration celebration held throughout the month of May. Pictures of Project FINE's immigrant families were displayed at the event. The "Homes We Left Behind" display on January 10, 2009, is a second project inspired by this showcase.



## 3rd Annual Fundraiser Event

Project FINE held its annual event in 2008 at the Visions Event Center on July 27 to help raise funds for the day-to-day operations of the organization. This year, Project FINE distributed copies of *The Journey of a Thousand Miles: A Collection of Immigration Stories*, a booklet of stories as shared by immigrants in the Winona area.



## Freshman Tour to Project FINE

Project FINE participated in the Fall '08 Freshman Orientation for students at Winona State University. More than 200 students made a "pit-stop" at the Project FINE office on August 22 to learn about the organization and its role in the community. Project FINE benefitted from the many student volunteers who responded positively to this introduction to the organization.

"I think this program [Diversity Youth Quest] is wonderful! Despite my reservations at the beginning... I am excited to work with my group of students and build friendships."

— Emily Grinsell, Student and Diversity Youth Quest Mentor, Winona State University

# Community Involvement and Events

## Gladiolus Day Parade in St. Charles

For the second year, Project FINE participated in the August 24 Gladiolus Day parade in the City of St. Charles.



## Healthy Kids' Club

Project FINE continued its partnership with the Healthy Kids' Club program sponsored by Winona Health by participating in the 2008 Kick-off Event on September 27 and serving as a member of the Healthy Kids' Club Evaluation Committee.



## HRA Tenant Council Election

Project FINE and the Winona Human Rights Commission assisted the Housing and Redevelopment Authority hold a Tenant Council Election at the Maplewood Community Center on October 30. Project FINE was a neutral observer of the voting process.

## Global Citizenship Symposium

The Project FINE Education Committee and other volunteers made a presentation on *Citizenship, Diversity and Community Programs* in this series of events and presentations held in the month of October at Saint Mary's University.



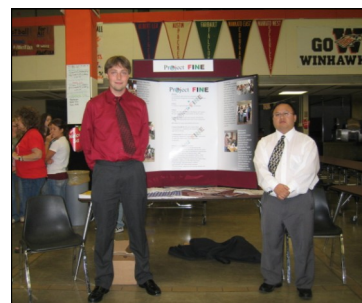
## International Education Day

Winona State University organizes this annual event, held on November 20 in 2008, to give local businesses, organizations, and on-campus offices and student resource centers a forum in which to talk to students about the opportunities in an increasingly global economy.



## Toys for Tots

Project FINE and several client families attended the Annual Toys for Tots event on December 13 at the Winona Mall. Project FINE explained the program to its clients and helped them register for it.



## Gifts for Winona

Project FINE also helped clients register for the Gifts for Winona program organized by Saint Mary's University.

Project FINE also is active with several committees in the community including:

- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
- Human Rights Commission
- Winona Area Public Schools Diversity Advisory Committee
- Winona Area Public Schools Staff Development Committee
- Matty's Place Advisory Committee





# Recognition

## State Legislators Visit the St. Charles office

In January, several legislators visited the City of St. Charles to address issues on poverty faced by its residents. The legislators also stopped at the Project FINE office there to meet and speak with newcomers of the area and hear their concerns.

## Hennepin County Visit to Project FINE

Several representatives from Hennepin County, Minnesota, arranged for a "Shadow Day" at Project FINE which included an extended discussion of day-to-day operations and strategies to help corporate and government clients build cultural competency.

## Inclusion & Diversity Commitment Award 2008

On April 30, the Inclusion and Diversity Office at Winona State University presented Project FINE with this award, recognizing its success in spreading the messages of inclusion, respect and understanding of diversity in the community.

## City of Winona Community Service Award

Project FINE received this award on October 27 in recognition of its service to the immigrants and refugees who are new to the area and to local governments, businesses, service providers and educational institutions. The award recognizes Project FINE's efforts to build a community that is culturally competent and sensitive to an increasingly diverse population.

## Cistercian Monastery Visit to Project FINE

On Nov. 17, members and volunteers of Cistercian monastery Our Lady of Spring Bank Abbey from Sparta, WI, visited Project FINE for a "Shadow Day" and to learn how to meet the challenges in Sparta that are posed by a population that includes a growing number of immigrants and refugees.

## Habitat for Humanity Certificate of Appreciation

The Winona Habitat for Humanity organization awarded Project FINE a certificate of recognition for its work in helping immigrant families in Winona County obtain better housing and for supporting Habitat for Humanity in its efforts to eliminate substandard housing in the area.

## Independent Banker Magazine Article on Project FINE's Diversity Training

The June issue of the Independent Banker Magazine included an article by free-lance journalist Kristine Newkirk, *Culture Class: A Minnesota Bank Finds Success With Special Diversity Training*. She describes the Building Cultural Competency Diversity Training sessions provided to Winona National Bank by Project FINE. The article encourages community banks and bankers to be more attuned to diversity issues in their service areas.

"The ability to communicate with people who don't speak English is critical to comprehending program guidelines, job search activity and work duties. We are pleased that Project Fine has provided translation and interpreter services to the Winona Workforce Center for years. Interpreters readily come to our office or community sites to aid in job search efforts and on the job training assistance for non-English speaking participants. Project Fine is a valuable resource in our community."

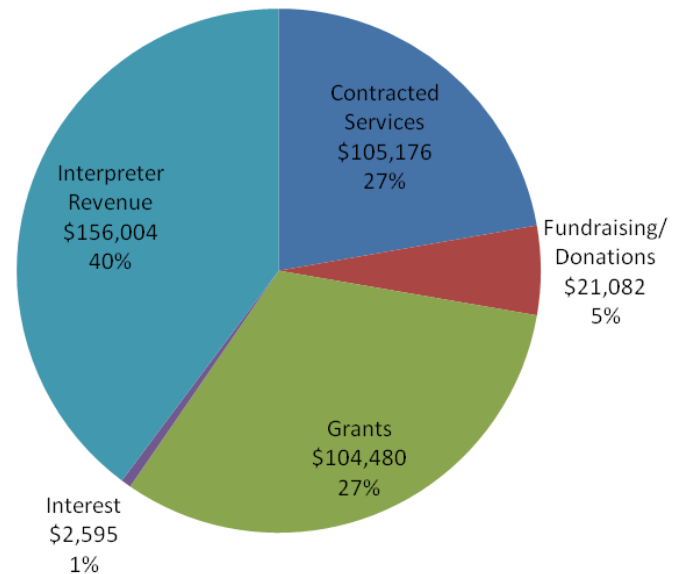
- Ann Nelson, M.S. LSW, PHR, Winona Workforce Center



# Financial Summary for 2008

**Chart 1: Revenue for 2008**

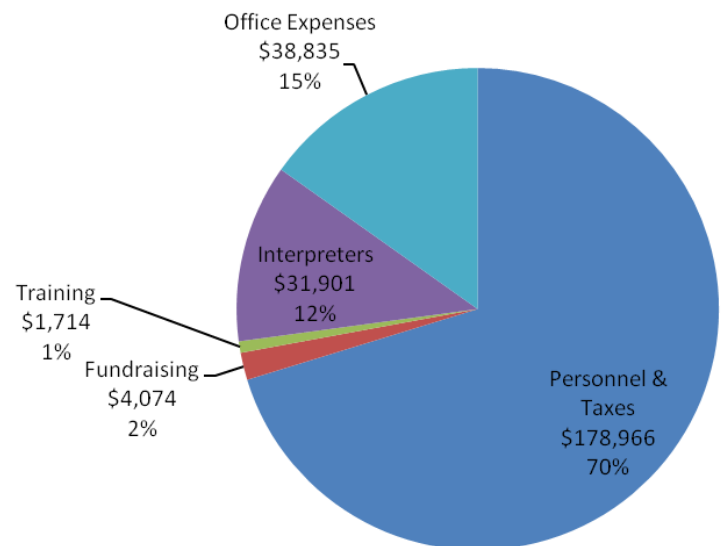
Contracted Services	\$105,176
Fundraising/Donations	\$21,082
Grants	\$104,480
Interest	\$2,595
Interpreter Revenue	\$156,004
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$389,337</b>



2008 Expenses                      -\$255,490

**Chart 2: Expenses for 2008**

Grant Received in 2008 for use in 2009 (BCBS/DYQ)	-\$40,833
Board approved reserved funds	-\$92,643
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$371</b>



"Project FINE is our local bridge to welcome, acclimate, advocate for, and provide the necessary tools to help immigrants succeed in their new environment. From work issues to healthcare concerns and from language barriers to diversity training, Project FINE has helped all of us understand the strength of diversity as we weave together all cultures into the fabric of America."

- Robert Reinert, County Administrator, Winona County

# 2008 Partnerships

Project FINE's many successes would not have been possible without the support of our partners. We cannot overstate the importance of our partnerships with businesses, organizations, government agencies and individuals. In 2008, those partnerships multiplied and strengthened. Project FINE is proud to be a part of a community that understands the needs of newcomers and supports the organizations and programs that assist them as they adjust to life in their new home. These community collaborators truly have helped make Winona County a more welcoming and inclusive place in which to live.

Baby Connections	Peerless Chain
Beyond Tough Guise Project	Saint Charles School District # 858
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Winona	Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Blue Plus – Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota	SEMCAC
City of Saint Charles	Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services
City of Winona	Three Rivers Community Action
Corporation for National & Community Service (Americorps* VISTA)	TRW Automotive
Diocese of Winona	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Winona, MN
Family Medicine of Winona	UCare of Minnesota
Family-Based Services of Winona	United Way of the Greater Winona Area
Gold 'n' Plump of Arcadia	University of Minnesota Extension in Winona, MN
Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center	We-No-Nah Canoe, Inc.
Hiawatha Valley Education District	Winona Chamber of Commerce
Home and Community Options	Winona Community Foundation
Housing and Redevelopment Authority	Winona Cotter High School
Houston County Public Health Services	Winona County Department of Human Services & Community Health Services
Kwik Trip, Inc.	Winona Health
Lewiston School District # 857	Winona National Bank
Merchants Bank of Winona	Winona School District # 861
Midwest Dental Clinic	Winona State University
Minnesota Department of Corrections	Winona Volunteer Services
Minnesota State College—Southeast Technical, Winona, MN	Winona Workforce Center
Minnesota Third Judicial District	Women's Resource Center
Olmsted Medical Center	

"The work that Project FINE accomplishes in our diocese under the direction of Fatima Said is a real blessing for our Hispanic Community. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Fatima. She is for us a heavenly gift like her name indicates recalling the great apparitions of the Mother of God in the city of Fatima, Portugal. A great name for a great person."

- Mr. Eduardo Fortini, Diocese of Winona

# Special Recognition of Partners

Each year, Project FINE singles out one or more of its partners for special recognition through the Partners Award. In 2006, Project FINE recognized **Winona County Department of Human Services, United Way of the Greater Winona Area, and Winona State University**. In 2007, Project FINE recognized the **City of Winona and Winona National Bank**.

In 2008, Project FINE is proud to recognize these very special partners.

## Corporation for National & Community Service



Project FINE recognizes the Corporation for National & Community Service (AmeriCorps) for its support of our mission and for the outstanding work of its volunteers. Our relationship began with a single VISTA volunteer in 2004. In 2008, Project FINE benefited from the work of three VISTA volunteers, and their role at Project FINE has been pivotal to our community outreach efforts and the execution of our programs in both the Winona and St. Charles areas. AmeriCorps VISTAs have helped forge stronger relationships between Project FINE and other community service providers, businesses and institutions of higher learning. They have reached out to the immigrant and refugee populations in Southeast Minnesota, advocated on their behalf and connected them with services at partnering organizations. VISTA volunteers have participated in several Project FINE programs; they have brought great skills and talents to their work, and made our programs even more effective. Project FINE thanks the Corporation for National & Community Service (AmeriCorps) for its assistance, which has been an important component of our success.

## Winona Health



Winona Health and Project FINE have been partners for several years and have worked together to meet the healthcare needs of people in the community who encounter language and cultural barriers in obtaining medical care. Community Memorial Hospital and the Winona Clinic utilize the translation and interpretation services provided by Project FINE to assure that patients and their families receive appropriate care. Winona Health has supported several Project FINE outreach and health education programs focused on the needs of immigrants and refugees who live in the Winona area. A short list of these programs includes Childbirth Classes, Cancer Prevention Classes, Women's Health Classes, the Healthy Kids Club and home visits to help families. Project FINE thanks Winona Health for working with us to improve the health of newcomers and to make refugees and immigrants aware of the great medical resources that are available to them in the community.

## City of St. Charles

The City of St. Charles has been a special partner of Project FINE for more than five years. For several years, Project FINE used office space in City Hall to meet with clients, and helped dozens of immigrants and refugees in their relationships with the city. In 2007, the city of St. Charles helped fund the Project FINE Welcome Center that made our programs and resources more widely available throughout the community, including to the local business community. Project FINE operates Diversity Youth Quest in St. Charles to assist the large number of immigrant children and adolescents in the area who are struggling with a foot in each of two cultures. Project FINE also has provided diversity training at several St. Charles businesses. For partnering with us to build St. Charles as a community that welcomes people of diverse origins and enables them to use their skills and abilities to build a better way of life for themselves, their families and their neighbors, Project FINE thanks Mayor Bill Spitzer, the St. Charles City Council and the City of St. Charles.

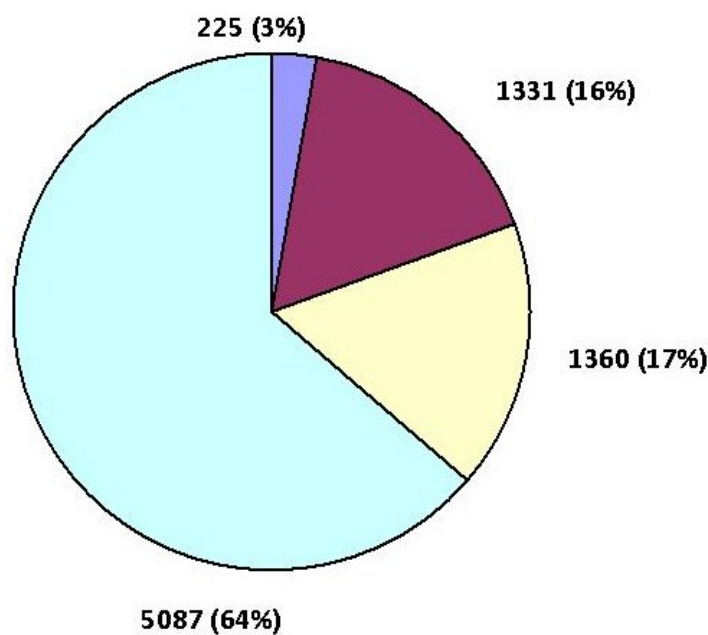
"I think it is a good thing to bring presentations in there [Diversity Youth Quest meetings] to talk about issues that these students are being faced with!"

— Melissa Sandquist, Student and Diversity Youth Quest Mentor, Winona State University

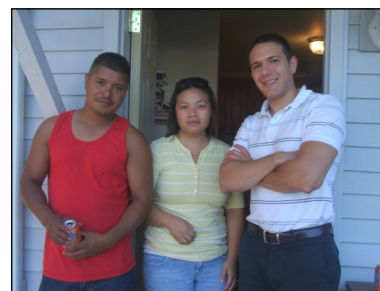
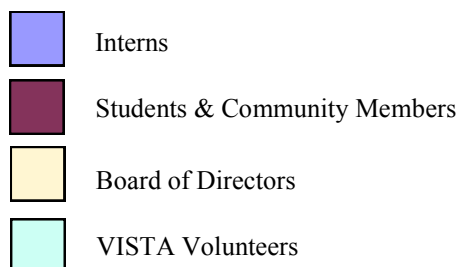
# Volunteer Information

Project FINE is in constant need of greater staff hours than the budget will support. Volunteers fill this gap. Without the kind, generous and unfailing support of volunteers who contribute thousands of hours of their time, talent and resourcefulness to support programs, events and activities, Project FINE would fail to meet many client needs. The Project FINE Board of Directors and staff sincerely thank the many volunteers for being there and for helping the organization move closer to its vision of a more welcoming, respectful and sensitive community.

**Chart 3: Volunteers contributed a total of 8003 hours of service in 2008**



## Legend



"You have a wonderful system set up in order to help the residents of Winona—and I have gotten a great opportunity to see that first hand [through the Multi-Cultural Issues class]! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with the Najera family—and to Maria for all of her work in making that a possibility!"

- Krista Miller, Student, Winona State University



# Board Members & Staff

## Project FINE Board of Directors

Project FINE would also like to recognize its Board of Directors for all their effort, hard work and long hours put into furthering Project FINE and its mission to the community, and their employers which have shared these outstanding individuals to the benefit of our cause.

Dr. Justin Green, President  
Diocese of Winona, Winona, MN

Paul Mundt, Vice President  
Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Winona, MN

Gail Bradbury, Secretary  
Viterbo College, La Crosse, WI

David Vaselaar, Treasurer  
Winona National Bank, Winona, MN

Julie Chiasson  
Community Member, Winona, MN

Wendy Davis  
Edina Realty, Winona, MN

Alan DuCett  
Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical, Winona, MN

Ahmed El-Afendi  
Winona State University, Winona, MN

Mohamed Elhindi  
Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical, Winona, MN

Vicki English  
Winona State University, Winona, MN

Maria Garza-Cienfuegos  
Saint Mary's University, Winona, MN

Dr. Scott Hannon  
Winona Area Public Schools, Winona, MN

Alexander Hines  
Winona State University, Winona, MN

Robin Hoeg  
Winona Health, Winona, MN

Lilian Ramos  
Winona State University, Winona, MN

William Spitzer  
City of Saint Charles, MN

Malia Storovich  
Winona Senior Center, Winona, MN

Neng Vang  
Community Member, Winona, MN

Hank Welle  
Community Member, Winona, MN

## Project FINE Staff

Fatima Said, Executive Director  
Chong Sher Vang, Operations Manager  
Michelle Pastors, Family & Youth Outreach Coordinator  
Dyan Laska, Bookkeeper  
Guadalupe Pantoja, VISTA Volunteer  
Maria Rodriguez, VISTA Volunteer

We also recognize the contribution of staff members who completed their service to Project FINE in 2008:

Leticia Barrientos, Office Coordinator  
Emily Feehan, VISTA Volunteer  
Michael Porter, Office Coordinator  
Ker Thao, Hmong Community Liaison  
Nhia Vang, Hmong Community Liaison  
Lisa Ziegler, VISTA Volunteer



**Above:** Board members at the Holiday Board Meeting Luncheon on December 5, 2008.