

# *2010 Annual Report*

*Project*  *FINE*

*Focus on Integrating Newcomers through Education*



## About Project FINE (Focus on Integrating Newcomers through Education):

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 culturally and linguistically appropriate services and education. We also connect newcomers with existing services in our community. Our work is accomplished by a small staff, a dedicated Board of Directors, volunteers and extraordinary partners.



### Our Guiding Values:

- Culture
- Respect
- Family
- Diversity
- Partnership



### Our Vision:

To create a respectful and sensitive community.

### Our Mission:

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

### Geographical Area Served:

We are proud to serve Winona County and the surrounding region.



*"Project FINE is becoming as reliable as a utility. I know if I flip a switch, the lights come on. I have come to expect Project FINE to be that reliable with the services it provides. It is a remarkable resource to this community."*

*- Dr. Sally Johnstone, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs,  
Winona State University*

# Community Impact 2010

More than **2,500** Newcomers served by Project FINE's Educational Programs

**6,592** Advocacy and Information Referrals Provided

Over **1,400** Hours spent working one-on-one with middle and high school students throughout Winona County

**4** Resilient Partnerships developed in 2010

**\$5,000** Provided in scholarship funds to first-generation college students from immigrant and refugee families

Over **300** Individuals received Diversity Education from Project FINE

**702** Pounds of fresh produce donated to the local Food Shelf by Voices in Harmony program participants

More than **225** Hours spent by Project FINE staff to ensure that newcomers in Winona County completed their 2010 Census forms

# *Executive Director's Message*

Dear Friends,

The past year has been a milestone one for our organization, as we celebrated 'Project FINE - Twenty Years in the Making'. Once again, it is the time of year when we reflect on the past and look forward to the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Many things have changed over the last twenty years – the world has experienced the turn of a new century and enjoyed great leaps in technology and global communication. During the last two decades, we have seen the rise and fall of many world leaders and governments, sometimes peaceful and other times by force. In the aftermath of these changes, there are hundreds of thousands of individuals who are left without a home – persecuted in their own land and forced to flee. Others choose to come to the United States to enjoy the freedom and opportunities of this great country. As a refugee myself, I understand the plight of those who journey to the United States to build a better life. According to an estimate by the Migration Policy Institute, the foreign-born population in Minnesota has grown by over 244,000 since 1990, an indication of our state's growing diversity.

This rising population of newcomers in our state can be attributed to many factors, including a strong educational system and economy. We also have the tradition of "Minnesota Nice," and a history of active volunteerism and outreach to newcomers. Project FINE is an excellent reflection of this in our region. What began in 1990 as a program for at-risk youth is now a respected and responsible organization that served over 2,500 newcomers during the past year. We assist the entire newcomer family through culturally and linguistically appropriate services and educational programs and build bridges between newcomers and the community.

Because of our powerful collaborations, passionate Board and staff, and dedicated volunteers, Project FINE has been able to change and adapt to meet the needs of newcomers and established residents throughout our region. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting our mission, and for the trust and confidence you have placed in us over the last 20 years. I am looking forward to many more years of partnership with you, as we make Winona a stronger and more vibrant community for all.

*Fatima Said*

Fatima Said, Executive Director



# *Board President's Message*

When I joined the Board of Directors of Project FINE six years ago, the organization was very different than it is today. I can recall passing a hat around to pay for bottled water and coffee that I didn't even drink and wondering what in the heck I had gotten myself into. At the time, Project FINE was so cash-strapped that the chairs we sat in for Board meetings were hand me downs of hand me downs! During this time, Jean Hayes worked hard to make the Board members believers and stepped in to provide stop-gap leadership to keep the organization afloat until a new Executive Director could be hired.



Project FINE hit the jackpot with the hiring of Fatima Said as Executive Director. She provided the necessary leadership and built Project FINE into a shining model for non-profits. Not only has the organization become financially sound, but we are providing more programming than ever before to meet the needs of newcomers in our community. People no longer scratch their heads, wondering what Project FINE does – it has now become a respected entity throughout our community, our region, and the entire state. The public is now familiar with our programs and services and Project FINE has established its place in the Winona Community.

Because of all these changes, my term on the Board of Directors has been like the whirlwind ride of a tech stock in the nineties! Throughout my tenure on the Board, I have been involved in the Executive and Education Committees and was honored to serve as Board President for 2010. Although my term has ended, I will continue to serve on the Executive Committee. Project FINE is doing such important work, and I am excited to be a part of the organization's continued success.

I am especially proud to present this report to our wonderful and supportive community. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Project FINE, I would like to humbly and gratefully thank our many volunteers, dedicated staff, ever-increasing number of partners, and financial supporters for making 2010 another fantastic year!

*Dr. Scott M Hannon*

Dr. Scott M. Hannon, Board President 2010

# Language Services

Project FINE's Language Services program provides one-on-one communication between providers and their non-English-speaking clients for face-to-face appointments, conference calls and document translations.

With a roster of over 60 interpreters proficient in 24 languages, Project FINE is able to communicate the needs of limited-English-speaking community members and let their voices be heard.

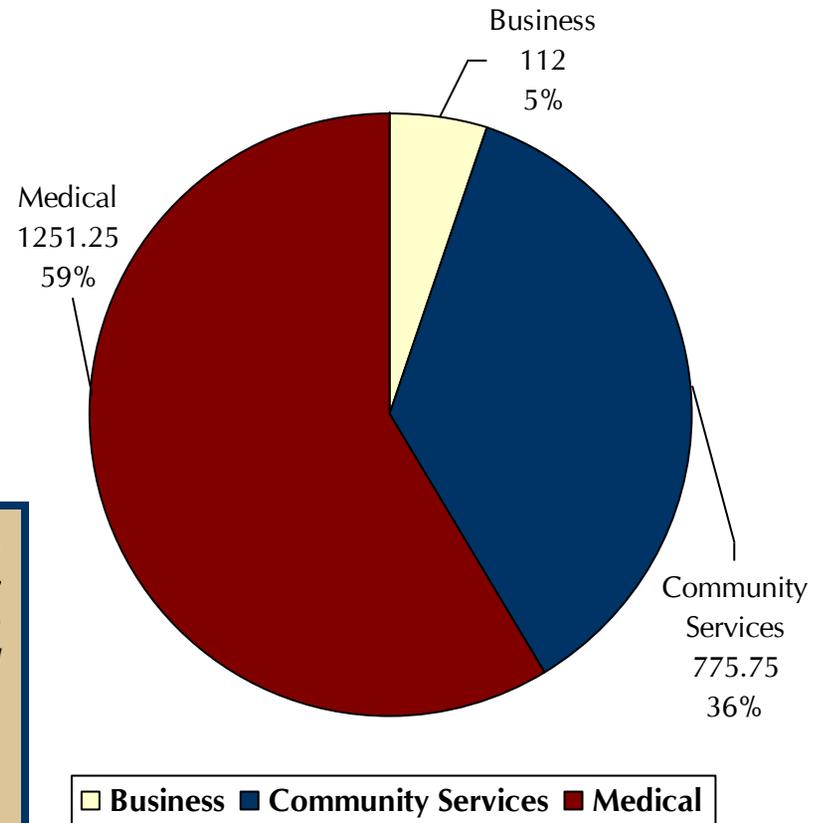
In 2010, Project FINE provided over 2,139 hours of interpretation and translation services to 49 service providers throughout Winona County and the surrounding region. Contracts for Language Services were also renewed with the Winona County Department of Corrections, BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota and UCare.



During 2010, three Project FINE interpreters completed the Minnesota Court Interpreters Ethics Test and Orientation. Project FINE now has five interpreters listed on the statewide Roster.

## Giving a Voice

### Interpreting Hours 2010



*"Project FINE works with our agency on a regular basis, providing translation and programming for our housing authority's residents and staff. The services provided by Project FINE are invaluable to our agency and our residents. The staff of Project FINE is both professional and compassionate; we recommend Project FINE as a resource to new and current residents and I look forward to continuing our partnership in the future."*

*- Linda Bedtka, Executive Director, Winona Housing and Redevelopment Authority*

# Advocacy & Information Referrals

Project FINE Advocacy and Information services assist newcomer families as they adjust to life in the United States and become self-sufficient. We connect newcomers with existing services in our community and provide linguistically appropriate information and referrals.

The connections made through Project FINE's Advocacy and Information services benefit not only newcomer families, but the entire community as well. In 2010, Project FINE provided over 6,592 hours of service to more than 1,445 newcomers throughout Winona County. Over 2,100 of these hours were provided in-kind.

## Making Connections



*Advocacy and Information services provide referrals to meet the basic needs of newcomer families, including:*

- ◆ *Health care*
- ◆ *School resources*
- ◆ *Employment*
- ◆ *Housing*
- ◆ *Food Assistance*
- ◆ *Household Needs*
- ◆ *Personal Needs*



*"Staff at the Department of Human Services have the highest regard and respect for the professionalism and quality service that has been provided on an ongoing and consistent basis by Project FINE. We are very fortunate to have this resource available to serve the growing diversity of our families in Winona County."*

*- Julie A. Thompson, Interim Director, Winona County Department of Human Services*

# Diversity Training

## Increasing Understanding

To increase awareness and sensitivity about an increasingly diverse workforce and customer base, Project FINE offers “Building a Cultural Competency” training to schools, local businesses, government agencies and social service providers.

Training sessions are customized to meet the unique needs of each client. Presentations typically cover cultural information, such as family structure and customs, barriers to service, and personal stories.

In addition to training, Project FINE also facilitates needs assessments for businesses and organizations that provide insight into the cultural understanding of their staff and help identify service gaps within the non-English-speaking community.

During 2010, Diversity Education was provided for Winona County Department of Human Services, Winona State University, Riverway Learning Community and Semcac Clinic. Project FINE also completed needs assessments for Minnesota State College - Southeast Technical and Semcac Clinic.



*“Project FINE has been a significant collaborator with the Southeast Tech community as we continue our journey of discovery, understanding, appreciation and engagement of the diverse cultures interwoven in the Winona region”*

*- James Johnson, President, Minnesota State College-  
Southeast Technical*

# Navigating Community Systems

## Empowering Individuals

Newcomers to the United States find themselves immersed in a society that is often vastly different from their own. They are excited to build a new life but face many barriers, which makes everyday life very difficult.

Through the support of the United Way of the Greater Winona Area and other business partners, Project FINE provides education to newcomers about distinctly American social and structural systems, such as government, citizenship, banking, health care and employment.

In 2010, several educational sessions were held, including Childbirth and Citizenship Classes. Since 2007, over 55 individuals have participated in Citizenship Classes, and 10 have since taken their oath as United States Citizens, and 7 more plan to take the test within the next year.



### *Song's Citizenship Story*

Song Vang is 24 years old and was born in Thailand. She has a large family, including 3 brothers and 4 sisters. Song came to the United States when she was 10 years old. After arriving, she was put into the second grade and began to adjust to life in her new home. Learning English was a challenge, as was maintaining her own native tongue. In the midst of these difficult circumstances, she persevered and completed her high school education.

Song is very grateful that her family was able to come to the United States. She is very happy with her new life, and has made the U.S. her home. Recently, Song came to Project FINE and shared her interest in becoming an American citizen. For Song,

this is a way to show her appreciation and give back to the country that so graciously welcomed her. She says that life here in America is very different from Thailand - "there are many jobs so you can work to support your family, and you no longer have to live in fear of enemies trying to invade your property or capture you."

Project FINE is helping Song navigate the naturalization process, including completing the necessary paperwork and helping her study for the naturalization exam. When Song was asked what she likes best here in America, she smiles and says,

"What I enjoy most about the United States is the American law, which I believe is very appropriate and a great way to manage American society. Also the country is so diverse, and everyone is welcoming, and open to trying new things such as food from other countries that is available in local restaurants. Overall the education that is provided gives everyone an opportunity for a better career no matter what color you are, everyone is treated the same with the same rights, freedom of speech, and can believe what they want."

# College Education Connection

The College Education Connection program is designed to provide academic support, motivation and access to resources for immigrant youth as they pursue post-secondary education.

Monthly program sessions are held in Winona and St Charles, and focus on giving students the tools needed to prepare for higher education. In addition to these large-group sessions, the program coordinator travels to three area high schools (Lewiston-Altura, St Charles and Winona) to provide one-on-one assistance to students.

College Education Connection is funded by the Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation. The program has experienced great success, with 81 participants from June-December 2010.

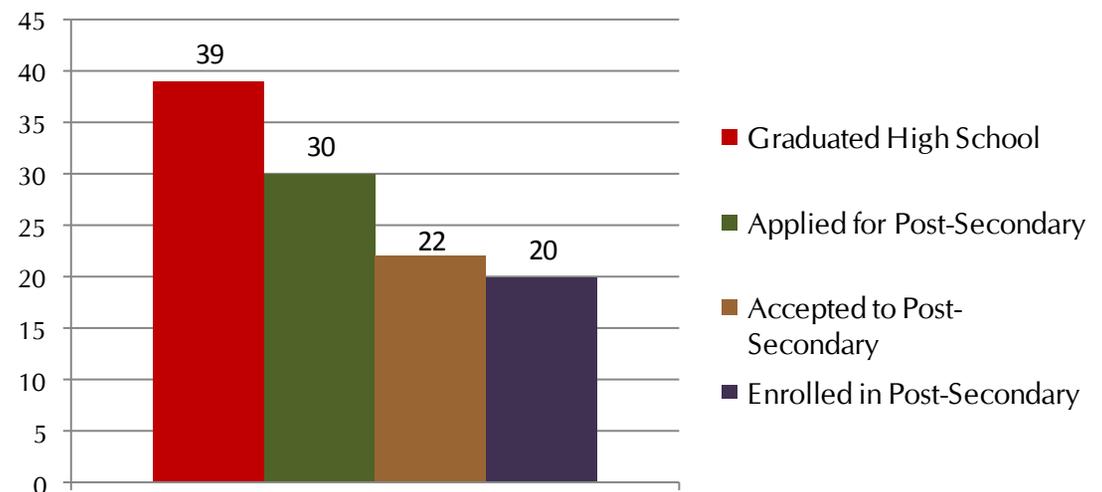


As part of the College Education Connection program, Project FINE and Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation awarded \$5,000 in scholarships to five program participants.

Pictured from left to right: Fatima Said, Project FINE Executive Director, Scholarship Recipients Ong Lor, Cynthia Puaha and Tou Vang, and Hannah Chan, Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation. Not pictured are scholarship recipients not pictured Martha Hang and Yeng Vang.

## Preparing for the Future

### College Education Connection Graduating Class of 2010 41 Participants



*"Having the College Education Connection program at the high school was a valuable resource for first generation college bound students. Without this opportunity, many of the students wouldn't have pursued post-secondary education."*

*- Kelly Jansen, Principal, Winona Senior High School*

# Diversity Youth Quest

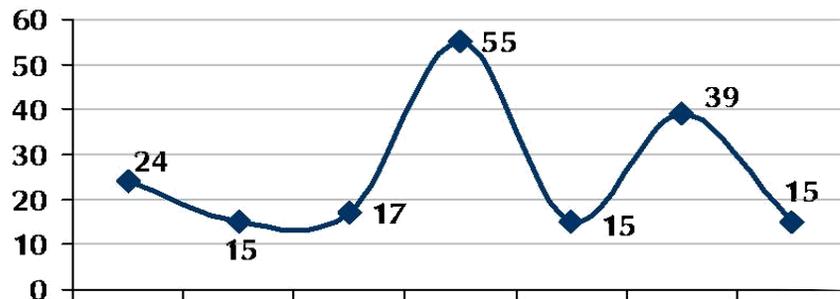
## Promoting a Healthy Tomorrow

Diversity Youth Quest is designed to improve the mental health and ease the social adjustment of newcomer youth in Winona County. The program consists of monthly sessions, held in Winona and St Charles, as well as supporting activities that help middle and high school youth from immigrant families overcome the challenges of growing up in two cultures. Diversity Youth Quest is funded by support from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MN Foundation, the Mardag Foundation, and the Winona Community Foundation.

In 2010, Project FINE received additional funding through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MN Foundation's Resilient Organizations Fund to create strategic partnerships and increase the capacity of the Diversity Youth Quest program. Deeper relationships were forged with four community organizations: Winona Health, Winona County Department of Human Services, Winona Area Public Schools, and

Winona State University. As a result of these partnerships, Project FINE will be able to meet the needs of the parents and younger siblings of program participants by offering additional programming related to the Diversity Youth Quest focus of mental health and social adjustment.

**Diversity Youth Quest Participant Accomplishments 2010**



Out of 108 middle and high school participants:

- 24 had a reduction on their stress or anger levels
- 15 learned how to understand their feelings
- 17 used techniques learned to avoid drugs/alcohol or reduce their intake
- 55 improved their social adjustment and knowledge of American social systems
- 15 became more confident to do new things
- 39 realized an improvement in their academic standing
- 15 have a better understanding of their family and cultural values



# Voices in Harmony

## Building Bridges

In 2010, Project FINE began Voices in Harmony, a program designed to foster social and cultural interaction between newcomers and established residents and provide the tools needed to become true participants in the community. At the beginning of the program, a needs assessment was completed and the results were used to determine future program sessions. Two educational initiatives grew out of the needs assessment—Farm Laborer Training sessions for Hispanic/Latinos in the St Charles area and agricultural education and support for Hmong community gardeners in Winona.



Through grant support from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, Project FINE hosted six educational sessions for Spanish-speaking farm laborers in St Charles. Presentations focused on the responsibilities and rights of employees best practices for farming and other resources to enhance the job performance of participants. Over 50 individuals attended the sessions, which were a great success.

During the spring and summer, Project FINE worked closely with Winona County to provide access and education for Hmong gardeners at the new community garden site located on a reclaimed landfill near Highway 43. During the 2010 growing season, 10 of the 14 plots were leased to Hmong families, providing an opportunity for them to become entrepreneurs and raise produce to sell at the local Farmer's Market. To show their appreciation to Winona County and the community, Voices in Harmony participants donated over 700 pounds of fresh produce to the local food shelf.



*"Project FINE's dedication to our immigrant community members was on full display in arranging the community and project development meetings necessary to start the community garden project. Advocating and assisting in creating a business development project like the community gardens, which will expand to greenhouse development, will provide many families employment and revenue generating opportunities."*

*- Duane Hebert, Administrator, Winona County*

# Community Involvement & Events



## Cooking With Project FINE

Last year, Project FINE staff and volunteers began a unique cookbook project featuring traditional recipes from around the globe. On January 5<sup>h</sup>, 2010, a group of over 35 people gathered at the Central Lutheran Church to share an evening of cooking, food and friendship. All of the dishes were photographed and the recipes were compiled to be added to the cookbook.

## Frozen River Film Festival

On January 30<sup>h</sup>, Project FINE participated in the Frozen River Film Festival. Youth from the Diversity Youth Quest and College Education Connection programs shared a short video titled "There's No Place Like Home," which they created to tell their family stories. Staff members also shared about their journeys as refugees to the United States.



## Annual Report to the Community

Project FINE's Fourth Annual Report to the Community event was held on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This event brings together Project FINE staff, partners, and volunteers to celebrate the accomplishments of the previous year. Special partners honored for 2009 were Winona Area Public Schools & the Southeastern MN Rural Education and Resource Center.



## Census 2010

In an effort to ensure that all Winona County residents completed the Census form, Project FINE held several large group events to educate newcomers about the Census. Project FINE also worked closely with Census staff to translate Census brochures and documents into Hmong and Spanish. Staff and volunteers conducted home visits and helped non-English-speaking families fill out their forms.

## CYFAR

In 2010, Project FINE continued its involvement with the CYFAR program (Children, Youth and Families at Risk) program, which is organized by University of Minnesota Extension and is designed to expose middle school youth to science. Project FINE provided interpretation and translation services to CYFAR staff and volunteers.



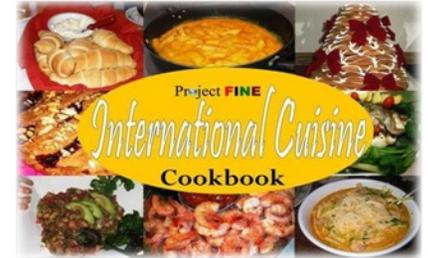
## Fifth Annual Taste of International Cuisine

On June 13, Project FINE hosted its annual fundraising event. It was a wonderful evening filled with friends, food and cultural sharing. During this special milestone celebration, several individuals shared their experience working with Project FINE over the last 20 years. Youth program participants performed traditional dances, and Hannah Chan from Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation was in attendance to award scholarships to five participants in the College Education Connection program.

# Community Involvement & Events

## Taste of International Cuisine Cookbook

During 2009-2010, a group of dedicated volunteers began a project designed to bring people together over a common bond – food. Many contributors hosted meals in their homes and prepared their favorite traditional dishes. These recipes, as well as others submitted by interpreters and friends of Project FINE, were compiled into a unique cookbook, titled the *Taste of International Cuisine*. The book features recipes from over 20 countries, and is a wonderful representation of the diversity and richness of our community. It debuted at the 2010 Taste of International Cuisine Fundraiser, as a celebration of our 20th Anniversary.



## Winona County Fair

In July, Project FINE collaborated with the Winona County Sheriff's Department and the Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to host an informational booth at the County Fair. Hundreds of individuals visited the booth, and had the opportunity to learn more about Project FINE and our work in the community.



## Interpreter Potluck

On August 10, Project FINE hosted its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Interpreter Potluck. Board members, interpreters and staff shared international dishes, friendship and interactive games.

## Land Stewardship Hog Roast

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, Project FINE participated in a Hog Roast sponsored by the Land Stewardship Project. Over 35 Hmong and Spanish speaking individuals attended the event, which included a tour of the Herbal Turtle Farm, cooking demonstrations, and information about farming and land issues. Project FINE provided interpretation and translation services for the event, and also assisted with recruitment for the immigrant and refugee population.

## Winona State University Walking Tour

For the third year, Project FINE was designated as a stop on the Winona State University Freshman Walking Tour. This tour is designed to familiarize students with downtown Winona and the many services available in our community. The event was cancelled because of inclement weather, but organizational materials were still distributed to students.

## National Night Out

In collaboration with the Winona Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Project FINE participated in National Night Out celebrations throughout the City of Winona. These neighborhood block parties were a great opportunity to meet others and build a stronger community.

*"As a result of Project FINE's recruitment, people from the Hmong and Hispanic culture came together with Land Stewardship Project members at our annual hog roast to celebrate and share culture through food and demonstration. The diversity represented was exciting!"*

*- Karen Stettler, Program Organizer,  
the Land Stewardship Project*

# Community Involvement & Events

## Gladiolus Days Parade

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, Project FINE staff and youth program participants walked in the Gladiolus Days Parade in St Charles. This is the fourth year Project FINE has been involved in the parade, and it is always a warm and wonderful time!



## Service Learning Fair

Project FINE participated in the Saint Mary's Service Learning Fair on September 7<sup>th</sup>. This event is an opportunity to recruit volunteers and mentors for Diversity Youth Quest and College Education Connection.

## PBRN's at the Intersection of Quality and Research Conference

As part of an ongoing partnership with Mayo Clinic's Center for Translational Science Activities, Project FINE staff attended a Practice-Based Research Network conference on October 28-29<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Fatima Said, Project FINE Executive Director, served on the conference's planning committee, and participated in a small group discussion about medical research within the refugee and immigrant community.



## Food For Thought Lecture

As part of the Winona County Historical Society's *Journey Stories* exhibit, Project FINE presented at a Food For Thought luncheon event on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Board members shared the mission, history and programs of Project FINE and former board member Mohamed Elhindi shared the story of his journey from Sudan.

## Winona Community Health Clinic

Staff and interpreters from Project FINE participated in the first Winona Community Health Clinic, held on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The clinic will be held on a quarterly basis and is open for patients who have limited or no health care access. During the first session, at least eight non-English-speaking individuals were served at the clinic.

## Gifts for Winona

Project FINE participated in the Gifts for Winona program, organized by Saint Mary's University. Staff and interpreters worked with non-English-speaking residents of Winona County to inform them of the program and help complete the application.

*"The on-going partnership between Project FINE and the Winona Police Department has made it possible to reach out to individuals and help them understand how our Department can assist them. Project FINE has and continues to be an integral component of the Winona Police Departments ability to help keep Winona a safe community. "*

*- Paul Bostrack, Chief of Police, City of Winona*

# Community Involvement & Events

## Toys for Tots

In 2010, Project FINE attended the Annual Toys for Tots event on December 18th at the Winona Mall. Several volunteers provided interpreting services and helped distribute toys.

## Hollyfest

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, Project FINE staff and volunteers participated in Hollyfest, held at the Historic Masonic Theater in Downtown Winona. The event, organized by the Theatre du Mississippi, featured holiday traditions from around the world. Project FINE shared the Posadas, a traditional Mexican Christmas Eve celebration and the Hmong New Year. Several participants of Project FINE's youth programs were involved in the event, participating in the Posadas presentation and performing traditional Hmong dance.

## Project FINE Staff also serve on several local Boards and Committees, including:

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Community Action Diversity Council  
Winona Human Rights Commission  
Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council  
Winona Area Public Schools Diversity Advisory Committee  
Winona Area Public Schools Staff Development Committee



*"It is always great to see an organization in your community like Project FINE. The support it provides our immigrant students really helps us break down barriers and do a much better job of integrating these students into our school. Without Project FINE, we would face many more challenges."*

*- Mark Roubinek, Superintendent, St Charles School District*

## Recognition

### Winona State University Engaged Partnership Award

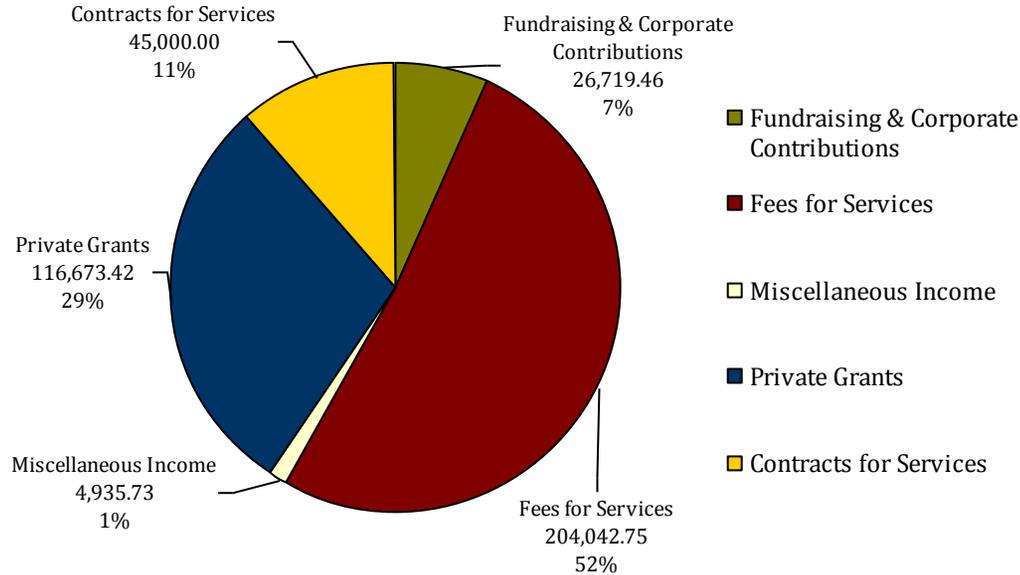
Project FINE is proud to have been named one of Winona State University's Engaged Partners for the year 2010. This annual award is given to partners who work closely with faculty to develop the capacity of the university to benefit the community and to enhance student learning and scholarship.

### Women in Business Woman of the Year Award

On May 27th, Project FINE Executive Director Fatima Said was presented with the Woman of the Year award by the Winona Women in Business organization. This award presented annually by Women in Business and Dr. Stacey Mounce Arnold in recognition of a deserving woman who is nominated by her peers and friends. The criteria for the nomination are five fold and consist of: Career, Goals, Spirit of Life, Legacy and Community Efforts/Volunteerism.

# Financial Summary for 2010

## Revenue 2010



Total Revenue 2010: \$397,371.36

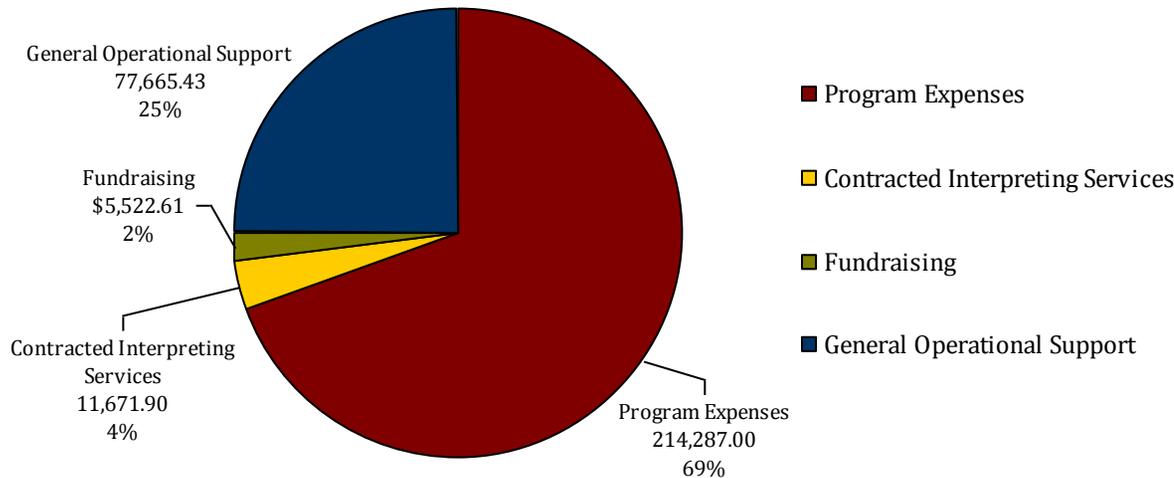
Total Expenses 2010: \$309,146.94

Board Approved Funds for  
Voices in Harmony Continuation \$ 60,000.00

Cash Match for Technology  
Education for Immigrants and  
Refugees Project \$ 5,000.00

Board-Approved Reserved Funds \$ 23,224.42

## Expenses 2010



*Through my work on the Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) and its various committees and work groups, particularly the Community Outreach and Diversity Committee, I have seen first-hand the valuable contributions Project FINE makes to the Winona County community. I look forward to working with Project FINE in the years to come in my role as Winona County Attorney.*

*- Karin Sonneman, Vice Chair of the Winona County CJCC and Winona County Attorney*

# 2010 Partnerships

Strong and effective partnerships have played an important role in the growth and success of Project FINE. Working relationships with local businesses, government agencies and individuals are very important, and allow Project FINE to have an even greater impact in the community.

Blandin Foundation  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota  
City of Saint Charles  
City of Winona  
Corporation for National & Community  
Service (AmeriCorps \*VISTA)  
Diocese of Winona  
Dr. Chris Carroll - Pediatric Dental Care  
Family and Children's Center  
Family-Based Services of Winona  
Gold 'n' Plump of Arcadia  
Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty  
Corporation  
Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center  
Hiawatha Valley Education District  
Home and Community Options  
International Quality Home Care  
Knitcraft - St. Croix Foundation  
Land Stewardship Project  
Lewiston Clinic  
Lewiston School District # 857

Mardag Foundation  
Merchants Bank of Winona  
Midwest Dental Clinic  
MN Department of Corrections  
MN State College—Southeast Technical  
MN State Colleges and Universities System  
Minnesota Third Judicial District  
Olmsted Medical Center  
On-Deck Seminars and Charters  
Options Plus Home Care  
Peerless Chain  
Ridgeway Community School  
Riverway Learning Community  
Rollingstone Cenex  
RTP Inc., Winona, MN  
Saint Charles School District # 858  
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota  
Sauer Memorial Home  
SEMCAC  
Severson Oil Company  
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation

Southern MN Regional Legal Services  
Three Rivers Community Action  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
UCare of Minnesota  
United Way of the Greater Winona Area  
University of Minnesota Extension  
Winona Chamber of Commerce  
Winona Community Foundation  
Winona Cotter High School  
Winona County  
Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council  
Winona Health  
Winona Housing and Redevelopment Authority  
Winona Human Rights Commission  
Winona National Bank  
Winona School District # 861  
Winona State University  
Winona Volunteer Services  
Winona Workforce Center  
Women's Resource Center

*"As part of our efforts to increase economic vitality, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation was pleased to provide a grant for Project FINE's "Farm Labor Training Program". We understand how critical it is to help Hispanic/Latino farm laborers improve their job skills and overcome the barriers to successful employment,, especially following the Northstar fire where so many residents lost their jobs."*

*- Suzy Meneguzzo, Grants Director, Southeast MN Initiative Foundation*

# Special Recognition of Partners

Each year, Project FINE designates a small number of its partners for special recognition through the Partners Award. In 2010, Project FINE is proud to recognize these exceptional partners:

## Saint Mary's University



Saint Mary's University has been an extraordinary partner with Project FINE for many years. Faculty, staff and students have been involved in several aspects of the organization, including the Board of Directors, our youth mentoring programs, internships and other volunteer activities. Saint Mary's has also hosted Project FINE's Annual Report to the Community since 2006. During 2010, staff and students provided over 150 hours of volunteer service to Project FINE. Saint Mary's commitment to the community is evident through its community involvement, such as organizing the Gifts for Winona project, which provides gifts to Winona County families in need. Project FINE thanks Saint Mary's University for their generosity and dedication to the entire Winona community.

## Dr Chris Carroll, Pediatric Dental Care



Project FINE and Dr. Carroll have worked together for several years, connecting non-English-speaking children with quality dental care. Dr. Carroll's office continues to go above and beyond to meet the needs of children and their families. Interpreters and staff at Project FINE truly enjoy working with everyone at his office and appreciate the patience and care that is evident in his practice. Project FINE thanks Dr. Chris Carroll and the entire Pediatric Dental Care staff for their ongoing partnership and continued dedication to providing dental care for all young children in our community.

## Past Recipients of the Partners Award

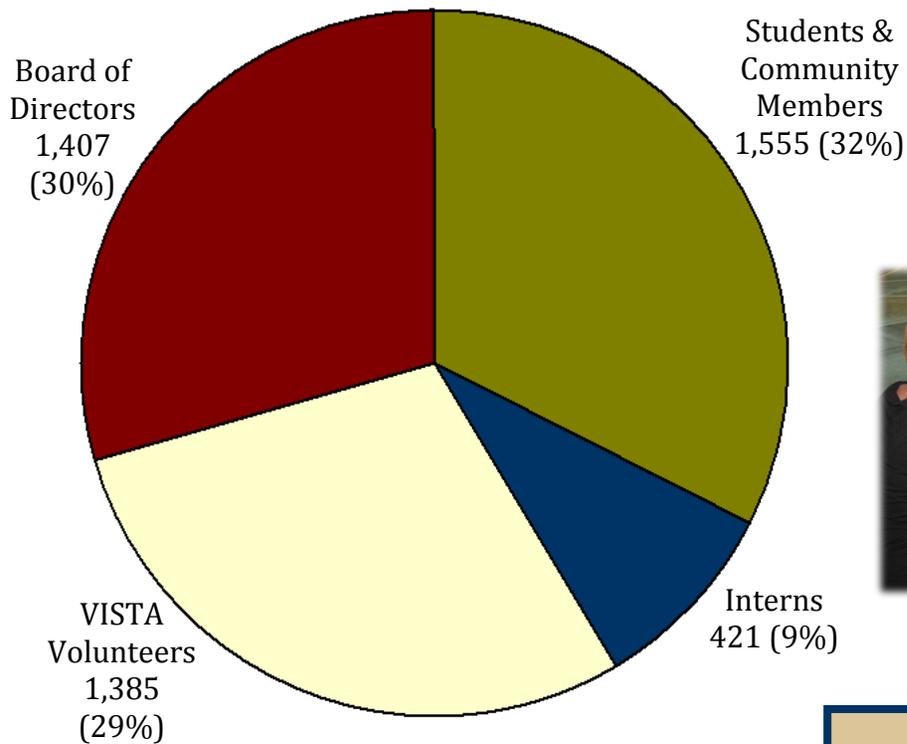
- 2009 - Winona Area Public School District #861;  
Southeastern Minnesota Rural Education and Resource Center
- 2008 - Corporation for National and Community Service; Winona Health,  
City of St Charles
- 2007 - City of Winona; Winona National Bank
- 2006 - Winona County Department of Human Services;  
United Way of the Greater Winona Area; Winona State University

*"Project FINE helps me establish a bond with my patients who I otherwise would not be able to connect with due to language barriers. Every interpreter I have worked with is respectful, intelligent, and friendly. I greatly value their service to our community and I know my patients do as well."*

*- Kristi Schulte, PA-C Winona Health*

# Volunteer Information

## Project FINE Volunteer Hours 2010 (4,768 Total Hours)



- Students & Community Members
- Interns
- VISTA Volunteers
- Board of Directors

*Thank You!*

Volunteers are essential to the success of Project FINE's programs, events and activities. On behalf of the Project FINE Board of Directors, staff and individuals served, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the talented and dedicated individuals who contributed thousands of hours during 2010. Their support helps Project FINE fulfill its vision of creating a welcoming, respectful and sensitive community.



*Looking back on my experience as a mentor and volunteer with Project FINE, I think it was really beneficial for me. I have never met a student who was Hmong, and I learned so much about not only my mentee, but also her culture.*

*- Winona State University Mentor*

# Board Members & Staff

The Board of Directors at Project FINE have gone above and beyond expectations to share their time and talents and advance the organization's mission and vision. Their hard work and dedication is appreciated by the Project FINE staff and the entire community.

Dr. Scott Hannon, President  
Winona Area Public Schools

Paul Mundt, Vice President  
Southern MN Regional Legal Services

Robin Hoeg, Secretary  
Winona Health

Heather Bach, Treasurer  
Community Member

Thomas Ames  
St Charles Public School District

Paula Brown  
Hal Leonard Corporation

Julie Chiasson  
Community Member

Alan DuCett  
MN State College - Southeast Technical

Vicki English  
Winona State University

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Saint Mary's University

Dr. Justin Green  
Diocese of Winona

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Winona State  
University

Kevin Kearney  
Winona Police Department

Dr. Lilian Ramos  
Winona State University

William Spitzer  
City of St Charles

Dave Vaselaar  
Winona National Bank



*"Everything Project FINE shares with us at the meetings is very helpful. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn how to be a better person, a better mom and a better human being."*

*- Julie S, Hispanic Program Participant*

*I am so pleased with Project FINE's services, every time I call or need help, I know I can depend on them. With my English language barrier, it is wonderful that Winona has Project FINE to help serve the Hmong community.*

*- Shor Chang, Hmong Community Member*



## Project FINE Staff

Fatima Said, Executive Director  
Katie van Eijl, Program Manager  
Goal Chia Her, Program Coordinator  
German Victoria, Program Coordinator  
Chong Sher Vang, Program Coordinator  
Maria Rodriguez, Hispanic/Latino Community Liaison

# *Project FINE*



1990

2010

*20 years in the making*

Project FINE (Focus on Integrating Newcomers through Education)

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