



A message from our Board President:

We are pleased to announce that our year ending June 30, 2011 was another fabulous year of artistic and program growth at Milwaukee Children's Choir (MCC). Artistic Director Carol Storck's teaching and leadership skills, her energy, and her focus on education, deepened and broadened MCC's programming throughout the year. As a result, we made great strides in furthering our mission "to provide excellent choral music instruction and performance experiences that foster creativity, personal expression, and social growth."

October 31, 2010 marked the retirement of MCC's first-ever Executive Director Deborah Patel giving way to the promotion of General Manager Paula Bell who, on November 1, 2010 became our second Executive Director. The transition was seamless.

We are very pleased to report that MCC's fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 ended extremely well. We ended the year with an immaterial operating deficit (\$2,053). In addition, a matching campaign challenge from an anonymous donor led us to our very first endowment, with funds of \$130,368! As we closed our books, our net assets increased by \$129,276. In the current economy this was a remarkable achievement, and we are grateful to all involved—MCC families, staff, board, and community supporters.

Another highlight of the year was MCC's *Songbirds* program for children in grades K4 and K5, which we test-marketed during the 2010-2011 season. At the end of the year several Songbirds graduates moved into our Prelude Choir to continue their choral music education with MCC.

MCC remains committed to providing the best music education and performance opportunities for our students. If you haven't been to one of our performances or observed a rehearsal yet, I invite you to witness our mission in action! And if you have, I hope to see you again soon.

Sincerely,

David Dorgan
MCC Board President

WE ARE MCC!

Songbirds • Harmony • Prelude • Cantabile • Jubilate • Milwaukee Youth Chorale

Walt Boyer, *Artistic Advisor* • **Emily Holt Crocker**, *Founder* • **Paula Bell**, *Executive Director*

Board Officers: David Dorgan, *President* • Patrick Murphy, *Vice President* • Jayme Tschanz, *Treasurer* • Heidi Boyd, *Secretary*

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www.facebook.com/MilwaukeeChildrensChoir

Milwaukee Children's Choir — July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011:

Milwaukee Children's Choir is Southeastern Wisconsin's premiere professional children's choir. We provide children with exceptional choral music instruction and performance experiences they can get nowhere else in the area. We are also the "go to" choir for other performing arts groups when their performances call for children's voices.

While this report marks only MCC's 17th year, our earliest first graders are now starting to graduate from college and join the workforce (see text box below). We clearly live our mission.

"I joined MCC a reserved, timid ten-year-old girl, but did not remain that way for long. As I grew, so did my confidence. So did my friendships. So did my musicality, and my stage presence, and my passion for singing. I graduated from high school poised to take on the world, buoyed by the supportive family, friends, and mentors I found here at MCC. I know I am not alone, that my experience with MCC is not unique. Many hundreds of children have experienced the same positive reinforcement, loving encouragement, and empowering inspiration as members of MCC."
College graduate now married and working in Milwaukee

Curriculum Basics:

MCC currently offers programs for children ages 4 through 18. Over the past two seasons MCC revised its curriculum, and today we place a greater emphasis on sequential education, and emphasize process over product. Several key concepts from Kodály methodology are integrated into MCC curriculum: singing as the basis for music education, folk music for beginning singers, use of solfege, performing highest quality music, developing the complete musician, and using sequenced curriculum. As staff prepare for rehearsals, careful attention is paid to each of these concepts. Below is a summary of how these concepts become part of MCC's rehearsals and performances:

- **Songbirds (K4-K5):** Non-performance based. Fundamentals of music. Emphasis on singing but not in choral formation. Parents observe to reinforce learning at home. Authentic folk songs, finger plays, action songs, pitch exploration activities, movement exploration activities, circle games, and steady beat activities. Extensive use of teaching aides.
- **Prelude Choir (grades 1-3):** Beginning choral experience. Repertoire based on the use of folksongs with emphasis on Kodály methodology. Appropriate choral octavos. Unison singing as well as canons and partner songs. Four concerts a year plus other volunteer opportunities.
- **Cantabile (Grades 4-8):** Vocal range, tone quality, music literacy skills, and performance skills. Repertoire consists of folk songs, art songs, multicultural music, songs in foreign languages, and works by major composers. Unison and two-part singing are emphasized; 3-part treble harmony is introduced. Four concerts a year plus other volunteer opportunities.



- **Jubilate (Grades 7-9):** Sing the most demanding MCC repertoire in 3- and 4-part treble harmony. All styles and genres are performed, as are master works with orchestra. Jubilate performs often. Members continue to develop music reading, vocal technique, and theory skills. They have solo and chamber choir performance opportunities throughout the year. Jubilate tours every three to five years.



- **Milwaukee Youth Chorale (Grades 10-12):** Experienced choir for mixed voices (SATB). Members learn and perform outstanding advanced high school and college-level repertoire of all styles and genres, including works by master composers, multicultural music, gospel, vocal jazz, etc. Singers at this level work to develop a wider

vocal range and a more mature tone. MYC performs often, including a spring collaboration with the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. Members are given solo and chamber choir performance opportunities throughout the year. MYC tours every three to five years.

- **Harmony Choir:** MCC's special urban outreach program. Curriculum varies based on experience and age, with general format listed above modified to meet the singers' development. See more below.

Start singers younger. Kodály philosophy encourages singing to begin at an early age. In keeping with this philosophy, in the fall of 2010 we test marketed a new program. "Songbirds" is MCC's new Kodály-inspired and non-performance based program for singers in Grades K4 – K5. During music classes our Songbirds sing authentic folk songs and enjoy singing games, complete with fun teaching toys. Parents observe so they can reinforce learning at home. Songbirds develop language, small and large motor skills, and social skills. Initial enrollment was small but over time the program will grow.



MCC teaches through performance — High profile and great performances:

The 2010-2011 season was MCC's 17th performance season and was a remarkable success for Artistic Director Storck and the members of her artistic team. With increased emphasis on education, we performed less than in prior years. But the performance experiences were more meaningful to our choir members. From *A Celebration of Autumn Beauty* in November, to an unforgettable *Roots & Wings: Let's Dance*, to a touching *Through the Eyes of a Child* in May, MCC concerts were a hit with friends and family. MCC's season as guest artist was also rich with high profile performances, exceptional repertoire and bright reviews. Guest appearances included Jubilate in Present Music's *Thanksgiving Concert*; Jubilate and Milwaukee Youth Chorale sharing the stage with the MSO and the Symphony Chorus in the sell-out December *Holiday Pops* concerts (read more on this below); our Prelude, Cantabile and Jubilate singers caroling in a snowstorm in "Christmas in the Ward"; MCC's treble singers adding their vocal magic to *Waltz of the Snowflakes* during the Milwaukee Ballet's *Nutcracker*; Milwaukee Youth Chorale members joining the Milwaukee Choristers during their *Post Meridian* concert; and our Cantabile singers adding their voices to the 2nd grade ACE (Arts in Community Education) concert with the MSO. Our choristers had enriching performance experiences they will never forget.

Senior choir members with Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra: Both Jubilate (MCC's senior "children's" or "treble" choir), and the Milwaukee Youth Chorale (our high school mixed choir), were invited to join the MSO at its December *Holiday Pops* Concert. While Jubilate had sung with the MSO on two occasions the previous season (Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* and Mahler's *3rd Symphony*), this concert was different. This time, they were asked to stand right across the front of the stage of Uihlein Hall, in front of the orchestra, at the Marcus Center. The audience was literally one step away from them. Luckily, no one took that one step or he/she would have fallen into the lap of an audience member!

But the close connection they felt with the audience was life changing for them. The children raised their performance to a new level. They had a difficult time seeing Maestro Jeff Tyzik from where they were standing, so they became more prepared. Every entrance and cut-off was memorized. They were more conscious of their musical expression. They told a story to the audience with their facial expressions. One singer said, "I was so scared, but I really think we sounded beautiful!"

Another said, "One of the audience members said we sounded like angels!" And another said, "This was so amazing, Mrs. Storck. I can't wait to come back and sing again tomorrow evening." The Youth Chorale also had a wonderful experience. **For the first time ever** they were invited to sing with the fabulous Milwaukee Symphony Chorus, not as children, but as young adults. The singers were



2010-2011 Performances:

- ♪ *A Celebration of Autumn Beauty* (produced by MCC)
- ♪ Present Music's *Thanksgiving* Concert
- ♪ *Holiday Pops* with Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Chorus
- ♪ Caroling at *Christmas in the Ward*
- ♪ Caroling at St. Ben's Community Meal Program
- ♪ Michael Pink's *The Nutcracker* with Milwaukee Ballet
- ♪ *Sing-a-Thon* at Bayshore Town Center (produced by MCC)
- ♪ *Milwaukee Youth Music Celebration* with MYSO and guest high school choirs (produced by MCC & MYSO)
- ♪ *Let's Dance*, Roots & Wings Choral Festival (produced by MCC)
- ♪ Milwaukee Choristers *Post Meridian* Concert
- ♪ *Through the Eyes of a Child* (produced by MCC)
- ♪ Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra *Ace Concert*

thrilled. It was especially positive for our male singers who found strength in numbers in the Symphony Chorus. When we asked the members of the choir if it was a positive experience for them, the answer was a resounding "YES"!

December 4, 2010. Reviewing the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's *Holiday Pops* concert, **Third Coast Digest** critic Tom Strini wrote: "Carol Storck's Milwaukee Children's Choir Jubilate and Jason Clark's Milwaukee Youth Chorale sang well and charmingly."

Harmony Choirs and *Roots and Wings*: MCC's Harmony Choir program brings MCC directors into schools for months of weekly rehearsals, followed by a day-long choral festival entitled *Roots and Wings*. This year's festival took place April 2 at Milwaukee Lutheran High School. Close to 200 children from our Harmony program joined MCC choirs

and community school children to celebrate in song and dance. The children had the privilege to work with MCC Artistic Director Carol Storck, who directed the mass choir of 400 children, as well as guest artists Peter and Mary Alice Amidon, who led the children in authentic folk dancing. Several music teachers from the community and the MCC Artistic Staff joined the children in dancing as well. The smiles on their faces while dancing with the teachers was a sight to see! In addition to the fabulous music making they did, they also completed a service project, with a music advocacy theme: "What does music mean to you?" Each child was asked to decorate a puzzle piece answering that question. Examples of what the children wrote include:

Sing out strong. Sing your heart out.

Music is my life. Music comes from within. Without music, life would Bb.

Music makes life colorful. Music makes my heart sing. Life is music and music is life.



Once all the puzzle pieces were decorated, the pieces were assembled and glued to three beautifully framed poster boards, which were then displayed during the closing concert. The colorful boards were breathtaking. The children were extremely proud of their work as audience members lingered by the boards, some of their quotes were read aloud at the concert, and we asked the adults to support music in their schools. The children knew they had a voice and they were being heard.

After the festival, one of the children from the Harmony Choir gave Storck a beautiful bouquet of flowers and said, "Thank you for allowing us to sing." Her teacher also thanked her for the opportunity and said what a wonderful time the children had. They were so very proud of themselves, as they should have been.

Milwaukee Children’s Choir remains dedicated to the community — Improvement to urban outreach:

While participation in most MCC programming is tuition-based, tuition is set low in order to prevent it from becoming a barrier to participation. Tuition aid is available to qualified children, and no child has ever been turned away from membership because of money. In addition, MCC's urban outreach (the Harmony Program) furthers MCC's mission by bringing months of high quality weekly choral music instruction to elementary school children who live in the City of Milwaukee and attend Milwaukee schools.

Our Harmony program once again had a very successful year, involving over 200 children. The program offered a modified MCC curriculum, in order to build from the “musical age” of Harmony Choir members. We identified music concepts already mastered and began sequential curriculum at that point. This allowed Harmony Choir members to achieve the highest success, at a pace each singer was comfortable with. Harmony Choir members ready for the challenge of constant performances did so at every MCC concert, while others performed at only one concert this year. Our goal was to provide a strong musical foundation—to educate—without unnecessary performance pressure. As a result, when Harmony Choir members performed, they were successful and had a positive experience. We estimate that about 80% of the children we reached do not receive choral (or any music) programming in their regular classroom curriculum.

During 2010-2011 Milwaukee Children’s Choir represented the best Southeastern Wisconsin has to offer. We served more than 430 youth, and more than 30% of those served were non-Caucasian or mixed race. Choristers represented 55 zip codes, 38 communities, seven counties, grades K4-12 from more than 130 schools. No doubt about it: We are Milwaukee's children's choir!

Milwaukee Children’s Choir participates in emotional intelligence research:

In August of 2010, Northwestern Mutual Foundation sponsored an evaluation of a selected group of seven leading arts education organizations in the Milwaukee communities. These organizations were selected on the basis of their common mission to bring the arts to “at risk” Milwaukee youth. Precious few quantitative measures have been identified to effectively evaluate the impacts associated with arts education programming. In fact, due in part to this fact, this year saw fatal cuts to arts education programming in Milwaukee’s public schools.

Evaluation results from national studies have shown positive correlations between exposure to music programs and students’:

- Academic performance
- Self-confidence
- Self-Discipline
- Listening abilities
- Self-Management (handling emotions) and
- Empathy



For this Emotional Intelligence evaluation, classroom teachers and MCC administrators administered the survey test at the beginning and again at the end of the 2010-2011 season. Pre and post test scores were then compared to understand MCC’s unique impact in improving overall and various elements of emotional intelligence.

Post test results showed positive growth in areas such as *improved self-awareness and management, improved reasoning and self-guidance, and better teamwork and cooperation (with increased empathy).*



Our Financial Year — challenging but ending on a high note:

As we closed our fiscal 2011 financial records, the year’s operating income was \$325,896 and its operating expenses were \$327,949, leaving a deficit of only \$2,053. Adding the endowment campaign, MCC’s net assets increased by \$129,276.

Total Revenue, Support and Expense Explanation (figures from Fiscal 2011 audit):

Income:

Earned:

- Tuition and fees for services: \$99,342
- Tickets and admissions: \$22,419
- Retail sales: \$2,602
- Interest (less loss on investment): \$433

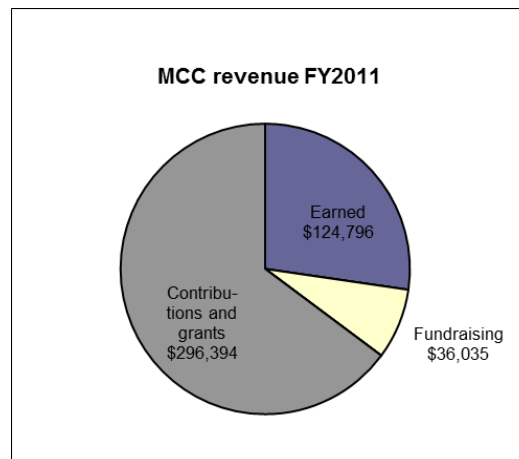
Total Earned Income \$124,796

Contributed and Special Event (including endowment):

- Contributions and grants: \$296,394
- Special events: \$36,035

Total Contributed and Special Event \$332,429

Total income: \$457,225



MCC’s First-Ever Endowment Campaign – A Huge Success!

This year MCC launched its first-ever endowment campaign challenge, entitled “Scaling New Heights”! A local philanthropist attended his first MCC concert last fall and was thoroughly impressed, both by our young singers and our organization. He offered MCC an opportunity we couldn’t refuse, one that would help secure the future of MCC and its singers. The offer was to launch an endowment campaign where, for the next three months, he would match dollars pledged to MCC!

The endowment helped MCC establish long-term financial stability. At the close of the three month campaign challenge, MCC’s family and friends raised \$68,019 matched by our generous donor to total over \$130,000!



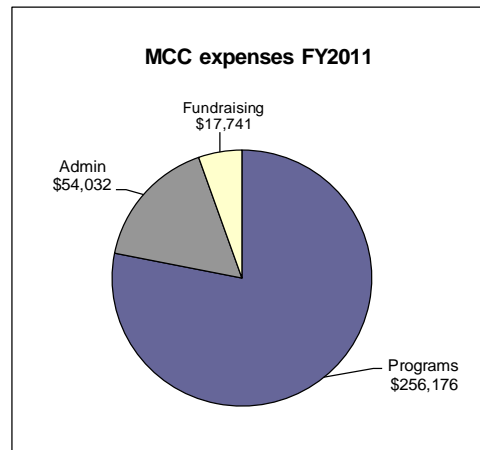
**Endowment Campaign Challenge 2011
“Scaling New Heights!”**

\$68,019 matched to total more than \$130,000!

Funds raised through this special campaign, along with this most generous matching contribution, were placed in an endowment fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation (GMF). GMF currently administers the endowments for more than 100 nonprofits and has more than 95 years of experience managing and growing endowments. Partnering with GMF enabled MCC to take advantage of a low administrative fee and the pooled investment strength of a \$500 million organization. Every year MCC will be able to withdraw a portion of the earnings from this growing investment fund to help support day to day operations.

Where MCC’s money went:

Program: \$256,176
 Administrative: \$54,032
 Fundraising: \$17,741
 Total: \$327,949



Positive Change in Net Assets: \$129,276

A copy of our FY2011 audited financial statements is available to the public on the Governance page of our website.

In Closing – What made our year possible:

None of what we do is possible without support from many. In addition to an incredible staff and board, MCC is blessed with hundreds of families who value choral music education and are dedicated to the choir. In addition to attending choir rehearsals, our parents are active MCC volunteers who provide us with thousands of hours of volunteer time. Community members provide us with a steady stream of unpaid office workers. And we are blessed with financial support from government, foundation, corporate and individual sources. On the following pages you will find a list of MCC’s 2010-2011 donors. Their continued generosity makes what we do possible.

The 2010-2011 season ended with a concert that celebrated music through the eyes of a child. We close this report with lyrics from Roger Emerson’s “You Gotta Sing!” the rousing song that closed our 17th season:

*You gotta sing when your spirit says sing,
 You gotta sing when your spirit says sing,
 When your spirit says sing, you gotta sing right along
 You gotta sing when your spirit says sing.*

**Sincerely,
 Milwaukee Children’s Choir**



Staff 2010-2011 (As of June 30, 2010) *Artistic Staff:* Carol Storck, Artistic Director and Jubilate Director; Walt Boyer, Vocal Coach; Jason Clark, Milwaukee Youth Chorale Director; Kristin Dillahunt, Prelude and Songbirds Director; Elizabeth Egger, Senior Choir Assistant and Vocal Coach; Emily Fazio, Prelude, Cantabile and Harmony Director; Jenny Gettel, Vocal Coach; Amy Kilpatrick, Cantabile Director and Vocal Coach; Maria Koester, Accompanist; Amanda McFall, Accompanist; Annemarie Travia, Prelude and Songbirds Director and Prelude Coordinator; Theresa Witt, Cantabile Director and Cantabile Coordinator; Trish Zamora, Cantabile and Harmony Director. *Production and Administrative Staff:* Paula Bell, Executive Director; Lorinda Liongson, Office and Volunteer Manager; Mary Murphy, Development and Finance Manager.



November 21, 2010. Reviewing MCC's Jubilate at the November 21 Present Music Concert, **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel** critic Elaine Schmidt wrote: "The young singers of the Milwaukee Children's Choir's Jubilate Choir gave disciplined, polished performances of Srul Irving Glick's 'Psalm 92' and 'Psalm 47,' singing with a musical maturity and focus that made it easy to forget their tender ages." [Read Elaine Schmidt's review.](#)

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Beth M. Berger	Katie O'Neil
Robert Fichtner	Deborah Patel
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Kelley Karakis	

Our Kind 2010-2011 Donors:

Thank you, Donors! Without support from our donors, MCC programming would not be possible. We would like to thank the following individuals, companies, foundations and governmental entities for making what we do possible. The list below reflects gifts supporting MCC's operations received by Milwaukee Children's Choir between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011.

<u>\$20,000 and over</u> United Performing Arts Fund	Phyllis Huffman Patrick J. Lucey Johnson Controls Foundation
<u>\$10,000 to \$19,999</u> David and Andrea Dorgan Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Gertrude Ann Meixner Fund Jamshed and Deborah Patel Northwestern Mutual Foundation Rockwell Automation Charitable Corporation Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts	Stephen and Kelley Karakis Brian and Laura Putnam SC Johnson We Energies
<u>\$5,000 to \$9,999</u> Arts At Large Bader Foundation CAMPAC (Milwaukee County Cultural Artistic and Musical Programming Advisory Council) Richard and Ethel Herzfeld Foundation Milwaukee Arts Board (City of Milwaukee) Milwaukee Public Schools Partnership for the Arts Nonprofit Management Fund	<u>\$100 to \$499</u> Mary Allen Association of Wisconsin Areas Kodály Educators (AWAKE) Tom Bagwell and Michelle Hiebert Darwin Bell Mark and Paula Bell Richard and Kay Belich Heidi Boyd Michael and Sara Bowen Walt and Gina Boyer David and Diane Buck Boys & Girls Club Kristina M. Cervera Daryl Diesing & Marcia Rimai Creatonomy Inc. (Priya Barnes) Lee Erickson Michael Faust Frank and Pauline Fichtner Robert and Penny Fichtner William Gollmar and Suzanne Marchant Katherine Gorgan Michael and Katherine Grebe Doug and Jean Hagerman Edward Hammond and Marcia Brooks Dr. Carol Hasenyager and Brian Cooley John and Ellen Hays James and Marjorie Henderson Chuck and Jean Holmburg Paul and Teresa Jennings Gary and Judy Jorgensen David Keen and Judy Perkins Kelben Foundation (Mary Kellner) Herbert H. Kohl Charities Jennifer Kent Donald and Jo Anne Krause Irene Krueger Jim and Marianne LeTart Luke and Vashti Lozier Dr. Leslie Martin and Dr. Sabina Diehr
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Up to \$99

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Golda Meir School
In-Progress Consulting, Inc.
Mequon United Methodist Church
Milwaukee Youth Arts Center
Mount Carmel Lutheran Church
Steinway Piano Gallery of Milwaukee

November 21, 2010. Third Coast Digest critic Tom Strini wrote: "The Milwaukee Children's Choir, led by Carol Storck, joined the string quartet in Srul Irving Glick's Psalm 92. The children's utterly sweet and impressively disciplined sound matched Glick's easy 3/4 lilt and pastel harmonies. Later in the program, Storck and children tripped lightly through Glick's equally charming but more complex Psalm 47, with its beguiling rhythmic play of three against four."

We are Grateful to our MCC Endowment Donors:

Anonymous	John and Mary Galbraith	Richardine Mishler
Greg and Ann Marie Armbruster	Tom and Nancy Gazzana	Craig and Sandra L. Modahl
Priya Barnes	GE Foundation	Patrick and Mary Murphy
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William and Kari Foote	Amanda McFall	
Matt and Melissa Freeman	Sean and Patty McNichols	
Fred Fuller and Anne Szczygiel	Howard and Sara Miller	

Milwaukee Children's Choir had its third annual Sing-a-Thon February 5, 2011. We thank the many individuals who sponsored children's marathon efforts that day:



Grandma and Grandpa	Sarah Cohen	Christine Gu	Ginni Kohler
Aunts	Jane Coleman	Kristen Gwidt	Mary Jo Kopf
Uncles	Kathy Corbell	Doug Haag	Mary Krager
Cousins	Kirsten Corbell	Ray Handley	Mary Kremer
Moms and Dads	Marvin Dally	Jeremy Hanna	Hannah Langsdorf
Anonymous donors	Mrs. Decker	Julie Hanna	Teri Larsen
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Diana Acevedo	Matthew Deloge	Beth and Kirk Hansen	Carolynn Leaman
Mary Alinder	Kevin and Vicki Derus	Erik and Sofia Hansen	David and Clare Leaman
Pop Pop Alinder	Myrna Dickinson	Cardona	Rhonda Lebron
Zachary Alinder	Sabina Diehr	Laurie Hansen Cardona	Kathleen Ledwith
Anthony Allen	Joan and Mike Doble	Julie Hanson	James Leigh
Jim Allen	Frank Dominguez	Sadiqua Harper	JoAnne Lessing
Molly Allen	Jessica Dominguez	Marilyn Harrower	Erica Lewandowski
Janice Anderson	Dorgan Family	Mandy Hatje	Brad Lichtenstein
Mike Anderson	David and Stefanie	John Hayes	Lorena Liongson
Cameron Arnold	Dugan	Chris Hays	Lori Loessin
Karen Arnold	Stefanie Dugan	Matthias Hedinger	Lydia Loessin
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