



*Challenging
Students...*



*...to
Achieve
Their
Potential*

Report from the Board President

The all-volunteer MSAB Foundation Board works to raise funds to enhance the education of the students at the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind and to help them achieve their full potential. We are proud of our record of keeping our administrative expense to a minimum so that nearly 90% of the funds raised go to the direct benefit of the students. The Board members have a broad range of skills and experience with a majority of the members being blind, visually impaired, or educators of the blind or visually impaired. The projects we fund are proposed by staff members of the Academy, based on their experience in working with the students.

During 2010 we funded \$16,730 for the following seven grant requests from the Academy:

- Paper shredder for the vocational class
- Button making tools for the vocational class
- Visiting artists for the arts program
- Climbing wall for physical education
- Multi-challenged interactive equipment
- Sensory integration equipment
- OPTRON equipment



We are excited about a multi-year “Education through the Art of Music” program that the school is developing. Design work is in process for a recording studio and acoustic treatment of the gym. Students will also have the opportunity to experience artists both in residence and at their normal places of performance.

In 2010 we thanked Harold Neece for his many years of creative service on the Board. We also thanked Ralph Anderson (back row, center, in above photo) for his dedication to achieving our goals at the minimum cost to our donors.

We welcomed Kamalesh Samuel (back row, second from right) to the Board after several months of service as a volunteer Technology Consultant. Kamalesh’s work as an Information Technology manager is serving us well in the development and implementation of our communication plan.

We look forward to the addition of Katie Amundson and Jill Pettit to the Board in 2011. We thank MAP for Nonprofits in St. Paul for their continued help in matching qualified volunteers to fill open Board positions.

We thank our partner, the UMOGD Sight Preservation Foundation, for their outstanding support to MSABF with their annual golf day fundraiser.

- Rolland Baldwin, President, Board of Directors, MSAB Foundation

Report from the MSAB Staff



“The **OPTRON** system uses a camera and monitor mounted to a table. This magnifying device is used to help read regular print texts and read work put on the white board. Two partially sighted high school students are using the OPTRON to help complete their Algebra II math course. These two students may now sit at their desk and complete daily assignments.”

- Pat Waldera, Math Instructor

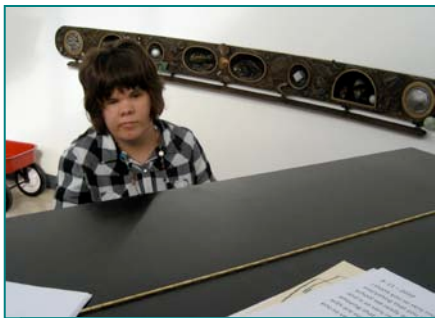
“The **Climbing Wall** allows our students to be challenged and successful all at the same time. Many different skills can be developed from climbing. They include but are not limited to social/emotional skills, cognitive skills and physical skills along with self-awareness, self-esteem and confidence. We have already seen a great deal of growth in the short amount of time the Climbing Wall has been in use. Once again, thanks very much for your support.”

- Dale Robley, Physical Education Instructor



Education through the Arts: “Thanks to the wonderful generosity of the MSAB Foundation, our students have had the opportunity to experience the arts in a variety of genres, including a “Welcome Back to School” performance by “Mister Jim,” a performance group that featured music and dance from the tropical islands and a wonderful trip to the Children’s Theatre Company in Minneapolis where they saw the play “A Christmas Story.” The students truly enjoy these experiences and thank all of you for the chance to participate in these wonderful events.”

- Nicole Zweber, Music Therapist



Future Considerations: “We’ve made important inroads in the area of Education through the Arts. Still, there are additional needs that will allow our students to explore potential career opportunities in the arts – for example, a music lab/recording studio that could include state-of-the-art equipment, staff training, and perhaps contracting with specialists to teach courses in this area. We also envision growth through the acquisition of new Orff instruments, as well as electronic keyboard and band instruments.

Ultimately, we would like to enlarge our performing area to bring more students ‘center stage’ before an audience.”

- John Davis, MSAB Education Director

Partner Profile: Roger Schultz

Roger Schultz broke away from his demanding schedule as owner of Northwest Opticians and two Dunn Bros Coffee shops to talk about his commitment to MSAB. A conversation at a pool party in the home of a friend introduced Roger to the school. A friend, Mike Langmack, told Roger about golfing with Mark Sathe, an MSAB graduate, at a tournament that benefited the Academy. Mike had learned that the tournament needed a sponsor. He also knew that Roger was on the board of the Upper Midwest Optical Golf Day.

The conversation piqued Roger's imagination. He initiated a meeting with Mark and discovered him to be "an impressive person who was not limited by his disability." Mark, who is now deceased, was the owner of Sathe Associates, a board member of the MSAB Foundation, and a long-time advocate for children who are blind.

Roger envisioned a partnership between the MSAB Foundation and the UMOGD as a "perfect match." He recalls, "It seemed natural to have an optical tournament." Roger shared his vision with the board of the UMOGD, which had been funding charitable causes for nearly fifty years. A unanimous decision launched the partnership with MSAB through the MSAB Foundation. Since 2002, the UMOGD has raised \$162,000 to benefit the school. Roger says, "We want the kids to have a normal life." Students at MSAB, like typical children, thrive on challenges. They grow in confidence and their imaginations soar as they scale the Climbing Wall and explore the tunnels, mountains, and valleys of the Obstacle Course.

Roger has both personal and professional experience with vision loss. His father, the founder of Northwest Opticians, developed macular degeneration as he aged. Roger began working with glasses in the company lab when he was fifteen. Now, 39 years later, he says he has enjoyed his career in the optical industry.

Roger has many years of experience in fundraising for charitable causes, most of which have benefited children. "I have been very fortunate with what I have. I want to help those who are less fortunate." His past efforts have enabled many children living in poverty to attend summer camps. Recently, he worked to fund the mounted patrol for the St. Paul police until the city could take over. Roger describes getting the police on horseback as "breaking barriers." He says kids can see the police as friends when they pat their horses.

Reflecting on the partnership between UMOGD and MSAB, Roger describes the performance of MSAB singers at the 2010 golf dinner as a "high point." "The music touched everybody's heart," According to Roger, the music showed the students' ability to excel. He concludes, "Involvement with the school has made the journey more meaningful."



Roger Schultz, Owner/
Optician of Northwest
Opticians and Vice
President UMOGD Sight
Preservation Foundation



MSAB students Alex Nelson and
David Leathers performed at the 2010
Golf Day banquet.

The UMOGD/Sight Preservation Foundation

The annual Upper Midwest Optical Golf Day (UMOGD) was held on August 9, 2010 at Southview Country Club in West St. Paul, MN. One hundred twenty-one golfers and 150 dinner guests from across the country came together for a great day of fun and fundraising to benefit the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind.

The theme of our event, “*Education through the Art of Music*,” brought live entertainment to the awards dinner in 2010 with a special performance by two MSAB alumni, Alex Nelson and David Leathers. Their performance was clearly the highlight of the event and it certainly defined the importance of the arts for the students at the Academy and the value of our collaborative efforts. What a very special day it was... raising **\$33,000 for the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind Foundation**.

It takes many dedicated people to successfully put on the UMOGD Golf Tournament each year. Every golfer, dinner guest, volunteer, and contributor is celebrated and appreciated for allowing us to continue our fundraising efforts in partnership with the MSAB Foundation.

The UMOGD/Sight Preservation Foundation would like to take this opportunity to thank the following generous businesses and individuals for their support in 2010...

3M – Southbridge, MA
Rollie & Bebe Baldwin – Minneapolis, MN
Briggs & Morgan, P.A. – Minneapolis, MN
Carl Zeiss Vision, Inc. – San Diego, CA
Essilor of America, Inc. – Dallas, TX
Eyewear Design LTD – Syosset, NY
Hilco/On-Guard – Plainville, MA
Hoya Vision Care – Lewisville, TX
Innereactive Media, LLC – Ada, MI
John Nasseff & Helene Houle – St. Paul, MN
Northwest Opticians/Dunn Bros Coffee – St. Paul, MN
Nouveau Eyewear – Carrollton, TX
Pech Optical Corp. – Sioux City, IA
Pro-Am Golf Center – St. Louis, MO
Satisloh – Germantown, WI
Schneider Optical Machines – Carrollton, TX
Shamir Insights – San Diego, CA

Signet Armorlite, Inc. – San Marcus, CA
Soderberg Ophthalmic Services – Minneapolis, MN
SOMO Optical – Santa Fe Springs, CA
Stencil Cutting & Supply Co. – Red Wing, MN
The McGee Group – Marietta, GA
Jim Tooke, Zyloware Eyewear – Germantown, TN
Transitions Optical, Inc. – Pinellas Park, FL
Ultra Optics – Brooklyn Park, MN
Vision Ease Lens – Ramsey, MN
Walman Optical Co. – Minneapolis, MN
X-Cel Optical Co. – Saulk Rapids, MN
YOUNGER OPTICS – Torrance, CA
Zyloware Eyewear – Long Island City, NY
Ed Schmidt & Mike Murtha – Representing the band “Trigger Happy”

A very special **Thank You** to ALL of the UMOGD 2010 participants. It is the collaborative efforts of everyone involved that make this tournament a success.

The 2011 UMOGD Tournament will be held on **Monday, August 8**, at Southview Country Club in West St Paul, MN. For more information, please contact Nancy Klaers at (612) 520-6094 or e-mail: nklaers@walman.com. Visit our website to learn more about the UMOGD/Sight Preservation Foundation at www.sightpf.com.

2010 Financial Report

Assets	Total \$	Inflows	Total \$	Outflows	Total \$
<i>Current assets</i>				<i>Administrative</i>	
Checking	2,153.38	Optical Golf Day	33,000.00	Fees and Expenses	5,820.79
Savings	62,095.65	Donations	10,963.97	<i>Grants</i>	
Total Current Assets	64,249.03	Interest/Dividends	1,474.21	Dare to Dream	16,730.51
<i>Other assets</i>		MN Foundation	8,410.00	Awards & scholarship	554.68
Minnesota Foundation	82,611.00	Booster Club	1,828.75	Total Grants	17,285.19
Total Assets	146,860.03	Total Inflows	55,676.93	MN Foundation	0.00
<i>Liabilities and Equity</i>				Total Outflows	23,105.98
Liabilities	0.00			Total Cash Flow	32,570.95
Equity	146,860.03				
Total Liabilities and Equity	146,860.03				

Minnesota State Academy for the Blind Foundation Board Members

Rolland Baldwin, President

Retired – Engineering Director for Honeywell Flight Systems Operation
Received national and state recognition for the Partnership Project with State Services for the Blind and employers
Special interest in blindness: family member

Stephanie Hall, Vice President

Computer instructor
Special interest in blindness: personal and parent of a MSAB graduate

Richard Berge, Ph.D., Treasurer

Retired – Executive Director, Schools for Equity in Education
Retired – Superintendent, Faribault, MN Public Schools and Interim Superintendent, MN State Academies for the Blind and Deaf
Special interest in blindness: educator

LuAnne Speeter, Secretary

Manager of Marketing and Communications for Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly
Special interest in blindness: family member

Katherine Amundson

VISTA volunteer specializing in creating youth leadership opportunities, volunteer development, fundraising and event planning
Special interest in blindness: advocacy for inclusion

Janiece Grow Duffy

Retired – Rehabilitation teacher
Author
Special interest in blindness: personal, MSAB student for 12 years

Patty Hooey

Retired MSAB teacher
Special interest in blindness: educator

Michael O'Rourke

Attorney and author
Former –MN District Court Judge; adjunct faculty member, University of Minnesota Law School; and General Counsel, First Bank System
Special interest in blindness: family member

Jillian Pettit

Marketing Specialist for Topline Federal Credit Union with responsibilities for marketing campaigns, electronic communications, and event planning
Special interest in blindness: advocacy for inclusion

Jim Purtle

Senior Vice President for Investment, Feltl, Inc.
Special interest in blindness: personal

Kamalesh Samuel

Information Technology Manager, Cognizant Technology Solutions
Affiliations with several non-profits
Special interest in blindness: advocacy for inclusion

Ex-Officio

John Davis

MSAB Education Director

Linda Mitchell

Superintendent of MSAB and MSAD

Grant Writer

Deanna Lackaff

Consultants

Ralph Anderson
Conrad Schmitt



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MSAB Foundation is registered with GiveMN.org
<http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Minnesota-State-Academy-For-The-Blind-Foundation>

For additional information:
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