

## Report from the Board President

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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*