

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Community Foundation To Recognize Philanthropic Leader

Brainerd, Minn. - The Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation (BLACF) announced plans Monday to again recognize a local person or couple who have shown a commitment to philanthropy. The Foundation will begin seeking nominations for its Award in Philanthropy today.

The award recognizes the efforts of an individual or couple who have significantly contributed to philanthropy in the region through their personal giving, volunteerism or work as a professional advising their clients about philanthropy.

"The Brainerd-area community is fortunate to have so many strong leaders dedicated to making this region a better place to live, work and raise the next generation," said Mike Burton, BLACF affiliate coordinator. "The Award in Philanthropy is our way of saying thank you."

The Foundation started the award program four years ago to honor those who are working to build a better community and inspire the next generation of philanthropic leaders. Bruce and Kathy Buxton, Bernie and Linda Roberts, John Sullivan, and Fran and Clarence Holden are among past recipients.

"People like the Buxtons, the Roberts, the Holdens and John Sullivan embody what it means to give back to the community," Burton said. "Their philanthropic work has not only helped community efforts, but also encouraged others to be benevolent."

Nomination forms are available at area Lakewood Bank locations in Nisswa, Brainerd/Baxter and Crosslake or by visiting www.communitygiving.org. Get directions to a Lakewood Bank location near you at www.lakewoodbank.com or by calling (877) 829-8712. Nominations are due Feb. 5, 2009. The BLACF board will choose the 2008 recipient and recognize the individual at an awards dinner in July.

The Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation is a public charity that attracts and administers charitable funds for the benefit of local residents. BLACF is affiliated with the Central Minnesota Community Foundation, a regional foundation based in St. Cloud.

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