



Education and Housing Equity Project Records.

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September 15, 1999

Richard C. Little
Executive Director
The Education and Housing Equity Project
2211 Riverside Avenue, CB185
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Grant No. 99-381

Dear Mr. Little *Dick*

I am pleased to notify you that your request for \$25,000 has been reviewed by The St. Paul Companies, Inc. Foundation and a one year grant of \$10,000 for operating support has been approved. The check for the approved is enclosed with this letter..

By September 1, 2000, please provide us with a brief progress report. Please include the following information:

1. **Description of how the funds have been used for the grant purpose and the results (two pages or less)**
2. **Budget which shows expenditures of the grant (one page)**
3. **Grant number (located at the bottom of this letter).**

We at The St. Paul Companies, Inc. Foundation are pleased to be able to support such a worthwhile cause. If I can be of further assistance to you or if you have any questions regarding this grant (*refer to this grant ID number at the top of this letter*), please call me at 651-310-2623.

Sincerely,

Rm
Ronald A. McKinley
Vice President

*Dick,
Please give me
a call. I'd like
to chat with you
about some things
going on here.
Rm*

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Douglas W. Leatherdale,
Chairman

Karen L. Himle, Vice
Chairman

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Director

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Assistant Corporate
Secretary

Kurt Schwartzkopf,
Assistant Corporate
Secretary

THIS MULTI-TONE AREA OF THE DOCUMENT CHANGES COLOR GRADUALLY AND EVENLY FROM DARK TO LIGHT WITH DARKER AREAS BOTH TOP AND BOTTOM

7-617420



MERCANTILE SAFE DEPOSIT & TRUST COMPANY

2 HOPKINS PLAZA / P.O. BOX 17002
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203-7002

Check No. 02091561

Date 09/13/99

TRUST DIVISION 01-01-001-2921302 ST. PAUL COMPANIES FOUNDATION

EDUCATION AND HOUSING
CITY PROJECT

111 RIVERSIDE AVENUE, CB185
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55454

REP: OPERATING SUPPORT
GRANT NUMBER 99-381

AMOUNT

\$*****10,000.00

Robert M. Gue
Robert A. Kararis

Authorized Signature

NOT VALID IF REFLECTIVE WATERMARK ON BACK IS CORRUPTED.

THE SECURE LOGO ON BACK IS HEAT SENSITIVE.

5 11"

Progress Report to the Saint Paul Companies

Operating Grant Number 98-313

September 1998 – August 1999

Education and Housing Equity Project

Activities supported by the Saint Paul Companies grant this past year include:

- Two metropolitan area “kick-off” forums, one in the East Metro (Metropolitan State University, Great Hall) and one in the West Metro (St. Louis Park City Council Chamber) highlighting issues of education, housing and race in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Over 100 community leaders, elected officials and education professionals attended the forums. Fifty percent were leaders representing communities of color.
- Two sponsor organizing and information workshops (at Hamline Law School Conference Center and at Blackbear Crossings), that resulted in 35 community circle dialogues hosted by neighborhood organizations, K-12 schools, libraries and colleges, culture-specific institutions, faith-based organizations, and businesses.
- Two major training and recruitment events for facilitators (one at Augsburg College, one at the Como Pavilion), which prepared approximately 60 facilitators to moderate/co-moderate the community circle conversations.
- Two one-day workshops on “Understanding Community and Institutional Racism” provided to all facilitators and willing sponsor representatives and their scribes/repertoires. These workshops served to deepen the community circle dialogues to deal with underlying, systemic issues of race and poverty. The training was provided by staff of MCARI (the Minnesota Churches Anti-Racism Initiative).
- Community Circle dialogues involving approximately 500 participants (40% communities of color) in two languages (Hmong/Laotian and English). Each circle met at least five times (at least 10 hours) and included between 8 and 15 participants. Most of the circle dialogues took place in Minneapolis, Saint Paul and first-ring suburbs. Reports were prepared summarizing the conversations and conclusions of each circle. All circles completed profiles of participants and participant/discussion leader evaluations.
- Completion of two revisions of the community circle discussion guide (one for use in Saint Paul, one for use in Minneapolis and the greater Twin Cities), *Choices for Community: A Regional Conversation about the Challenges of Education, Housing and Segregation in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area* and *1999 Cities At Work: A Community Conversation about the Challenges of Education, Housing and Race in Saint Paul*. Both editions included a participants version and a facilitator’s version.
- A *Gathering* of the community circles at the conclusion of the circle dialogues, held at St. Stephanus Church in the Frogtown neighborhood of Saint Paul. The *Gathering* included a facilitated conversation identifying “next steps” and areas for individual and community action, as well as suggested policy changes. A written report was prepared highlighting the results of the *Gathering* and shared with all participants and selected stakeholders active in housing, education, social justice and/or public policy.
- A compendium of promising practices and action projects and organizations advancing inclusionary education and housing opportunities for children and adults of all races and backgrounds in the metropolitan area.
- Forging a major partnership with the Wilder Foundation to build “education, housing and race” and use of “community circle dialogues” into the agenda and focus of the annual *Cities at Work* forum series in Saint Paul. The 1999 theme is “A Public Dialogue on Race, Connections and Commitment.”
- Establishing a partnership with the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution, Minnesota Chapter and the Minnesota Facilitators Network to recruit and train experienced facilitators, and to design questions for discussion and reflection to be included in the discussion guide.
- Developing partnerships with new organizations such as the League of Human Rights Commissions, whose member human rights commissions are sponsoring many of the suburban circle dialogues. The Bloomington Circle has just completed a presentation of its findings and recommendations to the Human Rights Commission and has

been asked to do the same with the City Council and the School Board. The results of their conversation will be used to inform and revise city agency work priorities.

- Co-sponsoring with the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership (MMEP) and the Urban Coalition a series of five "Issue Forums" on proposed State rules and rule revisions on desegregation, educational diversity, and multi-cultural teacher competency. The EHEP board officers provided oral and written testimony on the 'deseg' rule.
- Co-sponsoring with the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH) and the Illusion Theatre five major theatre events (in Burnsville, Woodbury, Saint Paul, Minneapolis, and Osseo) on fair and affordable housing in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. These performances corresponded well with the community circle dialogues; many circle participants were drawn to the theatre event, and vice versa. The theatre project had its genesis in the community circle conversations of 1997. In July, the play received a "best practice" award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Drafting and co-sponsoring with the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability a proposal for an Inclusionary Housing legislative initiative later approved by the 1999 Minnesota State Legislature. The concept of inclusionary housing was a major outcome of the community circle conversations in 1997.
- Planning and co-sponsoring a conference with the Minnesota Fair Housing Center and Hennepin County for suburban housing and planning officials and human rights commissioners on promising practices for "Building Inclusive Communities." Over 100 local government officials, legislators and private developers attended this conference.
- Providing planning, training and technical assistance to other community dialogue projects that have followed our lead. They include the Macalester College Anti-Racism Initiative, the Partnerships for Tomorrow (Burnsville) study circle program on building strong neighborhoods, and the Minnesota League of Women Voters' statewide community circle initiative on immigration in Minnesota, "Changing Faces, Changing Communities" (community circles and forums to be convened in 2000).
- Participating in workshops and contributing useful citizen information to the mediation of the NAACP educational adequacy lawsuit (identification of key participants and stakeholders, areas of common ground and shared community values, and creative ideas and possible approaches emanating from the community circle conversations).
- By invitation of the Saint Paul Office of Interdistrict Initiatives, we participated in the initial planning and development of a multi-school district governance structure to expand inter-district and integrated city/suburban education initiatives in the East Metro area. Discussions are underway with representatives of the West Metro Education Program to explore facilitated dialogues that would engage citizens and educators in defining a vision for what inclusionary schools might look like in their communities.

Earlier this year the Education and Housing Equity Project and the Community Circle Dialogues on Education, Housing and Race received national recognition from President Clinton's Initiative on Race. The project was selected as a model of a promising practice for racial reconciliation and an innovative approach to addressing race-related issues in the United States. EHEP's executive director was invited to address the Brookings Institution at its national issues forum on "Race in America: New Approaches to Bridging the Divide."

In Minnesota, the affordable housing campaign's coalition of housing advocacy organizations recognized the work of the Community Circles project when it awarded EHEP one of its *housing bricks* for "laying the foundation in 1999." 1999 was a record-breaking year for affordable housing programs and funding approved by the Minnesota Legislature. This victory resulted largely from a major consensus and push by citizens for affordable housing as a priority. The 1997 community conversations laid much of the foundation for this consensus and citizen organization and action.

Many of the activities proposed in our project will be undertaken this next year, including a fall round of community circles, a Call to Action Forum, a Metropolitan Citizens Summit and a comprehensive, systematic evaluation (to be done with the assistance of the Wilder Research Center). Project outcomes and impacts will become clearer during the next year and will be shared with the St. Paul Companies. Subsequent activities will be defined by the results of the valuation and the report on the community conversations.

Please see the enclosed financial reports for 1998 and 1999 (through July). Grant monies were used to support operating activities during parts of both years.



July 21, 1999

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Northwestern University

John Parr
Center for Regional and
Neighborhood Action
University of Denver

Jean Sasevich
The St. Paul Companies, Inc. Foundation
385 Washington Street
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Ms. Sasevich:

We are delighted that the Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP) has decided to submit funding proposals for continuation of the Community Circles on Education, Housing, and Race in the Twin Cities. Dick Little has asked us to write this letter of support, and we are honored to do so.

The Study Circles Resource Center (SCRC) is a project of the Topsfield Foundation, a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan foundation dedicated to advancing deliberative democracy and improving the quality of public life in the U. S. To carry out this mission, SCRC provides free materials and technical assistance to organizers of study circle programs, which engage large numbers of citizens in discussion and action on critical public issues.

Since we provide free materials and services, we have to apply strict criteria to our participation in a project. We assist the Community Circles project for several reasons:

- the commitment and skill of the principal organizers, including Dick Little, Barbara Blackstone, Barb Rose, and the members of the EHEP Board of Directors;
- the organizers' appreciation of the community-building power of study circles, also called community circles; and
- the fact that the Community Circles Collaborative represents a broad array of Twin Cities organizations, including many of the nonprofits in the metro area.

These qualities were apparent when we first began assisting the Community Circles effort in 1995, and they have been the foundation for the project's success ever since. The total of 48 community circles that met during the first round, in 1997, was an impressive start.

The 50 circles meeting during the second round hold even more promise, because the organizers took a thoughtful, comprehensive approach toward analyzing the weaknesses and strengths of the first round. One important

Hi Dick -

On the copy I sent
her, I attached a few
things about SRC and
Topfield.

Your folders look great -
do you have more document-
ation on the link between
the circles and the inclusionary
housing legislation? *az*

change that resulted from this process is a completely different approach toward action in the second round. An action forum was held on June 22nd to help circle participants connect with new and existing action opportunities, and a Citizens' Summit will be held at the end of the year to highlight those efforts and amplify what participants said during their dialogues.

We have seen this kind of approach lead to sustained change in other communities, and we think it holds great promise for the Twin Cities. Around the country, study circle programs have been particularly successful at addressing the difficult issue of race, and at generating programs and projects for young people. In Fort Myers, Florida, a study circle program on race with 600 participants led to the building of a shopping center in a low-income neighborhood. In Oklahoma, a statewide study circle project on criminal justice with 1,000 citizens played an important role in the passage of state legislation on that issue. As a result of the study circle program that began in Orford, New Hampshire, the nation's first two-state K-12 school district has been established. It will keep rural schools alive in Orford and three other towns in New Hampshire and Vermont.

The progress made by the Community Circles project is also exciting because regional issues like segregation are so crucial to the future of many communities, and yet have – until now – not been the subject of large-scale public dialogue programs. William Barnes, co-author of *The New Regional Economies*, writes, "We need to develop a regional civics that is not about governmental entities. It's about citizens, community groups, businesses, and government agencies coming together to act in the common interest of the region." In that sense, the work of the Community Circles organizers is truly unprecedented. The June 22nd action forum included an opportunity for attendees to take part in small-group dialogues with people from other parts of the metro area. In these discussions, participants were able to compare notes on the conclusions they reached and the action ideas they talked about in their different community circles. By engaging citizens of the Twin Cities in honest, productive dialogue about some crucial, controversial regional issues, the Education and Housing Equity Project is the first organization in the country to try to create this kind of "regional civics."

The Study Circles Resource Center will continue to assist the organizers of the Community Circles project. We have a strong interest in their success and we look forward to the continuation of this productive working relationship.

Sincerely,



Martha McCoy
Executive Director



Matt Leighninger
Program Director

Cc: Dick Little, Coordinator, Community Circle Collaborative

September 9, 1998

Richard C. Little
Executive Director
The Education and Housing Equity Project
122 West Franklin Avenue, Suite 310
Minneapolis, MN 55404-2452

Dear Mr. Little:



I am pleased to notify you that your request for \$15,000 has been reviewed by The St. Paul Companies and a one-year grant of \$10,000 for operating support has been approved. The check for the approved amount will be released when we receive your Evidence of Registration with the State Attorney General's office.

By September 1, 1999, please provide us with a brief progress report. Please include the following information:

1. **Description of how the funds have been used for the grant purpose and the results (*two pages or less*)**
2. **Budget which shows expenditures of the grant (*one page*)**
3. **Grant number (*located at the bottom of this letter*).**

While it is clear in your proposal that The St. Paul's funding will be used exclusively in the United States, Internal Revenue Service regulations require that we so designate the funds. If this designation causes problems for you, please let me know.

We at The St. Paul Companies are pleased to be able to support such a worthwhile cause. If I can be of further assistance to you or if you have any questions regarding this grant (***refer to this grant ID number at the bottom of this letter***), please call me at 651-310-2623.

Sincerely,



Ronald A. McKinley
Community Affairs Manager
Charitable Contributions
grant number 98-313

Memorandum

To: Jean Sazevich (St. Paul Companies Grant Reviewer) 651-310-4037

FAX # 651-310-2327

From: Education & Housing Equity Project (EHEP)

Date: 07/26/99

Re: Meeting Wednesday, July 28, 1999 - 9:00 a.m.

Jean,

Just a reminder about your meeting with Dick Little, Matthew Little and Jerry Timian on Wednesday morning, July 26 at 9:00 a.m. at Augsburg College - The Christensen Center.

I will also fax a map.

If you have any questions please call Dick or myself at (612) 330-1505

Thanks,

*Pam Jewson
EHEP Administrative Assistant*



June 8, 1998

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University of Denver

Ronald A. McKinley
Community Affairs Manager
Charitable Contributions
The St. Paul Companies
385 Washington Street
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mr. McKinley:

We are delighted that the Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP) has decided to submit funding proposals for continuation of the Community Circles Collaborative and expansion of the *Choices for Community* project. Dick Little has asked us to write this letter of support, and we are honored to do so.

The Study Circles Resource Center (SCRC) is a project of the Topsfield Foundation, a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan foundation dedicated to advancing deliberative democracy and improving the quality of public life in the U. S. To carry out this mission, SCRC provides free materials and technical assistance to organizers of large-scale study circle programs, which engage large numbers of citizens in discussion and action on critical public issues.

Since we provide free materials and services, we have to apply strict criteria to our participation in a project. We chose to assist the Community Circle Collaborative for several reasons: the Collaborative's articulation of the challenges posed by residential and educational segregation in the Twin Cities; their appreciation of the community-building power of study circles, also called community circles; and the fact that the Collaborative represents a broad array of Twin Cities organizations. These qualities provided a strong foundation for *Choices for Community*.

We are very pleased with the progress made by the Collaborative so far. The Collaborative has recruited over 100 other organizations, including churches and synagogues, school districts, housing agencies, human rights commissions, cities, neighborhood groups, block clubs, and other community-based groups and civic groups, who will in turn recruit and convene participants. The total of 48 community circles already completed is an impressive start.

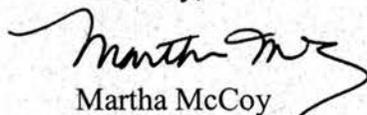
Furthermore, the report on the first round of community circles shows that the Collaborative is thoughtfully taking stock of the program, identifying both weaknesses and strengths in preparation for the second round. Few study circle programs have done as good a job of documentation and analysis. One change that has already resulted from this process is a completely different approach toward action in the second round, including plans for an action forum and citizen task forces working on various aspects of the issue. We have seen this kind of approach lead to sustained change in other communities, and we think it holds great promise for the Twin Cities.

The progress made by *Choices for Community* is doubly impressive because regional issues like segregation are so crucial to the future of many communities, and yet have – until now – not been the subject of large-scale public dialogue programs. William Barnes, co-author of *The New Regional Economies*, writes, “We need to develop a regional civics that is not about governmental entities. It’s about citizens, community groups, businesses, and government agencies coming together to act in the common interest of the region.” In that sense, the work of the Community Circle Collaborative is truly unprecedented. By engaging citizens of the Twin Cities in honest, productive dialogue about some crucial, controversial regional issues, the Education and Housing Equity Project is the first organization in the country to try to create this kind of “regional civics.”

In the second round, there will be greater emphasis on including public officials in the circles and the action forum. This will strengthen the ability of *Choices for Community* to connect grassroots voices to the policymaking process. In Oklahoma, organizers used a similar strategy to involve over 1,000 people across the state in study circles on criminal justice and corrections. One of the outcomes of the project was House Bill 1213, a radical bipartisan revision of the state’s corrections system which upheld the main policy ideas being advanced by study circle participants.

The Study Circles Resource Center is committed to assisting EHEP and the Community Circle Collaborative in this work. In March 1998, we provided a free one-day training in study circle organizing and facilitation at Hamline University, which was attended by almost 100 Twin Cities residents representing scores of organizations. We have a strong interest in the success of *Choices for Community* and we look forward to the continuation of this productive working relationship.

Sincerely,


Martha McCoy
Executive Director


Matt Leighninger
Program Director

Cc: Dick Little, Coordinator, Community Circle Collaborative



June 1, 1998

ADVISORY BOARD

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Furthermore, the report on the first round of community circles shows that the Collaborative is thoughtfully taking stock of the program, identifying both weaknesses and strengths in preparation for the second round. Few

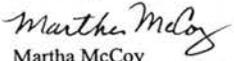
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Sincerely,


Martha McCoy
Executive Director


Matt Leighninger
Program Director

Cc: Dick Little, Coordinator, Community Circle Collaborative

How we really do things, e.g., zoning, where low income people live

Getting to white privilege

pol. + practices that
limit low income people from
having sufficient choice

Genuine choice

What gets passed off as a ~~my~~ makes no
inroads to what + how int. perf. in this country.
Still maintain the ~~poor~~ barriers.

subtle at around edge. Or amounts to charity

The diag. reports of mediation ^{confirm} make we don't know how
to talk to end the ~~last~~ race.

deformed conv.

**The Education & Housing Equity Project (EHEP)
St. Paul Companies Request: 1998-99**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date of request: June 1, 1998

Organization Name: Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP)

Address of organization: 122 West Franklin Avenue, Suite 310, Minneapolis, MN 55404-2452

Phone/Fax: (612) 871-2519 (612) 813-4501

Executive Director: Richard C. Little (Dick Little)

Contact person, title and phone number: Dick Little, Executive Director, 871-2519

Total organizational budget: \$0 – \$149,000

Population served: Multi-Cultural, Low Income

Type of funding: Annual Operating

ST. PAUL COMPANIES INVOLVEMENT

Do any St. Paul Companies employee currently volunteers with your organization? No

If not, would you like to have St. Paul Companies volunteers? Yes

Are there any St. Paul Companies employees on your Board of Directors? No

Have you applied to The St. Paul Companies in the past? No

If a progress report is due is it enclosed? NA

REQUEST SUMMARY

Purpose of the request: EHEP is seeking operating support to expand and strengthen its work in organizing and expanding the collaboration of partner organizations and engagement of citizens from all walks of life in community circle discussions and action forums to address the challenges of residential, economic and racial segregation and access to quality education and life opportunities for all citizens, especially students of color.

Total amount being requested from the St. Paul Companies: \$15,000 for 1998

Total amount needed for above purpose: \$48,500 for 1998

Period of time grant monies needed: 7/98 –1/99

Other major sources approached for support, amounts requested, and status of request:

Otto Bremer Foundation	\$50,000	Approved (1997 and 1998)
Bush Foundation	\$10,000	Approved in 1997
Cowles Media Foundation	\$20,000	Approved (1997 and 1998)
Minneapolis Foundation	\$5,000	Approved
Saint Paul Foundation	\$5,000	Approved
McKnight Foundation		Letter of Intent submitted
Fredrikson & Byron Foundation		Application submitted

Requests will soon be made to other sources of funding including the Northwest Area Foundation, H.B. Fuller Company Foundation and General Mills Foundation.

DESCRIBE YOUR ORGANIZATION

Dates of Fiscal Year: 1/98 to 12/98

Organization mission, goals and objectives: The organization's mission is to act as a catalyst to build broad-based coalitions and engage the community in public conversations and advocacy for the purpose of promoting racially and economically inclusive communities that give families of all incomes, races, and ethnicities access to schools and housing throughout the metropolitan area. EHEP pursues its mission through a three-part strategy:

- Coalition building and advocacy;
- Community education and public conversation; and
- Assisting communities in becoming more inclusive and integrated.

Brief description of your organization's history and major accomplishments: The Education & Housing Equity Project (EHEP) was created in 1995 by a group of education and housing advocates who shared a belief in the pressing need to link the issue of school desegregation /integration with the broader issue of segregated housing and neighborhoods. In 1996, EHEP partnered with other organizations, including the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing, the Minneapolis Initiative Against Racism and the Minnesota Fair Housing Center to create the Community Circle Collaborative (CCC). In 1997, the Collaborative launched a metro-wide dialogue project in which 500 citizens from different walks of life joined together – 5 to 15 at a time – in community circles throughout the metropolitan area to discuss two central questions:

- “What are the impacts of existing patterns of residential, economic and racial segregation on the educational achievement and life opportunities of Twin Cities area children and families?” and
- “What can or should we do, as individuals and as a community, to enhance educational success, and housing and economic opportunities for *all* children in the Twin Cities area?”

These discussions were convened by a variety of local sponsoring organizations, assisted by trained facilitators and provided background materials and a discussion guide prepared by the principal partners of the collaborative. The conversations culminated in a metropolitan citizens forum held at Macalester College. A report that synthesized the findings, conclusions and actions recommendations of the community circles has subsequently been prepared and will be shared with the community partners and various decision makers in the metropolitan area.

Current programs and activities: Since the conclusion of the first round of community conversations, EHEP has engaged in evaluation activities and using the results of the first year to further expand the collaboration of partners and to provide substantive contributions to public activities aimed at reversing the growing segregation and isolation from economic and social opportunities, expanding housing choices and identifying promising practices for achieving educational success for *all* Twin City area citizens.

EHEP is also planning a second, expanded round of Community Circle discussions to be held in the fall of 1998. This round will build upon the findings of the first round of community circle discussions and will include additional groups not represented in the first round, such as the business community, and a deeper range of participants from communities of color.. The discussions will be “informed” with the assistance of additional resource partners and will be more clearly focused on systemic barriers to building more inclusive communities and institutions. The discussions will also include an action forum designed to lead and motivate citizens to inform action and to connect citizens with opportunities for involvement in their community. At the conclusion of Round Two, EHEP and the Community Circle Collaborative will co-sponsor a Citizens Summit with the Minnesota Meeting and Minnesota Public Radio. The Summit will use electronic key pad technology to elicit focused responses and discussion of specific issues and solutions from Community Circle participants on the best ways the metropolitan community can address issues of educational access and achievement, and housing, community and school desegregation in the Twin Cities area. Round two will help inform the action agendas of partners in the collaborative as well as public decision-making bodies in 1999.

Geographic area and population served: The work of EHEP is intended to affect and benefit the entire Twin Cities metropolitan area. The project intentionally emphasizes involvement of citizens from both urban and suburban communities, institutions and organizations: communities of color are major stakeholders in the outcomes of the project. In 1997 over 500 citizens from 35 communities participated in the community circle dialogues. At least 25% of the participants were persons of color. For 1998, over 100 organizations will sign on and the community circles will engage over 1,000 citizens. Organizations that have and will use our work represent thousands of citizens.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE/ADMINISTRATION

Briefly describe how your organization works: What are the responsibilities of the board, staff, volunteers and (if a membership organization) members. The success of EHEP's efforts rest largely on an active and committed board of directors and the strong partnership of organizations in the Community Circle Collaborative.

The board of directors has been expanded each year and now includes 16 members; all key leaders in fields and institutions related to the mission of EHEP. The board has direct and extensive experience in addressing issues of housing, education and race. Board member's connections and contacts in the community facilitate EHEP's ability to accomplish its objectives. The board is responsible for setting policy direction for the organization; the board has also played an active role in preparing the discussion guide and the report on the first round conversations, and in bringing new project partners into the collaborative.

The Community Circle Collaborative includes:

- organizing partners, who have helped design the process, frame the discussion issues, prepare the discussion guide, recruit and orient/train sponsors, facilitators and resource partners;
- resource partners who supply expertise on the issues, written materials to help inform the discussions, assure media coverage, project documentation and/or financial backing of project activities;
- sponsors (typically organizations) that supply meeting spaces for the conversations, recruit community circle participants, convene the community circles and provide recorders who prepare reports on the conversations;
- experienced facilitators, who moderate the community circle conversations;
- participants who commit to 3 to 6 sessions of up to two hours each and participate with 5 to 15 other citizens in informed and deliberative dialogue.

In-kind support from the organizing partners alone in 1997 amounted to more than \$16,000 in documented resources.

How representative are these groups of the communities with which you work? Please outline general demographics of the organization. EHEP works through its partners in many diverse settings throughout the metropolitan area. Its board, staff, and project partners reflect to varying degrees this diversity. *Staff:* 1 male, 1 female, 1 European American, 1 Asian American. *Board:* 5 of the 15 board members, including the president, are African Americans. Three additional African Americans and Asian Americans have served on the board. Nine of the twenty original organizing partners are groups primarily representing interests of people of color.

A majority of the new groups recruited so far into the collaborative for the next round of community circles are culture specific or multicultural organizations. Partner and sponsor organizations include churches, non-profits, human rights commissions, neighborhood and block groups, schools and school districts, housing organizations, child care and parent support groups, chambers of commerce, union locals, university groups, voter organizations, community centers and community councils, and Mayors offices. Although there is a reasonably good geographic balance of sponsors, the next round of conversations will include better representation of the outer suburbs, the business community, and Saint Paul area communities. Public officials will also be invited to be participants in the circles.

Who will be involved in carrying out the plans outlined in this request? What are the qualifications of the key individuals involved? Two individuals staff EHEP: a full-time executive director and a part-time student intern. EHEP has been resourceful in retaining interns and research assistants from the Center for Urban Affairs at the University of Minnesota, the University of St. Thomas and the Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs. Occasionally part-time and temporary staff has also been retained. Use of consultants and "pro bono" services has also augmented the ability of EHEP to carry out its mission. EHEP also has a fiscal service agreement with MICAH to assure that all financial responsibilities are carried out.

Dick Little is the Executive Director, and is responsible for all aspects of the organization and project: organizing, coalition building, administration and community education. He has an extensive background in housing, education, race relations and use of study circles. Keshia Tanabe is an upper level undergraduate student in political science at the University of St. Thomas and has significant experience in dealing with multicultural diversity issues. With additional funding, EHEP will be able to add an administrative assistant.

DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

EHEP is requesting \$15,000 operating support from the St. Paul Companies to help meet our organizational budget requirements essential to our ability to drive the community circle project and to carry out our commitment to promote the successful development of inclusive communities and schools.

How does it fit within The St. Paul's guidelines? EHEP is committed to expanding access to quality education for people of color, people of all races, ethnicities, and cultural and socio-economic backgrounds and to increasing low-income housing opportunities throughout the metropolitan area. Our approach models collaboration and sharing of information and resources among multiple nonprofit and community-based groups. The grass-root sponsored and paired community circles can also serve to inform the agendas and build the capacities of their non-profit sponsors to become more inclusive and to achieve important diversity objectives for their organizations and for the larger community.

What are the goals, objectives, and activities/strategies involved in this request? What is your time-line?

We propose to continue and expand our current work on three fronts:

- Supporting and linking existing coalitions that are working on the related issues of housing, education and segregation,
- Solidifying a broad-based coalition that can advocate for racially and economically integrated schools and housing throughout the metropolitan area, and
- Sponsoring informed public conversations that will advance the understanding and promotion of inclusive communities.

Each of these elements reinforces the others.

Our time-line for accomplishing the second round of public conversations and, in the process, building a stronger link between housing, education and various community organizations runs through the end of 1998. It includes actions already taken, including:

- completing the evaluation of the first round of discussions
- completing the report and sharing the results of the first round of discussions
- bringing in new partners
- conducting study circle training workshops for facilitators and organizers
- negotiating commitments and pledge agreements among partners
- completing the revised discussion guide
- holding a "kick off" event for round two
- conducting and supporting the community circle discussions
- holding an action forum to look at promising practices and connect citizens to action possibilities
- conducting a citizens summit with support from the Minnesota Meeting and Minnesota Public Radio
- Using the results to set forth an agenda for 1999.

How does your request help to achieve those objectives?

1) Supporting and linking existing coalitions and organizations

There is a wide range of groups and individuals in the Twin Cities metro area with a potential stake in the cause of inclusive and integrated communities and schools. We have begun connecting and collaborating with many such groups in our first two years, and believe much can be accomplished simply by helping to support and expand existing coalitions that already focus on housing and school issues, but do not necessarily link those two issues in their work. We propose to continue our coalition-building efforts by focusing on faith communities, elected officials (legislators, school boards, city councils, mayors, county boards), neighborhood groups, parent organizations, teacher and staff groups, professional education programs, fair housing and housing advocacy groups, labor unions, business organizations, civic groups, civil rights organizations, human rights commissions, libraries, the media, and others.

These groups all have different interests and different understandings of what integration means for them. Moreover, although we have found that many of them agree on the importance of linking school desegregation/integration with the broader issue of housing, few actively combine those two issues in their work or in their recruitment of additional coalition members.

Over the past two and one-half years we have seen – and begun to build on – a great potential for such broad coalition development and support. Yet we also appreciate that it will require a labor-intensive effort to attract the participation of these groups in ways that are appropriate to their interests and capacities. Such an effort is critically needed, however, and these groups constitute the essential infrastructure through which we can develop the broader public understanding and

support for integrated communities, and a broader response to the deepening socioeconomic and racial segregation in the Twin Cities area.

2) Solidifying a broad-based housing/education coalition

The discussions and research we have undertaken so far have convinced us that the building of a single coalition that can advocate for more integrated schools and communities in the Twin Cities will be challenging and slow-going. We have begun to lay the foundation for such a coalition, however – by working within existing coalitions, by listening closely to both mainstream and community leaders and citizens, and by educating them about the realities and options facing us – and will work to solidify this foundation over the next year. We plan to move from dialogue to issue identification and action, working with the same broad range of organizations and individuals we have identified over the past year, as well as others. As we have found already, once groups have the information and tools they need to delve into these issues and begin to see how the issues must be linked and pursued in coalition, there is a powerful movement to work together. The challenge over the next year will be to support these groups and individuals in figuring out *how* to further efforts toward resolving these issues in a way that is equitable, manageable, and capable of attracting widespread support.

3) Creating informed public conversation and analysis

The issues of residential and school segregation have become increasingly polarized and complex. There is a palpable sense of ambivalence about what to do about segregation, as both past and present strategies seem inadequate, flawed, or even misdirected. This is true even in those communities most affected by segregation, at every level: citizens, educators, housing advocates, community leaders, and policy makers. Our first two years of work have given us a deep appreciation of this confusion, even as it has frustrated and worried us, and convinced us of the necessity for widespread and well-informed public conversations about these issues. Without such conversations, we fear the silence and ambivalence – to say nothing of poor public policy and lack of leadership – will continue. We propose, therefore, to continue creating such opportunities for education and dialogue at several levels:

- a) **The Community Circle Collaborative and the “Choices For Community” Study Circle Project.** As noted above, EHEP has been a leading partner in this metro-wide collaboration. Through the Community Circle Collaborative, EHEP continues to organize and support “community circles” throughout the metropolitan region, which will meet to explore the questions of how existing patterns of residential, economic and racial segregation affect the educational achievement and life opportunities of Twin Cities area children and families, and what we can do as individuals and collectively to reverse those patterns and impacts and to positively enhance educational achievement and opportunities. Our focus in the upcoming years will be on: (1) expanding the Collaborative to include a broader range of points of view from organizations, public institutions, and individuals throughout the metropolitan region, (2) promoting and publicizing the project, (3) providing research support to the community circles, (4) fundraising, (5) continuing to recruit and train community circle sponsors and facilitators, (6) evaluating and reporting on the outcomes of community circle deliberations, forums, and subsequent actions, (7) developing and clarifying an action agenda through existing organizations, and new organizations where necessary and (8) expanding the pool of citizens who become informed and actively engaged in the work of non-profits and the civic community to address issues of segregation as we have come to understand them in the 1990’s.
- b) **Community and Metro-wide Citizens Forums.** These forums will flow from the study circle conversations and will enable broader engagement and education of the public
- c) **Action Forums.** These forums will specifically help connect existing organizations with promising practices and to connect community circle participants with organizations actively working on issues of housing, education and systemic racism.

Describe your community and how you work with others. Although EHEP is focused on metropolitan approaches to the challenges we are attempting to address and on the need for dialogue between citizens in different parts of the metropolitan area, our approach is to work with non-profit education, housing, jobs and economic development, social justice and faith-based partners at the community level. The community circle model offers a flexible framework that can incorporate community-level and culture-specific agenda setting as well as the regional and public agenda setting.

What is the systemic or social change you are trying to achieve? As has already been suggested, through the community circle process, we are hoping to change where the community and electorate are with respect to understanding and addressing systemic barriers to fair and affordable housing, economically and socially inclusive and equitable communities

and multiculturally responsive and effective schools. We hope to create a “critical mass” for changing a presently racist and inequitable status quo.

Problem statement: What problems, needs or issues does your request address? Public conversation about the possibilities for inclusive and integrated communities is rare, usually divisive and poorly informed, not conducted on a systematic or sustained basis and with too few groups and individuals involved. We believe these adverse conditions imperil the chances of building inclusive and integrated communities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

The principal danger is that public discourse is fast settling into simplistic, distorted polarities – neighborhood schools versus forced busing, quality education versus desegregation, core cities versus suburbs, rich versus poor and, of course, whites versus people of color (especially African-Americans). A climate of public opinion poisoned by these divisions inevitably limits what policy makers (and, as we’ve found in our initial discussions, advocates and community leaders as well) feel they are able to do; we speculate that this climate even limits what judges feel *they* are able to do. In the current environment, the issues are captured by the most extreme and negative voices, which are then amplified by the media. The public sits and listens. Few want to get involved, because of the fear of getting burned in the heated controversy and because of the not-unreasonable judgment that little will be accomplished under these conditions.

There is a need to involve many groups and the broader public in civil, informed conversations about the possibilities for integrated communities. There is a need to expand the serious discussion of these issues beyond the courtrooms and the academic halls. As many people as possible in our community should be participating in the conversation about this issue. The discourse should not be limited to the invectives of “talk radio,” the well-intentioned opinions of newspaper editorials, the sociological jargon of academia or the legal technicalities of the court.

The issue is developing rapidly. The question is who will be involved in the public discourse, and how will that discourse be framed. Unfortunately, past experience shows that these issues are easily polarized – and stay polarized. We believe that this familiar yet unfortunate outcome can be averted by:

- organizing a wide range of groups that have a potential stake in integration
- engaging broad-based public participation in informed conversations about what segregation and authentic integration involve; and
- offering assistance to communities as they seek to become better integrated.

In responding to this need, we intend to build on the initial successes of the past two years to by expanding our work in coalition building and public education. We plan to take the public conversation about racial and economic segregation and integration to neighborhood centers, public libraries, school buildings, places of business, living rooms, and backyards – the places where ordinary people live their lives and where the real task of building inclusive communities must take place. We wish to encourage and inform public conversations that will help lead people to support the principle of integrated communities and to support efforts to move toward that goal. This organization seeks to educate the public – that is, to lead people to a more informed, effective understanding of the effects of segregation, why integration is important, and how it can be accomplished. Through this process, we hope that people come to understand the value of integration for themselves, for other people, and for society as a whole.

We have no illusions that all people will be persuaded, or that all will be willing to participate. There are, after all, real conflicts of interest and conflicts of values (integration has too often been framed in terms of assimilation). These conflicts will not be dissolved by talk alone. But without a concerted effort to bring people together for informed and civil conversations, the most extreme voices will remain to frame the issue. Public-spirited conversation will be drowned out by shrill debate; our common interests and values will get lost in the sea of opposition and conflict.

EVALUATION

Our plan for evaluating the success of our project and organization’s work: We intend to measure success in tangible ways. We have already used surveys and focus groups to evaluate the first round of community circle discussions. We are and will continue to track specific data about the process and results. Measures of success include the breadth and depth of participation in the study circles by local and regional citizens. Breadth and depth means diversity of participants in terms of perspectives and viewpoints, race and ethnicity, place of residence, age, family status and economic status. It also includes number of participants and conversations. The project’s impact will also be measured by the extent that our process and findings and recommendations are considered and incorporated by stakeholder and sponsor organizations and by public bodies, such as the State Legislature in its next legislative agenda. Another important measure will be the

number of new participants who chose to become involved in the work of one of the participating non-profit organizations as one way of moving from discussion to action.

Who will be involved in evaluating this work? The EHEP board and staff and the organizations that participate in the Community Circle Collaborative will continue to be involved in evaluating this project.

How will the evaluation results be used? The results of the first round of community circle conversations are being used to plan the second round of conversations. The results of the second round will be used to define the subsequent strategies for moving toward achievement of EHEP's goals and objectives.

**The Education & Housing Equity Project (EHEP)
St. Paul Companies Request: 1998-99**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date of request: June 1, 1998

Organization Name: Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP)

Address of organization: 122 West Franklin Avenue, Suite 310, Minneapolis, MN 55404-2452

Phone/Fax: (612) 871-2519 (612) 813-4501

Executive Director: Richard C. Little (Dick Little)

Contact person, title and phone number: Dick Little, Executive Director, 871-2519

Total organizational budget: \$0 – \$149,000

Population served: Multi-Cultural, Low Income

Type of funding: Annual Operating

ST. PAUL COMPANIES INVOLVEMENT

Do any St. Paul Companies employees currently volunteer with your organization?	No
If not, would you like to have St. Paul Companies volunteers?	Yes
Are there any St. Paul Companies employees on your Board of Directors?	No
Have you applied to The St. Paul Companies in the past?	No
If a progress report is due is it enclosed?	N/A

REQUEST SUMMARY

Purpose of the request: EHEP is seeking operating support to expand and strengthen its work in organizing and expanding the collaboration of partner organizations and engagement of citizens from all walks of life in community circle discussions and action forums to address the related challenges of residential, economic and racial segregation and access to quality education and life opportunities for all citizens, especially students of color.

Total amount being requested from the St. Paul Companies: \$15,000 for 1998

Total amount needed for above purpose: \$48,500 additional funds for 1998

Period of time grant monies needed: 7/98 –1/99

Other major sources approached for support, amounts requested, and status of request:

Otto Bremer Foundation	\$50,000	Approved (1997 and 1998)
Bush Foundation	\$10,000	Approved (1997)
Cowles Media Foundation	\$20,000	Approved (1997 and 1998)
Minneapolis Foundation	\$5,000	Approved
Saint Paul Foundation	\$5,000	Approved

Requests will also be made to other sources of funding including the McKnight Foundation, the H.B. Fuller Foundation, the General Mills Foundation and the First Universalist Foundation and will include proposals for multi-year funding.

THE ST. PAUL COMPANIES GRANT APPLICATION NARRATIVE

DESCRIBE YOUR ORGANIZATION

Dates of Fiscal Year: 1/98 to 12/98

Mission, goals and objectives:

The mission of the Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP) is to act as a catalyst to build broad-based coalitions and engage the Twin Cities metropolitan community in informed public conversations, analysis and advocacy for the purpose of promoting racially and economically inclusive communities that give families of all incomes, races, and ethnicities access to schools and housing throughout the metropolitan area. EHEP pursues its mission through a three-part strategy:

- Coalition building and advocacy;
- Community education and informed public conversation; and
- Assisting communities in becoming more inclusive and integrated.

Brief description of your organization's history and major accomplishments:

EHEP was created in 1995 to link the issue of school desegregation /integration with the broader issue of segregated housing and neighborhoods and to build an informed citizenry to advance public understanding and action on these issues.

In 1996, EHEP partnered with other organizations, including the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing, the Minneapolis Initiative Against Racism, and the Minnesota Fair Housing Center, to create the Community Circle Collaborative (CCC). In 1997, the Collaborative launched a metro-wide dialogue project in which 500 citizens from different walks of life joined together, 5 to 15 at a time, in community circles throughout the metropolitan area to discuss two central questions:

- "What are the impacts of existing patterns of residential, economic and racial segregation on the educational achievement and life opportunities of Twin Cities area children and families?" and
- "What can or should we do, as individuals and as a community, to enhance educational success, and housing and economic opportunities for *all* children in the Twin Cities area?"

These community circles were convened by a variety of local sponsoring organizations. All were provided with discussion guides and were moderated by trained facilitators. The conversations culminated in a Metropolitan Citizens Forum held at Macalester College. A report that synthesized the findings, conclusions and action recommendations of the community circles has subsequently been prepared and will be shared with the community partners and various decision makers in the metropolitan area.

Current programs and activities:

Since the conclusion of the first round of community conversations, EHEP has been evaluating the first round, expanding the collaboration of partners, identifying promising practices that advance educational success and expand affordable housing choices, and revising and improving the discussion guide.

EHEP is also planning a second, expanded round of Community Circle conversations to be held in the fall of 1998. The second round will build upon the findings of the first round and will include additional groups not represented in the first round, such as the business community, outer suburban residents and a wider range of participants from communities of color. These conversations will be more clearly focused on systemic barriers to building inclusive communities and institutions. The discussions will also include an action component that will connect citizens with opportunities for involvement in their community and more directly connect the work of the community circles with key decision-makers and decision-making bodies. At the conclusion of Round Two, EHEP and the Community Circle Collaborative will co-sponsor a Citizens Summit with the Minnesota Meeting and Minnesota Public Radio. The Summit will use electronic key pad technology to elicit focused responses and discussion of specific issues and solutions from Community Circle participants on the best ways the metropolitan community can address issues of educational access and achievement, and housing and school desegregation. Round two will help inform the policy and action agendas of partners in the collaborative as well as public decision-making bodies in 1999.

Geographic area and population served:

The work of EHEP is intended to benefit the entire Twin Cities metropolitan area. The project intentionally emphasizes the involvement of citizens of many ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds from both urban and suburban communities, institutions and organizations. We all are major stakeholders in the outcomes of this project. In 1997 over 500 citizens from 35 communities participated in the community circle dialogues. At least 25% of the participants were persons of color. For 1998, over 100 organizations will sign on and the community circles will engage over 1,000 citizens. Organizations that have or will use our work represent thousands of adults and young people.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE/ADMINISTRATION

Briefly describe how your organization works: What are the responsibilities of the board, staff, volunteers and (if a membership organization) members.

The success of EHEP's efforts rests largely on an active and committed board of directors and the strong partnership of organizations and volunteers in the Community Circle Collaborative.

The board of directors has been expanded each year and now includes 15 members; all are key leaders in fields and institutions related to the mission of EHEP. The board has direct and extensive experience in addressing issues of housing, education and race. Board member's connections and contacts in the community facilitate EHEP's ability to accomplish its objectives. The board is responsible for setting policy direction for the organization; the board has also played an active role in preparing the discussion guide and the report on the first round conversations, and in bringing new partners into the collaborative.

The Community Circle Collaborative includes:

- organizing partners, who have helped design the process, frame the discussion issues, prepare the discussion guide, recruit and orient/train sponsors, facilitators, reporters/recorders and resource partners, and assist with reporting and evaluation and project follow-through;
- resource partners who supply expertise on the issues, written materials to help inform the discussions, media coverage, project documentation and/or financial backing of project activities;
- sponsors (typically organizations) that supply meeting spaces (and child care, transportation, translators, and other services as needed) for the conversations, recruit community circle participants, convene the community circles and provide recorders who prepare reports on the conversations;
- experienced facilitators, who moderate the community circle conversations;
- participants who commit to 3 to 6 sessions of up to two hours each and participate with 5 to 15 other citizens in informed and deliberative dialogue.

In-kind support from the organizing partners alone in 1997 amounted to more than \$15,000 in documented resources.

How representative are these groups of the communities with which you work? Please outline general demographics of the organization.

EHEP works through its partners in many diverse settings throughout the metropolitan area. Its board, staff, and project partners reflect to varying degrees this diversity.

Staff: 1 male, 1 female; 1 European American, 1 Asian American.

Board: Board members come from business, civic, legislative, academic, community service, housing advocacy, civil rights, media, education and law backgrounds. 5 of the 15 board members, including the president, are African Americans. Three additional African Americans and Asian Americans have served on the board. We plan to recruit American Indians, Latinos/Latinas and Southeast Asian Americans to the board in the near future.

Collaborative Partners: Nine of the twenty original organizing partners of the Community Circle Collaborative come from groups primarily representing interests of communities of color. A majority of the new groups recruited for the next round of community circles are culture specific or multicultural organizations. Partner and sponsor organizations include churches, non-profits, human rights commissions, neighborhood and block groups, youth groups, schools and school districts, housing organizations, child care and parent support groups, chambers of commerce, union locals, university groups, voter organizations, community centers and community councils, and Mayors offices. Although there is a reasonably good demographic and geographic balance of sponsors, the next round of conversations will include better representation of the outer suburbs, the business community, recent immigrants, students and Saint Paul area communities. Public officials will also be invited to participate in the circles.

Who will be involved in carrying out the plans outlined in this request? What are the qualifications of the key individuals involved?

Two individuals staff EHEP: a full-time executive director and a part-time student intern. EHEP has been resourceful in retaining interns and research assistants from the Center for Urban Affairs at the University of Minnesota, the University of St. Thomas and the Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs. Occasionally part-time and temporary staff has also been retained. Use of consultants and "pro bono" services has also augmented the ability of EHEP to carry out its mission. Most important are in-kind staff and volunteer resources that have been provided by partner organizations. EHEP also has a fiscal service agreement with MICAH to assure that all financial responsibilities are carried out.

Dick Little is the Executive Director, and is responsible for all aspects of the organization and project: organizing, coalition building, administration and community education. He has an extensive background in housing, education, race relations,

and use of study circles. For 20 years he was a planning and housing official with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. More recently he has been a research associate with the International Institute for Interracial Action (INTER-RACE) at Augsburg College, a technical assistant with the Minnesota Community Policing Institute, a member of the planning team for the City of New Orleans Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community program, and a consultant to the Minneapolis Public Schools. He has also been active as policy chair, parent representative on the site leadership council, and co-founder of the foundation at Ramsey International Fine Arts School in Minneapolis. He is in his tenth year serving as a mayoral appointee on the Minneapolis Planning Commission, and has a graduate degree in urban planning. He also serves on the boards of several non-profit organizations including the Metropolitan Interfaith Council for Affordable Housing and the Minneapolis Initiative Against Racism.

Kesha Tanabe is a senior in political science and sociology with a concentration in race and gender issues at the University of St. Thomas. She has significant experience in dealing with multicultural diversity issues. She is a board member of Asian Students in Action and an active member of a multi-racial student coalition (Hispanic-African American-Native American-Asian Pacific American Students at the University of St. Thomas) and the Japanese American Citizens League, Twin Cities Chapter. She is also involved in developing a new organization, the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum.

DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

EHEP is requesting \$15,000 operating support from the St. Paul Companies to help meet our 1998 organizational budget requirements essential to our ability to drive the community circle project and to carry out our commitment to promote the successful development of inclusive communities and schools.

How does it fit within The St. Paul's guidelines?

EHEP is committed to expanding access to quality education for students of all races, ethnicities and cultural and socio-economic backgrounds and to increasing low-income housing opportunities throughout the metropolitan area. Our method is a model of collaboration and information-sharing among multiple nonprofit and community-based groups. The grassroots sponsored and paired community circles can also serve to inform the agendas and build the capacities of their non-profit sponsors to become more inclusive and to achieve important diversity objectives for their organizations and for the larger community.

What are the goals, objectives, and activities/strategies involved in this request? What is your time-line?

We propose to continue and expand our current work on three fronts:

- Supporting and linking existing coalitions that are working on the related issues of housing, education and segregation,
- Solidifying a broad-based coalition that can advocate for racially, culturally, and economically inclusive/integrated schools and housing throughout the metropolitan area, and
- Sponsoring informed public conversations that will advance the understanding and promotion of inclusive communities.

Each of these elements reinforces the others.

The informed conversations are critical. The issues of residential and school segregation have become increasingly polarized and complex. There is a palpable sense of ambivalence about what to do about segregation, as both past and present strategies seem inadequate, flawed, or even misdirected. Our first two years of work have given us a deep appreciation of this confusion, and have convinced us of the necessity for widespread and well-informed public conversations – across racial and economic boundaries – about these issues. Without such conversations, we fear the silence and ambivalence – to say nothing of poor public policy and lack of leadership – will continue.

The partnership and coalition-building is also important. The discussions and research we have undertaken so far have convinced us that building a single coalition that can advocate for more integrated schools and communities in the Twin Cities will be challenging and slow-going. We have begun to lay the foundation for such a coalition, however – by working within existing coalitions, by listening closely to grassroots and mainstream community leaders and citizens, and by educating each other about the realities and options facing us and discovering shared ground – and will work to solidify this foundation over the next year.

During this next year we plan to move from conversation to action. As we have found already, once participants have the information and tools they need to delve into these issues, there is a desire to act. The challenge over the next year will be to develop action and service opportunities, connect citizens to partner organizations working for change, and “move the community” to make needed legislative and administrative changes.

Our time-line for accomplishing the second round of public conversations and, in the process, building a stronger link between housing, education and various community organizations runs through the end of 1998. It includes actions already taken as well as to be taken, including:

- completing the evaluation of the first round of discussions
- completing the report and sharing the results of the first round of discussions
- recruiting new partners
- conducting study circle training workshops for facilitators and organizers
- negotiating commitments and pledge agreements among partners
- updating research and completing the revised discussion guide
- holding a “kick off” event for round two
- conducting and supporting the community circle conversations
- holding an action forum to look at promising practices and connect citizens to action opportunities
- conducting a Citizens Summit with support from the Minnesota Meeting and Minnesota Public Radio
- using the results to set forth an agenda for 1999

Parallel and complementary activities in the Fall of 1998 will involve EHEP as a principal co-sponsor. Examples include the MICAH fair housing theatre performances, “Like Waters Rolling Down,” and the conference on “Building Inclusive Communities” for metro area municipal officials to be co-sponsored with the Minnesota Fair Housing Center.

There is a wide range of groups and individuals in the Twin Cities metro area with a potential stake in the cause of inclusive and integrated communities and schools. These groups all have different interests and different understandings of what inclusion/integration means for them. We have found that while many of them agree on the importance of linking school desegregation/integration with the broader issue of housing, few actively connect these two issues in their work or in their recruitment of additional coalition members. We have begun connecting and collaborating with many such groups in our first few years. We propose to expand the Community Circle Collaborative by focusing on faith communities, elected officials (legislators, school boards, city councils, mayors, county boards), neighborhood groups, youth and seniors, parent organizations, teacher and staff groups, professional education programs, fair housing and housing advocacy groups, labor unions, business organizations, civic groups, civil rights organizations, human rights commissions, libraries, the media, and others. A labor-intensive effort is required to attract the participation of these groups in ways that are appropriate to their interests and capacities. We will also expand the conversations to make connections to other important related issues, including jobs, economic development, transit, growth management and public safety.

How does your request help to achieve those objectives?

Your support of our request will help us to pay for staff and operating costs essential to advancing the activities described in this proposal and to securing and leveraging the support and participation of the numerous partners required to fulfill the goals and objectives described in our proposal.

Describe your community and how you work with others.

Noted in previous sections.

What is the systemic or social change you are trying to achieve?

The removal of systemic barriers to racial and economic integration in communities, schools and housing, and to equitable access to resources and opportunities in education, housing and jobs by all citizens regardless of race, ethnicity or income.

Problem statement: What problems, needs or issues does your request address?

It is apparent that we in this metropolitan community do not know how to talk about race and class and are fearful of honest discourse, thus making public conversation about the possibilities for inclusive and integrated communities rare. If and when conversations do occur, they are usually superficial, divisive, poorly informed, not conducted on a systematic or sustained basis or include too few individuals and groups. We believe these adverse conditions imperil the chances of building inclusive and integrated communities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

The principal danger is that public discourse is fast settling into simplistic, distorted polarities – neighborhood schools versus forced busing, quality education versus desegregation, core cities versus suburbs, “haves versus have-nots,” and, of course, whites versus people of color (especially African-Americans). A climate of public opinion poisoned by these divisions inevitably limits what policy makers (and, as we’ve found in our initial discussions, advocates and community leaders as well) feel they are able to do; we speculate that this climate even limits what judges feel they are able to do. In the current environment, the issues are captured by the most extreme and negative voices, which are then amplified by the media. The public sits and listens. Few want to get involved, because of the fear of getting burned in the heated controversy or because of the not-unreasonable judgment that little will be accomplished under these conditions.

There is a need to involve many groups and the broader public in civil, informed conversations about the possibilities for inclusive/integrated communities. There is also a need to expand the serious discussion of these issues beyond the courtrooms and the academic halls. As many people as possible in our community should be participating in the conversation about this issue. The discourse should not be limited to the invectives of "talk radio," the well-intentioned opinions of newspaper editorials, the sociological jargon of academia or the legal technicalities of the court.

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EVALUATION

Our plan for evaluating the success of our project and organization's work:

We intend to measure success in tangible ways. We have already used surveys and focus groups to evaluate the first round of community circle discussions. We are and will continue to track specific data about the process and results. Measures of success include the breadth and depth of participation in the study circles by local and regional citizens. Breadth and depth means diversity of participants in terms of perspectives and viewpoints, race and ethnicity, place of residence, age and generation, family status and economic status. It also includes locations and numbers of participants and conversations. The project's impact will also be measured by the extent that our process and findings and recommendations are considered and incorporated by stakeholder and sponsor organizations and by public bodies, such as the State Legislature in its next legislative agenda. Another important measure will be the number of new participants who become involved in the work of one of the participating non-profit organizations as one way of moving from discussion to action.

Who will be involved in evaluating this work?

The EHEP board and staff and the organizations that participate in the Community Circle Collaborative will continue to be involved in evaluating this project.

How will the evaluation results be used?

The results of the first round of community circle conversations are being used to plan the second round of conversations. The results of the second round will be used to define the subsequent strategies for moving toward achievement of EHEP's and the Collaborative's goals and objectives.

**The Education & Housing Equity Project (EHEP)
St. Paul Companies Request: 1998-99**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date of request: June 1, 1998

Organization Name: Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP)

Address of organization: 122 West Franklin Avenue, Suite 310, Minneapolis, MN 55404-2452

Phone/Fax: (612) 871-2519 (612) 813-4501

Executive Director: Richard C. Little (Dick Little)

Contact person, title and phone number: Dick Little, Executive Director, 871-2519

Total organizational budget: \$0 – \$149,000

Population served: Multi-Cultural, Low Income

Type of funding: Annual Operating

ST. PAUL COMPANIES INVOLVEMENT

Do any St. Paul Companies employees currently volunteer with your organization?	No
If not, would you like to have St. Paul Companies volunteers?	Yes
Are there any St. Paul Companies employees on your Board of Directors?	No
Have you applied to The St. Paul Companies in the past?	No
If a progress report is due is it enclosed?	N/A

REQUEST SUMMARY

Purpose of the request: EHEP is seeking operating support to expand and strengthen its work in organizing and expanding the collaboration of partner organizations and engagement of citizens from all walks of life in community circle discussions and action forums to address the related challenges of residential, economic and racial segregation and access to quality education and life opportunities for all citizens, especially students of color.

Total amount being requested from the St. Paul Companies: \$15,000 for 1998

Total amount needed for above purpose: \$48,500 additional funds for 1998

Period of time grant monies needed: 7/98 –1/99

Other major sources approached for support, amounts requested, and status of request:

Otto Bremer Foundation	\$50,000	Approved (1997 and 1998)
Bush Foundation	\$10,000	Approved (1997)
Cowles Media Foundation	\$20,000	Approved (1997 and 1998)
Minneapolis Foundation	\$5,000	Approved
Saint Paul Foundation	\$5,000	Approved

Requests will also be made to other sources of funding including the McKnight Foundation, the H.B. Fuller Foundation, the General Mills Foundation and the First Universalist Foundation and will include proposals for multi-year funding.

THE ST. PAUL COMPANIES GRANT APPLICATION NARRATIVE

DESCRIBE YOUR ORGANIZATION

Dates of Fiscal Year: 1/98 to 12/98

Mission, goals and objectives:

The mission of the Education and Housing Equity Project (EHEP) is to act as a catalyst to build broad-based coalitions and engage the Twin Cities metropolitan community in informed public conversations, analysis and advocacy for the purpose of promoting racially and economically inclusive communities that give families of all incomes, races, and ethnicities access to schools and housing throughout the metropolitan area. EHEP pursues its mission through a three-part strategy:

- Coalition building and advocacy;
- Community education and informed public conversation; and
- Assisting communities in becoming more inclusive and integrated.

Brief description of your organization's history and major accomplishments:

EHEP was created in 1995 to link the issue of school desegregation /integration with the broader issue of segregated housing and neighborhoods and to build an informed citizenry to advance public understanding and action on these issues.

In 1996, EHEP partnered with other organizations, including the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing, the Minneapolis Initiative Against Racism, and the Minnesota Fair Housing Center, to create the Community Circle Collaborative (CCC). In 1997, the Collaborative launched a metro-wide dialogue project in which 500 citizens from different walks of life joined together, 5 to 15 at a time, in community circles throughout the metropolitan area to discuss two central questions:

- "What are the impacts of existing patterns of residential, economic and racial segregation on the educational achievement and life opportunities of Twin Cities area children and families?" and
- "What can or should we do, as individuals and as a community, to enhance educational success, and housing and economic opportunities for *all* children in the Twin Cities area?"

These community circles were convened by a variety of local sponsoring organizations. All were provided with discussion guides and were moderated by trained facilitators. The conversations culminated in a Metropolitan Citizens Forum held at Macalester College. A report that synthesized the findings, conclusions and action recommendations of the community circles has subsequently been prepared and will be shared with the community partners and various decision makers in the metropolitan area.

Current programs and activities:

Since the conclusion of the first round of community conversations, EHEP has been evaluating the first round, expanding the collaboration of partners, identifying promising practices that advance educational success and expand affordable housing choices, and revising and improving the discussion guide.

EHEP is also planning a second, expanded round of Community Circle conversations to be held in the fall of 1998. The second round will build upon the findings of the first round and will include additional groups not represented in the first round, such as the business community, outer suburban residents and a wider range of participants from communities of color. These conversations will be more clearly focused on systemic barriers to building inclusive communities and institutions. The discussions will also include an action component that will connect citizens with opportunities for involvement in their community and more directly connect the work of the community circles with key decision-makers and decision-making bodies. At the conclusion of Round Two, EHEP and the Community Circle Collaborative will co-sponsor a Citizens Summit with the Minnesota Meeting and Minnesota Public Radio. The Summit will use electronic key pad technology to elicit focused responses and discussion of specific issues and solutions from Community Circle participants on the best ways the metropolitan community can address issues of educational access and achievement, and housing and school desegregation. Round two will help inform the policy and action agendas of partners in the collaborative as well as public decision-making bodies in 1999.

Geographic area and population served:

The work of EHEP is intended to benefit the entire Twin Cities metropolitan area. The project intentionally emphasizes the involvement of citizens of many ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds from both urban and suburban communities, institutions and organizations. We all are major stakeholders in the outcomes of this project. In 1997 over 500 citizens from 35 communities participated in the community circle dialogues. At least 25% of the participants were persons of color. For 1998, over 100 organizations will sign on and the community circles will engage over 1,000 citizens. Organizations that have or will use our work represent thousands of adults and young people.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE/ADMINISTRATION

Briefly describe how your organization works: What are the responsibilities of the board, staff, volunteers and (if a membership organization) members.

The success of EHEP's efforts rests largely on an active and committed board of directors and the strong partnership of organizations and volunteers in the Community Circle Collaborative.

The board of directors has been expanded each year and now includes 15 members; all are key leaders in fields and institutions related to the mission of EHEP. The board has direct and extensive experience in addressing issues of housing, education and race. Board member's connections and contacts in the community facilitate EHEP's ability to accomplish its objectives. The board is responsible for setting policy direction for the organization; the board has also played an active role in preparing the discussion guide and the report on the first round conversations, and in bringing new partners into the collaborative.

The Community Circle Collaborative includes:

- organizing partners, who have helped design the process, frame the discussion issues, prepare the discussion guide, recruit and orient/train sponsors, facilitators, reporters/recorders and resource partners, and assist with reporting and evaluation and project follow-through;
- resource partners who supply expertise on the issues, written materials to help inform the discussions, media coverage, project documentation and/or financial backing of project activities;
- sponsors (typically organizations) that supply meeting spaces (and child care, transportation, translators, and other services as needed) for the conversations, recruit community circle participants, convene the community circles and provide recorders who prepare reports on the conversations;
- experienced facilitators, who moderate the community circle conversations;
- participants who commit to 3 to 6 sessions of up to two hours each and participate with 5 to 15 other citizens in informed and deliberative dialogue.

In-kind support from the organizing partners alone in 1997 amounted to more than \$15,000 in documented resources.

How representative are these groups of the communities with which you work? Please outline general demographics of the organization.

EHEP works through its partners in many diverse settings throughout the metropolitan area. Its board, staff, and project partners reflect to varying degrees this diversity.

Staff: 1 male, 1 female; 1 European American, 1 Asian American.

Board: Board members come from business, civic, legislative, academic, community service, housing advocacy, civil rights, media, education and law backgrounds. 5 of the 15 board members, including the president, are African Americans. Three additional African Americans and Asian Americans have served on the board. We plan to recruit American Indians, Latinos/Latinas and Southeast Asian Americans to the board in the near future.

Collaborative Partners: Nine of the twenty original organizing partners of the Community Circle Collaborative come from groups primarily representing interests of communities of color. A majority of the new groups recruited for the next round of community circles are culture specific or multicultural organizations. Partner and sponsor organizations include churches, non-profits, human rights commissions, neighborhood and block groups, youth groups, schools and school districts, housing organizations, child care and parent support groups, chambers of commerce, union locals, university groups, voter organizations, community centers and community councils, and Mayors offices. Although there is a reasonably good demographic and geographic balance of sponsors, the next round of conversations will include better representation of the outer suburbs, the business community, recent immigrants, students and Saint Paul area communities. Public officials will also be invited to participate in the circles.

Who will be involved in carrying out the plans outlined in this request? What are the qualifications of the key individuals involved?

Two individuals staff EHEP: a full-time executive director and a part-time student intern. EHEP has been resourceful in retaining interns and research assistants from the Center for Urban Affairs at the University of Minnesota, the University of St. Thomas and the Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs. Occasionally part-time and temporary staff has also been retained. Use of consultants and "pro bono" services has also augmented the ability of EHEP to carry out its mission. Most important are in-kind staff and volunteer resources that have been provided by partner organizations. EHEP also has a fiscal service agreement with MICAH to assure that all financial responsibilities are carried out.

Dick Little is the Executive Director, and is responsible for all aspects of the organization and project: organizing, coalition building, administration and community education. He has an extensive background in housing, education, race relations, and use of study circles. For 20 years he was a planning and housing official with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. More recently he has been a research associate with the International Institute for Interracial Action (INTER-RACE) at Augsburg College, a technical assistant with the Minnesota Community Policing Institute, a member of the planning team for the City of New Orleans Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community program, and a consultant to the Minneapolis Public Schools. He has also been active as policy chair, parent representative on the site leadership council, and co-founder of the foundation at Ramsey International Fine Arts School in Minneapolis. He is in his tenth year serving as a mayoral appointee on the Minneapolis Planning Commission, and has a graduate degree in urban planning. He also serves on the boards of several non-profit organizations including the Metropolitan Interfaith Council for Affordable Housing and the Minneapolis Initiative Against Racism.

Kesha Tanabe is a senior in political science and sociology with a concentration in race and gender issues at the University of St. Thomas. She has significant experience in dealing with multicultural diversity issues. She is a board member of Asian Students in Action and an active member of a multi-racial student coalition (Hispanic-African American-Native American-Asian Pacific American Students at the University of St. Thomas) and the Japanese American Citizens League, Twin Cities Chapter. She is also involved in developing a new organization, the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum.

DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

EHEP is requesting \$15,000 operating support from the St. Paul Companies to help meet our 1998 organizational budget requirements essential to our ability to drive the community circle project and to carry out our commitment to promote the successful development of inclusive communities and schools.

How does it fit within The St. Paul's guidelines?

EHEP is committed to expanding access to quality education for students of all races, ethnicities and cultural and socio-economic backgrounds and to increasing low-income housing opportunities throughout the metropolitan area. Our method is a model of collaboration and information-sharing among multiple nonprofit and community-based groups. The grassroots sponsored and paired community circles can also serve to inform the agendas and build the capacities of their non-profit sponsors to become more inclusive and to achieve important diversity objectives for their organizations and for the larger community.

What are the goals, objectives, and activities/strategies involved in this request? What is your time-line?

We propose to continue and expand our current work on three fronts:

- Supporting and linking existing coalitions that are working on the related issues of housing, education and segregation,
- Solidifying a broad-based coalition that can advocate for racially, culturally, and economically inclusive/integrated schools and housing throughout the metropolitan area, and
- Sponsoring informed public conversations that will advance the understanding and promotion of inclusive communities.

Each of these elements reinforces the others.

The informed conversations are critical. The issues of residential and school segregation have become increasingly polarized and complex. There is a palpable sense of ambivalence about what to do about segregation, as both past and present strategies seem inadequate, flawed, or even misdirected. Our first two years of work have given us a deep appreciation of this confusion, and have convinced us of the necessity for widespread and well-informed public conversations – across racial and economic boundaries – about these issues. Without such conversations, we fear the silence and ambivalence – to say nothing of poor public policy and lack of leadership – will continue.

The partnership and coalition-building is also important. The discussions and research we have undertaken so far have convinced us that building a single coalition that can advocate for more integrated schools and communities in the Twin Cities will be challenging and slow-going. We have begun to lay the foundation for such a coalition, however – by working within existing coalitions, by listening closely to grassroots and mainstream community leaders and citizens, and by educating each other about the realities and options facing us and discovering shared ground – and will work to solidify this foundation over the next year.

During this next year we plan to move from conversation to action. As we have found already, once participants have the information and tools they need to delve into these issues, there is a desire to act. The challenge over the next year will be to develop action and service opportunities, connect citizens to partner organizations working for change, and “move the community” to make needed legislative and administrative changes.

Our time-line for accomplishing the second round of public conversations and, in the process, building a stronger link between housing, education and various community organizations runs through the end of 1998. It includes actions already taken as well as to be taken, including:

- completing the evaluation of the first round of discussions
- completing the report and sharing the results of the first round of discussions
- recruiting new partners
- conducting study circle training workshops for facilitators and organizers
- negotiating commitments and pledge agreements among partners
- updating research and completing the revised discussion guide
- holding a “kick off” event for round two
- conducting and supporting the community circle conversations
- holding an action forum to look at promising practices and connect citizens to action opportunities
- conducting a Citizens Summit with support from the Minnesota Meeting and Minnesota Public Radio
- using the results to set forth an agenda for 1999

Parallel and complementary activities in the Fall of 1998 will involve EHEP as a principal co-sponsor. Examples include the MICAH fair housing theatre performances, “Like Waters Rolling Down,” and the conference on “Building Inclusive Communities” for metro area municipal officials to be co-sponsored with the Minnesota Fair Housing Center.

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