



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ACCOUNTABILITY MINNESOTA ANNOUNCES
2009 AWARDS OF DISTINCTION**

St. Paul, MN 55114
June, 2009

AccountAbility Minnesota (AAM) is pleased to announce the winners of its 2009 awards of distinction. The winners are:

Community Action Duluth - Community Partner Award
Tax Executives Institute – Corporate Partner Award
Ken Fraser – Volunteer of the Year Award

The **Community Partnership Award** honors a nonprofit organization whose collaboration and support has promoted the mission and vision of AccountAbility Minnesota. This year AAM acknowledges the contributions of the *Community Action Duluth* (CAD) located in Duluth, Minnesota. CAD is a key partner in greater Minnesota. Community Action Duluth has taken AAM's free tax site management model to a whole new level. CAD runs a high quality tax site (they have the lowest reject rate of all AccountAbility tax sites), and continues to implement new and innovative ideas with their tax program, including offering on-site credit counseling and credit reports, savings accounts with a credit union, express refund loans for a small interest fee, benefits screening, and savings bonds purchases. CAD served 1,385 taxpayers in 2008 (42% increase from 2007).

The **Corporate Partnership Award** is given to a private company of organization that has increased AccountAbility Minnesota's capacity for service through employee volunteers and/or financial support. AAM is thrilled to present this award to *Tax Executives Institute*. The Tax Executives Institute (TEI) is a long time supporter of AAM through financial support and with volunteers. TEI has helped AAM recruit many qualified volunteers and establish new relationships within corporations. TEI has promoted the work of AAM consistently to their members and invited AAM to present at their annual conference, making them an invaluable partner in outreach.

The **Volunteer of the Year Award** honors an individual who has given an extraordinary amount of time and talent to AccountAbility Minnesota making a difference to countless individuals by providing assistance with tax preparation and related financial services. This year the award is presented to Ken Fraser. Ken has volunteered with AAM since 2006 and is an accountant with Sherman Associates in Minneapolis. Ken displays great care and compassion to AAM's customers when completing their taxes, and welcomes questions from the other volunteers. Ken is a true leader at AAM who is willing to shares his expertise and kind guidance with staff, customers and volunteers alike.

The awards will be presented to, Angie Miller, Executive Director of Community Action Duluth, Karen Piehler-Shaw, President of Tax Executives Institute MN, and Ken Fraser at AccountAbility Minnesota's Volunteer and Community Partners reception, Thursday, June 25, 2009 at Brunswick Zone, 7545 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443, from 5:30-7:30 pm.

AccountAbility Minnesota provides free tax and financial services to low and moderate-income taxpayers in the Twin Cities' area and across Greater Minnesota. Its taxpayer services programs were established in 1971 with the belief that an individual's access to tax assistance and, by extension, important financial supports applied for through a tax return, should not depend solely on his or her ability to pay for such services.

AccountAbility Minnesota's Board of Directors set forth the following mission in the organization's 2008 strategic plan:

AccountAbility Minnesota is dedicated to providing high quality tax preparation and related financial services to individuals and families of limited means by leveraging volunteer resources and advising and assisting others to provide similar services in their communities.

For more information about AAM's 2009 awards of distinction or free tax service, visit AAM's website at www.accountabilitymn.org.

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