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About the Authors

MARTHA MCMURRY is a senior research analyst with the State Demographic Center at the Minnesota Department of Administration in St. Paul. Her responsibilities include preparing population, household, and labor force projections and tracking demographic trends. She received a Ph.D. in sociology from Indiana University.

TOM GILLASPY has served as the Minnesota State Demographer since 1979. Prior to moving to Minnesota, Gillaspay held the position of demographer at the Andrus Gerontology Center, University of Southern California. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Pennsylvania State University, specializing in economic demography. He also holds a master's degree in agricultural economics. Born and raised in Texas, he received his undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Texas at Austin.



MADELEINE (MADGE) ALBERTS has worked in the field of family education for 20 years, first with the University of Minnesota Extension Service and currently with the Children, Youth and Family Consortium at the University of Minnesota as program coordinator. She earned her M.A. in Religious Studies with a focus in pastoral care and counseling from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and her B.A. in home economics from the University of Minnesota Duluth. She is also a Certified Family

Life Educator with the National Council on Family Relations, and past president of the Minnesota Council on Family Relations. Madge has been a frequent speaker around Minnesota on issues related to rural women and families, marriage and work-life integration. In her volunteer life, she teaches pre-marriage education classes in her church congregation. Madge lives on a family dairy farm near Pine Island, Minn., with her husband and his family, and has a daughter, four stepchildren, five grandchildren, and two siblings. Before moving to rural Minnesota in the mid 1980s, Madge lived in Duluth, White Bear Lake and Denver.



CECIL GASSIS is from Khartoum, Sudan, where she attended university and received her baccalaureate degree in Family Sciences with an emphasis in Community Health Management. Unlike other developing countries, there are many doctors in Sudan but very few CHWs. Her university was the only one in the country to offer her major, a profession that is greatly needed in her country. Her work in Sudan involved mobilizing the community to achieve

better health.

Gassis moved to the United States five years ago. She is currently living near Mankato and working at the Mankato YWCA, where she coordinates the Walking in Two Worlds program. She works with immigrants and refugees and has noted, "People have been here for over ten years but still have difficulties." The program focuses on empowerment, leadership, skill development and career paths as well as strong family and cultural connections.

ANNE GANEY, MPH, is the Executive Director of the YWCA of Mankato and is also a consultant working with others to build the capacity of community-based organizations. Anne's expertise is in grassroots, women's and culturally specific leadership development; coalition building; program development, implementation and evaluation; culturally specific program development and evaluation, nonprofit management and proposal development. Ganey developed one of 19 programs in the nation selected for participation in the PEW Partnership for Civic Change's *Wanted: Solutions for America*, a three-year study of what makes effective programs work.



Ganey was the Director of Prevention and Healthy Communities at Region Nine Development Commission in Mankato from 1991 to 2002 and has also worked statewide, including chairing the Star of the North Statewide Prevention Coalition and the State Incentive Grant Advisory Committee to redesign prevention services for the State of Minnesota. Ganey has a master's in Public Health from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor of science from Minnesota State University at Mankato. Ganey served a four-year term on the Mankato City Council, where she worked for affordable housing solutions, livable wage jobs, welcoming diversity and balancing planning with growth.



DONNA RAE SCHEFFERT is currently principal investigator for *Horizons: Community Leadership for Poverty Reduction*. Donna Rae supports Extension educators who deliver Leadership & Civic Engagement programs, providing expertise in leadership education. As a teaching specialist at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Scheffert teaches a graduate course in group process facilitation. She has been a guest instructor for Extension Services in

Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, Washington, and Wisconsin. Major programs have been funded by the W.K. Kellogg and Northwest Area foundations. Scheffert is nationally known for writing and teaching about ethical leadership and authentic leadership.

Scheffert holds a master's degree with a focus on public leadership from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and has completed coursework toward a Ph.D. in adult development and education. **She received the** Distinguished Extension Campus Faculty Award in 2002 from the University of Minnesota Extension and the FUTURES award from Minnesota Rural Futures Inc. in 2006.

DORIS MOLD is an agricultural consultant, agricultural economist and educator, as well as a farm co-owner/operator. She teaches Farm and Agri-Business Management at the University of Minnesota for the MAST International Program. Her professional work has included curriculum development, educational program evaluation, program development, marketing, and economic analysis for and about agriculture. Mold holds both master's and bachelor's degrees in



agricultural and applied economics, plus a bachelor's of science degree in animal science and agricultural education, all from the University of Minnesota.

Mold currently serves as the Networking Chair for American Agri-Women and past Vice-President of Education. Mold is the Past President of Minnesota Agri-Women and serves as the advisor of the U of M Collegiate Agri-Women. She is a co-founder of the annual Women's Agricultural Leadership Conference and was recently elected chair of the USDA Advisory Committee on Agricultural Statistics. In her youth, Mold was active in 4-H and FFA programs and continues as an adult volunteer. She served as the chair of the Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation. Mold founded the Minnesota State Fair Moo, Oink and Baa Booths, animal educational exhibits that educate over half a million Fair visitors about animal agriculture. Additionally, Mold is a member of, serves or has served with a number of other agricultural organizations.



JAN HIVELY was named a national Purpose Prize Fellow by Civic Ventures in 2006 for her work as a social entrepreneur. In 2001, while a Senior Fellow at the University of Minnesota, she founded the Vital Aging Network (VAN), a statewide network that promotes self-determination, community participation, and personal enrichment for and with older adults through education and advocacy. In 2006, Jan co-founded "SHiFT" — a non-profit community

network, based in downtown Minneapolis, empowering midlife transitions to find meaning and purpose in life and work. She also co-founded the Minnesota Creative Arts and Aging Network (MnCAAN), expanding opportunities for creative expression by older adults.

Jan came to her focus on vital aging from past careers in community outreach, planning, and administration for a half-dozen public and non-profit organizations. She has developed collaborative education projects throughout Minnesota and written about workforce development and lifework planning issues. In 2001, at age 69, Jan was awarded a Ph.D. in Education for Work and Community from the U of M. Her survey research was focused on "Productive Aging in Rural Minnesota." Most recently, Jan was named "Minnesota Gerontologist of 2008" by the Minnesota Gerontological Society.



KRISTEN THARALDSON is a senior state planner in the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care at the Minnesota Department of Health. She performs research and policy analysis for the Rural Health Advisory Committee, a governor-appointed committee that advises the commissioner of health and other state agencies on rural health issues. Her special interests include adolescent health, mental health, and eliminating health disparities

based on race and geography. Kristen recently completed a research project and report entitled *Language Access Services in Critical Access Hospitals for Patients with Limited English Proficiency in Rural Minnesota*. She also serves as a conference planner for the annual Minnesota Critical Access Hospital and Rural Health Conference. Kristen has a master's degree in public health/community health education from the University of Minnesota and obtained her undergraduate degree in biology from the College of St. Catherine.

ANGIE SECHLER is a research analyst in the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care (ORHPC) at the Minnesota Department of Health. She conducts research and policy analysis to identify and address subjects related to the health challenges facing Minnesota's rural communities. She has been with ORHPC since 2004 and has contributed to many ORHPC publications, including reports on rural pharmacy services, mental health care delivery, and the health status of rural Minnesotans. Her most recent publication was *Health Reform: Addressing the Needs of Rural Minnesotans*. Having grown up in a small, rural, agricultural community in Indiana, she has a special interest in rural health care delivery and how the environment and human behavior can influence the health of individuals living in rural communities. Angie has a B.A. in political science from Indiana University Bloomington and recently completed a Public Health Certificate in Core Concepts from the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health.





MARY MATHEWS is the founding president of the Northeast Entrepreneur Fund, a business development organization serving emerging and small businesses in northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin. More than 85% of business owners who receive assistance from NEF are still in business two years later. From offices in Virginia, Grand Rapids, Duluth and Superior, NEF serves 11 counties covering a 30,000-square-mile area. The Greenstone Group,

a new 10-year initiative led by NEF, works with business, education and economic development partners to build the region's economy by targeting support and resources toward 500 entrepreneurs in the region who are committed to growing their businesses.

Mathews received the Small Business Administration's 2002 Upper Midwest Region Financial Services Advocate Award and the 2000 David A. Martin Entrepreneurial Leadership Award. She currently serves as vice chair of the board of directors of the Opportunity Finance Network and is a past board member and chair of the Association for Enterprise Opportunity. A member of the Arrowhead Growth Alliance, Mathews has over 25 years experience in economic development and is a former business owner. She is a graduate of Iowa State University and lives in Duluth.