



2008-09  
ANNUAL REPORT

### *Looking forward*

The year 2008, the Foundation's 20th anniversary, was a time for both celebration and reflection. Our first-ever donor dinner in October and the Annual Awards Presentation in November were opportunities to celebrate the Foundation's record of achievement — since 1988, the Foundation has honored 33 veteran peace and justice activists and awarded scholarships to 87 students totalling more than \$100,000.

Our reflection centered on the Foundation's future. As war, injustice and conflict continue here and abroad, we believe our mission is more important than ever — publicizing activists and encouraging students who stand up, speak out and take action for a more peaceful and just global community.

A specific goal is to expand our scholarship program, aimed at nurturing the ethical, responsible leaders our world so desperately needs. To that end, we must widen our circle of supporters and cordially invite you to join with us, working faithfully for a better world.

*Deon Stuthman, Chair  
Board of Directors  
The Vincent L. Hawkinson  
Foundation for Peace & Justice*

### MEET THE 2009 AWARDEES

- Honorary Awards, p. 2-3
- Scholarships recipients, p. 4-6

## *2009 Hawkinson honorees and scholars span the globe in pursuit of peace and justice*

The Hawkinson Foundation for Peace and Justice announces the recipients of its 2009 Honorary Awards and Scholarships. Established in 1988, the Foundation annually recognizes veteran peacemakers for their lifetime accomplishments with the Honorary Awards and students of high potential with Hawkinson Scholarships.

### *Role models for the next generation*

Dr. Helmut and Rotraut Diefenthal of Moshi, Tanzania, and Jack and Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer of Minneapolis, have been selected to receive the 2009 Hawkinson Honorary Awards. Helmut, 85, and Rotraut, 83, married since 1953, have been medical missionaries in Tanzania for more than 20 years. A former candidate for the U.S. Senate, Jack, 58, is an associate professor of justice and peace studies at the University of St. Thomas, and Sara, 53, is executive director of the Center for Families in north Minneapolis.

"While working in very different realms, these two couples share a profound commitment to improving the world. They are exemplary models of peacemaking through action and it is our honor to recognize their years of dedicated service here and across the world," said Deon Stuthman, board chair of the Hawkinson Foundation.

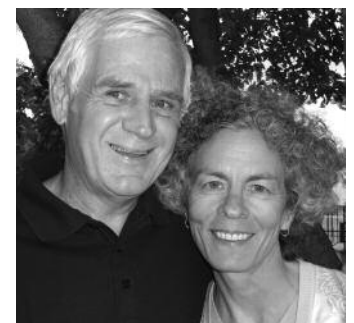


*Rotraut and Helmut Diefenthal*

### *Sowing seeds for a better world*

Nine outstanding students have been awarded 2009 Hawkinson Scholarships, which aim to encourage young people in their commitment to peace and justice. Including undergraduates and graduate students attending both public and private colleges and universities, this remarkable group represents today's interconnected global community, with members from as far away as Nepal and Sudan.

"This year's Hawkinson scholars can give us all hope for the future," said Stuthman. "They are passionate and committed in their quests for learning and for developing the skills to be a positive influence in their areas of interest."



*Jack and Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer*

## 2009 Honorary Award

# Jack & Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer

*“Jack comes from a place of faith and leads us to a place of action. It has been this true moral compass that he has brought to his travels, to his teaching, to his speaking and to politics. It is the audacity of telling the truth about how bad things are, as well as the courage to work for a solution. Jack is both centered and fearless.”*

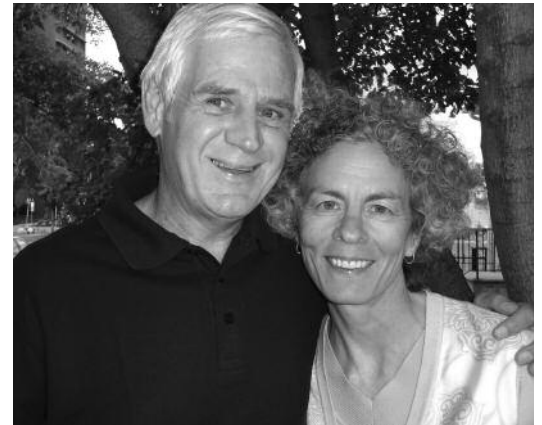
Charley Underwood,  
Minneapolis

### HAWKINSON HONORARY AWARDS

Selected annually, the Hawkinson Foundation Honorary Award is given to an individual or individuals who have made a long and significant contribution to the causes of peace and social justice. Nomination forms are reviewed each spring and recipients selected by the Foundation's board of directors. Honorary Award and scholarship recipients are recognized at the Annual Awards Presentation each fall. To nominate a candidate for the Honorary Award, call 612-331-8125 or email [info@graceattheu.org](mailto:info@graceattheu.org).

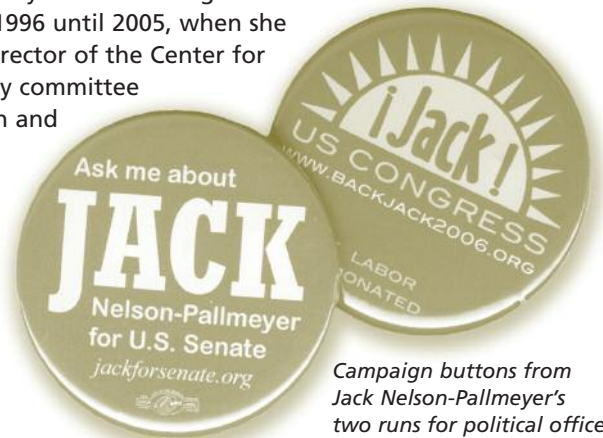
**Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer**, M.Div., is a nationally recognized teacher, writer, public speaker and activist academic whose life and work over the past 30 years has focused on addressing the political, economic, faith and foreign policy dimensions of hunger and poverty. He is a graduate of St. Olaf College, where he majored in political science. He earned a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. His master's thesis was on the topic of world poverty and was the basis for his first book, *Hunger for Justice: The Politics of Food and Faith*. He is the author of numerous articles and a dozen books on hunger, poverty, U.S. foreign policy, the historical Jesus and problems of God and violence, some of which have been used by progressive social change movements in this country and throughout the world.

From 1977 to 1981, Jack served as national program coordinator of the Politics of Food Program with Clergy & Laity Concerned, and directed the Minnesota-based Hunger and Justice Project for the American Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church in America for the following two years. He is active in the national movement to close the U.S. Army School of the Americas (recently renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation), which has been linked to human rights atrocities. In 2006, Jack brought his commitment to peacemaking into the realm of formal politics when he challenged the incumbent Martin Sabo in the 5th Congressional District. In 2008, he sought DFL endorsement for the U.S. Senate. At the University of St. Thomas, where he is an associate professor of justice and peace studies, he teaches courses including Active Nonviolence and Theologies of Justice and Peace.



**Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer** graduated from the University of Minnesota with a major in biology. From 1984 to 1986, she and Jack served as co-directors of the Center for Global Education's house of studies in Managua, Nicaragua. Sara went on to hold various positions, including associate director, at the Center for Global Education. She then worked as family services manager at Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity from 1996 until 2005, when she assumed her current position as director of the Center for Families. She serves on the advisory committee for the Winds of Peace Foundation and is on the board of Congregations Caring for Creation.

The Nelson-Pallmeyers are active in the faith-based Community of St. Martin and are members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. They have three daughters.



Campaign buttons from Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer's two runs for political office.

## 2009 Honorary Award

# *Dr. Helmut & Rotraut Diefenthal*

Born in Germany in 1924, **Helmut Diefenthal**, M.D., grew up in Berlin and spent two years as a medic on the Eastern front during World War II. After completing medical school and a residency in internal medicine, he and his wife, **Rotraut**, born in East Prussia, spent four years in Malaysia, doing clinic work with a special emphasis on tuberculosis and parasite infestation. They were then assigned to a remote hospital in Tanzania.

The Diefenthals came to the U.S. in 1965, where Helmut received training for his second specialty, radiology, at the University of Minnesota. At the same time, Rotraut studied to become a radiological technologist. They returned to Tanzania in 1970 to inaugurate the department of radiology at the new Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC), a major teaching facility and referral center for regional and district hospitals in East Africa.

In 1972, the Diefenthals came back to Minnesota. During the following 16 years, Helmut served as an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota and worked at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Minneapolis. In 1987, the couple established the East Africa Medical Assistance Foundation to aid the KCMC and provide medical education and training, medical equipment and medical care in Tanzania. In 1989, they retired and returned to Tanzania to continue their work as medical missionaries.

At the KCMC, Helmut Diefenthal treats patients, trains residents at the Kilimanjaro School of Radiology, which he and Rotraut founded, and works with volunteer radiologists who help educate and prepare Tanzanian medical personnel in basic radiology. Rotraut oversees the mammography program at the KCMC and assists with ultrasound studies.

The couple are members of Grace University Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and have four children.



*Dr. Diefenthal treats a patient at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center in Moshi, Tanzania.*

*“Like most modern day missionaries, we are neither heroes nor saints. We are but simple professionals trying to use our God-given talents to serve the less fortunate members of the human race.”*

Helmut Diefenthal, M.D.  
*quoted in the American College of Radiology, July/August 2008, Volume 63, Issue 7*

## HAWKINSON HONORARY AWARDS — 1988-2008

- 2008 Arvid “Bud” Dixon  
Rhoda Gilman  
Betsy Raasch-Gilman
- 2007 Lowell & Carol Erdahl
- 2006 Ralph & Kay Hilgendorf  
Marie & John Braun
- 2005 Luther Granquist  
Gene & Mary Lou Ott
- 2004 Donald Irish
- 2003 Brigid McDonald  
Jane McDonald  
Kate McDonald  
Rita McDonald
- 2002 Eleanor & John Yackel
- 2001 Lynn Elling
- 2000 Marv Davidov
- 1999 Joseph Schwartzberg
- 1998 Larry Cloud Morgan
- 1997 Louise Pardee
- 1996 Eleanor Ottersen
- 1992 Arthur & Martha Sternberg
- 1991 Joel Mugge
- 1990 Stanley & Martha Platt
- 1989 Marianne Hamilton  
Polly Mann
- 1988 Mulford Sibley

# 2009 Hawkinson Scholarship Recipients

## HAWKINSON SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

Hawkinson Scholarships are awarded annually to undergraduate or graduate students who are a resident of or currently attending school in Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota or Wisconsin.

To qualify, applicants must have demonstrated a commitment to peace and justice through at least one of the following:

- Completed a specific peace and justice project;
- Were courageous in pursuing their convictions about peace and justice;
- Displayed ongoing commitment to, and leadership in, a peace organization;
- Served as a role model for others in moving church or society into new realms of thought and practice regarding peace and justice.

In addition, applicants must demonstrate how the use of the award money for study, an internship, or a special project will deepen their personal commitment to peace and justice and will promote peace and justice for others. A personal interview is required. Scholarships are awarded without regard to religious affiliation.

To apply, go to [www.graceattheu.org](http://www.graceattheu.org), click on "Hawkinson Scholarship" and download an application. Or email [info@graceattheu.org](mailto:info@graceattheu.org).

The Vincent L. Hawkinson Foundation is pleased to announce the 2009 Hawkinson Scholarships awarded to nine outstanding students. The goal of the scholarship is to encourage these individuals, who have already demonstrated a commitment to peace and justice, to strive for peace and justice both in their educational pursuits and in their personal and professional lives. Since 1988, the Foundation has awarded more than \$100,000 to 87 students.

**Aidan Kwame Ahaligah**, 33, a native of Ghana, earned a master's degree in theology at Wartburg Theological Seminary and is using his scholarship to pursue a Ph.D. at Yale Divinity School, where he is studying inter-religious dialogue. Trained in theology in Ghana, he previously served parishes in an area experiencing long-standing tribal and religious-related violence. To promote peace and bring people together, he started a soccer league, formed a local music group, and helped restart the local council of churches that had been inactive. He plans to return to Ghana upon graduation. **"My receipt of the Vincent Hawkinson scholarship will inspire me to pursue my convictions that in the 21st century and beyond more attention needs to be paid to religious pluralism, the vast spectrum between the wealthy and the poor, systems of oppression that give some people privileges and keep others in perpetual poverty, and subtle and overt forms of racism. This scholarship goes towards my education at Yale University Divinity School where I intend upon graduation to go back to Africa (Ghana) and commit myself to academia and a gospel-driven advocacy geared towards bringing positive differences in the lives of people in my community and beyond."**



Aidan Kwame Ahaligah  
Wartburg Theological Seminary

**Subhash Ghmire**, 22, a native of Nepal, is a senior at St. Olaf College. He is studying political science as a means to learn how to improve the status and rights of the weakest members of Nepalese society and hopes to become a human rights lawyer. At St. Olaf, he is president of the Model United Nations Club. He is a columnist for Nepal's largest English language newspaper and writes on South Asian issues for the *Huffington Post*. He is using his scholarship to run a summer camp for lower caste and war-affected children in Nepal and conduct an awareness program on minority rights and social justice. **"As the first Nepali student to receive the Hawkinson Foundation scholarship, I am humbled and elated. It reminds me of my responsibilities in making our world a better place to live in. While I am running a summer camp for children in my remote village in western Nepal, this news provides me the strength and inspiration to move ahead in contributing to the peaceful transition of Nepali society."**



Subhash Ghmire  
St. Olaf College

**Christine Meling**, 24, a native of Sudan, is a senior at Luther College, majoring in social work and health. Her family was displaced by civil war and she grew up in a refugee camp in Uganda. While at Luther, she applied for and received a grant to build an elementary school in Yari, her home village in Sudan. She traveled to Sudan in 2008 and worked with the Yari community on construction of the school. Since her return to Luther, she has presented her story to a variety of groups and raised funds for additional needs of the school. The scholarship will be used to continue the school project and to pay for tuition for her final year. **“Education is a force that unites people and promotes peace and international understanding. The quest for peace and justice through alternative measures has been my goal. Today, I am not only able to have a conversation about how to achieve peace and justice, but take concrete actions to make a difference.”**



*Christine Meling  
Luther College*

**Ryan Alaniz**, 31, Minneapolis, is pursuing a doctorate in sociology at the University of Minnesota. He has volunteered on community-based projects in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua, co-directed a project for underprivileged children to visit their incarcerated fathers, and founded a non-profit organization (The Futbol Project) to obtain donations of sports equipment for orphanages in Central America and Africa. His dissertation research focuses on two communities devastated by a 1998 hurricane and the divergent outcomes of post-disaster resettlement initiatives. **“This research will facilitate my professional goals: to teach at a top-tier university and to consult with non-governmental organizations as a researcher of inequality and development. It is within studying, critiquing and offering new ideas concerning post-disaster development that I have found my vocation to serve the poor of Latin America.”**



*Ryan Alaniz  
University of Minnesota*

**Colleen Casey**, 44, St. Paul, is pursuing a graduate teaching license at the College of St. Scholastica, St. Paul campus. Active as a volunteer, teacher and coordinator for the past 20 years in Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language, she has worked closely with refugees and native-born basic skills students and been involved in disability issues and diversity awareness in the broader community. She is currently director of the Urban Communities Association of Minneapolis (UCAM) English School. **“This award will affect my current and future work for peace and justice by giving me greater skill and legitimacy to do the work I currently do. It will help me move to the next professional and leadership level, where I may have a broader range of influence in terms of peace and justice activism and training.”**



*Colleen Casey  
College of St. Scholastica*

**Gada Roba**, 27, Minneapolis, is a 2009 graduate of the University of Minnesota, where he majored in global studies and political science. At the university, he participated in local and international social justice educational programs, leadership conferences and internships. He attended the Youth Leadership Africa conference in South Africa, interned with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, and took part in the Institute on Human Rights Capacity Building in Arusha, Tanzania. A native of Ethiopia, he is a leader in the local Oromo refugee community. He is using his scholarship for an internship with the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society Refugee Trust of Kenya (HIAS). **“Advocating for the rights of refugees is one of my passions, specifically because of my personal experiences as a refugee in Kenya. I believe refugees are one of the most vulnerable parts of a society anywhere and the violations of their rights are undeniable and unacceptable. It will be a privilege and a dream come true to work with HIAS advocating for the rights of refugees.”**



*Gada Roba  
University of Minnesota*

**Adam Karas**, 21, Frisco, Texas, is a senior at Carleton College, majoring in international relations with a concentration in the Middle East and East Asia. He received the U.S. Department of State’s Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic and also spent a month in Yemen at the Yemen Institute for Arabic Language. He studied Hebrew for two months at the University of Haifa and is also learning Chinese. He was one of 30 Carleton students selected to participate in the college’s Middle East Mosaics Seminar, traveling and studying in Egypt, Turkey and Morocco. **“The juncture between the Muslim and Chinese worlds will shape the 21st century. It is my intention to work in the places where both the English- and Chinese-speaking worlds touch the Muslim world, and in doing so help facilitate peace and understanding between all three.”**



*Adam Karas  
Carleton College*

# 2009 Scholarship Recipients

(continued)



*Kyera Singleton  
Macalester College*

**Kyera Singleton**, 20, Clementon, New Jersey, is a junior at Macalester College, majoring in American studies and women's gender and sexuality studies and focusing her studies on Black feminist thought. At Macalester, she has served as chair of the Black History Month Committee, moderator of the Jena 6 Campus Wide Forum, and vice president of the Black Liberation Affairs Committee. On campus, she created a documentary, entitled "My Black Is Beautiful," on the way in which young black women interact with issues of sexuality and intimacy. Last summer, she mentored girls from low-income families in the YWCA-Girls LEAD Program. **"The Hawkinson Foundation will give me the resources to work with young black women both in the Twin Cities and abroad on issues of self love and worth. My goal is to work to bring black women's social identities from the margins to the center of discourse."**



*Danielle Taylor  
Eastern Mennonite  
University*

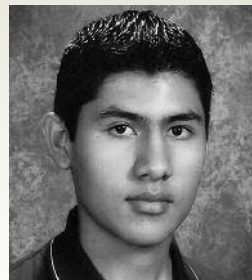
**Danielle Taylor**, 40, St. Paul, is pursuing a master's degree in conflict transformation with a concentration in restorative justice at the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at the Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia. For the past five years, she has worked with teen girls as an instructor and recreation therapist for Camp Thistledeew, an alternative program of the Minnesota Department of Corrections. **"My experience at Camp Thistledeew has inspired me to further develop practices and understanding of restorative justice with the long-term goal of continuing to work directly with girls in the juvenile justice system and/or in early intervention programs. I also hope to pursue opportunities to offer training, outreach and advocacy related to restorative justice and peace in the justice systems, schools and communities."**

## Special collaboration continues support to Augsburg students

In 2008, the Hawkinson Foundation began a pilot program in collaboration with Augsburg College, providing yearly scholarships for three students. Each student received a Hawkinson Scholarship last year, and they continue to meet the foundation's requirements of scholars. All three are affiliated with Admission Possible, which identifies and assists low-income students who demonstrate potential and motivation for higher education.



*Juve Meza-Rodriguez*



*Ulises Ayala-Beltran*



*Maria Hinojosa*

**Juve Meza-Rodriguez** is a junior at Augsburg College, majoring in sociology and peace and justice studies. He has interned with Project Navigate (Necessary And Valuable Insight to Gain Access Toward Higher Education), aimed at increasing the number of immigrant students pursuing higher education in Minnesota.

**Ulises Ayala-Beltran** is a junior at Augsburg, majoring in accounting with a minor in French. He has been active with Project Navigate.

**Maria Hinojosa** is a sophomore at Augsburg, majoring in biology and chemistry. She plans to go to medical school and become a pediatrician.

# 2008-09 Donors to the Hawkinson Foundation for Peace & Justice

We extend our sincerest appreciation to the following individuals for their gracious support of the Hawkinson Foundation and its efforts to honor and encourage area peacemakers. We apologize for any errors or omissions that may have inadvertently occurred. Please report them by calling 612-331-8125.

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*Help us encourage more peacemakers....*

By becoming a contributing member of the Hawkinson Foundation, you help to encourage future generations of peacemakers and justice-seekers. Your donation to the Foundation endowment provides funds for the Hawkinson Scholarships and other Foundation activities. Members receive an annual report and are invited to the Foundation's annual meeting in the spring and the Annual Awards Presentation each fall.

**Tax-deductible donations of every size are welcome. Please send your check, made to:**

The Vincent L. Hawkinson Foundation  
Grace University Lutheran Church  
324 Harvard Street SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

**For more information about the Hawkinson Foundation, go to [www.graceattheu.org](http://www.graceattheu.org), call 612-331-8125 or email [info@graceattheu.org](mailto:info@graceattheu.org).**



## Our Mission

To perpetuate the work and spirit of Vincent L. Hawkinson, the Foundation seeks to:

- **Honor individuals** who have made significant and sustained contributions to peace and justice,
- **Award scholarships** to students who have demonstrated a deep commitment to peace and justice, and
- **Publicize the activities** of honorees and scholarship recipients so that others are encouraged and inspired to action for peace and justice.

### 2009 HAWKINSON FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Grace University Lutheran Church  
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## YOU'RE INVITED

### 2009 Annual Awards Presentation

**Sunday, November 8, 3 p.m.**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
2730 East 31st Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
*Parking is available off Lake Street  
behind Trinity On Lake. Call 612-729-8358.*

*Presentation of the*

#### 2009 Honorary Awards

to individuals who have made significant contributions to peace and justice.

**Jack & Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer, Minneapolis**  
**Helmut & Rotraut Diefenthal, Moshi, Tanzania**  
*The Diefenthals were honored in person on  
September 27, 2009, before they returned to Tanzania.*

*Presentation of the*

#### 2009 Hawkinson Scholarships

to 9 outstanding students working for peace and justice.



**For more information,  
call 612-331-8125.**