



safety—jobs—housing—infrastructure  
for the Phillips neighborhood

**Allina Health System**  
Gordon Sprenger, CEO

**Children's Hospitals and Clinics**  
Brock Nelson, CEO

**Fannie Mae**  
Missy Thompson, Director,  
Minnesota Partnership Office

**Honeywell**  
Kevin Gilligan, President  
Home & Building Controls

**Metropolitan Council**  
Ted Mondale, Chair

**The Minneapolis Foundation**  
Emmett Carson, President

**Norwest Bank**  
Jim Campbell,  
Chairman and CEO

**US Bank**  
Jack Grundhofer,  
Chairman and CEO

**City of Minneapolis**  
Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton

**Hennepin County**  
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JUNE 2000

## Partners for Transportation Access

Governor Jesse Ventura came to Abbott Northwestern Hospital this spring to convene a community forum on Light Rail Transit and promote transportation access for the Phillips neighborhood. Acknowledging his own South Minneapolis roots, the Governor recalled that “due to transportation decisions made years ago, this part of town was cut off from the state and regional transportation system.”

With new access to transportation infrastructure, he said, “this portion of South Minneapolis will come back better than ever, and again be one of the greatest places to live, work, and raise a family.” Jointly sponsored by the Phillips Partnership and the Metropolitan Council, the community forum invited broad-ranging discussion of the merits and promise of LRT.

### Regional priority

Met Council Chair Ted Mondale took the lead in presenting the case for LRT in the Hiawatha Corridor. “We know one thing about the future of this region,” he observed. “We cannot compete in the new economy without serious transportation investments which revitalize our urban core and connect neighborhoods and businesses to the region’s infrastructure.”

Phillips Partnership co-chairs Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton and



Allina CEO Gordon Sprenger, Gov. Jesse Ventura, Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, and Norwest CEO Jim Campbell listen to Ted Mondale at the Phillips Partnership-Met Council community forum on LRT.

Allina Health System CEO Gordon Sprenger also spoke at the forum to promote transportation access for Phillips. “Both LRT and new access ramps to I-35W at Lake Street are the vital steps we need,” explained Mayor Sayles Belton. “With this new access to the freeway and LRT, we have the key ingredients we need to rebuild this community.” Gordon Sprenger added that “as an employer, investor, and health care provider in Phillips, we know that transportation access is crucial to our future plans here.”

### Success at the Capitol

Members of the Phillips Partnership spent considerable time at the legislature this session to promote a strong transportation funding package. Norwest Bank CEO Jim Campbell spoke at several events at the Capitol to

promote LRT and a balanced transportation approach. “LRT is important for our region, and the legislature should not revisit what was sufficiently debated last year,” he said. Campbell joined other business leaders in the *Transportation Partners...* continued page 5

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## House by House, Block by Block

### Partnership celebrates launch of \$7.6 million Joseph Selvaggio initiative

The Phillips Partnership officially launched construction on June 5 of a \$7.6 million, 30-unit affordable housing project at a Chicago Avenue property across from Abbott Northwestern Hospital. The initiative is named for Joseph Selvaggio, a social activist and founder of Project for Pride in Living, Inc., the developer for the project.

Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton,

Co-Chair of the Phillips Partnership, praised the residents of the neighborhood for their spirit and commitment to working with the city and with the private sector to improve the quality of housing in Phillips. "We have inherited a tradition of service to the community, practiced for decades by Joe Selvaggio and it is fitting that this project is named for him," Sayles Belton noted. "Joe's motto has been 'teach people to fish, and they fish for a lifetime.' Well, my friends, you can tell

from this project that we are fishing!"

Gordon Sprenger, CEO, Allina Health System and Co-Chair of the Phillips Partnership added, "For me there is no greater pleasure than to see a 'challenged' building on this street become a healthy and affordable home, because it captures the rebirth of spirit in this neighborhood." Sprenger also explained the Healthy Homes element of this initiative. "We know from a *Housing...continued page 3*



Phillips residents and Phillips Partnership members gather to launch the Joseph Selvaggio Initiative renovations on Chicago Avenue. Joe Selvaggio and Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, take a look inside 2736 Chicago Avenue, and find that the kitchen will "need some work."



### Joseph Selvaggio Initiative Funders

- Abbott Northwestern Hospital
- Allina Foundation
- Allina Foundation/  
Foster McGaw Award
- Arnold & Joanne Carlson
- Michael Christenson
- Ned Dayton
- Fannie Mae
- Will Gove
- Greystone Foundation
- Hennepin County
- Honeywell
- Duane Joseph
- Susan Lasoff
- Marquette Financial Companies
- Mike & Kay McCarthy
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard McFarland
- Medica
- Medtronic Foundation
- The Minneapolis Foundation
- Norwest Bank
- Salem Foundation
- Arthur & Joan Schultz
- Mr. & Mrs. John Sletton
- Louis & Nadia Smith
- Mr. & Mrs. Gene Torrey
- US Bank
- Martha Van De Ven
- Martha Van De Ven/  
Anderson Foundation
- Jane West/Greystone Foundation
- Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
- Family Housing Fund
- Minneapolis Community Development Agency
- Greater Minneapolis Metropolitan Housing Corporation
- National Equity Fund

## Journey Master Bernard L. Turner

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Bernard Turner had not anticipated living in the Twin Cities. He never expected to be working in social services. Classically trained in theater and dance, Turner had aspirations for the stage. “Sometimes life directs you toward where you need to go,” he reflects, “not where you want to go.”

### Journey of service

Like many artists just out of college, Turner had to look for alternative work. One day, a man approached him on Lake Street. “As luck turned out, I was walking down the street and the man said, ‘We’re looking for people of color to work at West Hennepin Community Services, why don’t you stop by and apply.’ I did, was hired and began my career in social services.” Turner notes, “By joining their group I learned that I love this line of work.”

Turner’s next position was the Heat Share Program of the Salvation Army. It offers low-income families help in paying heating bills, teaching them

management skills and a goal-setting attitude. But he still wanted to grow. “I’m a believer that when you create something you don’t have to stay – I let someone else breathe life into it,” Turner observed.

Some time passed until Project for Pride in Living’s Train to Work program found Bernard. Train to Work (TTW) is a work readiness and employment training program of the Phillips Partnership that trains Phillips area residents for permanent jobs at Abbott Northwestern and Children’s Hospitals. To date, 234 residents have graduated from Train to Work. Over 80% of the graduates placed in these jobs are still there.

“I applied for four positions at TTW; they kept getting my resume,” recalls Turner. “I had four interviews and it wasn’t easy. At my final interview I gave a mock presentation and I believe that’s what sold them.”

### Orchestrating success

In his position as trainer/counselor, Turner knows how to orchestrate his classes in order to

reach the TTW candidates. “I’m straight to the point,” says Turner. “If it hurts feelings, then I ask why and I ask the person to ask himself or herself why the truth, or talking directly would upset them. I try to treat all of my students as individuals and help each on their journey by showing how to be positive, help others, problem solve, and set goals.”

While in the training program candidates display a myriad of emotions. Trying to adjust to the change from non-work to work can be a little frustrating for some students. “I remember one woman who really needed an attitude adjustment,” recalls Turner. “Whenever she entered a room, learning ceased. But after she ran the course, she’s a changed woman – employed and without issues.”

### On time and on task

Turner helps TTW students manage their anger and discover



**Bernard L. Turner**

goals through role playing, team building, and teaching self empowerment. And don’t even think about showing up late to his class. Turner teaches his students to take responsibility for their actions and to change their state of mind to a more positive, accountable one. “This position makes a positive difference in participants’ lives,” said Turner. “I help them find success for themselves.”

“No one is forced to do anything at TTW, but they must articulate their goals. Most of these students are like my children,” he noted. “I’ve nursed them and then let them go. And like them, I’ll keep growing on the journey.” ■

### Train To Work Summary Report June 6, 2000

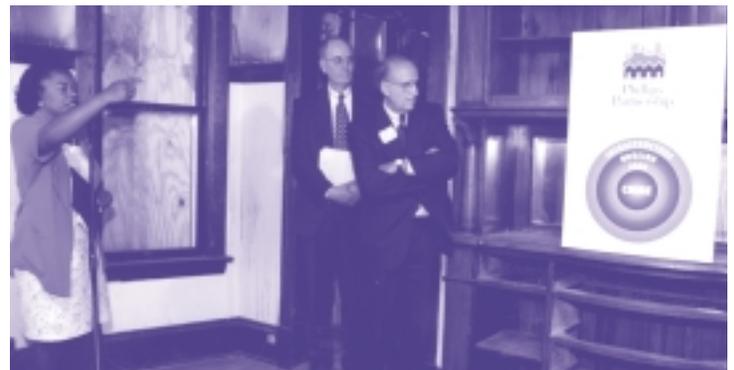
Number of graduates YTD	241
Total of graduates placed	210
Total of graduates awaiting placement	19

### Housing...continued from page 2

health care perspective that poor quality housing is one of the leading causes of child asthma. We asked our architects to give special attention to designing a healthy indoor environment for the rehab of these apartments.”

Mayor Sayles Belton led a tour of the property at 2736 Chicago Avenue South which will be ready for tenants in November. Over the next six months, PPL will rehab 11 buildings which will result in

30 redesigned units ranging in size from one to four bedrooms. The Selvaggio Fund has also helped make substantial improvements to 54 additional homes in the Phillips neighborhood. ■



**Mayor Sayles Belton explains how the Selvaggio Initiative fits in the Phillips Partnership’s strategic plan, as Co-Chair Gordon Sprenger and Joe Selvaggio look on.**

# Fighting Crime by Fighting Trash

Residents in the Phillips Partnership Crime Prevention Initiative are “talking trash,” and no one seems to be complaining. In fact, together with employees from local Partnership institutions like Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Children’s Hospital, and Fannie Mae, they have been doing more than talking – they completely cleaned up eight blocks in the Phillips neighborhood on Earth Day, April 23.

### **Sending a signal**

“We are doing more than cleaning up after the litter bugs,” explains Phillips West President Muriel Simmons. “We are sending an important signal to everyone in the neighborhood that the streets and sidewalks are cared for by good, law-abiding people.” The trash pick-up is part of the Partnership’s crime prevention strategy developed with a group

of twenty residents earlier this year.

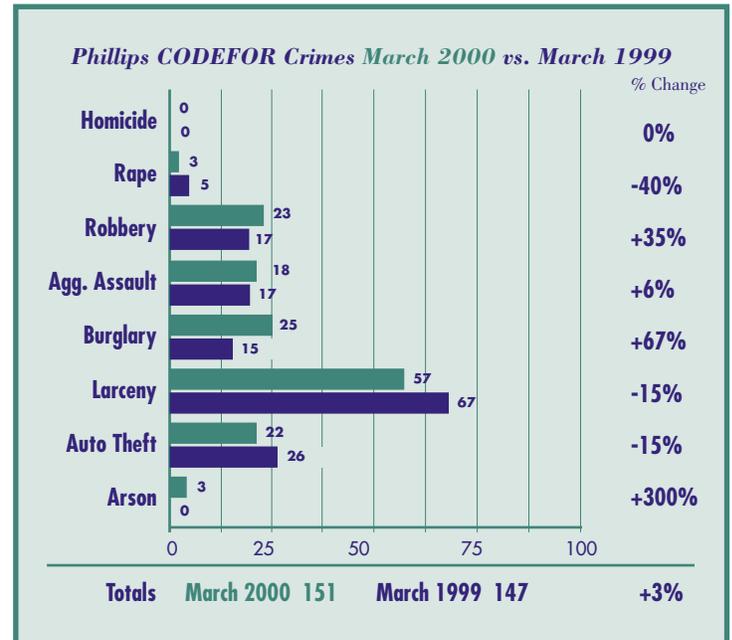
“The Earth Day clean up was inspiring for me as a homeowner,” said resident Hugh Mahoney. “There were an equal number of people from the corporate institutions and the neighborhood residents, and it showed how much these organizations care about this community.” Mahoney is one of the block club leaders who continues to collect trash on a weekly basis since the Earth Day kick-off event .

### **Effective tool**

Minneapolis Police Officer Troy Schoenberger, who works with the SAFE unit in Phillips, affirmed that the trash clean-up can also be an effective crime fighting tool. “So much of crime prevention at the neighborhood level is about the involvement of residents,” he explained. “Drug dealers become

really uncomfortable in a neighborhood full of active residents

who are visibly caring for their community.” ■



*A rash of burglaries caused the overall rate of CODEFOR crimes to increase 3%. Minneapolis made several burglary arrests this Spring with the help of Abbott Northwestern security staff.*



*Forty neighborhood residents and area employees turned out for the Phillips Partnership Earth Day clean-up on April 23.*

# Phillips Partner profile

## Gordon Sprenger, CEO Allina Health System

### BACKGROUND

Gordon Sprenger has been a hospital administrator for over 30 years, much of that time at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in the Phillips neighborhood of South Minneapolis. The Minnesota Hospital Association honored him with the Distinguished Service award in 1989. He currently serves on the board of directors of Medtronic, Inc.; the St. Paul Companies; St. Olaf College; and the Bush Foundation.

### EDUCATION

B.A., St. Olaf College (distinguished alumnus, 1982); and Masters of Hospital Administration, University of Minnesota.

### Thoughts on health care and the community

As chair of the American Hospital Association board in 1996, Sprenger gave a speech that urged the health care industry to do more to prevent injury and disease in local communities: "After people fall out of the boat, we save them with great medical miracles. And we're very good at that. But unless we journey up the river and find out why they fell out in the first place, we will never have enough resources."

### What the Phillips Partnership means to Allina

"In the past, Allina and other Phillips institutions like Honeywell were investing a great deal in

Phillips. We had little to show for our investments, until we decided to work together with a focused, strategic approach through the Phillips Partnership. This Partnership gives Allina's leadership the confidence to continue investing more and more in the Phillips neighborhood. We are enormously proud that each month, more Phillips area residents are becoming our employees through the Partnership's Train to Work initiative.

"It really is an honor for Allina to have these partnerships with neighborhood residents and other institutions in the neighborhood. It also makes sound business sense. We want Phillips to be a great place for health care."



Allina Health System CEO  
Gordon Sprenger

### Mayor Sayles Belton on Gordon Sprenger:

"Gordon has made the difference. His word is rock-solid and his commitment unshakeable. He has been committed to Phillips and the City of Minneapolis for decades, as long as I can remember." ■

### Transportation Partners... from page 1



Met Council Chair Ted Mondale

Phillips Partnership to advocate for a balanced approach to funding transit and highway improvements.

### Access essential

Brock Nelson, CEO of Children's Hospitals and Clinics, joined Honeywell executive Andre Lewis and Hennepin County Board Chair Randy Johnson to convey similar sentiments to House Speaker Steve Sviggum. "As a hospital, we need good transportation access for our patients, visitors and employees, and not least of all, the ambulances," Nelson explained. "Funding to support both transit and highway access improvements is really essential."

Phillips Partnership leaders stressed to House Speaker

Sviggum and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe that from the business community's perspective, good transportation and a healthy economy go hand in hand. "Now that we are enjoying good economic times, let's not cut ourselves off at the knees," said Jim Campbell. "We cannot fail to invest in transportation access and mobility."

Legislative leaders seemed to appreciate the message of balanced transportation funding coming from the business community and the Phillips Partnership. Threats to halt LRT were turned away, and significant highway and transit funding measures were enacted.

"We accomplished a great deal on transportation issues this

legislative session," said Commissioner Peter McLaughlin. "We succeeded with LRT, obtained \$354 million in appropriations for removing highway bottlenecks and improving outstate corridors, gained \$100 million in highway improvement bonding, and received \$44 million to develop dedicated busways. Those of us who have struggled for years to bring transportation access to the urban core now have reason to be hopeful." ■

**City Homes near completion on Park Avenue**

*The 29 townhomes constructed by the Phillips Park Initiative are making terrific progress. Only six of the 29 units remain available. Construction should be completed by December. The Phillips Park Initiative is a Phillips Partnership housing project led by the Phillips Eye Institute and Lutheran Social Services.*

**Nine EPIC Homes constructed in East Phillips**

*Fannie Mae and the Minneapolis Community Development Agency have nine new single family homes under construction on empty lots in East Phillips. Twelve additional new homes will be built on empty lots next year.*



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