



# the SUMMIT

Summer 2009

*“the best social program in the world is a job” - Ronald Reagan*

## GREEN JOBS TRAINING: WEATHERIZATION TECHNICIANS

*“My presidency will mark a new chapter in America’s leadership on climate change that will strengthen our security and create millions of new jobs in the process.”*

*- President Barack Obama*

True to his word, the stimulus package includes billions of dollars available in federal funding for infrastructure and renewable energy construction that will jump start our new green economy. To do this, we need people trained and qualified to build our future—Summit students will be prepared.

Developing curriculum to meet the ever-changing demands of the workplace is critical to our mission. Our students, and partners, count on our programs to graduate skilled workers ready to do today’s work. With 40 million dollars of the stimulus package earmarked to weatherize low-income housing, there is a huge demand for certified weatherization technicians.

Summit is proud to offer the state’s premier Weatherization Technician Training Program to meet this demand. Our 40-hour training program, which includes energy efficiency diagnostics; bypass sealing; insulation of foundations, floors, walls and attic; and window retrofitting/replacement was created by Summit and some of the nation’s top subject experts including Conservation Service Group, Center for Energy and Environment, and Community Action of Minneapolis.

It isn’t only Summit carpentry students who are taking advantage of our cutting-edge programming. It is open to all carpenters and contractors looking to be certified. As a training resource to the community at large, Summit not only becomes a training facility for new green jobs but it helps connect contracting companies with Summit and helps them to better understand how to use us as a resource to diversify their crew by hiring from our pool of top-trained minority graduates.

Summit is proud to have graduated more than 40 certified Weatherization Technicians already. Following the words of Van Jones, “Let us connect the people who most need work with the work that most needs to be done.”

## BUILDING A SMART HOUSE

Driving by Summit during school hours, you are almost assured to see carpentry students working together to build a home as part of their hands-on learning experience. At the end of their training, the home is torn down until a new group of students arrive to build it again. This is the ebb and flow of Summit.



This summer, the carpentry curriculum has changed a bit. With the help of experienced green builders, electricians and solar panel experts, Summit students are also building a residential showpiece of energy efficiency, green products and weatherization applications. Their work will continue to stand as a training model for future students as well as a learning resource for the community.

Summit will host tours for community members and any other interested parties to walk through our “Smart House,” to see how the solar panels on the roof power elements within the house, what proper insulation and weatherization techniques look like, and other various green construction and carpentry techniques.

We invite you to stop by to admire their work and learn more about energy efficiency and renewable energy methods that are critical to creating a renewable future for Minnesota.

### *Whats Inside?*

*Hear from our president, learn about new developments and successes, find out where our students are working, and much more...*

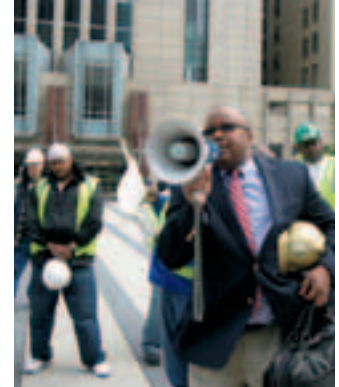


### Forward: Through the Storm

Dear Friends,

To say that the last fiscal year was exciting and challenging is more than an understatement. When we began the year last July, the African American unemployment rate in Minneapolis was 14% and the poverty rates for people of color ranged from 25% to 45%. This was before the state unemployment rate exceeded 8% in the last report.

At Summit we proceeded to leverage our positions on the Twins stadium and the Gopher stadium to put nearly 40 people to work. We felt that long term the ultimate solution to poverty is work and income rather than crime, social services, and welfare. By September those aspirations began to fade. With the 40% drop in portfolios caused by the housing meltdown and the crash of wall street we began to witness a steady implosion of philanthropic giving. Donors who had been with us for years were suddenly fighting to preserve their own businesses and personal interests. It is at this point that the value of our board and students began to really demonstrate the strength of the organization.



First, in October 2008 the Conley Family Foundation invested \$100,000 for us to develop a weatherization training program. By March we had launched it. Recently, we graduated our first class of new workers and we have completed two cycles for incumbent workers. Once the contracts are let with the local weatherization agencies, we have people ready to help them increase their workload tenfold. In addition, we were recently awarded \$400,000 in Federal funds (thanks to Congressman Ellison) and \$75,000 in stimulus funds, through the City of Minneapolis, for weatherization training. Our focus on construction that followed the 2003 recession led us to being positioned to take advantage of these opportunities. The board's commitment to focus and leadership were direct factors in this success.

Equally important in our positioning is the strong enrollment growth that we have enjoyed since focusing our efforts on construction and healthcare. Seven years ago we enrolled around 253 students. Today that has almost doubled to 452. In addition, financial aid performance has grown from \$205,000 to \$1,169,000 and at the end of the fiscal year 135 students were still enrolled, 165 had graduated and 120 were placed in jobs averaging \$14.00 per hour. The construction workers are earning \$15.62, down from \$17.05 in the previous period. But, we are continuing to expand our placement efforts. Our most notable addition was the participation of 18 graduates on the installation of a green roof on the Target Center. We are now building a partnership with Stock Roofing that will provide even greater opportunities for our graduates as we face the emerging green economy.

Our friends also found room in their hearts to contribute even though they were experiencing losses and uncertainty. We raised \$1 million from foundations, events and individuals, and, most impressively, \$15,000 from raffling off a Vikings suite at \$25.00 a ticket. Our annual golf tournament was capped off by our Summer Party at the home of Jacques Gibbs, where he and his band performed while guests enjoyed the lake front view and participated in the silent and live auctions led by Karen Sorbo. The signature item that evening was the funding of a new sign with a high-tech marquis for Summit's street presence.

Finally, we had to make some tough decisions. In keeping with our attempt to focus on core business, we spun off the Quantum Opportunities Program. It will now become its own non-profit, "Seeds of Change." We simply could not devote the leadership to the program that the kids deserve. They will do well. The leadership under Mary Fitzpatrick is superb. I encourage those of you who were with us for the kids to keep them in mind. They do great things.

And, once again, keep us in your prayers and remember that "the best social service program in the world is a job!"

Sincerely,

## Student Success

### 100 Hard Hats: Building Minnesota

Summit graduates are taking their well-earned place in building the future of Minnesota. Through Summit's valued partnerships with renowned companies including Mortenson Construction, Thor Construction, Veit Companies and Stock Roofing, our graduates are having the opportunity to work on the Twins Ball Park, the TCF Stadium and the Target Center Green Roof Project. These exciting projects not only play a huge part in the revitalizing of the Twin Cities but will become a proud claim for Summit workers.

Imagine, one day while watching a game with family in the Twins Ball Park, a Summit alum turns to the children and announces: "This stadium was my first construction project." Imagine the pride across the young faces, realizing it was their dad—or mom—who helped to build the now historic stadium. That is a real-life happy ending.

*"Just a month after graduating from Summit, I was hired by Stock Roofing and became part of the crew building the new Target Green Roof. It is a great feeling to know I was part of creating something brand new and important for Minneapolis. It is something I am very proud of. It will be great to look around someday and see all the places I was part of, right now I am working on a Wal-Mart roof."*

-Ira Schaeffer  
Summit Graduate

### Connections: This Year's Graduation Statistics

- 13 Connections students are at graduation age.
- Seven are moving into a transitional special education program called Transition Plus.
- Six have graduated and received their diplomas.
- Four of the six graduates (67%) are going on to some type of post-secondary institution. This is the highest percentage of youth going on to post secondary institutions since the beginning of Connections.
- Two of the 13 will be legally emancipated from foster care.

*Congratulations to all of our graduates! We look forward to hearing about all of the continued successes the future holds for you.*

### WHERE ARE THEY WORKING?

#### Target Green Roof



18 Summit grads earning an average hourly wage of \$32.44.

#### Twins Ball Park



28 Summit graduates earning an average hourly wage of \$21.63.

#### TCF Stadium



Nine Summit grads earning an average hourly wage of \$18.63



### Energy Programs Bill

Great news—the energy programs bill was signed into law in May by Governor Tim Pawlenty including \$2.5 million for green jobs training for low-income people and outreach programs. Below are some highlights of the bill.

- \$200 million in federal stimulus funding to weatherize low-income homes and public buildings and to invest in other renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. Specifically, the bill includes:
  - \$1 million to train low-income people for weatherization jobs.
  - \$1 million for training low-income people in renewable energy and energy-efficiency trades.
  - \$500,000 for community-based nonprofit organizations to conduct outreach about renewable energy and energy-efficiency opportunities.
  - Reporting mechanisms, which will require demonstration of how these weatherization programs have benefited low-income and communities of color.
  - The bill is also a big win for the environment. It allocates 13 times more funding to state weatherization programs than they typically receive in a year.
- Progress toward training and hiring low-income people and people of color will be frequently reported on to the community.

A special thanks to all involved with HIRE Minnesota. Their hard work and energy is helping to create real change!



*If you would like to go “green” and have your Summit newsletter e-mailed to you, simply e-mail [hwidell@saoic.org](mailto:hwidell@saoic.org) with your request.*

### Students Speak!

*“How is Summit helping you prepare for the current economic environment?”*



#### Andrew Rose

Summit Academy is expanding my knowledge of the construction industry and through hands-on training is providing me with the skill set to have a promising career. Upon completion I will be certified in OSHA-10, weatherization and pre-apprentice carpentry, which will provide more avenues of employment.



#### Christina Day

With the current economic situation I find myself back in poverty and the welfare lines, even with a certificate in Architectural Technology that I have been unable to use due to the slow market. Going back to school to receive more training will make it easier to find work. I see Summit Academy helping people change their lives, and I can see the light at the end of the tunnel.



#### Julian Pigue

I was out of work and knew I needed to make something happen. Summit’s training is adding skills and certifications to my resume that will help me to better market myself to employers. With my weatherization and heavy equipment training, what I learned at Summit will help open the door to a good paying job.

## A New Twist on the Old Classic



Fr. Michael O'Connell, Larry Hendrickson, Pro Kris Tschetter, Tom Walsh, Monte Ford

Member Jacques Gibbs opened up his beautiful home overlooking Bryant Lake as a place to come together to socialize with old friends and make new ones all while enjoying drinks, food and great entertainment. Auctioneer Karen Sorbo kept the crowd bidding on unique auction items while the incredible Jacques Place Band, who donated their time and music to the evening, ensured it was a lively and unique evening enjoyed by all.

Combined, our Golf Classic and Summer Party, raised \$128,900. We are ever grateful for the funds raised and just as pleased with the relationships built and time we had to enjoy the company of our supporters.

*Thank you to our Golf Event Committee—Steve Hoyt (Chair), Jacques Gibbs, Gordon Hendrickson, Sean & Erica Jensen, Beverly King, Sarah Loudon, Paul Ravich, Bill Simpson and Kim Taylor Jeffries—for putting together such a successful event!*



*"I believe in Summit's mission and the power of networking – donating my home and music was a fun way to introduce more people to Summit. It was a great time and for a great cause."*

-Jacques Gibbs  
Advisory Board and  
Golf Committee Member

*"A first-class event"* – is a descriptor often heard after Summit's golf classic. This year was no different as foursomes played a golf scramble at Bearpath. But, this year we added a new twist to the end of the day venue. Now, we are hearing "a first-class event and a great party."

After a full day on the green, golfers left the course to join up with other community leaders and Summit supporters for our Summer Party. Advisory Board



Golf Committee Chair, Steve Hoyt, with Auctioneer Karen Sorbo

*Thank  
You!*

### Event Sponsors



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### Beverage Cart Sponsor



Also thank you to Bearpath, Periscope, our hole sponsors, foursome sponsors and other individuals and businesses who graciously donated services, funds or time to make this event a success.

### “Scaling the Summit”

*“Watching a room full of strangers turn into a room full of supporters is a wonderful thing.*

*The “Scaling the Summit” breakfast is a powerful presentation that I enjoyed being a part of and I look forward to helping this event and Summit Academy grow.”*

-Doug Ruth  
Advisory Board Chair  
Scaling the Summit Chair

*Thank you to all our  
“Scaling the Summit”  
table captains!*

Doug Ruth, Chair  
Tim Baylor  
Jim Beck  
Steve Beck  
George Blackwell  
James Burroughs  
Marc Carrier  
Garfield Clark  
Cheryl Commers  
Jacques Gibbs  
Shana Ford  
Gary Haugen  
Steve Hoyt  
Ezell Jones  
Steve LaCroix  
Frank Lang  
Lee Rainey  
Paul Ravich  
Jon Ruth  
Paul Sween  
Jeff Tate  
Steve Wendt

Applause and cheers echoed throughout the Marriott Grand Portage Ballroom as Tanya Hill, recent Hundred Hard Hats graduate, announced to over 150 guests that just the day before she was hired for a full-time job in the construction industry.

The venue of her announcement was during our second annual “Scaling the Summit” Breakfast where both Tanya Hill and Deshawn Woods shared how Summit changed their path from one of hardship to one now filled with empowerment and success.

In addition to inspirational student stories, attendees heard from Board Member Paul Ravich, about how supporting Summit provides “bragging rights.” Graduates, who have turned their lives around, can now proudly tell their children and families about how they contribute to the community each day. As Paul shared, these bragging rights set up a new example for the next generation to follow.

In a mere 90-minutes, the event raised more than \$57,000. We thank all our table captains for their dedication and a special thanks to Frank Lang for hosting the largest grossing table raising over \$11,000.



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