Letter from the Board Chair, Erica Christ
Welcome to the Whittier Alliance Annual Meeting! Thank you for choosing to engage in the events of your neighborhood and your neighborhood organization!

2007 was an exciting year for the neighborhood. Despite the slowdown in the building and development market, some important projects are moving forward in Whittier. This is a testament to the desirability of the neighborhood and the high level of participation of our residents and businesses.

We are nothing if not an engaged neighborhood. The level and quality of participation in our meetings and events is outstanding. Our meetings have meaningful dialogue. Neighbors are willing to work with other neighbors, businesses and developers to make plans and find solutions that are best for the neighborhood. This is the only way we will maintain the things we like best about our neighborhood and change the things we find challenging. Next time you are planning to come to a meeting, bring another neighbor with you—there are many exciting projects in the pipeline for 2008 and beyond!

Not only do neighbors build community by showing up to meetings, but by supporting their neighborhood organization. Thank you for your generous support last year. Our Spring fundraiser was the best ever and the Fall fundraiser brought in many new donors. Please take a moment to read over the list of financial supporters; we would like them to get all the appreciation they deserve!

Lastly, please join me in expressing gratitude to our skilled, creative and uncompromising full time staff: Marian Biehn, Executive Director, and Josie Shardlow, Community Organizer. We are lucky to have such dedicated people working for the neighborhood and making it possible for the rest of us to participate fully in the process of neighborhood activism.

Whittier Alliance Executive Director Report, Marian Biehn
The Whittier Alliance effectively fosters opportunities that benefit Whittier and result in a more livable neighborhood. However, for Whittier and neighborhoods all around the City, 2007 was a pivotal year for future neighborhood sustainability and influence in the decision making process.

Policy, funding and governance changes were introduced by the City and have direct consequences for neighborhoods and neighborhood organizations. The City has turned to the neighborhoods to help develop an effective Community Engagement model. Funding for the Phase 2 Neighborhood Revitalization Program was reduced by 30%. And, finally, the City introduced the “Framework for the Future” - its proposal to replace Neighborhood Revitalization Program which sunsets in 2009. NRP, while needing some adjustments, has given neighborhoods over the past 15-20 years the autonomy and flexibility to make improvements and sponsor programs that have had significant positive impact on quality of life in Whittier. We ask that you stay involved while these policy discussions continue.

Although these policy discussions are important, the Whittier Alliance’s most vital work is done on behalf of the residents and businesses. The Whittier Board worked on a Strategic Plan to continue growth and prosperity in the neighborhood. Additional components of the Whittier NRP Phase 2 Action Plan were implemented. Our website was updated to be more professional and exciting and to better reflect the activities of the neighborhood. Hundreds of engaged community members attended our monthly meetings and brought thoughtful discussion into the decision making process. More participated in Task Forces helping to advance the Whittier position on issues such as LRT and the Pedestrian Overlay. The Development Review Group affected better outcomes for neighborhood developments. And, in collaboration with Lyndale and Stevens Square, we sponsored two Non-English Speaking Business Seminars.

As Executive Director I am proud to work for a neighborhood that believes in and practices civic engagement. By being attentive and putting voice to our best interests, we have been and will continue to be effective in making positive changes in Whittier. Thank you for supporting the Whittier Alliance.
Business Association, Erica Christ, Chair
The Business Association meets regularly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. A different business hosts each meeting and the starting time – morning, lunchtime or late afternoon – is determined by the host business. Each host business has a few minutes in the spotlight at the top of the meeting. It’s a great way to get to know our business neighbors, celebrate our successes and join in supporting our common goals for a vibrant neighborhood.

Meeting topics range from City-wide issues to individual business changes and plans. Our biggest item this past year (and it will continue to be) is the proposed Midtown-Nicollet alignment for the Southwest Transitway Light Rail line. More locally, we approved the proposed Pedestrian Overlay for Nicollet Avenue, which was in turn approved by the City Council in August. The BA received a BA-CPED grant which funded graffiti removal, expansion and maintenance of the Whittier Business website and façade improvements. Additionally, we heard from our Councilman about ongoing City issues and projects and from our 5th Precinct Police representatives about safety issue, business crime updates and prevention.

Several big development proposals are in the works and we have welcomed developers and property owners to our meetings to present their plans. The Ace/Ice House development at 26th and Nicollet was one of the most important new development proposals of the year. The Murals of LynLake is under construction now. And there are plans to redevelop the building that housed Joe’s Chicken Shack.

Many of our Whittier Businesses had plans to change or expand, including BP, Bob’s Java Hut, MCAD, Vera’s Café, Jasmine 26 and Wendy’s. We welcomed many new businesses to Whittier and sadly said goodbye to some old friends.

We welcomed the following new businesses:
- Head to Toe Salon & Boutique
- Vinh Loi BBQ
- Relax Exotic Chinese
- Anew Fitness and Spa
- Jasmine 26
- Nook and Cranny
- Nicollet Vision Center

We said goodbye to some Whittier businesses
- Lee’s Cleaners (hopefully only temporarily)
- Yummy
- Bubble Delite
- Sinbad’s Café & Market
- Argente Photographie
- Yukon Club

We thank our host businesses in 2007: Tasks Unlimited, Sindbad’s Deli, Three Sons Catering/Blaisdell Manor, Old Arizona, Azia, Los Amigos, Creation Audio, MCAD, Rainbow Chinese, Gale Mansion and Nico Plating.

Please join us this year! We have many exciting developments and projects in the works. Our group encompasses non-profit and for profit, industrial and service oriented, big institutions and small family-run stores. Residents and property owners are welcome to attend our meetings as well. Whittier is a great place to live, work and run a business!

Community Issues, Destin Nygard, Chair
The purpose of the Community Issues (CI) Committee meetings is to address issues vital to the neighborhood regarding safety, housing and land use and community building. The goal is to use a “town hall meeting” format providing community members an opportunity to be updated on the full range of community events and news as well as an opportunity to raise concerns or provide feedback and comments to the Whittier Alliance.

The committee format begins with an open forum for community announcements and news. The remaining time is spent discussing property development requests and changes, and hearing from other presenters. The Community Issues meetings continued to be very well attended over the past year, with several meetings packed to overflowing.

In 2007 the CI Committee heard presentations covering a wide range of issues. The committee frequently forwards motions to the Whittier Alliance Board of Directors, which in turn advises the City of Minneapolis on critical issues affecting our neighborhood. Some of the major issues and projects discussed in the past year include:

- MCAD Expansion / Master Planning
- Icehouse / Ace Hotel and Retail Development
- Rex Hardware Site Condominium Development
- Midwest Machinery / Karmel Village Residential Development
- Joe’s Chicken Shack / Kim Bartmann Restaurant
- Bob’s Java Hut Building Expansion
- City of Minneapolis Community Engagement Process
- Future of NRP-Frame Work for the Future

Transportation was a critical topic with potentially long lasting impacts on the neighborhood. On going discussions included possible streetcar lines along Nicollet Ave. and through the Midtown Greenway, Bus Rapid Transit along I-35W with the recognized need for a Lake St. station, and a trimmed down version of the 35W / Lake Street Access Project.

Perhaps most importantly, we’ve had numerous discussions regarding the possibility of routing Light Rail Transit (LRT) through the heart of Whittier. One proposed routing for the Southwest LRT runs down the Midtown Greenway before turning north up Nicollet Avenue. This routing could have major impacts on the neighborhood and will remain a critical topic.
Pedestrian Overlay Task Force helped to shape a new vision for Nicollet Ave that will improve our neighborhood’s signature street. The approved plan helps to ensure that all future development will contribute to a high quality pedestrian experience that reinforces the importance of street front retail. We also discussed the (long hoped for) reopening of Nicollet Avenue to Lake Street.

Residents, business, and property owners are passionate about our neighborhood, and that makes for engaging, exciting, and sometimes surprising meetings. Critically, though, the CI meetings remain a venue where we try to ensure that all points of view have a chance to come forward. In addition, the meetings remain a great way for attendees to catch up on the critical issues affecting our large, diverse neighborhood. It’s always exciting to see new faces at our meetings, and we look forward to hearing your voice in the upcoming year.

Resource Development, Marian Biehn, Executive Director

The Whittier Alliance continues to diversify and expand its income sources and reserve funds. On an annual basis, the Whittier Alliance sponsors 2 major and one minor fundraiser. These fundraising events are an important part of our annual budget. They also build community awareness of the resources, advocating and activities provided by the Whittier Alliance. Because Citizen Participation and NRP funding have been cut, successful revenue building though fundraising will continue to be an important function of the Whittier Alliance. We are especially appreciative of the generosity of our friends and neighbors who financially contribute to the Whittier Alliance, attend fundraising events or give in-kind donations to the organization.

Income from fundraising in 2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Fundraising 2006 received in 2007</td>
<td>1,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May Day Soiree Silent &amp; Live Auction Neighborhood Benefit</td>
<td>19,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hennepin Lake Liquors Multi-Neighborhood Wine Tasting</td>
<td>925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Fundraising Campaign-2007</td>
<td>6,005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Donations</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$27,917</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you to our 2007 contributors and supporters:

Alex Bauman                        Erica Christ                        Alan Ingber
Abdikadir Adan-Somali Education Center Andrew Church                      Mark Jossart-Kleinman Realty
Marilyn Anderson                   Keith Covart-Electric Fetus      Kate Kellett-Park Nicollet
Denise Arambadjis-It’s Greek to Me Andrew Cox                          Fran Kiliian
Jim Armstrong                      Wendy Darst                        Lee Klement
Javier Azpirt                      Felino de la Pena                  Kelly Koehn
Martha Ballou                      Cy & Paula DeCosce                 Michael Lawyer & Cara
David & Dominique Bereiter        Wayne Delange                      Spaccarelli
Tom Berthaume & Cheryl Kachenmeister David Dorava                       Barb & Kevin Likness
Breen Real Estate                  Paula Fischer                       Robert Lilligren
Tom Bissen                        Flower Realty-Rose Manor Apartments
Derk Bistodeau-Romer & Co         Dana Fox                           Diane & David Lilly
Diane Blomberg-Just in Case       Michael Garr & Natalie Ste        Kelly Linton & Victoria Jaskierski
Staffing                          Christopher Gottshall              Larry Ludeman
Lee Blons-Plymouth Church Foundation Verne Greenlee                      Bruce Lundeen
Pete Bonahoom-Galactic Pizza       Eric Grundahl                      Linda Martin
Roger Brake                       Elizabeth Grzechowiaik            Andrew McDermott
Uri & Melissa Camarena             Stanley Hale & Janet Loquistic     Mary McDill
Luana Campbell                    Michael & Betsy Halvorson           Steve Meyer
Ivan Cardenas-Pancho Villa        Mary Jane Hand                      Larry Miller
Giancarlo Casale                  Emily Hermann                      Kevin Miller & Robert Jardin
                                      Paula Horan                      Andrew Mogendorff
                                                                          Jeff Nelson
                                                                          Tamra Nelson-AAUW
                                                                          Marilyn Neuberger-J. Michaels Co.
                                                                          Si Nguyen-Saigon Nho Newspaper
                                                                          Jim Niland & Elizabeth Nenad

Thank you also to our contributors who wish to remain anonymous

Contributions are accepted and appreciated throughout the year

Whittier Alliance Community Organizer Report, Josie Shardlow

2007 was a very busy year for the Whittier Alliance. As Community Organizer I collaborate with many residents and organizations in order to build community in the neighborhood and facilitate its safety and livability for all residents. I am grateful for the participation and volunteerism of Whittier residents. I look forward to building on the successes of 2007 to get even more residents involved and working towards positive change in the neighborhood.
Some of the collaborations the Whittier Alliance was involved with in 2007:

- Whittier Walkers resident safety patrol and Block Clubs
- Police, probation officers, city attorney, CCP/SAFE meetings for focused crime and safety related issues
- MCAD, 2008 Whittier project
- Campus Group (Whittier youth serving agencies)
- World of Whittier planning group
- Family & Children’s Service for Neighborhood
- Champions and Whittier Youth Club
- PPL organizers for outreach to their buildings
- Franklin/Nicollet Alcohol-Related Crime Task Force
- Golden Living Center-Chateau, graffiti kits grant
- Restorative Justice Community Action, Inc.
- Whittier Youth Service Learning Group, Whittier Coop
- Mpls Park and Rec for improvements to Clinton Field Park

Neighborhood Revitalization Plan Implementation—Marian Biehn

Thanks to a dedicated group of Whittier volunteers, the process of getting funds into the neighborhood based on the Whittier NRP Action Plan continues to move forward. Funding discussions and contracting were addressed in each of the five strategies: Housing, Safety, Youth Business & Local Economy and Community Building were. The following implementation of Phase II funds was accomplished in 2007.

- **Housing:** The Rental Rehab and Renewal Loan (3-R) fund is still active with Rental Property Owners borrowing to make improvements to their properties. Exploration into making the 3R loan more streamlined is on-going. The Center for Energy and Environment’s contract was renewed as the administrator for the single family home improvement fund. The NRP Steering Committee recommended loan guidelines and term changes to make the fund more appealing. The Single Family Improvement loan fund was increased to $236,000. Discussion was also initiated regarding the Washburn Fair Oaks Historic Preservation guidelines and loan fund. Work on that strategy is still in progress. Over 8100 2008 Whittier Housing Calendars were distributed costing $7536 of housing funds. The calendar features photos and quotes from residents expressing their appreciation of Whittier as their home. It also offered housing-related and other resource information. The calendar was a collaborative project with Mpls College of Art and Design students who photographed and interviewed the participants.

- **Safety:** Improved safety and livability are important to Whittier residents. Funds from the Safety strategy were contracted in a variety of ways during 2007. The Whittier Walkers safety patrol is a function of this strategy as well as the tracking of chronic offenders for community impact statements for stricter sentencing. The safety strategy funded $8888 in Police Buy-Backs putting additional police on the streets during the summer of 2007 focusing on the South Whittier areas and the commercial corridors. Funds remain in the strategy for future use.

- **Safety and Community Building:** The number of block & apartment clubs and contacts grew in 2007 and outreach activities were funded. Particular effort was placed on outreach to the Hispanic residents to build trust and community participation. In 2007 Whittier hosted about a dozen National Night Out events.

- **Graffiti Removal/Prevention** Grants are regularly being distributed to residents and businesses to subsidize graffiti removal and abatement projects. One third of the cost of graffiti prevention methods such as lighting, landscaping, murals or mosaics, removal or preventative coating are reimbursed to the applicant.

- **Youth:** The contract with Family & Children’s Services was renewed for $38,000. In 2007 they held many successful outreach events. The Whittier Youth Club is open to youth 8-17. They meet weekly, plan special events and activities that build leadership and civic engagement.

- **Implementation:** $84,500 NRP Phase II provides funds to assist in the day to day operations of the neighborhood organization. These funds help defer the cost of public meetings, resource and information dispersal, community building, rent and utilities. All funds are reimbursed after submitting a comprehensive report on the expenses.

**Plan Mods:** In 2007 the Board acted to ensure the sustainability of the organization by redirecting (Plan Mod) funds from NRP Phase 1 strategies that have a “program income” component. The program income is available for use at the neighborhood’s discretion. $25k was redirected from the Phase 1 Single Family Improvement fund program income into Implementation. And, to assure future operational funds, $200k was redirected from the Phase 1 3-R loan fund program income. Neither redirection affected availability of the loan programs to operate.

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**Whittier Alliance**  
10 East 25th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

**Phone:** 612-871-7756  
**Fax:** 612-871-0650  
**Email:** marian@whittieralliance.org

**Keep Informed!**  
For timely updates on neighborhood meetings and events, sign up for the Whittier e-group by going to:  
www.whittieralliance.org
Finance Committee, Tom Bissen: On a monthly basis the Finance Committee meets to review the income and expenses of the Whittier Alliance. All incoming funds and invoices are identified with an account number to track against the annual budget. Professional oversight of the Whittier financials is provided by Derf Bistodeau, CPA and owner of Romer & Company and his bookkeeper, Nina Sterbuck. The 2007 audit by the Minnesota State Auditors of the accounting practices and procedures of the Whittier Alliance showed the Whittier Alliance was in compliance. A copy of the 2007 State Auditors Report is available in the Whittier Alliance office.

### WHITTIER ALLIANCE
**January – December 2007 Financials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRP Phase II Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hennepin County/CPED-Dispatch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citizen Participation</td>
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<td>WA Fundraising</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>EXPENSES</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel Expenses</td>
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<td>Mileage</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADP</td>
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<td>Advertising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Fees</td>
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<td>Copier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food/Beverages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fees, Licenses and Permits</td>
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<td>Operating Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Supplies/Furniture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulk Mail/Postage Meter Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognition – Volunteers/Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Meetings</td>
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<td>Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whittier Walkers</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>CPED-BA</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Expense</td>
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**BALANCE SHEET**

**As of December 31, 2007**

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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Property &amp; Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accumulated Depreciation</td>
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<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$121,988</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Employee HSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Revenue NRP</td>
<td>17,603</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Revenue CPED/BA</td>
<td>5,698</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>75,850</td>
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<td>Net Income</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
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**Total Liabilities & Net Assets**

<table>
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<th>Assets</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$121,988</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Special thanks to those who have given in-kind donations to Whittier Alliance events throughout the year.

American Family Insurance-Mike Shardlow Agency
Azia Restaurant
Bibelot Shop
Black Forest
Blaisdell Manor
Bob’s Java Hut
BP Petroleum
Bruce Lundeen
Bryant Lake Bowl
Chowgirl Killer Catering
Christos
City of Lakes Waldorf
Coastal Seafoods
Common Roots Cafe
Councilman Robert Lilligren
Denny Kemp Salon & Spa
Don Biehn
Dr. Barry Gerst, DDS
Dunn Brothers
Electric Fetus
El Mariachi
Eric James Design
Erich Biehn
Ethnic Dance Theatre
Eye on Design
Falls Agency
Fire on the Greenway
Flowers by Miss Bertha
Franklin Bank
Franklin-Nicollet Liquor
French Meadow Bakery
Galactic Pizza
Golden Living Center
Grand Casino
Graves 601
Heavenly Soles
Hennepin History Museum
Hirshfields Decorating Center
Hudson Map
Hyjek Chiropractic
Irina’s Stitch in Time
It’s Greek To Me
Jasmine Deli
Jesse Oyervides
Jp American Bistro
Jungle Theater
Juut Hair Salon
K-mart
Knox Jewelers
Los Amigos
Lowry Hill Liquors
Lyndale Auto Service
Lyndale House Antiques
Marathon Gas
Mayor RT Rybak
Minneapolis Institute of Arts
Minnesota Orchestra
Minnesota Twins
Mixed Blood Theatre
Nico Products
North Prairie Tileworks
Old Arizona
Pancho Villa
Park-Lake Car Wash
Park Nicollet
Peninsula Malaysia
Penzey’s Spices
Pho 70/Caravelle
Quang Restaurant
Rainbow Chinese Restaurant
Robert Lilligren
Royal Pet
Ruth’s Chris Steakhouse
Rutgers Bay Lake Lodge
Saint Paul Saints
Salon Schlee
Seafood Palace
Sheila Rawski
Shelly Sinas
Sinbad’s Café & Market
Sprint/Nextel
Spyhouse Coffee
Stages Theatre Company
Starbucks
Star Tribune
Stephen Chase
Steve Baldwin
Sullivan’s Supervalu
Target
Temple
The Alt Bike & Board
The Children’s Theatre
The Falls Agency
The Museum of Russian Art
The Saloon
Theatre de la Jeune Lune
Thomas Vetscher, CPA
Treehouse Records
Vineland Group
Walker Art Center
Wedge Co-op
Yummy

Whittier Alliance’s 8th Annual Live/Silent Auction Benefit

May Day Soirée
Tuesday, May 1st, 6-10pm

Featuring:
Appetizers from Whittier Restaurants &
Wonderful Silent & Live Auction Items

Blaisdell Manor – 2322 Blaisdell Avenue
Call the Whittier Alliance for Reservations: 612-871-7756.