



CLEARLY DELIGHTED to see long-time friend and acquaintance Bill Grier, W. Frank Fountain greets the former DESC Development Director at the recent Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. Fountain, the Senior Vice President of External Affairs and Public Policy for Daimler-Chrysler, was keynote speaker at the May 24 event. For more on the day's activities, please turn to the back page.

DTE Energy Leaders Circle program

“The closest I’ll ever come to ‘executive coaching’”

Know someone who’d like to improve their leadership skills? Tell them to give Holly Helterhoff a call – soon! As coordinator of the DTE Energy Leaders Circle program, she’s already signing up applicants for the next cycle of classes.

The pool of potential participants is a broad one. “Any staff member who is in a leadership role can benefit,” Helterhoff notes. Nonprofit executive directors, supervisors, department heads and front-line staff are among the program’s alumni.

Thanks to the generosity of the DTE Energy Foundation, this unique skill-building opportunity comes at an

affordable price (a small sliding fee is based on operating budget). In 2005, the Foundation provided a two-year grant to fund four Leaders Circle training cycles. Two of those cycles remain, with the next starting in November and concluding in May 2007.

■ What to expect

Participants make a commitment to meet every month for six months to explore topics impacting nonprofit leadership in Michigan. Nonprofit trainer and consultant Karen Roth, Ph.D., guides the group through an interactive session exploring leadership issues. Attendees then break into discussion “Circles” facilitated

by trained DESC volunteer consultants, applying the session topic to their own leadership challenges in a supportive, peer-driven setting.

The results continue to reverberate long after the program is completed.

“The Leadership Circles have become one of the area’s premier networking opportunities for nonprofit managers. Participants don’t just exchange cards, they intensively interact with each other for six months,” says McGraw.

To date, 77 individuals have completed the DTE Energy Leaders Circle challenge.

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Two Corps, one cause: our students

Forged just months ago, a special partnership between DESC and Ford Motor Company is already benefiting area students.

The new alliance was prompted by a January presentation to the Ford Volunteer Corps (FVC) by DESC Vice President of Education Jameson Teamor. The FVC matches Ford employees to volunteer opportunities within their communities, so Teamor found an audience tailor-made for the DESC mission and message.

“Education is a major focus at the Ford Volunteer Corps, so working with DESC was a natural fit,” noted FVC Research and Strategy Manager Lisa Sussman.

The new partners wasted no time in putting that fit to the test. Their first formal collaboration was a Round Table Dialogue at Ruddiman Middle School (RMS) on March 16.

In the space of a few hours, 24 Ford volunteers interacted with 75 RMS students,

fielding questions and sharing life experiences that engaged and informed mentors and middle-schoolers alike.

One Ford volunteer summed up the general sentiment: “It was, as I expected, many little lights just waiting to be turned on. I can’t wait to sit down and talk about possibilities,” said Donna Darden-McClung.

With a mutual focus on education the Corps/Corps partnership is continuing to produce results, Teamor said. “About a month after that first dialogue, I returned to Ruddiman with five Ford volunteers to find out what was learned and how students were implementing that knowledge into their daily lives.” Ford volunteers

have also participated in three field trips with Ruddiman students since that ground-breaking March Dialogue.

The first was a visit to the Science Fair at Cobo Hall in late March. The second took students on an eye-popping tour of the Ford Rouge Center Dearborn Truck plant. A special presentation by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at the Ford Motor Company Conference Center concluded the school year.

“The conductor was thrilled to have the young people there,” Sussman said. “We had them sit in the first two rows, and he directed much of his commentary to them.”

Ruddiman students won’t be the only beneficiaries of the new partnership. “We plan to expand this collaboration to include other schools in the coming year,” Teamor said.

“It was, as I expected, many little lights just waiting to be turned on.”

*Donna Darden-McClung
Ford Volunteer Corps*

Grant sparks program proposal

In May of 2005, the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan granted DESC, in partnership with Lawrence Technological University, a financial competency planning grant. The award was based on the critical need for nonprofit stakeholders to improve financial management skills.

The objectives of the grant were to identify strengths and weaknesses among area nonprofits, and to propose a program model that would enhance the quality of financial management at agencies with annual operating budgets under \$1 million.

The Strengthening Financial Competencies (SFC) team assembled a representative group to discuss common strengths and challenges. Forty-nine individuals from different nonprofit organizations participated in financial management focus groups.

Based on these discussions, trends emerged indicating obstacles to learning, suggested training topics and training delivery methods.

The proposed SFC program that resulted is comprised of four components:

Community Awareness: Increase the priority of financial management and de-

crease the anxiety associated with it

Common Framework: Provide a common curriculum framework of services

Education Open Track: Provide beginner and advanced online and in-person trainings and on-site board training

Education Intensive Track: Develop a customized organizational training plan based on an in-depth financial assessment

For a complete report on the findings and program description, please contact Deanna McGraw at 248-395-2840

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Mission

to enhance the effectiveness of nonprofits, governmental organizations and schools by transferring the knowledge, skills and expertise of retired and working executive volunteers.

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Masco earns corporate supporter honors for 2005

Since its inception in 1982, the Detroit Executive Service Corps has been a catalyst for change. In 2005, DESC directly and indirectly impacted some 580,000 citizens and children in the metro Detroit area by empowering non-profits with the tools needed to succeed. Without the support of loyal donors like the Masco Corporation Foundation (MCF), this would not be possible.

On May 24 at its Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, DESC honored the Masco Corporation Foundation's longstanding support and commitment by presenting the organization with the 2005 William F. Grier Outstanding Corporate Support Award.



ACCEPTING THE outstanding corporate support award from DESC Board Treasurer Ken Holloway is Melonie Colaianne of the Masco Corporation Foundation.

The Foundation, which is funded with contributions from Masco Corporation, has supported DESC since 1987. One of the world's largest manufacturers of brand-name consumer products for the home and family, Masco Corporation is committed to giving back to this region.

When asked, "What value does DESC bring to Masco?" Melonie Colaianne, president of Masco's Foundation, stated, "Masco is very engaged with the region's nonprofits. We view DESC as an ideal vehicle for supporting these organizations by providing guidance and experience to our nonprofit partners to help stabilize and improve upon their collective community response.

"At Masco, we're delighted to support the knowledge and energy exchange that occurs between and among DESC and our community partners. The entire region becomes stronger for the experience."

As a nonprofit itself, DESC would not be able to accomplish its mission without the support of companies like Masco. Therefore, we wish to congratulate and thank the Masco Corporation Foundation on behalf of all the nonprofits, schools, citizens and children who benefit from DESC initiatives for its investment and partnership.

THANK YOU, DONORS

The Detroit Executive Service Corps wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to the following 2006 corporate, foundation and individual donors for their support of DESC initiatives. As a partner you play an integral role in our ability to make a difference in our community. Thank you for your investment.

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(Above) Named the year's top volunteers at the 8th Annual DESC Volunteer Recognition Luncheon were (back, from left) Sherry Quinn and Ken Holloway, (front) Craig Orr and Phil Russell. (Above left) Jameson Teamor presents a commemorative plaque to Robert Brown.



Contributions recognized

One of the highlights of the Detroit Executive Service Corps year was recently showcased in a new setting. The Detroit Athletic Club was the venue for the 8th Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, sponsored by long-time Corps supporter DaimlerChrysler Corporation.

The May 24 event drew 97 DESC volunteers, supporters and spouses to the historic downtown structure, where they enjoyed an elegant lunch prepared in their honor.

In addition to the keynote address by DCX Senior Vice President W. Frank Fountain, participants heard the announcement of the winners of the Corps' most prestigious annual awards.

Taking home the William F. Grier Outstanding Corporate Support Award was the Masco Corporation.

Individual awards were next, with the Robert F. Magill Leadership Award going to Ken Holloway.

Consultant of the Year honors were shared by two consistent Corps contributors – Craig Orr and Phil Russell. Education Volunteer of the Year recognition went to Sherry Quinn.

"It's always a positive experience to see so many of the people who power our program gathered together," noted DESC President Deanna McGraw. "On behalf of our entire board and our outstanding volunteers, I want to thank DaimlerChrysler for providing us with a luncheon program that truly showcased their best efforts."



Gathering for a group portrait during the final meeting of their Leaders Circle are (from left) Pamela Good, Judy Moenck, Mary Barden, Denise Yee, Heather Carmona and facilitator John Keegan. Missing: Jennifer Dale and co-facilitator Craig Orr.

Leaders Circle program

continued from front

The outcome? The comments of one participant echo the sentiments of many. "My experience with the Leader's Circles has been incredible," says Mary Barden, Executive Director for Sweet Dreamzz of Detroit. "This is the closest I'll ever come to 'executive coaching' for a small nonprofit leader."

Circle facilitators report similar positive outcomes. "I believe that all members, with the support of the others, progressed toward a better understanding of their own leadership values, and have renewed confidence in facing their individual challenges," said John Keegan, co-facilitator with Craig Orr of Leaders Circle 6. "It has been a great learning experience to witness the dynamics of this team."

Enrolling for the upcoming Leaders Circle series couldn't be easier. Simply contact Deanna McGraw at 248-395-2840 or Holly Helterhoff at 248-790-7815. Space is limited, so early reservations are suggested.