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SUBJECT: Clayton Jackson McGhie receives award for anti-racism initiative

BY: Pakou Ly

Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial receives award for anti-racism initiative

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits has selected the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial, Inc. to receive an award of excellence for their anti-racism initiative. The Memorial started its work in 2000 and is currently operating as a non-profit organization.

“We are very honored to be selected for this award. Being recognized as a model for fostering racial understanding in Minnesota and around the country helps to validate the work that we have done and inspires us for the work that remains.” says Linda Rau, a Co-Chair of the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial, Inc.

The organization hosts the annual vigil in remembrance of Elias Clayton, Elmer Jackson and Isaac McGhie; develops curriculum and DVD’s about racial equity in education; conducts workshops for local teachers; and is currently in the process of setting up a scholarship endowment fund with the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation .

“The Memorial continues to be part of the healing process for the Duluth community and has helped establish respectful discussions on race,” says Henry Banks, a founding member of the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial. Banks credits former Mayor Gary Doty for his commitment to the Memorial’s work and subsequent Mayors for their continued support.

“This award and statewide recognition of the organization and its efforts are well deserved. Duluth is proud to have such committed members of the community working as a unified front to address the problems of racism in our community. The Memorial serves as a reminder that an ongoing and honest dialogue is critical to fostering a healthy community,” says

Mayor Don Ness.

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits Anti-Racism Initiative Award recognizes an organization that actively engages audiences in anti-racism activities. Nominated organizations should: work to eliminate prejudice and racism in society; demonstrate a commitment to pluralism and inclusivity; and develop unique and thought-provoking strategies to combat racism.

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