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## **Wilder Foundation's Neighborhood Leadership Program graduation to feature keynote by Chief John Harrington**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ST. PAUL, MN (April 8, 2010)** On Monday, April 26, the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation's Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP) will graduate 32 students from its 2009-10 program. The event, to be held at Wilder Center, 451 Lexington Parkway North, in Saint Paul, will feature a reception at 5:30 p.m. and the program at 6:30 p.m. Chief of Police John Harrington will offer the keynote address, and Alicia Huckleby, Saint Paul Public Housing Agency (PHA), will also offer remarks.

"In a world that is networked and where our relationships define our roles, we must have all hands pushing and pulling together for progress to be made," said Harrington. "The NLP brings residents from various neighborhoods together where skills and relationships develop into positive social change."

Chief Harrington joined the St. Paul Police Department in 1977 and during his tenure has held various roles in the department, including as its Chief since 2004. Through different programs and initiatives Harrington has created a greater sense of community and a reduced crime rate in St. Paul.

Ms. Huckleby, PHA Recovery Act Coordinator, said "The Wilder Neighborhood Leadership Program graduates leaders who understand that cohesive leadership and responsiveness to change is at its most effective when guided by the voices of the community."

The 32 NLP graduates represent the various cultural and geographic neighborhoods in the St. Paul area, bringing the multifaceted, diverse community together to have a clear representation of the city. Participants have spent six months in the intensive NLP, which works on the premise that authentic leadership and active neighborhood involvement emerges from visions for positive change. The NLP focuses on Saint Paul's core, urban neighborhoods and provides participants leadership skills with the intent of strengthening community through a healthy infrastructure of services and businesses, ethical leadership, effective local organizations and active citizen participation.

"The people who participate in NLP are individuals committed to creating a strong and vibrant Saint Paul," says Kate Kelsch, NLP Program Manager. "Through participation in the program they gain skills, connections and personal insight. Each year the NLP group is unique, drawing from different parts of the city and its diverse cultural groups."

Approximately 500 individuals from many of Saint Paul's neighborhoods have participated in the program since its inception fifteen years ago. For questions about the Wilder Neighborhood Leadership Programs, call 651-280-2457 or e-mail [NLP@wilder.org](mailto:NLP@wilder.org).

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*For over 100 years, the Wilder Foundation has combined direct service, research, and community development to address the needs of the most vulnerable people in greater Saint Paul. For more information, visit [www.wilder.org](http://www.wilder.org)*