

Otto Bremer Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Staffing Changes at the Otto Bremer Foundation

**Aretha Green-Rupert and Dominic P. Papatola Join as Program Officers,
Nancy J. Kleeman, as Part-time Contract Program Officer, and
Karen Starr to Retire After 28 Years**

SAINT PAUL, November 24, 2009—The Otto Bremer Foundation today announced the addition of Aretha Green-Rupert and Dominic P. Papatola as program officers and Nancy J. Kleeman as part-time contract program officer. An additional full-time program officer has been selected and will be announced in the coming weeks. The new staff fill openings created by the retirement of longtime senior program officer Karen Starr and the departure and reassignment of other staff.

New Program Officers

“We are delighted to welcome Aretha, Dominic, and Nancy, who each bring a deep understanding of community issues and organizations,” said Randi Ilyse Roth, Foundation executive director. “Their addition to the Foundation’s staff will allow us to continue to provide timely responses to increased grant applications and expand our communications and learning activities.”

Aretha Green-Rupert worked most recently in development for the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys and the Girl Scout Council of Greater Minneapolis. She has also served as director of youth development for the YWCA of St. Paul, director of partnership development for Achieve! Minneapolis, and campaign division director for the Greater Twin Cities United Way. She is a graduate of Tougaloo College and has a Master’s in horticulture from Mississippi State University.

Dominic P. Papatola has worked at the Saint Paul Pioneer Press covering theater and nonprofit arts organizations since 1999. He has also provided arts and culture coverage for Minnesota Public Radio since 2004 and previously worked as a theater critic, reporter, and/or columnist for the Times-Picayune in New Orleans, the Duluth News-Tribune, and Minneapolis-St. Paul CityBusiness. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Papatola is pursuing a Master’s in theology and the arts at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities.

Nancy Kleeman, who will work part-time as a contract program officer, recently has been consulting with social justice nonprofits. Previously, she served as executive director of The Fund for the Minneapolis Legal Aid Society, Minnesota State Bar Association access to justice director, and State Bar Foundation staff director. She also served as University of Maryland Law School associate dean for career services, designed and delivered training for advocates for low-income clients, and handled special projects for the U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and

Welfare. Kleeman has a B.A. from Wellesley College and a J.D. from George Washington University National Law Center.

Karen Starr Retires

Karen Starr retires from her position as senior program officer at the end of December after 28 years with the Foundation. She will continue to work on selected projects as a contractor.

“Karen’s experience and knowledge of community issues has been invaluable to the Foundation and others,” said Roth. “She will be greatly missed.”

During her time at the Foundation, Starr was active in the philanthropic community. She was on the board of directors of the Women’s Funding Network and served on advisory committees for the Minnesota Council on Foundations, the national affinity group Women and Philanthropy, and Asian and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy. She played a leading role in developing the Residency in Foundations, an apprenticeship program for women of color in philanthropy, and was part of the initial design team for the Partners Internship in Philanthropy, which matched local students to nonprofit internships in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Minnesota.

About the Otto Bremer Foundation

Created in 1944, the Otto Bremer Foundation assists people in achieving full economic, civic, and social participation in and for the betterment of their communities. The Foundation’s work to help build and maintain vibrant communities is based on the vision and legacy of Otto Bremer, whose commitment to the Bremer bank communities and to those working to make their lives better continues to guide the Foundation.

The Otto Bremer Foundation owns a majority share of the Bremer banks, and a portion of the banks’ profits comes to the Foundation as dividends, enabling the Foundation to invest back in the bank communities in the form of grants and program-related investments. Organizations whose beneficiaries are residents of Minnesota, North Dakota, or Wisconsin are eligible to apply for Foundation grants, with priority given to communities served by the Bremer banks. In 2008, the Foundation provided approximately \$28.7 million in grants and program-related investments.

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