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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 27, 2009**

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### **MEDA Honors Those Who Gave Back to Their Community**

MINNEAPOLIS, April 24, 2009 – The Metropolitan Economic Development Association (MEDA) honored community members for their service to MEDA and entrepreneurs of color. The awards were handed out Thursday, April 23 at the MEDA volunteer recognition reception hosted by Travelers in downtown Saint Paul.

The volunteers were honored for giving of their time, knowledge and leadership to help entrepreneurs of color succeed. The honorees spent many hours, giving back to the Twin Cities community and sharing their time and business expertise. In 2008 MEDA had 215 people volunteer 4,311 hours at the organization and throughout the community at MEDA client businesses.

The honorees at the volunteer reception were:

MDA Leadership Consulting  
Consulting Solutions  
Rauenhorst Recruiting Company  
Tom King  
Rita Apaloo  
Pam Wandzel  
Sharon Holland  
Deb Labonne  
Tunheim Partners  
Lee Lekueyen  
Thomas Koopmeiners  
Ivy Chang  
WOW! Events by Kraus-Anderson  
The MEDA Gala Committee

“We are fortunate to have so many people step forward and help out our organization and the entrepreneurs of color we serve. We can’t thank them enough” said, Yvonne Cheung Ho, MEDA CEO.

Please visit our website to learn more about becoming a volunteer at MEDA or how we help entrepreneurs of color succeed.

Formed in 1971, MEDA ([www.meda.net](http://www.meda.net)) pursues its mission of helping entrepreneurs of color succeed in the free enterprise system by providing business consulting, training, business network development, government market expertise, and access to financing. MEDA represents a proven method of building strong communities by helping to launch and grow businesses. MEDA's programs and services are innovative, alternative solutions to addressing the barriers most minorities face in starting up or developing a business. MEDA provides key elements for business success: access to information and business knowledge, access to financing, and access to government procurement opportunities with additional linkage to corporate purchasing networks.

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