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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Minnesota Jaycees Announces the 2011 Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotans and Outstanding Young Farmer Honorees

**BURNSVILLE, MN November 14, 2011** – The Minnesota Jaycees proudly recognizes a select group of young leaders with the **2011 Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotans and Outstanding Young Farmers Awards**. The 11 honorees will be recognized at a special awards celebration held on Saturday, December 3, 2011 at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota.

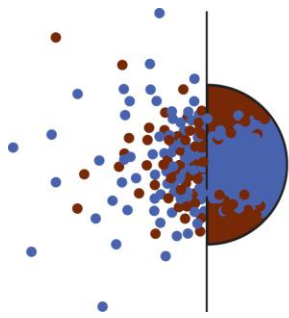
“These 11 young Minnesotans are examples of the importance of community service in developing leadership skills and living proof of our belief that service to humanity is the best work of life,” said Jason Benton, President of the Minnesota Jaycees. “This group exemplifies the core values of the Minnesota Jaycees which include developing leadership skills, entrepreneurship, advocacy for issues important for Minnesota, and service to their community.”

Started in 1950, the **Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotans (TOYM)** program is Minnesota’s only statewide recognition program for outstanding young leaders between the ages of 18-40 who have devoted themselves to improving their community. The program acknowledges the efforts and accomplishments of young adults who have contributed to our state through their service, thought and influence, community involvement, or entrepreneurship. In the past 61 years, the program has recognized the leadership of more than 400 young Minnesotans. Past awardees have included young up-and-coming leaders Walter Mondale, Marlene Johnson, Dave Winfield, Tim Penny, Paul Douglas, Matt Blair, Wheelock Whitney, Martin Sabo, and Jason DeRusha.

#### **2011 Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotans Honorees:**

Jeffrey P. Bauer, The Family Partnership, Minneapolis  
Nicholas Banovetz, Minnesota Campaign for Achievement Now, Saint Paul  
Michael Cuddyer, Minnesota Twins, Minneapolis  
Megan Leafblad, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Minneapolis  
Nekima Levy-Pounds, University of St. Thomas School of Law, Brooklyn Park  
Savannah Leyde, Little People’s Daycare, South Saint Paul  
Kari Mitchell, Charity Events of Minnesota, Rosemount  
Ross Alan Monten, U.S. Naval Intelligence Officer, Apple Valley  
Ni Suphavong, Jade Logistics, Eagan  
Ryan Thomas, Snowshark Publications, Bemidji

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## About the Minnesota Jaycees

The Mission of the Minnesota Jaycees is to provide the opportunity for young individuals to develop the leadership-skills, social responsibility, entrepreneurship and fellowship necessary to create positive change. The Minnesota Jaycees is a statewide organization consisting of 80 local chapters and 2,500 members. Our chapters are in rural, mid-sized, and urban communities and our membership is comprised of young people between the ages of 18-40. As a civic organization for young people, the Minnesota Jaycees are developing the next generation of leaders by providing opportunities to stand up and take initiative in their community.

We engage young people ages 18-40 through project management and social entrepreneurship that will make an impact in their communities and build leadership skills. Jaycees around the state are responsible for organizing hundreds of community festivals, fundraisers for other nonprofits, and creating opportunities for community members to engage with one another.

For more information about the Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotans or Outstanding Young Farmers programs, visit [www.mnjaycees.org](http://www.mnjaycees.org), or contact Trisha Reinwald at 952-890-8000.

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