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## Star, Aurora award finalists announced

BY CYNTHIA REYNAUD • CREYNAUD@DMREG.COM • JANUARY 31, 2010

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The couple that brought Des Moines a downtown sculpture garden and a group that strives to provide legal assistance and education to low-income Iowans are among the finalists for The Des Moines Register's annual Iowa Star and Aurora Awards.

John and Mary Pappajohn, Renee Hardman, Kyle and Sharon Krause, Rick Tollaakson and Kenneth Quinn are all finalists for the Iowa Star, which recognizes individuals who "promote unity and self-sufficiency for all, without regard to race, gender or age," in central Iowa.

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Iowa Legal Aid, Goodwill Industries of Central Iowa, Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Iowa, Anawim Housing and Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa are finalists for the Aurora, given to organizations or institutions in central Iowa that make "a measurable difference in the community without thought to awards or public recognition."

The awards, in their eighth year, began as an opportunity to recognize diverse contributions made in the community by individuals and organizations. Winners will be announced and awards presented at an invitation-only reception Feb. 10 at the Temple for Performing Arts in downtown Des Moines.

The newspaper does not choose the finalists or the winners. Independent judges, whose names are not disclosed, vote on the people and organizations nominated by Register readers. The finalists are the top vote-getters.

The winner of the Iowa Star will receive a Steuben "Star Stream" crystal sculpture. The Aurora award winner will receive a plaque and \$1,000.

"The Des Moines Register takes great pride in our community," said Register publisher Laura Hollingsworth. "It's an honor to celebrate the people and organizations whose commitment and hard work guarantees a brighter future for the greater Des Moines area."

Last year's Iowa Star recipients were Rep. Wayne Ford and Mary Campos, both of Des Moines. Together they founded the Iowa Brown and Black Presidential Forum, which forces presidential candidates to focus on issues that may affect blacks and Latinos disproportionately.

The 2009 Aurora winner was Children and Families of Iowa, which works with some of Iowa's most vulnerable children and families and helps children have safe, stable homes.

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## Iowa Star nominees

• RENEH HARDMAN of Des Moines, senior vice president of human resources for Bankers Trust Co.

Achievements: Was appointed by Gov. Chet Culver to chair the Statewide Diversity Commission. Under her leadership, the commission will develop recommendations for improvement of policies, procedures and practices related to diversity in Iowa's government. She also chairs the Delta Sigma Theta sorority's "GEMS" program and the Des Moines Chapter of the Links' "Services to Youth Trend," both programs devoted to helping young women.

• KYLE J. KRAUSE and SHARON S. KRAUSE of Booneville. Kyle is the president and CEO of Kum & Go, L.C.; owner and chairman of Solar Transport Co.; owner of the Des Moines Menace; owner of AMICI Espresso. Sharon is the owner of Dalla Terra Ranch.

Achievements: In 2009, Kum & Go participated as a pacesetter organization in United Way's annual corporate giving drive. One hundred percent of the company's employees participated, raising 31 percent more than the previous year. Sharon championed the fundraising campaign for the Compass Project, which resulted in the purchase of an apartment complex for women starting over after escaping domestic violence.

• JOHN and MARY PAPPAJOHNS of Des Moines. John Pappajohn is president and owner of Pappajohn Capital Resources and Equity Dynamics Inc.

Achievements: The couple collaborated with the city of Des Moines, the Des Moines Art Center and numerous other financial contributors to open the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park in downtown Des Moines in 2009. The park houses 24 sculptures valued at \$40 million.

• KENNETH QUINN of Des Moines, president of the World Food Prize Foundation.

Achievements: Over the course of 10 years, Quinn built the World Food Prize into one of the leading conferences on global food security in the world. He has grown the program to include the Iowa Hunger Summit, the World Food Prize Youth Institute and the Borlaug-Ruan International Internship program.

• RICK J. TOLLAKSON of Urbandale, president and CEO of Hubbell Realty Co.

Achievements: The construction of the Kaleidoscope at the Hub and the Hub Tower marked the beginning of his career with Hubbell Realty in 1984. In 2009, he led Hubbell in construction of the first community with all LEED certified homes and a project to build nine homes for low-income families in nine days.

## AURORA NOMINEES

• ANAWIM HOUSING

Provides safe, affordable housing that assists in the stabilization

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of low-income families and the revitalization of Des Moines metropolitan neighborhoods. The nonprofit organization buys neglected houses and apartment buildings in depressed neighborhoods, then makes them safe and attractive and available to qualifying families at discounted or subsidized rates.

• **BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL IOWA**

Serves youth, ages 5 to 18, by providing after-school programming as well as all-day programming during school breaks and summer vacation. Clubs provide youth with a safe setting to go where they can participate in both supervised and self-directed activities designed to give them developmental assets necessary for them to become successful adults.

• **GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF CENTRAL IOWA**

Empowers individuals and families with barriers to independence through training, education and employment. Goodwill offers training and work skills programs in central Iowa that in 2009 served 988 people with disabilities and other barriers to employment and placed 121 individuals into competitive employment.






• **IOWA LEGAL AID**

Provides hope, dignity and justice to low-income Iowans through legal assistance and education that protect fundamental rights, basic necessities and access to the judicial system; challenges policies and practices that harm those with low-income; and empowers clients to advocate effectively for themselves and their communities.

• **VISITING NURSE SERVICES OF IOWA**

Provides health and human services to individuals and families who lack the resources to meet their own needs and/or who are at risk for poor health outcomes.

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