

Media Contact:
Abigail Greenheck
agreenheck@beehivepr.biz
[651-894-4717](tel:651-894-4717)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation Announces Two Bush Prize: Minnesota Honorees

Bush Prize honorees recognize innovative community contributions

St. Paul, Minn. – October 28, 2025 – The [Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation](#) (the Foundation) is excited to announce Dakota Wicohan and Foster Advocates as the 2025 Bush Prize: Minnesota honorees.

Each organization will receive an unrestricted award of \$250,000 that can be used for any charitable purpose in the state of Minnesota.

Honorees and finalists were chosen by a Community Selection Committee – a diverse group of community members from across the state convened by the Foundation for this purpose.

To ensure broad and equitable distribution of the Bush Prize: Minnesota award across the state of Minnesota, the Community Selection Committee reviewed applications and identified eight finalists — four from the Twin Cities Metro Area community and four from the Greater Minnesota community. One honoree was chosen from each group. Each of the remaining six finalists received a grant of \$10,000.

“We are honored to celebrate Dakota Wicohan and Foster Advocates as our 2025 Bush Prize: Minnesota honorees,” said Kari Onyancha, Senior Director of Partnerships at the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation. “Both organizations embody transformational impact through creative problem solving and community-led solutions that strengthen equity across our state. We are grateful to the community review committee for uplifting their visionary work.”

About the 2025 Bush Prize: Minnesota Honorees and Finalists

[Dakota Wicohan](#) is a Native-led nonprofit based in the Dakota homelands of Cansayapi, dedicated to preserving Dakota as a living language and transmitting Dakota lifeways to future generations. Founded in 2002, the organization offers intergenerational cultural, language and leadership programming that strengthens identity, well-being and community resilience. Through this work, Dakota Wicohan empowers youth, adults, elders and families to carry Dakota values forward as culture bearers and community leaders.

[Foster Advocates](#) is the only organization in Minnesota focused on advocacy, systems change and organizing led by and for Fosters (those with out-of-home foster care experience). Foster Advocates builds a Foster Movement led by Fosters’ vision for change, creating a system where all Fosters are provided safety, opportunities to grow and be nurtured and agency over their

futures so all Fosters can have the access to the same outcomes and opportunities as their peers.

Bush Prize: Minnesota Finalists

- [COPAL](#) - Minneapolis, MN
- [Family Tree Clinic](#) - Minneapolis, MN
- [Fe y Justicia](#) - Waite Park, MN
- [Mewinzha Ondaadiziike Wiigaming](#) - Bemidji, MN
- [Northfield Union of Youth](#) - Northfield, MN
- [Penumbra Center for Racial Healing](#) - St. Paul, MN

About Bush Prize: Minnesota

Previously known as the Bush Prize for Community Innovation, the Bush Prize is implemented in partnership between the Bush Foundation and its four community grant partners – the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation, Good Relatives Collaborative, South Dakota Community Foundation and Strengthen ND. The Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation was selected as the community grant partner for Minnesota and began implementing Bush Prize: Minnesota in 2024.

For more information on the Bush Prize: Minnesota honorees and finalists, view our [press kit](#).

###

About the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation

The Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation believes in the best of Minnesota and the power of its communities. With roots in Saint Paul and partners across the state, it is Minnesota's largest community foundation and the partner of choice for thousands of donors, nonprofits and community organizations. The Foundation aspires to create an equitable, just and vibrant Minnesota where all communities and people thrive by inspiring generosity, advocating for equity and investing in community-led solutions. Visit: spmcf.org

About The Bush Foundation

The Bush Foundation works to inspire and support creative problem solving—within and across sectors—to make the region better for everyone. Bush invests in great ideas and the people who power them in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the 23 Native nations that share the same geography. Bush works through open grantmaking programs to develop, test and spread great ideas to make the region better, and to inspire, equip and connect people to lead change effectively.