

**FLAG is a Mission Award Finalist
for the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits'
2013 Anti-Racism Award**

*** Please VOTE today! ***

Help FLAG win!

FLAG has been nominated for an MCN Anti-Racism Award.
Find out if you can help us win:

Are you an employee of an
MCN-member nonprofit?
You can vote!

Are you on the board of directors
of an MCN-member nonprofit?
You can vote!

Do you know other nonprofit employees and board members?
They can vote!

Click here to vote: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/W56S67J>

For voting information and all the other details, just go to:
<http://minnesotanonprofitawards.org/mission-awards/>

Please help us spread the word!
**Please use the link below to pass this on to others you work with
in the nonprofit world!**

<http://www.minnesotanonprofitawards.org/>

Thank you!

FLAG is a Mission Award Finalist for the **2013 Anti-Racism Award** announced by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN), MAP for Nonprofits, and the Nonprofit Mission Awards Selection Committee.

Help FLAG Win!

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Only MCN members are eligible to vote. Voting is available to staff, board members and volunteers of MCN member organizations, and will **close Friday, July 26.**

As a voter, you will be required to provide your Personal MCN Member ID Number. (This number was sent to individuals working for MCN members via email.) If you do not have your ID number available, contact MCN at info@minnesotanonprofits.org or 651-642-1904.

Click here to vote for FLAG: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/W56S67J>

The **Anti-Racism Initiative Award** recognizes an organization that actively engages audiences in anti-racism activities. Nominated organizations:

- ▶ Work to eliminate prejudice and racism in society;
- ▶ Demonstrate a commitment to pluralism and inclusively; and
- ▶ Develop unique and thought-provoking strategies to combat racism.

2013 Anti-Racism Finalists:

<http://carywalski.com/npawards/mission-awards/mcn-mission-awards/2013-anti-racism-finalists/>

Farmers' Legal Action Group (FLAG) is a nonprofit law center that provides legal services to family farmers and their communities. In Minnesota, FLAG's anti-racism work in agriculture has focused on the state's community of Hmong American farmers, who despite their prominence in local markets continue to face discrimination and barriers that exclude them from economic opportunity. FLAG's advocacy approach on behalf of Hmong American farmers combines FLAG's legal skills, experience with community lawyering, and alternative dispute resolution that is healing, rather than divisive.

Its most recent success of this approach was last summer, when more than 30 immigrant and refugee farm families who had recently started growing vegetables on 110 leased acres in Washington County's May Township faced a crisis. Their crops, set for sale at the region's farmers' markets, represented significant portions of their livelihoods. However, the Township Board had enacted an ordinance that imposed onerous restrictions and fees on vegetable farmers. The ordinance did not apply to neighboring farmers, who were decidedly not Asian, and Hmong American farmers were not contacted before the ordinance was passed.

With their growing season and incomes suddenly in jeopardy, the farmers called FLAG. Out in their fields, farmers were briefed on their rights and worked with FLAG to find a

resolution to preserve their livelihoods. Speaking with members of the Township Board, FLAG arranged for additional pro bono counsel, initiated settlement discussions, and ultimately persuaded the Township Board not only to repeal the ordinance, but also to engage in a dialogue with the Hmong American farmers to increase the Township's understanding of their lives and farm operations.

FLAG's work over the last year in May Township preserved some \$300,000 in income for the refugee and immigrant families, and secured the ability for the same families to farm that acreage again this year. With a mission to support healthy rural communities, protect the environment and promote a safe and stable food supply, FLAG has helped transform a silent and struggling farming community into important and productive community contributors.

<http://www.minnesotanonprofitawards.org/>

Vote Now for the 2013 Nonprofit Mission Award Winners!

Nonprofit organizations make outstanding contributions to Minnesota's high quality of life. The Minnesota Nonprofit Awards honor these contributions.

Since 1987, the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and MAP for Nonprofits has been showcasing the work of Minnesota's outstanding nonprofits through the Nonprofit Mission Awards in the categories of Innovation, Advocacy, Anti-Racism Initiative and Responsive Philanthropy.

Winning organizations will receive:

- ▶ The honor and distinction of being recognized as a leader among Minnesota's nonprofits
- ▶ A video production capturing the organizations work for which it is receiving the award. This video will:
 - ▶ Highlight and tell a brief story of the organization as it relates to the award.
 - ▶ May be used by the winning nonprofit organization for its own purposes.
 - ▶ A one-of-a-kind art glass award engraved with your organization's name
 - ▶ A feature profile of your organization in MCN's Nonprofit News reaching 10,000 nonprofit managers
 - ▶ A small cash award (except for the winner of the Responsive Philanthropy award)