

**NATIONAL  
FRATERNAL  
CONGRESS  
OF AMERICA**



**JOINING HANDS  
TO TOUCH LIVES**

The Association of America's  
Fraternal Benefit Societies

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

### **NFCA Honors “Fraternalist-in-Action” for Volunteerism** *Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh* *Member Richard Hallgren named Fraternal MVP.*

**OAK BROOK, IL, May 14, 2007** – The National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA) is proud to recognize Richard C. Hallgren—a member of Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh (GBU), District #1000, Rochester Hills, Michigan—as a Fraternal MVP (Most Valuable Participant) for the week of May 14, 2007. Fraternal MVPs are “Fraternalists-in-Action” who volunteer their time and energy to strengthen their communities through participation in local lodge activities and other charitable endeavors.

“The NFCA wishes to salute those individuals as true fraternalists,” said NFCA Chair of the Board Janice U. Whipple. “As a Fraternal MVP, Richard Hallgren embodies the heart of fraternalism through his hard work, dedication and generosity.”

As former National President of the Lutheran Fraternities of America, Hallgren has served since 1996 as President of GBU District #1000, which is the LFA Division of the Greater Beneficial Union. It is with Hallgren’s guidance that the district’s fraternal programs have continued to grow. Hallgren particularly encourages the younger members to become involved in the various district functions.

Hallgren was instrumental in developing the LFA Annual Food-A-Thon program for seminarians and their families at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This will be the 20th year, where Hallgren along with many other district volunteers have spent weeks collecting food from Lutheran churches and schools from all over the state of Michigan. On July 17, 2006, three 26-foot trucks were loaded with food and paper products and taken to Concordia Theological Seminary. More than 17 tons of food and paper products were provided to the Seminary this year. The number of churches and schools participating in this worthy project continues to grow and now covers the entire state of Michigan.

This project involves GBU members of all ages . The youths in the Lutheran churches and schools help to solicit donations while members, including many senior citizens, collect the materials and donations. Once the collection process is complete, all willing volunteers, both young and old, sort and repack the materials, then finally load them into the delivery trucks. The LFA Annual Food-A-Thon program teaches youths the importance of fraternalism and helping others at an early age. The seniors especially enjoy the interaction of working with the young people.

Whenever District #1000 sponsors a fundraiser or an event, Hallgren is the first to give his time, talent and support. District #1000 has numerous events not only to support their self-funded scholarship program, but to support community projects and worthwhile causes, such as Special Education Ministries, community outreach programs, raising money to purchase socks and gloves for those in need, donating children's books, and giving to intramural sports programs that are sponsored by local area schools.

For the past 15 years, Hallgren voluntarily has served as the president of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Their mission is to perpetuate the Lutheran faith by translating, publishing and distributing confessional Lutheran theological books and materials worldwide.

At the Crown of Life Lutheran Church, where he is a member, Hallgren holds a number of different offices, such as Elder and Chairman of the Stewardship Committee. Additionally, he is a member of the President's Advisory Council at Concordia Theological Seminary, in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Fraternal MVPs are part of the NFCA's Fraternalists-in-Action program, which recognizes individuals whose unique stories best represent 21<sup>st</sup> Century fraternalism. These fraternalists demonstrate exceptional compassion and vision through their volunteer activities.

### **About Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh**

The Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh (GBU) was founded on April 13, 1892, by German immigrants that settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The purpose of its formation was to provide financial security, fraternalism and social activities to its members.

Today, GBU offers a wide variety of life insurance products, retirement savings programs and fraternal benefits to its members. GBU promotes German cultural activities and events, and encourages community and patriotic involvement. Charitable, recreational and social activities are developed and offered for the entire family. GBU encourages its members to perform charitable acts for their fellow members and communities. For more information, visit [www.gbu.org](http://www.gbu.org).

### **About the NFCA**

The 121-year-old NFCA unites 76 not-for-profit fraternal benefit societies operating in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. The association represents 10 million fraternalists in 37,000 local chapters, making it one of America's largest member-volunteer networks. Fraternal benefit societies provide their members with leadership, social, educational, spiritual, patriotic, scholarship, financial and volunteer-service opportunities. Combined, the NFCA's member-societies maintain more than \$324 billion of life insurance-in-force and, in 2005 alone, contributed almost \$400 million to charitable and fraternal programs, and volunteered 93 million hours for community-service projects. These statistics demonstrate the commitment that fraternalists make to those in need and exemplify the true meaning of the NFCA signature phrase: *Joining Hands to Touch Lives*. For more information, visit the NFCA's Web site at [www.nfcenet.org](http://www.nfcenet.org).

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