



## **Erik Torch Joins Northland Foundation as Grant Program Manager**

(January 2009)

The Northland Foundation is pleased to announce that Erik Torch has been hired as Grant Program Manager. Beginning March 2, 2009 Torch will assume the position recently vacated by Mary Robillard, who retired in November after more than a dozen years with the Northland Foundation.

Torch has worked for the Damiano Center in Duluth for the past six years, serving as executive director for the past three. Previously, he spent five years developing and supporting justice and peace-building programs in the former Yugoslavia and Southeast Asia.

Torch received a Masters in Social Work from the University of Minnesota Duluth in 2005 and also holds a bachelors degree in Outdoor Education from Northland College.

He will oversee the Foundation's Grant Program which last year awarded more than \$1.5 million in funding to nonprofit organizations located in the seven-county region of northeastern Minnesota. Priority areas for grant giving include Children and Youth/Strengthening Families, Aging with Independence, and Opportunities for Self-Reliance. For more information, visit [www.northlandfdn.org/Grants](http://www.northlandfdn.org/Grants).

"Erik has lived the daily challenges of managing and funding a nonprofit organization. His experience and understanding will serve both the Northland Foundation and the region very well," stated the Foundation's President, Tom Renier.

The Northland Foundation was established in 1986 and has awarded more than 2,700 grants totaling over \$20 million in that time.



*Building a Strong Foundation for the Future of Our Region*

610 Sellwood Building ▪ 202 West Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802 ▪ 218.723.4040 ▪ 800.433.4045 ▪ f. 218.723.4048 ▪ [www.northlandfdn.org](http://www.northlandfdn.org)