



Strengthening the Brown County community by bridging relationships of understanding and communication.

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bridge Builder of the Year Award goes to . . .

On Thursday, November 17, Clarice Platz, Director of the Bridging Brown County Organization welcomed 143 guests to the 8th Annual Networking Dinner held at the Hope & Healing Center in New Ulm. Following a brief history of the organization Director Platz introduced Board Advisor, Jerry Bentz. Jerry was honored to present the Bridge Builder of the Year Award.

Mr. Bentz started out his presentation -- “This person has a habit of gathering mushrooms in the spring and ginseng in the fall. This person operates a river boat on the Minnesota River. This person enjoys feeding the wildlife during the winter months. This person served on various commissions, boards, and committees in Brown County as well as Local and Regional Community Boards to include Townships, and Region Nine. The person also enjoys participating in various Community Parades and Celebrations.

At this time, I would ask the BBC Board Chairman Mark Swift to escort the recipient of the 2011 Bridge Builder of the Year Award, Frederick Juni and his wife Phyllis, to the podium to receive his award.

Fred, we all know that you like to converse with many people and that you have an opinion on almost every issue and some of those opinions are even good. Now let’s hear what Fred has really been doing in the County of Brown, State of Minnesota... Fred has been involved in the following venues: Brown County Economic Development Advisory Committee and Partner Board of Directors; Region Nine Development Commission Budget, Personnel, and Strategic Planning; Board of Directors of the Community Co-op & River Region Co-op (for 27 years); Milford Township Board; Board member of Brown County Rural Electric; Brown County Fair Board and the Demolition Derby Committee (which was his favorite event!); Essig Sewer Project; Essig Centennial Committee; Essig Ball Park, Board member of the Brown County FSA Dept of Agriculture and the 150th Anniversary of the 1862 Sioux Uprising Celebration that will take place in 2012.

Following the Award presentation, Ed Bryce of Springfield called a live auction of donated items from Brown County businesses and supporters. The auction brought in \$2,879 for Bridging Brown County to continue their work. BBC also received over \$619 in tips and donations to sponsor the Beyond The Yellow Ribbon Scholarship Program for the 9-month BBC Leadership Program.