



New Programs Recognize Contributors

by James E. Kostrava

Beginning in 1996, Mackinac Center contributors will be recognized for their support by two new designations—*member* and *ambassador*. Members and ambassadors will also be distinguished by inclusion in special giving societies which honor them for their annual and lifetime cumulative gifts.

Membership is something new to Mackinac Center contributors. For a long time, dedicated Center investors have had a strong bond with the Center and have rightly felt that their role was larger than mere financial giving. Contributors have always been part of the Mackinac Center team, helping to advance free markets, limited government, and respect for private property. The new membership designation formalizes that implicit partnership. Individual contributors are now encouraged to become *members* of the Center by making an annual gift of at least \$100.

Those members who leverage their monetary investment by taking additional steps to forward the mission of the Center are eligible to become Mackinac Center *ambassadors*. These steps may include encouraging others to join and support the Center; being part of an informal “eyes and ears” network that alerts the Center to issues that affect our communities and businesses; or occasional get-togethers with other ambassadors to discuss policy issues and help the Center be the most respected and influential source of public policy research, analysis, and education in Michigan.

Each current Mackinac Center contributor will have the opportunity to become a member and an ambassador in 1996.

Special giving societies will recognize all members for both their annual and lifetime cumulative gifts to the Center. Annual giving societies are

Member: Individuals who contribute \$100 or more, but less than \$500 per year.

Leadership Council: Individuals who contribute \$500 or more, but less than \$1,000 per year.

President's Council: Individuals who contribute \$1,000 or more, but less than \$10,000 per year.

1851 Society: Individuals who contribute \$10,000 or more per year.

The **1851 Society** is the Center's most prestigious annual giving society, and the name itself has special significance. In 1851, a new Michigan Constitution was enacted. It had been amended the previous year by popular vote to include, “*the State shall not subscribe to or be interested in the stock of any company, association, or corporation,*” and also “*the State shall not be a party to or interested in any work of internal improvement, nor engaged in carrying on any such work, except in the expenditure of grants to the State of land or other property.*” This society honors those who believe, as the Michigan voters did in 1851, that the government which governs least governs best.

Many members make significant investments in the work of the Center over a period of years. They are honored by these cumulative giving societies.

Stone Bridge Society:

For contributors whose total lifetime contributions to the Mackinac Center exceed \$10,000, but are less than \$50,000.

Great Lakes Society:

For contributors whose total lifetime contributions to the Mackinac Center exceed \$50,000, but are less than \$100,000.

Charter Society:

For contributors whose total lifetime contributions to the Center exceed \$100,000.

Legacy Society:

Recognition for individual contributors who have created bequests, other revocable forms of gifts, and gifts of life insurance to the Mackinac Center.

The new member and ambassador designations and the giving societies recognize the personal commitment of Mackinac Center contributors to a free and prosperous Michigan.

The Mackinac Center also has major and planned giving programs. If you would like a copy of your Mackinac Center giving history or more information on other ways you may support the Mackinac Center, please contact James Kostrava in the Office of Development at (517) 631-0900. ■