

## The MAVA Award for Excellence in Volunteer Leadership

***Jay Haapala, Minnesota Children's Museum***

This award recognizes an individual who has made a superior contribution to furthering the culture and climate for professional volunteerism in Minnesota. The recipient, through his or her personal model, exemplifies the ideals of selfless contribution to community that professional volunteer administration nurtures.



Jay Haapala, Haley Buenzli and Joe Olson of the Minnesota Children's Museum

Jay Haapala is the Volunteer Manager at the Minnesota Children's Museum. Jay has an extraordinary commitment to advancing the cause of volunteerism in the state of Minnesota. Poised to assume the presidency of MAVA, Jay is no stranger to volunteerism. His own authentic commitment to serving his community begins as a member of the Conservation Corps and as a High School Lacrosse Coach. In his time at the Children's Museum, Jay has more than doubled the number of volunteers in the program and tripled hours of service annually. In addition, Jay launched the museum's AmeriCorps VISTA program, now in its third year, initiated to build youth engagement at MCM. Jay's leadership includes his penchant for learning and growing his own skills. He has taken full advantage of training and enrichment offerings and co-founded the Museum Volunteer Professionals (MVP) network, a collaborative of cultural institutions who meet to discuss volunteer engagement issues relevant to their professional field. A staff member at MCM says, "Jay's leadership and vision for volunteerism has guaranteed that the museum has a robust team of dedicated, qualified and energetic volunteers. As a leader of volunteers, he's been an inspiration and has been a tremendous person to learn from."

*Inspiring excellence in the leadership of volunteers to impact communities.*