

# 19TH ANNUAL BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATE THE DREAM 2009

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

## Our Speaker

### PAUL RUSESABAGINA

For two months of his life, Paul Rusesabagina held insanity at bay as he watched his country fall into the grips of genocide in 1994. A Hutu manager of a luxury hotel in Rwanda, he sheltered over 1,200 people, including his own Tutsi wife and children, saving their lives at a time when extremists massacred more than 800,000 members of the Tutsi and moderate Hutu tribes in just 100 days.

Considered the "Rwandan Schindler," his wrenching story and that of the genocide is chronicled in the critically acclaimed film, *Hotel Rwanda*, a riveting account of a man finding courage within himself to save others in the midst of his country's darkest moment.

When Rwanda descended into madness, Rusesabagina took action. A fastidious, crafty, and yet highly principled businessman, he resorted to desperate tactics. While militants threatened and surrounded the well-groomed grounds of the hotel, he spent hours on the phone, pleading with influential leaders, his international connections his only defense against attack. He bartered luxury items such as money, gold, cigars, and aged bottles of wine he hoarded in his hotel, for the lives of strangers seeking refuge in the chaos. Miraculously, no one who housed at his hotel died.

As the world turned its back on the horrific tragedy, Rusesabagina was one man who saved few among the many lost. Now, through emotionally stirring words, he shares his story first-hand, in hopes that future events of this type can be prevented. "I hope this will be a wake-up call, not only for Rwanda but the whole international community," he said.



## The Performers

The Grammy Award-Winning

### SOUNDS OF BLACKNESS

Jazz, Blues, Spirituals, Rock & Roll - R&B, Gospel, Hip-Hop & Soul; these are the Grammy Award-Winning Sounds of Blackness, and this is your opportunity to experience the uniquely powerful inspiration, education and motivation of authentic African-American music.

Since 1971, Sounds of Blackness has taken audiences around the world on a musical journey through the history of African-American music.

Sounds of Blackness offer a wide variety of original concert productions and plays that are entertaining and educational for all audiences, and always present the music of the African-American experience with positive messages and lyrics.



## the Power of GIVING

**First Annual Power of Giving MLK Day of Service  
Saturday, January 17th, 2009, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

This year we have added the First Annual Power of Giving MLK Day of Service to our Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Celebrate the Dream" program. This day of service will honor the life and work of Dr. King by giving volunteers the opportunity to join together with other students, faculty, staff and community members to address important issues and needs in our community.

Dr. King believed in the power of service to strengthen our community and achieve common goals. Through his words and example, Dr. King challenged individuals to take action and lift up their neighbors and communities through service. In partnership with Target and Hands On Twin Cities, on Saturday, January 17th, 2009, volunteers will have the opportunity to unite and serve in our community by working with People Serving People, Simpson Housing Services, Bundles of Love and Arc of the Greater Twin Cities.

Dr. King inspired people to think beyond themselves, embrace differences and work toward equality. This year, honor and celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by volunteering to serve.

Contact Teja Crane to sign up by calling 612-659-6315 or email [teja.crane@minneapolis.edu](mailto:teja.crane@minneapolis.edu) or, register online at [www.mctcfoundation.org](http://www.mctcfoundation.org) and click on "Events."