

**Contact:**  
**Adelheid Koski**  
**612.202.7038**  
**sisteradelheid@icloud.com**

**For Immediate Release**

**Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association announces HNIA Awards!**

*Minneapolis, MN – April 1, 2014* - The Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association is pleased to announce that it has selected honorees for its annual recognition awards. Honorees will be recognized at the 2014 Hotdish Revolution event, on Sunday April 6, 2014, at The Cedars Hall at St. Maron Church (602 University Ave NE). While the event runs from 4-7 pm, it is anticipated that recognition will occur between 4:45 and 5:15 pm.

This year's honorees are as follows:

**The Tulip Award:** The Tulip Award is given to the organization or individual that has made a significant contribution to improvement of the Holland community over the past year. This year's recipient is the Center for Energy and the Environment (CEE). In 2013, CEE awarded local artist James Brenner the first annual Art as Energy grant for the NE Green Light Project sculpture, which was installed and unveiled in November 2013 at the SE corner of the Edison High School parking lot. The NE Green Light Project serves as a beacon to raise awareness regarding energy usage and conservation, and involves outreach efforts to spur the community to action in implementing eco-friendly practices in their homes, businesses, and daily lives. CEE has also partnered with HNIA to provide low-cost Home Energy Squad Enhanced visits for Holland residents' homes, is working with the Edison's Green Council to raise awareness about environmental issues amongst students and staff, and we are working to build a continuing CEE/HNIA relationship to create a more sustainable future for all our community!

**The Windmill Award:** The Windmill Award is given to an outstanding business. This year's recipient is the NorthEast Investment Cooperative (NEIC). Founded in 2011, NEIC through its cooperative structure, embodies the definition of community that HNIA values highly. With 200 local member-owners, NEIC worked to purchase two blighted commercial properties (2504 and 2506) at the key intersection of Lowry and Central Avenues NE, easing the path for fellow community-minded business Recovery Bike Shop to purchase the 2504 property which they have successfully renovated. NEIC is currently renovating the 2506 property and has secured two high-quality tenants, Aki's BreadHaus and Fair State Brewing Cooperative, both of which will be highly positive additions to the Central Avenue business corridor. NEIC will also be partnering with HNIA through HNIA's Medallion Public Arts Connector (MPAC) initiative in order to bring public art to Central Avenue, and to help continue the mission of MPAC in connecting local residents with local businesses in support of public arts and education!

**The Wooden Shoe Award:** The Wooden Shoe Award is given to the Holland neighbor of the year. We are pleased to announce that this year's Wooden Shoe recipient is Edison High School. When the HNIA Board was discussing who should be recognized as the "Neighbor of the Year" names of both staff and students from the Edison High School community continued to arise. Edison students and staff have participated in and supported Hotdish Revolution, the Holland small area planning process, the Lowry Avenue Community Advisory Team, co-host with HNIA the NE All Community and Schools BBQ, and have shown commitment to reaching out in ways that open the relationship between Edison's and Holland's greater communities. Edison leadership and staff have shown strong commitment to providing high quality educational and extra-curricular opportunities for students and community members through expanded community ed, facility upgrades, and innovative programming like the Edison Grow Lab – once again fulfilling its promise to Eastside families and residents. In addition, Edison staff has shown commitment to furthering values shared by HNIA – community involvement and building, environmental sustainability, and support of placemaking efforts that create beautiful spaces that can be enjoyed by all the community.

###