

Charles E. Crowley '70
Fredrick Urbaska Civic Service Award

Charles E. Crowley, your alma mater welcomes you home to celebrate your life of service to the communities in which you have lived. Service — and a commitment to improving the lives of the disadvantaged — was clearly in your genes, passed down from your mother, Dorothy, who spent 20 years as a juvenile probation officer and a lifelong career in social service. You bounced around a good bit while growing up, coming to Wabash from Huron, South Dakota, with stops in Seattle, Denver, and Michigan City along the way. You majored in psychology and remain to this day a very proud member of Tau Kappa Epsilon. After graduating in 1970, you traveled the country with your TKE brothers, and you remain passionate about hiking, climbing, traveling, and exploring. After a tour of duty in Vietnam, you would eventually settle in Minneapolis, where you would begin your social service career as a counselor and veteran's coordinator at the Twin Cities Opportunities Industrialization Center, a vocational training program for unemployed, economically disadvantaged adults. It was there you found your calling, and you would serve that organization as a training manager for 24 years. In 1997, you were named the executive director of the Urban Communities Association of Minneapolis, a small, but mighty program that serves refugees, the homeless, single parents, and the elderly in cooperation with the Lutheran Church and Augsburg College. UCAM offers language learning skills, childcare, and a range of nursing home and wellness programs that provide all individuals with a level of human dignity. You founded and helped develop Twin Cities Community Voice Mail, which provides voice mailboxes for 40,000 homeless people searching for jobs. In 2006, you received the Twin Cities Regional Adult Volunteer Excellence Award for your volunteerism, which includes Central Lutheran's Safe Waiting Area, Central Minneapolis Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association, Central Lutheran Church Reading Partners Program, Soul Academy Charter School, and, of course, WABASH Day. A year later, in 2007, you were called to become Executive Director of Metro Work Center, Inc. This position seems a perfect capstone for your remarkable career since you provide employment opportunities, life skills development support, community integration, and recreation activities for adults with developmental disabilities so that they can function with dignity in your community. Chuck, we ask our students to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely, and we could do no better than to hold you up as an example of an alumnus whose calling is in perfect harmony with the College's mission. Therefore, it is with great pride that the National Association of Wabash Men presents you the Fredrick J. Urbaska Civic Service Award. Charles E. Crowley — Some Little Giant!