

## MEDIA ADVISORY



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

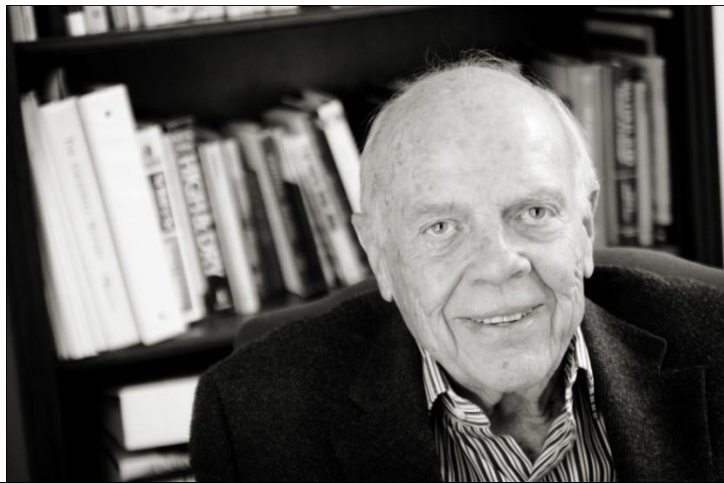


Photo by Amy Zellmer, Custom Creations Photography

Mr. Wheelock Whitney, a Minneapolis businessman, educator, sports team executive and owner, politician, racehorse owner and philanthropist will be honored on March 6, 2011 by the Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (MOFAS) at its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit. Mr. Wheelock will be recognized for his dedication and commitment to the field of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

Throughout the years, as one evaluates the history of Minnesota, Wheelock has left an immeasurable footprint in many areas, from professional sports to substance abuse. He and his first wife, Irene, created the Johnson Institute which for the past 43 years has pioneered many of the intervention and training tools used across the country today to help people find hope and healing from their problems with alcohol and substance abuse. In 1998, he co-founded MOFAS along with his friend, former First Lady Susan Carlson, and still remains an active MOFAS Board member; lending his credibility, financial support and considerable energy to overcome the stigmatization associated with this disability and work on the prevention of prenatal alcohol exposure.

“When you look at the history of Minnesota, you’ll find several handfuls of exceptional individuals that made such remarkable contributions. Wheelock Whitney is such a person,” says Governor Arne Carlson about his former advisor. “I’ve never met a person more involved and more passionate about more things than Wheelock.”

Whitney still bubbles with zest for life, and enjoys spending time with his family including wife, Kathleen Blatz, former Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, traveling, playing golf and enjoying his horses.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit for MOFAS is on Sunday, March 6, 2011 and is open to the public. Tickets are \$125 and \$75 each and include a Private Reception at Solera Restaurant with a Spanish-inspired appetizer buffet, cash bar and performance of HAIR at the Orpheum Theater. Both silent and live auction items will be available at the Reception for bidding. MOFAS is the only statewide source for trainings, information, resources and support on FASD. The mission of MOFAS is to eliminate disability caused by alcohol consumption during pregnancy and to improve the life for those living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders throughout Minnesota. For more information contact MOFAS at 651-917-2370 or toll-free 1-866-90-MOFAS (66327); 1885 University Avenue, Suite 395, St. Paul, MN 55104; [www.mofas.org](http://www.mofas.org).