

Fairview

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Fairview honors “Chairman Emeritus” Richard Ostlund’s service to its Board of Directors

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Richard Ostlund’s distinguished tenure on Fairview’s Board of Directors, where he has served since 2013 – including his leadership as Board Chair since 2019 – concluded in December 2024. Ostlund’s decade of service to Fairview was marked by invaluable guidance, leading Fairview to become a “skills based” board beginning in 2015 and was shaped by his dedicated service to pediatric and adult healthcare. Ostlund’s extensive experience brought to the Board over 40 years advising boards and senior executives as an attorney, as a director of multiple national and multi-national companies, and a national author for the American Bar Association (ABA) on fiduciary duties.

“I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Rich for his outstanding service and unwavering dedication to Fairview’s mission to provide high-quality and innovative healthcare,” said Fairview CEO and President James Hereford. “Rich’s visionary leadership and strategic insight have played an integral role in our ongoing journey to strengthen, innovate, and advance our organization. It’s been a privilege working with him, and I wish him all the best in his next chapter.”

During his tenure at Fairview, Ostlund played a pivotal role in transformative moments for the organization including forging new strategic partnerships, navigating a global pandemic and its associated challenges, and guiding Fairview back to financial stability and profitability in 2024. The organization has continued to demonstrate upward momentum across key organizational metrics and rank amongst the Twin Cities top hospitals, including the longest running top-ranked children’s hospital in the region. Under his leadership, Fairview’s Board also became among the first to establish a permanent Health Equity Committee.

In recognition of his service, the Board of Directors has named Ostlund as Fairview’s first-ever “Emeritus Chair of the Board” and has also dedicated the boardroom in Fairview’s corporate headquarters in his honor as the “Richard T. Ostlund Boardroom.”

“It has been an incredible honor to serve on the board of Fairview and work closely with my fellow board members – from across Minnesota and the nation, all with specialized skills – to advocate for our patients, doctors, nurses, and all team-members in our complex, \$7 billion dollar health system,” said Ostlund. “Together, we’ve achieved remarkable milestones that will shape the future of healthcare in Minnesota, while guiding Fairview’s return to financial health following the pandemic. Generations to come will benefit from the work of our more than 34,000 team members across Fairview, with whom I have been so fortunate to serve.”

In addition to his work with Fairview, Ostlund has been named a Life Trustee of the University of Minnesota Foundation in 2024 after 26 years of service, and has been a Trustee of St. John’s University, and the Minnesota Medical Foundation among other organizations. He received his bachelor’s degree from St. John’s University and his juris doctor from the University of Minnesota. Ostlund is a founding partner of the Anthony Ostlund law firm in Minneapolis and has been selected as a Minnesota Attorney of

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the Year in 2009, 2022, and in 2024 – this year’s award, for service to the profession and the community on the basis of his work on behalf of the University of Minnesota and Fairview.

Fairview extends its heartfelt thanks to Ostlund for his years of service and contributions to the organization’s success.

About Fairview Health Services

Fairview Health Services ([fairview.org](https://www.fairview.org)) is a Minneapolis-based nonprofit health system driven to heal, discover and educate for longer, healthier lives. Founded in 1906, Fairview provides exceptional care to patients and communities as one of the most comprehensive and geographically accessible systems in Minnesota. Fairview has enjoyed a long partnership with the University of Minnesota and University of Minnesota Physicians, now represented in the M Health Fairview brand. Together, we offer access to breakthrough medical research and specialty expertise as part of a continuum of care that reaches all ages and health needs.

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November 12, 2024

Dr. Richard T Ostlund
90 South 7th Street, Suite 3600
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Rich,

It is our honor to write a letter of support for your nomination as Attorney of the Year through *Minnesota Lawyer*. As you conclude 16 years of active board service with the University of Minnesota Foundation (UMF) (and legacy Minnesota Medical Foundation) and transition to our highest retiring honor, Life Trustee, let us highlight some of your many contributions to the UMF.

Your extensive board service has most directly impacted three functions: children's health, University partnerships, and leadership at UMF.

Your engaged tenure began with the role of University of Minnesota Pediatrics Foundation Director and Board Chair. Your commitment to world class health care outcomes for children has been unwavering, including continuing your service as Director and Board Chair for what is now the M Health Fairview Masonic Children's Hospital Philanthropic Board. Additionally, your participation and leadership on the Children's Health Campaign and Adopt a Room Fund committees inspired other community leaders to generously support this top-ranked children's hospital.

In 2013, due to your high engagement and strategic leadership, University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler and Board of Regents Chair Dean Johnson appointed you to be the University's community representative on the Fairview Health Board of Directors. Your leadership ensured effective governance and a productive partnership between the University and Fairview, culminating in your election to Board Chair of Fairview in 2019. Other notable accomplishments include leading the Fairview board discussions regarding a proposed merger between children's hospitals, leading the negotiations of the M Health agreement to expand academic support to the University, as well as the governance and oversight you provided to the M Health Fairview Joint Clinical Enterprise.

Finally, you have provided long-tenured governance leadership to UMF. Prior to a merger between the University's two legacy foundations, you served as a Trustee of the Minnesota Medical Foundation from 2008 to 2013 and then continued your service with the University Minnesota Foundation through 2024. You represented the University's medicine and health

function on the hiring committee for University President Eric Kaler, who served eight years in his role. From 2018 to 2021, you led UMF's Committee on Trusteeship and set a five-year vision for the board to intentionally increase diversity across many demographics. This work led to increasing the board's racial and ethnic diversity from 14% in 2018 to 32% in 2025, and we are now at gender parity. Finally, you also served on the UMF Executive Committee, our most strategic governing body, for seven years.

Beyond the many gifts of time and talent you have given to UMF and to the University of Minnesota, you and Mary have been so generous with your treasure as well. The University and pediatric cardiovascular research have been enriched by your personal philanthropy. Your deep interest to fund groundbreaking research has allowed children with heart issues to live long and healthy lives.

Your most significant gift comes with a touching story that reminds us all why giving back is so meaningful to you. At four months of age, your granddaughter Summer was the 800th person to have a heart transplant at the University of Minnesota and was one of the youngest ever. You established the Summer's Wish Pediatric Cardiology Innovators Fund in her honor. Additionally, you have kept your family connected to the University of Minnesota, engaging future generations and inviting others in your network to philanthropically support research and patient care at the University of Minnesota.

Rich, your contributions to the University of Minnesota and University of Minnesota Foundation run broad and deep. When presented with the decision of your Life Trustee nomination, it's clear why it was a resounding 'yes' by our governance committee. *Minnesota Lawyer* has our highest recommendation for your nomination of Attorney of the Year.

With deep appreciation,



Kathleen Schmidlkofer
CEO and President, University of Minnesota Foundation

CC: Janel Dressen, CEO, Anthony Ostlund