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Minneapolis/ St. Paul Business Journal 40 Under Forty Honorees

Recognizing the region's up-and-coming business and community leaders

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[RETURN TO MAIN PAGE](#)

Tony Sorensen, 39

Partner/Co-founder

McKinley Group Inc.

Tony Sorensen and his partners launched their executive-search firm in the economic slump following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. "It was probably one of the toughest times in 12 years to be in the recruiting business," he recalled.

He maintained fast growth through tough times

Since then, however, Minnetonka-based McKinley Group, along with its affiliates in finance and information-technology consulting, has been included in the *Business Journal's* Fast 50 list three times and in 2007 and 2008 was on *Inc.* magazine's Inc. 5000 lists of fastest-growing companies.

And for 2009? "The year got off to a tough start, but we're optimistic that we'll hit the 5,000 list again this year," Sorensen said.

Sorensen, who started his executive-search career at Hayden & Associates, said he never tires of the fresh-start aspect of matching talent with business. “The best thing about it is the opportunity to help provide businesses with superior talent that they can’t find on their own and the satisfaction out of helping candidates find their next position,” he said.

Sorensen has been a longtime activist with the Minneapolis/St. Paul Chapter of the Entrepreneurs’ Organization, a global alliance of entrepreneurs and business leaders that includes the mentoring of young professionals as a primary focus.

Since adopting an infant girl from Korea last summer, Sorensen said he and his wife, Jill, also have become active as volunteers and donors with the St. Paul-based Children’s Home Society & Family Services and Brooklyn Park-based Feed My Starving Children.

“It’s a rewarding new involvement and we’ve met some extraordinary new friends as well,” he said. “There’s a lot to be done and it’s great to be part of it.”

— *David Hawley*

[Tony Sorensen's LinkedIn page](#)