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PHOTOS BY NANCY KUEHN

**MARY BRAINERD**  
PRESIDENT & CEO, HEALTHPARTNERS

## MINNEAPOLIS ST. PAUL BUSINESS JOURNAL EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR — 2007 —

She's CEO of one of the state's largest nonprofits, a leader in both the health care and health insurance industries.

She's also a self-proclaimed Diet Coke addict with a messy car.

Beyond that, Mary Brainerd is highly respected by colleagues and competitors alike, who describe her as a role model, a "straight forward, practical and impassioned leader" and an "incredible listener."

Named CEO of HealthPartners in 2002, Brainerd has since grown the company 60 percent, with 2005 revenue hitting \$2.6 billion. In the past year, she struck a major deal with national health plan Cigna Corp., boosting Health Partners' membership by at least 70,000.

She also has unveiled plans for a 10-story, \$150 million expansion and renovation project of Regions Hospital in St. Paul. Brainerd also works to foster an engaged and committed work environment, as evidenced by the company being named a Great Place to Work in 2006 by the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*.

Recognizing that a CEO's responsibilities go beyond the company, Brainerd serves on the boards of no less than 10 organizations, while participating in multiple fundraising efforts for Twin Cities cultural and civic nonprofits.

For her professional successes, community involvement and dedication to working toward a healthier tomorrow, The *Business Journal* honors Mary Brainerd, president and CEO of Bloomington-based HealthPartners, as our Executive of the year for 2007.

— **KIM JOHNSON** | ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR