

# Northfield HCI

The Northfield Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) was formed in 1992. Since its inception, HCI has not operated or managed its own programs. Instead, HCI works with community partners to foster collaboration and to support community-driven efforts that benefit all Northfield youth and families.

HCI is a coalition, run by a board of community leaders, youth, parents and school personnel. HCI contracts with one full-time and one half-time coordinator to assist with supporting youth development and community-building activities in Northfield.



## PARTNERS:

HCI thanks its generous donors for their ongoing support of the coalition's efforts.



Financial contributors to HCI include:  
*Northfield Area United Way, Northfield Hospital, Northfield Public Schools Community Services Division, Rice County Family Services Collaborative, Minnesota Department of Education, and the United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*

For more information about the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative:  
 Visit [www.northfieldhci.org](http://www.northfieldhci.org)  
 Call 507-664-3524  
 Email [info@northfieldhci.org](mailto:info@northfieldhci.org)

## HCI BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2007-08

Cathy Berger	Linda Oto
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## HCI SUPPORTED PROGRAMS

**Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes (TORCH):** This collaborative initiative strives to increase the graduation and postsecondary attendance rates of Northfield's Latino students through academic support, mentoring, career exploration, and college preparation.

**PRIMEtime After School Collaborative:** Through a grant from the State of Minnesota, this coalition works to provide Northfield youth in grades 4-12 with out-of-school opportunities. Over 250 local youth participate in the partnering after school programs, which include the Northfield Union of Youth/The Key, Middle School Youth Center, Summer Ventures Plus, Reaching Our Goals, and Club Latino/Aztec Dancing.

**Mentoring Coalition:** This group works to promote mentoring in the community and to pair youth looking for mentors (and adults wanting to be mentors) with the local mentoring programs that best match their interests and availability.

**\$25** million brought into Northfield for youth efforts over the past 5 years.

**\$11,000+** in local sports participation scholarships were awarded to low-income youth by the Youth Sports Collaborative in 2007.

**10,000** youth participated in activities supported by HCI mini grants over the past five years.

**4** years since the start of the TORCH program and the graduation rate for Northfield's Latino students has more than doubled.

**80%** of the youth in PRIMEtime after school programs report that being involved in the programs helps them do better in school.

**69%** increase in the number of Northfield youth with mentors since 2002.

**"2007 Red Wagon Award"** for youth civic engagement presented to the Northfield Skateboard Coalition by Governor Tim Pawlenty: the Coalition was one of three groups in the state to receive the award.

**"100 Best Communities for Young People"** award through the national America's Promise organization: the application was submitted by Northfield High School students in the Mayor's Youth Council.

### Promise Fellows:

Placed in the Northfield Middle and High Schools, two AmeriCorps members work one-on-one with 25 students each who have been identified as at-risk of not having academic success.

### Rice County Chemical Health Coalition:

This countywide effort is dedicated to reducing youth alcohol and drug use by implementing research-based best practice strategies. The Coalition works with law enforcement, medical and treatment providers, local schools, parents, youth, and community leaders.

### Mini-Grants:

HCI provides funding to annually support 50 youth civic engagement and intergenerational events/activities in the community.

### Youth Sports Collaborative:

A coalition of local youth sports organizations that works to increase participation in sports and provides scholarships to assure all young people – regardless of income – can take part in sports associations.

### Mayor's Youth Council:

This City Council-appointed commission of 15 high school juniors and seniors is charged with offering youth input to the Mayor, City Council, and City staff and to assure a youth voice in civic affairs.

### Rice County Safe Communities Coalition:

The goal of the coalition is to increase the use of safety restraints and reduce the number of traffic fatalities and serious injuries in Rice County.

### Parent Communication Network:

A network of community members that provides parent resources and education through a monthly e-letter and other communications.

### Youth Plus:

This intergenerational group of high school students and adult community members meets monthly to discuss local issues and plan intergenerational events in Northfield.

### Familias en Accion:

A networking group that is dedicated to improving the academic success of Northfield's Latino students and sponsors parenting and school connectedness events.



"On behalf of the Healthy Community Initiative Board, Coordinators and Volunteers, it is my privilege to present the HCI Report to the Community for 2008.

HCI continues to move forward in 2008, working collaboratively with city and county agencies to create

"As Co-Chair of the HCI Board, I see the positive impact we have on Northfield youth. It's great to give youth a voice and the chance to take part in making decisions."

*Mauricio Lozada  
 Youth Co-Chair,  
 HCI Board*

a safe, healthy environment that fosters community engagement for all youth.

Two examples of the impact of youth involvement are reflected in the national and state recognition the Northfield community has received. They are the 2007 Red Wagon Award from the Minnesota Alliance with Youth and the 100 Best Communities for Young People award from America's Promise Alliance.

Through the valuable support of collaborative partners, volunteers and donors, HCI is dedicated to continue working with youth and the community. Thank you to all who have contributed to HCI's success."

*Linda Oto  
 Co-Chair, HCI Board*