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.

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 supports 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 collaborative works to provide Northfield youth in grades 4-12 with after-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.

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.

Rice County Chemical Health Coalition: This community 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 youth civic engagement and intergenerational events/activities in the community.

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
Call 507-644-3524
Email info@northfieldhci.org

HCi Board Members for 2007-08

Cathy Berger
Linda Otto
Beth Berry
Hannah Puczkow
Jim Blaha
Scott Richardson
Sam Estenson
Joy Riggins
Barb Farmer
Al Roder
Penny Hilleman
Shari Schreck
Bob Kay
Marnie Thompson
Mauricio Lozada
Laura Velasquez
Anne Meyer Ruppell
Lynn Vincent
Mary Nelson

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 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.

Mauricio Lozada
Youth Co-Chair, HCI Board

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.

Linda Otto
Co-Chair, HCI Board