



Helping grow ideas.

Supporting safe, chemical-free events.

Bringing adults and youth together.

Recognizing positive influences on youth.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Working to build the capacity of the community to nurture youth.

Supporting positive youth development.

Reaching goals. Strengthening relationships.

NORTHFIELD HEALTHY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

History

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 and parents. HCI employs one full-time and one half-time coordinator to assist with supporting youth development and community-building activities in Northfield.

As its mission, HCI works to promote an environment that strengthens the networks of support that will nurture competent, caring and principled youth.

This Year's Highlights

HCI has been a part of the Northfield community for more than 16 years and continues to collaborate with partners to support youth efforts in the community.

Among HCI's notable accomplishments over the past year:

- * Northfield was named one of the "100 Best Communities for Young People" through the national America's Promise organization.
- * HCI awarded 56 mini-grants to local projects to benefit youth.
- * 1,169 local youth (unduplicated) participated in a local after school or summer program through the PRIMEtime collaborative.
- * 75% of PRIMEtime students saw improvement in their standardized test scores last year.



- * 200+ youth had mentors through one of Northfield's mentoring agencies.
- * 14 seniors in the Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes (TORCH) graduation initiative completed high school last spring.
- * 21 high school students served as PRIMEtime or PLUS Service Fellows last year, volunteering over 3,000 hours combined to help younger children.
- * Eight HCI "Making a Difference" awards were given to local individuals/groups that positively impact youth.
- * \$25,000 in sports participation scholarships were awarded to 275+ low-income youth through the Northfield Youth Sports Collaborative.
- * The Skateboard Coalition raised over \$30,000 for a new youth-designed skate plaza.
- * Over the past six years, HCI has helped bring in **over \$3 million** to the Northfield community from outside sources to support youth efforts.



ANNUAL
REPORT
TO THE
COMMUNITY
2009

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 and low-income students through academic support, mentoring, career exploration, and college preparation.

PRIMEtime After School Collaborative:

Through a two-year grant from the Minnesota Department of Education, this coalition works to provide Northfield youth in grades K-12 with free out-of-school enrichment opportunities.

Mentoring Coalition:

This group of local mentoring agencies and youth advocates works to promote mentoring in the community and to pair young people looking for mentors (and adults wanting to be mentors) with the local mentoring programs that best match their interests and availability.

Promise Fellows:

Placed in the Northfield Middle and High Schools, two AmeriCorps members work one-on-one with 25-30 students each who have been identified as being at-risk of not having academic success.



Rice County Chemical Health Coalition:

This collaborative of over 40 partners 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.

Mayor's Youth Council:

A City Council-appointed commission of 15 high school juniors and seniors offers youth input to the Mayor, City Council and City staff and guarantees a youth voice in civic affairs.

Youth Micro-Grants:

In partnership with the Northfield Union of Youth, HCI provides funding and mentoring to support youth efforts to start their own entrepreneurial projects.

Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use (MTF):

A City Council-appointed commission of local citizens, the MTF works to raise community awareness around youth substance use and advocates for changes to help reduce youth use.

Skateboard Coalition:

Meeting weekly, this group of local youth skateboarders and advocates is raising funds to support the development of a skateboard plaza in Northfield. They also develop and lead service-learning projects.

Collaborative Ventures

Familias en Accion:

A networking group dedicated to improving the academic success of Northfield's Latino students, Familias promotes and sponsors parenting and school connectedness events for Latino families.



Mini-Grants:

Annually, HCI provides funding to support 50 youth civic engagement and intergenerational activities in the community.

Parent Communication Network (PCN):

The PCN provides resources and education to support parents of teens, including educational mailings, a monthly newsletter of parenting information, and student telephone directories at the middle and high schools.

Youth Sports Collaborative:

This coalition of local youth sports organizations works to increase participation in sports and to provide scholarships to ensure all young people - regardless of income - can take part in sports associations.

Resource Libraries:

Lending libraries have been established in all public schools and St. Dominic Catholic School to provide parent education materials to the families of the community.

Making a Difference Award:

In collaboration with the Northfield News, HCI helps to recognize individuals and groups that make positive impacts on local young people.



Letter from the co-chairs

HCI continues to be a catalyst for youth development in Northfield as illustrated by the depth and breadth of initiatives profiled in this report. We have had a busy and productive year managing funding from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Minnesota Department of Education After School Grant. These have resulted in area agencies being able to implement extraordinary opportunities for youth and families in the Northfield area. A few of these include:

† 1,169 students in grades K-12 were involved in free out-of-school-time enrichment programs during the past year, including a fabulous seven-week program during the summer months.

† HCI continues to be involved with initiatives to address issues related to substance abuse in our community, focusing on education, prevention and intervention.

† We have also encouraged youth leadership, as evidenced by the Mayor's Youth Council, Skateboard Coalition and youth serving in various leadership capacities in Northfield and at the state level.

We are very grateful for the tremendous amount of engagement and commitment we have received from the community in our efforts. Through the ongoing collaborative support of partners, volunteers, mentors and donors, HCI will continue to work to promote asset-building with our youth and families of Northfield.

With thanks and gratitude,

Mamie Thompson
HCI Co-Chair

Cathy Berger
HCI Co-Chair



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**

Minnesota Department of Education

Rice County Family Services Collaborative

**United States Substance Abuse and
Mental Health Services Administration**

For more information about the
NORTHFIELD HEALTHY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Visit	www.northfieldhci.org
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HCI Board Members for 2008-2009

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