

# HCI Report to the Community

# 2010

*northfield healthy community initiative*

## History

The Northfield Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) was formed in 1992. Since its inception, HCI has never 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 employs one full-time and one-half time coordinator to assist with supporting youth development and community-building activities in Northfield.

The work of HCI is guided by the youth asset-building efforts of the Search Institute.

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

## 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, and the United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

**Northfield Healthy Community Initiative**

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## HCI Board Members for 2009-10

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*HCI Coordinators*

Jordan Taylor

*AmeriCorps*

*Promise Fellow*

# This Year's Highlights

HCI has been a part of the Northfield community for 17 years and continues to collaborate with partners to support *youth efforts in the community.*

## Among the notable accomplishments over the past year:

- "Take It to The Box" medication disposal program was launched in Rice County. More than 600 pounds of prescription and over-the-counter medications were collected and disposed!
- Search Institute selected Northfield as one of two pilot communities in the nation for its new Sparks initiative. The project works to identify and support the interests of youth in the community.
- HCI received the "Outstanding Organization Award" for collaborative work with youth programming from the Minnesota Community Education Association.
- 1,318 local youth (unduplicated) participated in free local after school and/or summer programming through the PRIMEtime collaborative.
- Ten "Making a Difference" awards were given to local individuals/groups that work to benefit youth.
- \$23,000 in sports participation scholarships were awarded to over 200 low-income youth through the Northfield Youth Sports Collaborative.

**Over the past seven years, HCI has helped bring in over \$3 million in grant funds from sources outside the community to support Northfield youth efforts.**



26 Northfield seniors graduated high school last spring through the Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes (TORCH) graduation initiative.

## HCI-Supported Initiatives



**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 in grades 6-12 through academic support, mentoring, career exploration, and college preparation.

**PRIMEtime After School Collaborative:** This coalition works to provide low-income and at-risk Northfield youth in grades K-12 with free after school and summer programs.

**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.

**Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use:** A City Council-appointed commission of local citizens, this group works to raise community awareness around youth substance use and to advocate for changes to help reduce youth use.

**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 at-risk of not having academic success. Two other Fellows work with youth in community settings on service-learning and civic engagement activities.

**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 works to guarantee 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.

**Rice County Chemical Health Coalition:** This collaborative of over 50 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.



## Collaborative Ventures

**Mini-Grants:** Annually, HCI provides funding to support over 50 youth civic engagement and intergenerational events/activities in the community.

**Parent Communication Network (PCN):** The PCN provides resources and education to support parents of teens, including educational mailings and student telephone directories at the middle and high schools.

**Rural Hospital Flex Grant:** Funding to the Northfield Hospital from the Minnesota Department of Health has helped to raise community awareness about substance use, particularly heroin/opiate abuse. Trainings have been provided to local medical professionals, youth, school staff, and community members on addiction, opiate abuse, and available community resources.

**Take It to The Box:** HCI has partnered on the establishment of medication disposal boxes in the lobbies of the Northfield and Faribault Police Stations.

**Resource Libraries:** Lending libraries established in all public schools and St. Dominics Catholic School provide parent education materials to local families.

**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.

**Sparks:** Through a pilot project with the Search Institute, HCI is supporting the launch of the Sparks project in Northfield, helping young people identify the activities and interests that "light a fire" inside them.

**Youth Sports Collaborative:** This coalition of local youth sports organizations works to increase participation in sports and provide scholarships to assure all young people – regardless of income – can take part in sports associations.

