For almost 20 years, the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) has made a difference in the community. HCI’s unique ability to foster collaboration makes us a vital partner in the field of youth development. Some of our recent successes include:

Sparks Initiative – We worked with the Search Institute to launch the Sparks program, which allows youth to identify what “sparks,” or passion, that keeps them connected. For example, a group of 9th graders recently visited various Northfield employers to explore their areas of interest.

Service Learning Class – Together, we worked with the high school service learning program to help turn students’ ideas into reality. Students worked in groups to develop mini-grant proposals, had them reviewed by HCI board members, made adjustments, assessed each others’ proposals, and provided feedback. The students then implemented their projects to make Northfield and the wider world a better place to live.

Rice County Chemical Health Coalition – We continue to provide staff support of this coalition, which offers resources and tools to support and educate the community on issues related to youth alcohol and drug use. We continually work to find new ways to deal with this difficult issue.

HCI cannot do this valiant work alone. It takes many organisations, agencies, volunteers, supporters, and funders to make this initiative stand out as a leader in community collaboration. We are thrilled by this commitment and the ongoing passion in Northfield for ensuring that our youth thrive and find success in their lives.

Thank you,
Nancy Hagland & Lily O’Hara-Brantner
HCI Board Co-Chairs, 2010-11

HISTORY

Poised in 1992, the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) works with community partners to foster collaboration and to support community-driven efforts that benefit Northfield youth and families. The work of HCI is guided by the youth asset-building efforts of the Search Institute.

HCI is a coalition, run by a board of community leaders, youth, parents and school representatives.

The power of the HCI initiative in Northfield is the rare ability to bring together all the key community institutions and agencies to focus on articulating the needs of our community’s youth and adults. HCI then helps plan and successfully implement creative solutions that have a real and positive impact on people in our community.

“...”

2010 Outstanding Organization Award
from the Minnesota Community Education Association

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HCl-SUPPORTED COLLABORATIONS

Take It to The Box
Modification disposal boxes in the lobbies of the Northfield Police and Fire stations and at 24 hours per day. 7 days per week.
- Over 5,000 pounds of medication collected in program’s first 18 months

Mayor’s Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use
A city council-appointed commission of local citizens working to raise community awareness around youth substance use.
- Launched Middle School MOST (Mentoring Opportunities for Student Transition) Campaign
- Established a local halfway house
- Developed local treatment system for communities and those addicted to heroin/opiates
- Provided training to over 200 school personnel
- 285 education, 1,000 youth, and 850 community members

Growing Up Healthy
Coalition works to increase the community connectedness of marginalized families in Rice County.
- Supported and implemented low-income families of those low-income neighborhoods

Rice County Chemical Health Coalition
Collaboration of 8 partners dedicated to systems changes to reduce youth alcohol and drug use.
- High school graduation
- 12th grade kids, 18 months

Mayor’s Youth Council
A City Council-appointed commission of 16 high school juniors and seniors that offers youth input to the Mayor, City Council and City staff.
- Works as an arm of the City of Northfield and is one of the “100 Best Communities for Young People”
- Youth Sports Collaborative
 Coalition works to assure all young people—regardless of income—can take part in local sports associations
- Awarded 868 scholarships over the past six years

Mentoring Coalition
Recruits and commits adult volunteers and youth with local mentoring programs
- Over 900 mentors and mentees

PRIMEtime After School Collaborative
Coalition that works to provide low-income and at-risk Northfield youth in grades K-12 with free after school and summer enrichment programs
- 854 youth participating in PRIMEtime programs last year
- 98% of frequent attenders improve their standardized test scores
- School attendance for participating youth increased by 40%
HC1 PROVIDES SUPPORT & RECOGNITION

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

• Over 5,000 LOCAL YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN THREE EVENTS LAST YEAR.

Making a Difference Award
In collaboration with the ScrubHub News, HCI helps recognize individuals and groups that make positive impacts on local young people.

• More than 58 INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS HAVE BEEN HONORED.

Sparks
Through a pilot 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.

• NORTHFIELD IS ONE OF TWO PILOT SITES IN THE NATION FOR THIS PROJECT.

Promise Fellows
Four full-time AmeriCorps members work one-on-one with students who have been identified as at-risk of not having academic success.

• Fellows worked individually with over 180 Northfield youth last year.

Grant Writing
HC1 provides grant writing support to collaborative projects that benefit Northfield youth.

• OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, HC1 HAS HELPED BRING IN NEARLY $4 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDS FROM AGENCIES OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT NORTHFIELD YOUTH Efforts.

HC1 BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2010-11

Rey Andrade
Beth Berry
Jim Blaha
Barry Carlson
Barb Farmer
Gabby Frensted
* Nancy Hegland

Penny Hilleman
Bob Kell
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Marina Thompson
Simon Tyler
Lynn Vincent
*co-chair

STAFF
Zach Pruitt
Amy Lundersby
Director
Mini-Grant Coordinator

Jordan Taylor
AmeriCorps Promise Fellow

PARTNERS

HC1 thanks its generous donors for their ongoing support of the coalition’s efforts.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO HCI INCLUDES:

Northfield Area United Way
Northfield Hospital & Clinics
Northfield Public Schools Community Services Division
Rice County Family Services Collaborative
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
WINGS and Carlson Capital Management (mini-grants program)