



NORTHFIELD
healthy community initiative

HCI

report to the
community
2011

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 that “spark,” 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 recommendations for funding. 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 valuable work alone. It takes many organizations, 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 Hegland & Lily O'Hara-Brantner
HCI Board Co-Chairs, 2010-11



HISTORY

Formed 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.

HCI received the statewide
2010 Outstanding Organization Award
from the Minnesota Community Education Association.

“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.”

L. Chris Richardson, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Northfield Public Schools

HCI-SUPPORTED COLLABORATIONS

HCI provides staffing and organizational support to the following collaborative initiatives:

Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes (TORCH)

Collaborative to increase the graduation and postsecondary attendance rates of Northfield's Latino and low-income students in grades 6-12

- GRADUATION RATE FOR NORTHFIELD LATINO YOUTH HAS CLIMBED FROM **36%** TO OVER **90%**
- **87 TORCH** GRADUATES ARE NOW ENROLLED IN COLLEGE
- OVER **85%** OF **TORCH** YOUTH DEMONSTRATED ACADEMIC GAINS LAST YEAR



Take It to The Box

Medication disposal boxes in the lobbies of the Northfield and Faribault Police Stations open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week

- OVER **3,000 POUNDS** OF MEDICATION COLLECTED IN PROGRAM'S FIRST **15 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

- LED THE MIDDLE SCHOOL **MOST** CAMPAIGN
- DESIGNED AND IMPLEMENTED **"TALK, LISTEN, CONNECT"** PARENT EDUCATION CAMPAIGN
- COORDINATED **PARENT RESOURCE DIRECTORIES**



Growing Up Healthy

Coalition works to increase the community connectedness of marginalized families in Rice County

- SUPPORTED NEIGHBORHOOD LEADER TEAMS IN THREE LOW-INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS



Rice County Chemical Health Coalition

Collaborative of 50+ partners dedicated to systems changes to reduce youth alcohol and drug use

- SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE ADOPTION
- SCHOOL CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENTS
- DEVELOPMENT OF A LOCAL HALFWAY HOUSE
- ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR ADOLESCENTS AND THOSE ADDICTED TO HEROIN/OPIATES
- PROVIDED TRAINING TO OVER **200** MEDICAL PROVIDERS, **225** EDUCATORS, **1,000** YOUTH, AND **550** COMMUNITY MEMBERS LAST YEAR



"If it wasn't for the PRIMEtime programs, I would have bad grades because I can't go one day without asking questions about my homework because my mom can't help answer all of them."

7th grade student presenting to Northfield School Board

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

- WROTE APPLICATION TO HAVE NORTHFIELD NAMED AS 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 connects adult volunteers and youth with local mentoring programs

- THE NUMBER OF NORTHFIELD YOUTH WITH MENTORS HAS INCREASED BY **83%** SINCE **2002**.



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

- **934** YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN PRIMEtime PROGRAMS LAST YEAR
- **95%** OF FREQUENT ATTENDEES IMPROVED THEIR STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES
- SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR PARTICIPATING YOUTH INCREASED **40%**

HCI 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 THESE EVENTS LAST YEAR.

Making a Difference Award

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

- MORE THAN **35** 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 **120** NORTHFIELD YOUTH LAST YEAR.

Grant Writing

HCI provides grant writing support to collaborative projects that benefit Northfield youth.

- OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, **HCI** HAS HELPED BRING IN NEARLY **\$4 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDS** FROM SOURCES OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT NORTHFIELD YOUTH EFFORTS.

"It is because of HCI mini-grants that students in the Northfield School District are able to turn a vision into a reality. The HCI mini-grants program is a clear and vivid sign to our students that the Northfield community cares about their voice, their ideas, and their potential."

Sarah Swan-McDonald
Northfield High School
Service Learning
Teacher



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 & 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)

HCI BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2010-11

Rey Andrade

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Mini-Grants Coordinator

Jordan Taylor
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For more information about the
Northfield Healthy Community Initiative:

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