When asked to summarize the work of HCI, even board members may find it challenging to be concise. Celebrating its 20th year, HCI continues to act as an “umbrella” organization, made up of core staff, partners, volunteers, and funders. HCI has fostered countless initiatives that promote youth asset-building in Northfield. This strong sense of collaboration has helped make Northfield a community of remarkable opportunities where youth and families are encouraged to thrive.

To highlight only a few of HCI’s accomplishments for the year would take more space than is available in this letter and could minimize the broad-reaching successes of the organization. Instead, we encourage you to examine this report and let its pages inform and inspire you. We are thankful to all who already share in our commitment and strive to better our community. And we encourage those of you who may just be learning about HCI to get caught up in its energy and consider supporting our efforts with your time, talent, or financial resources. Together, we will continue to make Northfield a place rich in opportunity for all youth and families.

With gratitude,
Rey Andrade & Barb Farmer
HCI Board Co-Chairs, 2011-2012
Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes (TOCH): Collaborative to increase the graduation and postsecondary attendance rates of Northfield’s low-income and minority students in grades 6-12.

- 96% of TOCH seniors graduated last spring
- 24 or 27 seniors apply to college
- 18 TOCH graduates ranked top 1% seniors/graduates last year

PRIMEtime After School Collaborative: Coalition that offers free after school and summer enrichment programs to low-income and at-risk Northfield youth in grades K-12.

- 1,045 youth participated in PRIMEtime programs last year.
- 95% of frequent attendees improved their grades and/or standardized test scores.

Take It to the Box: Medication disposal boxes in the lobbies of the Northfield and Faribault Police Stations open 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

- Over 6,000 pounds of medication collected in first 2 years.

Growing Up Healthy: Coalition works to increase the community connectedness of marginalized families in Rice County.

- Community: 11 neighborhood leaders in 30 low-income neighborhoods.

LINK Center: Community resource and referral center in the Northfield Community Resource Center for all newcomers to Northfield.

- Served over 700 people in first 8 months of operation.

Rice County Chemical Health Coalition: Collaborative of 56 partners dedicated to systems changes to reduce youth alcohol and drug use.

- Social Host Ordinance adopted in Minneapolis & Rice County.
- Maintain online resources of local resources.
- Alcohol Awareness Treatment access.
- Drug & Alcohol Counselor in local schools.

“Northfield’s Healthy Community Initiative has a keen sense and understanding of the most pressing needs of the youth in our community. For the past 10 years, their programs have made a profound difference in the lives of hundreds of Northfield kids and their families.”

Julie Pinchel
President 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.

- Youth application to have Northfield named as one of the “100 Best Communities for Youth.”

Youth Sports Collaborative: Coalition works to ensure all young people—regardless of income—can take part in local sports associations.

- Awarded 243 scholarships last year.
- Has provided over $60,000 in scholarships since collaborative began.

Dollars and Sense: Financial literacy education to 800 (local middle and high school students.

- Rice County is one of 8 projects found in the entire state.

Mayor’s Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use: A City Council-appointed commission of local community workers to raise community awareness about youth substance use.

- led the Middle School “MOST NORTHEAST STUDENTS” campaign.
- Designed and implemented "Fuel, Listen, Connect" parent education campaign.
- Collaborated with volunteers at middle & high schools.

Project Prevention: Collaborative busting myths about tobacco use.

- www.projectprevention.org
HIC PROVIDES SUPPORT & RECOGNITION

Mini-Grants
HIC provided funding to 71 youth civic engagement and intergenerational activities in the community.
- 10,000 LOCAL YOUTH (INCL. 12 COUNTY) PARTICIPATED IN THREE EVENTS LAST YEAR.

Making a Difference Award
In collaboration with the Northfield News, HIC helps recognize individuals and groups that make positive impacts on local young people.
- MORE THAN 40 INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED.

Sparks
HIC works with youth-serving programs in the community to help young people identify the activities and interests that “light a fire” inside them.
- SUPPORTED 7 PILOT SITES IN THE COMMUNITY.
- FOCUS ON online SPARKS SPOTLIGHT FOR YOUTH AND INFORMATION FOR THEM TO SUPPORT SHARE EXPLOREATION.

Cyberbullying
Raising community education around this important topic.
- SPONSORED A YOUTH PPA VIDEO CONTACT.
- SUPPORTED SCHOOL STAFF AND STUDENT EDUCATION.
- ORGANIZED YOUTH RESOURCES PAGE ON HIC WEBSITE.

Grant Writing: HIC provides grant writing support to collaborative projects that benefit Northfield youth.
- OVER THE PAST NINE YEARS, HIC HAS HELPED BRING IN OVER $4 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDS FROM SOURCES OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT NORTHFIELD YOUTH PROGRAMS.

HIC Mini-Grants Profile:
MADISON VAN WYLER, SENIOR AT NORTHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL FOR HER PROJECT: SERVICE PORTFOLIO PHOTOGRAPHY

Last January, Madison submitted an HIC mini-grant application. She decided to take senior portraits for students who could not afford them. Madison saw this project as both a way to help others and as a way to improve her photography skills. She turned to HIC for helping the photo printing costs. She asked BHS teacher Jennifer Lempart to help her connect with students who would benefit from her photography project.

Madison took senior portraits for six fellow classmates. She did not know these students well or at all prior to talking to them about taking their photos. Madison says her biggest challenge was getting the students to open up and relax around her. She was always quick with her smile and joked with the seniors to break any tension. In every instance, Madison was rewarded with genuine smiles and gratitude.

Through this project, Madison found a greater connection to her school community. She made friends, classmates who used to be strangers but who now greet her with smiles in the hallway at school. She feels fortunate to have spent time with each of them and to have learned more about them.

Quote from Madison:
“A smile is a universal welcome.”
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
- City of Northfield
- Women In Northfield Giving Support (WINGS)
- Minnesota Office of Higher Education
- Xcel Energy Foundation
- Sheltering Arms Foundation
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

For more information about the

NORTHFIELD HEALTHY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

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