



Northfield

HCI

Healthy Community Initiative

report to the
community

2012

When asked to summarize the work of HCI, even board members may find it challenging to be concise. Entering its 20th year, HCI continues to act as an “umbrella” organization, made up of community leaders, youth, parents, and school representatives. Along with its partner agencies, volunteers, supporters, 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**



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 501(c) 3 nonprofit, run by a board of community leaders, youth, parents and school personnel.

HCI BOARD MEMBERS, 2011-12

* Rey Andrade	* Barb Farmer	Hannah Puczko
Beth Berry	Helen Forsythe	Scott Richardson
Jim Blaha	Gabby Frenstad	Joy Riggs
Corey Butler Jr.	Nancy Hegland	Marnie Thompson
Barry Carlson	Penny Hillemann	Lynn Vincent
Cathy Carlson	Jhosi Martinez	
Kris Estenson	Monte Nelson	* CO-CHAIR

STAFF

Zach Pruitt
Director

Janet Lewis Muth
Growing Up Healthy &
LINK Center Coordinator

Amy Lunderby
Mini-Grants Coordinator

Soraya Dangor
AmeriCorps VISTA - LINK Center

Sara Doyle
AmeriCorps VISTA - Growing Up Healthy



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 low-income and minority students in grades 6-12

- **332** YOUTH SERVED LAST YEAR
- **96%** OF TORCH SENIORS GRADUATED LAST SPRING
- **24 OF 27** SENIORS APPLIED TO COLLEGE
- **12** TORCH GRADUATES EARNED POSTSECONDARY DEGREES/CERTIFICATES 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.

- **1,048** YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN PRIME TIME PROGRAMS LAST YEAR
- **93%** 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 per 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

- SUPPORTED **11** NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS IN THREE LOW-INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS



LINK Center

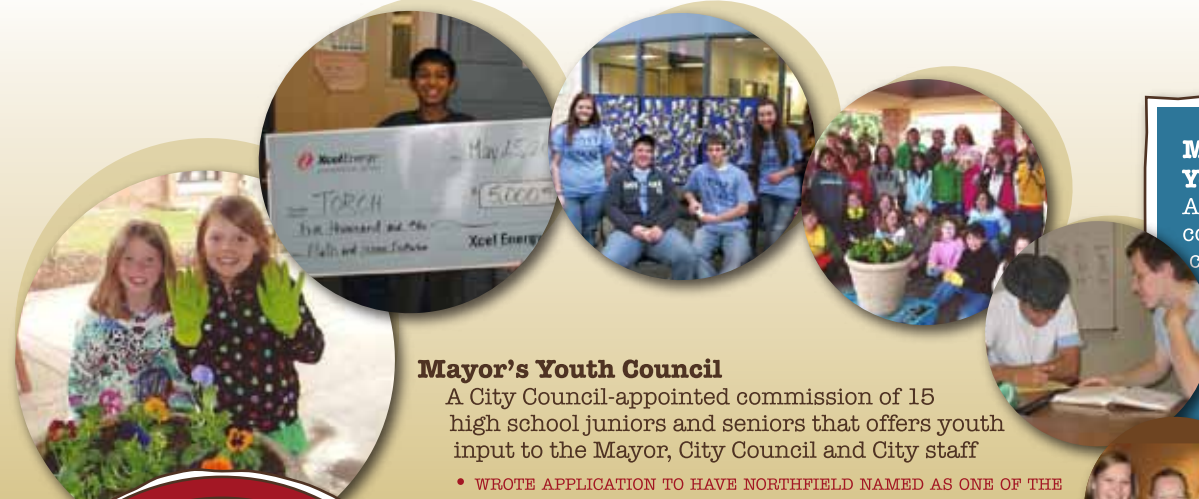
Community resource and referral center in the Northfield Community Resource Center for all newcomers to Northfield

- SERVED OVER **700** PEOPLE IN **FIRST 8 MONTHS** OF OPERATION

Rice County Chemical Health Coalition:

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

- **SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE** ADOPTED IN NORTHFIELD & RICE COUNTY
- MAINTAIN ONLINE DIRECTORIES OF LOCAL RESOURCES
- ADOLESCENT OUTPATIENT TREATMENT ACCESS
- **DRUG & ALCOHOL COUNSELOR** IN LOCAL SCHOOLS



Mayor's Youth Council

A City Council-appointed commission of 15 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 ensure all young people – regardless of income – can take part in local sports associations

- AWARDED **243 SCHOLARSHIPS** LAST YEAR
- HAS PROVIDED OVER **\$80,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS** SINCE COLLABORATIVE BEGAN

Dollars and Sense

Financial literacy education to 200 local middle and high school students

- RICE COUNTY IS **ONE OF 8** PROJECTS FUNDED IN THE ENTIRE STATE



"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 20 years, their programs have made a profound difference in the lives of hundreds of Northfield kids and their families."

Julie Pritchard
Northfield School Board

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 NORTHFIELD STUDENTS"** CAMPAIGN

- DESIGNED AND IMPLEMENTED

"TALK, LISTEN, CONNECT"

PARENT EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

- COORDINATED **PARENT RESOURCE DIRECTORIES** AT MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS



HCI PROVIDES SUPPORT & RECOGNITION

Mini-Grants

HCI provided funding to 71 youth civic engagement and intergenerational activities in the community.

- **10,000** LOCAL YOUTH (DUPLICATED COUNT) 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 **40** INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS HAVE BEEN HONORED.

Sparks

HCI 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
- PROVIDE ONLINE SPARKS SURVEY FOR YOUTH AND RESOURCES FOR THEM TO SUPPORT SPARK EXPLORATION

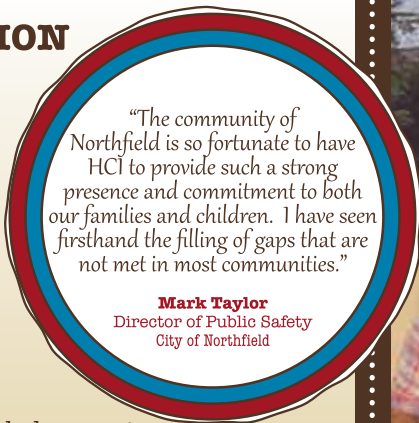
Cyberbullying

Raising community education around this important topic

- SPONSORED A YOUTH **PSA** VIDEO CONTEST
- SUPPORTED SCHOOL STAFF AND STUDENT EDUCATION
- ORGANIZED PARENT RESOURCE PAGE ON **HCI** WEBSITE

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

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



HCI Mini-Grants Profile:

MADISON VAN WYLEN, SENIOR AT NORTHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL FOR HER PROJECT:
SENIOR PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY

Last January, Madison submitted an HCI 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 HCI for help funding the photo printing costs. She asked ESL teacher Jennifer Lompart 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

Visit www.northfieldhci.org

Call **507-664-3524**

Email info@northfieldhci.org

