



Northfield
HCI
Healthy Community Initiative

report to the
community
2013

2012 marked an exciting year for the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) and youth development efforts in our community. Northfield is again setting the bar for initiatives across the state and around the country. Highlights included:

- For the fourth consecutive year, Northfield was named as one of the **“100 Best Communities for Young People”** by America’s Promise.
- Northfield’s PRIMETIME out-of-school-time network was recognized by the National League of Cities as one of **27 outstanding collaborative initiatives nationwide**.
- Rice County was one of **10 communities nationwide** selected to participate in the National Drug Court Planning Initiative to help bring a drug court to our community.
- The Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes (TORCH) project was highlighted in **statewide media and legislative reports** for its work in closing the graduation gap for Latino students in our town. UNIVISION recently came to Northfield for a **national television profile** on TORCH!

Northfield is fortunate to have many amazing efforts underway. As explained on page 7, we are very excited for the newest (and perhaps most ambitious) initiative on the horizon – **the Northfield Promise**. We encourage you to learn more about this collective impact project and hope you’ll consider getting involved.

Finally, we wish to offer a big THANK YOU to HCI’s wonderful supporters. For the last 10 years, our organization has depended on a federal grant for over half our funding. With the sunset of this grant in September 2012, we worried about carrying on... You stepped up in a big way to help us support the community youth... **thank you, thank you**. As you’re reading about the work of HCI, we hope you’ll **consider making a 2013 donation** so we can sustain this important youth development and community-building work in Northfield.

Barry Carlson (parent) & Jhosi Martinez (student)
HCI Board Chairs 2012-13



History

Formed in 1992, the **Northfield**

Healthy Community Initiative (HCI)

seeks to foster a collaborative

environment in Northfield that

empowers youth, strengthens

families, and builds community. 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, 2012-13

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AmeriCorps VISTA – Growing Up Healthy

“I’d hate to think where we’d be without the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative. If there is good happening here, it likely has HCI’s fingerprints on it.”

Dave Neuger
 local business owner

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
- **21** SENIORS GRADUATED LAST SPRING!
- **14** TORCH GRADUATES EARNED POSTSECONDARY DEGREES/CERTIFICATES LAST YEAR



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 a week

- OVER **8,000 POUNDS** OF MEDICATION COLLECTED IN **FIRST 3 YEARS**



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

- SUPPORTED **41** 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 **1,300** PEOPLE LAST YEAR
- BILINGUAL STAFF MEMBERS ARE TRAINED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY NORTHFIELD RESOURCES

Rice County Mental Health Collective: Working to transform the mental health system to a public health model where prevention and promotion are as important as care and treatment

- LAUNCHED THE "HAPPY HOUR" POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY WORKSHOP SERIES AS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND WORKPLACE WELLNESS OPTION
- BROUGHT WELLNESS RECOVERY ACTION PLAN (WRAP) PROGRAM TO THE AREA TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMERS IN LEADING THEIR OWN RECOVERY

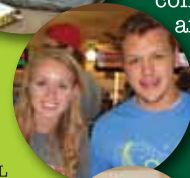
Rice County Chemical Health Coalition:

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

- **ONE OF 10 PROJECTS** NATIONWIDE SELECTED INTO THE ADULT DRUG COURT PLANNING INITIATIVE TO START A NEW DRUG COURT
- **SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCES** IMPLEMENTED IN RICE COUNTY



Mesa: Partnered with HealthFinders to receive a state grant to help reduce teen pregnancy among Latino/Latina youth countywide



Mayor's Youth Council: A City Council-appointed commission of 14 high school juniors and seniors that offer youth input to the Mayor, City Council and City staff

- WROTE APPLICATION TO HAVE NORTHFIELD AGAIN NAMED AS ONE OF THE **"100 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE"**
- HOSTED **YOUTH-RUN** CANDIDATE FORUMS FOR MAYORAL, CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD RACES

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

- HAS PROVIDED OVER **1,100** SCHOLARSHIPS – TOTALING OVER **\$106,000** – SINCE COLLABORATIVE BEGAN

PRIMEtime After School Collaborative: Coalition that offers after school and summer enrichment programs to Northfield youth in grades K-12

- **1,048** YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN PRIME TIME PROGRAMS LAST YEAR
- **97%** OF FREQUENT ATTENDEES IMPROVED THEIR GRADES AND/OR STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

Dollars and \$ense: Financial literacy education to local low-income middle and high school students

- **241** YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN WORKSHOPS LAST YEAR
- **83%** DEMONSTRATED IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE OF FINANCIAL LITERACY CONCEPTS
- LAUNCHED **MINNESOTA'S FIRST** YOUTH INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT (IDA) PROGRAM TO PROMOTE COLLEGE ACCESS



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 RESEARCH AND WROTE APPLICATION FOR THE ADULT DRUG COURT PLANNING INITIATIVE FOR 2013
- COORDINATED PARENT RESOURCE DIRECTORIES & PARENT EDUCATION CAMPAIGN
- SPONSORED TRAINING ON "LIFE OF AN ATHLETE" AT NORTHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
- LED THE MIDDLE SCHOOL **"MOST NORTHFIELD STUDENTS"** CAMPAIGN



HCI PROVIDES SUPPORT & RECOGNITION

Investing in Youth Grants

HCI provided funding to 67 youth civic engagement and intergenerational activities in the community.

- **6,600** LOCAL YOUTH (DUPLICATED COUNT) PARTICIPATED IN THESE EVENTS LAST YEAR.
- MORE THAN HALF OF THE PROJECTS WERE LED BY YOUTH.

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 50 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.

AmeriCorps

HCI helps support seven full-time AmeriCorps members working one-on-one with youth and youth-serving efforts in Northfield.

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

- OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, HCI HAS HELPED BRING IN OVER **\$4 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDS** FROM SOURCES OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT NORTHFIELD YOUTH EFFORTS.

“The good work HCI does with youth is so valuable. The city of Northfield's future is brighter because of it.”

Dana Graham
Mayor of Northfield



Moving Forward – The Northfield Promise

The concept of “collective impact” has garnered national attention in recent years. Collective impact encourages the major community institutions (city, schools, businesses, higher education, faith communities, nonprofits, etc.) to come together and agree to work collaboratively towards improving a set of shared outcomes for youth in the community. Through these efforts, communities across the country have been able to see significant, measurable changes in the health and well-being of their youth.

In 2012, HCI began to secure commitments from major Northfield institutions to working on a collective impact initiative. Called “The Northfield Promise,” this effort seeks to ensure that ALL young people growing up in Northfield are provided the community support they need to be successful from birth through high school and beyond.

During the first part of 2013, HCI will continue working with community partners to identify key community-wide benchmark goals for youth along this cradle-to-career continuum. Starting in fall 2013, HCI will help convene action groups around these selected benchmarks.



Northfield is one of 80 communities **NATIONWIDE** invited into the Strive Network, the national leaders in collective impact. This allows Northfield to draw on the expertise and best practices of communities across the country.

Partners

HCI thanks its generous donors for their ongoing support of the coalition's efforts. For a list of HCI's corporate and organizational sponsors, please visit www.northfieldhci.org



For more information about the **NORTHFIELD HEALTHY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE**

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