

CONVENE. COLLABORATE. CULTIVATE.



Healthy Community Initiative

Thriving youth. Thriving community.

2015 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



GREETINGS FROM ALL OF US AT HCI!

It has been a busy year at HCI, as we have worked to convene, collaborate and cultivate initiatives that help youth thrive. Although these efforts are marked as important events today, without the previous 22 years' work – and the support of our partners and volunteers – they would not have been possible.

In addition to what's included inside, this year we celebrate:

- The launch of Greenvale Park Community School. This exciting new initiative was made possible, in part, by two grants – the first ever Dare to Dream award from WINGS and the 21st Century Community Learning Center award given to only 13 communities across the state.
- The formation of the first Action Teams of Northfield Promise. This collective impact initiative, we believe, will be crucial in making Northfield the best place for kids to grow up.
- After much effort, the launching of the Rice County Drug Court to provide serious and repeat offenders with an intensive program to reduce recidivism.
- A partnership with the City of Northfield and Northfield Public Schools to place nearly 50 high school students on city and school district boards and commissions, giving youth a powerful voice in local government.
- Neighborhood leaders and community volunteers with the Growing Up Healthy initiative completing the renovation of a mobile home into a community center in a Faribault mobile home park. This new space provides a place for community meetings and programming to take place.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and partnership.

Regards,

Zach Pruitt
Executive Director



PROUD TO COLLABORATE

HCI collaborates on nearly 20 local initiatives. We bring together organizations with similar missions and provide leadership, measurement tracking, communications and grant writing support. This allows them to leverage their resources for the benefit of our youth.



PRIMEtime





Monte Nelson

Taking a Foothold

Over the years of his law enforcement career, Northfield Police Chief Monte Nelson has seen how much young kids are influenced by their surroundings. That's why he takes special interest in Northfield Promise's pre-K areas of focus. Monte has had a longstanding interest in youth development and has been involved with the HCI board for many years. When he became police chief, he eagerly took a seat on the Northfield Promise Council of Champions.

KIDS ARE INFLUENCED BY THEIR SURROUNDINGS

He is pleased with how quickly Northfield Promise has gained a foothold in the community, with strong engagement and buy-in from a wide spectrum of groups. "Over time," he says, tracking the Northfield Promise benchmarks "is going to give us a different view of our community and help us better direct our efforts and resources."

Creating a Community Hub

Greenvale Park Principal David Craft says neuroscience shows that when kids have a sense of ownership and belonging, the fear hub in their brains turns off and the areas that allow for rapid learning turn on. That's one goal of the Community School at Greenvale Park Elementary, which serves a high proportion of second-language learners, students of color and students living in poverty. Grant funds gained through an HCI-school district partnership are allowing the school to provide club-based enrichment for youth. This encourages all

WHEN KIDS HAVE A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP AND BELONGING, THE FEAR HUB IN THEIR BRAINS TURNS OFF AND THE AREAS THAT ALLOW FOR RAPID LEARNING TURN ON.

students to participate in active, innovative, creative, problem-solving activities that are key to academic success. The school is also becoming a hub for family and community activity in the afterschool and evening hours. "Without the collaboration between Northfield Public Schools Community Services and HCI, and HCI's connections in the community, it wouldn't have happened," David says. "It's taking the best characteristics of the school district and HCI, and tying them together to create a kind of synergism."



David Craft

OUR SUCCESSES

\$5 MILLION

Over the past 11 years, HCI has helped bring in more than **\$5 million** in grant funds from outside the community to support efforts for local youth and families.



450

local youth participated in the Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes (TORCH) graduation and postsecondary success program last year. **93%** of the seniors in the TORCH cohort graduated on time last spring!

Growing Up Healthy expanded its community organizing work to five low-income neighborhoods in Rice County last year. More than **45 people** in these neighborhoods are trained and supported in their community-building work.

13,000+



More than **13,000 pounds** of no-longer-needed medication have been collected through the Take It To The Box program since the program's inception in 2009.

250

More than **250 Latino teens** participated in youth development programming in the HCI-supported Mejorando la Salud de los Adolescentes (MESA) adolescent health collaborative last year.



The Rice County Mental Health Collective partnered with Northfield Hospital and District One Hospital to implement a grant from the Minnesota Department of Health aimed at improving local response to mental health emergencies. Staff from both hospitals have completed over 800 hours of online training on handling psychiatric emergencies.

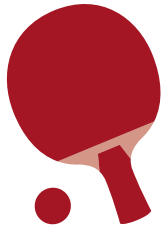
169



The Youth Sports Collaborative awarded **169 scholarships** last year for low-income youth to participate in local youth sports associations.

..... **Make a gift today to support these important initiatives**

1,220



local youth participated in free after-school and summer programs through Northfield's PRIMETIME network last year.

TWENTY
FOUR

teens from low-income families are enrolled in Individual Development Accounts (IDA) – matched savings accounts where they receive **\$3 in grant funding for every \$1 they save for college**. Northfield is the only community in Minnesota with an approved IDA program for teens.



85

More than **85 individuals** and organizations have been honored over the past nine years as Making a Difference recipients for their work making Northfield a better place for youth.

for our youth!

HCI awarded **48** Investing in Youth Grants last year. Roughly half were projects designed by youth themselves. More than **5,000 youth** (duplicated count) took part in these activities. In post-event evaluations, **88%** reported getting to know an adult they didn't know before and/or feeling more connected to the community.

Growing Up Healthy helped facilitate **five Neighborhood Leaders** serving in board and leadership positions through local organizations, reflecting a new level of engagement with the decision-making of its partners.

The Rice County Mental Health Collective partnered with Northfield Public Schools to receive a federal grant that will train **300 adults** who work with local youth on identifying and responding to mental health concerns.

The Northfield Promise collective impact initiative launched its first action teams! The project is **one of only 55** nationwide selected into the Strive Partnership, the national leaders of collective impact.

HCI supports **11 full-time AmeriCorps volunteers** working one-on-one with youth and youth-serving efforts in Northfield. Collectively, these volunteers will contribute **more than 20,000 hours** of service to the community.

HCI proudly serves as the fiscal agent for the **Northfield Skateboard Coalition** and the **Northfield Human Rights Commission**.

A Support System

The success of the TORCH program is no secret. Now in its tenth year, TORCH has programs that are available to all traditionally under-served students, and the program is serving more than 450 current students in grades 6–12, plus 100 alumni!

TORCH staff members work with students during the school day, after school, on weekends and even during the summer, ensuring that they keep their grades up, are engaged in school activities and have a plan for the future.

The program tracks students through high school and during their college years, offering afterschool tutoring, home visits and connections to financial aid.

OUR STUDENTS ARE HAPPY AND PROUD TO BE TORCH STUDENTS.

“What this program really provides is a support system for each student,” says

Jennifer Lompart, TORCH co-chair and ESL teacher at Northfield High School. “It’s a truly successful collaborative that is a wonderful asset to the school district.”

“Our students are happy and proud to be TORCH students,” says Ruben Alvarez, ESL teacher at Northfield Middle School. “They appreciate the academic support and the relationships they’ve built with staff and each other.”

“I can’t think of another program that continues to help students years after they’ve graduated high school,” says Jennifer.



Ruben Alvarez

A Voice for All

Over the past year, the City of Northfield has expanded the role of youth in city government and created two slots for youth on a variety of the city's boards and commissions. Those boards and commissions include the Park and Recreation Advisory Board, the Library Board, the Arts and Culture Commission, and the Human Rights Commission.

Brenda Camacho, a Northfield High School senior, joined the Human Rights Commission in June of 2014. A highlight of Brenda's experience has been helping to organize the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration at the Greenvale Park Community School. "Being a Latina student, I have experienced some inequalities," explains Brenda. "The MLK Day event gave our community the opportunity to open our minds and discuss the racial divides that are present here in Northfield and across the country."

Brenda will graduate this June and already has plans for her future; she will start college next fall and major in speech pathology. "My involvement with the Human Rights Commission has given me a bigger voice," says Brenda. "Now I want to help give others a voice, especially those who are struggling to be heard."



Brenda Camacho

MY INVOLVEMENT WITH
THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION HAS GIVEN
ME A BIGGER VOICE.

HCI BOARD

Abby Andrade

Ben Andrew, *Co-chair*

Erin Bailey

Beth Berry

Jim Blaha

Barry Carlson

Bridget Conway

Kris Estenson

Helen Forsythe

Penny Hillemann, *Co-chair*

Jackson Hillmann

Tim Hogan

Jane Ludwig

Lisa Malecha, *Vice Chair*

Monte Nelson

Scott Richardson, *Treasurer*

Marnie Thompson

Lynn Vincent

Brisa Zubia



HCI STAFF

Zach Pruitt, *Executive Director*

Sandy Malecha, *HCI Coordinator*

Meleah Follen, *Strategic Development*

Leah Eby, *Growing Up Healthy Coordinator*

Janet Lewis Muth, *Mental Health Collective Coordinator*

Amy Lunderby, *Investing in Youth Grants Coordinator/Office Specialist*

Cheryl Strike, *Data Specialist*



OUR PARTNERS

HCI is fortunate to have the support of many individuals, grant funders, businesses and organizations. Together, we are creating a community that truly supports, values and empowers youth.

Allina Health Systems

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota
Foundation

Bush Foundation

Carleton College

City of Northfield

College City Beverage

Grace Whittier Fund

HealthFinders, *through a grant from the
Minnesota Department of Health*

Just Food Co-op

KYMN Radio

Minnesota Office of Higher Education

Neuger Communications Group

Northfield Area United Way

Northfield Hospital

& Clinics

Northfield News

Northfield Public Schools

Northfield Rotary Club

Northfield Shares

Rice County Family Services Collaborative

Sheltering Arms Foundation

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation

St. Olaf College

United Way of Faribault

Women in Northfield Giving Support (WINGS)

Youthprise Foundation

And many, many more!



20 Years of Impact

1994

Initial HCI coalition begins meeting

1996

First "Spotlight on Youth" intergenerational event held

2004

HCI partners with the Rice County Family Services Collaborative to begin the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition

2007

HCI leads the formation of the PRIMETIME out-of-school-time network; PRIMETIME receives competitive state grant to expand afterschool and summer programming for Northfield youth

2009

Take It To The Box medication disposal program launched in Northfield and Faribault; becomes a statewide model

2012

Northfield named one of the "100 Best Communities for Young People" for the third consecutive time by America's Promise (last year of competition)

2013

"Northfield Promise: Every child. Cradle to career." collective impact initiative is born; Northfield selected into the national Strive Together collective impact network

1993

Idea of HCI born following Northfield community members attending Blandin Community Leadership Program and medical professionals attending Healthy Community conference

1994

Search Institute presents results of Northfield youth asset survey at a School-Age Health Forum

2002

HCI awarded federal Drug Free Communities grant

2005

HCI partners with community volunteers and the Northfield Public Schools to launch the Tackling Obstacles & Raising College Hopes (TORCH) graduation initiative to improve Northfield's 36% graduation rate for Latino students

2008

HCI Board establishes bylaws ensuring at least 4 youth positions on its board of directors and one of the two co-chairs will be a high school student

2011

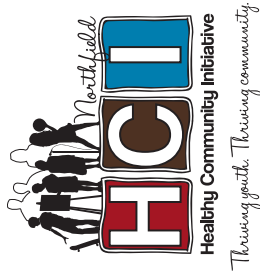
HCI becomes the organizational host for Growing Up Healthy and the Rice County Mental Health Collective

2012

HCI begins conversations with community partners about the concept of collective impact

2014

HCI works with Northfield Public Schools to launch Greenvale Park Community School; receives funding from the Minnesota Department of Education and Women In Northfield Giving Support



1651 Jefferson Parkway
Northfield, MN 55057

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NORTHFIELD, MN
PERMIT NO. 217



2015 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

For more information, visit:
www.northfieldhci.org

