



# GROWING TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS

## 2019

### REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY





## At HCI, we're investing in what works.

The past year has been a time of amazing growth with HCI, as we continue to work collaboratively to address community needs. Highlights of new work include:

- » Recognizing that not all graduates are able to leave town – or are interested in leaving – to continue their education, the Northfield Community College Collaborative was formed. Today, more than 30 young adults are making progress toward earning postsecondary degrees in a beautiful space in downtown Northfield.
- » Our new bilingual Early Childhood Navigators are working directly with more than 50 local families with young children to help get them connected to high-quality preschool programs, early childhood screenings, and other community resources.
- » At the request of community members and partners, HCI continues to expand our work to nearby Faribault. HCI-supported Faribault Youth Investment is emerging as an important backbone initiative with similar aims to HCI.

This past year, HCI has been featured in state and national publications for the community's impressive work in improving 3rd grade reading scores, placing high school students on local boards/commissions, and fostering a culture of innovation. We are proud that these recognitions have provided the opportunity to shine a spotlight on the great work happening in this community.

Thank you for your support of HCI! We are excited for the work we will do together in the year ahead.

Regards,

Zach Pruitt

*Executive Director*

# GREENVALE PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## LEADING THE WAY

The Minnesota Department of Education rated the **Greenvale Park Community School** as the **#1 program site in the state** last year (out of more than 125 out-of-school-time programs statewide).

- » Through extensive community partnerships, the **Greenvale Park Community School** offers programming to people of all ages – ranging from afterschool clubs to early childhood classes to on-site health and dental services.
- » 1,014 youth and 705 adults participated in programming at the Greenvale Park Community School last year.
- » HCI is now supporting 2 new community schools in Faribault (Jefferson Elementary and Faribault Middle School).



“I think the kids feel safe at the community school. I think everybody likes it, because it’s almost like a family. I like that part, too. It feels like home.”

**JANNETH GARCIA**

*Greenvale Park mother and Community School participant*







# COLLABORATING FOR SUCCESS

HCI collaborates with 20+ local initiatives, convening like-minded organizations and providing assistance that allows them to further leverage resources for their programs that benefit youth. We provide behind-the-scenes support by:

- ♥ Sharing knowledge
- ♥ Writing and reporting on grants
- ♥ Building capacity
- ♥ Making connections and convening entities
- ♥ Tracking and evaluating effectiveness
- ♥ Implementing activities

Visit [www.northfieldhci.org/programs](http://www.northfieldhci.org/programs) to learn more about the support we provide and the organizations we serve.



# HCI-SUPPORTED PROGRAMS



Early Childhood Navigators



Northfield Alliance for  
Substance Abuse Prevention



Every child. Cradle to career.

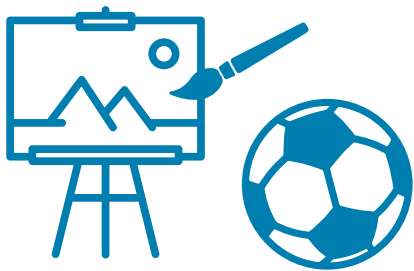


PRIMEtime Out-of-School-Time Network



# OUR IMPACT

# 2018



**1,646** youth participated in free afterschool and summer programming through the PRIMETIME out-of-school-time network.

**86** youth served on 30 local boards/commissions through the Youth on Boards initiative.



**202** people were trained in 8-hour evidence-based Youth or Adult Mental Health First Aid to help identify and respond to individuals with pressing mental health concerns.



**3,179** pounds of no-longer-needed medication were collected through the Take It To The Box program.

**11,157**

books were distributed through HCI-supported literacy efforts.



**25** low-income youth participated in the Individual Development Account program, a 3:1 matched college savings program. HCI hosts the first youth IDA program in Minnesota. Collectively, these young people saved **\$66,256** for college through the program.



**\$15,175**

was awarded in YouthBank grants to support youth-led projects to meet pressing community needs.

**91** youth were involved in submitted proposals.



**2,369** youth and **1,171** adults participated in HCI-supported community schools across 3 sites (Greenvale Park Community School in Northfield; Jefferson Elementary and Faribault Middle School in Faribault).



**1,504** people were connected with community resources through the LINK Center.



**16** people participated in the Rice County Treatment Court, which also celebrated 6 graduations last year!





“ Every time I hear my friends around me talk about things they would like to see change, I feel like I can help them make this difference.”

**ALICE ZHANG**

*Northfield High School junior & YouthBank member*

## YOUTHBANK

### *Youth-led Philanthropy*

- » Northfield is home to the first YouthBank chapter in the United States.
- » Since its inception, the Northfield YouthBank has awarded more than \$90,000 in grants to youth-led efforts.
- » With support from Youthprise, HCI will sponsor a second chapter in Faribault in 2019.



“

Through this experience, I figured out that I want to be a teacher. Working with students and just seeing them progress in such little time – from when they started reading a passage where they could only read a couple words... to the end, where they can read it completely and fluently, is heartwarming. I love that.”

**YAILYN MORAN**

*Education Fellow and*

*Reading Corps tutor at Sibley Elementary School*

## EDUCATION FELLOWS

### ***Diversifying the Local Education Workforce***

- » The Education Fellows program supports recent local high school graduates of color who are interested in careers in education.
- » Fellows work or serve in an education job or volunteer experience while also attending evening and online Riverland Community College classes (through the Northfield Community College Collaborative).
- » Eight Fellows are participating in this first program year. During their first semester, the Fellows collectively earned 54 college credits and maintained a 3.14 cumulative GPA.





## HCI BOARD

“HCI impacts so many people in our community – it’s a catalyst for action and innovation. HCI focuses on the needs of our community and it’s an honor to serve alongside many other dedicated people.”

**MARK MOHLKE**  
*HCI Board Co-Chair*

“Speaking as a youth member on a youth-focused board, I think it’s wonderful to see an organization that dedicates its time to the empowerment of our future generation. HCI is making a real difference in our community and I am proud to say that I am a part of such an innovative organization.”

### ***Youth Leaders Driving the Organization Forward***

- » Believing in the power of youth leadership, HCI has had 4-5 high school students as voting members on its board of directors each year for the past 15 years.
- » A high school student serves as the HCI Board co-chair each year.
- » This is part of HCI's larger “Youth on Boards” initiative, which places more than 85 youth on 30 boards/commissions across the community.

**ANNA KOICHEVAR**  
*HCI Board Co-Chair*





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Erin Bailey

Claudia Bauer

Barry Carlson

Willy Conde - *Northfield High School Student*

Bridget Conway

Kris Estenson

Elsa Hoff - *Northfield High School Student*

Anna Kochevar (**Co-Chair**) - *Arcadia Student*

Lisa Malecha

Mark Mohlke (**Co-Chair**)

Anne Meyer-Ruppel

Connie Nelson

Monte Nelson

Randy Olson (**Co-Vice Chair**)

Olive Omoro - *Northfield High School Student*

Athena Pitsavas (**Co-Vice Chair**) -  
*Northfield High School Student*

Tanner Schieck (**Treasurer**)

Betsy Spethmann

Marnie Thompson

Linda Thornton

Brisa Zubia

## STAFF MEMBERS

**ZACH PRUITT** *HCI Executive Director*

**ASHLEY ANDERSON** *HCI Coordinator*

**JENNYFFER BARRIENTOS**  
*Growing Up Healthy Coordinator*

**AUSTIN BAUER**  
*HCI Data and Reporting Specialist*

**GWEN DANIELS** *Graphic Designer*

**MELEAH FOLLEN**  
*Youth Engagement Director*

**BECKY FORD**  
*Faribault Youth Investment Director*

**TESSA KIESOW** *TORCH Director*

**SARAH LEE** *HCI Support Specialist*

**KATIE LOVRIEN** *TORCH Director*

**AMY LUNDERBY** *Administrative Director*

**SANDY MALECHA** *Senior Director*

**NATALIA MARCHAN**  
*Growing Up Healthy Coordinator*

**LILIANA RAMOS** *Early Childhood Navigator*

**KATIE REED** *Rice County Chemical and  
Mental Health Coalition Coordinator*

**KATIE THEIS** *Alumni Services Director*

**LAURA TIANO** *Growing Up Healthy Coordinator*

**LAURA TUREK** *Northfield Promise Coordinator*

**KAYLA WOLFF** *Early Childhood Navigator*



1651 Jefferson Parkway  
Northfield, MN 55057

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

# 2019 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

For more information, visit  
[www.northfieldhci.org](http://www.northfieldhci.org)

