

POWER of YOUTH



Healthy Community Initiative



2023

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Making **Rice County**
a place where youth
want to **grow up**,
live, work, and
give back!



MANY THANKS!

Together, we're creating communities that support, value, and empower youth. And we're leading the way, demonstrating far and wide the remarkable impact of our intentional efforts.

Please help us continue our important work by making a donation.

**Use the QR code to
access HCI's online
donation portal,
Donorbox ↓**



Powerful acts lead to **positive change**

The people of Rice County inspire me in my role at Healthy Community Initiative because I see that beyond talk and good intentions, they possess the will to take helpful action.

Highlights from 2022 that are shared in this report show how community members came together, navigated obstacles, and overcame ambiguity to make positive change. Our community has demonstrated stamina and commitment to ensuring that Rice County is a place where youth want to grow up, live, work, and give back. We look forward to seeing what more we can accomplish together as we consider the power we hold to support youth and families. Thank you for your will to act!

- **Sandy Malecha**

Interim Executive Director,
Healthy Community Initiative





“

“My children have developed a bond with the staff from Growing Up Healthy. Every time they see them, they run to them and try to hug them. Whenever I see someone who has just settled in Minnesota, or people who have small children, I like to let them know that HCI is there for them.”

— Laura San Miguel
Northfield parent of four children who have benefited from the Early Childhood Navigators and ParentChild+ programs

Early Childhood Navigators



Connecting with preschoolers and families

Growing Up Healthy's Early Childhood Navigators help Northfield and Faribault families with children under age 5 connect with early learning experiences like ParentChild+, preschool, childcare, and early childhood screening. They also connect families to local organizations and resources, including food access, housing, transportation, health care, and mental health services.

In 2022, the Early Childhood Navigators connected **186 young children** with high-quality early childhood programs, and **56 families** with young children participated in the two-year ParentChild+ home visiting program.

ParentChild+



Supporting programs that value
youth, families, and



ParentChild+



RICE COUNTY
Chemical and
Mental Health
Coalition



**youth
first**



“

“Being part of several Youth First programs has taught me the importance of ensuring everyone has a seat at the table, especially youth!”

- Jackson Hessian
YouthBank, Students
Supporting Students
and former Youth on
Boards member

and empower
communities

Collaborating for **success**

Collaboration is at the center of what we do at HCI. We provide behind-the-scenes support to 30+ initiatives in Rice County, helping them further leverage resources for programs that benefit youth and families.

HCI began in 1992 out of a desire among Northfield community leaders to create a nurturing climate where youth can thrive. Over the years, these efforts have grown to include Faribault and all of Rice County.

Visit
[healthycommunityinitiative.org/
programs](https://healthycommunityinitiative.org/programs)

to learn more about
the initiatives we serve.





2022

Highlights across RICE COUNTY

Since 1992, HCI has helped bring in more than **\$20 million** from outside Rice County to help benefit local youth initiatives



**Family,
Friend
and
Neighbor
minnesota**



Connected **98 Family, Friend, and Neighbor childcare providers** to First Aid/CPR or other early childhood learning programs and training



Supported **160 Rice County youth serving on 39 boards, commissions, and committees** through Youth on Boards in **Northfield** and **Faribault**



The HCI-supported community schools in **Faribault** and **Northfield** served **1,705 youth** in 2022



In 2022, **98% of TORCH seniors** and **93% of RISE seniors graduated on time**. Both programs support youth who are students of color, youth from low-income families, and potential first-generation college attendees. TORCH serves Northfield students in grades 6-12, and RISE serves Faribault students in grades 9-12.



Growing Up Healthy supported **78 mobile home residents** with **young children** (in Northfield and Faribault) in improving the safety and energy efficiency of their homes



Hosted **34 Mental Health First Aid training events** in Rice County that helped **888 community members** identify and respond to individuals with mental health concerns



Ignite Afterschool supports a variety of programs for **Rice County youth**





The **Rice County PRIMETIME** out-of-school-time network received a grant from Ignite Afterschool in 2022 to support serving youth in grades K–12 at multiple sites in **Faribault** and **Northfield**.

The free after-school programming includes **physical activities, homework help, science, math and arts programs, health and wellness activities, youth leadership opportunities, and cultural programs.**





AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps members **support learning** throughout Rice County

AmeriCorps is a federal agency that provides opportunities for people to serve communities across the United States—from classrooms to the outdoors to everything in between. In 2022, HCI supported **60 AmeriCorps members** in Rice County: **26 Promise Fellows**, who worked with youth in grades 6–12 to help them be successful, and **34 members of Early Learning Corps, Reading Corps, and Math Corps**, who served children in preschool settings and elementary schools.



“Working with these students has allowed me to show up for them in a way that I never had someone do for me, which has been healing in my own personal journey. I always try my best to help all students in whatever they may be struggling with, while assuring them that if I can’t help them, I will do everything in my power to find someone who can.”

– Ana Guerrero

AmeriCorps Promise Fellow
with Northfield High School’s
TORCH program

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Learn more about
the initiatives we serve!

