2020
By the Numbers

**CLOSING THE GAP**
Provided rides to 5,574 children in 12 different programs through the new “Bus for Us: Together We Roll” transportation co-op with the Northfield Area Family YMCA. The co-op helps to overcome the transportation gap preventing youth from taking part in programs.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
1,062 youth and 633 adults participated in Greenvale Park Community School programming.

**EARLY LITERACY**
Distributed 2,285 books through the Reach Out & Read program, where medical professionals provide books and reading coaching tips to families during their well-child checks.

**ACCESS FOR ALL**
Distributed 5,548 books through 22 free libraries in waiting rooms and neighborhoods across the community.

**YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**
83 high school students served on local boards and commissions through the Youth on Boards initiative.

**ACADEMIC SUPPORT**
Distributed 3,477 activity bags (with educational and enrichment opportunities for kids) during the COVID-19 pandemic through front door drop-offs and distribution at school district meal sites.
We, as a community, commit to working tirelessly to ensure that ALL Northfield children will:

10 BENCHMARKS

- Be connected to the community during their early childhood years
- Be ready for kindergarten
- Be ready for first grade
- Be at grade level in reading and math by the end of 3rd grade
- Have a connection with a caring adult who knows their parents as they grow
- Have interests, goals and a vision for the future by the end of 8th grade
- Be at grade level in reading and math by the end of 6th grade
- Exhibit physical, social and emotional well-being at high school
- Teen pregnancy rates below county average
- Teen parents graduate from high school
- Graduates from high school with a plan to reach their full potential

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Navigators Empower Families

Bilingual Early Childhood Navigators work with families to connect them to high-quality preschool programs and early childhood housing. They also help families access health care and community resources for nutrition and housing. Last year the Navigators worked with 119 children ages 0-5 (providing services to 77% of households) and 39 parents. Through the initiative, 366 students in grades K-3rd who are at risk of not being proficient readers at the end of the school year met their reading growth goals. 190 moved up at least a full grade level in reading.

NEW PLAYGROUND INSTALLED

Young kids and their families celebrated in September when a new playground was installed at the new Northfield Community Education Center on the city’s north side. Designed for children ages 0-12, the playground is a plan to reach their full potential.

Boobs, Snacks Distributed Over Summer

Northfield Promise, the Northfield Public Library, and the Northfield Arts Guild teamed up over the summer to distribute books, activity bags and healthy snacks to children and parents. In June, more than 2,400 books were given out by library staff and GrowWise Up Early Learning and Thrive Through Healthy Food. In July, more than 2,800 snacks were distributed.

TORCH STAFF MEETS NEEDS IN PANDEMIC

When school moved online last spring, TORCH staff mobilized to help students and families adjust. They reached out to students who weren’t participating, delivered snacks and activity bags, and worked with the school district and GrowWise Up Early Learning to identify and solve families’ internet and technology needs. Despite the disruptions in learning due to the pandemic, all 155 TORCH seniors in grades 6-12 were graduating this year. During the summer, TORCH staff kept in touch with students via Schoology, Zoom, and phone, and they continued to assist families with technology. They also connected students with new and used bicycles, food boxes, and art supplies. TORCH provided 14,348 individual advising and/or tutoring sessions last year to students in grades K-5.

HIGH SCHOOL

Students Provide Supplies During COVID-19

When Northfield High School closed in March because of COVID-19, students were cut off from friends, sports and activities. Some were also cut off from easy access to supplies like notebooks, libraries, and hygiene products. But not for long. Students Supporting Students and Northfield High School stocked bins with necessities that were distributed bee to students in conjunction with lunch pick-ups at the high school and on all the bus routes. The effort continued for 8 weeks.

PROJECT PARTS CLASS OF 2020 WITH STAFF

Through a partnership of Northfield Promise, the Northfield Public Schools, and national funder Lumina Foundation, a new high school graduating class was matched with 65 high school staff members for monthly check-ins from June through October. The project ensured that the graduates felt supported during the transition to the next phase of their lives—whether they chose to join the workforce, enlist in the military, take a gap year, or continue their education.

For detailed local data on all 10 Northfield benchmarks, visit northfieldpromise.org/benchmarks

BEYOND

NCCE Expansion Announced

A $25,000 grant from Women in Northfield Giving Support (WINGS), coupled with a matching grant from StolleTogether, has guaranteed Northfield community college students a new place to pursue their educational dreams. The Northfield Community College–Collaborative (NCCE) moved into a former Fred’s store space at the Northfield Community Resource Center.

“The funding allowed us to create classroom and study spaces that have an actual college vibe,” said NCCE Director Katie Toner.

This fall, 60 students took classes through the NCCE. 26 students were enrolled in Riverland Community College courses that the NCCE hosts, and a additional 14 NCCE students took classes at seven other colleges. In total, the NCCE supported students taking 77 different courses in the fall semester.
What is Northfield Promise?

♥ We want Northfield to be a place where every child has the chance to be happy, healthy, and well-educated.

♥ Northfield Promise is a community movement to help all of our children thrive, from cradle to career.

♥ Northfield Promise connects resources, programs and community members to collaborate toward 10 benchmarks – academic, social, and emotional – throughout each child’s life.

♥ When our institutions all work toward these shared benchmarks, we improve our community for everyone.

♥ Northfield Promise is a challenge to and with the community to ensure all children succeed . . . closing gaps in access and success among Northfield’s youth.

Northfield has received the “Proof Point” designation from StriveTogether for our results. This is the highest national recognition that StriveTogether bestows. Northfield was just the 12th community in the country to receive Proof Point (and the first in Minnesota)!

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Together, we:

MEASURE what matters
IDENTIFY best practices
SPREAD what works
to help ALL Northfield youth reach their full potential.
Get involved with Northfield youth!
Community is vital to the success of Northfield Promise. Join us in our mission to ensure every child in Northfield thrives.

Visit: northfieldpromise.org/volunteer