

# Northfield Youth First 2020 report





Founded in 2010 by the McKnight Foundation, Youthprise strives to increase equity with and for Minnesota's indigenous, low-income, and racially diverse youth. It envisions a Minnesota where outcomes for youth are no longer predictable by race, geography, or socioeconomic status.

Guided by a strengths-based approach, Youthprise works to transform how funders, institutions, providers, and communities work with youth. In 2015, Youthprise approached HCI and the City of Northfield about launching a shared partnership. This became *Youth First*.

### Why Northfield?

#### **Relationship**

Northfield has a strong, trusted relationship with Youthprise.

#### **Leadership**

Northfield is seen as one of the leading communities in Minnesota for youth development efforts.

#### **Results**

The partnership has yielded exciting results in its first 5 years.

2020: Successes Amid the Challenges of COVID-19

## **Northfield Community College**



69 students took college classes through the NCCC

- 883 college credits were earned
- 10 students graduated with their associates of arts degrees
- 81% were students of color and 98% were firstgeneration college attendees

#### **Youth on Boards**

126 Northfield-area youth (unduplicated count) served on local boards and commissions in 2020. These included governmental boards and nonprofit organizations.

2014 - youth served on 2 boards

2020 - youth served on 23 boards

#### **Northfield Alliance** for Substance Abuse **Prevention**

- Trained **142** local individuals to identify and respond to mental health concerns through evidence-based Youth and Adult
- health awareness made 1,136 referrals of individuals for mental health support
- Coalition-led parent education initiatives reached over **3,000** households in Rice County
- Trained over **185** local beverage servers in Rice County on safe serving practices
- Collected **29,886** pounds of medication (program lifetime-to-date) through the Take It to the Box program

#### **YouthBank**

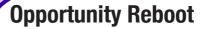
Grants totaling \$5,750 awarded in January 2020 to support youth-led efforts designed to meet local needs

In place of spring grant round (because of COVID), YouthBank conducted its own projects, totaling \$5,000 (including bins of school supplies and personal hygiene products that went out with school lunches)

21 local youth served on the YouthBank team in 2020





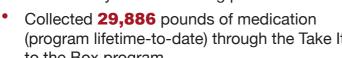


- 124 local Opportunity Youth ages 14-24
- Provided academic support, job access, career readiness, postsecondary exploration, and support services
- Bridge Mentors provided **7,613** contacts to youth in the cohort
- **39** participants earned diplomas or certificates (exceeding the initiative's target of 20)















#### **YOUTH ON BOARDS**

- Maintain engagement with youth during the pandemic, while overcoming the challenges of connecting online
- Through the Mayor's Youth Council, work to engage all Youth on Boards participants around police policy issues, composting, and Riverfront Enhancement work

#### NORTHFIELD ALLIANCE FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

- · Implement evidence-based alcohol curricula in schools
- Implement the community-wide multicultural resiliency and mental wellness toolkit
- · Train 300 students in Teen Mental Health First Aid
- Implement community messaging for parents and youth about opiates and naloxone

#### **YOUTHBANK**

- Support the implementation of projects funded at the end of 2020, which focused on COVID-19 and racial justice
- Find new ways to amplify youth voices in the community, especially around issues of justice and equity

#### **NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE COLLABORATIVE**

- Grow the program with individuals who want to return to school after a gap in their education or who never pursued their education
- Expand the pathway program to include 2-3 more education pathways for students to pursue

#### **OPPORTUNITY REBOOT**

- Provide academic and job support to over 100 Opportunity Youth in Rice County
- Strive to ensure that at least 85% of participating youth re-enter or remain in school or secure stable employment
- Develop additional career pathway opportunities for participating vouth

# Thank you for your continued support of this partnership!

For more information, call Healthy Community Initiative at 507-664-3524 or contact these staff members directly:

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