



*Celebrating 5 Years
of Partnership!*



Northfield Youth First

2020 report





Youthprise

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

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 Community College Collaborative



- **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 first-generation college attendees

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

Northfield Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention



- Trained **142** local individuals to identify and respond to mental health concerns through evidence-based Youth and Adult Mental Health First Aid
- Community members trained in mental 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

Opportunity Reboot

- **124** local Opportunity Youth ages 14-24 served
- 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)



Goals for 2021

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 youth

*Thank you for your
continued support of
this partnership!*

**For more information, call
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