



youth  
first

2022

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

**Youth First** is a collaborative effort to ensure that Northfield is a great place for all youth to live and grow up. It is a partnership between Healthy Community Initiative (HCI), the City of Northfield, and Youthprise, and it's a flagship initiative of Northfield Promise.

Founded in 2010 by the McKnight Foundation, Youthprise invests in the future of Minnesota by investing in youth. It works to reduce racial disparities in learning, economic opportunity, and health & safety.



McKNIGHT FOUNDATION



Northfield  
PROMISE



**YOUTH FIRST** has yielded exciting results since its formation in 2015!

**Here is an update on recent successes in 2022 and plans for 2023:**



**Youth on Boards** offers a unique opportunity for youth to get involved in local government, make change, and have a voice.

In 2022, **105 Northfield-area youth** (unduplicated count) served on **31 local boards, commissions, and committees**. These included governmental boards, school district committees, and nonprofit organizations.



YOUTHBANK  
INTERNATIONAL

**Northfield YouthBank** is a youth-run grant-making initiative that provides approximately **\$20,000** in funds annually to projects led by local youth.

In 2022, YouthBank:

- Awarded grants **totaling \$19,920** to support youth-led efforts designed to meet local needs.
- Received **11 grant proposals totaling over \$31,000 in requested funding** from Northfield area youth; **45 youth** were involved in developing and preparing those grant proposals, and **34 youth** had their grant proposals funded.
- Involved **22 local youth** on its leadership team.



Northfield Alliance for  
Substance Abuse Prevention

## Northfield Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention (N-ASAP)

A Northfield City Council-appointed commission, N-ASAP seeks to raise community awareness about local substance use and to make recommendations for community interventions to reduce youth use.

In 2022, N-ASAP:

- Trained **864 local individuals to identify and respond to mental health concerns** through evidence-based Teen (556), Youth (67), and Adult (241) Mental Health First Aid. Individuals who have participated in HCI's mental health training reported making a total of **183 referrals** during the 2022 calendar year.
- Supported Rice County Chemical and Mental Health Coalition-led parent education initiatives that **reached more than 4,192 households** in Rice County.
- Trained **306 local beverage servers** in Rice County in 2022 on safe serving practices.
- Collected **2,542 pounds of medication—35,060 pounds lifetime-to-date**—through the Take It To The Box program.
- Worked with City of Northfield staff to provide input on an ordinance regarding the sale of hemp-derived THC edibles.

## Northfield Community College Collaborative (NCCC)

The Northfield Community College Collaborative partners with community colleges in Minnesota to offer their accredited courses and career pathway programs in a classroom setting in Northfield. Its mission is to provide a quality and accessible local community college option with support services that empower all students in Northfield to reach their college potential.

In 2022, the NCCC staff:

- Partnered with **16 Minnesota colleges and universities**
- Provided **4,148 individual academic advising contacts**
- Supported **16 in-person classes** and **247 online courses**
- Helped students access **\$267,000 in tuition assistance**

Other notable 2022 numbers:

- **95%** of participating students were **first-generation college attendees**, **80% were students of color**, and **89% came from low-income** families.



Yes,  
**YOU**  
**CAN!**



Northfield  
Community College  
Collaborative

College  
**YOUR** way



## Opportunity Reboot

Opportunity Reboot supports high school graduation and career pathways for youth in Northfield and Faribault who face multiple risk factors.

In 2022, the program:

- Served **131 local** Opportunity Youth ages 14–24
- Provided academic support, job access, career readiness, postsecondary exploration, and support services
- Provided **4,634 mentor contacts** to youth in the cohort over **1,469 hours**



# Goals for 2023

## Youth on Boards

- Engage youth in **community-wide endeavors** through work on local area boards, commissions, and councils
- Through the Mayor's Youth Council, work to **engage all Youth on Boards participants around long-range planning for the city, including: pedestrian and bike trails, city branding initiatives, and the capital improvement projects plan**
- Facilitate Youth on Boards participants involvement in **Youth Day at the Capitol in February 2023** to introduce participants to the legislative process and how to advocate on behalf of initiatives they are engaged in

## YouthBank

- Sponsor and execute at least **one grant round this calendar year**
- Continue to **train new team members on issues of racial justice and equity** so that the work of the team is centered on these areas
- Support YouthBank team members as they explore creating their own project for implementation
- Support current projects in their implementation

## Opportunity Reboot

- Develop a **focus on career exploration** for opportunity youth, including job shadowing, speakers/mentors, and internship opportunities
- Provide at least **80% of Reboot cohort with individualized postsecondary planning** that aligns with their career interests

## Northfield Community College Collaborative (NCCC)

- Grow the **NCCC childcare program** through targeted outreach to parents interested in starting/returning to school
- Expand its in-person offerings to include at least **two additional certifications and/or pathway programs** in addition to general education courses.

## Northfield Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention (N-ASAP)

- Support the work of **RAVE** (Reduction and Awareness of Vaping and E-cigarette Use) in Northfield
- Work with Northfield Public Schools to **support mental health, behavioral, and chemical health interventions.**
- Continue and **evolve community-wide information campaign, "Talk. They Hear You,"** focused on parents' role in primary prevention
- Support **local partners and the work they're doing** around prevention and harm reduction; explore avenues for collaboration and amplification of needs and messages
- Train **300 students in Teen Mental Health First Aid**
- Continue to **educate the community on hemp-derived THC edibles, opiates, fentanyl, and vaping**



Proud to be a program supported by  
**Healthy Community Initiative**