



TODAY'S YOUTH,  
**TOMORROW'S  
LEADERS**



Healthy Community Initiative

*Thriving youth. Thriving community.*

**2016 Report to the Community**



# Greetings from all of us at HCI!

We have to begin by thanking you – our community – for teaming up with us to create a better, healthier and more collaborative Northfield.

We have a lot of accomplishments to celebrate this year, including:

- **The completion of the first year of the Greenvale Park Community School.** In our first year, we served over 580 Northfield students in community school programming, and 81% of our students improved their academic performance. Thank you to our partners and volunteers for making year one a success!
- **A growing Northfield Promise.** Nearly 200 community members are actively involved in helping us grow, and we received statewide support from the Minnesota Legislature through the Educational Partnerships Coalition.
- **The launch of the Youth First initiative, a collaboration of HCI, the City of Northfield and Youthprise.** The Youth First initiative provides opportunity for all Northfield youth and ensures young people have a seat at our community's decision-making tables. Northfield is positioned to be a state and national leader in youth development!
- **The long-awaited opening of the Northfield Skateboard Park, an effort HCI has supported for over a decade.** We're proud to have worked with several inspiring generations of skateboarders and youth leaders to make this happen!
- **Moving the needles.** Data released in 2015 speaks to how successful Northfield programs have been in closing graduation gaps. As a community, we increased overall high school graduation rates by 14% in the last 10 years, and increased graduation rates by nearly 50% for Latino students and students receiving free or reduced-price lunch.

Thank you for another successful year of support. Let's keep moving forward!

Regards,

Zach Pruitt  
*Executive Director*

# Talk of the Town



## COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE PROUD

to send their kids to the Greenvale Park Community School, and its impact on Northfield youth is apparent to all.

*“The Community School is the best thing that has happened in Northfield for our kids,” said Maria Victoria Agapito-Rosas, a parent and a Growing Up Healthy Neighborhood Leader in the Greenvale Park neighborhood. “Without the activities offered at the school, many of us would be home watching TV. This space has allowed our kids to become more active, rather than playing on their tablets or watching the television.”*

*“It was a matching grant from Northfield HCI 10 years ago that got fundraising for a skatepark off the ground. From the beginning, HCI included the Northfield Skateboard Coalition in its vision of a creative and healthy community that supports all of its youth.”*

*– Rob Hardy, Northfield Skateboard Coalition Adult Advisor*





HCI collaborates on nearly 20 local initiatives. We bring together organizations with similar missions and provide leadership, measurement tracking, communications and grant writing support. This allows them to better leverage their resources for the benefit of our youth.



# PROUD TO COLLABORATE



PRIMEtime



# OUR SUCCESSES

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# 16,000+

More than **16,000 pounds** of no-longer-needed medication have been collected through the Take It To The Box program since its inception in 2009.



# 1,430

youth participated in free afterschool and summer programming through PRIMEtime last year.



# 572

youth were served by the TORCH graduation initiative last year.



More than **580 youth** participated in the first year of programming at the Greenvale Park Community School.

# 580



# \$6



# MILLION

Over the past 11 years, HCI has helped bring in more than **\$6 million** in grant funds from outside the community to support efforts for local youth and families.

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63



youth have been appointed to local boards and commissions through Youth First.



326

local adults were trained in 2015 in Youth Mental Health First Aid (best-practice training on how to identify and respond to young people with mental health concerns).

62



community members were trained and supported as Growing Up Healthy Neighborhood Leaders in five low-income neighborhoods last year.



345

youth received scholarships to take part in local youth sports associations through the HCI-supported Northfield Youth Sports Collaborative last year.

38



low-income youth were enrolled in Minnesota's first youth Individual Development Account program in 2015 (with the potential to collectively earn \$109,440 in state/federal matching funds for college costs).

**Make a gift today to support these important initiatives for our youth!**

# Reading Rockets

Reading skills and joy in reading both took big leaps forward last summer for students participating in Reading Rockets, a pilot of the Northfield Promise Reading Team and the PRIMETIME out-of-school-time network.

Teachers Gina Swenson and Robert Garcia worked every morning with two “cabins” of students who were behind grade level in reading, as part of the Summer PLUS program. Families are an essential component for reading success, so the teachers also made several home visits with each family and provided family workshops.

**“She used to grab her doll when we were going to go someplace. Now she grabs a book!”**

The students earned small incentives (such as books, art supplies or a sports ball) for meeting participation goals. Larger incentives (a choice of a bike, scooter or a gift certificate) were offered for meeting reading growth goals. Choosing their own incentives definitely made the kids try harder, Robert said. An impressive 88% showed reading gains and 20 of the 30 students earned their large incentive.

An increased love of reading by Reading Rockets students was reported by nearly all of the parents. One mother told Gina, “She used to grab her doll when we were going to go someplace. Now she grabs a book!”



## Youth First

You can hear the excitement in Kajsa Johnson's voice as she talks about the opportunities she's gained through Youth First, a partnership between the City of Northfield, Northfield Public Schools, Youthprise and HCI.

Kajsa is part of YouthBank, a youth-led philanthropy program that awards funds to promising projects developed by youth. The youth grant-making team received training in how to rate applications and interview applicants. "You could tell that people were really excited about their applications and loved their ideas. They felt empowered," she said.

Kajsa also serves on the Northfield Human Rights Commission, discussing community concerns and helping to plan the city's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observance. At the event's "open mic" session, several participants shared perspectives on what it's like to be an African American person living in our society today. "It showed me that it's really valuable to have events like this," Kajsa remarked. "It was really insightful."

She appreciates these opportunities to get involved – developing her speaking, listening, leadership, and critical thinking skills, and contributing to her community.



**"People were really excited about their applications and loved their ideas. They felt empowered."**



## HCI BOARD

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## OUR PARTNERS

HCI is fortunate to have the support of many individuals, grant funders, businesses and organizations. Together, we are creating a community that truly supports, values and empowers youth.

Allina Health  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of  
Minnesota Foundation  
Bush Foundation  
Carleton College  
City of Northfield  
Community Resource Bank  
First National Bank of Northfield  
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Just Food Co-op  
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Minnesota Department of Education  
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Northfield News  
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Rebound Enterprises  
Rice County Family Services Collaborative  
Rice County Public Health  
Rotary Club of Northfield  
ServiceMaster by Aytote  
Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council  
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation  
St. Olaf College  
United Way of Faribault  
Women in Northfield Giving Support  
(WINGS)  
Youthprise Foundation  
**And many, many more!**



# THANK YOU!

Because of your support, whether through donations, volunteering or more, Northfield youth and their families see brighter futures ahead. Many of them are approaching a benchmark that they never thought they'd see: graduation. Many have participated in free afterschool and summer programs or visited the Northfield Skateboard Park in their free time. Many have gone through the doors of the Greenvale Park Community School and come out more engaged, interested learners. In short, Northfield youth are feeling real, positive impact because of your contributions to HCI.

Please help us continue our important work in Northfield by making a donation to HCI in the enclosed envelope or online at [www.northfieldhci.org](http://www.northfieldhci.org).



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# 2016 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

For more information, visit  
[www.northfieldhci.org](http://www.northfieldhci.org)

