

**Northfield YouthBank: Team Training \$1,000**

Northfield YouthBank is a youth-led grant-making initiative that channels money into projects that will improve the quality of life in our community. It is a process and way of working with young grant-makers that encourages and trains them as they develop essential life and job skills. YouthBanks are run by young people for young people in their community. The Northfield YouthBank team members are supported by adults, but the youth make the decisions as to what projects they choose to carry out and how the money they have is spent. The YouthBank model is unique in that it puts money directly into the hands of youth who decide on how it will be awarded.

**Project Friendship: Northfield Community Mentor Training \$3,150**

The funds from WINGS allows Project Friendship to expand mentor recruitment and training, supporting more Project Friendship individual matches and provide community mentor training programs to better meet the needs of all area youth programs. This vision specifically targets the Northfield Promise objective for all youth to have a connection with a caring adult beyond his/her parents as he/she transitions to middle school.

**Ruth's House of Hope: Transitional Shelter Program \$2,227**

The Transitional Shelter Program offers individualized supportive programming that helps families stabilize and work toward increasing life skills and self-determination, helping them break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. This programming includes strength-based case management with goal setting and weekly progress meetings to identify strengths and address barriers, 24-hour staff support, children's programming, financial education, a parenting class, a renter's class, family-friendly group outings and connections to an array of community resources that help clients move toward their individualized goals. Staff utilize trauma-informed services and a client-centered approach when working with residents to most effectively address their needs. Funds from WINGS will be used to defray the costs of providing utilities at the Shelter, including heat and electricity.

**TORCH Northfield High School: PSEO and College Planning \$4,000**

The PSEO and College Planning program focuses on students in grades 9-12 who are from low-income and first-generation college families, with a goal of increasing college readiness through: access to supported PSEO and Advanced Placement (AP) classes; attendance on college visits; individualized assistance with college applications; and completion of the FAFSA with eligible students.

**TORCH Northfield High School: Revolving Loan Fund \$3,800**

The TORCH Revolving Loan Fund was established in the fall of 2018 with personal contributions from several community members. The Fund awards small loans to TORCH high school alums who encounter financial gaps in funding or accessing their post-secondary education. In the past, small obstacles have caused students to drop out of their postsecondary programs. TORCH aims to prevent that from continuing to occur by offering an additional safety net.

**TORCH Northfield Middle School: Service Learning and Leadership \$4,000**

The TORCH Middle School Service Learning and Leadership Opportunities project creates opportunities for TORCH students to develop leadership skills, grow in self-esteem, and envision themselves as integral community members. An AmeriCorps Promise Fellow will build positive connections with TORCH students and community partners to facilitate students' engagement in meaningful community service and impactful leadership opportunities. Through the proposed project, over 50 TORCH youth will take part in service learning and leadership projects during the grant year.

*WINGS awarded \$81,877 in this year's grant cycle.*



*Gather to Celebrate!*

**Congratulations to the 2019 WINGS grant recipients**

**WINGS has given out \$1,056,962 in grants to date.**

**Camp FRIENDS: Summer Programming for Students with Disabilities \$2,500**

Camp FRIENDS will provide social, recreational and educational programming for middle school and high school students with disabilities. The camp will be offered Monday –Thursday, July 29 – August 15, 2019 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Community Action Center Food Stability: Increasing Food Access for Families with Children \$5,000**

The project addresses the focus area of basic needs-food stability. CAC intends to expand the home delivery program through the food shelf to include families with children. Currently, CAC delivers food from the food shelf to about 20 homebound senior citizens in Northfield who otherwise would not have enough food. Over the course of the past several months, CAC has identified many families with children who do not have transportation and who struggle with food insecurity. While the barrier of transportation in Northfield is important and needs to be addressed, CAC sees a more immediate need of families with children in homes without enough food. WINGS funding will mobilize a volunteer force to bring food to families. This also includes an important element of providing a community connection to young, isolated parents, many of whom are single moms without a strong support network. WINGS funding will increase the monthly home delivery program to 20 families with children. CAC's ability to stretch food dollars and leverage existing volunteer resources assists in making this possible.

**Community Action Center Housing Assistance: Taking Action for Housing \$5,000**

WINGS funding will stabilize the life of a family in a moment of crisis. CAC will provide direct rental or utility assistance to female-headed households with children. WINGS funding will be designated for families who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. The assistance will also prevent eviction or utility shut-offs for families with youth. An infusion of WINGS support in these moments can prevent the destabilization of housing for a family. WINGS funding will prevent the trauma associated with a loss of housing; preventing concurrently the crushing effects of trauma. WINGS funding will provide life-giving support in the most desperate times.

**Community Action Center Northfield Works: Empowering Women through Education \$5,000**

Women experiencing low-income thrive when empowered with opportunities that promote their economic independence. This proposal provides educational opportunities in three areas vital to women establishing their economic independence: transportation, home-based food product safety training and licensure, and career development. These projects engage community partners to leverage local funds and reach across socio-economic sectors to engage our community in providing for the diverse needs of women experiencing low-income.

### **Community Action Center Transportation: Community Engaged Transportation \$3,000**

WINGS funding will empower the community of Northfield to make an immediate impact in helping alleviate transportation barriers for low-income families. CAC will work with community members to donate cars to Community Action Auto Recycling (CAAR) program. CAC will perform basic and essential repairs through volunteer efforts and then gift the cars to qualifying low income families. CAC has a list of 20 families waiting for a vehicle. WINGS funding may help a single mom get her two children to therapy appointments, help a father get to and from his new job more reliably, or put a car in the hands of a mom fleeing from domestic violence, empowering her with her own transportation.

### **Community Action Center Youth Summer Camp: Scholarships \$4,000**

WINGS funding will provide camp scholarships for youth from low-income families in Northfield. WINGS funds will be designated for families from populations who have historically faced barriers from attending camp due to socioeconomic challenges and lack of transportation. For years, CAC has woven a tapestry of funding sources together to support Northfield youth and families. Recently, priority changes from key funding partners have left many summer camp experiences without scholarship support.

### **Greenvale Park Community School: Bridge Funding \$5,000**

The GVPCS initiative was catalyzed by the first ever WINGS Dare to Dream grant, and now the program has grown beyond anyone's expectations. The main source of funding is limited to K-12 students, but pre-kindergarten and adult-age participation have increased over the years. Maintaining healthy growth of the existing free, out-of-school-time programming for students and their families requires more resources for early learners and adults, including additional staff and supplies.

### **Hand in Hand Preschool: English Learner Section \$1,500**

Hand in Hand Preschool will continue offering an EL preschool section three afternoons per week for those children ages 3-5 who are Spanish speaking dominant. The location is being moved to offer this class in the same building as the rest of the Hand in Hand Preschool classrooms at Longfellow School. This will help maintain consistency in our program and offer the EL section the same benefits as those who attend at Longfellow (a motor room, lunchroom for extended day and staffing for before and after care, large gym and playground, early childhood specialists and the ability to do program-wide flex grouping). With this grant, Hand in Hand will be able to fund additional home visits with all families (those transitioning into Kindergarten from EL preschool and those starting EL preschool this fall) and supplies to support increased learning in the home.

### **HCI Growing Up Healthy: Evenings in the Park \$3,000**

In an effort to foster health equity and social connectedness among women and children and families during months when school is not in session, GUH will work alongside residents of three low-income neighborhoods to plan and facilitate gatherings. Recognizing the power of food at community gatherings, GUH will use the funding to expand the availability of healthy food during its summer neighborhood events at Viking Terrace, Northfield Estates and Jefferson Square (new this summer). In collaboration with community partners, and in response to feedback from individuals living in each of the three neighborhoods, GUH staff will coordinate gatherings once per week for six weeks in each neighborhood. Each gathering will include a communal meal, fresh produce for families, and participation in family-oriented activities.

### **HCI NHS Reading Mentors: Mentor Training \$4,000**

Data has shown time and time again that youth in families that struggle financially lag their peers on meeting important milestones, the milestones that make up the core of Northfield Promise. The High School Reading Mentors program addresses three of these milestones head-on. By engaging high school youth from families that show financial strain and training them to become Reading Mentors to elementary afterschool PLUS program participants (while also engaging the PLUS program teachers to act as mentors to these high school youths), HCI positively influences the following Northfield Promise Benchmarks: 1) Reading at grade level by third grade 2) Feeling good about myself in high school 3) Feeling connected and engaged to my community.

### **HealthFinders Clinic: Building Comprehensive Care \$5,000**

HFC combines clinical care, community engagement, advocacy, and wellness education to fill critical health system gaps and improve healthcare access and outcomes for underserved population. In 2018, HealthFinders expanded its capacity with a strategic move to a new clinic space in Northfield, co-located with Sterling Pharmacy and a Northfield Hospital Express Care Clinic. Leveraging this new collaborative location, this year with WINGS support, HealthFinders will add

dental capacity, develop a healthcare home for women and children, as well as expand its mental health services and teen clinic offerings. Together, these services will establish HFC as a comprehensive medical, dental, and wellness home for the underserved population in Northfield and surrounding rural communities, with a special focus on women and children.

### **HOPE Center: Lifeline \$3,700**

This grant will enable HOPE Center to purchase phones to literally be a lifeline for clients, and to also pay for Safehome placements for Northfield clients. This will enable clients to have access to 911 and to be able to have a safe space to go while determining next steps.

### **Infants Remembered in Silence: Bereavement Support Packets \$500**

With this funding, IRIS will provide books, brochures, and other printed materials for 150 Bereavement Support Packets for parents who have experienced a miscarriage or stillbirth. In Northfield, approximately 150 packets are distributed annually at Northfield Hospital, Northfield Clinics, Northfield Funeral Homes, all through requests to IRIS.

### **NHS Multi-Tiered Systems of Support: Emotional, Academic and Physical Well-Being \$2,000**

Northfield High School continues to expand a coordinated and progressive response to the needs of chronically absent students. Youth are absent from school for a variety of reasons and therefore efforts are organized around the three pillars of emotional, academic, and physical well-being and intensify them through multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS). The WINGS funding will help continue to provide this full range of existing intervention responses, including training for the Students Supporting Students program and mindfulness training for staff. It will also allow expanded efforts through the development of a store/food pantry to provide basic food, toiletries and clothing free to students who need them.

### **Northfield ALC: Backpack Food Program \$1,000**

The Backpack Food Program was started by students in the work program at the ALC in 2010. Each week students fill 15-20 bags of food and deliver them to local schools and a church. The food is then given to families, a distribution of approximately 500 bags of food each year. In 2015, Northfield ALC was one of seven schools to receive a Minnesota Promising Practice Award due to this amazing program.

### **Northfield Area Family YMCA: Transportation Co-op \$1,500**

The Transportation Co-op will transport kids, youth and families to youth development and early childhood programming sites throughout Northfield using a shared passenger van and minibus. For example, youth from Arcadia School will have transportation to attend physical education classes at the Y, and Middle and High School students or parents and their children from the Greenvale area will have transportation to get to programs throughout Northfield. Transportation would also be possible to a wide range of programming opportunities throughout Northfield.

### **Northfield Arts Guild: Read Together Create Together \$3,000**

Northfield Arts Guild Read Together Create Together is a free program of the Northfield Arts Guild that aims to increase kindergarten preparedness for youth ages 2-5 attending in-home daycare using arts-based literacy training. With this funding, NAG plans to offer 12 six-week residencies at Northfield in-home daycare providers. RTCT's residencies focus on two pre-k books, employing arts-based literacy activities that draw on these books' visuals and narratives. The program arose from a 2016 Ready for Kindergarten Survey that found 60% of youth attending in-home daycare were not ready for kindergarten in reading - a rate 15% worse than the rest of incoming Northfield kindergarteners. RTCT is presented in collaboration with Healthy Community Initiative.

### **Northfield Union of Youth: Gaining Opportunity, Access, and Local Stability (GOALS) Education \$4,000**

GOALS Through Education is a relational program with an educational purpose – to assist young people throughout Northfield in meeting their educational goals, specifically earning their GED or gaining credits toward high school graduation. NUY has a youth board comprised of young people who have struggled through the mainstream school system, understanding the importance of education but needing to place their priorities elsewhere. With this funding, we start a summer of welcoming our community's disenfranchised youth into our center to study and grow academically, while finding the power and hope they deserve to feel when thinking about their future goals.

### **Northfield Youth Sports Collaborative: Scholarships \$5,000**

100% of funds from the WINGS grant will be used to provide scholarships to low-income Northfield youth to take part in local youth sports associations.