Congratulations
TO THE 2020 WINGS GRANT RECIPIENTS

In 2020 WINGS celebrates 20 years of giving and has granted $1,139,887 to date.

Northfield Healthy Community Initiative: website
Northfield Community College Collaborative Expansion -
A Place Where Dreams Gain WINGS  $20,000

The Northfield Community College Collaborative seeks to expand to serve more than 75 local individuals annually, including more than 55 women, allowing students to continue their postsecondary journeys, earning Minnesota State College & University credit and ultimately an associate degree without having to leave Northfield.

WINGS funding will make it possible to convert space in the Northfield Community Resource Center to real college classrooms and study spaces, ones that help show students that their work and postsecondary pursuits are valued by the community. WINGS funds will be used for the conversion of the NCRC space currently used for meetings and by Adult Basic Education into college classrooms and study spaces. This includes the purchase of multi-purpose classroom tables, chairs, study stations, projectors, white boards, etc. Moreover, for every $1.00 of funding provided by WINGS, a national funder has agreed to provide a $1.50 match, thereby further leveraging the local initiatives.
WINGS (Women in Northfield Giving Support) educates and expands the number of women in philanthropy, builds and strengthens community through pooled investments, and improves the lives of women and youth in the Northfield area through focused giving.

## WINGS ANNUAL GRANTS

### $3,700

**Hope Center: Riding with HOPE**  [website](#)

WINGS funding will provide the ability to transport clients from Northfield to Faribault to attend court dates, HOPE Center appointments, county appointments and other needed appointments. This will also allow clients access to Safehousing and to maintain current housing.

### $500

**Infants Remembered in Silence: IRIS Bereavement Support Packets**  [website](#)

IRIS will provide books, brochures, and other printed materials for 150 Bereavement Support Packets. In Northfield, approximately 150 packets are distributed annually at Northfield Hospital, clinics, funeral homes, and through requests to IRIS. Packets are provided free of charge to all parents who have experienced a child’s death at any point in pregnancy through early childhood. Packets consist of books, journal, pamphlets, brochures, and informational sheets and are specific for type of infant/child loss.

### $1,000

**Northfield Union of Youth: Motivated Leadership**  [website](#)

NUY is positioned to help young people embrace their power and work collaboratively with adults to solve some of the most prevalent issues our community and the greater society are facing. Through a yearlong leadership immersion opportunity, involving motivational professional leaders, NUY aims to connect young people to their potential, abilities, and inspirational adults who understand struggles that our youth might be facing personally. This process begins with holistic support; WINGS funding will infuse energy into this proactive and innovative approach to engaging at-risk youth.

### $4,000

**Project Friendship: Every Kid Deserves a Mentor**  [website](#)

Project Friendship supports youth mentoring relationships that provide INTENTIONAL activities that open opportunities for social and emotional learning, specifically to BUILD confidence, INSPIRE character and CREATE connections. Project Friendship matches Northfield youth in grades 2–7 with a caring college student mentor from St. Olaf or Carleton who will help them build confidence, character and connections to support them as they grow to become healthy, active and engaged young adults in the community. WINGS funding will allow for an expansion in staff as requests for mentorship far outpaces the ability to make these connections happen.

### $6,000

**Three Rivers Community Action: Northfield Infant and Toddler Child Care Center**  [website](#)

Low-income working families need quality stable, reliable and affordable child care to support their ability to maintain employment and achieve self-sufficiency. Three Rivers seeks to continue to provide Infant Toddler Child Care in Northfield, Minnesota to families that are using state Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) dollars. Funding from this grant will allow Three Rivers to continue to operate this center and fill a gap in our community for affordable child care.

### $5,000

**Rice County Habitat for Humanity: Aging in Place**  [website](#)

We are all aging in place. Sometimes, as we age in place our houses no longer cooperate with us. The front steps that were once easy to navigate are now difficult. The bathtub that was once easy to get out of now presents problems. The roof that 30 years ago was replaced by our own sweat equity is no longer a project we can tackle. People want to maintain their independence and stay in their homes as long as possible. Habitat for Humanity wants to help them do that. An Aging in Place program will partner with homeowners to complete projects that would enable them to stay in their homes and to improve their health and safety within their home.

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Northfield Community Initiative: Northfield YouthBank [website]

Northfield YouthBank is a youth-led grantmaking 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.

Northfield Healthy Community Initiative: Northfield Youth Sports Collaborative - Launching from Sports to Beyond [website]

Partners propose continuing the Northfield Youth Sports Collaborative, providing more than 250 scholarships for low-income youth to take part in local youth sports associations. Knowing that youth have loves beyond sports, the Collaborative partners will look to add additional youth-serving fine arts opportunities in the year ahead. As always, 100% of donated funds will go directly to scholarships; all administration/coordination/planning costs will be contributed in-kind by the lead partners, including the Community Action Center and the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative.

Greenvale Park Community School: Greenvale Park Community School Promise Fellow [website]

The AmeriCorps Promise Fellow will be a key member of the Community School team. The Promise Fellow will have the responsibility of developing and implementing programming and clubs for middle school students who attend Community School. As the number of middle school students participating in CS activities has increased over the years, programming for this age group has lagged behind, primarily because there has not been an opportunity to have a person who will lead a dedicated, intentional effort to develop and implement programming for this age group. The Promise Fellow’s primary responsibilities will result in evening programming that more closely aligns with the school day and state standards.

Tackling Obstacles, Raising College Hopes: TORCH Summer Enrichment Opportunities [website]

This project aims to narrow the opportunity gaps among youth in the Northfield community. Summer camps and experiences, among other extracurricular and enrichment activities, are less accessible for low-income youth. Summer opportunities, from experiences on college campuses to outdoor adventure camps, provide youth with opportunities to explore their interests, gain academic and social-emotional skills, and expand their perspective on future college and career pathways. This project will increase access to summer experiences by filling gaps in the areas of tuition, activity fees, and transportation costs. Access to summer experiences helps ensure that all Northfield youth have equitable opportunities to develop leadership and teamwork skills, enhance feelings of self-confidence and self-efficacy, take healthy risks, discover new interests, and explore varied educational and career paths.

Northfield Public Schools: The Power of Play [website]

Play may seem simple, yet it is profound to a child’s development. Through play, children learn the skills they need to thrive now and throughout their lives. In partnership with the Minnesota Children’s Museum, Northfield Public Schools Community Services Division will create an indoor play space in the media center of the current Greenvale Park Elementary School building which is being remodeled to Northfield’s new early childhood center.

Northfield Community Action Center: Housing Stability [website]

WINGS funding will provide life affirming supports for single mothers with children experiencing housing insecurity in the Northfield community. The WINGS funds will enable CAC’s housing stability project to respond flexibly to each family’s situation with various types of interventions and supports consisting of application fees, rental assistance (first month’s rent), security deposits, and eviction prevention funds. An infusion of WINGS support in moments of a crisis can prevent the destabilization of housing for a family.

Northfield Community Action Center: Empowering Families through Diaper Support [website]

According to the US National Diaper Bank, 1 in 3 families need diaper support. While some manufacturers give free diapers to low-income families or single mothers, the amount and time-frame is limited. If Northfield families need assistance, the nearest diaper bank is located in the Twin Cities. To make matters more complex, some of the diaper banks have residency requirements preventing our families from getting the basic need met. For other families, they may not have reliable transportation or childcare to drive over 40 miles to get diapers. This program seeks to ensure that low-income families...
living in Northfield have access to diapers for their child in a convenient location. The program will strategically operate within the walls of CAC's food shelf where over 193 families with children under the age of five shop annually, potentially meeting their needs.

$3,500 **Tackling Obstacles, Raising College Hopes: NMS TORCH Attendance Interventions** [website]

TORCH will actively promote the attendance of TORCH participants through the addition of a new Promise Fellow position. This project will fund a new full-time AmeriCorps Promise Fellow position at Middle School TORCH dedicated to monitoring and supporting student attendance. Middle School TORCH is currently served by a full-time director, a full-time AmeriCorps Promise Fellow, and an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow who serves half-time at Middle School TORCH and half-time at Middle School Youth Center. By adding an additional full-time staff member, TORCH will significantly grow its capacity to focus on students' attendance concerns. Additionally, the project will fund attendance incentives - including T-shirts, stickers, and gift cards - that can be given to program participants when identified attendance goals are met.

$3,000 **Ruth's House: Emergency and Transitional Shelter Program** [website]

Ruth’s House Emergency and Transitional Shelter provides safe refuge, food and basic needs, and offers individualized supportive programming that helps families stabilize and work toward increasing life skills and self-determination so they can break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. 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, healthy lifestyles classes, family-friendly group outings, and connections with an array of community resources that help families heal and move toward their individualized goals. Staff utilizes trauma-informed services and a client- centered approach when working with women and children to most effectively address their needs.

Funds from WINGS will be used to defray the costs of providing utilities at our Shelter home, including heat and electricity.

$4,000 **Health Finders: School Based Mental Health Services** [website]

HFC’s school-based mental health program brings bilingual/bicultural therapy into the school environment. A collaboration with Northfield Public Schools, the program provides onsite care and counseling, as well as access to and coordination with HFC’s range of programs including youth development, teen clinic, mental and dental health, and patient advocacy programs. This unique program is not implemented in isolation. It supports system change across other providers, county coalitions, and HFC clinics with increased screening, trauma-informed care, and increased cultural awareness.

$1,500 **Northfield Community Action Center: Supporting Women Through Education and Job Training** [website]

This project responds to the essential employment and career readiness services for low-income women in Northfield. It will empower the unique needs of 12 low-income women by providing the necessary training and credentials to support a career pathway in which participants will gain invaluable skills to work remotely from home leading to economic independence. The project will support their career interest by providing training in work readiness, digital literacy, customer service training, other basic work skills, interpreting and translating certification and Microsoft certification.

**WINGS awarded $82,925 in this year’s grant cycle.**

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