



Congratulations
TO THE 2021 WINGS GRANT RECIPIENTS

WINGS awarded \$90,000 in this year's grant cycle. WINGS has granted \$1,229,887 to date.

ANNUAL GRANTS

\$500

Infants Remembered in Silence: IRIS Bereavement Support Packets

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: The Wallflower Project, a host home program

The Wallflower Project exists to provide youth who are homeless or housing insecure with options that not only provide safety, but also allow personal power and voice. This project will offer a safe space, basic sustenance, and human connection. By reducing the lonely nature of homelessness, more young people may feel supported by one another, by caring adults, and by our community; thereby removing the shame of youth homelessness and replacing it with a conversation of openness and hope.

\$10,000

Northfield Community College Collaborative: Law Enforcement Pathway

This program, a collaboration between the Northfield Community College Collaborative (NCCC) and the Northfield Police Reserves Program, seeks to support eight students in earning their Associate of Arts degrees in Law Enforcement or Community Corrections while gaining on-the-job training through the Northfield Police Reserves. The program is available to women and people of color who recently graduated from Northfield area high schools. The hope is that this program will inspire more NCCC graduates (especially women and bilingual students of color) to pursue a career in law enforcement in Northfield.

\$1,700

Project Friendship: Something to Celebrate

Project Friendship has something to celebrate and wants to do that with their mentors and mentees in a personal, one-on-one experience. Throughout the pandemic over 100 mentoring pairs have been meeting virtually; however, they have never met in person. As the pandemic begins to slow, Project Friendship will ensure that an in-person introduction of kids and mentors takes place in a proper way.

\$4,250

Ruth's House of Hope: Emergency and Transitional Shelter Program

All individuals served at Ruth's House receive support to meet their basic needs including safe shelter and food. Programming includes 24-hour staff support, weekly case management meetings to help families set goals and take steps towards self-sufficiency, parenting classes, and financial education. All of these programs are designed to help families break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. Funds from the WINGS grant will be used to defray the costs of providing utilities at the shelter including heat and electricity.

\$11,000

TORCH: Somali Student Support

TORCH aims to increase support and engagement for Northfield School district's growing population of Somali students and families. In the 2017-2018 school year, only four Somali students were enrolled at Northfield High School and there were no Somali students at Northfield's Area Learning Center. By 2019-2020, the number of Somali students had grown to 18 students at NHS and 22 students at the ALC. One of the foundations of TORCH's success has been the increased involvement of bilingual, bicultural staff members who can authentically connect with Spanish speaking students and caregivers. TORCH recognizes the importance of representation, the positive connections that can be made when students see themselves represented in the adults around them, and the benefits of ongoing communication with parents in a language they understand. Somali Student Support will bring the model developed for Spanish-speaking students and caregivers to the Somali constituency.

\$7,825

Greenvale Park Community School: Middle School Initiative

The Middle School Initiative is an effort to implement and support programming for Northfield middle school students through Community School. This project includes the AmeriCorps Promise Fellow, a key member of the Community School team, who has the responsibility of developing and implementing programming and clubs for middle school students who attend Community School. The Middle School Initiative project also includes dedicated funds for middle school programming, field trips, and leadership opportunities. This project will continue the effort made by Community School to provide quality programming, skill building, and positive relationships for Northfield's middle school students.

\$2,400

Sharing Our Roots: Mobile Coop Project

The Sharing Our Roots Mobile Coop Project will provide beginning immigrant women farmers the foundation they need to provide food security to their families and the community. Sharing Our Roots will provide these farmers with training, as well as access to land and newly constructed mobile production coops. For Northfield area immigrant (Latina and African) women farmers who wish to raise chickens, flock financing will be available through a revolving fund. This project also advances economic empowerment, laying the foundation for immigrant-owned micro-enterprises that can expand through supported business planning, small business management training, and shared market structures.

\$11,000

Community Action Center: Housing Stability

WINGS funding will provide life-affirming support for area single mothers who are experiencing a housing crisis. The WINGS funds will enable CAC's housing stability project to respond flexibly to each family's situation by providing supportive services and financial assistance. An infusion of WINGS support in moments of a crisis can prevent the trauma associated with homelessness.

\$5,230

Health Finders Collaborative: School-Based Mental Health

HFC's school-based mental health program brings bilingual/bicultural therapy into the school environment. In 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, offered in conjunction with other providers, county coalitions, and HFC clinics, provides culturally aware screening and trauma-informed care.

\$3,000

Community Action Center: Operation Joy for Teens

Operation Joy is CAC's gift sharing program that focuses on providing all children (birth-18) in our community with a joyful holiday experience. It not only supports families during what can be one of the most stressful and financially difficult times of the year, but has also brought together the entire community in a giving and receiving tradition for over 50 years. Traditionally, each child receives handmade pajamas, a book, mittens/hat, a stocking stuffer and a main gift. Each family also receives a handmade quilt. Because teen gifts are often underrepresented through community donations, this project will help make certain that youth ages 12-18 and their families feel supported by their community as well.

\$3,070

HOPE Center: Zoom Into the Future

The world has changed, and services need to change. This grant will support purchasing portable devices for HOPE Center clients to use during Zoom court hearings, prepaid phones for clients who need a phone while they are fleeing domestic violence, and grocery cards to help clients who need extra funds for basic needs.

\$5,000

Community Action Center: Diaper Bank

The CAC serves over 200 families each month who have children in diapers (under the age of 5). Many of those families struggle to provide quality diapers for the health and wellbeing of their child(ren). When the basic needs of a family can be provided by the community, the stressors on their household budget are alleviated. Ultimately, kids are kept healthy, and families are supported.

\$5,000

Community Action Center: Farm to Family Market

The CAC Food Access Program is working with local farmers to provide fresh produce weekly at the Northfield Community Education Center. This farm market will provide 125 families with just over 11 pounds of produce a week for 18 weeks. The goal is to increase access to healthy food to families and individuals who use the food shelf during the growing season in Minnesota.

\$6,000

Healthy Community Initiative: Reading Corps Pre-K Internal Coach

Reading Corps is an evidence-based literacy program that has been shown to be effective at improving reading skills in preschool age children. Tutors work in the Pre-K setting at Northfield Community Education Center helping children build literacy skills to better prepare them for kindergarten. This grant will fund a part-time coach (an 11-month position) for four Reading Corps funded tutors. The coach will attend multiple trainings and will be responsible for tutor growth and performance. An internal coach is required to allow tutors in Pre-K or elementary programs. In previous years, there were four preschool tutors working full time with 200 students throughout the school year.

\$2,700

Northfield Arts Guild: Bilingual Art Packs

Bilingual Art Packs is a free program of the Northfield Arts Guild that aims to increase access to quality art experiences for youth and families. In the current environment, NAG is offering virtual and home-based activities. Upon reopening, overall access and opportunity to art will be increased through the Guild. This grant supports our ability to continue and enhance the program for the upcoming twelve months. Bilingual Art Packs feature connections to children's literature as well as high quality, immersive, at-home art projects that offer bilingual instructions and bilingual video-based instruction. These projects support school readiness through literacy-based learning through the arts.

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.

Please mail your check (P.O. Box 845, Northfield MN 55057) or donate online (wings-mn.org/donate). Send your tax-deductible gift soon. Thank you!

Stay informed about WINGS! E-news is sent to WINGS members and friends monthly. If you are not receiving e-news, please check your email spam folder. If you have questions, contact communications@wings-mn.org.

WINGS  **Forever**
Leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

Thank you for considering making your legacy gift to WINGS. For more information, contact Patsy Ophaug; president@wings-mn.org

WINGS is an affiliate of the Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation

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\$2,500

Healthy Community Initiative: Northfield YouthBank

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 remains unique in our community in that it puts money directly into the hands of youth who decide on how it will be awarded.

\$7,825

Northfield Middle School TORCH: Out-of-School-Time Connections

As plans for a full return to in-person learning take place, TORCH is excited to safely implement more in-person activities, with a special focus on providing enriching, engaging adventures for students on days that they normally would not attend summer programming or school. NMS TORCH Out-of-School-Time Connections will provide safe, educational out-of-school-time experiences for students. These opportunities will be offered on non-programming days during Summer 2021 and on non-school days during the 2021-2022 academic year in order to create more days of learning, social interaction, and fun for students after enduring the past year of a global pandemic. An AmeriCorps Promise Fellow, supported by the TORCH Director, will plan and facilitate this year-long initiative.