

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) or donate online (www.wings-mn.org/donate) by Nov. 30. Send your tax-deductible gift soon. Thank you!

■ *Request Your Donation History*

One of the most frequently asked questions WINGS gets from its members is, “*When did I last send a donation to WINGS?*”

You can request that your donation history be emailed to you by filling out a short form found at www.wings-mn.org/request. You will be emailed a list of your annual donations from the last three years.



2015 WINGS Grant Recipients

\$15,250	Basic Needs
\$39,638	Education
\$10,680	Physical and Mental Health
\$8,300	Entrepreneurship
\$73,868	TOTAL



Basic Needs:

- Community Action Center: Housing Assistance for Women and Children
- Community Action Center: Working Mother’s Childcare
- HOPE Center: Care Service Provision
- Ruth’s House of Hope, Inc.: Transitional Shelter Program

Education:

- Northfield Area Learning Center: BWCA Wilderness Experience
- Northfield Public Schools: TORCH Middle School Literacy Initiative
- TORCH (Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes): TORCH Youth Leadership Development
- Northfield Public Schools Community Services: Connected Kids
- Dakota Prairie Adult Basic Education: Family School Transportation and Outreach
- Northfield Booster Club: Athletic Fee Waivers
- Northfield Union of Youth: Unlock Your Voice
- Friends and Foundation of the Northfield Public Library: Welcome Back to the Library! Bienvenido de Nuevo!

- Northfield Public Schools Community Services: Lunch and Learning
- Project Friendship: Learning with Pumpkins
- Northfield Arts Guild: Purple Door Youth Theater
- Northfield Youth Sports Collaborative: Collaborative Scholarship Fund
- Northfield Healthy Community Initiative: PRIMEtime Summer Academic Initiative
- Northfield Public Schools Community Services: Camp FRIENDS
- Northfield Public Schools: Sibley Special Education Leveled Library

Physical and Mental Health:

- HealthFinders Collaborative, Inc.: Community Family Dental Care
- Northfield Area Family YMCA: Y Scholarships for Low-Income Families
- Girl Scouts of MN and WI River Valleys: Girl Scouts ConnectZ
- Growing Up Healthy: Martes en el Parque

Entrepreneurship:

- Main Street Project: Latina Women Agripreneur Project
- Northfield Arts Guild: Autism and the Arts Summer Art Mart
- Dollars and \$ense: Northfield Youth IDA Program
- Northfield Healthy Community Initiative: Northfield YouthBank

WINGSPAN

WOMEN IN NORTHFIELD GIVING SUPPORT WWW.WINGS-MN.ORG NOVEMBER, 2015



A Letter from Your President

Have you ever thought about what “pushes” you and what “pulls” you, and whether your best self comes out of being pushed or pulled? For me, I get most inspired by being pulled into something that is so compelling that I want to be a part of it. I have reflected on two instances recently that emphasize that, through WINGS, I am being pulled into space with people that inspire me to make good things happen.

At our summer grants luncheon, we celebrated 27 organizations receiving grants totaling almost \$75,000. Talented people and organizations leverage our dollars through compelling stories and visions for the future. The generosity of our membership allows for other organizations to be nourished and succeed as they pursue pulling up the lives of those around them. Take the time to visit our website and Facebook to view the projects and programs we fund. I think you will find the numbers 27 and \$75,000 impressive, but, more importantly, the recognition of hundreds of lives that have been pulled up through our collective efforts.

Recently, I have had conversations with two long-time WINGS members who have engaged the community and lives of individuals in meaningful and impactful ways – far more than I think they may even realize. I learn from them. I want to be more like these women. I am pulled into their wisdom, commitment, and life experiences. Being a member of WINGS opens up the opportunity to be among women that pull me to greater heights.

WINGS holds a special and important place in the Northfield community. We unite almost 300 women of all ages and backgrounds in a mission to expand philanthropy, build and strengthen community, and improve the lives of women and youth. I am thankful to support and serve an organization with these aspirations. My hope is that you feel pulled to do so, too.

With Gratitude,

Nancy Carlson — President



Don't miss the fun! Come!

When you give to WINGS on **November 12**, you can donate via our website www.wings-mn.org/donate OR in person (by check or online), 7:00am–10:00am at the **Hideaway** for a special **Give to the Max Day WINGS coffee event!**

Renew your membership by November 30

Thanks for your ongoing membership in WINGS! As a member of WINGS, you have demonstrated your desire to focus your giving locally and to make an impact by supporting the needs of women and children in our community.

Please help WINGS process donations by renewing your membership by November 30. One great way to ensure donations are received by this time is to participate in Give to the Max Day on November 12. *WINGS members can begin giving November 1 to be included in Give to the Max Day.* We also invite you to become a sustaining member!

Remember, you may donate at any time via our website at www.wings-mn.org/ donate, or by sending a check to: WINGS, PO Box 845, Northfield, MN 55057. Thank you!

QUESTIONS

A few things to ask yourself as you clarify your philanthropic values and interests:

- *What motivates you to give?*
- *What values have your family and other role models passed on to you?*
- *What past experiences have shaped your beliefs or your thinking?*
- *Where have you spent your time or money in the past?*

With these values in mind, write down people, places and issues you want to support. This may help further narrow your focus. You can use these thoughts to build a charitable giving statement that combines your values with the causes you want to champion. Once you’ve built your statement, share it with family or the advisors in your life.

■ **WINGS Forever! Have you considered including WINGS in your will or other deferred giving plan?** We'd love to talk with you. Please contact Treasurer:
Meleah Follen at treasurer@wings-mn.org

■ **Or, many of our members choose sustaining membership.** We know you're busy and it's so easy to forget details. This category of giving is easy! WINGS members can arrange to make regular annual or monthly contributions—and never have to worry about forgetting.

MINNESOTA PHILANTHROPY PARTNERS

WINGS is a fund of Minnesota Community Foundation and an affiliate of Minnesota Philanthropy Partners.

WINGS Friends and Members — (January 1, 2014 – October 15, 2015)

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Litao Zhang
Kathryn Ziegler-Graham
Becky Zrimsek

*** Founding Member (D) Deceased**

Every effort has been made to print an accurate list of members. Our sincere apologies if we have made an error. To correct our records, please contact Meleah Follen at tresurere@wings-mn.org

*"I have found that among its other benefits,
giving liberates the soul of the giver."
- Maya Angelou*

You can become a sustaining member whether you donate \$10 a month or are a Blue WINGS Member giving at least \$1,200 a year. And best of all, if we know we can count on your donation, we can focus on our mission to help women and youth in Northfield. Please consider becoming a sustaining member. If donating online, click the "DONATE NOW" button, you will have the option to make your donation occur monthly or annually. If donating by mail, let us know your gifting preference and we'll contact you.

Donate at any time via our website at www.wings-mn.org/donate, or by sending a check to: WINGS, PO Box 845, Northfield, MN 55057. Thank you!

SPREADING OUR WINGS: Our gifts in action

Northfield Healthy Community Initiative: Northfield YouthBank

Northfield YouthBank is a youth-led, grant-making initiative that channels money into youth-run projects in our community. YouthBank is heading into its second round of grants after awarding \$9,300 last spring to four local youth projects: a monthly film festival, securing the Weitz Center for a youth movie premier,



funding coaches for the Latino Play Festival and assisting the Nomadic Audient Collective with audio equipment, drums and money.

YouthBank originated in Northern Ireland and has chapters in 24 countries. One of eight YouthBanks in the United States,

Northfield YouthBank is the only United States chapter to move into the granting phase! It operates under the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative. The WINGS grant of \$2,000 for this next round of grants is being matched by YouthPrise, a Twin Cities-based organization, which provided Northfield YouthBank with \$10,000 in seed money.

"YouthBank has proven to be an organization like no other," said Jane Ludwig, a Northfield YouthBank team member. "In the past year, we've learned how to be flexible, fair, and well-rounded community members. I've been frustrated more than once in group conversations and decisions, but with compromise and patience, the end result has always been worth it. The kids that both give and receive our grant money gain valuable experience and the community as a whole benefits from our work."

PRIMEtime Summer Academic Initiative: Reading Rockets

For six weeks this summer, Greenvale Park Elementary School was home to the Reading Rockets program. Approximately 30 students who were behind grade level in reading worked on literacy development with two certified teachers. In addition to classroom work, the teachers conducted three home visits with



each participating family. Those students who met the participation goals received incentives, such as sports balls, art supplies, books, gift cards and more. Larger incentives were awarded to students who met reading growth goals. The incentives, while small, were a powerful positive reinforcement for the children. Most importantly, the program sought to promote an increased love of reading

among the students and to recognize the often-untapped power that parents can play in being the chief educators of their children.

Among all students who completed the program, 88% showed improvements from their most recent MAP tests. Another equally important outcome was that 87% of parents reported that his/her child's love of reading significantly improved during the Reading Rockets summer program.

One of the third grade girls in the program could be seen bouncing her basketball on the sidewalk in front of her family's apartment. As people passed by, she would announce, "I won this basketball because I am learning to read!" As they walked by, she would add, "And I am getting REALLY good at reading."

Growing Up Healthy: Martes en el Parque

Martes en el Parque is a weekly summertime gathering in two Northfield neighborhoods: Viking Terrace and Jefferson Square. These gatherings offer families the opportunity to enjoy the warm weather, access community resources, and build connections both within and beyond their neighborhoods. Through collaborations with other community groups and organizations that provide activities and programming for families, Martes en el Parque creates opportunities for increasing social connectedness, an important component



of building healthy communities.

One of the most popular Martes en el Parque collaborations includes a mobile vegetable market and cooking demonstrations. Locally grown vegetables from Seeds Farm were available for purchase in

the park at a low cost, increasing the accessibility of and connection to local foods. Neighbors worked together to make beet burgers, green smoothies and kohlrabi snacks, all the while building relationships with each other. In the words of one Martes en el Parque volunteer, "It's not about following a recipe, it's about being human with other humans through connections that can only be formed over time by being present in the same space together."

Northfield Area Family YMCA: Y Scholarships for Low-Income Families

The Northfield YMCA opened the doors to its brand new facility in September 2014. Since then, the number of people requesting financial assistance to participate has far exceeded expectations, and support from WINGS allows families to participate regardless of financial difficulties. Currently more



than 800 individuals are receiving financial support of 20-75% on membership and programs and services. A visit to the Y any weekday evening will provide a view of those participating, and is a rich mix of diversity.

Financial difficulties come in all shapes and sizes. A recent recipient was a family of four. Though both parents work, income is not steady. They shared that the increased stress was creating unhealthy habits, and coming to the Y has given them all an opportunity to participate in healthy activities and let go of the stress for a little while.



"Like us!" Like us on Facebook and see what a difference your gift makes in our community every day.