



WINGS

WOMEN IN NORTHFIELD GIVING SUPPORT | WWW.WINGS-MN.ORG | OCTOBER 2024

A Letter From Your President

Movements start small. An idea or dream with the right environment and the right people can grow to be a big deal. WINGS has done just that. Nearly 25 years ago three women in Northfield attended a philanthropy conference and they decided with their pooled resources and invitations to the rest of the community they could make a difference and fill in some of the needs in the Northfield.

These visionary women reached into their circle of influence and extended the invitation to others, like Gretchen Ehresmann. I recently visited Gretchen and asked her what WINGS looked like 25 years ago.

Like today, the focus was on pooled giving, amplifying the dollars given. At that time Gretchen was the only female doctor in town and was very busy with her practice and raising her own boys. She was drawn to belong to WINGS, intrigued with the idea of being a part of something bigger than herself without having to attend committee meetings. Two meetings a year was just right for her...the Annual meeting

and the Grants dinner. Minimum membership then was not too different from what it is today – \$100 then and \$120 today.

Gretchen felt like there was a vision in the beginning that WINGS would grow in both funds and membership. Like today, they established an Annual Fund and an Endowment Fund, one for use now and one for growth in the future.

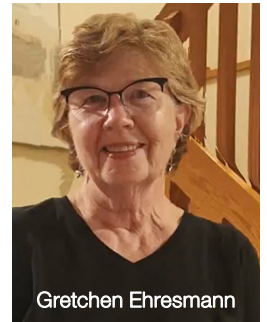
One of the early focuses was on educating women about philanthropy. Gretchen recognized that WINGS has adapted with the times alongside other organizations in our community. Our membership structure changed from 'giving circles' to individual giving. Early language focused on 'women and children' where today we identify more with the word 'youth' to not exclude any demographic.

Today Gretchen is a very active member of the WINGS board, helping in all sorts of ways since retirement. She brings a well-rounded perspective to the ongoing work of WINGS. One of her personal advocacy works is for people

with intellectual developmental disabilities. She is on the Laura Baker board, and she brings an awareness to those around her about our responsibility to make our community a place where everyone can be safe and thrive. She has introduced a new language for us to use at WINGS to be inclusive of all.

Gretchen's parting words to me and to all of us are, "Where does the care come from? Who is going to be there for them? How do we support our vulnerable neighbors and create a loving community?"

Let her words guide us into the next 25 years....



Gretchen Ehresmann

Vicki Dilley
President of WINGS

SAVE THE DATE FOR MINNESOTA'S GENEROSITY HOLIDAY



Minnesota's annual Give to the Max Day is returning on Thursday, November 21, 2024, and Early Giving begins November 1.

Give to the Max exists because of tens of thousands of generous Minnesotans like you. On behalf of WINGS and the thousands of causes on GiveMN.org, we appreciate your support as we work together to raise millions of dollars for Minnesota communities this year!

Can't wait to make a difference? Visit GiveMN.org any day of the year and search for WINGS and causes that mean the most to you!



Endowment Fund

Scan for 2 Ways to Donate to WINGS

WINGS Forever
Leave a lasting legacy for future generations.



Annual Fund

WINGS Membership *the sky's the limit!*

	\$1 - \$119	\$120 - \$299	\$300 - \$599	\$600 - \$1,199	\$1,200 +
	\$10 + month	\$25 + month	\$50 + month	\$100 + month	
Friend/Student					
Bronze Wings					
Silver Wings					
Gold Wings					
Blue Wings					

Celebrating 25 Years of Women in Northfield Giving Support

2025 marks the 25th anniversary of WINGS! To celebrate, in addition to our annual grants, WINGS will award a \$25,000 Dare to Dream grant to a single organization focusing on a major initiative. Dare to Dream grants can have a powerful impact in our community. Read on for updates from our past Dare to Dream grantees and their programs. To find more information about the Dare to Dream grant, go to the WINGS website, <https://wings-mn.org>.



2014 DARE TO DREAM \$10,000 GRANTEE

Northfield Healthy Community Initiative: Community School

The original 2014 WINGS funds were used for start-up costs with the Community School initiative. The number one need was funds

to hire the coordinator, who helped schedule partners' times at Greenvale, was present during each evening session to coordinate the multitude of activities, and developed the initial systems that were vital for the project's long-term success.

At that time, Community School Advisory Council members were confident that if the project was as successful as expected, it would be well-positioned to find external grant funds to cover expenses after this initial pilot year. This was very accurate and a Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) 21st Century Community Learning Center grant

was secured later in 2014. Community School then received that same MDE grant again in 2019 and has been successfully operating the Greenvale Park Community School for 11 years. In addition, using ESSER federal COVID relief funds, Community School sites expanded to Spring Creek and Bridgewater Elementary Schools in 2022.

Last year, Community School served....

Cooking Club

Friendship Night

Lining up for Clubs at Spring Creek

Taking a Break from 'Tag' at GVP

Science Night

Cookie Decorating with Friends

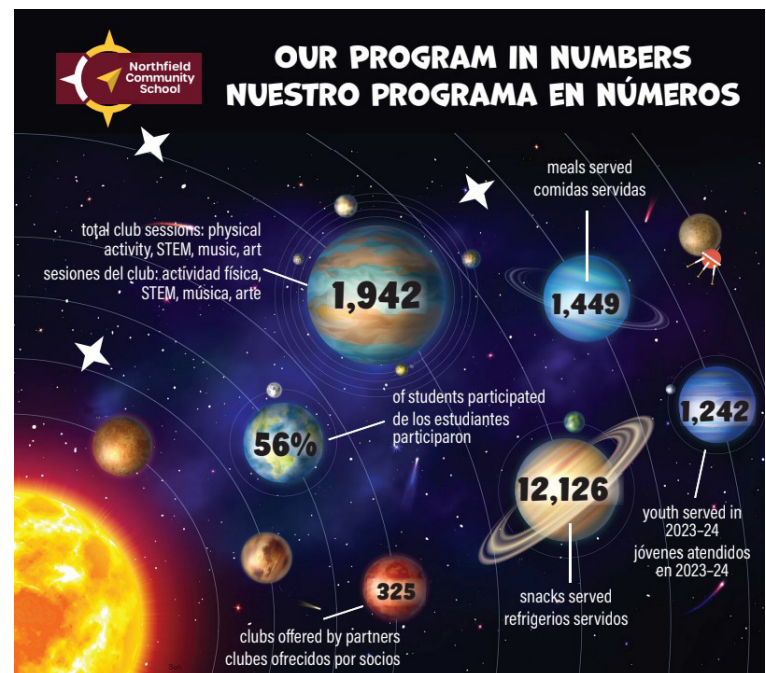
Loving our New Community School Shirts

Ready for Swim Lessons at the YMCA

NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

2023-2024

BRIDGEWATER | GREENVALE | SPRING CREEK



WINGS awarded Community School more funding to support a Groundwork Fellow position, which will start the data collection, focus groups and listening session in preparation to compete for another MDE grant.

The initial WINGS Dare to Dream grant launched a Community School Initiative that is in its 11th year and has greatly expanded!



2016 DARE TO DREAM \$10,000 GRANTEE

Growing Up Healthy: Latino Childcare Provider Network

Growing Up Healthy launched the Latino Childcare Provider Network in 2016, supported by a \$10,000 WINGS Dare to Dream grant. The money was used to create a social support system to build the capacity of Latine family, friends, and neighbors (FFN) to provide high-quality early childhood care to children in the Northfield area. Trainings were conducted in Spanish and ranged from promoting early literacy, CPR and first aid. The long-term goal was to ensure that all Northfield children will be ready for kindergarten.

The network has grown from 47 providers to 115 and is now known as the Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) grant initiative. FFN caregivers are family members, friends, or neighbors who care for children and do not hold a childcare license. The Growing Up Healthy team offers training, early learning materials, play activities, and home safety supplies to FFNs to help children be ready for kindergarten. They also provide FFNs with resources and events happening in the community so that they are connected to the community during their childhood years.

In August 2024 alone, the Growing Up Healthy team had more than 200 connections with FFNs. This fall, they delivered back-to-school activity bags for more than 75 children under the care of FFNs.



Since the initial funding by WINGS, Growing Up Healthy/Healthy Community Initiative has secured funding from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation, and the Minnesota Department of Human Services (now the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth and Families) to support the initiative. The total funding secured since the original WINGS grant nearly eight years ago has exceeded \$500,000.

2018 DARE TO DREAM \$25,000 GRANTEE

Northfield Union of Youth

In 2018, Northfield Union of Youth (NUY) sought WINGS Dare to Dream funding to strengthen the community's safety net for the most vulnerable and underserved youth. NUY, along with the Northfield Area Learning Center (ALC) and TORCH, had been working tirelessly to overcome obstacles faced by these youth, but gaps in support remained. Dare to Dream funding presented an opportunity to close those gaps by fostering collaboration among these three organizations, allowing them to provide a more integrated approach to outreach and support.

The goal was simple but ambitious: to empower the community's least supported youth through coordinated efforts between NUY, Northfield ALC, and TORCH. By combining the strengths of each organization – NUY's advocacy and supportive services, Northfield



ALC's award-winning alternative education, and TORCH's success in helping low-income students graduate – this collaboration would ensure that no student falls through the cracks. Central to this vision was the addition of a community-based social worker, housed at NUY, who would connect these programs and provide critical support to the youth in need.

Reflecting on the impact of this initial investment, Scott Wopata, former Executive Director of NUY and current Executive Director of the Community Action Center (CAC), shares how the Dare to Dream funding has transformed youth services in the region:

“In 2018, WINGS provided seed money for a big dream (\$25k) to pilot a program that could sew a better fabric of support services for youth in our community. That success led to new partnerships, which cemented into a collaboration between NUY, CAC, and Northfield Schools in 2019. That collaboration resulted in permanent CAC staff working within Northfield Schools. By 2023, CAC had added multiple staff members in Northfield schools, providing critical and responsive support services for youth. In 2024, building on this success, CAC expanded these services to Faribault schools.

WINGS → NUY → CAC Northfield → CAC Faribault. What started as a \$25k grant has now leveraged approximately \$250k annually in funding and partnerships. That's a 10x return on the initial investment. One could argue that the WINGS investment into NUY helped change ‘the system’ of youth support services in our community.



Currently, CAC Youth Advocates work with 121 unique youth in Northfield, providing deep support services, and are working with an additional 70 youth (and growing) in Faribault. While much of this work centers on housing needs, a significant portion focuses on Recovery (SUD) as well. These numbers reflect ‘significant work’ with youth, rather than just contact with them.”

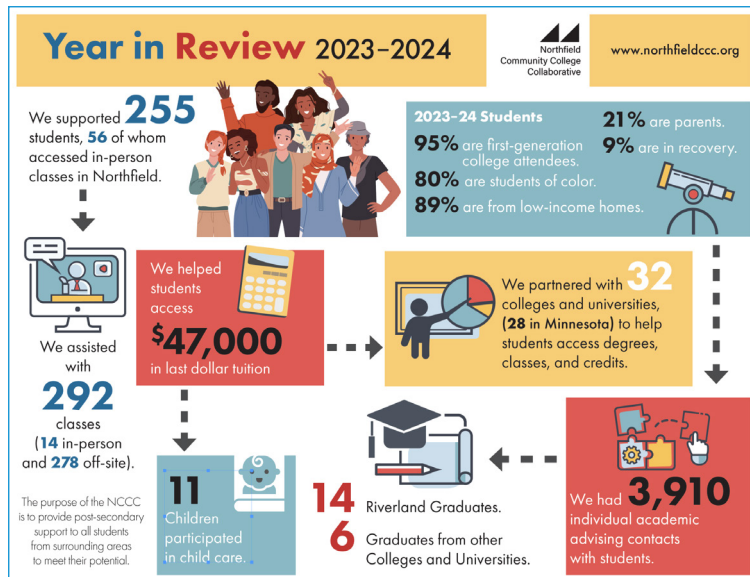
Kelli Podracky, the current Executive Director of NUY, has witnessed firsthand how this collaboration continues to impact youth in the community. NUY and Northfield ALC meet regularly to employ a collaborative, wraparound approach where students served by both organizations are identified, their unique needs are addressed, and tailored support opportunities are discussed. This collaborative effort ensures that no youth falls through the cracks, leveraging the strengths of both organizations to maximize support and foster success. NUY has also partnered with the ALC to offer creative seat-time options such as cooking classes and art mural projects to help students recover credits.

A highlight of Kelli's first year with the organization was attending the spring ALC graduation, celebrating with students who had overcome immense challenges to succeed. Additionally, in times of crisis, Podracky's first call is often to Jennifer Williams Toth, CAC's social worker housed at the ALC, exemplifying the deep partnership that has developed between NUY, CAC, and Northfield Schools – one that continues to transform lives thanks to the Dare to Dream funding.

2020 DARE TO DREAM \$20,000 GRANTEE Northfield Community College Collaborative

The Northfield Community College Collaborative (NCCC) began in the fall of 2018, as a response to Northfield graduates running into barriers in accessing and persevering with post-secondary education. In partnership with Riverland Community College, a flexible program model was designed in which on-site and supported online classes are now offered in Northfield. Students are able to take a variety of classes as they work toward earning their Associate of Arts degree. When the NCCC began it was housed in some open office space over Merchant's Bank. There was only room to hold one class at a time and class size was limited to no more than 12 students.





It quickly became apparent that this space was not going to hold the NCCC for long. When there was the opportunity to take over space at the Northfield Community Resource Center and expand the NCCC's footprint the WINGS Dare to Dream grant helped that become a reality. With the funding, space was reconfigured at the NCRC to create two full classrooms and a study area. This included some light construction as well as painting, purchasing furniture, installing white boards, and getting reliable internet service. The space was transformed into college classrooms where many of our students come to study, attend classes, and meet with academic advisors.

The NCCC is proud of its success and that of its students. The fall semester of 2018 had five students taking in person classes. Last year 56 students were supported with in-person classes and an additional 199 students who were taking classes at other institutions. NCCC has evolved from primarily being a location for students to access post-secondary classes locally to being a program that helps a wide array of community members pursue a variety of post-secondary pursuits while receiving hands-on, specialized supports. Students vary in age from 16 to the mid-50's and they pursue not only Associate and Bachelor's degrees, but also certifications (CNA, EMT, welding), specific career pathways (teaching, law-enforcement) and re-training courses for those new to the country. Student Services Coordinators provide individualized support that ensures that every student understands their post-secondary options and helps them access them. Beyond the classroom supports include help with FAFSA completion and tax filings, academic counseling and tutoring, free child care during evening classes, free meals to consume on site or take home, financial literacy education, and support in attaining post-graduation employment.

It is believed that the NCCC will continue its steady growth in both number of students served and the services offered. It hopes to turn one of the classrooms into an official "Zoom Room" with additional technology (microphones, cameras, additional screens) that will allow students to be in the space while professors are off site. This will increase the variety of classes offered throughout the year, tapping into a cohort of Riverland professors who are unable to be on site for a variety of reasons.

With the support of WINGS, access to these programs and services is changing people's lives.

To give, visit wings-mn.org/donate

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Women in Northfield
WINGS
 Giving Support

Donate

1 - Annual Fund

Interested in seeing all your dollars make a difference in the lives of women and youth over the next year? Contribute to the **WINGS Annual Fund** where the principal and income are available for immediate distribution.

2 - Endowment Fund

Interested in building an endowment so women and youth can be supported far into the future? Contribute to the **WINGS Endowment Fund** where a percentage of the balance is available for distribution while the remaining balance is held to accrue interest and grow over time.



WINGS VOTING MEMBERS

(January 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)

Anonymous	Kimberly Decker	Laura Heiman	Sue Middleton	Karleen Sherman
Connie Albers	Jayne Hager Dee	Katherine Helgen	Nancy Moe	Janet Shoger
Barbara Altstaetter	Connie DeGrote	Lou Heng	Jane Moore	Susan Singer
Cynthia Anderson	Sharon Detert	Alyssa Herzog	Lynn Naeckel	Frances Smith
Mari Aylin	Vicki Dilley	Joan Higinbotham	Connie Nelson	Kay Smith
Maren Bahler	Jacqueline Dorsey	June Hiza	Kari Nelson	Margaret Glynn Stary
Erin Bailey	Mary Douglass	Carolyn Hogan	Elaine Nesbit	Margaret Steen
Lois Bakko	Sharon Dreifus	Patricia Hohertz	Debra Nitz	Mary Steen
Anndora Barvir	Norma Driver	Kristi Holden	Jean Noack	Vicki Stevens
Joan Berg	Mary Dunnewold	Susan Hollinger	Katherine Norrie	Lois Stratmoen
Katy Berglund	Martha Easter-Wells	Kelly Irvine	Sue Norsted	Shelley Strobel
Elizabeth Berry	Jennifer Edwins	Margit Johnson	Kathleen Norton	Ann Sullivan
Mary Bleckwehl	Gay Eggers	Pat Johnson	Mary Lynn Oglesbee	Julie Sullivan
Emily Blumhoefer	Gretchen Ehresmann	Elizabeth Kallestad	Meg Ojala	Sarah Swan McDonald
Susan Boxrud	Mary Emery	Judith Khanna	Kathy Olson	Alice Thomas
Martha Brown	Margaret Enders	Becky Koenigs	Patricia Ophaug	Merrell Thornton
Lin Bruce	Diane Enebak	Angelica Koch	Rebecca Otten	Linda Tickle
Evelyn Burry	Jan Ensrud	Carolyn Koziolk	Priscilla Paton	Pam Tidona
Jan Burry	Elise Eslinger	Cynthia Kreis	Deb Peters	Teresa Tillson
Marquita Cammon	Kristine Estenson	Diane Kuhlmann	Claire Pfau	Marian Tise
Mary Carlsen	Ann Etter	Kari Kust	Pasha Quaas	Barbara Titus
Charlotte Carlson	Shirley Evans	Dianne Kyte	Susan Quinnell	Linda Tollefson
Mary Carlson	Susan Evans	Pat Lamb & Elle Hansen	Claire Rafferty	Laura Turek
Alice Carson	Jill Ewald	Charitable Fund	Lana Reich	Pam Vig
Lois Cary	Regina Fineran	Leone Larson	Leah Rich	Colleen Vitek
Natalie Chell	Margaret Fink	Michelle Lasswell	Laura Riehle-Merrill	Roberta Wakely
Elizabeth Child	Bonnie Jean Flom	Sally Legrand	Jane Rinehart	Virginia Walsh
Deb Christensen	Meleah Follen	Mary Lewis Grow	Patricia Robertson	Mary Weaver
Elizabeth Christensen	Catherine Fortin	Lois Lindbloom	Jeannette Rogers	Eve Webster
Patrice Ciernia	Pamela Franz	Virginia Lorang	Kimberly Rohr	Doris Welke
Elizabeth Ciner	Marie Gery	Mary Loven	Anne Meyer Ruppel	Elizabeth Wicks
Carol Cole	Cynthia Gilbertson	Diane Lyman	Connie Ryberg	Kathy Wiertsema Miller
Kathleen Costa	Candace Godfrey	Carol Marshall	Mary Savina	Candace Wilkinson
Loraine Cowles	Ann Gosack	Judith Mason	Jennifer Sawyer	Karen Wingate
Jennifer Cox Johnson	Kathryn Graham	Rachel Matney	Linda Sawyer	Margaret Witt
Ruth Crane	Paula Granquist	Amy McBroom	Donna Rae Scheffert	Lynne Young
Barbara Crouter	Beret Griffith	Elizabeth McKinsey	Lori Schmidt	Julie Zaruba Fountaine
Gwen Daniels	Helene Haapala	Abigail Meierbachtol	Cora Scholz	Barbara Zaveruha
Linda Davis	Mary Hahn	Susan Crow Metz	Grace Schroeder Scott	Karen Zwolenski
Chris Daymont	Nancy Hegland	Rhonda Meyer	Nicole Schroeder	

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 Liz Ciner at treasurer@wings-mn.org.

Engaging the Next Generation of Philanthropists

With an eye toward continued growth, we are inviting you to help us engage and inspire the next generation of philanthropists.

Make a donation of \$25 on behalf of a young person in your life. Think of your granddaughters, daughters, nieces, etc. While we are excited to engage our teens and twenty-somethings, we are delighted to get anyone involved!

Make an online donation between November 1, 2024 and April 1, 2025 to the Annual Fund and include the name of your giftee in the “Additional Contributor” section. You can also send a check and

include the name of your giftee. Alternatively, make your donation however you’d like and email membership@wings-mn.org with the names and contact information for your giftee. We will mail your giftees information about the 2025 grant recipients to demonstrate the beauty of our collective impact.

This is a unique opportunity to make an immediate impact and to inspire the next generation of philanthropists. Together, we can plant seeds for lasting change, ensuring that the spirit of philanthropy continues to grow and thrive for years to come.

Read more about how we can encourage philanthropy in teens and twenty-somethings at <https://ascent.usbank.com/private-capital-management/ascent-resources-and-insights/next-generation-wealth/teaching-kids-about-philanthropy.html> and <https://www.regions.com/insights/wealth/family/transferring-your-legacy/getting-kids-excited-about-charitable-giving>

The Fastest Growing Giving Trend

from *Axios Finish Line*

The fastest-growing form of philanthropy in America is collective giving – where individuals, usually women, pool their funds and decision-making.

Why it matters: This kind of structured giving is a glimpse of what democratic, egalitarian philanthropy looks like, *Axios* chief financial correspondent Felix Salmon writes.

THE BIG PICTURE: A new report from *Philanthropy Together* finds that the philanthropy practiced by these groups – called “giving circles” – is very different from the top-down practices of foundations funded by billionaires.

The leaders and members of the groups are overwhelmingly women, and often women of color. Sixty percent of these groups are entirely women.

The charities they support tend to be small community organizations. The giving is overwhelmingly local.

Rather than concentrate on metrics like “bang for the buck,” the groups tend to be more concerned with racial equity and inclusion.

Donations are broadly unrestricted. In the jargon, it’s “trust-based philanthropy” that isn’t tied to outcomes or specific projects.

BY THE NUMBERS: The number of giving circles, and the number of people who are part of one, tripled between 2007 and 2016 – and then tripled again between 2016 and 2023.

Today, there are roughly 4,000 such groups, with 370,000 members. Among them, they gave away more than \$3 billion over a five-year period ending in 2023. “The movement is now on a trajectory to double again in the next five years,” the 2024 report says.

The leaders and members of the groups are overwhelmingly women, and often women of color. Sixty percent of these groups are entirely women.

And it’s droves of smaller donations that make up the bigger pie. Most members donate less than \$1,000 per year.

BETWEEN THE LINES: Members of the giving circles reported significant improvement to their physical, mental and spiritual health as a result of joining. In an increasingly atomizing world, these groups create real community.

Members also became more likely to become actively engaged in local civic institutions.

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) by Nov. 30. 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 Vicki Dilley; president@wings-mn.org.

WINGS is an affiliate of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation



2024 WINGS GRANT RECIPIENTS

WINGS awarded \$100,200 in this year's grant cycle.
WINGS has granted \$1,530,087 to date.

- ◆ Dakota Prairie Basic Ed. – Adult Basic Ed. Classroom Cupboard
- ◆ Three Rivers Community Action Family Childcare Model
- ◆ Ruth's House – Dedicated Case Manager
- ◆ Northfield Public Schools Area Learning Center Backpack Food Program
- ◆ Healthy Community Initiative TORCH College Visits
- ◆ Sharing Our Roots – Food Security & Economic Stability
- ◆ Northfield Union of Youth – Mental Health Outreach
- ◆ Healthy Community Initiative – YouthBank
- ◆ Northfield Public Schools Community Schools Fellow
- ◆ NCCC/HCI – Higher Education in Recovery
- ◆ Community Action Center – Housing Stability
- ◆ Community Action Center Diaper and Hygiene Bank
- ◆ HOPE Center – Kitchen Essentials
- ◆ HealthFinders – Healthy Minds Collective
- ◆ Healthy Community Initiative Navigating Early Childhood
- ◆ Community Action Center Youth Sports Scholarships