

Northfield Area Foundation announces grants

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A \$10,000 gift from the **Northfield Area Foundation** will help make affordable housing more energy efficient and reduce the city's carbon footprint. This money was considered a 'local match' for a \$40,000 grant from a state agency investing in communities seeking innovative energy solutions.

The money, a grant to ReNew Northfield, was the largest of 13 bequests to 10 area organizations. In all, more than \$36,000 was distributed in January by the **Northfield Area Foundation**, a group founded in 1993.

In 2000, a fund given by Northfielders Marston and Dorothy Headley provided an endowment for grants to be selected by the foundation's advisory board. In 2006, the foundation received funds from the Nutting family, to be used to benefit the community, including beautification.



Local organizations apply for funds and a volunteer review committee makes recommendations for funding. This year, three themes emerged from the grants:

- Bringing state or national resources to Northfield. Examples include - energy solutions, Latino leadership development, musicians, historical actors, youth development, character education, and parent education
- Meeting unmet needs, such as – dental care, activity fees, college applications and campus visits, field trips for autistic young people
- Supporting community volunteerism through dental services, service learning in schools, personal financial support to others, community band, middle and high school peer trainers, historical building restoration, public art development

The following grants were awarded at the January board of advisors meeting:

Community Action Center:

- \$5,000 grant will help provide dental care for low-income adults through a program called "Miles of Smiles." This program first provided dental services for low-income children; through this the need for adult dental care was identified.
- A separate \$2,000 award will help cover activity fees for low-income students to participate in athletic and extra-curricular activities. With many local sports clubs, recreation and arts groups requiring fees for participation, the CAC serves as a clearinghouse with available funding so that young people do not face a financial barrier limiting their participation.

Friends Anonymous

\$1,500 will allow this group to fund immediate, urgent requests that often can't be fulfilled by other groups. An example is a short term grant to pay a mortgage company one month's rent to avoid foreclosure and allow a family time to stabilize their financial situation. It also intends to

reach more “friends” with a commitment to personal financial giving so that more unmet needs can be met.

Northfield Area Latino Leadership Council

The \$1,200 grant will help with leadership-building within the city's Latino community. The Main Street Project is the fiscal agency; its mission is developing emerging leaders of all ages within the rural Latino community as a means of creating change from the inside out.

Northfield Community Band

\$1,500 will pay for guest musicians and to rent the city's showmobile for four summer concerts in downtown Northfield. Many local musicians will share their talents while others enjoy the music, shop at the local businesses and see friends and neighbors.

Northfield Public Library

Historical actors will come to Northfield during the summer to help young people understand and celebrate Minnesota's sesquicentennial with funding of a \$1,000 grant.

Northfield High School

Students will be able to expand service learning projects with a \$5,000 grant. This grant supplements another national grant and allows flexibility to build the program to best benefit Northfield.

Northfield Union of Youth

Peer support and resources will help more young people pursue a secondary education. An award of \$720 will help high school students apply to colleges and provide campus tours.

Project ABLE

Programs for those with autism, ages 11 to 20, will be funded with \$1,900 to the Northfield Community Services division. The funds will support field trips to regional resources including the National Eagle Center.

Project Sight

\$2,850 funds this teen pregnancy prevention program in which teens deliver the message through skits. A nationally acclaimed training group will be brought to Northfield to work with the middle and high school students who then volunteer their time to go into classrooms with their memorable skits.

Parents Meeting Parents

This recently formed volunteer group, which works under the Northfield Family YMCA umbrella, received \$1,025 supporting parents of children with disabilities to attend educational sessions to learn skills, find support and identify available resources.

Sibley Elementary

A \$1,995 grant will pay for a character education program at the school designed to combat teasing and bullying and encourage students to be kinder and more compassionate.

Rice County Steam and Gas Engine Club

A \$400 grant will help the club restore a corn crib on its fair grounds near Dundas. This historic restoration site brings visitors to Northfield from throughout southern Minnesota and showcases the areas proud agricultural heritage.

The Northfield Historical Society, represented by artist Ray Jacobson, was given a pledge for funding in 2008. The \$10,000 pledge will help pay for the installation of his ton and a half bronze sculpture, "Harvest", along the soon-to-be-refurbished Riverwalk between Bridge Square and Fifth Street. Jacobson's sculpture, which celebrates the city's milling origins, now stands just outside the entrance to Malt-O-Meal's Campbell Plant.