

## DAKOTA COUNTY STATEWIDE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

# HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS PROJECTS 2023 - SUMMARY REPORT

The goal of this NEW community funding opportunity supported by the Minnesota Department of Health's Statewide Health Improvement Partnership grant is to support organizations wishing to launch or expand projects working to improve **health equity** in Dakota County.

## FOCUS AREAS OF PROJECTS:



→ Increased access to healthy food



→ Improved community mental health & well-being



→ Increased opportunities to be physically active

## GRANT AWARD PROCESS:



**24** Applications received  
**9** Awarded

Short term, small investments with big outcomes: 6 months at a level of \$3,000 each

## KEY OUTCOMES

- ▶ ALL 9 projects were community-led
- ▶ All projects were centered on health equity or aiming to reach a specific community or population facing greater barriers to achieving their full health potential
- ▶ SHIP Dakota County expanded community partnerships to new food shelves, non-profits, culturally focused organizations, sustainable agriculture, and faith communities



...▶ **100%** of the partners met at least 6 out of 7 criteria on the sustainability checklist\*

\*a list of items researched to be critical for sustaining policy, systems and environmental ('PSE') changes



## THE PROJECTS:



### ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS

#### Dodge Nature Center:

Launched a new initiative making garden spaces, instruction & support available to the Residents of Color Collective (ROCC) and local veterans who benefited from active time outdoors and access to learning in nature to grow nutritious food

#### Prince of Peace/Mission Outpost Food Shelf:

Expanded capacity to provide healthier food options, more choices for guests and to move towards Supershelf certification

#### Shepard of the Valley Lutheran Church:

Increased capacity of the food shelf to provide adequate amounts of refrigerated foods for all clients through the purchase of a new commercial refrigerator

#### Sharing Our Roots:

Purchased greenhouse supplies to increase opportunities for emerging and immigrant farmers in our region to grow more culturally significant crops at a commercial scale with fewer economic barriers

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*Gardening and getting out here, spending time using your hands, doing something organic, giving something back. You're able to let some worries go and be in the soil and see the fruits of your labor*

- Army Veteran

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### COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

#### A.G. Consulting Media:

Strengthened cultural responsiveness and awareness among health care practitioners and individuals who interact with diverse marginalized immigrant students and families to promote well-being

#### Restoration for All, Inc.:

Improved mental health literacy among immigrants and refugee families, community leaders and helping professionals in Dakota County

#### 360 Communities:

Advanced the organization's goals around resilience, diversity, equity, and inclusion through completion of 4 trainings to support employee well-being and professional development

#### United Way of Hastings:

Developed a consistent, valid assessment process to measure the impact of their work with *Helping Kids Succeed* presentations to students at the ISD 200 middle and high school, parents, and community members

“

*I've learned how much of an impact a simple change can have. Moving produce to the front has made our food shelf look and feel like a grocery store, giving our guests a feeling of pride and dignity when they visit*

- Prince of Peace food shelf staff

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### INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

#### City of South St. Paul:

The *Healthy Buildings Healthy Residents* effort provided residents at 2 senior high-rise buildings with opportunities to launch or expand the residents' health and well-being within their multi-unit housing sites through increased healthy vending and movement opportunities



Dakota County Public Health Department  
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