ANNUAL REPORT

YOUTH POWER RISING
10 YEARS OF YOUTHPRISE

2022
Our Mission
Increase equity with and for Minnesota’s indigenous, low-income, and racially diverse youth.

Our Vision
We envision a Minnesota where outcomes for youth are no longer predictable by race, geography, or socioeconomic status.

Youthprise innovates systems, structures, and practices that enable youth to thrive by:

**Mobilizing and investing resources** dedicated to increasing equity and giving grants and other investments to networks, organizations, and young people doing this work.

**Advancing knowledge and advocating for change** to increase equity by conducting research, advancing policy advocacy, facilitating trainings and peer learning communities, and sharing media.

Our Impact Areas

**Learning and Leadership**
Promote the learning, leadership and social-emotional development of youth and seek to shift how programs engage youth in leadership and governance.

**Economic Opportunity**
Create opportunities for economic prosperity by supporting programs and initiatives that build workforce skills, promote youth entrepreneurship, and expose youth to career pathways.

**Health & Safety**
Promote the holistic health and safety of young people by meeting basic needs and ensuring young people are safe and not criminalized in their communities.

Our Values

**Youth-Centered**
Ensure youth voice, participation, and leadership in processes and decisions

**Equity**
Advance equity and inclusion, and disrupt systems of oppression

**Self-Sustainability**
Ensure long-term financial sustainability and economic independence

**Impact**
Advance our reach by telling our shared story and expanding relationships
WE INVESTED

$7.8 MILLION in grants and other investments to organizations doing work in three strategic impact areas: Learning & Leadership, Economic Opportunity, and Health & Safety.

• OVER $1 MILLION in support of healthy meals for school-age youth.
• OVER $1 MILLION to help MN families access technology and educational enrichment services through MN Afterschool Advance.

WE LAUNCHED

• YOUTH IN TECH PILOT, to support career pathways in tech for youth.
• YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR GRANTS, to support youth entrepreneurs under the age of 26

WE SUPPORTED

• Over 60 youth-serving community partners statewide
• 1,150+ students through access to OST activities and educational technology
• 280,000+ healthy meals to youth
• 60+ families by providing holiday gifts through our second annual Spread Joy initiative

WE WERE HONORED

• By the American Psychological Association’s Committee on Socioeconomic Status with an “Organizational Leadership Award.”
• With a “Celebrating Service Award” from the Saint Paul Area Chamber.
• With a 2022 “Harris Wofford Common Good Award,” as part of the Youth First, collaborative.

WE CONVENED

• YOUTH VOICES RISING, to celebrate our 10th anniversary and honor our founding president, Wokie Weah.
• RE-RIGHTING HISTORY, to celebrate legislation allowing high school students to collect unemployment benefits.
• DISRUPTING WITH PURPOSE, a platform for intergenerational dialogue.
• REIMAGINING THE FUTURE OF AFTERSCHOOL, in partnership with Every Hour Counts and the Mott Foundation, to help engage youth in redesigning afterschool programming.
• Participated in 70 CONVENINGS that REACHED OVER 2,740+ PEOPLE.
LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND BOARD CO-CHAIRS

2022 was a year of transition and celebration. Following lingering challenges presented by the pandemic, we resurged with a new strategic framework focused on ownership, wealth, power, and healing. In light of founding President Wokie Weah’s retirement, we also ushered in a new chapter, as Wokie passed the baton to Marcus Pope. Together, with a revival spirit and vision, we are cultivating innovative approaches for young people to overcome even more of the barriers they face daily.

We were extremely proud to celebrate a number of such achievements from the prior year — starting with the passage of legislation that permanently changed the unemployment law that prohibited high school students from collecting unemployment insurance, making them now eligible for benefits. For many recipients, the funds were not mere pocket change, but a lifeline to support their daily needs and provisions. We also had the privilege to witness our former Policy Director, Matt Norris, be elected to the state legislature as a representative for District 32B. All in all, we made nearly $8 million in strategic investments to support youth-serving organizations across Minnesota.

Fittingly, we held our 10-year anniversary celebration, Youth Voices Rising, to honor Youthprise’s incredible journey since our inception in 2011. The dynamic event, which spotlighted performances by local and internationally acclaimed next-generation artists, reaffirmed our ongoing commitment to amplifying the collective voice of Minnesota’s youth and empowering our young people, who are torchbearers in the movement for racial equity and justice.

We recognize that our work is not finished. We are profoundly grateful to all of you who stand in solidarity with us, as we continue to innovate and invest in equitable solutions that create pathways to ownership, wealth, power, and healing among our young leaders. We invite you to learn more about our efforts to do so in 2022, as summarized in the pages of this Annual Report.

In Partnership,

Marcus Pope
Youthprise President

Thompson Aderinkomi
Youthprise Board Co-Chair

Delina Haileab
Youthprise Board Co-Chair
2022 Financial Summary

The following financial information is summarized from our records. To receive a copy of our audited financial statement go to Youthprise.org/financialsandannualreport or inquire at Talbrey@youthprise.org.

Youthprise is an independent 501(3)(c) nonprofit organization.

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<th>Without donor restrictions</th>
<th>With donor restrictions</th>
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<th>Liabilities</th>
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<td>Total Assets: $8,952,013</td>
<td>Total Liabilities: $1,520,872</td>
<td>Net Assets: $7,431,141</td>
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Made over $7.8 Million in Strategic Investments

**LEARNING & LEADERSHIP**

$4,615,657

- **Minnesota Afterschool Advance**
  - 1.4 millions in loans made not included in strategic investments
  - Provided $461,835 in scholarships
  - Provided 199 computers for distance learning
  - Supported 1587 youth to access after-school activities via the MN tax credit in 106 cities statewide
  - 32 new activities certified

- **Youth Bank**
  - Renewed 4 YouthBank sites, each received $40,000 for a 2-year grant (2022-2023)
  - Granted an additional $10,000 to one site for a 2023 YB/YPAR evaluation project sites until December 2023.

- **Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR)**
  - Granted $15,000 each to 6 YPAR sites
  - An additional grant of $15,000 was given to support a YPAR summit in 2023, paying young people to plan and provide scholarships

**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

$1,690,835

- **Opportunity Reboot** - 870 youth received training and technical assistance and 952 youth have received credentials or certifications for high-demand industries
- **East African Youth Economic Development (DEED) grant** - 1,777 East African youth received training and technical assistance, 307 youth were placed in jobs, and 404 youth received credentials or certifications for in-demand jobs
- **Youth in Tech Pilot** was launched to support career pathways in tech for youth
- **Youth Entrepreneur Grants** were awarded to support youth entrepreneurs under the age of 26
- **Culturally Responsive Outreach DOJ grant** - 3,621 youth received preventative, trauma-informed, and social services, and community outreach strategies
- **Northside Safety NET-EPA grant**
  - 10 youth were integrated in local conversation and movements to address environmental justice issues identified by the Northside Green Zone task force

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

$1,571,451

- **Nutrition Program** - Over 3.7 million meals have been served since program’s inception. In 2022, we served 280,000 meals annually to 20 sites in 3 counties.
- **Individualized Support Funds (ISF)**
  - Ramsey County grant - $1,105,898 provided to young people 26 and under who have been justice-involved, participating in the St. Paul Community-First Public Safety Framework which seeks to build a compelling violence reduction strategy for St. Paul that is informed by deep public engagement, research, tracking and analysis of real-time data, and cross-sector collaboration of stakeholders; or the Transforming Systems Together (TST), which is a shared decision-making initiative of community members and Ramsey County to rethink how the county delivers services and invests in the community.
Milestone Moments: 
Celebrating **10 Years** of Youthprise!

Since formally celebrating our 10-year anniversary in 2022, it seems fitting to revisit our journey from the beginning. In March 2011, Youthprise emerged as one of Minnesota’s newest intermediaries, driven by a vision to enhance opportunities for young people beyond the classroom. After two years of research, analysis, conversations, and planning the McKnight Foundation recognized that youth have nearly 2,000 hours of discretionary time each year—nearly twice the time they spend in school, and because of that Youthprise was founded and funded to increase the quality, quantity, sustainability and innovation of beyond the classroom opportunities for young people in Minnesota.

When looking for someone to lead this newly developed organization, the Youthprise board wanted a candidate who would bring energy, urgency, and high expectations to the job. Wokie Weah emerged as the leading candidate, and very soon, she was selected to be the organization’s first president. Before taking the reins, Wokie served as Senior Vice President at the National Youth Leadership Council and had extensive experience in education, youth leadership, and youth development. “Asking me to lead an organization destined to be a catalyst for policy and systems change was like asking me to take sand to the beach,” said Wokie.

The mission was a little different then. When asked about Youthprise during that first year, Wokie said, “Our vision at Youthprise is to lead the nation in accelerating leadership and innovation beyond the classroom. We want to put Minnesota back on the map as a state that invests in its young people. We want to ensure that out-of-school time for all of our youth is truly enriching and transformative.”

Although the verbiage around our mission and vision has changed, our focus on youth has not. Over the years, Youthprise has grown, evolved, tackled new challenges, and embraced new opportunities we never dreamed were possible. Wokie has been a major catalyst and disrupter in the field and a significant, foundational part of Youthprise’s history and success.

As we reflect on our history, we acknowledge the pivotal transition at the end of 2021 when Wokie retired, passing the torch to Marcus Pope, our longtime Vice President, who assumed the role of President on January 1, 2022. Under Marcus’s leadership, we entered a new era, doubling down on our mission and vision while building upon Wokie’s legacy. As we look ahead, we’re poised to reach new heights, inspired by our past achievements and the limitless potential of the future.

The Original Youthprise Leadership Team:
- Wokie Weah (President)
- Maya Beecham (Executive Assistant)
- Sheila Gothmann (Finance and Operations Director)
- Rudy Guglielmo, Jr. (Program Officer)
- Karen Kingsley (Director of Public Policy and Communications)
- Marcus Pope (Director of Strategic Initiatives and Outreach)
- Elizabeth (Libby) Rau (Youth Engagement Strategist)

“The first 10 years of Youthprise’s Journey to Equity have been made possible by the support of our partners, stakeholders, and community members. They dared to dream of a world when things worked well for everyone, and not just a privileged few. Our journey has been enriched by the integrity and creativity of Minnesota’s awesome youth.”

Wokie Weah, Youthprise President Emeritus
On April 12, 2022, Youthprise, in partnership with the Ordway Center for Performing Arts, held YOUTH VOICES RISING. The dynamic event celebrated Youthprise’s 10th anniversary and the organization’s ongoing commitment to amplifying the collective voice of Minnesota’s youth. The celebration had performances by Minneapolis’ next-generation alternative pop artists, NUNNABOVE; local activist and celebrated spoken-word artist, Brittany Delaney; and a featured performance by internationally acclaimed composer and Grammy-nominated vocalist, Somi.
Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) 2022 Highlights

**Research**

Hunger Free Schools Campaign - Youthprise hosted organized focus groups with students, educators and parents for Hunger Solutions Minnesota in order to identify and transform the systemic issues that have created income disparities and inequitable access to food. We are working in partnership with community organizations to advocate for policy solutions that address the root causes of hunger including poverty, income inequality and racial disparities.

**Design Thinking**

Every Hour Counts - Youth Directed Giving of $100,000 Annie E. Casey-Led team with Anne E. Casey through a design thinking process in order to build an intergenerational toolkit Minnesota Youth Council - Strategic planning on council structure and initiatives

**Youth Engagement Training**

District 197
Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee
Minneapolis Parks and Rec

**Support**

Two youth entrepreneurs

**Team**

Hired Youth Action Board Coordinator - Molly Dubois
Hired YPAR associate - Essence Blakemore
Hired Youth Intern - James Miller

**Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR)** is an innovative approach to positive youth and community development rooted in social justice principles. YPAR developed from Participatory Action Research (PAR), an approach and epistemology that involves the people most affected by a particular issue in conducting research and analysis in order to develop solutions to bring about social, cultural, and/or political transformation.

YPAR offers young people training and support to conduct and lead systemic research to improve their lives, their communities, and the institutions intended to serve them. This process honors relationships and builds community trust by establishing mutual reciprocity and respect between researchers and the community.
Youthprise's Youth Innovation Team Facilitates National Conference on Re-Imagining Afterschool

Youth-led teams between six cities across the country and determine how to divide $100k to support their projects.

Youthprise’s Youth Innovation Team spent December 2nd to December 4th in Chicago, facilitating the Youth-Powered: Coming Together to Re-imagine Afterschool Conference in partnership with Every Hour Counts and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Young people from six cities across the country participated in a youth-led, youth-driven philanthropy process on how to redistribute $100,000 among themselves to re-imagine afterschool. From January to November 2022, Youthprise led teams from Kalamazoo, Chicago, Flint, Nashville, Providence, and Palm Beach County through an online design thinking process to re-imagining after school.

As a component of the project, Youthprise launched a national survey with Informed Change Consulting and Hamai Consulting, which conducted a nationwide survey of over 1,000 young people to look at what they need from afterschool programs. “You would feel the love when you walked in” was a quote from one of the young people in the focus groups. The youth have been working for the last seven months to form a program that aligns with the themes extracted from the youth focus groups. Youthprise’s Youth Innovation Team worked closely with young people and their staff members to develop site-specific plans to re-imagine after school.

The December convening in Chicago allowed the teams to meet each other in person and see all of the presentations created by the young people showcasing their big idea! During this time together, attendees participated in art shares, storytelling, and much-needed in-person time. The young people also voted on how to redistribute the $100,000. They decided each team should walk away with a portion of the funding and that no team could vote for itself. Kalamazoo emerged with the 1st place prize of $30,000, with Palm Beach County placing second, winning $20,000. Nashville, in third place, received $15,000, and the remaining $30,000 was split equally among Chicago, Flint, and Providence.

The young people made the space their own! They engaged in spirited discussions about equity and fairness and processed the challenges that come up when money is on the table. After a long day of negotiating, they celebrated their decision and walked away feeling confident! On the last day, attendees reflected in a circle together about the process. One youth shared that they “were proud everyone stood their ground and voiced how they felt.” The young people recounted, “we had to make some hard decisions, but we were all able to go out and have fun together later!” They also expressed how good it felt to be in control of decision-making on issues that impact them. One of the young people stated, “We didn’t know that we would actually be deciding on who gets the funding!”

It was an amazing conference! The event was made possible by generous funding from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Special shoutout to Every Hour Counts and Youthprise’s Youth Innovation Team for their leadership!
Street Soccer Twin Cities (SSTC) provides free youth development programs year-round; we work to help support underserved communities in Minnesota by using soccer as a way to teach life skills.

* Pictured is a cohort of young Somali women who participated in SSTC financial literacy, work readiness, career exploration programs, as well as employment opportunities, and other support services.

“We are grateful to partner with Youthprise in this program and help effect positive life change in the lives of young people and help them to grow.”

Hani Haybe
Founder and Managing Director at Street Soccer Twin Cities

A #MissionMoment quote highlighting the importance of our role as an intermediary. This is one of our East African Youth Economic Development grantees, a grant funded by DEED:

“We are learning and besides the grants’ attention to help East African workforce, our organization benefited by building its capacity in terms of understanding the basics of budgets and work plans and collaboration with other organizations, etc. We are so grateful to work with you.”
2022 kicked off an exciting new chapter for 21 youth-serving organizations all across Minnesota. That’s because these organizations were being awarded a combined total of $12.5 million over the next 2.5 years to help young people thrive through Believe & Build Afterschool grants.

This is one of the largest investments in Minnesota afterschool in the last decade, and it’s funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund.

Believe & Build Afterschool grants are designed to support organizations serving young people disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, and funds are broadly distributed throughout the state. In addition, nearly 60% of funds are supporting culturally-specific, community-based organizations.

Minnesota’s afterschool community expressed overwhelming interest in Believe & Build Afterschool grants. In fact, 75 organizations requested nearly $46 million — which means only about 1/4th of the demand was met. That means many more young people could have access to academic, social emotional and mental health supports if there were additional funding to support organization statewide.

Believe & Build Afterschool grants are a big step in the right direction. Today we celebrate these 21 organizations as they commit to serving Minnesota’s young people through the power of high-quality afterschool.

Youth Entrepreneurship Grants
Youthprise Youth Entrepreneur Grants are a small fund that was available to young people with a current business or a budding entrepreneurial idea. Funding is open to young people under the age of 26 who are based in Minneapolis and currently have or would like to have a business, including a social enterprise, that is based in Minneapolis or that serves Minneapolis residents.

17 grants were made to young people with businesses or a business idea.

A full list of the grantees and their programs can be found here: bit.ly/3IkoCyV

Believe and Build Afterschool Grant
The Nutrition Program’s impact is extensive and continues to grow

Collaborated with state partners to increase access and collaboration among local sponsors and partners

Reached approximately 4,000 youth from 1,500 families in 2022

Increased the number of young people involved in the monitoring, learning, and execution of federal meal programs

Distributing over 280,000 meals in 2022

Served to 20 sites in 3 counties

Served over 3.7 million meals since 2014

Youthprise Nutrition Program is a part of our Health and Safety focus area. Our goal is to promote the health and safety of young people by meeting basic needs and holistically addressing health concerns that impact youth in our communities. When young people are out of school, they shouldn’t have to worry about where meals are coming from. Year-round meals are provided to youth at trusted locations in the community. The Youthprise Nutrition Program provides meals at public libraries, recreation centers, faith communities, schools, and local youth-serving nonprofits.
Impact Story

Shared by Melissa Mitchell, Director of Partnerships

Monica (name changed to ensure confidentiality) is a 19-year-old Latina who has been a participant in Opportunity Reboot since the first quarter (2022). Since high school, Monica has served in a caretaker role for her family; she picks up and drops off her siblings at school, schedules doctors’ appointments, attends parent/teacher conferences, and contributes financially to household expenses like rent and groceries. She enjoyed school very much, and did well enough to complete almost a full year of college credits as a junior and senior in high school through Healthy Community Initiative’s PSEO program, but had never considered college an option for herself. After she expressed a desire, staff began working with Monica individually, helping to research various majors, careers, and postsecondary programs. She had been referred to a mental health professional several months prior, in large part to help her manage her feelings towards a parent with substance abuse issues, and it was this experience that finally illuminated her own path.

Monica began her final year of community college in the Fall of 2022, and is planning to move next to a Bachelor’s program in Psychology and then a Master’s Degree in Youth & Family Counseling. She hopes to use her personal experience to help other teenagers and their families, and as a staff were able to connect her with a job at a local healthcare non-profit, Chemical and Mental Health Fellow where she provides translation between patients and providers and helps advocate for community resources and public health services, particularly for those struggling with substance abuse issues.

Monica is thrilled about her new job, and is excited to be compensated, while accruing valuable experience and insight and working towards her academic and professional goals.

Opportunity Reboot 2022 Highlights

- 870 youth received training
- 777 youth developed individualized education and work plans
- 952 youth enrolled in credential programs, trainings, or coursework aimed at preparing them for viable career paths
- 868 youth reported that they have at least one new adult that supports their growth
Minnesota Afterschool Advance (MAA) is a collaboration between Youthprise and Venn Foundation dedicated to helping families and students access affordable afterschool enrichment programs.

MAA works with Minnesota families who meet eligibility requirements and expectations, and uses the powerful Minnesota K-12 Education Tax Credit to pay for educational supports and enrichment including but not limited to: tutoring, music lessons, art classes, and supportive distance learning technology.

**MINNESOTA AFTERSCHOOL ADVANCE 2022 HIGHLIGHTS**

- **$1,369,468.90**
  - Amount loaned (K-12 Education Tax Credit dollars leveraged)

- **1,587**
  - Students served by MAA

- **57,014**
  - Hours of programming paid for

- **$461,835.90**
  - Scholarships provided by Youthprise to pay for activities and Chromebooks

- **71**
  - Number of different activities paid for through MAA

- **199**
  - Chromebooks provided through MAA

**STUDENT AND FAMILY REGISTRATIONS**

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### Service Provider Activities

#### Unique activities that students registered for through MAA
- 71

#### Unique organizations providing those services
- 69

#### Activities newly certified by MDE
- 28

### MAA Loan Pool

#### Comparison to Previous Year

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<td>Students Served by MAA</td>
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<td>Families Served by MAA</td>
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<td>Cities with MAA Participants</td>
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<td>Hours of Programming Paid For</td>
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<td>Activities Newly Certified</td>
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<td>Dollars Loaned to Families</td>
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#### % of Students by Race at Each Application Stage

- **Submitted Application**
- **Application Complete**
- **Application Approved**
- **Registered/Ordered**
- **Application Denied**
Who are “Opportunity Youth”?

Twin Cities Opportunity Youth Network 2022 Highlights

**Twin Cities Opportunity Youth Network launched**
Conducted to KickOff Meeting with over 35 different organizations.

Received Technical Assistance from Annie E. Casey Foundation + School and Main Institute to develop a strong intergenerational steering committee.

**Fostering Education Sprint:**
Engaged Connections to Independence, Division of Indian Works, YMCA of the North and Minneapolis College to began exploring how we can reconnect with young people who are eligible for a Fostering Independence Grants and re-engage in college and take advantage of their new FIG funds. Although we did not get the numbers we wanted to re-enroll, we did build stronger referral systems and systems of support to lean in as we build steam. We also build awareness of the FIG funds.

**Direct Cash Transfer Marathon**
Engaged over 10 organizations in Hennepin County to build out and collaborate with young people the model for Hennepin County. We hosted over 5 different design workshops with young people to build the model.

**Built a Strategic Plan**
Engaged with young people and “olds” to build out the first strategic plan.

The Opportunity Youth Network (OYN) is a membership-based, collective impact coalition. OYN members are already embedded in the work of supporting young people through their organizational focus across all sectors in the community. As members of the network they join a values-aligned collaborative of other organizations, stakeholders, policy-makers and youth, who use data to achieve population-level results for young people.
Youthprise honored those who successfully advocated for youth to receive unemployment insurance.

Youthprise hosted Re-Righting History: A Celebration of Youth Unemployment Insurance Benefits on July 19, 2022, on the grounds of the State Capitol, to applaud legislation making youth eligible to collect unemployment benefits. The new policy, which took effect earlier that month, changed a longstanding law that prohibited all high school students from collecting unemployment benefits, although – just like adults – they paid into the system. Youthprise recognized youth, public officials, and community leaders who had advocated for the passage of the law. Among those offering remarks were Minnesota’s Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, Attorney General Keith Ellison, and Steve Grove, Commissioner of MN Department of Employment and Economic Development. We heard from Walter Cortina, Hayat Muse, and Lincoln Bacal, who were among the youth who catalyzed and led the movement, starting with a petition and an eventual legal filing that successfully reversed the state’s decision to deny pandemic unemployment assistance to high school students. Those efforts resulted in more than $35M being paid to Minnesota’s high school students and paved the way for the new legislation that permanently changed the law.

The event brought attention to the power of young people to bring about lasting, positive change when different sectors of the larger community came together to support them with resources and a platform for their voices to be heard.
THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS & GOVERNMENT

21st Century Bank
3M Foundation
3Gives
AmazonSmile
All Spring Global
Andersen Corporate Foundation
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Anonymous
API Group
API Group, Inc.
Athwin Foundation
Bellwether Education Partners
Best Buy
Cargill Foundation
Charities Aid Foundation of America
Chartwell Financial Advisory
Children’s Minnesota
City of Brooklyn Park
City of Northfield
City of Saint Paul
Community Action Partnership of Hennepin
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Anxano Foundation, Inc.
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Change Starts With Community
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City of Saint Paul
City of Saint Paul- Parks and Recreation
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Isuroon
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Minnesota Alliance With Youth
Minnesota Jazz Education
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Minnesota Youth Coordinating Board
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Neighborhood House
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the body org
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Youthprise is the only youth-centered philanthropic organization dedicated to increasing equity with and for Minnesota’s indigenous, low-income, and racially diverse youth.