



touchpoint

Great Expectations Setting All Kids on the Path to Success



Chace Anderson

Wayzata Public Schools Superintendent

“In her book “Confidence,” Rosabeth Moss Kanter believes that “confidence stems from a reliance on leaders and the larger organization to provide resources and support that make it possible to play the game, and play it well.” This is precisely what the Great Expectations initiative seeks to achieve and why I am excited about this initiative. The team goal of this venture is to ensure each and every one of our students has a chance to play the game well.

Confidence strengthens and excellence emanates when caring adults hold high expectations for young people. Together, we can provide the support to help every young person develop the confidence needed to achieve at high levels. ”



Karen Orcutt

Orono Public Schools Superintendent

“The Great Expectations initiative aligns perfectly with the mission of Orono Schools: helping each student maximize his or her potential.

We opened our first homework help site at Maple Plain Community Church during the 2015-16 school year. The program has proved so popular we plan to open a second location at Calvin Presbyterian Church in Long Lake during the coming school year.

In addition to helping us address the achievement gap, Great Expectations has provided us with a new means of engaging more community members in the important work that we do. We are so grateful for all the volunteers who stepped forward this year. ”



Carol Bergenstal

Great Expectations Initiative Chair

“We can do this.

We live in a resourceful, generous community. We have two exceptional school districts doing their part to address the achievement and opportunity gaps faced by too many of our children. But the schools can't do it alone.

Great Expectations is an exciting, outcome-driven initiative to coordinate the efforts of our schools with the goodwill of our community and ensure that every single child has the necessary support, from cradle to career, to succeed in school and life. Find your role—parent, tutor, coach, mentor, volunteer—and join us! ”

YOU'RE INVITED Great Expectations Breakfast

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 7:30-9 a.m.

Interfaith Outreach, 1605 County Road 101 N, Plymouth

Join us for breakfast and compelling conversations designed to harness this community's collective power in support of our kids' success. Add your voice and insights! RSVP today at iocp.ejoinme.org/GE2016.

Powering Up for Our Kids



LaDonna Hoy

What more noble a task can a community be about than making sure all of its kids have the chance to become all they can be?

Anyone who cares about kids knows it really does take a whole village to set a child on the path to wholeness.

Some of our kids are blessed with a strong start in school and the opportunities and relationships that set and keep them on that path. And some, over 1,000 of them, need us to power up our care, to create the opportunities and build relationships that help them find their way.

.....

“ Kids succeed in school and life when ordinary people care and pay attention and step up to what’s happening (or not) to them and around them. ”

.....

Who among us can’t remember a teacher, a coach, a friend, a neighbor, a relative—the someone(s) who called forth the best in us, who taught us we can do hard



Great Expectations wants to ensure each and every child is on a path to thrive.

things, who opened doors to opportunities we might have otherwise missed, who helped us envision a new future.

And, what parent among us can’t remember getting lost in the demands of parenting? What teacher in the challenge of teaching not just subjects, but kids who arrive at school with all kinds of experiences or the lack thereof?

Kids succeed in school and life when ordinary people care and pay attention and step up to what’s happening (or not)

to them and around them. People engaged and invested in making sure that what’s happening is good.

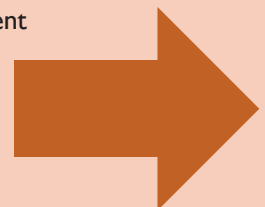
Great communities know this and act as if they do. They hold fast to great expectations for all of their kids and support those expectations with the attention, grit, time, energy, resources and fired-up love that matters. It’s time for us to power up for our kids.

Great Expectations and you light the way.

CHANGE STARTS WITH KNOWLEDGE



Changing educational outcomes is complex and requires a highly focused response. The Great Expectations partners (Orono Public Schools, Wayzata Public Schools and Interfaith Outreach) created the enclosed document to guide our work. Also available online at iocp.org/GEinfographic.



Caring Adults are the Key Sparking the Joy of Reading

Ten years ago, caring teachers in Wayzata Elementary Schools welcomed the support of community volunteers to help fragile readers gain and practice critical reading skills.

Begun with 30 students in three elementary schools, the Literacy Program has expanded its reach to all seven—soon to be eight—elementary schools. Trained adult volunteers not only help 3rd, 4th and 5th graders gain critical literacy skills, but also help them discover the joy of reading.

Jean Gentile, a 3rd grade teacher at Oakwood Elementary, shared that the heart of the program is putting kids in relationship with a caring adult who

meets weekly one-on-one for 30 minutes to listen to kids read and practice skills like fluency, comprehension and word expansion.

“When students know somebody is coming just for them every week, that relationship is so special,” said Jean. “It really does take a village. There’s so much value on both ends. The volunteers get a lot out of it, too. They feel like they’re part of the community and contributing.”



Jean Gentile and Susan Holmes, 3rd grade teachers at Oakwood Elementary, see the Literacy Program benefiting their young readers

“ These kids are turning into readers. They’re carrying books around and talking about books. It makes us smile and cry. ”

- Susan Holmes

New Staff Help Kids Soar



Matt and Rachel bring a wealth of experience, creativity and passion to the Great Expectations Initiative

Q: What excites you most about Great Expectations?

Matt: The people who have been doing so much work for our kids and getting to learn about them—leaders and teachers in the Wayzata and Orono school districts, Katie Shepherd’s guidance in our CONECT program...the list goes on and on.

Matthew Miller,
Great Expectations Director

- *Professional Background:* Education strategy, nonprofit management, early childhood education; special focus in collective impact

Rachel Boettcher, Caring for Kids Initiative Director

- *Professional Background:* Early childhood teaching, early childhood family support; special focus in trauma-informed care practices

Rachel: I can’t wait to build on what the Caring for Kids Initiative (CfKI) partners, former CfKI Director Brenda Heim and other early childhood advocates and professionals in the community have been doing for years. I’m especially looking forward to building out the age 0-3 programming and connecting families of young children with community resources and each other!

Q: What drives your passion toward this work?

Rachel: Children have so much potential within them. Knowing how important

early childhood education is and setting up children and their families to be successful—in whatever way *they* personally define success. My passion comes from thinking about little ones and their unlimited dreams.

Matt: I’m incredibly inspired by the broader community, especially here in the western suburbs. I think the future depends on who we educate now, because they will eventually become our new community leaders: school board members, business owners and state representatives. I’m motivated to help put that in motion.

Changing Lives for Good



Special thanks to volunteer co-chairs Anna Lima (left), Zoe Swanson (right) and emcee Carly Aplin (middle)

Caring for Kids Breakfast

Educators, parents and community members alike were touched and inspired at this year's Caring for Kids Initiative Breakfast on May 12. The event raised more than \$90,000 for early childhood education! Big thanks to co-chairs Nancy Bergstrom and Anne Rodriguez; featured speakers Dr. Fayneese Miller, Ph.D., and Dr. Jill Johnson; and all sponsors, volunteers and attendees for helping set our kids on a path to success.



Speaker Dr. Fayneese Miller, Ph.D., LaDonna Hoy, Rachel Boettcher and Brenda Heim

Girls, Glamour & Giving

A rainy night did not keep 317 Interfaith Outreach supporters from “glamming it up” at Girls, Glamour & Giving on April 28. By the end of the evening, the event raised more than \$147,000 to assist local families. Thank you to guests, donors, volunteers and sponsors who made the special event possible.

GRANTS

MARCH - MAY 2016

- Allegra Printing Footprint Awards (Communications printing)
- Allstate Foundation (Food shelf)
- Aqualia Foundation International Ltd (Sleep Out, Great Expectations)
- Wayzata Public Schools Partners for Healthy Kids (Great Expectations, Camp CONECT, Caring for Kids Initiative)
- WCA Foundation—Dunwoody Department (Project Success)

MEMORIALS

MARCH - MAY 2016

Kathleen Anderson / Magdalen “Lenny” Brockert
Judy Bucksa / Barney Corens
Britton James Ernst / Bobby Gold / Shirley Harder
Jan Henke / Carl John Hoffstedt / Thelma Johnson
James Jost / Marie Lindberg / Robert Opheim
Joan Petersen / Catherine Pickenpack
Clarence Schommer / Charles Sylvestre
Charlotte Towers / Lee Towers
Carol Vannelli / Sandy Willis / Jean Wrobel

Support from the IOCP Endowment Fund hits \$1 million!

Since its inception in 2007, the IOCP Endowment Fund has grown to \$3.5 million and has distributed over \$1 million to support the programs and services of Interfaith Outreach. The Fund is the perfect vehicle to support Interfaith Outreach's mission into the future.

Consider a gift today!

Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners Endowment Fund (“The IOCP Endowment Fund”) is a 501(c)(3) organization solely benefiting Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners. Gifts to the Fund are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Go to iocp.org/endowment-fund for detailed information.

Listening to Parents...for Kids' Sake



Parents, schools and community members are all in this together for our kids

Great Expectations' search for wisdom led us to parents of preschool and school-age children. Listening circles where parents shared their hopes and dreams for their kids provided helpful starting places.

The number one hope and dream of every parent was a great education for their kids. All expressed deep appreciation for Community Organizations Networking Compassionately Together (CONNECT) homework help volunteers and Camp CONECT. They gave high marks to caring teachers, to the literacy volunteers who help their kids read, and for dinners and community events where parents and kids share and learn from each other.

Safe neighborhoods, great schools, kind people, help with housing and other basic needs were all on their extensive thank you list.

They were proud and grateful for their families and their neighborhoods.

“ We have faith and hope. Good will always overcome the bad. ”

What was hard were financial struggles, cultural barriers, demands of work and home and parenting, unfamiliar educational approaches and technology. Meaningful engagement of their kids within

the community was described as often difficult.

Parents' ideas of what could help:
1) A parent technology update
2) Increased cross-cultural understanding
3) Opportunities for their kids to participate in band, sports, theater and other school and community activities otherwise financially out of reach
4) A “Teen University” providing mentors, particularly for teens of color.

“ Our kids are good kids. We tell them to work hard, and if they do their best, they can be anything they want to be. ”

“ We have a good neighborhood. We watch out for each other's kids. ”

We fell in love with these wonderful parents. You would, too. Together in school and community, we can shore up their hopes for their bright and beautiful kids.



Connect With us on Social Media!

Learn more at www.IOCP.org

It's Back-to-School Time!

Make a difference for more than 750 local kids! Drop off school supply donations at Interfaith Outreach Monday-Saturday, Aug. 1-20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Or make a financial donation online at iocp.org/donate or by check (please write "Back-to-School" on the memo line).

MOST NEEDED

Backpacks (large, solid colors)
 Wide/College Rule Spirals
 Pocket Folders
 Composition Notebooks
 3-Ring Binders (1½-inch)
 Dry Erase Markers
 Notebook Dividers
 Wide/College Loose-leaf Paper
 Graph Paper (1/4 inch)
 Colored Pencils
 Glue Sticks (no glue bottles)
 Earbud headphones
 Graphing Calculators (TI-83, TI-84)

ALSO NEEDED

Watercolor Paints
 Black Sharpie Markers
 Scissors – Pointed Tip
 Crayola Markers – Classic Colors
 Red Pens/Black Felt Tip Pens
 Erasers (large pink or white)
 Pencil Pouches
 Protractors
 Highlighters
 Book Covers
 Pencil Sharpeners
 Index Cards (3x5 inch)
 Post-it Notes
 Scientific Calculators (TI-15, TI-108, TI-30X)



“Thank you – I don’t know what I’d do without this”

– grateful parent

A new school year brings giddy anticipation and hopeful expectation of new friends, new knowledge and a fresh start. With your help, we can provide age-appropriate school supplies to hundreds of kids whose family budgets are stretched thin.

Give Your Time and Talent

Want to help set our kids on the path to success? Volunteer with one of our education programs:

HOMEWORK CLUB – Serve as a mentor and homework helper for elementary students

GREAT READER PROGRAM – Read with school-aged children and help strengthen literacy skills

STORYTIME MATTERS – Read to preschool children and help strengthen early literacy skills

CHILDREN’S PLAY AREA – Supervise and play with children (ages 0-8) while their parents receive support

BACK-TO-SCHOOL – Sort, organize and distribute back-to-school supplies for local families

Please contact Lynn Vettel (lvettel@iocp.org or 763-489-7505) or Liz Erstad-Hicks (lerstad-hicks@iocp.org or 763-489-7506) to learn more and get involved.



Education volunteers like Jane not only provide academic support, but build meaningful relationships

Back-to-School Clothes Needed Now!

Help kids dress for success! We want all kids in our community to feel confident and equipped to start school—from head to toe. **Donate children’s and teen clothing to ReSale 101 for the back-to-school season.** Most needed items include quality jeans, shoes, sweaters and school spirit wear.

Learn more at www.IOCP.org