



Interfaith Outreach™
Igniting the power of community

JULY - SEPTEMBER
 2018



A great education is the path out of poverty

An estimated 500 preschool and 1,600 school-age kids aren't meeting critical educational benchmarks that predict their success in school and in life. Many are kids of color. All are living in poverty.

That's why our community has come together to create Great Expectations (GE), a collaborative school and community initiative designed to close the cradle to career educational opportunity and achievement gap for our kids.

GE's anchor partners are Interfaith Outreach and the Wayzata and Orono School Districts.

Dear friends,

Kids of our community – of all ages and stages of development – show up in our schools, streets and playing fields on a daily basis. Each of them a one-of-a-kind, unique-in-all-the-world, singular miracle of being and becoming. Any one of us who has ever loved any one of them has, no doubt, been privy to moments, however fleeting they may seem, when the awesomeness of that miracle reveals itself.

All it takes is love to see it. Patient, attentive, tough, dependable, inclusive, generative love.

Any one of us who has ever raised a child can count the ways extended family and teachers and coaches and mentors and neighbors and friends and healers and caregivers of all stripes showed up for us, for them, to help them discover and celebrate their gifts and goodness and dreams.

Our collective miracle.

Great expectations for our kids are grounded in generative relationships and fueled by timely investment and opportunities made possible by communities of ordinary people adept at this kind of extraordinary loving. Like ours.

The Great Expectations Initiative is our community's collective impact way for us to love our kids – all of them, each and every one of them, all along the way, from cradle to career. There's a role for each and every one of us. It's our miracle, their miracle, waiting to happen. You are invited to find your irreplaceable role in this sacred venture and come along.

LaDonna Hoy
 Executive Director, Interfaith Outreach

Great Expectations Fundraising Goal: \$260,000 for education and youth efforts. Double your impact! Thanks to a generous donor, gifts made **by Aug. 31** will be matched up to \$20,000.

BE INFORMED

Great Expectations aligns for action

Amazing results of GE partnerships are coming to life.

1 **51 listening sessions**
GE volunteers listened to parents, case managers, school district leaders, students, school social workers, property managers, health care professionals, community leaders and others to identify the nature and scale of the educational opportunity and achievement gap of our kids.

2 **GE Speaker Series**
Expert speakers shared compelling research and community best practices that help kids thrive.

3 **A “Great Opportunities Fund”**
A scholarship fund is now available for struggling K-12 students of the Wayzata and Orono schools so they can access arts, sports, and other school and community activities that foster learning and life skills.

4 **Interfaith Outreach programs**
Caring for Kids: 185 of our littlest learners gained access to quality early childhood care and education (story page 4).
Back to School: nearly 800 kids went to class with backpacks filled with supplies
Neighborhood Program Homework Club: 161 youth worked with 100 volunteer mentors during the school year fostering success (see story page 3)
Neighborhood Program Summer Leaders: 107 youth participated in an 8-week summer camp experience

5 **School district programs**
PEAK: (Wayzata Public Schools) 25 families participated in parent education classes that helped them navigate the school systems and support their children’s learning (story page 5)
SPARKS: (Orono Public Schools) after-school homework help and relationship building opportunities hosted by local faith communities (story page 6)



(l to r) Melanie DeLuca, Orono Schools Community Education Director; LaDonna Hoy, Interfaith Outreach Executive Director; Eugene Roehlkepartain (guest speaker), Search Institute Vice President; and Mick Johnson, UMN Senior Fellow College of Education and Human Development, at the first of three GE Speaker Series.

2018 Great Expectations Breakfast

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 22, 7:30-9 A.M.

Wayzata Community Church / 125 Wayzata Blvd E, Wayzata

Join us at the Great Expectations Breakfast as we continue to ignite our collective power in support of our kids’ success. ▶ **RSVP today at iocp.ejoinme.org/GE** ◀

Learn more at iocp.org/greatexpectations

GET ENGAGED

Building lasting relationships: Meet Gary

Gary Charles likes the notion of reaching out to neighbors who may be going through a rough spot in their lives. He knows the services provided by Interfaith Outreach make a big difference for local families, and that our community is strengthened when neighbors help neighbors.

Gary takes action to build a strong community by working with and on behalf of youth. For several years he was a volunteer mentor with the Homework Club at Shenandoah Woods Apartments, one of the nine Interfaith Outreach Neighborhood Program locations. Nearly 100 volunteers like Gary are needed to help students (K-5) complete their homework, gain confidence in school and form meaningful relationships. More recently, Gary became a leader in the Great Expectations Initiative, exploring ways to expand community resources and link students and their families to the services they need in the Wayzata and Orono School Districts. And, when asked to help out in the new PEAK program he said "YES" again. Thank you Gary for going "all in" for our kids.



(l to r) Barb Carlson, Gary and Sharon Charles at a GE event.

HELP A CHILD'S DREAM COME TRUE! VOLUNTEER.

After-school Mentor - volunteer as a mentor, homework helper or activity leader for elementary students in Orono and Wayzata schools.

Literacy Program (Wayzata schools) - Be paired with elementary students during the school day to hone their reading skills

High School Mentor - Serve as a mentor to high school students as they explore career paths and plan for their futures

PEAK (Wayzata schools) - Provide volunteer support for parents or their kids during evening PEAK sessions

Children's Play Area - Supervise and play with children (ages 0-8) while their parents receive support

Back to School supply drive - Sort, organize and distribute school supplies for local families

For more information contact Najmo Yusuf at 763-489-7505 or nyusuf@iocp.org.

Donate School Supplies



YOU SHOP **July 9 – Aug. 18**

Individuals, groups, co-workers, faith communities collect supplies

YOU DROP OFF **Aug. 1 – 18**

Donations dropped off at Interfaith Outreach offices

FAMILIES PICK UP **Aug. 28**

Families receive school supplies, and attend resource fair

Make a difference for our kids! See a complete list of supplies local kids need and a link to our new Target gift registry at iocp.org/backtoschool

Or make a financial donation online at iocp.org/donate and select Back to School.

Volunteer at iocp.org/volunteer

INVEST IN OUR KIDS

Ready for kindergarten and thriving in school thanks to CfK

At the recent Caring for Kids (CfK) Breakfast, guest speaker La'Connie shared her courageous story, including how a Caring for Kids scholarship made an impact on her life. La'Connie says, "I am a very smart, capable woman and very motivated and organized...but still, four years ago I found myself in a position I never imagined. I was a battered woman. I had to leave my husband because I love my children, and kids learn what they see. They needed to see a better life."

It took great courage for La'Connie to walk through Interfaith's doors. When she did, she was introduced to staff, resources and life-changing programs like Caring for Kids where she received a scholarship for her son to attend Bloom Early Learning & Child Care. "Now my sons are surrounded by adults who love, respect and nurture them and they are doing great. I am in school pursuing my nursing degree. I am blessed."

Your gift to the Great Expectations campaign supports Caring for Kids and other Interfaith Outreach youth programs. The Great Expectations campaign goal is **to raise \$260,000** for education and youth programs by Aug. 31. Your gift in any amount helps local kids and families thrive.



(l to r) Wendy Geving, Interfaith Outreach Program Director; La'Connie, guest speaker; and Aparna Padgalsikar, Interfaith Outreach Case Manager, gather after La'Connie's inspiring speech.

Here are some examples of your investment at work:

- **\$88 preps a backpack** full of school supplies and equips a child for a fresh start back to school
- **\$300 pays for fees** and equipment so one child can participate in a sport or activity
- **\$1,266 helps a child** gain and retain learning skills through eight weeks of summer camp
- **\$5,000 keeps a Homework Club operating** for a school year
- **\$16,080 funds one full-year** Caring for Kids scholarship providing access to early childhood care and education for one little learner

GRANTS Dec. 2017 - May 2018

Allstate Foundation

- Food

General Mills

- General Operations

Lexus Pursuit of Potential

- Employment

Medica Foundation

- Family Support / Childhood Mental Health Pilot Program

Metropolitan Alliance of Connected Communities (MACC)

- Social Enterprise Support for Resale Select

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

- Education and Youth

Otto Bremer Trust

- General Operations

Park Nicollet Foundation

- Family Support / Childhood Mental Health Pilot Program

St. Martin's By the Lake

- General Operations

The Mosaic Company

- Food

Wright-Hennepin Electrical Trust Operation RoundUp

- Food

Donate at iocp.org/donate

PEAK – a Parent University makes powerful connections

In response to parent and community input gleaned from Great Expectations listening sessions and Wayzata Schools teachers/ staff, a 6-week Family University, Parents Empowering All Kids (PEAK) program was launched. PEAK assists parents for whom access to technology and/or language barriers complicate navigating an unfamiliar school system.

Sue Strom, Achievement Interventionist at Gleason Lake Elementary School and Interfaith Outreach board member, described the goal of PEAK: "To equip parents with the knowledge, connections and relationships they might not otherwise have access to in order that each and every child can thrive and contribute."

PEAK sessions began with a family meal, followed by parent education sessions around topics like math, reading and computer skills and emotional well being. Parents learned how to check their kids' progress, remind them of



assignments, schedule conferences, and email teachers with questions or concerns. At the same time, child care plus art and science enrichment sessions were provided for their children. Welde Dubar, a PEAK parent volunteer leader, said, "Life-changing is the right word to describe PEAK. Across the board, parents all say the same thing. 'We want our kids to know what is expected of them in

school and at home. We want our children to be successful.'"

PEAK is a successful, replicable approach to closing an opportunity gap for some very engaged families and kids. More sessions are planned for fall 2018.

Contact Najmo at nyusuf@iocp.org to volunteer.

Through cradle-to-career access to educational opportunity, and with the support of a caring, informed, engaged community, the Great Expectations initiative supports an estimated 500 preschool and 1,600 K-12 children on their path to success in school and life.

Great Expectations goals

- Every child is prepared for school
- Every child is nurtured at home, in school and by the community
- Every young person succeeds academically and attains life skills
- Every young person is given the opportunity to enter continuing education or training
- Every young person pursues the future of their choice

It will take all of us. Parents, neighbors, educators, faith communities, business leaders, child care and social service providers, health systems, civic and community groups, the whole village...and YOU!

Go to iocp.org/greatexpectations to learn more.



Excellence. For each and every student.

Igniting SPARKS for Kids

This fall, the Orono School District, an anchor partner in the Great Expectations Initiative, will be starting its third year of SPARKS, a no-fee after-school mentoring and support program for kids who have academic or financial need. This neighborhood-based program for elementary and middle school age students is coordinated by the Orono Community Education Department and is located in the facilities of two local faith partners - Calvin Presbyterian in Long Lake and Maple Plain Community Church.

Community Education Director Melanie DeLuca shared, "SPARKS is an amazing combination of caring adult mentors, dedicated teachers and awesome kids who just need extra encouragement, confidence and support to reach their full potential in school and life." The adults and kids

love coming to SPARKS. An Orono teacher said, "My students LOVE going to the program and ask every day if today is a SPARKS day."

SPARKS' goal is to provide extra time and support to close the educational opportunity and achievement gap. A licensed teacher and site/volunteer coordinator, along with volunteer community mentors, provide reading time, academic support and encouragement to students. An amazing 100% of parents surveyed reported that the SPARKS program met their expectations, their kids' grades improved, their study habits improved, and they want their kids to participate next year!

Mentors tell us that volunteering with SPARKS "fills their bucket" and that they love developing relationships with the kids and helping them grow

...Igniting the **SPARKS**

Student's
Potential for
Achievement
Resiliency
Knowledge
Success

and succeed. SPARKS is changing the odds for kids and their families in the Orono schools community and is proud to be a program of the Great Expectations Initiative.

Want to volunteer? Contact Najmo Yusuf at nyusuf@iocp.org or Genna Torney at gtorney@orono.k12.mn.us

MEMORIALS Dec. 2017 - May 2018

Pam Ahrens / Kathleen Anderson / David Bazil / Shirley Berlin / Mary Ann Bouta / Bob Bruley / Joyce Bumgardner
Susan Burns-Stidger / Gail Burton / Walter & Bernice Carviou / Salvatore "Sam" Catapano / John Caye
Charlie Cook / Peter Crawford / Raymond Cunningham / Jane Dayton Hall / Dorothy Dyrseth / Rose Ehle
Todd Faxvog / Donald Fillmore / Ann Marie Gardner / Dorothy Gramer / Maureen Hall Jeffy / Kevin Hazard
Millie Heiberger / Donald Hess / Theresa "Pidge" Hodowanic / Mary Ann Hohenstein / Ellie Holden
Margaret Ann "Peggy" Holden / Ardis Inwood / Henning Jacobson / Art Johnson / Robert "Bob" Kellogg
Evangeline Kerber / Amy Spencer Kimball / Darlene Lacey / Thomas Lichter / Betty Livingston / Nancy Luke
Joseph & Eleanor Meyers / Gerry Monskey / Sheila Moore / Loretta Mueller / Milbert Mueller / William "Bill" Munsell
David Nicoll / Michelle Orcutt / Cortland "Corky" Ornborg / Robert Paulson / LaMoyne "Sam" Polzin / John Raskob
Audrey Redden / Richard "Dick" Reed / Terry Reilly / Barbara Rye / Edward Schuck / James Shannon
Ruth Shannon / Donald Slathar / Linda Smith / Kay Sonntag / Judith Sullivan / Wayne Theusch / Mary Thomssen
Cindy Thorson / Linda Tyacke / Robert & Kay Uhlenhopp / Fr. Arnold Weber / Margie Wood

MISSION - To engage the heart and will of the community to respond to emergency needs and create opportunities for all to thrive.

VISION - To build a vibrant community where everyone counts and all sectors and systems work together for the good of all.

Subscribe to our e-newsletter at iocp.org/getconnected



Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners
1605 County Road 101 N, Plymouth, MN 55447 763-489-7500 iocp.org



SERVING THE CITIES OF HAMEL, LONG LAKE, MEDICINE LAKE, MEDINA, MINNETONKA BEACH, ORONO, PLYMOUTH & WAYZATA

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