

We Rise Up Through Collaboration



A note from our Executive Director

The core of RiseUp Red Wing's work is collaboration. We know that we are stronger when we work together – across generations, schools, organizations, and even seemingly unrelated sectors. In this edition of our newsletter, you'll learn more about the collaboration between our youth and families, as well as our community partnership. Regardless of the partners at the table, including local businesses, nonprofits, or community members, our mission is in service to support local young people in unleashing their potential.

We hope you will join us in collaborating – whether that is serving as a mentor to our middle or high school youth, participating in our parent engagement efforts, or donating to support our programs.

In partnership,



Opportunities for Youth

RiseUp Red Wing works with youth to develop independent living skills, and field trips to local businesses are a great way to foster connection to the community. Community partners, including banks, the Workforce Center, Artreach, local landlords, and the Tech School, have all collaborated with RiseUp Red Wing to welcome Red Wing youth and offer insight into their experiences as business owners.

We also recently added an exciting new partnership with the high school and the After School program. Thanks to the support of the high school staff, we are now able to offer our After School Program three times per week to any student interested. This group is held at the Red Wing High School Tuesday-Thursday from 3:50 to 5:00 p.m.



» If you know a student who would like to join, please have them drop by the RiseUp Red Wing office at the high school in Room I2021.

Parent Connections

RiseUp Red Wing has continued to build trusting and impactful relationships with the parents and families of community youth. In September, local parent Silvia accompanied two staff members to the StriveTogether conference in Chicago, where she learned more about the work of changing systems. In December, we hosted a dinner with middle school parents and students from the After School program to celebrate and show our gratitude for their partnership and participation. Our partner Hispanic Outreach also provided the opportunity for local families to hear from motivational speaker Ovi Vazquez in February, who delivered an inspiring message about the importance of perseverance in education.

This spring, RiseUp Red Wing has several collaboration opportunities planned for parents and families. We would love your feedback as we form a parent support group.

Please complete a short survey to let us know what you'd like to see from us:

English » <https://bit.ly/3VtjPu>

Español » <https://bit.ly/42kwZm9>



Groups Advocate at MN State Capitol

On March 22, Red Wing youth and parents joined RiseUp Red Wing staff and partners to share their perspectives at the Minnesota State Capitol as part of Advocacy for Children Day. As a member of the Education Partnerships Coalition, RiseUp Red Wing partners with other community organizations to enact solutions that improve outcomes for children and families.

After touring the Capitol and seeing firsthand where important decisions are made, we met with several of our local legislators. Alongside other locally-controlled, data-driven public-private partnerships from across the state, we shared with elected officials our commitment to ensuring that all young people and their families have opportunities to thrive and that state funding can impact our ability to achieve those outcomes.

To join us for our next Advocacy Day, reach out to Mandy at mandy@riseupredwing.org.

Mentorship in Action



Being a mentor is incredibly rewarding. I get to connect with a younger age group, which will ultimately help me work with them in the future when we're all adults...they get to be in a safe place where they can have fun and get help doing their homework in a positive environment filled with people who want nothing but the best for them.

- Alexa

11th grade mentor

Ensuring Families' Basic Needs are Met

Red Wing is a community of many strengths and assets, but not all of our residents have the same access to resources. According to data from the City of Red Wing, our childhood poverty rate sits at 16.7% – meaning nearly one in six Red Wing children live below the poverty line. This is 5% higher than both the Goodhue County and state rates.

To support the basic needs of some of our community's families, a RiseUp Red Wing supporter and member of the local Elks Lodge 845, Steph Riegelman, secured an



Impact Grant from the Elks National Foundation to purchase food, diapers, wipes, and hygiene for distribution. Through the grant and our partnership, we distributed food to more than 20 Red Wing families with children in April.

We are grateful for the collaboration with Elks National Foundation and our local Elks Lodge to build a stronger community where all are valued.



RED WING CHILDREN LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

Partner Spotlight: Three Rivers Community Action



Each newsletter, we will be highlighting a different collaborator who supports our shared, citywide work to create a safe and vibrant Red Wing for all.

Community leaders formed Three Rivers Community Action in 1966 to provide people and communities in southern Minnesota support in combating poverty. For over 50 years, Three Rivers has responded to the needs of the community and currently operates more than 40 programs in Goodhue County focused on early childhood, housing, community development, transportation, and older adult services.

RiseUp Red Wing is proud to collaborate with Three Rivers to support children and families in Goodhue County. Together, we advocated for future supportive housing projects for families in Red Wing and partnered with early education network members who guided work

around a community engagement grant to advance statewide priorities that support young children and families. Three Rivers also provides financial, network, and referral support to the Birth-to-Three Home Visiting Program, which helps pregnant women, infants, and toddlers prepare for success.

Collectively Moving Forward

The Youth Partnership is composed of community leaders that are committed to driving systemic change in Red Wing for our young people and the coming generations. With input from youth and their families, the Youth Partnership has developed five strategic goals to address the biggest gaps: health care, internship and mentorship opportunities, youth advocacy, community climate, and language opportunities. Currently, within the Partnership, we have two groups -- one focused on language accessibility and equity, and another working on developing a full-service community school model for Red Wing. This will not only open doors for everyone in Red Wing to resources and services that they currently are unable to access, it will also build our cohesion, collaboration, and our sense of community.

In exciting news, the Partnership was recently awarded grant funding to expand our capacity to prioritize youth advocacy. A number of our partners will be working with youth over the next year to build the infrastructure to ensure their voices are heard and there are resources available to give their ideas traction. This program will encourage our youth to advocate for themselves and will give them a seat at the table.

» **We are always looking for new partners! If you are interested in joining either of our two working groups, please reach out to us at info@riseupredwing.org.**



Join the Movement

We rely on the support of our community to achieve our mission. There are several ways to donate to RiseUp Red Wing:



@RiseUpRedWing



Go to riseupredwing.org and click on Take Action.



If you are a Thrivent Financial member, designate Red Wing Youth Outreach as your preferred agency to receive your Thrivent Choice Dollars.



410 Guernsey Lane, Red Wing, MN 55066

Please make checks out to our former name, Red Wing Youth Outreach

Thank you for being part of this important work!

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