

COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

50th anniversary celebration to focus on sharing stories, honoring the organization's past and inspiring future work

NORTHFIELD, MINN. (July 10, 2018) - The Community Action Center (CAC) of Northfield, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to providing programs that meet the basic needs of individuals and families, is turning 50. An anniversary celebration, which is slated for Thursday, August 23, will emphasize the power of community and storytelling. [Boyd Huppert](#) of KARE 11 and [Land of 10,000 Stories](#) will serve as emcee. Proceeds from the celebration will support housing needs in the Northfield community, and there will be a fundraising opportunity during the event to raise funds for accessible, emergency, affordable and permanent supportive housing options in our area. More information and ticket purchasing is available at communityactioncenter.org/anniversary. There will be a special event hosted in the fall honoring the tenure of current executive director Jim Blaha, who has served the organization for nearly two decades.

The event plans to bring in influencers from the organization's past. Mary Wood, the CAC's first executive director, will be in attendance, along with countless volunteers, donors, board members and friends the CAC has gained and engaged with over the past 50 years. Also incorporating a forward-looking focus, the event will bring together current and future leaders of the organization—incoming CAC executive director Scott Wopata will be in attendance.

“The theme of honoring our past and inspiring our future is special,” says Blaha. “We have had the privilege of serving many wonderful individuals and families over the past 50 years, and we are excited to not only celebrate the organization's work, but the drive of those we've met and served as well as the continuous collaboration of the community.”

As the CAC honors its past and looks toward the future, there is much to anticipate on the organization's horizon. Capital improvements are anticipated to its Food Shelf as the result of a partnership with SuperShelf, which transforms food shelves, creating welcoming environments for communities to access appealing, healthy food. Resources and partnerships to assist with Northfield's growing emergency housing needs continue to be solidified and nurtured. Funding from a Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) grant will support Northfield Works, the CAC's community job partnership program.

Over the past 50 years, the CAC has experienced growth in many forms—from the services provided to the amount of individuals and families supported to the number of volunteers gained. Annually, the organization serves over 3,300 people through eight main programs and receives support from 1,200+ volunteers.

The Community Action Center of Northfield exists to promote a healthy, caring and just community for all people through resources, advocacy and volunteer effort. We help our Northfield-area neighbors meet basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter, and provide crisis support, transportation and more. For more information about the Community Action Center, visit www.communityactioncenter.org or call 507-664-3550.