



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Carrie Carroll
carriecarroll@northfieldshares.org
507-403-9755

NORTHFIELD SHARES RAISES \$140,000 TO HELP SAVE LOCAL NONPROFITS AIMS FOR \$175,000

In the midst of the significant events that have impacted society around the world, here in Northfield many nonprofits have significant concerns for their future. The need for their services has never been greater, while the ability to raise necessary funds has never been more challenging. Fundraising events have been cancelled for health and safety reasons, while many revenue-generating programs have likewise been closed or limited. In an effort to provide financial support to these organizations who, in turn, are providing critical and necessary services to Northfield residents, Northfield Shares, the city's foundation, has stepped up to provide capacity for increased grants to those impacted by this pandemic.

"Today we're proud to announce that we have created the '*Share in Northfield's Future Fund*' Mary Lynn Oglesbee, Chair of Northfield Shares said. "Our nonprofits provide the very heart and soul of our community in Northfield. Our goal is to provide additional monies that allow them to expand, create and collaborate with others to specifically address the needs of our residents." Oglesbee said.

Northfield Shares has set a goal to raise a minimum of \$175,000. "We are thrilled to announce that we've received major support from individuals and other organizations," said Justin Stets, chair of the Development Committee for Northfield Shares. Specifically, longtime and active community residents, LaVern and Barbara Rippley, have pledged \$50,000 to the effort.

"Barbara and I wish to leverage the granting infrastructure of Northfield Shares along with the collaborative spirit of our nonprofits to make a sustainable difference as our community moves into a time of a "new normal." LaVern Rippley said.

In addition to the Rippley gift, \$50,000 has been pledged from the Ames Foundation. This donation comes from the legacy of the Ames family descendants of the founders of Malt-O-Meal. \$20,000 has also been received from the Minnesota Council of Foundations Disaster Recovery Fund. This portion has been granted to six organizations in Phase 1 of the *Share in Northfield's Future*.

"We're proud that an additional \$19,000 has been earmarked by the unrestricted grant funds of Northfield Shares and contributions from our Northfield Shares board who have all pledged their financial support," Oglesbee said. "It's important for our community members to know that that all monies raised for this effort will be entirely passed through directly to our nonprofits who are supporting our community members in a myriad of ways."

How you can support the *Share in Northfield's Future Fund*

You can help Northfield Shares meet the goal of \$175,000. Gifts of all amounts are appreciated and make a difference.

In a gracious and very creative gesture of support for Northfield, local artist Wendell Arneson has donated a painting he created during the pandemic entitled "Light Among the Darkness". The painting is 36"x36", Oil/Alkyd on Canvas.

If you would like to support the ***Share in Northfield's Future Fund*** through a silent auction, the winning bid proceeds will support this effort.

NOTE TO NORTHFIELD NEWS: delete these words, but
[INCLUDE PICTURE in THIS SEGMENT]



"Light Among the Darkness"
by Wendell Arneson

Arneson's print can be seen in the window of By All Means Graphic & Printing located at 17 Bridge Square. Online bidding will begin on Friday, June 19 at 8 a.m. and close Friday, June 26 at 8:00 p.m. via the Northfield Shares website, northfieldshares.org. Again, 100% of the proceeds from this auction and entire fund will be distributed to area nonprofits supporting our community as a whole.

"Today, we turn to the entire community to join us. To truly be effective, we need to raise at least \$175,000 or more to support the nonprofit futures as our community designs and adapts to a revised way of life," Oglesbee said. "The vision for Northfield Shares is that Northfield will continue to be a prosperous and generous community fueled by engaged donors and volunteers."

Northfield Shares will be asking local nonprofit organizations to apply for grant assistance. In the past, grants have been awarded to nonprofit organizations that represent economic enhancement, healthcare, youth programs, food and housing, healthcare, arts and culture, faith, elder assistance and others. All nonprofits are welcome to apply. The goal is to convene nonprofit and other community leaders to learn about the needs of our residents, and then support those organizations that are responding with creativity and compassion.

To learn more or contribute to the “*Share in Northfield’s Future Fund*” call 507-403-9755, email info@northfieldshares.org, visit the website at: www.northfieldshares.org/give or mail contribution to: Northfield Shares, PO BOX 802, Northfield, MN 55057.