



Strengthening Our Community Together

2016 Way to Grow Annual Report

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Dear Friends



Carolyn Smallwood,
Chief Executive Officer

Marian Wright Edelman once said, "Education is for improving the lives of others and leaving your community and the world better than you found it." For the last 27 years, Way to Grow's staff, community partners, donors, and volunteers have worked tirelessly to close the education gap in the Twin Cities. Our work to prepare families for success, combined with the dedication and hard work of over 67,000 parents and children, has made a lasting impact on this city and continues to help it thrive.

At Way to Grow, we march side by side with families in the community and together we make sure children have an equal opportunity to succeed in school and life. In 2016, 90% of Way to Grow preschoolers were prepared for kindergarten, 100% of teen parents did not have a repeat pregnancy, and 95% of

parents attended a parent-teacher conference. Our pipeline continued to grow as we followed 368 elementary students into 35 Minneapolis Public Schools and 30 charter schools. Our families received 2,686 referrals for basic needs and our team served 1,423 children and 1,009 adults through 11,562 home visits. Alone, these numbers are important measures of progress, but together they tell the story of how Way to Grow has become an important partner in the lives of our families and in the fabric of our community.

We could not have accomplished all of this without our extended Way to Grow family. I want to express a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated team of leaders at Way to Grow, our strong board of directors, valued donors and community partners, and our hard-working volunteers. It is only through your support of our organization that we are able to continue this important work and serve so many of our neighbors. What we do together truly does matter.

Every parent who continues their education and obtains a living-wage job, every child who moves up a reading level and is ready for school, every teen who graduates from high school, and each and every family that has a safe place to call home is a valued member of our community. To help our neighbors succeed, we all must continue to believe in education and economic equity for everyone. With your help, we can do this and more. Let's strengthen our community—together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. Smallwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the last name being a large, stylized 'S'.

Carolyn Smallwood, Chief Executive Officer

2016 Snapshots



BACK TO SCHOOL

In 2016, Way to Grow served 1,423 children. 54 children attended one of our NAEYC accredited, Four-Star Parent Aware preschools.



In the fall, Way to Grow distributed 350 backpacks filled with supplies, in partnership with Greater Twin Cities United Way.

FAMILY EVENTS



In support of creating a culture of learning in the home, we hosted four family education nights with 304 participants.



GRADUATION

In August, 500+ children and families celebrated 137 preschoolers at our Early Learner Graduation. In 2016, 90% of Way to Grow preschoolers were deemed ready for kindergarten.



In June, we congratulated over 40 third graders who graduated from our Way to Grow Great by Eight program.

ANNUAL SHINE CELEBRATION



In October, hundreds of Way to Grow supporters helped to raise over \$300,000 for our programming.



DREAM TRACKS

In 2016, five guests spoke to our Dream Tracks teens about reproductive health, money management, life skills, and making good choices to prevent repeat pregnancies.



VOLUNTEERS

More than 125 volunteers donated over 300 hours of time in 2016, increasing our capacity to serve families.

WAY TO GROW FAMILY ROOM

We continued to grow our programming in the Way to Grow Family Room at Lucy C. Laney Community School. In 2016, Play to Grow, New Parent Group, and weekly tutoring brought families together with Family Educators and volunteers.



SPRING LUNCHEON

In April, we heard from Dr. Mary Hinton, president of the College of Saint Benedict, as well as a former Way to Grow child, Shania, now a first-generation college student.



CRADLE TO K

In June, Mayor Betsy Hodges and the stars of TPT's Peg + Cat visited Way to Grow. Carolyn Smallwood co-chairs the Mayor's Cradle to K Cabinet, a major initiative launched in 2014 to close the achievement gap in the city's education system by eliminating disparities for children prenatally through age three.



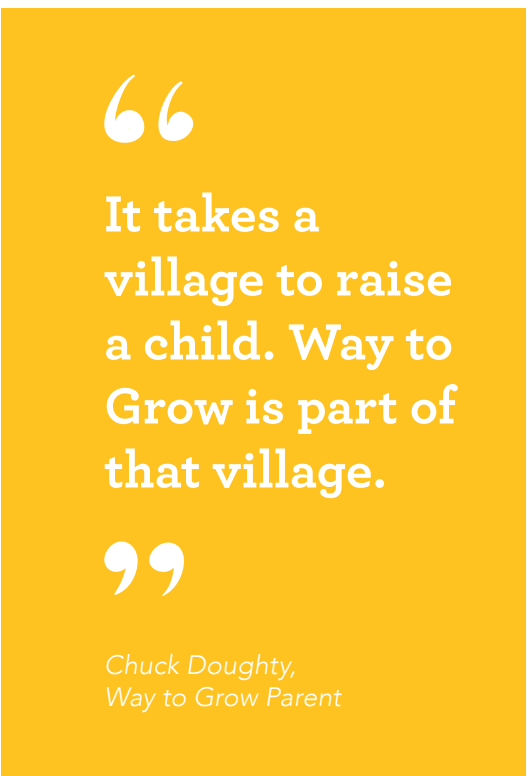
GROWING STRONG

35 participants took part in a six-week Cooking Matters course offered through our partnership with U of M Extension.

We also hosted two family nutrition nights with cooking demonstrations, interactive resource tables, and a mobile food truck with fresh produce, as well as brought together agencies for our Nutrition Health Fair.



Who We Are



Mission

Working closely with parents and communities, we ensure that children within the most isolated families are born healthy, stay healthy, and are prepared for school.

Located on Broadway Avenue in the heart of Minneapolis, Way to Grow has been a visible and active part of this community since 1989. Supporting 38 staff, classes, and events, our office is a bustling hub for early education in our Northside neighborhood and Southside community.

Vision

Together, we will ensure that every child has an equal opportunity to succeed in school and life.

Our Story

For over 25 years, Way to Grow has brought the community together to address the serious and prevalent gap in early childhood education in Minneapolis. In 1989, when former Mayor Don Fraser, Honeywell CEO, Jim Renier and Greater Twin Cities United Way formed Way to Grow, community leaders around the country were beginning to recognize the ever-growing education gap. Minneapolis decided to do something about it.

Originally a program of the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board, the Way to Grow mission brought together different facets of our community to address the early childhood gaps. We connected city programming, corporate community partners, and leaders from across the Twin Cities to make change happen. Our founders and early supporters believed that only by working together could we make a difference.

In 2004, Way to Grow became an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit and under the direction of Carolyn Smallwood, began to develop and implement research-based, holistic best practices. Our Great By Eight program is now the cornerstone of our work and our unique, proven methods secure our role as a leader in early childhood education.

In the first five years of life, a child's brain grows to 85% of its full capacity. During this time, children begin to form a sense of what is possible in their young lives. Furthermore, studies show that nurturing learning from birth greatly increases a child's chance to succeed in school and life. That's what we do every day at Way to Grow.

Our Work

Building Bridges, Strengthening Community

While Minnesota may be leader in education, our children of color are often left behind. With one of the largest achievement gaps in the country and as Minnesota becomes more diverse, the work of Way to Grow is increasingly important.

Studies show a strong correlation between third grade literacy scores and future graduation rates, but too often our children are left behind well before kindergarten. At Way to Grow, we support families from birth to age eight and in turn, empower our next generation of leaders. Art Rolnick of the Humphrey School’s Human Capital Research Collaborative and formerly of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, explains, “You won’t find a better return on investment anywhere in society than investing in programs like Way to Grow.”

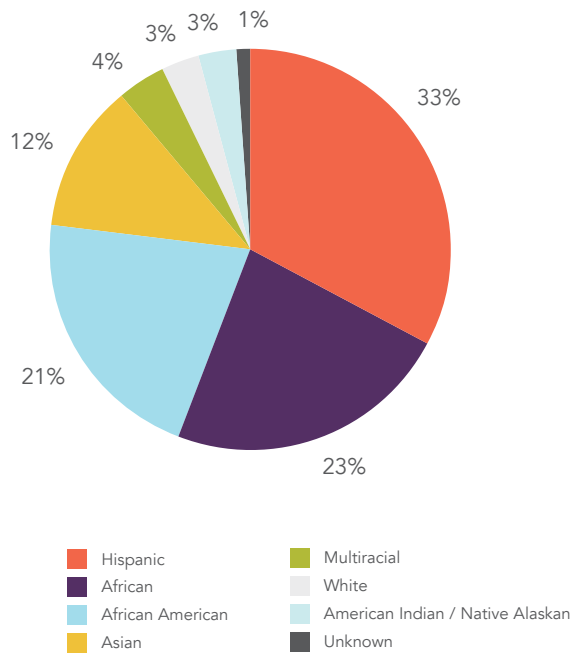


Rachel Western has let no barrier stand in her family’s way. With guidance from her Family Educator, she created a supportive home where her children flourish, helped her son overcome developmental speech challenges to achieve preschool readiness, and reached a personal goal of earning her master’s degree.

Serving Our Neighbors

Way to Grow is proud to work with over 2,400 individuals in both North and South Minneapolis. Every day, we support parents who work hard to provide for their children. 67% of our families are two-parent households, and many of those we serve are working to further their own education and careers. In fact, 59% of our parents have completed high school, while still others have gone on to finish their undergraduate or graduate degrees while enrolled in Way to Grow. In addition to working towards their aspirations, many of our families remain active members in their communities.

We are inspired by parents making time to be actively engaged in their children’s education. Coming from all walks of life, Way to Grow families truly represent a strong and diverse community.



Demographic breakdown of clients served by Way to Grow in 2016.

A Pipeline to Success: Great By Eight

FAMILY SUPPORT

Effective early learning starts in a stable home. While Way to Grow parents are committed to helping their children succeed in life, overwhelming economic and social barriers often stand in their way. Our Resource Advocates work closely with parents to address the challenges their families may face by connecting them to critical services.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Our in-home health and wellness programming teaches parents about prenatal care, nutrition, immunizations, well-child checkups, and safety to ensure all children are healthy and prepared to learn. When necessary, our Resource Advocates refer families to health and dental care partners.

GREAT BY EIGHT EARLY LEARNING

Parents are a child’s first and most important teachers. During home visits, Way to Grow Family Educators offer developmentally appropriate early learning experiences in literacy, math, science, and social studies for children birth through age five. Our staff provide families with activities and model different learning approaches, introducing parents to key literacy skills as they read and play with their child.

GREAT BY EIGHT ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Through a partnership with Minneapolis Public Schools, the Great by Eight K-3 Elementary Education program focuses on the skills children need to develop by the end of third grade. Participants receive home visits to support the academic development of students, as well as parental support in navigating the school system, becoming involved in their child’s education, and building relationships with teachers.

CENTER-BASED LEARNING

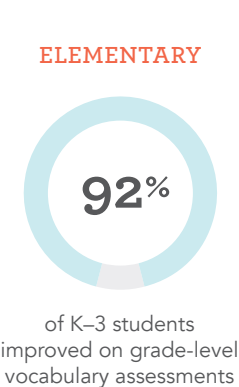
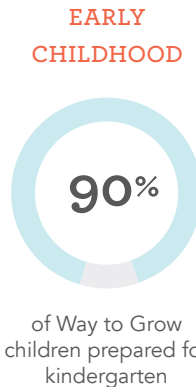
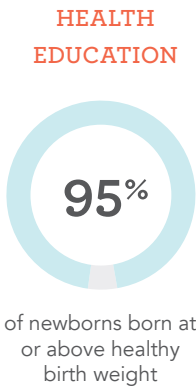
Way to Grow has two high-quality, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited, center-based preschools for enrolled families with children ages three to five. These four-day-a-week programs have been awarded a four-star rating by Minnesota Parent Aware. Both classrooms engage parents through parent-child classes twice a month.

DREAM TRACKS TEEN PARENTING PROGRAM

Young parents face many obstacles beyond raising a child. Way to Grow works with these families through our Dream Tracks program, to help educate and prepare parents ages 15-21 for a successful life. Dream Tracks addresses parenting challenges, provides motivation and emotional empowerment, helps parents maintain a focus on academic success and career goals, and provides information about sexual and reproductive health.

Boots on the Ground: Our 2016 Results

Way to Grow provides year-round services every day to families in Minneapolis. Our success means families have changed their lives and are making our community stronger. In 2016 alone, we served over 2,000 parents and children, increased the number of home visits for our families, and celebrated alongside our preschoolers, 90% of whom were ready to begin kindergarten!



SUCCESS STORY
LaToya & I’Monie

One of LaToya’s earliest childhood memories is being dropped off at her first foster home when she was just three years old. “I remember asking if I could go up the hill to play with the other kids,” LaToya recalls. “‘Yes, you can go,’ my grandmother said. When I came back down, I remember seeing my suitcase sitting by the front door and realizing my grandmother was gone.”

Spending several years in and out of foster homes and bouncing between extended family members’ houses, by the age of 16, LaToya had two children of her own and no place to call home. “I didn’t know what I was doing. I was never taught how to parent or even how to love another person.” That changed seven years ago when LaToya found Way to Grow and was connected to Tonia, her Way to Grow Family Educator.

“When Tonia first started showing up, I realized Way to Grow was different. Tonia never judged me and never gave up on me,” LaToya says. “To have someone come into my house, not be negative, and keep me in check was just what I needed. If I canceled a visit with her, she would persist: ‘Do you need to meet an hour earlier, an hour later, over the weekend? What do you need to do to make it work?’ she would ask me. That was the type of concern and accountability I needed.”

Tonia’s dedicated support was life-changing for LaToya and her family. “I slowly realized that I wanted to change. I slowly started to cut back on my addictions,” LaToya explains. “Tonia helped me make that change. Eventually, I realized I didn’t need the vices once I had all these other positive influences in my life. I just let all the negativity go.”

Tonia adds, “In the beginning, my job was to mainly focus on LaToya’s needs, and helping her meet her family goals. Once LaToya was on track, I was able to start working with I’Monie to prepare her for

kindergarten. I’Monie was like a sponge, soaking up everything I shared with her with a smile. Mom got on board, too, reading two or more books with I’Monie every night. She has been a year ahead of her peers every year since I started working with her and LaToya.”

It wasn’t always easy, but at Way to Grow, LaToya found the support and encouragement she needed



to remove the negative influences in their lives. Today, she has come full-circle in her journey. Now working as a Family Achievement Coach at the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ), LaToya laughs, “I remember getting that phone call and finding out I had gotten the job – it was like the lights were flashing and I was walking down the runway!” Continuing the community reciprocity, LaToya also gives back by volunteering in her daughter’s school, at her church, and with the Salvation Army. LaToya is especially interested in working with teen parents. “I want to help them figure out what their next step is – passing on what Way to Grow did for me.”

Working Together

BRINGING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Closing the achievement gap must be a community-wide effort. In 2016, Way to Grow partnered with more than 115 community partners to provide critical basic needs and additional enrichment opportunities for our families. Our work was further supported by over 400 donors who chose to invest in the future of our families, and in turn, in the vitality of this community. Finally, over 125 volunteers inspired us by giving their time and talents to support our programs. Our success is truly a team effort.

CREATING A CULTURE OF ENGAGEMENT

At Way to Grow, we believe it is important to engage not only our supporters in the fight to close the achievement gap, but also our families. Throughout the year, we provide programming that connects families with one another to strengthen their personal networks and support systems, and helps them become even more involved in their child’s education. Programming like our New Parent Support Group, classes at the Way to Grow Room at Lucy C. Laney Community School, Cooking Matters cooking and nutrition courses, and family education nights continue to create a culture of learning in the home. By focusing on parent engagement, more parents are participating in their child’s education. In 2016, 95% of parents attended at least one parent-teacher conference and over 300 people attended a family education night.

“
So much community is created by bringing families together. The support these parents provide each other by carpooling, sharing advice on navigating social programming, or helping each other’s kids in class is truly inspirational.

Ashley Saupp, Lead Teacher
Way to Grow Preschool P.A.L.S.

”



Community Leader

For almost three decades, Way to Grow has lead the Twin Cities’ early childhood education community with our innovative home visiting model and expansive programming. While we have touched the lives of thousands of people, we know there are families who still need our help. To reach those not already receiving our services, we are finding new ways to share our knowledge.

Way to Grow staff can be seen at neighborhood events, school nights, or even in the grocery line, telling new parents about the resources available to them and their child. Last year alone, Family Educators attended more than 40 events in the community.

In 2016, we grew our outreach efforts to share our knowledge with the broader community. A Family Educator answered call-in questions from parents on KMOJ radio, Carolyn Smallwood became a regular contributor to the Minnesota Spokesman Recorder, and our staff continued to influence early childhood education development and policy on state and local levels.

The cornerstone of our work may happen in the home, but there is much that we can do to shape the future of our youngest neighbors and their families throughout our entire community.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Children’s Theatre Company

At Way to Grow, we believe learning should include the arts. We want our families to explore creativity, learn together in new and exciting environments, and experience the magic of storytelling in new ways. For many years, our friends at Children’s Theatre Company (CTC) have helped us do just that. Committed to both the arts and the growth and development of their youngest patrons, CTC has put together enriching performances and programming and made them accessible to our families.

Describing this unique partnership, Deb Girdwood, CTC Director of Access and Inclusion explains, “Since 2010, Children’s Theatre Company has offered affordable tickets and arts education to Way to Grow because of our shared commitment to equitable access for children and families. Because the first five years of life are an especially unique stage of remarkable learning, growth, and development, CTC’s early childhood vision is for every young child to

have opportunities to engage in creative storytelling, expressive movement, and dramatic play in the critical years between ages 2-5.” She goes on to explain that CTC shares Way to Grow’s commitment to engaging the entire family: “Collaborating with caregivers and families increases opportunities for all children growing toward their full potential, which is why we love to partner with Way to Grow.”

Over the years, hundreds of Way to Grow families have attended performances, explored education through creativity, and connected with the performing arts community. Way to Grow Program Director, Ronel Robinson explains, “Our families love attending Children’s Theatre. For some, it’s the first play they have ever been to. Many parents are overwhelmed by the amazing visual experience of theater and love that they can share that with their children.” Way to Grow is proud and grateful to have such a strong and lasting partnership with the Children’s Theatre Company.

Financials

Operating Revenue & Expenses

REVENUE	2016	2015
Contributions	\$151,103	\$140,629
Government	\$934,405	\$889,064
Foundation	\$1,141,450	\$1,162,233
United Way	\$132,202	\$123,994
Program Service	\$108,745	\$114,841
Annual Celebration	\$162,630	\$191,553
Interest & Other Income	\$2,569	\$782
Total Operating Revenue	\$2,633,104	\$2,623,096
EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$1,856,408	\$1,812,517
Administrative Services	\$218,636	\$201,162
Fundraising Services	\$390,728	\$363,364
Total Operating Expenses	\$2,465,772	\$2,377,043



“We began telling others in our community about Way to Grow the same way our neighbor had shared the word about the organization with us. It is such a great program, and our community needs it,” explains Hassan. His family was served by Way to Grow for 12 years, during which time he completed a degree at Metropolitan State University and went on to become a high school math teacher.

Financial Position

ASSETS	2016	2015
Current Assets		
Cash	\$707,160	\$726,683
Receivables	\$336,462	\$489,762
Prepays	\$46,337	\$40,875
Total Current Assets	\$1,089,959	\$1,257,320
Property & Equipment		
Furniture & Equipment (net of depreciation)	\$50,735	\$79,093
Total Property & Equipment	\$50,735	\$79,093
Other Assets		
Long-term Receivables	\$0	\$0
Deposits	\$10,906	\$10,906
Total Other Assets	\$10,906	\$10,906
Total Assets	\$1,151,600	\$1,347,319

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	2016	2015
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$27,730	\$30,757
Accrued Expenses	\$67,994	\$56,183
Unearned Revenue	\$0	\$26,860
Total Current Liabilities	\$95,724	\$113,800
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$866,651	\$699,319
Temporarily Restricted	\$189,225	\$534,200
Total Net Assets	\$1,055,876	\$1,233,519
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,151,600	\$1,347,319

SUCCESS STORY

Serenity

“My first child stayed home; I didn’t enroll her in preschool,” Serenity says, explaining what brought her to Way to Grow. “I was always too busy, so I would just give her my phone to play with. I didn’t like using a phone as my child’s toy, but I needed something to help me help her.”

Working fulltime while also managing the bookkeeping at her family-owned convenience store, and helping out at two rental properties she and her husband own, Serenity sought to enroll her second daughter in preschool. She asked for help at the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program and they told her about Way to Grow.

At first, Serenity admits, it felt weird to have someone conducting home visits. “It felt like something was wrong, like my kids weren’t normal or they weren’t good and that’s why I had a teacher coming to our house. However, once I knew the program, I knew it

wasn’t like that at all. Way to Grow is a program to help prepare your kids for school, so that when they go there, they already know what they need in order to be successful.” No longer did Serenity have to supplement help with technology—she was able to connect with a Family Educator and get the help she needed to educate her children at home.

Serenity’s Family Educator, Nou, has been working with the family since they enrolled two years ago. “Since mom is so busy, I would leave tools behind during home visits thinking she wouldn’t have time to use them. Much to my surprise, when I would return I’d find out she had!” Nou says. “Serenity is very engaged in her children’s learning and you can tell it is very important to her.”

Serenity laughs, admitting that the whole family has Way to Grow “homework” to do together almost every night. “Sometimes it is very crazy, but what can

you do? You have to work hard. I feel guilty at times for being so busy, but I realized I needed to give my family more time. So, I have made a promise to my family to try my best to help my kids as much as I can, to be a present mom, and to help my kids do their homework and reading every night.”

All the hard work is paying off. Serenity’s eldest, Autumn, will be a third-grader soon, and she’s a big help at home. She’s always eager to read to and teach her younger siblings, Luna (5) and Vincent (2). Following in his sisters’ footsteps, Vincent will begin preschool this fall, while Luna will begin kindergarten, both ready to succeed.



Thank You

Individual Donors

CHAMPIONS (\$10,000+)

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Laurie and Dan Lafontaine
Monica Little and Mark Abeln
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Thank you to all our donors
and community partners!
We have made every effort
to ensure our list is accurate,
but we know mistakes can
happen. Should you have
any corrections, updates,
feedback, or wish to learn
more about how your gift
is changing the lives of our
families, please contact Way
to Grow at 612.874.4740.

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The City of Minneapolis
Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department
Minneapolis Public Schools
Minnesota Department of Health



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Marilyn Broussard

Education has always been important to Marilyn Broussard. “I grew up in rural southwestern Louisiana where public education was not always accessible,” says Marilyn. “My father was a sharecropper, and although there were nine of us kids, my parents were determined that we would all get an education. Succeeding in school meant having a better life.”

As a young woman, Marilyn knew that attending college and becoming a teacher would be her pathway to a professional career. She graduated from University of Louisiana at Lafayette and took a local teaching position, before moving to Minnesota and teaching for 10 years in North Minneapolis. Ultimately, she pursued a successful career as a financial planner for 31 years, finding it rewarding to help people with financial planning concepts and advice.

Describing herself as a “bleeding heart” for those in need, Marilyn is deeply concerned about the

achievement gap in Minneapolis schools. “Lots of money is aimed at closing the gap, so why aren’t those efforts making a bigger difference?” She continues, “As long as unemployment persists in certain communities, the achievement gap will persist as well.” Still, Marilyn believes in the power of early education to change young lives.

“I see education as a springboard out of poverty,” says Marilyn. “When children are behind in kindergarten and not reading by third grade, they often have a difficult time in high school.” She continues, “Parents need to have aspirations for their children to succeed in school. That is why the work of Way to Grow is so important—helping parents and teaching them to be their child’s primary educator.”

Marilyn believes in Way to Grow’s holistic approach to working with parents and children. “Way to Grow helps parents navigate a variety of issues in the

home, so they can create a more stable home environment for their children.” She has also been impressed by the leadership and dedication of Way to Grow’s CEO, Carolyn Smallwood, noting with a smile that “when Carolyn believes in something, she sets about reaching her goals in a big way.”

With Marilyn’s compassion for children and families, and strong ties to North Minneapolis from her teaching days, generously supporting Way to Grow is a natural fit. “I like the thought that children who are being helped to succeed in school are less likely to face economic hardship as adults, and their families are more likely to prosper,” she says. “That is significant. Way to Grow is making a vital difference.”



Foundation & Corporate Donors

LUMINARIES (\$50,000+)

- Cargill Foundation
- Community Leadership Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation
- General Mills Foundation
- Greater Twin Cities United Way
- Greater Twin Cities United Way - Social Innovation Fund
- Julie and Doug Baker, Jr. Foundation
- Otto Bremer Trust
- Redleaf Family Foundation
- Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi Foundation for Children

VISIONARIES (\$25,000–49,999)

- Curtis L. Carlson Family Foundation
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- Grotto Foundation
- LRE Foundation
- Mortenson Family Foundation
- Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation
- Rose Francis Foundation
- Tradition Capital Bank

CHAMPIONS (\$10,000–24,999)

- 3MGives and 3M Foundation
- Douglass Brandenburg Family Foundation
- GHR Foundation
- Helsing/Eichenwald Foundation, in memory of Bryan S. Eichenwald
- John and Denise Graves Foundation
- March Family Foundation
- Mosaic Company Foundation
- Walser Foundation
- Wooddale Church

TRAILBLAZERS (\$5,000–9,999)

- Allina Health
- BMO Harris Bank
- Buuck Family Foundation
- Edward R. Bazinet Foundation
- Luther I. Replogle Foundation
- McKnight Foundation
- Ripley Memorial Foundation Fund of the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota
- Sheltering Arms Foundation
- Thrivent Financial Colonnade Group
- Westminster Presbyterian Church

BUILDERS (\$2,500–4,999)

- Rotsch Family Foundation
- TCF Foundation

PARTNERS (\$1,000–2,499)

- Anonymous
- Best Buy
- Capella University
- Children’s Hospitals & Clinics of Minnesota
- Faegre Baker Daniels LLP
- HealthPartners
- Hinrichs & Associates, LTD
- Hunt Electric
- J. Murphy & Associates
- Laird Youth Leadership Foundation
- Little & Company
- NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center
- Northwestern Health Sciences University
- Prospect Creek Foundation
- RBC Wealth Management
- Royal Oaks Realty, Inc.
- Society of Insurance Trainers and Educators, Inc.
- Wintrust Mortgage

FRIENDS (\$250–999)

- Allina Health Community Engagement | Dollars for Doers
- Amazon Smile Foundation
- Associated Bank
- Carolyn Foundation
- Ecolab
- GrayHall, LLP
- Keystone Computer Solutions, Inc.
- Medtronic
- Northeast Bank
- Piper Jaffray
- River Bridge Partners Community Fund
- Schechter Dokken Kanter
- Triple Tree, LLC
- UnitedHealth Group
- US Bank
- Van Tassel Law Firm
- Venture Bank
- Wyncrest Capital, Inc.

Community Partners

AchieveMpls
Allina Health
American Indian Family Center
Aurora Charter School
Ahavah BirthWorks
Bell Museum of Natural History
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota
Bridging, Inc.
Broadway Family Medicine
Broadway School at Longfellow
Bundles of Love
Center for Families at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church
Centro Cultural Chicano
Children’s Defense Fund
Children’s Dental Services
Children’s Hospitals & Clinics of Minnesota
Children’s Theatre Company
Church of St. Gerard
City of Minneapolis Office of Multicultural Services
Community Initiatives for Children – Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
Community University Health Care Center

Cradle of Hope
Cultural Wellness Center
Division of Indian Work
Early Childhood Family Education
Early Childhood Intervention Services of Hennepin County
Early Head Start
East Side Neighborhood Services
Emerge Family Supportive Housing Program
Fairview Health Services & Clinics
The Family Partnership
FirstBook
Four Directions Early Learning Center
Friendship Academy School
Gale Woods Farm
General Mills
Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches
Generation Next
Harvest Prep/Best Academy
Head Start, Parents In Community Action (PICA)
Hennepin County Human Services & Public Health Department
Hennepin County Medical Center & Clinics
Hennepin County Research, Planning & Development Department

Hennepin County Teen Parent Connection
Hmong American Mutual Assistance Association, Inc.
Indian Health Board
Jewish Family & Children’s Services of Minneapolis – Parent Child Home Program
Joyce Preschool
Kente Circle
Kids in Need
Kidz Kloset
La Crèche Early Childhood Centers
Legal Aid Society
Links Women’s Organization
Lucy Laney at Cleveland Park
Community School
Lundstrum Center for the Performing Arts
Lutheran Social Services
MacPhail Center for Music
Magers & Quinn Booksellers
Matter
Medica
MinnCAN
MinneMinds

Minneapolis Early Childhood Screening
Minneapolis Healthy Start
Minneapolis Public Schools
Minneapolis Public Schools Early Childhood Special Education
Minneapolis Public Schools Early Learning Labs, Inc.
Minneapolis Public Schools Health Related Services
Minneapolis Public Schools New Families Center
Minneapolis Public Schools Teen Parent Services
Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children
Minnesota Children’s Museum
Minnesota Comeback
Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center (MIWRC)
Minnesota Internship Center (MNIC)
Minnesota Lynx
Minnesota Timberwolves
Minnesota Twins
Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency (MVNA)
Minnesota Workforce Center
Native American Community Clinic
Northside Pregnancy Options

Northside Achievement Zone
NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center
NorthPoint Human Services
PACER Center
Park Avenue Methodist Church
Park Nicollet Health Services
People Serving People
Phyllis Wheatley Community Center
Pillsbury United Communities
Portico Healthnet
Prodeo Academy
Sabathani Community Center
The Salvation Army
St. David’s Center
St. Stephen’s Human Services
Simpson Housing Services
Sustainable Resource Center, Inc.
Tandem Family Resource Center
Think Small
Twin Cities Rise
UCare
United Health Group
University Life Care Center
University of Minnesota Center for Early Education & Development

University of Minnesota - Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program
University of Minnesota Extension - Cooking Matters Program
University of Minnesota Physician Clinics
University of Minnesota Technical Assistance Program
University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center
Urban Ventures
Washburn Center for Children
Women Achieving New Directions (WAND)
Women, Infants and Children (WIC)



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PARTNER SPOTLIGHT
Wooddale Church

It is not every day that someone calls and offers to help build a program, yet that is exactly what happened two years ago when Richard Payne, Pastor at Wooddale Church, contacted Way to Grow.

In 2015, Wooddale, already partnering with Lucy C. Laney Community School, expressed an interest in tutoring students in the neighborhood. Knowing the importance of training, resources, and volunteer support, Principal Mauri Melander recommended that Payne work with Way to Grow. Since then, Wooddale has helped create the Way to Grow Family Room at Lucy Laney, providing Way to Grow with a space to host parent classes and weekly tutoring to children at the community school.

“For me, connecting with kids and their families in their own neighborhood has been a rich and rewarding experience,” explains Payne. “We’ve moved from doing projects to building relationships.” He continues, “I also see learning and growth in the volunteer tutors.” Last year, 12 volunteers worked with Way to Grow children, giving their time and sharing knowledge, laughter, and stories with kids in the neighborhood. Way to Grow is thankful for the dedication and generosity of Pastor Richard Payne, Wooddale Church, and their wonderful volunteers. We are proud to be a part of this community building and look forward to even more in 2017.

One enthusiastic volunteer reflected on her time tutoring in the Way to Grow Family Room at Lucy Laney:

“It was a joy working with the children and each week was something different.”



“Strong communities begin with high-quality education for every child. Here in the Twin Cities, there is still a tremendous opportunity to ensure all kids are developmentally on track and ready to thrive in kindergarten and beyond. Way to Grow remains at the forefront of advancing this vital work.”

”

Nicola Dixon, Associate Director of Community Action, General Mills & Program Officer for Education, General Mills Foundation

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Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Carolyn Smallwood
Chief Executive Officer,
Way to Grow



What we do together
matters.

“

Way to Grow is a great investment — not only in our cities’ children, but also in the long-term health of the community.

”

Julie Baker, Board Member





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waytogrow.org

Carolyn Smallwood,
Chief Executive Officer

