PRESCHOOL PARTICIPATION and transportation was increased as a result of several conversations with local preschools, United Way of Mower County, SMART Transit and the work of the Aspires' early childhood navigators.

Helen Keller said "Alone we can do so little: together we can do so much". We witness this every single day in our collective impact work! We are so grateful for our many wonderful community partners – you truly do make our community a better place for all!





According to the StriveTogether website, collective impact was first coined in 2011 by the Stanford Social Innovation Review. It was used to describe a community that came together around a set of common goals and shared data to solve complex community challenges that limited opportunity for young people.

A decade later, this model is evident in the work that Austin Aspires is doing with our numerous community partners. During 2021, working with more than families and students, Austin Aspires and community partners enrolled children in preschools, increased access to transportation, ensured more students were on track to graduation and helped families get connected to basic needs and more.

We are blessed to be part of a resource rich community. Note the number of incredible partners that we work with reaularly to provide supports for students and families in our community. Author Margaret Wheatley wrote, "There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about." Thank you to our partners and the community of Austin for demonstrating your tremendous care for the children and families. I am very excited to see what the future holds for our community

For Our Children,

Jayne Gibson **Executive Director** 











### **COLLECTIVE IMPACT IN ACTION**

At the core of the work Austin Aspires does is **OUR 5 KEY** the idea of Collective Impact. "We are stronger **OBJECTIVES:** together" is a phrase that is heard often. I don't know who coined that phrase; however, I fully acknowledge the truth behind it! We are very All learners will

All learners will be their academic

Our community will in their role as the primary

to explore areas of persona interest and prepare for or career.

Our community will address social and physical

fortunate to work collectively with so many incredible individuals and organizations in our community to make each of us better! Some examples of the Collective Impact

work we have been part of during 2021 include:

#### **ACE TUTORING PROGRAM**

provided FREE tutoring to students in grades 4-12. This was a partnership with the Austin YMCA, United Congregational Church, Austin Public Schools and Pacelli Catholic Schools. Dollars were secured through a ConnectedMN and Minnesota Department of Education grant.

COMMUNITYWIDE BACKPACK PROGRAM provided food to students over weekends and school breaks. This happened much more efficiently and effectively because of collaboration between the United Way of Mower County, Austin First United Methodist Church, Salvation Army of Austin, Austin Public School and numerous

community volunteers! Food items were secured through donations by Hormel Foods and cash donations from

many in our community.

# STORIESOFIMPACT



Detra Austin and her two children moved to Austin in June of 2021. Moving to a new community is always a challenge but moving during a pandemic made this move especially challenging. "I was very fortunate to be referred to Austin Aspires. MaKayla was right there from the beginning since getting my referral. She has been there everyday for myself and my children."

Detra's five-year old son attends preschool regularly and is looking forward to starting kindergarten in the fall. His confidence has grown, as well as his academic and social skills, in the short time he has been enrolled in preschool. "MaKayla is very resourceful and knowledgeable in knowing what is available to me and my family to help us. She is very understanding not only of my needs, but of my children's needs also," Detra shared when talking about the challenges she faced trying to register her son for preschool and transportation.

Working together, Detra and MaKayla have been able to address additional barriers to ensure Detra and her family have what they need to make Austin their home and thrive as a family. "Austin is a great community and Austin Aspires was able to provide a great additional environment for my kids to grow and succeed in," says Detra sharing her beautiful smile with all as she shared her story!

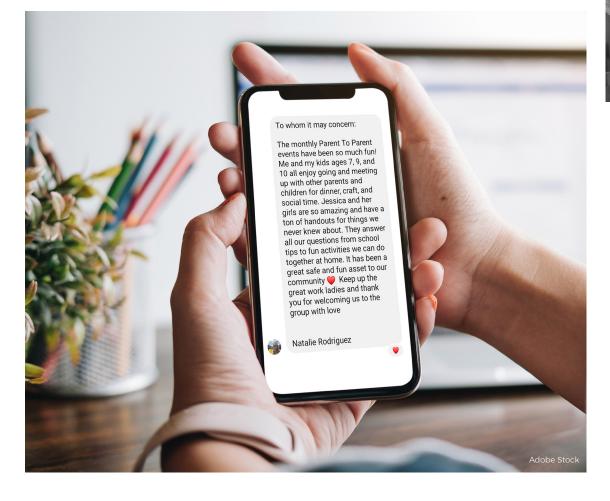
### STORY OF IMPACT IT TAKES A VILLAGE

PP MY JOB AS A U.S. CITIZEN 16 TO WORK HARD AND PROVIDE FOR MY FAMILY AND YOU ARE HELPING ME DO THAT: 39





## STORY OF IMPACT PARENT TO PARENT



[PLACEHOLDER AREA FOR QR CODE TO ADDITIONAL ONLINE **RESOURCES/EDUCATION METRICS**]



(L-R): Jessica Anderson, Teresa Lugo, Jesus Alvarez, Jayne Gibson, Jwokamer Debock, Sylvia Hernandez, MaKayla Oxley

### **DONOR PARTNERS**















### **EDUCATION PARTNERS**







SHiP

#### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Americorps

for the Arts

Austin Area Chamber of Commerce Austin Area Commission

Austin First United Methodist Church

Austin Human Rights Commission

Austin Morning Lions Club Austin Noon Kiwanis

Austin Police Department

Austin Positive Action Coalition Austin Public Library

Austin Rotary Club CLA (Clifton Larson Allen) Education MN Faith Church Austin

Head Start HyVee

Mower County

Mower Refreshed Parenting Resource Center **Quality Pork Processors** Science Fair Mentorship

SEMCAC

Sweet Reads The City of Austin The Hormel Institute United Congregational Church of Austin United Way of Mower County Welcome Center

**SMART Transit** 

Workforce Development Inc. YMCA at Austin Community Recreation Center

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