

Local initiative supports kids cradle to career



Andrea Mac Arthur, MPP,
Great Expectations Initiative
Director

As the Great Expectations Initiative (GE) matures into the next phase of its work, I am grateful for the passion and perseverance of the many community members who know we can do better for our kids. These dedicated advocates recognize how school and community can create an ecosystem of support around kids and families, build trust and relationships across organizations, and initiate new programs and ways of doing. All this results in improved education outcomes for individual learners and strengthens our broader community. These founding and sustaining community members are on to something!

GE's collaborative approach is a best practice as evidenced by our state's new *Due North* education plan. This plan recognizes that both system-level policy change and increased access and opportunity

for individual learners is needed to eliminate the systemic educational disparities experienced, especially, by our low-income, Black, Indigenous and students of color.

This kind of transformational change takes time. While we work toward sustained large-scale changes, we celebrate the successes we see every day.

- The young learner who received a Caring for Kids scholarship, arriving at kindergarten ahead of her peers.
- The middle schooler who connected with her cultural identity in new ways through Neighborhood Program, increasing her sense of belonging.
- The high schooler who earned his Driver's License through the Great Opportunities Fund, allowing him independence.
- The 15-year-old who secured her first job through Great Expectations' partnerships.
- And, the young adults who became first-generation homeowners after learning about and taking control of their personal finances through the Making Moves program.

Together, as we address both systems and individual learners, we change conditions which hold problems in place. We knew this years ago, and we know it even more today.

“The Great Expectations Initiative is a school and community partnership anchored by the Orono and Wayzata School Districts and Interfaith Outreach working to uncover and address and ultimately eliminate educational opportunity and achievement disparities experienced by kids in our own community.”

- Andrea Mac Arthur



Great Expectations Fundraising Goal: \$400,000 by June 30.
You can double your impact! Thanks to a generous donor, gifts of \$100 or more will be matched up to \$25,000.

Together we believe in kids' dreams

Dr. Milton Erickson's *Law of Expectation* states that 85% of what you expect to happen will. You can't cheat the Law of Expectation by simply wishing or just hoping something will happen or be a certain way. True "expectation" is tied into your belief system.

Great Expectations (GE) is the name of our education and youth initiative. It was established nearly a decade ago by Interfaith Outreach and the Orono and Wayzata School Districts. We believe it is the responsibility of our community to make sure all kids can reach their dreams by removing systemic and individual obstacles that get in the way.

GE can't hold this belief alone. The community has to believe this, and

when we do, we will create an ethos where all kids' dreams come true – because GE has the necessary funding and support to help remove barriers that prevent and kill dreams.

Imagine a community that truly believes NO child should be left behind, encourages all kids to dream, and works in partnership together to make those dreams come true. *That's* the type of community in which I want to live and work.

Thank you for believing!

Your ED,



Kevin Ward
Executive Director



Kevin Ward, Interfaith
Outreach Executive Director

We have great expectations for what we can do together

We have great expectations for what we can do together. And, great expectations start here, with **Caring for Kids** (CfK), the foundational program of Great Expectations. CfK provides quality early childhood

education, parenting resources, and broad wrap-around support services all toward the goal of getting kids ready for kindergarten. CfK does this in partnership with our Quality Provider Network.



Meet Said, Kevin Ward and others by watching the full Caring for Kids Breakfast program at iocp.org/breakfast

“The Caring for Kids program is irreplaceable and there is no other program I have seen that is so effective at empowering people's lives and kids and families.”

- Said, a very special dad whose daughter (photo left) received a CfK scholarship.



GIVE

Invest in our kids to make a powerful impact at iocp.org/greatexpectations



LISTEN

Attend a virtual Community Conversation on June 8. Reflect on the Danger of a Single Story. Learn more and register at iocp.org/singlestory



SPEAK OUT

Join your voice with others in support of local kids at iocp.org/speakout

Great Expectations – It takes all of us

The Great Expectations Initiative is our community's collaborative response to educational inequities.

Anchored by Interfaith Outreach and the Orono and Wayzata School Districts, Great Expectations helps ensure that every child in our community has access to educational opportunities – from cradle to career. We do so by aligning and coordinating partners around common goals, facilitating communication and collaboration, and leveraging community resources to change conditions

in order to ensure equitable access to educational opportunities and eliminate educational disparities.

Great Expectations helps strengthen the entire “ecosystem of support” – families, teachers, schools, community members and organizations – that is needed to bring about true, systemic change and educational equity for all kids and families in our community.

Your investment in the Great Expectations campaign has great impact.

Here are a few examples:

- **\$65** provides one student school supplies for a fresh start back to school
- **\$100** helps a child participate in one season of community soccer
- **\$335** provides a child one week of quality child care through the Caring for Kids program
- **\$490** provides a child a semester of piano lessons
- **\$975** staffs and supplies one Neighborhood Program site for one month where youth build relationships with caring adults and access opportunities

Great Expectations Initiative

An ecosystem of support from cradle to career

Community

School

Family



Where every child is nurtured at home, in school and in the community.

Every child in our community

- is nurtured at home, in school and in the community.
- is prepared for kindergarten.

Every student in our schools

- succeeds academically, develops critical life skills and is provided the tools to do so.
- exhibits social and emotional well-being.
- graduates from high school with a plan to reach the full potential they define for themselves.
- has a sense of connectedness to the broader community.

All institutions and organizations in our community

- work collectively toward this common agenda, coordinating efforts at every stage of a young person's life – from cradle to career.

Great Expectations campaign funds:



Caring for Kids (CfK)

the foundational program that supports kids in getting ready for kindergarten by providing access to quality early child care and education, parenting resources, broad wrap-around support services for young kids and their families, and advocacy in support of funding for early childhood education.



The Neighborhood Program

fosters school success by focusing on housing and family stability and offering opportunities for building social-emotional skills and community connections.



The Back to School Drive

equips students with age-appropriate school supplies. Watch for details about our annual school supply drive in July. Contact Ashley (awyatt@iocp.org) to learn more.



The Great Opportunities Scholarship Fund (GO)

increases access to opportunities by providing funds for academic, artistic, athletic, and personal development programs which develop kids' skills while strengthening community connectedness.

In addition, the Great Expectations Initiative works with partners throughout the community to provide a broad range of services and support, such as mentoring, parent education, academic supports, innovative new programming and more.

MEMORIALS December 2020 – March 2021

Dr. Roger Adams / Ken Anderson / Sherri Anderson / Judith Aubrecht / William "Bill" Baxter / Donna Brauch
 Joel Critzer / Joseph DiGiovanna / Catherine Drury / Joan Floren / Dawn Gast / Helen Gronberg / Lee Grose
 Evan Peter Gustavson / Richard Hanley / David Heegaard / Ellie Holden / Harold Holden / Dr. Robert Howe
 Carole Johnson / Russell Johnson / Gerard "Jerry" Jorgenson / Eugene Kuehn / Carmen LaFrance / Todd Larson
 Marilyn Lederle / Agnes Mattson / Joseph McCarthy / Austin Miller / Robert Miller / Gerry Monskey / William Mozey
 William "Bill" Munsell / Steve Nichols, Jr. / Ruth Ostrem / Muril Pederson / Jim Ramstad / Betty Reis / Pete Schmit
 Dorothy Seidel / Carol Seidenfeld / Donald Stumne / Phyllis Weiss / Tanya Williams / Karl Wilson / Norma Zitzloff

GRANTS December 2020 – March 2021

B & H Way Foundation

Education & Youth, General Operating

Edina Realty Foundation

General Operating

GHR Foundation

General Operating

Medica Foundation

Food

Wright-Hennepin Electric Trust

Food

Hennepin County Housing, Community Works & Transit

Housing & Neighborhoods

City of Plymouth

Housing & Neighborhoods,
Family Support

City of Plymouth HRA

Housing & Neighborhoods

MISSION – To engage the heart and will of the community to respond to emergency needs and create opportunities for all to thrive.

VISION – To build a vibrant community where everyone counts and all sectors and systems work together for the good of all.



Interfaith Outreach™
Igniting the power of community

Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners

1605 County Road 101 N, Plymouth, MN 55447 763-489-7500 iocp.org

Sign up for emails at iocp.org/connect



SERVING THE CITIES OF HAMEL, LONG LAKE, MEDICINELAKE, MEDINA, MINNETONKA BEACH, ORONO, PLYMOUTH & WAYZATA

Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners and the Interfaith Outreach Endowment Fund, which solely benefits Interfaith Outreach, are registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Gifts to either organization are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.



From a chance meeting to a resume-building first job



In 2020, 15-year-old Aisha learned to swim and then started teaching swimming as her first job with encouragement from caring adults in her life.

On a cool August afternoon, in the middle of a global pandemic, Aisha* took her little sister's hand and walked out their apartment door to an event at a nearby park. "I actually wasn't planning on going," said Aisha. "My mom was going to take my sister there, but she was running late."

A fortunate turn of events for Aisha and the City of Plymouth.

The event was organized by Interfaith Outreach's Neighborhood Program and Wayzata Public Schools Early Interventionist staff. This collaborative team invited local partners to a community event where resources such as books, activity bags, park passes and life jackets were handed out and program registrations made available. Beth Van Orsow, Wayzata Public Schools Achievement Intervention staff, explains, "Every time we add another partner, the circle just widens. And now we've got the City of Plymouth, Three Rivers Park District, the Hennepin County Library and others."

One of those partners was Katie Yandell, Aquatics Supervisor at Plymouth Parks and Recreation.

**Some identifying details have been omitted to protect the privacy of Aisha and her family.*

Katie handed out free life jackets that day to people who wanted to be outside but may not know how to swim. And, Katie's other goal? To recruit teens to fill open aquatics program positions.

Aisha smiles as she remembers, "Katie came over and said, 'Are you looking for a job?'" At the time, Aisha tried to tell Katie she did not even know how to swim. How in the world could she teach swimming?

Despite her reservations, Aisha applied, interviewed for and was offered a swim assistant position. Her maturity, leadership potential and intelligence impressed Katie. Katie helped train Aisha and encouraged her to design her own classes, teach younger children and continue to grow her skills.

Neighborhood Program Coordinator Becca Weber reflects, "Aisha is a mature young person. She is someone who didn't know how to swim and is now teaching swimming. Amazing. That takes courage."

From a chance meeting at a small local park, Aisha got a resume-building first job. The opportunity for connection was powered by the Great Expectations Initiative, our community's collaborative response to educational inequities anchored by Interfaith Outreach and the Orono and Wayzata School Districts.



Becca Weber, Beth Van Orsow and Katie Yandell play unique roles in Aisha's (not pictured) life. Research shows that caring adult relationships foster student success.

“ With Katie, I just know she's here for me. If I have a problem, she'll listen. It's important that we [teens] know there are people who care about our well-being and where we end up in the future. ”

- Aisha, recently employed 15-year-old