NORTHFIELD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:
OPPORTUNITY, WORKFORCE, LEADERSHIP, GROWTH

At the Chamber, **workforce development** is about far more than jobs. It's about **connections, awareness, partnerships, and building a stronger future workforce for our businesses and our community.**



Over the past several months, our team has been working alongside **Northfield High School, Arcadia Charter School, the Area Learning Center, Workforce Development, Inc., educators, and local employers** to help strengthen the bridge between students and opportunity.

One recent highlight was our **Workforce Readiness Fair**, which brought together students, employers, and workforce partners for meaningful conversations around career paths, workplace skills, resume building, communication, and local employment opportunities. Through programming designed for grades 9–12, students gained exposure to real-world careers, practical tools, and direct interaction with businesses invested in their future.



We continue to support employer engagement through **career exploration, workplace tours, job shadows, internships, apprenticeships, and relationship building** that helps students better understand the incredible opportunities that exist right here in our own community.

We are also excited about the official launch of our **Student Opportunity Board** — a tool designed to connect students with local jobs, internships, volunteer opportunities, apprenticeships, and career exploration experiences.

Why does this matter? Because workforce development is economic development. When businesses can access talent, students can see a future locally, and partnerships are strengthened, we all benefit.

This work is about **uplifting businesses, creating awareness, expanding opportunity, and building the talent pipeline our community needs to thrive**. We are grateful to our school partners, workforce partners, and local employers who continue to collaborate with us in this important effort.
northfieldchamber.com/student-opportunities/

Leadership Northfield: Growing Leaders, Connections & Community Awareness

Strong communities don't happen by accident — they are built by informed, engaged, connected leaders.



Through **Leadership Northfield**, the Chamber continues to invest in the people who will help shape the future of our businesses, organizations, institutions, and community.

This nine-month program brings together a cohort of emerging and established leaders to explore the many dimensions of Northfield — from education and government to health care, arts, tourism, economic vitality, and community services.

More importantly, Leadership Northfield creates something incredibly valuable: **relationships**.

Participants connect with community leaders, learn about local systems and challenges, gain awareness of community assets, and build partnerships across sectors that may not otherwise intersect. These experiences help foster deeper understanding, stronger collaboration, and a shared commitment to our community's future.

For the Chamber, this effort directly supports our mission of helping create and enhance a healthy business

environment. Leadership matters to business. Leadership matters to workforce. Leadership matters to community vitality.

When people better understand how their community works — and when they know one another across industries and organizations — innovation grows, partnerships strengthen, and opportunities emerge.

Leadership Northfield continues to be one of the ways your Chamber is helping **uplift people, deepen community awareness, strengthen connections, and cultivate the next generation of engaged community leaders**.

Thank you to the presenters, hosts, participants, and partners who help make this program meaningful year after year.
Contact me to enroll in our 2026-27 session.

Celebrating Growth, Partnerships & Business Momentum

One of the greatest joys of Chamber work is celebrating the **milestones, investments, and accomplishments** of our business community.

Already in 2026, we have proudly celebrated **nine ribbon cuttings and business milestones** — each representing business growth, entrepreneurship, expansion, longevity, partnership, and economic impact.



From celebrating **MN THC Co.'s first anniversary**, to recognizing **Monarch Gift Shop's 25 years in business** and **Vintage Etc.'s 10-year milestone**, we've had the opportunity to uplift businesses at every stage of growth.

We celebrated **Union of Youth's expansion through The LOCK — Life Skills, Opportunity, Counseling, and Knowledge**, **Just Food Co-op's investment through the purchase of their building and neighboring property**, and welcomed innovative and service-focused businesses including **Empower Wellness, Sanctuary Studio, Elisa Pho, and Floor Coverings International**.

Ribbon cuttings are more than ceremonies. They are moments of **connection, awareness, celebration, visibility, and community support**. They tell the story of people investing in Northfield, creating jobs, expanding services, collaborating, investing in, and contributing to the vibrancy of our local community.



Your Chamber team is proud to stand alongside businesses as they expand operations, celebrate anniversaries, and grow their impact.

Every ribbon cutting represents something bigger: **confidence in our community, strengthened partnerships, business momentum, and the ongoing work of creating a healthy environment for businesses to succeed**.

We look forward to celebrating many more milestones with our members and community partners throughout the year.

Help Shape Chamber Priorities — We Want to Hear From You

Your Chamber exists to support, connect, promote, and advocate for our business community —your voice matters.

In the coming days, we invite you to complete a short member survey designed to help direct the priorities, programs, and areas of focus of the Chamber moving forward.

What challenges are you facing? What opportunities should we be paying attention to? What services, programs, advocacy efforts, or connections would bring greater value to you and your business?

This is your opportunity to help guide our work.
https://forms.gle/aLyswfF3zEBcggCX9

Your feedback will help strengthen our efforts, deepen our impact, and ensure the Chamber continues responding to the evolving needs of our members and our community.

Thank you in advance for your partnership, your insight, and the trust you place in us. We look forward to hearing from you. Best,

Jane Bartho, IOM, President
Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce