****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

The Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce Announces Distinguished Winners for the 2026 Business Excellence Awards

Northfield, January 15, 2026 –

The Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce this year's Chamber Awards, recognizing outstanding businesses and individuals whose leadership, investment, and commitment continue to strengthen our local economy and community. These annual awards celebrate those who go above and beyond to help Northfield grow, thrive, and remain a vibrant place to live, work, and do business.

The Business of the Year award honors an established business that has demonstrated significant impact through growth, job creation, major investment or redevelopment, and meaningful contributions to the Chamber and broader community. Nominees are businesses that have been operating for more than one year and exemplify excellence through expansion, innovation, community involvement, and long-term commitment to Northfield.

The Businessperson of the Year award recognizes an individual whose leadership, volunteerism, and professional expertise have encouraged economic development and produced lasting, positive improvements for the greater Northfield area through service, investment, and dedication to the local business community.

Award recipients will be formally recognized at the Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Banquet on January 29 at the Armory Event Center.

## 2026 Businessperson of the Year: Amy Peterson, Monarch & The Measuring Cup

Amy shows outstanding leadership, community involvement, and dedication to seeing Northfield thrive. As the owner of two successful local businesses, Amy leads with vision and purpose, growing her companies while employing and supporting multiple generations within our workforce. Beyond her businesses, Amy is deeply engaged in the community, serving on the Chamber Board of Directors and participating in city boards and committees. She consistently steps up to support fellow businesses, civic initiatives, and the overall well-being of Northfield. Amy's passion for collaboration, commitment to community growth, and steady leadership make her a truly deserving recipient of this honor.

"I am so honored to be Businessperson of the Year. I am incredibly thankful to be part of such a wonderful community," said Amy Peterson.

Businessperson of the Year Runners-Up: Chau Truong (Tin Tea), Dan Neuger (Engage Print), Salwa Bakkali-Derkson (Empower Wellness Center), Jonny Weaver (Jonny Weaver Storytelling)

## 2026 Business of the Year: Loon Liquor Distillery & Pizzeria

Founded in 2013 by Northfield High School friends Mark Schiller and Simeon Behr Rossi, Loon Liquor has grown from a passion project into a cornerstone business that proudly reflects the spirit of Northfield. As a dedicated member of the Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Loon Liquor consistently gives back to the community and makes intentional choices to keep its business local—sourcing the vast majority of its ingredients within 10 miles of Northfield and partnering with local businesses whenever possible. Their commitment to community, innovation, and excellence makes Loon Liquor a truly deserving recipient of Business of the Year.

"We are truly honored and immensely humbled by this achievement. We are proud Chamber members and have appreciated the amazing connections we've been able to create and foster through this organization. The future is bright, and we are excited to continue investing in our community and local farmers," said Mark Schiller.

Business of the Year Runners-Up: Tin Tea, Vintage etc., Full Potential Therapy, The Rare Pair, The Hideaway

**2026 Ambassador of the Year: Jonny Weaver, Jonny Weaver Storytelling**

A longtime and dedicated Ambassador, Jonny has been a strong advocate for the Northfield community and a steady, positive presence within the Chamber. Chamber Ambassadors play a critical role in strengthening the Chamber's goodwill by serving as trusted connectors between the organization, its members, and the broader community. Through his consistent presence, authentic relationship-building, and positive representation of the Chamber, Jonny exemplifies the spirit of goodwill and service that defines an outstanding Ambassador.

"How cool is it that I get an award for just being me!" said Jonny Weaver.

"We are thrilled to celebrate these remarkable achievements and the dedication, innovation, and community spirit they represent—qualities that truly embody the values of our Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations to all of the winners, and thank you for the meaningful contributions you make every day to the vitality and prosperity of our city," said Jane Bartho, President of the Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

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### About the Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce

The Northfield Chamber of Commerce is a dynamic organization dedicated to fostering economic growth, community development, and collaboration within the business community. Through networking events, educational programs, and advocacy initiatives, the chamber strives to create a vibrant and thriving business environment in the Northfield area.