



## **JULY 2010 UPDATE**

# **Uniting our Community to close the disparity and achievement gaps**

### **Unification initiatives and happenings:**

#### **BUSINESS**

- David Page, former top level executive at Fairview Health systems, toured the Westwood, Washburn and Pond sites. As a former system administrator he agreed to give us an "outsider's view" of what our initiative looks like after touring and interviewing program administrators.

#### **SCHOOLS**

- Numerous partners including Bloomington/Richfield Public Schools, Hennepin County, Bloomington Health, University of MN, TIES (technology collaborative) have submitted an I3 grant to the federal government. The grant would provide participating children:
  - MARRS numbers at birth (school identification numbers)
  - Home visiting services from Bloomington Public Health
  - Kinderprep preschool programming
  - Out of school time support for Kindergarten thru 3 graders

All children will have an electronic learning plan that can be shared between families and agencies to assure children are making progress on learning goals to be ready for Kindergarten and reading at grade level by third grade.

- The We Believe Alliance has applied for a United Way Early Learners Transition grant under the Read by 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Impact Area. If awarded this grant we will be able to continue the work of the Initiative for Lasting Change and enhance services for 4 and 5 year olds in the Kinderprep programs at Westwood and Washburn Elementary Schools.
- The Initiative for Lasting Change is planning its first Family Outing on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Staff will be taking families to the Hyland's Park Play area where families will have a picnic dinner and children will play. This outing will be used to gather feedback from families and to launch our new efforts for increased family engagement.
- Suzanne Kpowulu, Program Manager, is working with community partners to expand summer learning and recreation opportunities for students. Students will be participating in an expanded summer school program focusing on reading fluency as well as the City of Bloomington Playground programs during the month of August. The following partners will be helping to provide opportunities for students; Bloomington Park and Recreation, Community Education and Minnesota Reading Corps.