



## **APRIL 2010 UPDATE**

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

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

#### **AGENCIES**

- VEAP begins Summer Youth Food Program sign-ups in May. This program is for children K-12 and provides a 5 day breakfast and lunch pack once a week for 10 weeks. It is designed to take the place of free and reduced meals they had during the school year.

#### **BUSINESS**

- Continue to plan for a Heritage Day Event (Sept 11) to “Celebrate Bloomington”

#### **CITY**

- City and Bloomington United for Youth planning a Youth Center at the Creekside Community Center
- Free tax preparation assistance at Creekside for families with low-middle income. Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:30 – 9:30 pm through April 15. (provided by Accountability Minnesota)

#### **FAITH COMMUNITY**

- Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church joins the Alliance. Normandale Hylands will help support the Initiative for Lasting Change and our family engagement efforts.

#### **SCHOOLS**

- World Record for a District Wide Food Drive – beneficiary is VEAP

- Since October 2009, the Initiative for Lasting Change made 71 referrals to community partners resulting in 26 families accessing services.
- Winter benchmarking for reading fluency results show that 83% of 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in the Initiative have demonstrated progress in reading skills.