

Connect Up

**Build Life Skills & Have Fun
Area-wide Options for Children & Teens**



This resource is useful for parents, educators, counselors and others who work with youth to discover opportunities to prepare them for the future

**Connect Up is compiled and maintained by United Way of Central Minnesota
For more information visit www.unitedwayhelps.org or call (320) 252-0227**

United Way 2-1-1 Community Help Line

For information on other community services that can help support the needs of children, youth and families, call United Way 2-1-1 Community Help Line by dialing **2-1-1** or **1-800-543-7709**. This service is:

- confidential,
- available 24 hours a day/7 days a week and
- multi-lingual.

United Way 2-1-1 can also be accessed online by visiting www.211unitedway.org



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Access and Opportunity

Pre-College Department, St. Cloud State University

Address: 720 4th Ave S, 525B, St. Cloud MN 56301

Phone: (320) 308-2553

Website: <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/cao/default.asp>

When Available: School Year Only

St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud Technical and Community College, and St. Cloud School District are working in collaboration to improve academic achievement and high school graduation rates, increase rigorous college preparatory course taking behavior, and post-secondary participation among underrepresented students in grades 8-12 within District 742.

Programs and Services:

Academic Advising Teams: Each advisor works closely with the students' instructors and counselors to identify needed support services as well as coordinating services such as: tutoring, mentoring, and supplemental instruction.

Academic Support Services: These are available to students to enhance their chances for academic success. Support services include: tutoring, mentoring, counseling, additional help sessions, and computerized resources. Project personnel also develop a study skills course and integrate these skills into other courses. Learning teams are formed so students can create friendships and mutual support so they don't feel isolated or alienated. These students are further supported with mentoring services from university and college students. Another key part of this program entails career development and exploration. A number of other extracurricular activities, namely cultural enrichment activities, summer programs and employment opportunities, are designed for this program.

Eligibility: 9th – 12th grade students in the St. Cloud Area School District 742 who are underrepresented in higher education. This may include students from low-income families, students of color, students from immigrant background, or students from first-generation college families who have been identified by school personnel.

Fees/Costs for Participation: Most of these services are free. In some cases, transportation and refreshments are provided at no cost.

How to Get Started: Call (320) 308-2553 or visit the website <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/cao/default.asp>

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Most services are provided at District 742 schools, during regular school hours and in addition to some after-school programs. There are some weekend programs that will take place at various locations such as St. Cloud State University, or St. Cloud Technical and Community College. This may also include field trips within St. Cloud or the Twin Cities area.

Anna Marie's Alliance

Address: P.O. Box 367 St. Cloud, MN 56302

Phone: (320) 253-6900

E-mail: info@annamaries.org

When Available: Year-round

Mission: To provide a safe place for victims of domestic abuse and to achieve systems change that reduces violence. Children and Youth Services works with children and youth who have experienced a violent home life and/or dating violence. We advocate for the rights and well-being of children and youth and provide resources and support to them and their families.

Activities/Services for Children and Teens That Are Open to the Community:

- **One-on-one meetings** with children/youth experiencing domestic or dating violence and/or their parents to provide support and resources.
- **Advocacy in court** with cases such as, orders for Protection on behalf of children/youth, child abuse and neglect cases, and domestic violence custody cases.
- **Resources** on the effects of domestic violence on children, dating violence, child abuse, parenting, etc.
- **Support Groups**
 - Preschool/Kindergarten (ages 3-5)
 - First- Third grades
 - Fourth – Sixth grades
 - Teen group (Seventh –Twelfth grades)
 - Off-site Summer Groups

Support Group topics include:

- Feelings
- Safety
- Healthy Choices and decision Making
- Friendship & Bullying
- Family Violence & Dating Violence
- Communication
- Self Care
- Safety

Eligibility: Any child or teen who has experienced violence in their home or dating relationship. There are no income requirements.

Fees/Costs for Participation: All activities and service are free

How to Get Started: Call Anna Marie's Children and Youth Services Program for details on specific times and days for each group.

Equipment Needed: None

Volunteer opportunities available.

ARISE – A Recreational Inclusion Support Endeavor

Address: Colts Academy, 124 1st Ave SE, St. Joseph, MN 56374

Phone: (320) 253-5857 ext. 5846

When Available: Year-round

ARISE is committed to providing children with disabilities the supports needed to participate in recreational activities with non-disabled peers, access community resources with family and friends, and learn leisure and recreational skills that they can enjoy throughout their lives.

Children with disabilities attend schools with their peers. Inclusion benefits the children with disabilities as well as their peers and the community as a whole. Recognizing that a child's day does not end when the school day ends ARISE was created with the mission to provide support for children with disabilities so they can access community recreation and leisure activities with their peers throughout the community.

Eligibility: ARISE serves children and young adults (birth to 21) with any type of disability. Participants must reside in Stearns, Benton, and Sherburne Counties or reside within a 30 mile radius of St. Cloud.

Fees/Cost for Participation: None.

How to Get Started: Call (320) 253-5857 ext. 5846 or email arise@isd742.org.

Hours: Coordinator works part-time. Leave a message (or e-mail) and your call will be returned.

Volunteer opportunities available for fund-raising events and office support.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota

Address: 203 Cooper Avenue North Suite 162, St. Cloud, MN 56303

Phone: (320) 253-1616

Website: www.bbbscentralmn.org

When Available: Year-Round (community based) School Year only (School pairing)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota helps youth to realize their potential by providing positive growth experiences through one-to-one mentoring relationships. Non-mentoring volunteer positions are also available.

Community-Based Program: This program allows the child ("Little") to spend one-on-one time with his or her Big brother or Big Sister ("Big") out in the community. During this time matches are encouraged to participate in activities they both enjoy and spend about 2 or more hours per week together. Bigs are asked to make a one year commitment to their relationship. Now enrolling Big Couples and Big Families.

School-Based Program: While participating in our school-based program, the child and his or her Big spend time one-on-one at the child's school. Activities include playing games, talking, or spending lunch time together. Our Bigs spend one hour per week with their Littles and are asked to make a minimum commitment of one year to their relationship with the expectation that they keep in touch via phone or mail over the summer months. School districts currently served include: Big Lake, Becker, Foley, Sartell-St. Stephen, Sauk Rapids-Rice, St. Cloud and Upsala.

Site-Based Program: In our site-based program, the child spends one-on-one time with his or her Big at a designated site in the community. Activities include various sports, board games, and crafts. Our Bigs spend 1 hour per week with their Little and are asked to make a minimum commitment of one year. Current sites include Southside Boys & Girls Club.

High School Bigs: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota has a unique volunteer opportunity for High School Students. High School students can be a part of our School-Based program. High School Bigs meet at a school with their "Little" once a week, for about an hour. Matches can meet before or after school hours. High School Bigs are only permitted to meet on school grounds with their "Little" and are never able to transport their Little. Some activities that School-Based matches enjoy are: playing board games, doing arts & crafts, reading together, and working on homework. Please contact Rachel for more information at (320) 258-4537 or rbogenrief@bbbscentralmn.org. Be sure to share that you are interested in the High School Bigs program.

Eligibility: Ages 5 through 14 (once matched the match can continue until the child turns 18).

Fees/Cost for Participation: None.

How to Get Started: Visit the website www.bbbscentralmn.org or call (320) 253-1616 Toll Free: 1-888-600-1616

Office Hours: Mon–Fri, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Non-Mentoring Volunteer opportunities available too.

Boy Scouts of America, Central MN Council

Address: 1191 Scout Drive, Sartell, MN 56377

Phone: (320) 251-3930

Website: www.bsacmc.org

When Available: Year-round

Mission: To prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Boy Scouts prepares youth to become responsible, participating citizens and leaders. Members work on individual goals and projects with their entire group with the support of adult leadership. Projects may include: community service, outdoor projects and camping, building life skills, friendships, career exploration, and high adventure activities. Our units generally meet evenings or weekends at a community location such as a church or school.

Activities: Activities vary based on pack and age level

Eligibility: Cub Scouts is for boys ages 7-10, Boy Scouts is for boys ages 11-17, and Ventures is a coed program for 14-20 year olds. Exploring is a coed program for 14-20 year olds that gives youth hands on learning opportunities in various careers (fire, police, military, medical, aviation, etc).. Middle School Explorer Clubs are for 6th-8th grade students. More information about Exploring is available at www.learningforlife.org/exploring. We have a Multicultural Markets program available for youth of any age to participate in where adults are unable to attend – contact our office for more information on program locations and times.

Fees/Cost for Participation: \$24 yearly membership for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts or Ventures or \$24 for Exploring. Other costs include a handbook and Scout shirt from our trading post at our office plus activity fees. Scholarship opportunities are available.

How to Get Started: Visit the council website at www.bsacmc.org call (320) 251-3930, or walk in. For units in your area, go to www.BeAScout.org and enter your zip code.

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Trading Post (Boy Scout Store) Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Volunteer opportunities available.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota – Club Sites

Main office: 345 30th Avenue North St. Cloud 56303

Phone: (320) 252-7616

Website: www.bgcmn.org

When: Year-round

Boys & Girls Clubs provides a safe haven for boys and girls when and where they need us most: every day after school and during the summer. Programs engage young people in activities with adults, peers and family members that enable them to reach their full potential. Clubs offer diverse program activities.

T3: Teen Tech Teams: Small-group leadership clubs promote technology, volunteerism, education and career exploration. Members, ages 10 and up explore technology-related careers, increase technology skills, and assist staff and other members in the Club. After learning to build a computer of their own and completing technology service hours within the Club, members take their computer home for personal use.

Career Launch: Club members assess their skills and interests; explore careers, and how to make sound educational decisions. Our staff works with teens individually or in small groups to build their job-search and job readiness skills.

Money Matters: Promotes financial responsibility among Club members by building their basic money management skills: how to manage a checking account, budget, save, invest, how to start small businesses and pay for college.

SMART Girls: Small-group health, fitness, prevention/education and self-esteem enhancement program designed to meet developmental needs of girls. Through participatory activities, field trips and mentoring opportunities with adult women, Club girls explore their own and societal attitudes and values as they build skills for eating right, staying fit, getting good health care and developing positive relationships with peers and adults.

ImageMakers National Photography Program: Year-round program encourages Club members to learn and practice black and white, color, digital and alternative process photography. Club members' photographs are displayed at local and regional exhibits. Photographs selected at the contest's national level are exhibited at the BGCA National Conference and at other events. Winners in the portfolio category receive college scholarships. Each winning artist's work is featured in a virtual gallery on the ImageMakers website.

Triple Play: A Game Plan For Mind, Body and Soul: The goal is to improve the overall health of Club members by increasing their daily physical activity, teaching nutrition and fitness habits, and encouraging them to develop healthy relationships. Triple Play is the first program of its kind developed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Club Locations:

- Roosevelt Boys & Girls Club, 345 30th Avenue North, St. Cloud 56303, (320) 257-5124
- Southside Boys & Girls Club, 1205 6th Avenue S, St. Cloud 56301, (320) 251-4314
- Eastside Boys & Girls Club, 320 Raymond Avenue NE, St. Cloud 56304, (320) 253-5159

Club Eligibility: Grades K-12 or ages 5-18 living in Central Minnesota.

Club Fees/Cost for Participation: \$10.00 per year (scholarships available).

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota would like to offer free Club memberships to children from military families. Connect with your club about this opportunity.

How to Get Started: Visit the website www.bgcmn.org or call (320) 252-7616.

Club Hours: School dismissal until 9 p.m. for grades 7-12 or until 8 p.m. for grades K-6. Summer hours are Monday -Friday noon – 6 p.m.

Volunteer opportunities available.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Central MN – KIDSTOP

KIDSTOP Locations in 14 sites

When Available: Year-Round

KIDSTOP is a school-age child care program in elementary schools in the St. Cloud, Sartell-St. Stephen, Sauk Rapids-Rice and ROCORI school districts, as well as STRIDE Academy Charter School. Activities include: educational, gym, outdoor games, arts and crafts, and tutoring. Open every school day from dismissal until 6:00 p.m., holidays and summer.

Discovery: Waite Park 56387, (320) 258-3706

Lincoln: St. Cloud 56304, (320) 255-1194

Madison: St. Cloud 56303, (320) 252-2127

Oak Hill: St. Cloud 56301, (320) 259-5081

Talahi: St. Cloud 56304, (320) 654-6363

Westwood: St. Cloud 56303, (320) 251-1150

Clearview: Clear Lake 55319, (320) 743-2243

Kennedy: St. Joseph 56374, (320) 363-4737

ROCORI: Cold Spring 56320, (320) 685-4959

Pleasantview: Sauk Rapids 56379, (320) 259-0421

Oak Ridge: Sartell 56377, (320) 656-3701 ext. 5115

Pine Meadow: Sartell 56377, (320) 656-3701 ext. 4804

Mississippi Heights: Sauk Rapids 56379, (320) 257-0570

STRIDE Academy: St. Cloud, 56301, (320) 828-3026

KIDSTOP Eligibility: Children ages, Kindergarten - 6th grade

Fees/Cost for Participation: \$20.00 per day for the school year and \$10 per day for summer programs. Daily fee of \$9.50 per child for KIDSTOP for after school and \$24.00 per day per child for all-day KIDSTOP. Assistance/scholarships are available for low-income families.

How to Get Started: Register on-line at www.bgcmn.org or contact us at (320) 252-7616.

Hours: School dismissal until 6 p.m. on school days, 6:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. school holidays and throughout the summer.

Volunteer opportunities available.

Building Futures – Catholic Charities

Address: 157 Roosevelt Rd. Suite 300, St. Cloud, MN 56301

Phone: (320) 229-6021

Website: <http://ccstcloud.org/buildingfutures>

When Available: School Year

After-School Tutoring and Children Life Skills Development:

Catholic Charities – Immigrant and Refugee Resources division partners with several organizations around the St. Cloud Area to provide support to families looking for additional support and other opportunities for children after-school. This may be individual tutoring in math, reading, writing, homework help, and school related projects.

Catholic Charities Building Futures also partners with Hands Across the World to offer structured tutoring programming at Bel Clare Estates Club House on Mondays and Wednesdays during the school year. Guided activities for children are also provided on Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 pm during the school year. The core focus of this program is to develop leadership skills and academic success in students at Bel Clare Estates. At the Club House, students will receive one-on-one or small group tutoring from volunteers, are provided with a snack, and participate in fun team-building activities

Eligibility: Children in grades K-12.

Fees/Cost for Participation: None.

How to Get Started: Contact Monica M. Segura-Schwartz at (320) 229-6021.

Office Hours: Monday – Friday by appointment.

Equipment Needed: Homework or other school related projects.

Volunteer opportunities available.

Center for Service Learning and Social Change

Address: PO Box 2352, St. Cloud, MN 56302

Phone: (320) 250-8995

Website: <http://www.centerslsc.org/>

Email: klanave@gmail.com

Mission: is to empower & inspire people of diverse backgrounds, primarily youth, to be proactive agents of change in their communities & in the world.

Civic Engagement Leadership Conference: Day-long conference focused around learning-&-action. Variety of workshops & opportunities to visit with community organizations about action-opportunities.

Registration: Through schools.

Cost: Registration fee, and provide own lunch. (Fee is reduced or waived for youth who are unable to afford it.) Schools provide mentors, & transportation.

Culturing Compassion: Weekend retreat for youth & adults that combines learning-activities with direct-service experience. Topics include: visioning human dignity and community, understanding marginalization, understanding the meaning of compassion, and the causes of poverty on a structural and personal level, planning for next steps, and celebrating the journey.

Registration: Through congregations and should be accompanied by adult mentor.

Cost: Registration fee.

Evening at the Food Shelf: Experiences enable participants to develop a more accurate and compassionate understanding of, and greater sense of solidarity/connectedness with, people who experience poverty in St. Cloud. **Available Dates:** 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. on the 2nd or 3rd Wed of the month, during: Sept, Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb, March, April, and May and takes place at the Catholic Charities Emergency Services (157 Roosevelt Rd; St Cloud, MN 56301).

Registration: Groups & individuals should contact the Center.

Cost: \$10.

“Pay It Forward”: Five day bus trip combining service activities, college visits, and leadership development. Done in partnership with “Students Today, Leaders Forever”. For high school age youth in area schools, faith-communities, and community-based organizations.

Registration: Register on-line, with STLF. (Contact the Center for on-line link).

Cost: \$285. (Financial-aid is available).

City Park and Recreation Youth Programs in Central MN

When Available: Some activities available year-round

As we all know Minnesota has an abundance of natural beauty from parks and trees to lakes and wildlife. There are many opportunities to get the youth of Central Minnesota engaged in various activities. The following cities have a Park and Recreational sites or Community Ed programs that provide various activities for youth of all ages to explore. There are many opportunities for some great year-round fun. Programs range from athletic teams, arts and crafts fun, to theatre in some locations. Contact your city Park and Recreational program today to see what's available in your area!

City of Becker: <http://www.beckercommunitycenter.com>

City of Cold Spring: <http://www.coldspring.govoffice.com>

City of Foley: <http://www.ci.foley.mn.us/Recreation.aspx>

City of Gilman: <http://www.gilmanparkandrec.org/>

City of Kimball: <http://www.ci.kimball.mn.us/>

City of Paynesville: <http://www.paynesvillemn.com/>

City of Richmond: <http://www.ci.richmond.mn.us/>

City of Rockville: <http://www.rockvillecity.org/>

City of Sartell: <http://www.sartellmn.com/recreation>

City of Sauk Rapids-Rice: <http://www.isd47.org/recreation>

City of St. Cloud: <http://www.ci.stcloud.mn.us/91/Park-Recreation>

City of St. Joseph: <http://www.cityofstjoseph.com/index.aspx?nid=112>

City of Waite Park: <http://www.ci.waitepark.mn.us>

Eligibility: Varies based on activity.

Fees/Costs for Participation: Varies based on activity. Financial aid may be available for some programs

How to Get Started: Visit your City website

Hours: For Program times and facility hours please see the City website

Equipment Needed: Varies based on activity.

Community Education Programs of Central MN

When Available: Various activities offered year-round

The Community Education programs of Central MN offer a variety of activities where youth and their families can engage in community-driven learning and enrichment opportunities. Activities include opportunities for pre-school aged children, early childhood screening, learning about food and cooking, early childhood family education, arts and crafts classes, health and fitness programs, special interest curriculums, and recreational events.

Albany Area School District 745: <http://www.albany.k12.mn.us/domain/24>

Annandale Independent School District 876: <http://www.annandale.k12.mn.us/community-ed>

Becker Public School District 726: <http://www.becker.k12.mn.us/departments/community-education>

Belgrade- Brooten- Elrosa Independent School District 2364: <http://www.bbe.k12.mn.us/page/2476>

Foley Public School District 51: <http://www.foley.k12.mn.us/page/3311>

Holdingsford School District 738: [http://www.edline.net/pages/Holdingsford Public Schools](http://www.edline.net/pages/Holdingsford_Public_Schools)

Kimball Area Public School District 739: <http://www.kimball.k12.mn.us/page/2974>

Maple Lake Independent School District 881: <http://www.maplelake.k12.mn.us/communityed.html>

Melrose School District 740: <http://www.isd740.org/community-ed.html>

Rocori School District 750: <http://www.rocori.k12.mn.us/rocori-community-education>

Sartell - St. Stephen School District 748:
<http://www.sartell.k12.mn.us/community-education/community-education>

Sauk Centre Public School District 743: http://www.isd743.k12.mn.us/community_ed.html

Sauk Rapids-Rice School District 47: <http://www.isd47.org/ce>

St Cloud Area School District 742:
<http://stcloudisd742.mn.schoolwebpages.com/education/school/school.php?sectiondetailid=16561&linkid=nav-menu-%20container-1-160840>

Eligibility: Ages vary by class or activity.

Fees/Costs for Participation: Cost varies by class. Financial assistance to participate in Community Education classes may be available in your area.

How to Get Started: Visit your School District's Community Education website or facility.

Equipment Needed: May vary by activity.

Early Childhood Family Education Programs in Central MN

When Available: Classes available year-round depending on district

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) programs provide parenting classes, education, resources, and family literacy programs. In these classes, parents/caregivers and children participate in programs together with a focus on healthy parent-child relationships. Parents also have the opportunity to meet and share together in parent groups about the challenges and rewards of raising young children. These classes are for children birth to age 5.

Albany Area School District 745: <http://www.albany.k12.mn.us/domain/63>

Annandale Independent School District 876: <http://www.annandale.k12.mn.us/early-childhood>

Becker Public School District 726: <http://www.becker.k12.mn.us/schools-1/primary-school/ecfe-1>

Belgrade- Brooten- Elrosa Independent School District 2364:
<http://www.bbe.k12.mn.us/jaguar-kid-connection>

Eden Valley/Watkins School District 463:
<https://sites.google.com/a/eagles.evw.k12.mn.us/evw-early-childhood/>

Foley Public School District 51: <http://www.foley.k12.mn.us/page/2593>

Holdingford School District 738:
http://www.edline.net/pages/Holdingford_Public_Schools/4183847909466357474

Kimball Area Public School District 739: <http://www.kimball.k12.mn.us/page/2955>

Maple Lake Independent School District 0881: <http://www.yourclasspage.com/3209633024/preschool.html>

Melrose School District 740: <http://www.isd740.org/early-childhood-family-education.html>

Paynesville School District 741: <http://www.paynesvillece.com/preschool.html>

Rocori Area School District 750:
<http://www.rocori.k12.mn.us/rocori-community-education/early-childhood-family-education>

Sartell - St. Stephen School District 748: <http://www.sartell.k12.mn.us/early-childhood-education>

Sauk Centre Public School District 743: <http://www.isd743.k12.mn.us/ecfe.html>

Sauk Rapids-Rice School District 47: <http://www.isd47.org/hillside>

St Cloud Area School District 742: <http://www.isd742.org/education/dept/dept.php?sectiondetailid=16197&>

Eligibility: Children birth – pre-K

Fees/Costs for Participation: Fees based on income.

How to Get Started: Visit your school district's ECFE website.

Equipment Needed: May vary by activity.

Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines

Address: 400 2nd Ave. S. Waite Park, MN 56387

Phone: (320) 252-2952

Website: www.gslakesandpines.org

When Available: Year-round

When you just can't wait for what you'll do next, you can do anything. At Girl Scouts, girls are always counting down to the next adventure we'll go on together. Maybe it's artistic. Maybe it's dancing. Maybe it's getting outside, or helping the community. With us, you'll make a bunch of new friends and have a ton of new experiences that show you how exciting the world is and how awesome you are, over and over again.

Joining Girl Scouts costs \$15 per year. Once registered, you can choose from oodles of fun (and educational) trips and activities. You can run your own cookie business, earn badges, and join a troop if you want. The options are endless.

Maybe you're an adult who wants to be a role model for girls. Who enjoys teaching girls something new. Showing them what's possible. Helping each girl shine. With your help, girls can gain skills and confidence that will last a lifetime in Girl Scouting.

So, what are you waiting for?

Eligibility: Girls in grades kindergarten – 12th & adults who wish to support the girls through volunteer opportunities.

Fees/Cost for Participation: Membership dues are \$15.00 (Financial assistance is available). Other costs vary depending on troop and girl activities.

How to Get Started: Visit the website www.gslakesandpines.org , call (320) 252-2952, or walk in. They can also attend a recruitment event held by a local troop.

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Volunteer opportunities available.

Great River Regional Library System

Website: <http://www.griver.org/> (Visit the website for a listing of all Great River Regional Library locations and hours.)

When Available: Year-round

The Great River Regional Library system has 32 locations in Central Minnesota. Locations are: Albany, Annandale, Becker, Belgrade, Big Lake, Buffalo, Clearwater, Cokato, Cold Spring, Delano, Eagle Bend, Elk River, Foley, Grey Eagle, Howard Lake, Kimball, Little Falls, Long Prairie, Melrose, Monticello, Paynesville, Pierz, Richmond, Rockford, Royalton, St Cloud, St. Michael, Sauk Centre, Staples, Swanville, Upsala and Waite Park.

The library's vision is to make a difference by connecting communities to information, and its mission is to enable users to explore, learn and connect. Great River Regional Library provides:

- Free access to community-focused services for a diverse population
- Assistance and guidance in utilizing those services and materials
- Lifelong learning opportunities

Activities/Services: The library offers books of all kinds, from children's board books to encyclopedias; DVDs, including how-to, exercise, documentary and popular titles; music CDs; audio books; a Digital Library with downloadable books and audio books for all ages; online information resources including databases and the Ask a Librarian service; computer stations and wireless Internet at all locations; preschool, child, teen and adult programs such as preschool story times, art classes and writing workshops for all ages! Visit <http://events.griver.org/evanced/lib/eventcalendar.asp> for events at your local library.

Eligibility: Everyone.

Fees/Costs for Participation: There are no costs for using library materials, attending programs, or using the internet.

How to Get Started: Come in to the library or check us out at www.griver.org

Equipment Needed: None.

Volunteer opportunities available.

G.R.E.A.T. Theatre

Address: 710 Sundial Drive, Waite Park, MN 56387

Phone: (320) 258-2787

Website: www.greattheatre.org

When Available: Summer only

“Great River Educational Arts Theatre (GREAT) creates meaningful experiences for artists and audiences of all ages.”

G.R.E.A.T. is a non-profit, community theatre providing 1,600+ youth the opportunity to perform through productions and theatre classes each year.

Eligibility: Summer Camps are offered for kids ages 3 and up of all skill levels and abilities. Main stage productions have varied age requirements beginning at age 7 through adult. Volunteering is for all ages depending on the volunteer task. Scene Shop volunteers must be 16 years of age or accompanied by an adult. Volunteer information can be found at www.greattheatre.org/volunteer

Fees/Cost for Participation: It is free to be in a main stage show or volunteer for GREAT. Summer camps vary in prices depending on length. Scholarships are available for Camps by calling (320) 258-2787.

How to Get Started: Call (320) 258-2787 or visit the website: www.greattheatre.org to view current volunteer opportunities, upcoming auditions, and summer camp listings. Auditions are free and open to the public – check the audition page at www.greattheatre.org/audition to see what age range they need for each show. Week long summer camps are announced and go on sale February of each year.

Hours: Rehearsals take place in the evenings and on weekends at the GREAT Volunteer & Education Center in Waite Park. There are opportunities to volunteer during the day, evenings, and weekends. Camps take place at a variety of locations throughout Central Minnesota. Please check the website for locations and dates.

Equipment Needed: For summer camps and rehearsals—comfortable clothes and a water bottle. (Sack lunches or snacks for half day or all-day camps) For volunteering, please wear close-toed shoes and clothes that can get dirty if volunteering at the Scene Shop.

Volunteer opportunities available.

Hands Across the World – Learning Together

Address: 823 1st Street S St. Cloud MN 56301

Phone: (320) 260-1072

Website: www.handsacrosstheworldmn.org

When Available: Year-round

Mission: To provide a first learning experience to newly-arrived immigrants and refugees who do not have the language or living skills to thrive in our community. The Learning Together Program's aim is to help our community's children develop character, social skills, and academic success.

Learning Together:

Hands Across the World has partnered with many local organizations, including the Partners for Student Success, Catholic Charities Building Futures, and United Way's Quality Out of School Time initiative in order to provide after-school programming for students in the St. Cloud area.

The After School Program: "Learning Together" will be held starting early October at two locations: Mondays and Wednesdays at Bel Clare Estates Club House from 3:00pm - 5:00pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays at Hands Across the World's downtown St. Cloud location from 3:30pm to 7:00pm. At the after-school program, students in grades K – 8 can receive individual and group tutoring from volunteers focused on math and English skills. Healthy snacks are provided for all children who attend.

Eligibility: K – 8 students in the St. Cloud area.

Fees/Costs for Participation: None.

How to Get Started: Call Brianda at (320)260-1072, email info@handsacrosstheworldmn.org, or visit www.handsacrosstheworldmn.org.

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Volunteer opportunities available.

Intervention for College Attendance Program (ICAP)

Pre-College Department, St. Cloud State University (SCSU)

Address: 720 4th Ave S, 525B, St. Cloud MN 56301

Phone: (320) 308-2553

Website: <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/precollegeprograms/>

When Available: During the academic School year

St. Cloud State University is a recipient of funding from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

SCSU's ICAP project: Promoting Academic Success in Underrepresented Students

Program objectives include:

- Improve the group's rate of success on the state standardized test, the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments, in the areas of reading and mathematics.
- Improve the grades of participants.
- Increase student interest and awareness of higher education options.
- Improve the graduation rate for African American students.
- Increase the number of students attending postsecondary institutions.

Program delivery methods involve: Intensive mentoring, academic tutoring, academic enrichment activities, cultural programming; college admissions and financial assistance workshops and seminars; and summer residential programs.

Students from St. Cloud State University (SCSU) and St. Cloud Technical and Community College (SCTCC) are employed to assist with these programs and may work in a variety of capacities, such as tutors, mentors, teaching assistants, program counselors, office assistants, research assistants, computer consultants, or recreation staff. Students play a vital role in the operations of the programs and can contribute skills, talents and experiences, as well as serve as role models for younger students in Pre-College settings.

Eligibility: Students from low-income families, immigrant background, first-generation college families, racial and ethnic minorities, and students with low academic scores on standardized tests as well as other students facing obstacles to higher education.

Fees/Costs for Participation: None.

How to Get Started: Call (320) 308-2553 for more information on community site locations and how to enroll or visit <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/precollegeprograms/>

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Most direct services are provided afterschool in community locations. Hours vary by location. There may be field trips to SCSU, SCTCC, other community locations, or in the Twin Cities.

La Cruz Community Center – Catholic Charities

Address: 1514 6th Ave S. Saint Cloud, MN 56301

Phone: (320) 529-0770

Website: <http://ccstcloud.org/LaCruz>

Email: Ishmail.mohamed@ccstcloud.org or clarinda.solberg@ccstcloud.org

When Available: The community center is open year-round, with after-school programming available during the academic year.

La Cruz Community Center provides all-encompassing support for refugees and immigrants who live at La Cruz. Through community services, the community center offers its residents support for a variety of issues. The goal of La Cruz Community Center staff and volunteers is to provide a consistent and quality support system for residents of the La Cruz community to help them achieve positive growth and success.

After-School Program:

The after-school program provides a place for La Cruz children grades K-12 to receive tutoring or participate in groups run by staff and partnering organizations. Volunteer tutors from the local colleges and also members of the community come in each day to assist students with their afterschool work.

La Cruz Community Center also has partnerships with other organizations that provide activities on such Adult Basic Education, provides ESL classes for adults, Boys Scout, Annamarie's Alliance, Central MN Sexual Assault Center, St. Cloud State Access and Opportunity and several other departments. The community center often provides other programming and activities for students based on community input and needs.

Eligibility: Must be a resident of La Cruz to participate, grades K-12

Fees/Costs for Participation: Free

How to Get Started: Come to the community center or contact Family Support Specialist Ishmail Mohamed or Youth Program Coordinator Clarinda Solberg at (320)529-0770.

After School Program Hours: 2:30 – 7:00p.m. Monday – Thursday and 2:30 – 5:00p.m. Fridays

La Cruz Community Center Hours:

Mondays 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Tuesdays through Thursday: Noon – 7 p.m.

Fridays: Noon – 5 p.m.

Summer hours may vary according to current programming.

Equipment Needed: Homework for students to work on

Volunteer opportunities available.

Minnesota Job Service

Address: 1542 Northway Drive, Door 2, PO Box 67, St. Cloud, MN 56302

Phone: (320) 308-5320

Website: <http://mn.gov/deed/>

When Available: Year-round

Minnesota Job Service is one of the partners of the Minnesota WorkForce Center system. Minnesota Job Service has been around for over 75 years with a proven track record of connecting job seekers and employers together to develop a strong labor market.

Minnesota Job Service: Offers a variety of resources to assist people in finding employment. Free workshops are offered to assist job seekers with job searching techniques and tips. Staff can provide one-on-one assistance with career information, job skills assessments, and information on education and training opportunities. Minnesota Job Service also works with area employers to help them find skilled workers required for local growth. A resource room is also supported with staff, computers and other tools needed to do a successful job search.

The Zone: Brings it all together in one place for teens and young adults. Professional staff can help you assess your skills and talents and match them to emerging career and educational opportunities. They'll help you understand the job market and show you how to tap into employment and education information.

For Youth with Disabilities: The Zone has a variety of assistive technology tools for those with disabilities, including Zoom Text, JAWS, and NexTalk.net. Minnesota WorkForce Centers also co-sponsor job fairs, career awareness events, and job shadowing opportunities with area employers, so high school seniors and young adults with disabilities can experience real workplaces. Youth and young adults with disabilities may also want to learn about the Vocational Rehabilitation Services available.

Fees/Cost for Participation: None

How to Get Started: Visit the website: <http://mn.gov/deed/>, call (320) 308-5320, or stop in at the office.

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Minnesota Workforce Center – St. Cloud, Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council

Address: 1542 Northway Drive, Door 2, St. Cloud MN 56303

Phone: (320) 308-5320

Website: www.workforceu.com

When Available: Year Round

Youthbuild: Youthbuild provides specialized training for participants who are at risk of not completing or have not completed their high school education. Participants gain construction skills and work experience by building homes for low-income families. In the classroom, they work toward a high school diploma, receive basic literacy education, and/or prepare for a college education. They also give back to the community through involvement in volunteer activities.

Eligibility: Student of Dist. # 742, ages 16 to 21, and resident of Stearns or Benton County.

How to Get Started: Call 320-308-5701.

CareerONE: The Minnesota Youth Program (MYP) and the Minnesota Legislative Competitive Summer Youth Grant (MLCSYG) provides CareerONE. CareerONE is an employability skills/work readiness training program for youth ages 14 to 17. Youth perform meaningful work projects in the community in a team setting while learning about the skills employers need. They learn about workplace safety through Youth@Work Talking Safety (CDC/NIOSH), finances through Junior Achievement Finance Park, and foundation skills for employment through the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate. They work on career planning, resumes, applications, and SCANSkills. CareerONE is offered during the summer, usually in July.

Eligibility: Ages 14-17, resident of Stearns or Benton County and MYP or MLCSYG eligible.

How to Get Started: Visit www.workforceu.com or call: (320) 308-5701.

OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS (Minnesota Youth Program): Outreach to Schools will provide career counseling activities during the school year to 9th and 12th grade students in 9 school districts in Stearns and Benton County.

Eligibility: Students attending Holdingford, Sauk Rapids-Rice, Sartell, Melrose, Paynesville, Foley, Albany, Rocori or West Central Area Learning Center.

How to Get Started: Call (320) 308-5701.

WorkForce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA) Youth: WIOA Youth is designed to give youth one-on-one attention in planning their career, navigating their education plans, and preparing to find a job. Career assessments, career plans, training scholarships, supportive services, and work experience related to their career pathway (when possible) are some of the services available. If necessary, community referrals are provided. Services are provided year round.

Eligibility: Ages 17-21, resident of Stearns or Benton County and WIA Youth eligible.

How to Get Started: Visit www.workforceu.com or call (320) 308-5713.

Higher Education and Career Advising Pilot (HECAP): HECAP provides career counseling activities during the school year to high school students in District 742.

Eligibility: Apollo High School, Tech High School and Area Learning Center students

How to Get Started: Call (320) 308-5701

Mosaic Summer Bridge Program

Address: 1540 Northway Drive St. Cloud, MN 56303

Phone: (320) 308-5998

Website: <http://www.sctcc.edu/mosaic>

When Available: Summer session at St. Cloud Technical College

The Mosaic FAST TRACK program consists of two separate courses to serve different skill levels. Each course is a free, hour-based class. No credits will be awarded for this class but it will allow students to increase their skills in English reading and writing. Students will be placed in these courses based on completion of pre-requisite reading and writing courses and on Accuplacer Reading Comprehension test scores.

Attendance to all class sessions is mandatory for this course.

Mosaic FAST TRACK Levels 1 and 2 will run for four weeks every July. Classes are typically Monday – Friday 9:00am – Noon. Visit <http://www.sctcc.edu/mosaic> for more information.

Eligibility: Mosaic is a state-funded program that offers certain support services to underrepresented students. Underrepresented students include—but aren't limited to—students of color, first generation students, and low-income students. Our goal is to provide these students with an opportunity to receive a quality education and give them the support they need to be successful. Available to individuals who have either completed High School or students who are 18 + and currently seeking a High school Diploma.

Fees/Costs for Participation: None.

How to Get Started: Applicants should contact Nathan Jacobson by phone at (320)308-5998 or by e-mail at njacobson@sctcc.edu for application information.

Equipment Needed: None.

The Paramount Theatre & Visual Arts Center

Address: 913 West Saint Germain St, St. Cloud, MN 56301

Phone: (320) 257-3128

Website: www.paramountarts.org

When Available: Academic Year

Mission: To provide opportunities for artistic production, creative exploration, arts education and the enjoyment of arts and entertainment.

Open Studio & Teen Night (available during the school year)

Open Studio and Teen Night offers people the opportunity to develop skills by working with experienced studio mentors or to work independently on one night or ongoing projects. The casual atmosphere also allows everyone a chance to experiment with a variety of mediums every week and pursue their interests. We have mentors in our ceramics, hand building, painting & drawing, wood-turning (some age restrictions in this studio), stained glass, glass on glass mosaic, and fused glass studios to offer hints and direction on basic projects. All materials are included in ceramics (clay, glazes & firing), painting & drawing (paints, brushes, paper, pencils). Fused glass artists are asked to pay \$1.00 per pendant they make to help offset the glass expenses.

Eligibility: No previous experience or registration required.

Fees/Costs for Participation: Adults (20+) \$10.00, Youth (19 and under) \$5.00.

Scholarships for other classes are available for individuals and families. To inquire please contact Derick Segerstrom at (320) 257-5928

How to Get Started: Call the Visual arts classes' desk at (320) 257-3128, email visual@paramountarts.org or visit the website at www.paramountarts.org. Since there is no registration required students can just arrive the night of class. They are welcome to come to just one, or all of the open studio sessions.

Hours: Open Studio and Teen Night are available on Thursdays from 6 p.m.–9 p.m. during the academic year. Check <http://www.paramountarts.org/visual-arts-center/> to find a current listing of Open Studio hours.

Equipment Needed: All supplies are provided for ceramics, painting, and drawing. Artists are asked to pay \$1.00 per pendant they make if they do more than one fused glass project.

Volunteer opportunities available.

Pipeline - Summer Enrichment Programs

Pre-College Department, St. Cloud State University

Address: 720 4th Ave S, 525B, St. Cloud MN 56301

Phone: (320) 308-2553

Website: <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/precollegeprograms/>

When Available: Various dates during the summer

Math-Science-Computer Camp (MSCC)

This 5-day program includes experiences and exercises involving computers, mathematics, natural sciences, and recreational and outdoor activities.

Eligibility: 3rd - 8th grades. While specially designed for students of color and girls, **all are welcome to participate**. Application and teacher recommendation.

Cost/Fees for Participation: \$10 non-refundable application fee. Tuition ranges from \$0 to \$300, calculated using a sliding scale based on family income. Financial assistance is available. Minnesota residents may qualify for a fully paid scholarship from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education if the student qualifies for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program or meets income eligibility requirements. Scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

How to Get Started: Applications available on-line in PDF format can be completed electronically or requested by phone: (320) 308-2553 or visit <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/pipeline/>. Acceptance to camp is on a first come, first served basis.

Scientific Discovery Program (SDP)

Experience biological, chemical, computer sciences, mathematical, social, and statistical sciences through laboratories, special demonstrations, presentations, field trips, and lectures related to water quality and solid waste management.

Eligibility: 9th & 10th grade. Priority given to members of groups underrepresented in science fields. Application and teacher recommendation. Minnesota residents may qualify for a fully paid scholarship from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education if the student qualifies for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program or meets income eligibility requirements. Scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cost/Fees for Participation: \$10 non-refundable application fee. Tuition, academic fees, books and campus room and board will be provided for those selected to attend.

How to Get Started: Applications available on-line, can be completed electronically, or can be requested by phone: (320)308-2553 or visit <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/pipeline/>. Due in the spring of each year.

Advanced Program in Technology and Science

3-week residential program focused on scientific research for students from historically underrepresented groups and expose them to career options in technology. Meet positive role models in these fields. Students of color and female students are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility: 10th & 11th grade. Priority given to members of groups underrepresented in science fields.

Cost/Fees for Participation: \$10 non-refundable application fee. Tuition, academic fees, books and campus room and board will be provided those selected to attend. Minnesota residents may qualify for a fully paid scholarship from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education if the student qualifies for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program or meets income eligibility requirements. Scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

How to Get Started: Applications available on-line, can be completed electronically, or can be requested by phone: (320) 308-2553 or visit <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/pipeline/>. Due in the spring of each year.

Promise Neighborhood of Central MN

Address: 1114 9th Avenue SE St. Cloud MN 56304

Phone: (320) 251-0571

Email: promiseneighborhoodofcentralmn@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.pncentralmn.com>

Promise Neighborhood is a community-based program that creates opportunities for the community members that we serve and engages the community to achieve social, educational and economic aspirations.

Programs and Services:

Family Support Program: Promise Neighborhood's goal is to connect with families to address emergency and basic needs by providing in-house food and clothing assistance, meaningful and relevant referrals, basic computer training, Healthy Living Healthy Eating workshop series, and outreach training.

Community Garden: Opportunities to garden and have access to fresh herbs, fruits and vegetables. Workshops and informational sessions on preparation, storage and urban gardening.

Youth Activities: Promise Neighborhood's goal is to improve academic success and social skill development. Support services include: tutoring, mentoring, counseling, additional help sessions, and computerized resources. Our students are further supported with mentoring services from university and college students. A number of other extracurricular activities, namely cultural enrichment activities, summer programs and service learning opportunities. Five week Summer Enrichment Camp, Bi-weekly Youth Night, in-school tutoring and mentoring at Talahi Elementary and South Junior High schools.

Community Engagement activities: Health and Resource Fair, Back to School event, Community listening sessions, and Family Day activities.

Eligibility: Saint Cloud area residents

Fees/Costs for Participation: All services and programs are free. In some cases, transportation, snacks and refreshments are provided at no cost.

How to Get Started: Call (320) 251-0571, email or visit the website.

Some activities will take place at St. Cloud State University or St. Cloud Technical and Community College or Twin Cities.

Office hours: Monday – Thursday 10am – 3pm. Youth Night available every other Friday at 5 p.m.

Volunteer opportunities available.

Support and Advocacy for Independent Living (SAIL) - Catholic Charities

Address: 1730 7th Ave S., St. Cloud, MN 56301 **Phone:** (320) 229-6035

When Available: Year-round

Catholic Charities Support and Advocacy for Independent Living Program (SAIL) is a community-based service designed to provide a safe, confidential environment for youth, ages 16 to 21, to learn and practice essential life skills. This unique program helps teens and young adult's transition from adolescence to adulthood primarily through group training for independent living. The group meets at the Busch Center on the Children's Home campus.

Eligibility: Youth, age 16 to 21 years old, living in Anoka, Benton, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, or Wright counties may participate in the program. (Also servicing Monticello)

Fees/Costs of Participation: The groups cost is \$350.00 but may be covered by the county or a current grant that SAIL receives. Call to inquire if you are eligible to receive coverage of the cost.

How to Get Started: Interested parties should call (320) 229-6035 to start the registration process.

Hours: The group meets Tuesdays for two hours and it runs for 13 weeks.

St. Cloud Area Family YMCA

Address: 1530 Northway Drive, St. Cloud MN 56303

Phone: (320) 253-2664

Website: www.scymca.org

When Available: Year-round various activities

Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all. The vision of the St. Cloud Area Family Y is to continue to develop a financially sound and community-supported Y that inspires St. Cloud area families to strive toward Healthy Living, Social Responsibility, and Youth Development.

School's Out Day Camp: Our camp director and all of the counselors provide a thriving environment for youth to explore personal interests, find new talents, build self-esteem and independence, discover the outdoors and learn the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. Campers enjoy: daily swimming, free hot lunch plus two healthy snacks, daily reading, bussed and walking field trips, fun and activities, nurturing the camp garden, arts and crafts, sports, and science-based activities.

Kids Fit: For kids aged 5-12 years old, who want to participate in healthy organized physical activity. Kids have fun learning proper nutrition and exercise through games and activities! Check website for schedule.

Fitter Critters: For children 2+ who want to participate in organized games and activities that promote health & wellness through games and activities. Check website for schedule.

Youth Sports: What kids learn on the field and court carries over to life. All St. Cloud Y youth sports programs emphasize fun, along with developing skills, sportsmanship and teamwork in a positive environment. Players, coaches and spectators are expected to follow Y core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. All sports are co-ed and include Volleyball, Flag Football, Basketball, Martial Arts, Soccer, T-Ball and Soft-Toss Baseball.

Swim Lessons: The Y provides water instruction from the cradle to the golden years. Lessons are not included with membership.

Swim team: Available for youth in the advanced levels of Y swimming (minnow & above), ages 6-18. Practices are organized by ability/age and focus on stroke development, competitive swimming skills and team building. Swim team members may participate in a variety of competitions throughout the year. Coaching fees are in addition to member fees. Master swim team available for those older than 18.

Eligibility: No restrictions.

Fees/Cost for Participation: Joiner's fee is \$25.00 for youth and \$60.00 for a family. Scholarships are available based on proven financial need – need to apply. Varying activity costs/membership lowers these.

Membership Rates per Month: \$17.00 for youth and \$55.00 for family.

How to Get Started: Visit the website www.scymca.org, call (320) 253-2664, or walk.

Y Hours:

- Mon-Fri, 5:15a.m.-10p.m.
- Sat, 6a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Sun, 11a.m – 7 p.m.

Summer Y Hours/ Memorial Day - Labor Day

- Mon-Fri, 5:15a.m – 9 p.m.
- Sat, 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.
- Sun, 10a.m – 7 p.m.

Equipment Needed: Athletic, non-marking shoes are required for anyone using the racquetball courts.

Volunteer opportunities available.

St. Cloud Somali Youth Organization

Address: 22 Wilson Ave NE Suite 26B, St. Germaine Street, St. Cloud, MN 56304

Phone: (320) 224-0053 or (320) 237-6822

Email: scsyomn@gmail.com

When Available: Year-round; academic tutoring available during the school year

Mission: To empower East African refugee and immigrant youth so they can live up to their potential and become positively contributing members of society.

Activities and Services:

Academic Tutoring: SCSYO staff members spend time at five schools in District #742 – Apollo, Tech, North, South, and Talahi – to identify refugee and immigrant students who could benefit from academic tutoring. Once a student is identified, staff or volunteers will provide tutoring as needed at the student's own home.

Cultural Night: SCSYO promotes a cultural night that is held at SCSU on an annual basis in collaboration with the Somali Student Association. The Cultural night is a venue where people of all backgrounds come together to share ethnic food, live music, and plays.

Winter Sports Days: SCSYO organizes indoor soccer tournaments held in the St. Cloud State University Dome and Saint John's University facility. This event provides an opportunity for youth soccer enthusiasts to participate in an organized event during the winter months.

College Day: SCSYO brings high school students to the SCSU campus to familiarize them with the college environment. Professors and students help participants understand the different programs that are available at the university. Transportation, food, and games are provided to area high school students.

Somali Independence Day Festival: This day is marked with speeches fostering unity and peace, hoisting the flag, singing the national anthem, and a colorful police parade. SCSYO has previously held the honor of organizing and hosting the festival.

Annual Soccer Tournament: SCSYO hosts the summer soccer tournament for St. Cloud Somali youth. This tournament lasts more than a week and consists of sixteen different teams.

Fourth of July Celebration: Every Fourth of July, SCSYO hosts a cookout in one of the local city parks.

Various other summer activities, including volunteer cleanups at parks and soccer tournaments are available.

Eligibility: Immigrant and refugee students can obtain academic tutoring. All St. Cloud area youth are invited to participate in social programming.

Fees/Costs for Participation: Depends on activity. No cost for academic tutoring.

How to Get Started: Contact Farhan Abdi at (320) 224-0053 or scsyomn@gmail.com

Hours: Academic tutoring 4 – 6 p.m. Monday – Friday. SCSYO staff available seven days a week.

Equipment Needed: Depends on activity.

Volunteer opportunities available.

St. Cloud Technical and Community College-Discovery Academy

Address: 1540 Northway Drive, St. Cloud, MN 56303

Phone: (320) 308-5382

Website: <http://www.sctcc.edu/discovery-academy>

When Available: School year only

Discovery Academy is a high school initiative of St. Cloud Technical and Community College. It is an opportunity to take college courses in a high school setting. Courses are taught in various cooperating high schools based on space and resource availability. Students may need to travel to another high school building to take a course. Courses are taught by St. Cloud Technical and Community College instructors or specifically trained high school teachers. All courses earn a college transcript.

Eligibility: Students attending high school in St. Cloud District 742 (Apollo and Technical High Schools), Cambridge-Isanti, Pierz, Rocori, Royalton, and Sartell-St. Stephen, are eligible to enroll in Discovery Academy. All applicants must take the Accuplacer assessment and meet required math and reading scores to register for courses. Other school districts are eligible to join Discovery Academy.

Fees/Cost for Participation: Discovery Academy fees and costs for textbooks are paid by the student's school district.

(All textbooks are the property of the school district and must be turned in at the end of the course.) Some districts may assess a college class fee – check with your Guidance Counselor to see if your school does.

How to Get Started: If you would like to get involved, start by contacting your high school guidance counselor; check to see what courses are available at your school. Application and registration are online. Visit www.sctcc.edu/discovery-academy, or call (320) 308-5382.

Hours: Class hours vary per course and school building. Check the courses offered at <http://www.stcc.edu/discovery-academy> to see when a course you're interested in is offered at your school.

Equipment Needed: Any supply list for the class will be provided to you by the instructor.

True Friends- Camp Courage

Address: 8046 83rd St NW, Maple Lake, MN 55358

Phone: (952) 852-0110 Ext 5

E-mail: Melk@truefriends.org

When Available: Summer residential camps, Fall & Spring family camps

True Friends-Camp Courage provides camping programs for people of all ages and abilities. Our Focused sessions are grouped by age and also by disability to allow for intentional programming. We are accredited by the American Camp Association and have met or exceeded camping industry standards for excellence in programs, staff and facilities for more than 35 years.

Activities/Services: We offer week-long residential camp sessions June – August that include fishing, swimming, horseback riding, water skiing/tubing, arts and crafts, archery canoeing and kayaking, basketball, digital photography, nature and environmental studies, and overnight camping.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for Camp Courage, you must:

- Have a physical or sensory disability
- Have a developmental disability
- Have a communication disorder
- Have a learning disability; or
- Be deaf or hard of hearing

Fees/Costs for Participation: We utilize a Care Ratio Pricing that varies the cost per session and care needs. No one should be discouraged from applying due to cost. Financial assistance is available to individuals and families when need is demonstrated. If clients can afford to pay the full rate, we request that they do so. If that isn't possible, they can elect to pay the supported rate. Those who need additional financial support may apply for scholarship assistance by completing the scholarship grant section of our application form. A minimum down payment of \$200 - \$400 is required, depending on when the application is received.

How to Get Started: The camp catalog with program descriptions and application forms are available on our website www.truefriends.org Or you can request a camp mailing by contacting our main office. Complete the application form and return to our main office with the required down payment.

Equipment Needed: Any personal adaptive equipment for daily living needs.

*Transportation is provided for most sessions from a centralized pick up and drop off location.

Volunteer opportunities available.

United Way of Central Minnesota - Volunteer Connection

Address: 3001 Clearwater Road, Suite 201, St. Cloud, MN 56301

Phone: (320) 223-7991

Website: www.unitedwayhelps.org

When Available: Year-round

United Way Volunteer Connection is a service that helps people, of all ages, connect with volunteer opportunities that match their interests and time availability.

Hundreds of local volunteer opportunities are listed on United Way's website for families, groups, and individuals, including teens. United Way provides a searchable database with opportunities covering a wide variety of interests and issues. They include one-time events and ongoing volunteer commitments. Teens and adults can search the opportunities by date, time, interests/issues, keyword, location, agency, and opportunities for youth. People can also call United Way and speak with Mary Krippner, United Way's Volunteer Engagement Coordinator, about their interests in volunteering.

A wide range of agencies have teen volunteer opportunities including: CentraCare Health; Tri-County Humane Society; Country Manor Health Campus; St. Benedict's Senior Center. Visit United Way of Central Minnesota's website to find information on these volunteer opportunities and many more.

Eligibility: Each agency has their own guidelines related to ages of volunteers. Many encourage family volunteering and want young children involved. Most agencies require volunteers to be 14 years of age or older if they will be volunteering on their own.

Fees/Cost for Participation: None.

How to Get Started: Call the Volunteer Engagement Coordinator at (320)-223-7991, the main United Way office phone at (320) 252-0227, or visit the searchable volunteer opportunities database on United Way's website: www.unitedwayhelps.org and Click on "Volunteer".

Office Hours: United Way office is open Mon-Fri, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Equipment Needed: Varies depending on the volunteer opportunity. Contact the agency with the volunteer opportunity for more information.

Volunteer opportunities available.

University of Minnesota Extension 4-H

Website: <http://www1.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/>

When Available: Year-round

U of M Extension, Stearns County

3400 1st St N. Suite 103

St. Cloud, MN 56303

(320) 255-6169

mnext-stearns@umn.edu

U of M Extension, Benton County

Courthouse-531 Dewey St

PO Box 650

Foley, MN 56329-0650

(320) 968-5077

mnext-benton@umn.edu

U of M Extension, Sherburne County

County Government Ctr

13880 Business Center Dr

Elk River, MN 55330-4601

(763) 765-3075

mnext-sherburne@umn.edu

U of M Extension, Wright County

County Government Ctr

10 2nd St NW RM C107

Buffalo, MN 55313-1186

(763) 682-7394

mnext-wright@umn.edu

Minnesota 4-H youth development offers age-appropriate, hands-on learning via short-and long-term projects and activities, including: 4-H clubs, Special-interest groups, After-school programs, Volunteering, Civic engagement, Community service, Camping, and School enrichment.

4-H is delivered throughout Minnesota in urban, suburban and rural communities.

In 4-H, youth design and participate in their own programs and activities. This unique, learn-by-doing model teaches kids essential, transferrable skills that they'll use throughout their lives, such as problem solving, decision making, coping, communicating and responding to the needs of others.

Eligibility: 4-H serves youth in grades kindergarten through one year past high school from all backgrounds, town and rural residents, with a wide range of interests. 4-H offers membership without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, or handicap. Those who are in kindergarten through grade 3 may participate through Cloverbuds.

Fees/Costs for Participation: 4-H is a publicly funded program of University of Minnesota Extension. Most services are free, call for fee information.

How to Get started: For more information about Minnesota 4-H, visit us online at <http://www1.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/> and/or contact your local county Extension office.

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Upward Bound

College of Saint Benedict|Saint John's University (CSB|SJU)

Address: Mary Commons 204, 37 South College Ave., St. Joseph, MN 56374

Phone: (320) 363-5887

Website: <http://www.csbsju.edu/upward-bound>

When Available: Accepting applications year round

The Upward Bound (UB) purpose is to encourage students to continue their education beyond high school who might not otherwise do so because of a lack of financial resources or college exposure.

Mission:

- Work with students to help them successfully complete high school and enroll in post-secondary education.
- Help to teach and foster the essential skills students require to advocate for themselves in their education.
- Introduce students to new experiences that broaden their understanding of, and appreciation for, the world around them.
- Provide needed guidance, increasing student's exposure to college life and opportunities that a college degree holds.
- Productive citizenship will be fostered by creating an environment that promotes stewardship and common good through service to others.
- Through participation in Upward Bound, students will come to value education and appreciate lifelong learning.

CSB|SJU UB Provides the Following Services:

- Tutoring once a week at each target school (Apollo High School, Technical High School, Sauk Rapids-Rice High School, and Willmar High School).
- Academic, cultural, social, and recreational activities during the school year, Saturday Sessions, and summer program.
- Assistance with college searches, tours, applications, entrance exams, and financial aid.
- Help building test taking skills.
- ACT and SAT preparation.
- Improvement of grades through weekly tutoring and monitoring process.
- Personal, academic, and career counseling.
- Leadership building.
- Bi-monthly Saturday Sessions.
- Six-week summer enrichment program at the College of Saint Benedict.

Eligibility: Student's high school principal, counselor, or teacher(s) must recommend the student, be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States and be a first-generation college student, or meet the income guidelines.

Fees/Costs for Participation: None.

How to Get Started: Contact your school's guidance counselor, visit <http://www.csbsju.edu/upward-bound.htm>, or call (320) 363-5887.

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Youth For Christ (YFC)

Address: 203 Cooper Ave. N. Suite 140, St. Cloud, MN 56303

Phone: (320) 251-8711

Website: www.cmyfc.org

When Available: Year-round

YFC mission: Youth for Christ reaches young people everywhere, working together with local churches and community partners to enable teens to develop a healthy and balanced life-style—mentally, socially, physically and spiritually. YFC programs are open to youth of any religious background or none; however, participants should know the programs are run with a Christian focus. See examples of the range of opportunities available through YFC. Visit website for current info: www.cmyfc.org.

BRAID: Girls (grades 6th-12th) develop relationships with each other, their friends, family, and most importantly, with God. Braid meets Tues nights (6:30pm - 8:30pm, Sept. - May). Talk about topics that are real and relevant to middle school and high school girls. Learn life skills like cooking, crafts, fitness, and service.

Band of Brothers: Guys (grades 7th-12th) need time to be guys. 2 hours every Monday (7pm-9pm, Sept. - May). Dodge ball, snacks, and real talk about what it means to be a man. BOB meets at Harvest Fellowship in Sauk Rapids (402 2nd Ave. N, Sauk Rapids).

Hoop Time: Midnight basketball league for guys, 9th grade-19 years of age. Fri. evenings at Whitney Center, St. Cloud, Dec.-Feb. Need athletic shoes and clothing to play in. \$3 fee to play.

Parent Life: Designed for teenage mothers and fathers with children (or pregnant), infants through kindergarten. Through the relationships formed, young mothers and fathers gain confidence and learn about parenting. Nursery with child care is provided. Meets Thurs. nights (Sept. - May) Abigail's Closet is a "learn and earn" program where parents can earn baby items and clothing when they participate in the program.

Portable Vision: Art based mentoring program serving young men and women, grades 8–12. It is held Tues. evenings (Sept - Dec. & March - May). Register at www.portablevision.org Cost: \$30.

Portable Audio: Music based mentoring program serving young men and women, grades 8–12. It is held Tuesday evenings (Sept - Dec. & March - May). Register at www.portablevision.org Cost: \$30.

YFC Wheels: Hands-on mentorship program and experience through mechanic work/ auto repair program for grades 7–12. Thurs. evenings, 6pm to 9pm. Need work clothes that can get dirty.

[On hiatus during construction]Power Station: Program for grades 7–12. Through sustained, monitored, and mentored physical activity and games, kids learn their full capacity in physical endurance as well as engaging relationships with other kids their age, staff, and mentors. Tues. and Thurs. from 3:30pm–6:30pm.

Adventure Camp: This summer, spend a week in the mountains of Wyoming and Montana! Adventures include mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding, whitewater rafting and more. Fundraisers are available to help cut costs. Visit the website for more details: www.cmyfc.org.

Eligibility: Varies with each program.

Fees/Costs of participation: Some fees may apply for special trips, concerts, or activities. For Hoop Time, the season is \$25; otherwise, it is \$3 per session. One 3-month session of Portable Vision is \$30.

How to get started: Call (320) 251-8711, email, visit the website: www.cmyfc.org or walk in.

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am–4:00 pm.

Equipment needed: Varies with programs.

Volunteer opportunities available.

Youth Learning Center - Catholic Charities

Address: District #742 Community Schools, 1726 7th Ave S., St. Cloud, MN 56301

Phone: (320) 229-6040

When Available: September to June (Following District #742 school calendar)

YLC was created out of a partnership between St. Cloud School District #742 and Catholic Charities to help identify and assist students who have difficulty being successful in school. Social skills classes are available for the students referred to the YLC.

Eligibility: Students in grades 4-8 who have had difficulty being successful through other education methods are eligible for the YLC after being identified and referred through School District 742.

Fees/Costs for Participation: The service is available at no charge to the student and his or her family.

How to Get Started: Referrals are made to Catholic Charities Youth Learning Center through a students' elementary or middle school. To refer a student, contact the Building Administrator or Building Special Education Supervisor at the students District #742 Home School (School in which student is enrolled based on current address). <http://www.isd742.org>

Equipment Needed: Basic school supplies for the student to use.