

2023-2024 Partners for Success® Participant Survey Results

- 96%** increased access to 360 Communities resources
- 100%** said 360 Communities was responsive to their cultural needs
- 96%** increased their knowledge of community resources
- 96%** would recommend 360 Communities to someone they know

“Everybody I encountered, four in total, went far above what I expected to make sure I had what I needed when I needed it... My boys and my life will be forever changed because of the help gained here.”

— Partners for Success® parent participant

“My family support worker is the GOAT!” — Partners for Success® student participant (greatest of all time)

“They were supportive and non-judgmental. They shared knowledge of resources and added perspective to some situations to better assess my family’s situation.”

— Partners for Success® parent participant

“I cannot begin to say thank you and to tell you how amazing all of our experiences have been with 360. Helpful, responsive, and went above and beyond. I was blown away.”

— Partners for Success® parent participant



PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS® Supported families, thriving students.



During the 2023-2024 school year, Partners for Success® supported families and educators in **20 schools** across **five school districts** in Dakota County. In partnership, they worked to implement effective home-based strategies that increased parental involvement, improved academic performance, and connected families to community resources.

2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT

Total numbers served program-wide:

2,141 Individuals
589 Families
1,104 Students



Founded by volunteers more than 50 years ago, 360 Communities is a growing and innovative nonprofit providing services to more than 17,000 people annually in about 40 locations in Dakota County, Minnesota. Holistic services include a network of five food shelves, two resource centers, a domestic and sexual violence shelter, and two programs that support school success from birth to high school graduation.



360 Communities® delivers **safety and stability** that improves lives.

We support individuals and families in Dakota County with:

- Healthy food
- Emergency financial assistance
- Housing stability
- Violence prevention and intervention
- Safe shelter
- Advocacy
- Healthy relationships
- Early childhood development
- School success
- High school graduation



Scan the QR code for more Partners for Success® student and family success stories. Learn how 360 Communities’ **Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging** ensures better services for people across our programs.

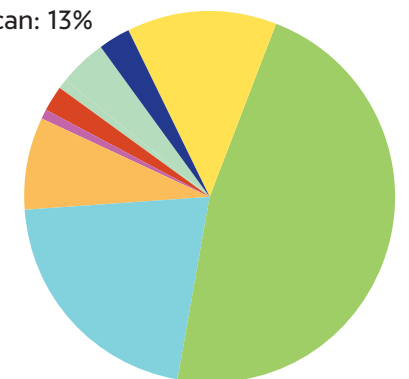
To learn more, visit our website 360Communities.org or contact **Lisa Lusk, Director of Programs and Operations** | llusk@360Communities.org | (952) 985-4014



35 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADUATED WITH SUPPORT FROM Partners for Success® 

Program-Wide Race/Ethnicity Demographics

- Hispanic/Latino: 47%
- White Non-Latino/Caucasian: 21%
- Black/African American: 13%
- Multi-Racial: 8%
- Unknown: 4%
- African: 3%
- Asian: 2%
- American Indian/Alaskan Native: 1%
- Other: 1%



Preventing just **FOUR students** from dropping out of school creates social returns that pay for the entire program for a year.*

*University of Minnesota, CAREI study



What we do

About 87% of a student's life is spent outside of school. There are many challenges and barriers that can affect their ability to learn or attend school. Parents need a network of support and resources to ensure their students can arrive at school ready to learn.

Family support workers partner with school staff to identify students who are struggling academically. They assist families with basic needs such as food, housing, safety, community resources, and school supplies. They build trusting relationships with families, set goals with them, and provide ongoing support and follow-up to help them make progress toward their goals.



My family support worker is kind and respectful. She worked really hard to help me. She didn't make me feel small for having to ask for help. She went above and beyond each time, and my family and I really appreciate her. I wish there were more people like her when you have to ask for help.

— Partners for Success® student participant



PARTICIPANT GOAL ACHIEVEMENTS



[My family support worker] is exactly the person for this job. Patient, empathetic, follows through, has a true heart for the job. When life's been completely flipped upside down and my tunnel vision has been my kids, it has been so refreshing to hear compassion from someone.

— Partners for Success® parent participant



Read how our family support workers help students and families overcome barriers to school success:

Safe housing & emotional support

Allen, an 18-year old senior in high school, is an intelligent, funny, caring, hard-working, and conscientious person. He also struggles with a long, documented history of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, chemical use, and mental health struggles. Most importantly, he has persevered.

His mother had her own trauma and was frequently incarcerated or hospitalized. She had little contact with Allen. He lived with his father, grandparents, and various siblings. When I started working with him, he felt he could no longer live at home and didn't feel safe. He was in crisis and had extreme anxiety and suicidal thoughts.

Together with the high school chemical education specialist and the school resource officer, we formed a team to advocate for Allen's well-being. Because he was a legal adult, there were few resources available to him in the county. We found a short-term place for him in a crisis shelter. He was away from his family and safe, but living in the shelter hurt his mental health, and he relapsed into chemical use.

After weeks of searching for a permanent living situation, we found an opening at a group home with appropriate programming to help Allen. There was a catch: it was in a different community. He was determined to graduate from his high school. The team partnered with the school to develop a plan that would help him graduate early. He was relieved and now could focus on his safety and mental health, knowing he would graduate from his school.

Today, Allen is in a safe place and although he still struggles with many things, he has a new team of people helping him. He remains in touch with his team at his high school.

— Partners for Success® family support worker



HOLISTIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Application Assistance <i>Rental/energy assistance, medical assistance, etc.</i>	1,046 times for 337 clients
Resource Navigation <i>Sharing requirements/procedures, helping clients find ways to reduce barriers</i>	2,024 times for 500 clients
Tangibles <i>School supplies, winter gear, personal care items, household goods, etc.</i>	2,369 items for 381 clients
Sexual or Domestic Violence Intervention Support Service <i>Connecting families to 360 Communities violence prevention services: shelter, support group, advocacy, etc.</i>	64 times for 35 clients
Emotional Support <i>Providing empathy, active listening and encouragement to clients in distress or crisis. Fostering hope and effective coping strategies.</i>	4,029 times for 294 clients

Domestic violence prevention, housing, and holistic support

Jenna struggled with homelessness, unemployment, and hopelessness. This impacted her four-year-old daughter, Hope, a kindergartener. Over two years, she received comprehensive assistance and referrals from 360 Communities and its partners, including food support, domestic violence aid, mental health services, job search help, and housing support. Through collaboration with school and community resources, Jenna secured stable housing in a new townhouse. Hope benefited from consistent school attendance and therapy, thanks to transportation and support services. The family is now thriving in their new home, with Jenna expressing deep gratitude for the support they received.

— Partners for Success® family support worker

Immigrant engagement and support

Abdullahi, his wife Amburo, and their eight children are refugees from Somalia who recently immigrated to Minnesota. With help from a sponsor and relatives already settled in Minnesota, they found a home and enrolled their seven oldest children in school. I first met Abdullahi's family when his youngest daughters started school, and their ELL teachers informed me that they might need extra support. I helped the children get fitted for warm winter clothes and later met Abdullahi when he visited the school's main office looking for job opportunities. His limited English made communication difficult, so I invited him to my office, where we used a language line interpreter to discuss his needs.



Abdullahi explained that he needed a job to support his family after their sponsor's financial help expired. He had SNAP benefits for food but needed work to pay rent. Abdullahi didn't have a car and relied on public transportation, so he wanted a job nearby. Despite his language barrier, he had valuable skills from his previous work as a radio reporter in Somalia and various jobs in Uganda. We started an application for a stocking position at Walmart and navigated challenges with an assessment component that required interpretation. After much patience and persistence, Abdullahi completed the application and eventually landed the job. Although he isn't working as many hours as he would like, Abdullahi has been with Walmart for over five months, and Amburo hopes to find work once their youngest son starts kindergarten. Abdullahi and Amburo still reach out for support, and their daughters often stop by my office with smiles and hugs, showing their progress and achievements in their new home.

— Partners for Success® family support worker

REFERRAL COMPLETIONS

When family support workers refer families to external programs and resources, families frequently follow through and access the resources provided. The referral-completion percentages to the right are a testament to the trusting relationships our staff foster with families and the follow-up they do with them.

