

## RGYLF Award to Charlie Mandile

The Ron Griffith Young Leaders Fund is pleased to announce that Charlie Mandile, Executive Director of HealthFinders of Northfield, has been awarded a scholarship to enroll in a course in Community Building and Increasing Public Health as part of his course work for a Masters degree in Public Health.



In applying for the grant, Mandile said, “Currently, I see many links from this course to the current HealthFinders programming Para Vida initiative. . . .The new program will incorporate aspects such as exercise, diet, stress reduction and cultural appropriateness with specific attention to community involvement and leadership and overcoming social and context barriers to healthy lifestyles. The community organization skills and theory learned in this class will be directly applicable to this current initiative. I hope to complete the class with an increased understanding of how to organize and build community, with the end of increasing community health. I hope to be able to apply topics learned in an academic setting directly to my work at HealthFinders Collaborative, especially as we expand into further community health initiatives.”

Previous to his current position, Mandile worked as a Health Care Provider at YMCA Camp Warren and then as Health Care Services Coordinator, Ramsey County Head Start.

Zach Pruitt said of this award, “Charlie has been a tremendous addition to the Rice County social service scene since he assumed the position of HealthFinders Director. . . . He has the ability to relate to a wide cross-section of people, from HealthFinders patients to hospital executives. I am very excited to see what Charlie's work will mean to HealthFinders and to issues of medical access for the uninsured of Rice County.”

The Ron Griffith Young Leaders Fund sees this award as well-suited to its mission, which is to support and develop the capabilities, talents, and motivation of young adults in the Northfield community who are actively involved in providing leadership in areas contributing to long-term sustainability including local environmental initiatives, healthy food and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, and community building. This fund is a partnership between the Northfield Area Family YMCA and the Just Food Co-op.