



ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2019-2020

MINNESOTA  
INDEPENDENCE  
COLLEGE &  
COMMUNITY  
**MICC**  
Learn Skills. Experience Life.

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# Dear Friends,

Early on, Founder Beverly Hatlen set a goal to form a college-like community, where individuals would focus on their strengths, find a meaningful job, and make lifelong friendships. At Minnesota Independence College and Community (MICC), we have built from her foundation and strive to transform the lives of individuals on the autism spectrum and with learning differences. We have built a long-standing community, created financial accessibility for participants, partnered with researchers, and enhanced the quality and outcomes for our programming. It is amazing to think about how far the world has come to better understand individuals on the autism spectrum and those with learning differences, embracing their unique values and employing individuals; we can all be proud of the role MICC played in that evolution.



As we kick off the 25th year of MICC, I am thinking much more about MICC's future than its past. I believe that data and research about adults with ASD and learning differences will continue to increase and our understanding of how best to support a full quality of life will evolve faster than it has in the last ten years. I believe that more employers will recognize and appreciate the value that these individuals can bring to their workforce, as the world continues to build on its capacity for those who have not traditionally been represented in the workforce.

Though the world has been flipped upside down this year, I believe that MICC is better positioned than ever to lead through these times. We have learned so much from our participants about how to have resilience, work hard, solve tough problems, and be accountable for our outcomes. We are engaged in every facet of social return on investment and the critical factors that lead to strong life-changing outcomes. In my role as Executive Director, I get to join program development discussion and outcome analysis and am impressed by the vision and talent I see.

In the coming years, MICC will impact even more people and employers around the nation and, especially, in Minnesota. MICC is still out of reach for many people because of our limited facilities, expensive tuition, or, simply, because they do not know about us. I hope you will think about what you can do to make the power of MICC accessible to everyone, creating workplaces that see individuals impacted by ASD or learning differences as an asset making social spaces more readily available. We have accomplished a lot together and empowered countless people to realize their full potential. But what matters most now is what we do next. Thank you for your role in making MICC a thriving community where individuals can lead a full life today and for decades to come!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Amy Gudmestad". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey rectangular background.

Amy Gudmestad  
Executive Director

# BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

## Jeff Gauvin, Incoming Board Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank Amy and the entire MICC team for their responsiveness to the COVID-19 pandemic. From the pivot to a virtual gala and simultaneous transition to online delivery of programming last March, to the diligence in putting in place appropriate protocols over the summer for a safe return to campus in August – the results have been impressive.

The pandemic is real life. I acknowledge the resilience of participants, and their families, for not letting COVID-19 interrupt them on their long-term journey to a sustained, independent life. While all have had to adapt in real time, 83% of College families and 87% of Community families rated the distance learning opportunities offered by MICC either good or excellent, a measure of the effectiveness of our necessary pivot to virtual delivery over the spring and summer.

To our partners, thank you for joining us on our journey. Whether it's financial support, donating auction items, providing employment opportunities, or volunteering your time and talent – you help make a difference in the lives of the families we serve. With your continued support, we will be positioned to respond to the ever-increasing demand from individuals and families in need.

I recognize Mark Ziegler's service as past board chair, and Jill Lighty's long standing (and term limited) board service to MICC. It's been an honor to serve with both of them and to experience firsthand their dedication to, and passion for, the work of MICC.

As a board, we celebrate the positive impact of MICC on the individuals and families affected by the autism spectrum and learning differences. Looking ahead, the board is committed to a continued focus on the financial stability of MICC, to improving financial accessibility for program participants, and to a growth and expansion strategy that allows MICC to serve even more families in the future.

In closing, I am proud of the resiliency of participants and their families, as well as Amy, the leadership team and entire MICC staff. I am confident that the MICC team—by partnering with families and our supporters—will lead us to bigger and better opportunities in the years to come.



Jeff Gauvin

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Graham Wagner, MICC Class of 2014

### How long have you been part of MICC?

I have been a part of MICC since 2011 when I joined the College Program. I have been in the Community Program since 2014, which is when I graduated.

### Why do you think MICC is important for adults with ASD and learning differences?

I think MICC is important for adults with ASD and learning differences because everybody at MICC is in the same boat. Nobody will feel like they are on the outside looking in; they will be part of a community and family.

### What would you tell a student who is new to MICC about College, Careers and/or Community?

I would tell them that MICC can help you search for a job that you enjoy going to every day.

### What are some of your favorite memories of MICC?

Some of my favorite memories of MICC are going to Timberwolves, Lynx, Twins and Minnesota United FC games with friends.

### How has your time at MICC prepared you for life?

My time at MICC has prepared me for life by teaching me the public transportation system so I can get to work and home without having to rely on my family to drive me.

### What are your greatest successes since you've been at MICC?

My greatest successes since I've been at MICC have been:

1. Being able to learn the public transportation system.
2. Becoming an **independent** adult.
3. Being able to make friends that I will have for the rest of my life.

### Anything else you would like to share about MICC?

MICC is like a big family because you make friends easily, are accepted for having ASD or learning differences, and not treated different because of that. MICC is a great place to grow as an individual.



Graham Wagner

# FINANCIALS

Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2020

## Assets

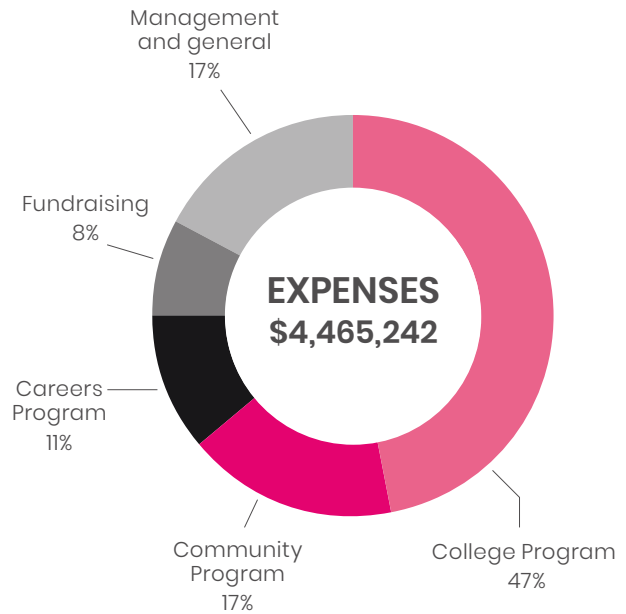
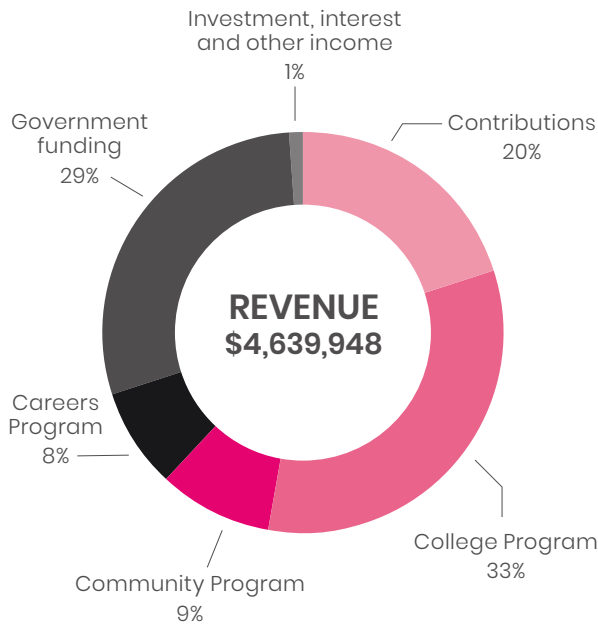
Cash and cash equivalents	\$888,983
Accounts and contributions receivable, net	\$366,546
Other assets	\$173,591
Property and Equipment, net	\$915,431
Investments	\$1,534,477
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,879,028</b>

## Liabilities

Current liabilities	\$921,300
Long-term mortgage payable	\$225,745
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,147,045</b>

## Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$1,376,546
Board designated	\$1,300,000
Temporarily restricted	\$55,437
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,731,983</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,879,028</b>



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## Sarah Arentson, Director of Careers Programs

### How long have you been at MICC?

5 years

### Why did you choose to work at MICC?

I wanted to work for an organization that supports individuals in achieving their vocational goals to lead independent lives because I feel everyone deserves the opportunity to find meaningful work.

### What is your role at MICC? What do you like best about your role at MICC?

I am the Director of Careers Programs (and was previously the Work Readiness Program Coordinator). I enjoy working with passionate staff with a dedication to the mission. I see incredible potential in the participants and watching the growth—from identifying an employment goal to working on the skills needed to obtain employment to getting a job—is a highlight of my job.

### Tell us more about the development of this program/position.

The Careers Program was revamped 3 years ago to include the Century College certificate program. The Careers Instructors bring a wealth of knowledge and experience as well as commitment to the program to increase participant's work skills to prepare them for employment. Once they reach their senior year, they are eligible to look for employment. MICC's Job Developers assist participants in finding and maintaining employment. Post-graduation, the Job Developers continue to provide services to participants in the Community Program to ensure they are growing in their roles through increase in pay, additional hours, increase in job duties, etc.

### What are your responsibilities at MICC?

I am responsible for providing leadership and guidance to the Careers Program which includes vocational classes, the certificate program and job development and job retention services for College and Community participants. I manage the Job Developers, Employment Support Specialists, and Instructors. I am also part of the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) Committee to oversee that we are maintaining our policies and processes to meet their standards.



Sarah Arentson

### How has MICC changed while you've been here?

We've grown in number of participants, spaces, and staff. MICC added a Community Center and Careers Center. We created the skills training certificates endorsed by Century College. MICC is always improving our programming to create meaningful learning experiences for our participants.

### Could you share one of your favorite moments while at MICC?

One of my favorite times of the year is the first couple weeks of the school year when the students return and are excited to be at MICC. Also, I enjoy watching the recent graduates truly feel they have accomplished something and have moved on to the next chapter.

### What do you like to do outside of MICC?

Outside of MICC, I spend time with my husband, Wes, and two kids, Nolan and Ella. I enjoy exploring small towns, baking, going camping and kayaking, going to the theatre, and thrifting.

# MICC COLLEGE



MICC College is a tiered education opportunity for young adults with learning differences and autism spectrum disorders. We teach students the skills necessary for long-term, independent living and employment not only in the classroom, but also in their own apartment and out in the community. Our campus features an apartment-living setting located in a vibrant urban community, which allows for continuous teaching and access to competitive employment, safe public transportation, and limitless social opportunities.



The 2020 graduating class **INCREASED THEIR ABILITY TO ACCESS, NAVIGATE, AND REMAIN SAFE IN THE COMMUNITY BY**

(2nd largest skill increase after medication management)

# 40%

# 83%

**OF FAMILIES**

felt distance-learning opportunities offered by College and Careers were good or excellent



On average

# 82%

**OF STUDENTS**

participated in at least one social activity every month



During March and April 2020 (distance learning), the College program offered

# 50

**VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES**

with an average monthly participation rate of 60% of students





# MICC COMMUNITY



MICC Community participants are individuals with learning differences or autism spectrum disorders who have successfully completed MICC College and are living independently in the Richfield, Minnesota, area. MICC's Community Program is a life-long opportunity that provides temporary and ongoing supports necessary to both thrive and remain living independently in the community. We value additional communication and education with our families toward this end; and we serve an integral role in the long-term independence of their loved ones. Participants are offered independent living skills coaching, wellness programming, career support, and an average of 45 social activities per month.

**87%** felt distance learning opportunities offered by the Community Program were *excellent* or *good*

**OF FAMILIES**



In response to COVID-19, the Community Program offered nearly

**20** **VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES** a month from March - June 2020.

60% of participants engaged in virtual programming to help prevent social isolation during the pandemic



An average of

**88%**

**OF PARTICIPANTS**

indicate that they socialize on their own (outside of MICC) at least 2-3 times a month



Average of

**80%**

**OF PARTICIPANTS**

report that they are *somewhat* or *very comfortable* accessing the community on their own to attend activities of their choosing



# MICC CAREERS



Since the inception of MICC, a program goal has always been for students and graduates to find meaningful, paid employment that utilizes their skills. Through MICC Careers, we offer students and graduates counseling about how to seek, obtain, and retain employment. For the past three years, 96% of our students graduated with paid employment—a statistic that stands in stark contrast to the incredibly high rate of unemployment among individuals with autism and learning differences. MICC has partnered with Century College to provide career certificate programs as part of our curriculum in the areas of Culinary, Hospitality, Retail, and Health Services.

# 100%

**OF COLLEGE SENIORS**

were employed by October 2019



# 90%

**OF PARTICIPANTS**

were employed before COVID-19

- 62% of employed participants were furloughed in March/April 2020 due to COVID-19

- 38% of employed participants were considered essential workers



**AVERAGE RETENTION RATE OF**



# 3 YRS

**PARTICIPANTS TRANSPORTATION TO GET TO WORK**

**35%** use public transit

**25%** walk or bike

**27%** use Metro Mobility

**12%** use a ride service

**1%** use their own vehicle





Our College Program electives allow students to gather around a common interest or hobby. During electives, students focus on maintaining physical fitness, managing personal stress and anxiety, participating in leisure activities, and establishing, and maintaining and identifying a positive, personal social network within their community.

## From the Advancement Team

Gratitude has been a guiding principal for MICC this past year. We give thanks to our staff for their amazing resilience, keeping MICC thriving in challenging times. We appreciate our participants' flexibility and adaptation to the trials they faced this year. And we are thankful for the outpouring of support from our entire community. On behalf of the MICC leadership, staff, students and graduates, it is truly an honor to add our collective thanks to all the donors who have invested so generously during the past year.

Ben Lentz  
Director of Advancement



# HATLEN LEADERSHIP CIRCLE



Beverly and Roe Hatlen

The Hatlen Leadership Circle (HLC) is named in honor of MICC's founders, Roe and Beverly Hatlen. Their vision and leadership launched MICC and their stewardship ensured our program's future. Like our founders, our donors in the HLC have demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to preserve and enhance our vision—a world where individuals on the autism spectrum and those with learning differences thrive and are valued.

### **\$1,000,000+**

#### **Learn Skills. Experience Life.**

Beverly and Roe Hatlen Family  
Phillip and Jill Lighty\*

### **\$500,000 - \$999,999**

#### **Achieving Personal Success**

Jerry and Jean Marie Foss  
and Family

### **\$250,000 - \$499,999**

#### **Strength and Determination**

### **\$100,000 - \$249,999**

#### **Partnerships for Independence**

Blake and Nancy Barnes  
Dale E. and Jolita D. Benson  
Paul and Julie Gulstrand  
John Lavander and Nan Owen  
Geoff Barnard and Diane Vosick  
Mark and Mary Ziegler

### **\$50,000 - \$99,999**

#### **Transforming Lives**

Judge Katherine Constantine  
and Mike Bono  
Kay Constantine  
Doug and Julie Craven  
Kai and Amy Gudmestad  
Clifford Hoffman  
John and Shirley Horn  
Glenn and Dr. Susan Isensee  
Mark Milberger  
Kurt and Ann Owen  
Steven and Pamela Schupbach  
Howard and Marlies Terpning  
Jeff and Susan Thayer  
Susi and David Thompson\*  
Ginny and Michael Walter

### **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

#### **Learning by Doing**

Evan and Sarabeth Ackerman  
Judy Alyea  
Jim and Mary Frey  
Jeffrey and Judy Gauvin  
Rick and Kate Hartfiel\*  
Dr. Robert and Tracy Hibbard  
Marygrace and Michael Horner  
Gary and Marianne Josephson  
Deborah and Bill Johnston\*  
Charles and Mary Jungmann  
Greg and Gail Kenton\*  
Glen and Sally Klemp  
Darcy and Curt Riess  
Thomas and Linda Rundle\*  
James J. and Ann Ryan. Ph.D.  
Jim Schagh and Nancy Kipp  
Kirk Sorensen and Peggy Herum  
J. W. Vosick

\*denotes moving into a new giving level

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Apple Valley Ford  
 Adaptive Recreation & Learning Exchange  
 AMC Movie Theatre  
 AMF Bowling  
 Arc's Value Village  
 Autism Law Center  
 Autism Mentorship Program  
 Autism Society of Minnesota  
 Bee Squad | Bee Lab  
 Best Buy  
 Bloomington Mental Health Services  
 Blue Cross Blue Shield  
 Bon Appetit  
 Brave New Workshop  
 Brookdale  
 Breck School  
 Bridging Hearts  
 City of Richfield

Community Child Care Center  
 Dairy Queen  
 Edina Center for the Arts  
 Goodwill  
 Great Wolf Lodge  
 Guthrie  
 History Theatre  
 Juut Intoto  
 Lakewinds Coop  
 Lund's & Byerly's  
 Lutheran Social Services  
 Margaret's Missions  
 Minnesota Masonic Home  
 MSP Airport  
 Pacer Center  
 Panera  
 Pizza Luce Richfield  
 Richfield Disability Advocacy Partnership  
 Richfield-Bloomington Honda

Ryan Companies US, Inc.  
 Seven Hills Preparatory Academy  
 Southdale Library  
 Southdale YMCA  
 Special Olympics Minnesota  
 Speedway  
 St. Catherine University  
 Target  
 TCF Bank  
 True Friends  
 UCare  
 University of Minnesota  
 Up Yoga  
 VEAP  
 Vitals  
 Walgreen's  
 Walker Care Suites  
 Wilderness Inquiry  
 Wilder Research  
 Woodlake Lutheran Church



MICC Student Ambassadors is a competitive volunteer opportunity for College Program junior and senior students to enhance leadership skills through various recruitment activities.

# THANK YOU, DONORS!

## Donors July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

### \$100,000–\$249,999

Anonymous

### \$50,000–\$99,999

The Lighty Family  
Marathon Petroleum

### \$25,000–\$49,999

Anonymous  
Best Buy  
Jerry and Jean Marie  
Foss and Family  
Kenton Family Fund  
Greg and Gail Kenton

### \$15,000–\$24,999

Dale E. and Jolita D.  
Benson  
Donaldson Foundation  
Beverly and Roe Hatlen  
Family  
The Richard M. Schulze  
Family Foundation  
Mark and Mary Ziegler

### \$10,000–\$14,999

Teri and Robert Crosby  
Kai and Amy  
Gudmestad  
Kate and Rick Hartfiel  
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Isensee  
John W. Thompson  
and Jane A. Bartell

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### \$5,000–\$9,999

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Ray Seeger and Nancy  
Lavander Seeger  
Susan Stuart Seiler  
Susan Stuart Seiler  
Family Foundation  
Walser Foundation  
Ginny and Michael  
Walters

### \$1,000–\$4,999

Anonymous  
ASI Signage Innovations  
Autism Advocacy and  
Law Center  
Alex Barnard  
Geoff Barnard and  
Diane Vosick  
Blake and Nancy Barnes  
Rob and Nancy Bass  
Bon Appétit  
Rochelle Brandl  
Bruber Financial  
Services dba Persolvent  
Lloyd and Rwanda  
Campbell

Adrienne and Joseph  
Carrica  
CBRE Group  
Craig-Hallum Capital  
Group LLC  
Mary and Joseph  
Crippen  
Peter Crippen  
Do Good Events  
Daniel Japuntich and  
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Gudmestad  
Julie Gulstrand  
Mardie Guzzi  
Steve Hargarten and  
Janis Cohn  
William and Helen  
Hartfiel  
Clifford Hoffman  
Jay and Mary Jackley

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Sleep Number	Alice Kirkland	<b>\$1-\$499</b>	Catherine and Scot Bonnesen
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	Littler Mendelson, PC		Jay Bruber
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Jean and Marc Carrier	Jeffrey and Mari Anna Feder	Anne-Marie Hendrix	Dan Kessler
Nancy Carruth	Mary Feder	Claudia Hendrix	Karen and Alan Kessler
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Sandra Chaussee	Diane Ferriss	Doris and Dan Higgins	Scott and Marianne Kipp
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Lauren Clements	Michael Flaherty and Joanne Peltonen	Jill Holterhaus	Martin Kirsch
Christine and Josh Cleveland	Patrick and Maddy Fleming	Nancy Holtkamp	Ric Klass
Sara Collison	John Flicker and Jane Swanson	Marygrace and Michael Horner	Erin Kopperud
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Nancy Edick	Bruce and Debra Grewcock		Tiffany McCarty
Megan Ehora			Stuart and Mary Lou McClellan-Johnson
Luke Ekelund			Mike McCormick
Gayla Ellis			Keith McDonald





In the spring, College Program participants can attend a day retreat within the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area. This year's retreat offerings included a skydiving experience at iFly, waterpark fun at the Great Wolf Lodge, theme park thrills at Mall of America, and an evening of cheering on the Minnesota Wild at the Excel Center.

Alison McGuire	Jenn and Adam Peterson	Therese Shultz	Dana Thompson
Ken McKay	Jim and Pam Peterson	Kent and Shelley Siemers	Maggie and Matt Thompson
Ann McRae	Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation	Alex Sievers	Mark and Marjore Thompson
Karen Meinz	Edward J. and Peggy L. Pluimer	Harold Siguenza	Renata Mara Thompson
Cathy Mendenhall	Elizabeth Prell	Julia Simenson-Smith	Jim Thoreson
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# PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

## From fearful to fun at a Minnesota Wild game

Martha Graber, MICC College Instructor, has been with the organization since 2017. In her time here she has shared her passion and love for hockey with students by teaching ice skating, floor hockey, and boot hockey elective classes. This spring, the College Program hosted its annual retreat day in which students choose their favorite social outing. Three students decided to attend a Minnesota Wild hockey game, which was no surprise to Martha as they were all avid hockey fans who have participated in her hockey-related classes.

The evening began great. Martha and the students had pizza on West 7th Street in St. Paul, watched the Wild pregame warmups with other fans on the glass and then headed up to the seats in section 218. The group arrived at their seats with plenty of time before the 7P.M. puck drop. Two of the students were very excited about the seats, as they could see the entire ice rink without obstruction. However, the third student was standing at concessions, which was far away from their assigned seats. This student was most excited about attending the game because it would be his first.

The student was overwhelmed by the height of the seats and wasn't sure if he could handle it. He talked about his fears and how his heart was racing. In that moment, Martha felt badly as what was supposed to be his day of fun was turning into a stressful event. She approached an usher and explained the situation, asking if there was anything that could be done.

Within minutes, the MICC group was greeted by two Minnesota Wild employees, Marianne and Karl. They moved the tickets in 218 to lower level seats and personally escorted them to their new section. Marianne informed Martha where sensory-friendly items could be found in Xcel Energy Center to help deescalate the student

and help him enjoy the game to its fullest. She also shared where they could get a certificate, puck, and photography to commemorate his first Wild game.

Each student received a stress ball to have during the game and were in awe of their new seats. They watched the entire game, overtime, and a shoot-out with focus and excitement. It's the longest Martha has seen the three students without their smartphones in hand, as they were completely invested in the game.

We can't thank the team at Xcel Energy Center and the Minnesota Wild enough. Their kindness and understanding of autism spectrum disorder and other learning differences turned a fearful situation into a positive experience. The student who was originally frozen in fear left the game with a huge smile and said this was the best retreat ever.



MICC College Program participants and the helpful Xcel Energy Center and Minnesota Wild staff.

# TRIBUTES

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We have partnered with the University of Minnesota Bee Squad and Best Buy to promote the conservation, health, and diversity of bee pollinators with our very own apiary at the Community Center. This allows the Bee Squad to collect data on honey bee colonies, identify trends in particular geographic areas and gain insights into honey bee health.

# IN-KIND DONORS

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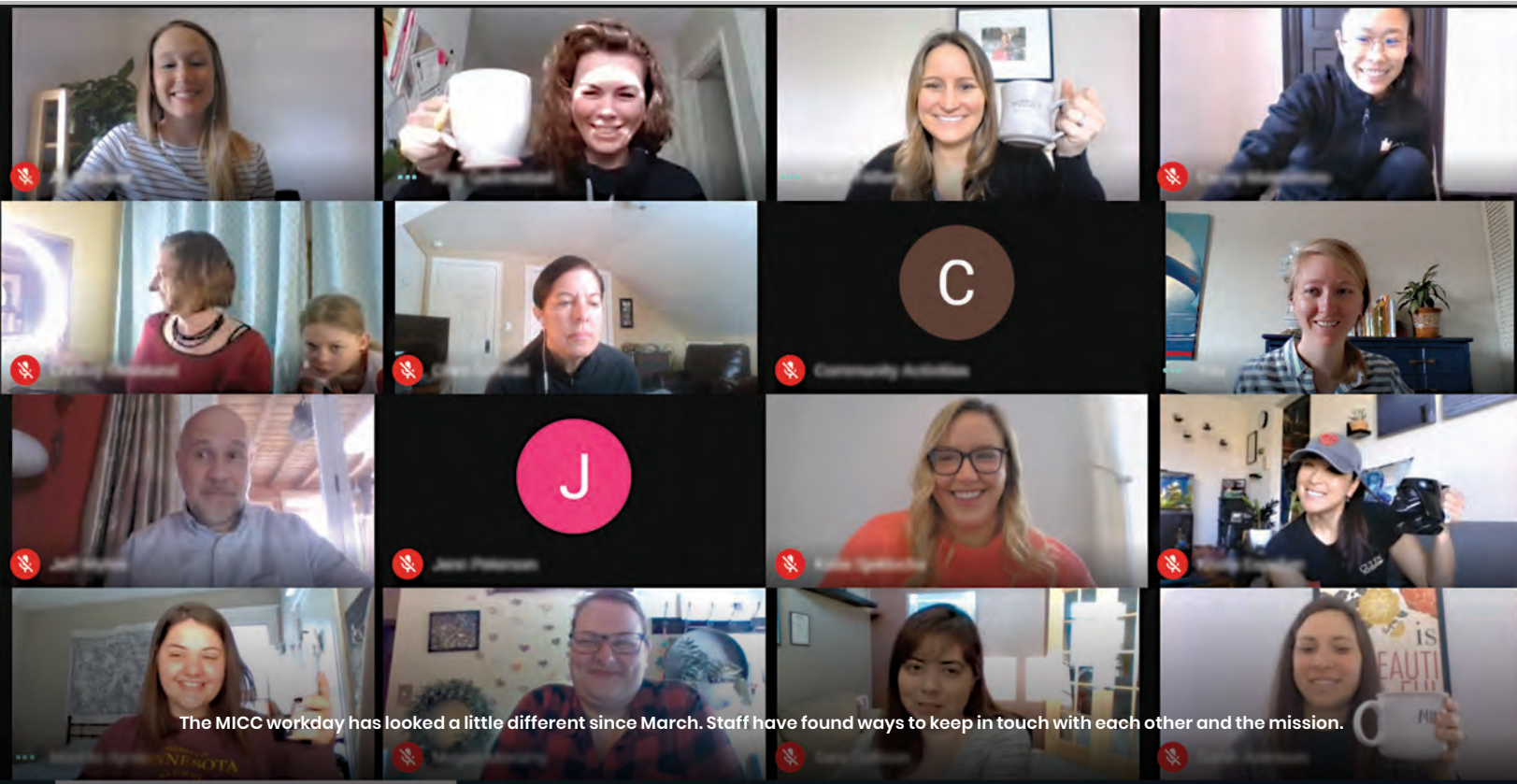
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# BOARD SPOTLIGHT

## **Becca Meinz, Board Treasurer, MICC Vice President of Reverse Supply Chain, Best Buy**

### **How long have you been involved with MICC?**

I was introduced to MICC as a guest at the 2017 gala and was blown away. It is so clear that the program has a huge impact on its participants. I joined the Board of Directors shortly thereafter and have been a part of it ever since.

### **What is your role outside of MICC?**

I've been at Best Buy for about 10 years, currently as the VP of Reverse Supply Chain, and I'm proud to say that Best Buy has had a long-standing relationship with MICC. From supporting MICC participant interview training, to gala sponsorship, to the Best Buy Bees, Best Buy has recognized the value that MICC brings and has shown it through an enormous amount of support. MICC's Executive Director shares knowledge and experience with Best Buy, too, as she is on Best Buy's Autism Hiring Taskforce. I'm excited to continue to grow that partnership.

### **What roles have you held in your tenure at MICC?**

I have been the Board of Director's Treasurer and the head of the Board's Finance Committee.

### **Why did you choose MICC as a board member?**

I love being a part of an organization that gets results, and MICC really changes lives. The stories that students, graduates, and parents tell about MICC are inspirational, and they drive me to help MICC however I can. MICC is also in a serious growth phase, and I've been able to really leverage my skillset at an exciting time for the organization.



**Becca Meinz**

### **What makes you most excited about MICC?**

I've gotten to work with MICC in developing investment strategies and growth plans for the future. I joined the board just as MICC secured its first substantial grant from the State of Minnesota and we haven't stopped there. Between the passionate executive team, the strong balance sheet, and the successful programming, we have a really bright future ahead of us. I get the chance to grow an organization to serve as many young adults on the Autism spectrum as possible, while also ensuring that the financial health of MICC is secure.

# 2020 COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

The Community Champion Awards celebrate those who embody the values and mission of MICC and are presented annually in the following categories: Corporate, Organization, and Individual. We thank these partners for their generosity of spirit and dedication to the success of our students and members.

## Autism Advocacy & Law Center

Corporate  
Community Champion



## 2019 Awardees

**Walker Methodist Care Suites**  
Corporate Community Champion

**Autism Society of Minnesota (AuSM)**  
Organization Community Champion

**Karen Goedken**  
Individual Community Champion

## Ebenezer Senior Living

Organization  
Community Champion



## 2018 Awardees

**Bon Appétit**  
Corporate Community Champion

**United Educators Credit Union**  
Organization Community Champion

## Peter Hennen, Walgreen's

Individual  
Community Champion

**Candace Hall-Murdock**  
Individual Community Champion



MICC participants and supporters came together for the 2nd annual MICC IndePENNdence 5k! This community event is a great example of our priority to provide participants with education about and opportunities for a healthy lifestyle.





Making friends during the College Program's New Student Orientation weekend.

# OPENING DOORS FOR MORE

## Access

Our goal is to meet 50% of a family's identified financial need through MICC Financial Assistance. For many families, this assistance is the only way to alleviate the financial barriers that would otherwise restrict access to our program.

## Growth & Improvement

In Minnesota, 1 in 42 children are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder or learning difference. Your investment in MICC allows us to grow our facilities and programming to accommodate more individuals who need these critical resources.

## Program Innovation

MICC is a true pioneer in the field of community integration and independence for adults with autism spectrum disorders and learning differences. Innovation, experimentation, and exploration are necessary for MICC to be successful in program delivery. To remain competitive, we must continually evolve and enhance our curriculum to meet current economic conditions and employment trends.

## Planned Giving and MICC



Thayer Family

Jeff and Susan Thayer have been MICC supporters for many years and have recently added MICC to their planned giving. We followed up with them to better understand how and why they have found it beneficial to support MICC's mission in this way:

**Why was it important for you to include MICC in your planned giving?** MICC has been such an amazingly beneficial organization for our family that we wanted to do something that would have a lasting impact long after our time here has elapsed.

**How was the process to make this happen?**

It was a simple addition to our estate plan.

**Would you recommend supporting MICC in this way?** Planned/estate giving enables us to make a more significant gift than we would be comfortable with during our time here.

Estate gifts allow you to include MICC in your will or estate plan in order to contribute funds or property. By making plans now, you may be able to increase income, avoid taxes, and make a generous gift in the future. You can create a legacy gift by naming Minnesota Independence College & Community on the beneficiary form of a savings, checking, or pension account; remember MICC in a will or living trust; or use a more complex instrument such as a charitable life-income trust. Legacy gifts are powerful and demonstrate your commitment to the work and mission of MICC.

## More Ways to Invest

### Phone

To donate over the phone, please call our development department at 612.876.9418; we can process donations made with American Express, MasterCard, and Visa cards.

### Mail

Please make checks payable to “Minnesota Independence College and Community” and send to:

Minnesota Independence College and Community  
7501 Logan Avenue S, Suite 2A  
Richfield, MN 55423

### Online

[www.miccommunity.org/donate-today](http://www.miccommunity.org/donate-today)

### Stocks, Bonds or Other Appreciated Property

If you'd like to make a gift of stock, please download our stock gift form at [www.miccommunity.org/ways-to-donate](http://www.miccommunity.org/ways-to-donate)

Contact our Development Department at 612.876.9405 or consult your tax advisor to learn more about the benefits of donating securities

### Sponsorship

The theme of this year's gala is “Silver Celebration: 25 Years of MICC” to recognize 25 years of MICC organizational and participant accomplishments. To ensure the health and safety of all event participants, our casual, theme-based and fast-paced gala will be virtual. It will also kick off 25 Days of MICC, a social media campaign to recognize the incredible partners who helped us through our first 25 years. As we prepare for the March 13, 2021 gala, we'd like to be able to count on your support as an event sponsor.

**Contact our Development Department at 612.876.9405.**



MICC Community Program participants have an ongoing opportunity to give back to their community. These participants volunteered by packing meals at Feed My Starving Children.

**Minnesota Independence  
College and Community**

7501 Logan Avenue South / Suite 2A  
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