

Presidents' Community Partner Award

Community Action Center of Northfield

St. Olaf College



Community Action Center
OF NORTHFIELD

The [Community Action Center of Northfield \(CAC\)](#) is a private, multi-service non-profit serving primarily residents of the Northfield School district with incomes of less than 200% of federal poverty guidelines. The organization makes a difference in the lives of families and individuals, addressing basic needs, helping all to understand the impact of poverty and engaging the general community in supportive roles. The CAC has deep and abiding connections with several St. Olaf departments, including Social Work and Family Studies, Sociology/Anthropology, and the Center for Experiential Learning. The organization regularly supports student learning by supervising students completing practicums, senior projects and academic internships. The CAC also supports students involved with academic civic engagement projects, including approximately twenty students from a recent religion course, *Christianity and Social Power*. Dozens of students each year have the opportunity to enact social change as volunteers with the CAC. In addition, the executive director, Jim Blaha, regularly speaks to students in classes or other venues. The reciprocal nature of the relationships between the CAC and St. Olaf is exemplary for service of the common good in Northfield and the surrounding community.



Minnesota | **Campus Compact**