



Communications and Grants Director Update

August 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- As of Friday, Aug. 14 we have written and released our **first two editions of our Community Newsletter, Family Newsletter, and Staff Newsletter**. Each of these newsletters has unique content and is customized for its particular audience. We are on track to release **six newsletters per month**. (*Strategic Plan: Community and family partnerships, Educational excellence*).
 - Received notification that **we received a \$3,900 grant from the St. Croix Valley Foundation** for 'Environmental Experiences at Rush City High School.' This is a grant we applied for last year but did not receive, so it's exciting to be successful this time around! Eric Telander will lead this program in his science classes. (*SP: Educational excellence*).
 - Helped lead **participation at Community Appreciation Night** on Aug. 6 with Dr. Horton and Principal Nelson. We had great conversations with numerous local leaders and community members, and had nine sign-ups for the Community Newsletter. Alicia's face painting was a huge hit with our school-aged visitors, and even a few adults! (*SP: Strengthen community relationships*).
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COMMUNICATIONS

- Submitted multiple articles, including a column from Dr. Horton, photos, calendar items, and more to Rush City Dateline, the quarterly City of Rush City newsletter mailed to all residents. (*SP: Community and family partnerships*).
- The County News Review published pieces we submitted, including a column from Dr. Horton and a story/photo on the June 19 pool heroes. (*SP: Community and family partnerships*).
- Made 20+ posts to Facebook and Instagram this month, with many posts focusing on the end of the season at the Rush City Aquatic Center and the upcoming school year. We will continue to emphasize our theme for the year: **Listen. Reflect. Transform**. (*SP: Strengthen community relationships, Educational excellence*).

GRANTWRITING

- Worked on grant reporting for completed grants. (*SP: Finance and management*).
 - Continuing to work with Chisago County Public Health on moving forward with the School Based Health Center project. (*SP: Community and family partnerships*).
 - Continue to research grant opportunities and discuss potential grant-funded projects. Several exciting opportunities are in the works! (*SP: Educational excellence, Finance and management*).
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COMING UP

- The start of school is just around the corner! Our newsletters and posts for the next month will all be focused on getting the school year off to a great start, and reinforcing the **Listen. Reflect. Transform**. message. (*SP: Strengthen community relationships*).
- Continuing to work on new video(s) marketing the positives of the Rush City School District, which will begin to come out shortly. (*SP: Community and family partnerships*).

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our students and schools! - Mike Gainor