



Communications and Grants Director Update

July 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Helped lead **participation at Chisago County Fair** July 9-12. We had wonderful school volunteers and good conversations with community members. *(Strategic Plan: Community and family partnerships).*
 - Working closely with Dr. Horton to **develop a new twice-monthly email newsletter**. This will be a great tool to share our story about the good things happening in our schools. *(SP: Strengthen community relationships).*
 - **Weekly #ThrowbackThursday** alumni-focused items continue to be hugely popular on our Facebook page. Four of our top 10 posts from the past year were #TT features, pulling in 60k+ views. *(SP: Strengthen community relationships).*
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COMMUNICATIONS

- It has been exciting to work with Dr. Horton, who has a strong communications background, and we've started the process of putting his plans into action to better connect with our community. *(SP: Strengthen community relationships).*
- Working on stories to share with local media on an RCHS grad who is now the Assistant Manager of the Aquatic Center, and another on a community member who is a faithful Fare For All volunteer. *(SP: Community and family partnerships).*
- Working closely with Rush City Aquatic Center staff to keep the public informed about pool closings due to weather, air quality, etc. *(SP: Strengthen community relationships).*
- Continuing regular posting to Facebook and Instagram - 3-7+ posts/week, with 2+ videos/month. *(SP: Strengthen community relationships).*

GRANTWRITING

- Working on several grant applications, including a \$22k cybersecurity grant. *(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).*
 - Worked on grant reporting for several completed grants - Farm to School, MnMTSS, DNR Parks & Trails, etc. *(SP: Finance and management).*
 - Continue to research grant opportunities and discuss projects. The application process for each grant involves a team effort, and staff have been extraordinarily helpful and generous with their time and ideas.
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COMING UP

- Participating in Community Appreciation Night on Aug. 6. *(SP: Strengthen community relationships).*
- Working on new video marketing the positives of the Rush City School District, which will come out in early August. *(SP: Community and family partnerships).*

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