

EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE/ THRIVE INITIATIVE

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD and Minnesota Thrive Initiatives positively impact the overall school readiness of children birth to age 5. These initiatives equip communities and their leaders to build our new generation of future leaders, arguably the region's most promising asset. The 11 established ECI coalitions and one pilot Thrive Action Team:

- Engaged more than 300 regional participants in monthly local team meetings and convened about 65 activities that impacted approximately 3,300 participants.
- Created a regional network and online forum for all coordinators to develop leadership skills and provide opportunities that aid in their communities' success and connections.
- Began hosting the Promising Strategies online database for all 66 statewide ECI coalitions.
- Provided grants and helped convene activities that benefited parents, educators and childcare professionals.



<http://www.swifoundation.org/earlychildhood.html>

http://www.swifoundation.org/mn_thrive.html

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

THIS NEW INITIATIVE focused directly on developing and challenging leaders by implementing community-developed, asset-based, collective action. SWIF tailored the Connected Communities Partnership (CCP) model and curriculum to the region and:

- Launched a pilot community in Montevideo where 18 of the original 20 Core Team members completed the training and began project implementation.
- Launched a pilot community in New London where all 21 Core Team members and six advisors were recruited.
- Completed an assessment of pilot experiences and developed a plan to incorporate learnings into future leadership development programs.

<http://www.swifoundation.org/connectedcommunities.html>

