

You might have grown up in southwest Minnesota and moved away, or perhaps you decided to move here and raise your children, or maybe you've lived here your entire life – whatever the case, southwest Minnesota is the place you call home and that's why you care about it. It's also why we care!

THE FOUNDATION: *"Growing Home" for Over 20 Years*

Because southwest Minnesota has been a significant part of your life, you may be thinking about how you can give back and ensure that it continues to be a great place to live and work for future generations.

The Southwest Initiative Foundation is the organization that can help you achieve that goal.

The Southwest Initiative Foundation has been in the business of "growing home" since 1986. No other

organization does what we do. The foundation has invested over \$40 million in southwest Minnesota and positively affected countless people and communities. The foundation is a unique choice for your philanthropic dollars. Where else can you make a donation that will benefit young children and the elderly, promote economic advancement, and help develop thriving communities?



"Since its inception, the Southwest Initiative Foundation has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving the quality of life in southwest Minnesota and has positively affected a host of individuals and communities. By contributing to the Growing Home Circle, an ever-expanding endowment fund will support and sustain this work. We are fortunate to be part of this tool for the success of the foundation."

~ Jim and Sue Keul, Jackson, Minnesota, Growing Home Circle Members

RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AS OF 2006

- > *381 businesses have been started or expanded,*
thanks to 484 loans from the SWIF totaling \$24.7 million
- > *1,655 projects or programs have been funded*
with grants from the SWIF totaling \$16.3 million

GROWING HOME CIRCLE: *Your Chance to Give Back*

The Growing Home Circle was created to build a solid base of financial support from individuals and businesses throughout southwest Minnesota. Members of the Growing Home Circle pledge to give an annual contribution of \$1,000 or more to the foundation's general endowment. In its charter membership phase, over \$260,000 was raised for the foundation's general endowment and matched by The McKnight Foundation. Today, with a brand new challenge from McKnight to raise \$2.7 million for the foundation's general

endowment, the Growing Home Circle will become a vital, ongoing resource for the foundation and the people it serves. The best news is your gift is matched dollar-for-dollar by The McKnight Foundation – that's an immediate 100 percent return on your investment in support of southwest Minnesota!



"Our contribution to the Growing Home Circle is an investment in the future of southwest Minnesota. By working together in partnerships and projects, the foundation is investing in positive change for stronger communities and healthy families. The benefits to support the foundation are a win-win for everyone, and this gave me an opportunity to give something back to our region. We are very fortunate to have such a dynamic and successful foundation right here in southwest Minnesota".

~ Steve Ammerman, Publisher of the West Central Tribune, Willmar, Minnesota, Growing Home Circle Member

RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AS OF 2006

> 6,500 jobs have been created or retained

through the SWIF's Loan Programs

> 15 communities now have community foundations

established through the SWIF

YOUR MEMBERSHIP: *The Options and Benefits*

We hope you will consider becoming a Growing Home Circle member. Your gift can be made in a variety of ways – from outright cash to gifts of stock or real estate. In addition, your annual contribution can be completed at one time or through multiple installments and may be renewed on an annual basis.

As a Growing Home Circle member, you will be honored through recognition in the foundation's publications and Web site, invitations to special Growing Home Circle events, and you will receive a quarterly e-newsletter with exclusive news and updates. You will also receive a special gift in recognition of your membership in the Growing Home Circle. Please contact the foundation if you have questions about how to make your gift. Thank you for considering how you can support the work of the Southwest



Initiative Foundation. Remember, when you invest in us, you invest in home.

"Both of us were raised and have lived our entire lives in southwest Minnesota and have run our business here as well. We believe that the SWIF is the very best organization to enhance the quality of life for those who live in southwest Minnesota."

*~ Gary and Marj Becker,
Marshall, Minnesota, Growing
Home Circle Members*

Now it's easier than ever to give to the Southwest Initiative Foundation's general endowment with our new online giving option. Just visit www.swifoundation.org/donate to make your gift today!

RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AS OF 2006

- > *11 southwest Minnesota communities have started early childhood coalitions* through the SWIF's involvement in Minnesota Early Childhood Initiative
- > *55 component funds totaling \$3.2 million have been established* through the SWIF by philanthropists to benefit southwest Minnesota

SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE FOUNDATION: *Your Foundation*

The Southwest Initiative Foundation is committed to being the best regional community foundation for people, businesses and institutions that want to actively advance and support southwest Minnesota. Our vision is to create a highly productive and engaged region where growing numbers of people choose to live. The key to making this happen is the support of people like you! With your help, we can achieve great things that will positively affect every community and every person in the 18 counties of southwest Minnesota.



The Southwest Initiative Foundation listens carefully to the area it serves, and when people told us through a survey in 2005 that developing local leaders and furthering economic growth were the two most critical needs in our region today, we responded. With a brand new ambitious five-year strategic plan that builds upon these two areas, we are poised to help southwest Minnesota prepare for a bright and prosperous future. At the same time, we will continue to support the region's critical population segments – the youngest, the oldest and the newest – as we maintain successful and established programs, and work to develop new ones. We are your foundation... committed to "growing home" for more than 20 years.

"By making a gift to the Growing Home Circle, we are able to perpetuate economic development and enhance the quality of life in southwest Minnesota for many generations to come. It is also an opportunity to give back to the region for the many benefits received while working and living in one of its communities."

~ Tom "Buzz" Burich, Chairman/CEO Citizens Bank & Trust Co., Hutchinson, Minnesota, Growing Home Circle Member

RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AS OF 2006

- > *253 leaders of nonprofit organizations have been trained*
by the SWIF Nonprofit Management Institute
- > *296 projects have been locally funded with grants totaling nearly \$1.4 million*
from the SWIF's community & component funds