

Southwest Initiative Foundation Impact



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION

15 3rd Avenue NW
Hutchinson, MN 55350
1-800-594-9480 or
320-587-4848
www.swifoundation.org

Current focus areas include:

Economic advancement
Leadership and community development
Building regional capacity
Philanthropy

To date, SWIF has:

- Contributed more than \$48 million through its grant and loan programs
- Helped more than 460 businesses start or expand
- Created or retained more than 7,500 jobs
- Established 14 Early Childhood Initiative Coalitions
- Established 14 Youth Energy Summit (YES!) teams
- Established 21 community foundations and more than 65 designated funds
- Yielded a 330 percent real-money return on every dollar invested to southwest Minnesota communities



Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards
for U.S. Community Foundations

Big Stone County

*Since 1986, the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF) has been making a positive impact on each of the 18 counties in southwest Minnesota. Here are some examples of SWIF's recent impact on Big Stone County.
(July 1, 2008 - April 30, 2009)*

Initiatives and partnerships

- Ortonville Early Childhood Initiative
- Lac qui Parle Valley Youth Energy Summit (YES!) Team received \$500 Long-Term Vision Award for their energy action project
- Community and designated funds
 - Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) Fund
 - Ortonville Public School Foundation

Education and assistance

“Surviving the Recession” seminar in Ortonville attended by more than 20 business owners, lenders and economic development professionals

Loans

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 8 loans totaling \$448,100 to businesses in Big Stone County. Recent example:

- Gordon's Group (Ortonville Hardware Hank), Ortonville

Grants

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 33 grants totaling \$201,582 to benefit Big Stone County. Recent example:

- Ortonville Early Childhood Initiative for visioning, coordination and operation

Connections

Becky Parker of Ortonville serves on SWIF Board of Directors

Regional projects and events

- “Getting School Ready” guides provided to all school districts upon request at no charge
- “Family Survival Webinar” series offered at no charge for parents and caregivers covering Financial Survival During Today's Economy; Healthy Meal Planning and Shopping for Families on a Budget; and Parenting Tools for Tough Times
- “Leading By Example” leadership conference attended by more than 250 regional business, community and organizational leaders
- “What Matters Most” celebrated by more than 250 southwest Minnesotans at the 2009 banquet, which featured regional entrepreneurs, musicians, artists and keynote speaker V.J. Smith