

# Southwest Initiative Foundation Impact

## Chippewa County



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

*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 Chippewa County.*

*(July 1, 2008 - April 30, 2009, unless otherwise noted)*

### Initiatives and partnerships

- Montevideo Early Childhood Initiative
- Lac qui Parle Valley Youth Energy Summit (YES!) Team received \$500 Long-Term Vision Award for their energy action project
- Completed Connected Communities Partnership program in Montevideo
- Community and Designated Funds
  - Chippewa River Watershed Project Endowment Fund
  - Green Corridor Fund – New fund created in FY09
  - Heimark Family Advised Fund
  - MACCRAY #2180 Foundation Fund - New fund created in FY09
  - Milan Community Foundation
  - Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) Fund

### Education and assistance

- SWIF “Loan Road Show” in Montevideo attended by nearly 30 lenders and economic development and financial professionals
- “Surviving the Recession” seminar in Montevideo attended by more than 20 business owners, lenders and economic development professionals

### Loans

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 23 loans totaling \$1,153,875 to businesses in Chippewa County. Recent examples:

- Wright Laser, Inc., Milan (2005)
- Dry Weather Creek Farm, Montevideo (2003)

### Grants

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 74 grants totaling \$317,433 to benefit Chippewa County. Recent examples:

- Chippewa County to participate in Cohort Training Program, a series of intensive training sessions to develop leadership skills and capacity within local government
- Hope Reformed Church in Montevideo for Parish Nurse Program

### Regional projects and events

- “Getting School Ready” guides provided at no charge to all school districts upon request
- “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