

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

Jackson 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 Jackson County. (July 1, 2008 - April 30, 2009, unless otherwise noted)

Initiatives and partnerships

- New partnership created with Prairie Ecology Bus Center to deliver Youth Energy Summit (YES!) program
- Community and designated funds
 - Cooper and Jack Schoenfeld Memorial Scholarship Fund
 - Friends of the Jackson County Library Fund
 - Heron Lake-Okabena Community Foundation
 - Horizons of Jackson Fund
 - Jackson Community Foundation
 - Jackson County Central School Foundation Fund
 - Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) Fund
 - Minnesota West Community and Technical College Small Business Management Fund
 - Prairie Ecology Bus Fund

Education and assistance

Wind Energy Forum hosted in Lakefield and attended by more than 80 area residents, landowners and community leaders

Loans

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 21 loans totaling \$1,216,500 to businesses in Jackson County. Recent examples:

- Primary Colors, Jackson (2006)
- Flower Market of Jackson, Jackson

Grants

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 77 grants totaling \$224,841 to benefit Jackson County. Recent examples:

- With assets from Heron Lake-Okabena Community Foundation, grant awarded to City of Okabena for park improvement project
- With assets from Friends of the Jackson County Library Fund, grant awarded to Jackson County Public Library for library operations

Connections

Artist Taylor Rossow of Lakefield featured in 2009 banquet talent showcase

Regional projects and events

- "Getting School Ready" guides provided at no cost 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