

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

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

Initiatives and partnerships

- Community and designated funds
 - Buffalo Lake-Hector Public School Foundation Fund
 - Green Corridor Fund – New fund in FY09
 - Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) Fund
 - Morton Area Community Foundation – New fund in FY09
 - Renville Community Foundation

Education and assistance

Renewable Energy Conference hosted in Olivia and attended by more than 60 area residents, landowners and community leaders.

Loans

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 44 loans totaling \$2,068,986 to businesses in Renville County. Recent examples:

- Grande Apartments, Olivia (2004)
- Java Junction 212, Renville (February 2008)

Grants

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 58 grants totaling \$375,275 to benefit Renville County. Recent example:

- Renville County for participation in Cohort Training Program, a series of intensive training sessions designed to develop leadership skills and capacity within local government

Connections

- Fiscal and administrative host to Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor project
- Valspar's Minnesota Beautiful "Picture It Painted" project - Downtown Morton Beautification, Morton
- Robert Saunders of Bird Island serves on SWIF Board of Directors

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