

# 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

## Swift 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 Swift County.*

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

### Initiatives and partnerships

- Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg School District Early Childhood Initiative selected as a new partner in 2008
- Lac qui Parle Valley Youth Energy Summit (YES!) team received \$500 Long-Term Vision Award for their energy action project
- Community and designated funds
  - Appleton Community Foundation
  - Appleton VFW Post 4955 Flags of Honor Endowment Fund
  - Benson Area Community Foundation
  - Chippewa River Watershed Project Endowment Fund
  - Galen Hanson Memorial Education Endowment Fund
  - Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) Fund

### Education and assistance

Monthly entrepreneur education opportunities offered free of charge in Appleton

### Loans

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 20 loans totaling \$1,699,500 to businesses in Swift County. Recent example:

- Prairie Waters Inn, Inc., Appleton (2007)

### Grants

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 115 grants totaling \$411,647 to benefit Swift County. Recent examples:

- KMS Early Childhood Initiative to support Year One coordinating
- With assets from the Appleton Community Foundation, grant awarded to Appleton Area Chamber of Commerce to purchase hanging flower baskets

### 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