

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 \$51 million through its grant and loan programs
- Helped more than 495 businesses start or expand
- Created or retained more than 7,600 jobs
- Established 14 Early Childhood Initiative Coalitions
- Established 29 Youth Energy Summit (YES!) teams
- Established 21 community foundations and more than 70 designated funds
- Yielded a 268 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, 2009, - June 30, 2010, unless otherwise noted)

Initiatives and partnerships

- Ortonville Early Childhood Initiative (ECI)
- Ortonville Youth Energy Summit (YES!) was supported with \$2,750 toward their energy action project
- Community and designated funds
 - Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley (CGB) Public School Foundation
 - Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) Fund
 - Ortonville Early Childhood Fund - New fund created in FY10
 - Ortonville Public School Foundation - New fund created in FY10
- Rural Energy Development Initiative (REDI) loan and support provided to wind project near Ortonville

Education and assistance

- Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) event hosted by Ortonville ECI
- Monthly entrepreneur education opportunities offered at no cost to participants in Ortonville
- Social networking workshop for businesses held in Ortonville

Grants

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 145 grants totaling \$1,702,478 to benefit Big Stone County. Recent example:

- Ortonville Early Childhood Initiative for visioning, coordination and operation

Loans

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 11 loans totaling \$489,100 to businesses in Big Stone County. Recent examples:

- Ortonville Hardware Hank, Ortonville (2008)
- Tri-State Ag Solutions, LLC, Ortonville

Regional projects and events

- "Leading By Example II: Boomers to Rockstars" leadership conference attended by more than 220 regional business, community and organizational leaders
- Southern Minnesota Regional Competitiveness Project - Partnered with several regional entities across southern Minnesota to build a strategic economic development plan focused on key assets
- Bio-Ag Business Leader Forums - Convened a small group of key business leaders around the potential economic opportunities related to the convergence of biology and agriculture
- YES! kick-off event and career fair hosted at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall