

Southwest Initiative Foundation Impact

Chippewa County



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION

15 3rd Avenue NW
Hutchinson, MN 55350
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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

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, 2009, - June 30, 2010, unless otherwise noted)

Initiatives and partnerships

- Montevideo Early Childhood Initiative
- Lac qui Parle Valley Youth Energy Summit (YES!) won Second Prize and was supported with \$3,750 toward their energy action project
- Completed Connected Communities Partnership program in Montevideo
- Community and Designated Funds
 - Chippewa River Watershed Project Endowment Fund
 - Heimark Family Advised Fund
 - MACCRAY #2180 Foundation Fund
 - Milan Community Foundation, which received a matching challenge grant of more than \$1,200
 - Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) Fund

Education and assistance

- Social networking workshop for businesses held in Montevideo

Grants

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 296 grants totaling \$2,954,343 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 (2008)
- Matching challenge grant awarded to Milan Community Foundation to fulfill immediate grantmaking needs

Loans

(as of April 30, 2010)

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

- Dry Weather Creek Farm, Montevideo (2003)

Connections

- Janice Nelson of Montevideo serves on SWIF Board of Directors
- SWIF Senior Program Officer Scott Marquardt resides in Montevideo
- Valspar's Minnesota Beautiful "Picture it Painted" project - Clean Up the River Environment in Montevideo

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