

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

Cottonwood 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 Cottonwood County.

(July 1, 2009, - June 30, 2010, unless otherwise noted)

Initiatives and partnerships

- Windom Early Childhood Initiative
- Mountain Lake Early Childhood Initiative
- Youth Energy Summit (YES!) teams supported with \$6,750 toward their energy action projects:
 - Westbrook-Walnut Grove YES!
 - Windom YES! awarded Third Prize and Creativity and Innovation Award
- Rural Energy Development Initiative (REDI) loan and support provided to wind project near Mountain Lake
- Community and Designated Funds
 - Brad Behrends Memorial Fund
 - Business, Arts and Recreation Center (BARC) Endowment Fund
 - Cooper and Jack Schoenfeld Memorial Scholarship Fund
 - Cottonwood County Historical Society Endowment Fund
 - Cottonwood County Historical Society Remick Gallery Endowment Fund
 - Harder Family Foundation Advised Fund
 - Krueger Family Advised Fund
 - Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) Fund
 - Mountain Lake Area Foundation
 - Mountain Lake Area Foundation for Education Fund
 - Mountain Lake Area Healthcare Fund

- Mountain Lake Area Healthcare Endowment Fund - New fund created in FY10
- Mountain Lake Early Childhood Fund - New fund created in FY10
- Sneer Family Advised Fund

Education and assistance

The Nonprofit Leader's Academy was launched to promote building leadership skills from the inside out. Participating organizations include:

- Elizabeth House, Mountain Lake
- Cottonwood County Historical Society, Windom

Loans

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 33 loans totaling \$1,721,250 to businesses in Cottonwood County. Recent examples:

- Balzer, Inc., Mountain Lake (2001)
- Elizabeth House, Inc., Mountain Lake (2002)

Grants

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 199 grants totaling \$1,711,645 to benefit Cottonwood County. Recent examples:

- Windom and Mountain Lake Early Childhood Initiatives for visioning, coordination and operation (2007-08)
- With assets from Mountain Lake Area Foundation, grant awarded to City of Mountain Lake for ambulance service equipment (2008)

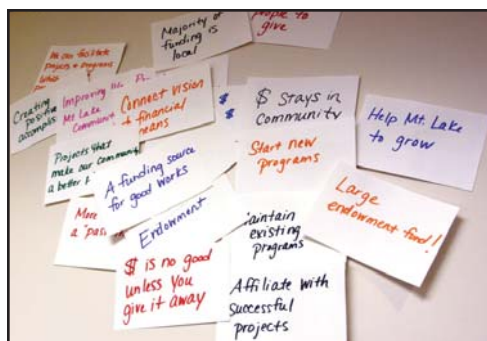
Continued on reverse.



Westbrook-Walnut Grove and Windom YES! Teams were among those in attendance at the YES! Winter Workshop at Shalom Hill Farm.



SWIF provides opportunities to equip all southwest Minnesota adults with knowledge and tools to help our youngest citizens learn, love and thrive.



Mountain Lake Area Foundation's vision and mission statement guide their fundraising and grantmaking efforts.

Cottonwood County

Continued from reverse.

Connections

- Nonprofit Leader's Academy hosted at Shalom Hill Farm near Windom
- Valspar's Minnesota Beautiful "Picture It Painted" projects
 - Westbrook Heritage House Museum
 - Mountain Lake Public School
 - Good Samaritan Society of Mountain Lake

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