

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

Kandiyohi 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 Kandiyohi County.

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

Initiatives and partnerships

- Willmar Early Childhood Initiative (ECI), which recently published a bilingual children's book depicting lives of rural firefighters
- Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg School District Early Childhood Initiative
- Partnership with Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, Spicer, to deliver Youth Energy Summit (YES!) program
 - Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City YES! team received Grand Prize and the Energy Conservation Award, as well as a total of \$4,750 toward their energy action project
 - New London-Spicer YES! received Third Prize and a total of \$3,500 toward their energy action project
 - Willmar YES! team received the Outstanding Teamwork Award and a total of \$3,250 toward their energy action project
- Completed Connected Communities Partnership program in New London
- Community and designated funds
 - Beatrice F. Ourada Advised Fund
 - Chippewa River Watershed Project Endowment Fund
 - Jennie-O Turkey Store, Inc. Crisis Assistance Relief Effort (CARE) Fund
 - MACCRAY #2180 Foundation Fund
 - Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) Fund

- Walter and Raeanna Gislason Advised Fund - New fund created in FY10
- Willmar Early Childhood Fund - New fund created in FY10
- Willmar Music Matters Fund - New fund created in FY10

Education and assistance

- Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) event held in Willmar (hosted by Willmar ECI) and New London-Spicer
- Minnesota State of Manufacturing focus group held in Willmar
- Nonprofit Leader's Academy, launched to promote building leadership skills from the inside out, attended by:
 - Heartland Community Action Agency, Willmar
 - Habitat for Humanity of West Central Minnesota, Willmar
 - Shelter House, Willmar
 - PACT 4 Families Collaborative, Willmar
- Monthly entrepreneur education opportunities offered at no cost to participants in Willmar

Loans

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 81 loans totaling \$3,486,873 to businesses in Kandiyohi County. Recent examples:

- Headwaters Media, LLC, KKLN, The Loon, Willmar
- Peaceful Thymes Gifts & Garden, Atwater (March 2009)

Continued on reverse.



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Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City YES! Team won Grand Prize and the Energy Conservation Award for their 2009-2010 energy action project.



YES! teams visited the Willmar YES! greenhouse project during the 2010 YES! Winter Workshop.



Willmar Early Childhood Initiative Read Aloud at the Fire Station event in October of 2009.

Kandiyohi County

Continued from reverse.

Grants

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 275 grants totaling \$2,813,206 to benefit Kandiyohi County. Recent examples:

- Kandiyohi County for participation in Cohort Training Program, a series of intensive training sessions to develop leadership skills and capacity within local government (2008)
- Church of St. Mary's, Willmar, for Parish Nurse Program (2008)

Connections

- Life Connections Major Sponsor, marking 10th year of SWIF sponsorship
- Valspar's Minnesota Beautiful "Picture It Painted" projects
 - Willmar Design Center
 - Kandiyohi County Historical Society
- Connie VanDerBill Medin of Spicer serves on SWIF Board of Directors
- Gary Geiger of Willmar serves as secretary on SWIF Board of Directors
- SWIF Program Officer Sara Carlson resides in Willmar

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