

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

Lyon 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 Lyon County.

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

Initiatives and partnerships

- Marshall Youth Energy Summit (YES!) received Community Engagement Award and a total of more than \$2,100 toward their energy action project
- Tracy YES! received Conservation Award and a total of nearly \$3,200 toward their energy action project
- Marshall Early Childhood Initiative completed partnership in 2008
- Community and designated funds
 - Balaton Area Community Foundation, which received a \$1,350 matching challenge grant
 - Carr Family Foundation Advised Fund
 - Cooper and Jack Schoenfeld Memorial Scholarship Fund
 - Marshall Community Foundation, which received a \$385 matching challenge grant
 - Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) Fund
 - Marshall-Lyon County Library Foundation Fund

Education and assistance

- Monthly entrepreneur education opportunities offered at no charge to participants in Marshall
- Minnesota State of Manufacturing focus group held in Marshall
- Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) event held in Tracy
- SWIF fund partner session in Marshall attended by more than 60 community foundation and designated fund partners

- Nonprofit Leader's Academy, launched to promote building leadership skills from the inside out, attended by:
 - Western Mental Health, Marshall
 - Prairie Home Hospice, Marshall
 - New Horizons Crisis Center, Marshall
 - United Way of Southwest Minnesota, Marshall
 - Southwest Minnesota Arts and Humanities Council, Marshall
 - Bremer Bank, Marshall

Loans

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 51 loans totaling \$2,065,561 to businesses in Lyon County. Recent examples:

- Southwest Minnesota Technologies, Inc. - Tracy Computer, Tracy (2007)
- Walnut Grove Mercantile, Marshall (February 2009)

Grants

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 297 grants totaling \$2,909,178 to benefit Lyon County. Recent examples:

- Marshall High School to create a unique partnership with six Marshall companies and offer student internships (2008)
- Matching challenge grants awarded to Balaton Area and Marshall Community Foundations to fulfill immediate grantmaking needs

Continued on reverse.



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Microenterprise loan clients Josh and Caleb Schmidt, Tracy Computer, Tracy.



SWIF fund partner session in Marshall attended by more than 60 community foundation and designated fund partners.



SWIF educates southwest Minnesota on opportunities the renewable energy industry presents to retain local wealth.

Lyon County

Continued from reverse.

Connections

- Sandy Ludeman V of Tracy serves as board chair on SWIF Board of Directors
- William (Bill) McCormack of Marshall serves as vice chair on SWIF Board of Directors
- SWIF Program Specialist Brad Kramer resides in Tracy
- SWIF Program Specialist Jackie Turner-Lovsness resides in Cottonwood
- Valspar's Minnesota Beautiful "Picture It Painted" projects
 - Western Community Action, Inc.
 - City of Marshall & Marshall Area Fine Arts Council

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