

Southwest Initiative Foundation Impact



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

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

Initiatives and partnerships

- Litchfield Early Childhood Initiative
- Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City Youth Energy Summit (YES!) received Grand Prize and the Energy Conservation Award, as well as a total of \$4,750 toward their energy action project
- Eden Valley-Watkins YES! received the Community Engagement Award and a total of \$1,900 toward their energy action project
- Litchfield YES! received the Creative Vision Award and a total of \$3,250 toward their energy action project
- Community and designated funds
 - Grove City Area C.A.R.E. Endowment Fund
 - Litchfield Area Community Foundation, which received a \$1,350 matching challenge grant
 - Litchfield Early Childhood Fund - New fund created in FY10
 - Litchfield Public School Foundation Endowment Fund
 - Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) Fund
 - People Helping People Nursing Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Rural Energy Development Initiative (REDI) loan and support provided to wind project near Grove City

Education and assistance

- Monthly entrepreneur education opportunities offered at no charge to participants in Litchfield

Loans

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 43 loans totaling \$2,062,900 to businesses in Meeker County. Recent examples:

- Charger Chiropractic, Dassel
- Litchfield Floral & Gift, Litchfield

Grants

(as of April 30, 2010)

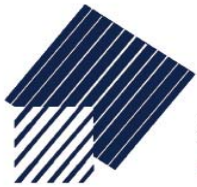
Since inception, SWIF has awarded 167 grants totaling \$1,349,545 to benefit Meeker County. Recent example:

- Dementia Care Foundation in Darwin to expand a volunteer Dementia Care Specialist Program (Spring 2009)
- Matching challenge grant awarded to Litchfield Area Community Foundation to fulfill immediate grantmaking needs

Connections

- SWIF Development Officer Liz Maiers resides in Litchfield
- Valspar's Minnesota Beautiful "Picture It Painted" projects
 - Forest City Stockade, Litchfield
 - Ecumen dba Augusta Lutheran Homes, Litchfield

Continued on reverse.



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Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City, Eden Valley-Watkins and Litchfield YES! Teams were among those in attendance at the YES! Winter Workshop in Willmar.



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



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

Meeker County

Continued from reverse.

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