

# 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

## Murray 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 Murray County.

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

### Initiatives and partnerships

- Murray County Early Childhood Initiative (ECI)
- Community and designated funds
  - Cooper and Jack Schoenfeld Memorial Scholarship Fund
  - Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) Fund
  - Murray County Central Rebel Foundation Fund
  - Murray County Early Childhood Fund

### Education and assistance

- Social networking workshop for businesses held in Slayton
- Monthly entrepreneur education opportunities offered at no charge to participants in Slayton
- Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) event hosted by Murray County ECI

### Loans

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 10 loans totaling \$793,850 to businesses in Murray County. Recent examples include:

- Monogram Meat Snacks, Chandler
- TB Happier Now Child Care, Slayton (2008)

### Grants

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 159 grants totaling \$1,398,806 to benefit Murray County. Recent example:

- Murray County Early Childhood Initiative to support visioning, coordinating and programming (2008)

### Connections

- Valspar's Minnesota Beautiful "Picture It Painted" project - Murray County
- Jim Keul of Slayton serves on SWIF Board of Directors
- SWIF Business Finance Officer Amy Woitalewicz resides in Fulda

### 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