

# 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

## Redwood 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 Redwood County.

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

### Initiatives and partnerships

- Redwood Area Early Childhood Initiative (ECI)
- Wabasso Early Childhood Initiative
- Youth Energy Summit (YES!) teams supported with a total of \$5,500 toward their energy action projects
  - Redwood Valley YES!
  - Westbrook-Walnut Grove YES!
- Community and designated funds
  - Cooper and Jack Schoenfeld Memorial Scholarship Fund
  - Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) Fund

### Education and assistance

- Redwood Area ECI hosted a social media seminar for early childhood professionals, educators and providers
- Monthly entrepreneur education opportunities offered at no charge to participants in Redwood Falls
- Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) events hosted by Redwood Area and Wabasso ECIs
- Nonprofit Leader's Academy, launched to promote building leadership skills from the inside out, attended by:
  - Minnesota Inventor's Congress, Redwood Falls

### Loans

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 60 loans totaling \$3,129,811 to businesses in Redwood County. Recent examples:

- Lucan Locker, Lucan (April 2009)
- Kuglin Enterprises, Inc. (Blossom Town Floral), Redwood Falls (2008)

### Grants

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 219 grants totaling \$2,087,074 to benefit Redwood County. Recent example:

- Redwood Area and Wabasso Early Childhood Initiatives for visioning, coordinating and programming (2007-08)

### Connections

- Fiscal and administrative host to Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor project
- Rick Ellingworth of Redwood Falls serves on SWIF Board of Directors
- SWIF Program Officer Kurt Thompson resides in Redwood Falls

*Continued on reverse.*



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*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.*



*Microenterprise loan clients Becky and Dan Kuglin, Blossom Town Floral, Redwood Falls.*

## Redwood 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