

# 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

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

### Initiatives and partnerships

- Youth Energy Summit (YES!) teams supported with a total of more than \$5,900 toward their energy action projects
  - Bird Island-Olivia-Lake Lillian (BOLD) YES!
  - Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop YES! received Economic Potential Award
- Community and designated funds
  - Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart Public School Foundation Fund
  - Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) Fund
  - Morton Area Community Foundation
  - Renville Community Foundation
- REDI loan and support provided to wind project near Olivia

### Loans

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 45 loans totaling \$2,073,986 to businesses in Renville County. Recent examples:

- Mama's Therapeutic Massage, Morton (2006)
- Java Junction 212, Renville (2008)

### Grants

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 222 grants totaling \$2,275,306 to benefit Renville County. Recent example:

- Renville County for participation in Cohort Training Program, sessions focused on building leadership skills within local government (2008)

### Education and assistance

- Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) event hosted by BOLD communities
- Social networking workshop for businesses held in Olivia

### Connections

- Fiscal and administrative host to Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor project
- Valspar's Minnesota Beautiful "Picture It Painted" project - City of Morton
- Robert Saunders, Bird Island, serves as treasurer on SWIF Board of Directors
- Robert Thurston, Olivia, serves on SWIF Board of Directors

### 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