

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

Swift 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 Swift County.

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

Initiatives and partnerships

- Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg (KMS) School District Early Childhood Initiative (ECI)
- Lac qui Parle Valley Youth Energy Summit (YES!) received Second Prize and a total of \$3,750 toward their energy action project
- Community and designated funds
 - Appleton Community Foundation, which received a \$1,350 matching challenge grant
 - Appleton VFW Post 4955 Flags of Honor Endowment Fund
 - Benson Area Community Foundation, which received a \$1,350 matching challenge grant
 - Chippewa River Watershed Project Endowment Fund
 - Galen Hanson Memorial Education Endowment Fund
 - Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) Fund

Loans

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 23 loans totaling \$1,924,500 to businesses in Swift County. Recent examples:

- Appleton Veterinary Clinic, Appleton
- Jimmy's Pizza, Appleton

Grants

(as of April 30, 2010)

Since inception, SWIF has awarded 301 grants totaling \$2,519,280 to benefit Swift County. Recent examples:

- KMS Early Childhood Initiative to support year one coordinating (June 2009)
- Awarded matching challenge grants to Appleton and Benson Area Community Foundations to fulfill immediate grantmaking needs

Education and assistance

- KMS ECI hosted a social media seminar for early childhood professionals, educators and providers
- Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) event hosted by KMS ECI
- Monthly entrepreneur education opportunities offered at no charge to participants in Appleton
- Nonprofit Leader's Academy, launched to promote building leadership skills from the inside out, attended by:
 - Pioneer Public Television, Appleton
 - Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, Appleton

Continued on reverse.



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Lac qui Parle Valley YES! was 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.

Swift 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