

taking THE INITIATIVE

News from Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation

August 2013

525 Florence Avenue | Owatonna, MN 55060 | 507.455.3215

www.smifoundation.org

Message from Tim Penny

Ten years ago, we began investing in children by creating the Minnesota Early Childhood Initiative in partnership with the five other Initiative Foundations across greater Minnesota. We saw this effort in early childhood as a natural extension of our overall work focused on economic development. Knowing that these children will grow to be our employees, CEOs, volunteers, and community leaders in the future, supporting their education now is a smart investment with a significant return.



The Early Childhood Initiative's overarching goal is to work with communities throughout Greater Minnesota to develop ECI coalitions. These teams of local citizens and organizations have more than 5,000 members representing diverse sectors—from early care educators to business and civic leaders. To date, the ECI coalitions have developed over 90 early childhood communities.

Today, SMIF has 20 Early Childhood Initiative communities across its 20-county region of southern Minnesota. Over the past decade, SMIF has invested over \$1.3 million into these 20 communities—and the community return has been extensive: more children ready for kindergarten, increased collaboration and partnership amongst organizations, and a growth of community leadership.

For more information about SMIF's Early Childhood Initiative coalitions, contact Teri Steckelberg at 507-455-3215.

Program Spotlight

In addition to our loan programs, SMIF has a variety of tools to help entrepreneurs be successful.

Technical Assistance — All of SMIF's small enterprise loan clients are eligible to receive free technical assistance for the life of their loan. This includes one-on-one mentoring, QuickBooks training, marketing and strategic planning, educational seminars and workshops, and consulting.

SCORE — SCORE volunteers provide business expertise and experience to aspiring business owners. Mentors are connected to businesses owners and work one-on-one to provide counseling and support. SMIF can help refer business owners to SCORE mentors. (SCORE volunteers work in Blue Earth, Faribault, Freeborn, Nicollet, Rice, Steel, and Waseca counties)

Southern Minnesota SourceLink — SoMNSourceLink connects a network of area nonprofit resource organizations that provide business-building services for small businesses. SourceLink facilitates the linking of these resource organizations to one another and to established, emerging, and start-up small businesses throughout the region.

For more information and additional resources for entrepreneurs, visit www.smifoundation.org.



Partner Testimonial

In July, five new members joined SMIF's Board of Trustees. We are excited about the expertise and leadership they will bring to our Foundation. Here's what three of our new members had to say about joining the Board.

"SMIF's focus on two areas that I believe add health in many ways to our communities—assisting entrepreneurs and adding support to early child development efforts—drew me in to help however possible. As an owner in a small food business, I am very interested to learn and contribute in that particular area." – **Suzanne Blue, Owner, Sturdiwheat Incorporated, Red Wing**

"Having grown up in a small, rural Minnesota community, I am inspired to serve on the SMIF Board of Trustees to ensure that the Southern Minnesota corridor maintains its important role in Minnesota's thriving economy. I am eager to support an organization that focuses on launching and growing entrepreneurial businesses and one that

works to assist communities in building and sustaining strong, healthy environments." – **Lisa Clarke, Division Chair Public Affairs, Mayo Clinic, Rochester**

"I am honored to have been asked to join the SMIF board and work with such a talented and diverse staff and board, all of whom are dedicated to a prosperous future for Southern Minnesota. I have long believed that the future of our region rests on investing in our children and promoting a culture that celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit. If over the next years, SMIF can fan the sparks into flames in these two areas, we will have made a real difference in our regions long-term future." – **Fred Krahmer, Attorney, Krahmer & Nielsen PA, Fairmont**

In our next newsletter, we'll introduce our other new members—David Krueger, Arlington and Jake Vela, Austin.

Keystone (\$25,000-\$49,999)

*L & N Andreas Foundation, Mankato

Cornerstone Club (\$10,000-\$24,999)

*Davisco Family Holdings, Le Sueur

*Neil and Susan Eckles, Blue Earth

*F & M Community Bank, Preston

Champion (\$5,000-\$9,999)

*AgStar Financial Services, Apple Valley

Faribault Economic Development Authority

Steele County

Leader (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Brown County

City of Dodge Center

Faribault Foods Incorporated

Granite Equity Partners LLC, Saint Cloud

*ICAN, Waseca

Kato Engineering, Mankato

Le Sueur County

Merchants Bank, Winona

*MN Elevator Incorporated, Mankato

*Tim and Sandy Penny, Owatonna

Peoples State Bank, Plainview

Red Wing Port Authority

Root River State Bank, Chatfield

Jennifer Sawyer, Northfield

Waseca County

Watonwan County

Wells Fargo Bank- Albert Lea, Austin, Blue Earth,

Dodge Center, Faribault, Mankato, New Prague,

New Ulm, North Mankato, Northfield, Owatonna,

Red Wing, Rochester, Stewartville, Waseca,

Winona

Winona County

Partner (\$500-\$999)

All American Foods Incorporated, Mankato

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP- Albert Lea, Austin, Mankato,

New Ulm, Owatonna, Waseca

Farmers State Bank of Hartland

*Jody and Duane Feragen, Austin

First Bank Blue Earth

Goodhue County

William and Jeanne Hankerson, Owatonna

*Barbara Henoch, Rochester

*Leigh Johnson, Rochester

City of Lanesboro/Lanesboro Public Utilities

Spedco Economic Development Foundation, St. Paul

(nominated by Dan Bonneur, Waseca)

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

*TurningPoint Management Inc, Mankato

Valley Design Enterprises Inc., Fountain

Wells Federal Bank - Albert Lea, Mankato, Wells

Contributor

Ken and Jan Albrecht, Mankato

Alliance Bank, New Ulm

Altura State Bank

*Larry and Sonja Anderson, Frost

*Paulette and Glen Beckmann, Ellendale

Pamela and Kevin Bishop, Glenville

Lindsay Bjorkquist, Owatonna

Alissa Blaha, Owatonna

Suzanne Blue, Red Wing

Julie Boyland, Le Sueur

Nicole Brickman, Hollandale

Bill and Corinne Brown, Saint James

Jean Burkhardt, Welcome

*Carol and Ben Cerney, Albert Lea

Dr. Borge Christensen, Rochester

Ted and Kathy Colescott, Rochester

Community National Bank, Austin

Brian and Dawn Conzemius, Lakeville

Reverend Ronald Dahlheimer, Kilkenny

Wayne and Donna Dreier, Preston

Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman P.A.,

Owatonna

David Ellis, Rochester

*Kim and Cathy Enerson, Byron

*Gerald and Joan Engstrom, Saint James

David and Marta Fisk, Wabasha

*Keith and Deloris Fligge, Albert Lea

John and Beth Fondell, Owatonna

Dave and Kathy Foreman, Rochester

*Tom and Marilyn Frauenkron Bayer, Houston

Father Francis Galles, Preston

Dr. Clifford and Mrs. Gastineau, Rochester

Tom and Susan Gebur, Owatonna

*Joe and Josephine Gibilisco, Rochester

Karen and James Gray, Spring Grove

*Cheryl Guentzel, Saint Peter

Marcia and Jerry Haley, Waseca

Hammel Green and Abrahamson Inc., Rochester

*Rae Jean and Harlan Hansen, Blooming Prairie

*Don and Mary Louise Hayden, Kilkenny

Bukata Hayes, Mankato

Jennifer Heien, Owatonna

*Lee and Carol Himle, Spring Valley

Robert and Judy Hoffman, Waseca

City of Hokah

Insight Enterprise Consulting, New Ulm

*Marjorie Jenkins, Saint James

Doug Johnson, Blooming Prairie

*Robert and Joycelyn Johnson, Harmony

Carol and Reuben Kamper, Rochester

John Katz, Waseca

Sue Kolling, Spring Valley

Fred W. and Michelle Krahmer, Fairmont

David Krueger, Arlington

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Melissa and Ken Langer, Owatonna

*Don and Jan Lanning, Spring Valley

Allan Larson, Lake Mills

Connie Lau, Owatonna

Don and Phyllis Layton, Rochester

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Betsy Lindgren, Owatonna

*R. Peter Madel Jr., Waseca

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*Bob and Nancy Menzel, Elysian

Barb Miller, Rochester

*MinnStar Bank North America, Lake Crystal

Jerry and Mary Monson Sr., Owatonna

John Monson, Cannon Falls

*Debra Nelson, Madelia

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Michael Nolan, Mankato

Catherine Olson, Rochester

*Valerie and David Pace, Rochester

*Brad and Gaby Peterson, Winona

June Reineke, Winona

*Myron and Darlene Schober, Rushford

Dr. Richard and JoAnn Sheldon, Rochester

Colleen Skillings, New Ulm

Lynn and Chris Smith, Owatonna

Raymond and Helen Stawarz, Owatonna

*Teri and Pat Steckelberg, Owatonna

*Joe Swedberg, Austin

*Megan and Kent Tsui, Red Wing

Jake Vela, Austin

*Sarah Walbert, Saint Paul

Stephen and Christi Waldhoff, Albert Lea

Bob Wallace, Fairmont

*Denis Warta, New Ulm

*PROGRAM DONORS

To make a donation,
visit www.smifoundation.org.

Recent Activity

Grants

BookStart Grants—36 organizations received 10,000 books, valued at \$185,338

Loans

KIND LLC, Utica

Golden Years Planning, Northfield

CLerum Corp dba MVP Magazine, Rochester

ItraMed Diagnostics LLC, Blue Earth

For more information about these grants and loans, visit www.smifoundation.org

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