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# **Le Sueur County, MN**

**Tuesday, June 20, 2017**

**Board Meeting**

## **Item 5**

**10:15 a.m. Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (15 min)**

**Staff Contact:**



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

May 2017

525 Florence Avenue • PO Box 695 • Owatonna, MN 55060-0695  
PH 507.455.3215 • FAX 507.455.2098 • [smifoundation.org](http://smifoundation.org)

Darrell Pettis  
Le Sueur County  
Courthouse  
88 Park Ave S  
Le Center, MN 56057-1600

Dear Mr. Pettis and County Board;

The McKnight Foundation created Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) 30 years ago to make a difference. To fulfill this responsibility we continue to work every day to keep our communities vibrant and prosperous. Whether it's partnering on a loan to support a fledgling business endeavor, supporting a community group about to launch a community foundation, preparing our youngest residents through literary grants, or providing training for childcare providers, we know with your support we will have a greater impact.

I know you see the value in SMIF's work in Le Sueur County. Recently, we supported Chabelitas Yummy Foods and Fruits LLC with financial and technical assistance to grow their business. With our support, they are expanding into hot foods and catering options in the Le Sueur area! This is just one of the many ways SMIF has contributed to your community. Please see the enclosed factsheet for more examples.

Together, we are making a difference right here at home. But there is still a lot of work that needs to be done.

Your last gift of **\$3,000** on **May 9, 2016** impacted members of your community. Please consider continued support in 2018 at the same level to impact this essential work. With your help we will make southern Minnesota a vibrant and prosperous place to live.

Will you join us?

Tim Penny  
President & CEO

Collaborating for Regional Vitality





SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

# Le Sueur County Investments

We envision southern Minnesota as a prosperous and growing region with vibrant communities, innovative and successful economies, and engaged and valued citizens. To achieve this vision, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, a regional development and philanthropic organization, fosters economic and community vitality in 20 counties of southern Minnesota through a culture of collaboration and partnership.

For every donation of  
from Le Sueur County

\$1

=

\$13

is invested back into  
Le Sueur County  
communities.\*

\*Includes grants, loans & programming

20 LOANS

\$1.4 million to Le Sueur County entrepreneurs

115 GRANTS

\$553,000 to support community initiatives

***\$5 million invested annually to the 20 counties of  
south central and southeastern Minnesota***

Since 1986, Southern Minnesota Initiative  
Foundation has leveraged local investments &  
partnerships to create a stronger **Le Sueur County**:

**\$254,000** in local donations to SMIF

**\$3.3 million**

invested by SMIF in Le Sueur County  
through grants, loans, and programming for  
stronger kids, businesses and communities

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## Loans & Equity Investments Supporting local entrepreneurs & creating jobs

Farmhouse Market LLC, New Prague	Organic, locally-sourced 24/7 food market
Herrmann Law Office PLLC, New Prague	General practice law firm
Whitewater Creek Grain & Feed Incorporated, Waterville	Buying, storage, feed sales, & marketing services to farm producers
Rolco Incorporated, Kasota	Plastic injection molding
Odenthal Meats, New Prague	Local meat market
LCS Precision Molding, Waterville	Plastic injection molding specializing in window, door, appliance, electronics, and automotive industry applications
Chabelita's Yummy Foods & Fruits, Le Sueur	Mexican restaurant

## Grants Investments in economic development, early childhood and community vitality

AmeriCorps LEAP (Learning Early Achieves Potential)	Members helping with social emotional skill development
New Prague Area Schools	Pre-K to Grade 3 Alignment grant
New Prague Chamber of Commerce	35 gallons of paint awarded for mural
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Public Schools	Support for WEM new parent needs & services survey
City of Elysian	16 gallons of paint award for Elysian City Park mural & buildings
Tri-City United Public Schools, Montgomery	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
30th Community Collaboration Grant, New Prague ECI	Social emotional book bag project

## Affiliate Funds Increasing rural philanthropy

Elysian Community Foundation	New Prague Area Community Foundation
Le Sueur Community Foundation	Sakatah Area Foundation
Le Sueur Community Wellness Collaborative	Waterville Friends of the Library

## Community Collaborations Bringing communities together for change

New Prague Early Childhood Initiative (Started in 2015)
Tri-City United Early Childhood Initiative (Started in 2008)

### Making a Difference

Helping communities increase early childhood development opportunities



New Prague is SMIF's newest Early Childhood Initiative (ECI) community. ECIs pull together a cross-sector of community leaders to discuss opportunities to improve early childhood offerings. The group is implementing four projects: winter open gym, a website listing all early childhood resources in New Prague, a child care support group with trainings and monthly meetings for child care providers, and large group community presentations to talk about positive discipline.