



Le Sueur County, MN

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

Board Meeting

Item 5

9:30 a.m. Jennifer Nelson, VP of Development with SMIF (15 min)

Staff Contact:



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

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May 2018

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

Mr. Pettis and County Board,

Thank you for your generous support in 2018. Because of you, SMIF is able to change lives in southern Minnesota but we still need your help to move the needle on progress.

Did you know:

- **There is a 28% shortage of spaces available for child care in southern Minnesota.** This impacts not only families and children but also the workforce.
- **99.5% of businesses in Minnesota are considered small businesses.** This segment requires the most support to grow and prosper.
- **An estimated \$7 billion is going to transfer generations in southern Minnesota by 2030.** How is your community planning to capture these dollars?

SMIF is addressing these issues, but we need your continued support to help us assist our youngest residents, aspiring entrepreneurs and local community initiatives. Without you, we would not have been able to accomplish everything listed on the accompanying factsheet. This is only a small portion of what our donors have made possible.

Your support will change lives. **Please consider increasing your gift to \$3,500 in 2019 to keep this essential work in our region moving forward.** And as always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out.

With sincere gratitude,

Tim Penny
SMIF President & CEO



Your last gift of
\$3,000
allowed SMIF to invest
\$39,000
into your community!
(Le Sueur County ROI: \$1 donated = \$13 invested)



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**:

\$270,000 in local donations to SMIF

\$3.4 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 Initiative, Le Center	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
New Prague Area Early Childhood Initiative	Create social-emotional book bags for area preschool teachers
Tri-City United Public Schools, Montgomery	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
Quality Child Care Program, Le Sueur	Increasing quality childcare through provider training

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 Turning business dreams into reality



One of SMIF's newest loan clients, Chabelita's Yummy Foods and Fruits, brings more dining options to Le Sueur residents. Raul and Maria Castellanos started out with candy and fruit salad, and now provide a full menu of Mexican dishes. "SMIF's loan helped us purchase a range hood so we can start preparing cooked food," said Raul Castellanos. "People have been supportive of us, because they want some other dining options."