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# Le Sueur County, MN

Tuesday, August 25, 2015

Board Meeting

## Item 6

**10:00 a.m. Tim Penny (15 min)**

*RE: SMIF Presentation*

Staff Contact:

May 2015

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

Dear Mr. Pettis and County Board:

We all want our communities to be vibrant and prosperous. For children to be nurtured, educated, and given the tools to become valued and productive members of society. For our businesses to thrive, create jobs, and give back to their communities.



**Since 2013 SMIF has invested almost \$100,000 into Le Sueur County. In the last few years, with our donors' help, we supported the following community efforts in your county:**

- Distributed over 3,000 books to children in Le Sueur County through our early childhood partners in order to promote literacy and school readiness.
- A Chance to Grow received a grant to implement SMART, a learning readiness program at Tri-City United and WEM schools.
- Partnered with the Le Sueur Community Foundation to provide a grant to St. Anne's School to purchase preschool curriculum.
- WEM Community Education received a grant to expand their home visiting program providing one-on-one assistance for our most at-risk families.

The examples above are just a few highlights of our work, please see the enclosed fact sheet for more information. SMIF's work in early childhood and economic development is ensuring our community's bright future—but we need your help! Thank you for your gift of **\$3,000** in 2015. Next year, we request that you consider a per capita request of **\$4,000**, see box below. For every \$1 SMIF raises in your county, we spend, on average, \$10 back into your county; this exponentially increases the impact of your donation.

With your help, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of those living in southern Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Tim Penny  
President & CEO

*Enclosure*

**Please consider a per capita contribution this year. Your per capita is \$0.14. We request:**

**Your population: 20,770**  
**X \$ per person: \$0.15**

**For a total donation of: \$4,000**

## \$1,782,662

18 LOANS  
\$1,323,649

100 GRANTS  
\$459,013



New Prague Area Schools received 500 books for their Camp Kindergarten and Kids' Company WRAP (We're Really Awesome Preschoolers) programs. Through these two programs, each participating child received books to take home and keep. In addition, they hosted a BookStart event to include parents and local "celebrities" to encourage and celebrate the importance of reading.

## Entrepreneur Support

*More businesses—more jobs*

European Roasterie, Le Center, 2007  
Door Engineering and Manufacturing Co., Kasota, 2002-2005  
ShetkaWorks LLC, Le Center, 2005  
Woodside Stables, Le Sueur, 2005  
Whitewater Creek Grain & Feed, Inc., Waterville, 2004  
Rolco, Inc., Kasota, 2003  
Physical Maintenance Services, Waterville, 2001  
Odenhal's Meat Market, Heidelberg, 2000  
Throlson and Associates, Le Center, 1993, 1998

## Community Support

*More vibrant communities*

Waterville Community Foundation - Local Producers Project, 2012

### Community & Designated Funds

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

### Community Foundation Partnership Grant

Saint Anne's School, "Pre-K Reading Curriculum," 2014

### Picture-It-Painted Recipients (Partner—Valspar Corp.):

Le Sueur County Historical Society—2010, 2014

## Early Childhood Support

*More children ready to learn*

WEM, Home Visiting, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014  
A Chance to Grow "Southern MN Pre-K Alliance," 2013, 2014  
Region 9 "Social & Emotional Training," 2012  
Tri-City United ECI "KickSTART to Kindergarten" 2012  
Tri-City United "Early Childhood Initiative" 2008

### BookStart Recipients (Partner—Capstone Publishing):

New Prague Schools, 2014, 2015  
Tri-City United Public Schools (2 programs), 2015  
WEM Public Schools, 2014  
Le Sueur Henderson Public Schools, 2013, 2014  
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council Inc., Elysian, 2013  
Tri-City United ECI, 2011

### Pearson Foundation Partner Recipients:

Le Sueur Henderson Schools, 2013  
Montgomery Public Library, 2013  
Tri-City United Schools, 2013

### Young Explorer Recipients (Partner—IBM Corp.):

Cleveland Schools, 2012  
Growing in Grace Daycare, Le Sueur, 2012  
Waterville Elysian Morristown, 2011

# SMIF FACTS

## SOUTHERN MINNESOTA INITIATIVE FOUNDATION INVESTS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH IN 20 SOUTHERN MINNESOTA COUNTIES

### VISION

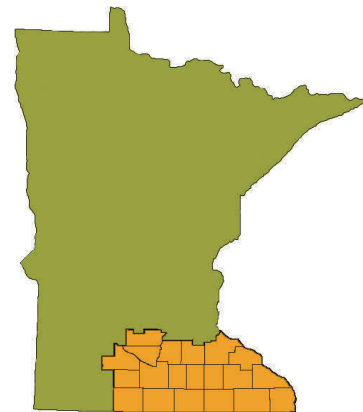
Southern Minnesota will be a prosperous and growing region with vibrant communities, innovative and successful businesses, and a skilled and valued workforce.

### MISSION

Promote regional economic opportunities and collaborations with a focus on entrepreneurs and early childhood development.

### CATALYST FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

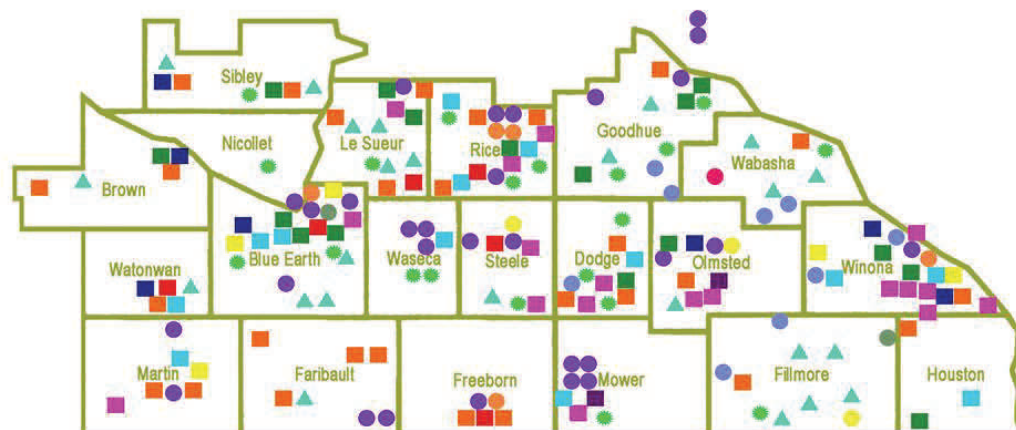
- Invested over \$92 million in region since 1986
  - \$40 million—programming
  - \$25.8 million—loans
  - \$26.7 million—grants
- Leveraged \$10 for every \$1 in local contributions
- Regional endowment fund exceeds \$34 million
- Awards \$5 million annually through grants, loans, and program support
- Acts as a regional collaborator



### FOCUS AREAS:

- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
  - Financial Support
  - Business Expertise
- **EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**
  - Social Emotional Initiatives
  - School Readiness Support
- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
  - Community and Designated Funds
  - Farmland Retention

SMIF's 2014 Partnerships



- |  |                                    |                                   |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ■ Early Childhood Incentive Grants         | ■ Guidecraft Bookshelves           | ● Community Growth Initiatives    |
| ■ Home Visiting Grants                     | ■ Pre-K - Grade 3 Alignment Grants | ● AmeriCorps VISTA                |
| ■ New Early Childhood Initiative Community | ■ AmeriCorps LEAP Partner Site     | ● Entrepreneur Opportunity Grants |
| ■ Young Explorer Computers                 | ● Loans                            | ● One Big Thing Grant             |
| ■ BookStart                                | ● Entrepreneur Incentive Grants    | ● Picture-It-Painted              |
|  |                                    | ▲ Community Foundations           |