



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

Brown 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 Brown County

\$1

=

\$12

is invested back
into Brown County
communities.*

*Includes grants, loans & programming

18 LOANS

\$1.3 million to Brown County entrepreneurs

124 GRANTS

\$578,000 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 **Brown County**:

\$254,000 in local donations to SMIF

\$3.1 million

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

Loans & Equity Investments Supporting local entrepreneurs & creating jobs

Happy Joe's Pizza & Ice Cream Parlor, New Ulm	Family friendly restaurant
Minnesota Valley Transport Incorporated, New Ulm	Trucking company
Zinniel Utility Contracting, New Ulm	Underground utility services
Beacon Promotions Incorporated, New Ulm	Manufacturer and decorator of promotional products
Meat Plus, Sleepy Eye	Meat processing plant
Law Office of Daniel D Kalk PLLC, New Ulm	Law firm

Grants Investments in economic development, early childhood and community vitality

AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative, MVAC Head Start, New Ulm	Members helping with social emotional skill development
Quality Child Care Program, New Ulm	Increasing quality childcare through provider training
Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest, New Ulm	Programming grant to teach students about the role of business
Saint John's Grandkids / VIK Club, Springfield	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
Brown Nicollet Watonwan County Drug Court	Family education for at risk families dealing with substance abuse
Brown County Early Childhood Initiative	Early Childhood Dental Network to combat childhood tooth decay
Brown County Historical Society, New Ulm	50 gallons of paint for the BCHS museum and annex
Sleepy Eye Public Schools	Awarded 800 books to preschool children
Sleepy Eye Area Foundation	PrairieView playground rehabilitation
MN Valley Action Council	Implementing home based curriculum with families in need
New Ulm Public Schools	Awarded 550 books for WIC visits
Brown County Public Health	Awarded 500 books for the Read to Me project
New Ulm Public Schools	Multi-disciplinary approach to preparing children for kindergarten

Affiliate Funds Increasing rural philanthropy

Sleepy Eye Community Foundation

Community Collaborations Bringing communities together for change

Brown County Early Childhood Initiative (started in 2006)

Making a Difference Addressing the child care shortage



In 2016, Brown County Child Care Enhancement Project received an Incentive Grant to address the child care shortage. Brown County had lost approximately 30 child care licenses in the two years prior. With the grant dollars they hired a coordinator to assist in researching the child care need and to manage other trainings and events. They have held roundtable discussions on the child care shortage and how to address it and organized trainings for providers throughout Brown County. In just two years, Brown County has seen nearly 20 additional licensed providers, one child care center opened and another is in progress.