



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

# Fillmore 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 Fillmore County

\$1

=

\$32

is invested back into  
Fillmore County  
communities.\*

\*Includes grants, loans & programming

28 LOANS

\$1.5 million to Fillmore County entrepreneurs

302 GRANTS

\$2.0 million 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 **Fillmore County**:

**\$327,000** in local donations to SMIF

**\$10.3 million**

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

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

Featherstone Fruits & Vegetables LLC, Rushford	Small, organic CSA (Community Support Agriculture) farm
The Driftless Fly Fishing Company LLC, Preston	Fly fishing guide service
Rushford NanoElectroChemistry Company, Rushford	Manufacture & sell patented medical testing devices
Parkway Market & Cafe, Lanesboro	Local food grocery & cafe
Don's Family Market, Spring Valley	Grocery store
Valley Design Enterprises Incorporated, Fountain	Powder coating and table manufacturer
MN Metals Incorporated, Spring Valley	Manufacturer of overhead door expansion parts

\*Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation in partnership with CEDA and DEED hold the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Region 10, allowing these counties to apply for Economic Development Administration funding at the Federal level.

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

Harmony EDA	Grant to promote outdoor recreation, music, the arts and tourism
Fillmore County Public Health	Hundreds of books awarded through literacy grant
Canton Historical Society	Awarded 34 gallons of paint to restore Canton Railroad Depot
Rural by Design Workshop	Grant to support regional design planning workshops
Lanesboro Public Schools	Grant to implement a social-emotional learning curriculum
CEDA, Chatfield	Small town grant to support the Bluff Country Collaborative
Metz's Hart-Land Dairy, Honey & Creamery, Rushford	FEAST! Smart Start client
Peterson Station Museum	Awarded 38 gallons of paint for historic depot

## Affiliate Funds Increasing rural philanthropy

Arthur J. Miller Scholarship Fund	Mabel Community Fund
Charles & Irene Reps Scholarship Fund	Partners in Education (school support fund)
Christianson Family Foundation	Preston Area Community Foundation
Fillmore Central School Foundation	Robertson Scholarship
Foundation for Rushford-Peterson Schools	Rushford Community Foundation
Harmony Area Community Foundation	Rushford-Peterson Community Chest
Lanesboro Area Community Foundation	Spring Valley Area Community Foundation

## Community Collaborations Bringing communities together for change

City of Chatfield, Regional Community Growth Initiative	Chatfield Community Growth Initiative
Spring Valley EDA, Regional Community Growth Initiative	Fillmore County Early Childhood Initiative (Started in 2008)
Rushford Community Growth Initiative	
Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV) Communities, Spring Valley and Lanesboro	

## Making a Difference

### Supporting rural philanthropy

For a town of 1,305, Preston has a wealth of amenities, from tennis courts and baseball diamonds, to a colorful mural and beautifully renovated historic buildings. Each of these amenities exists because of the generosity of the locals who give back to their community through the Preston Area Community Foundation (PACF).

PACF, started in 1997, is one of SMIF's earliest established community foundations. There are now 29 community foundations that are part of SMIF's Affiliate Fund Program, which supports communities in capturing and retaining philanthropic wealth.

