



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

Faribault 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 Faribault County

\$1



\$7

is invested back into
Faribault County
communities.*

*Includes grants, loans & programming

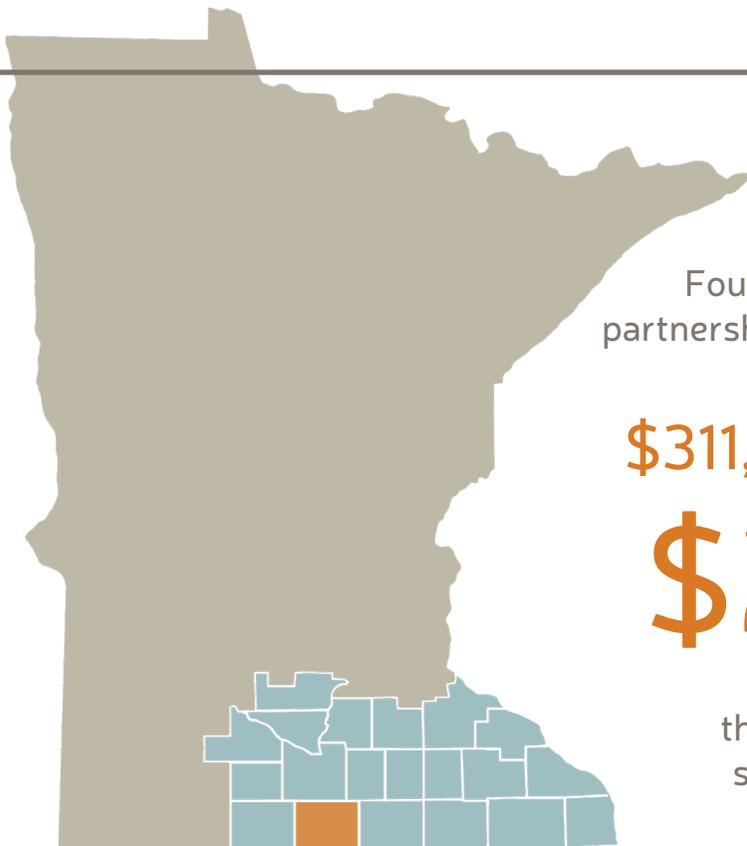
18 LOANS

\$912,000 to Faribault County entrepreneurs

77 GRANTS

\$371,000 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 **Faribault County**:

\$311,000 in local donations to SMIF

\$2.3 million

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

Loans & Equity Investments* Supporting local entrepreneurs & creating jobs

Aker (Leading Edge Technologies Inc), Winnebago	In-season crop monitoring for large scale farming
Simplified Ag Technology LLC, Blue Earth	Manufacture & sell fertilizer attachments for sprayers
Kiester Market	Grocery store
IntraMed Diagnostics LLC, Blue Earth	Drug testing devices
Heartland Retreat & Rental Hall LLC, Elmore	Retreat center and rental hall
Wells Truss Manufacturing Incorporated	Residential roof truss manufacturer
Chris Gack Agency, Blue Earth	Insurance and financial services

*SCORE Chapter

Grants Investments in economic development, early childhood and community vitality

AmeriCorps LEAP MVAC Head Start, Blue Earth	Members helping with social emotional skill development
Faribault County Home Visitation Program	One-on-one support and resources for at risk youth
Wells Public Library	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
Disaster Recovery Grants	Three businesses supported after tornado damage
Blue Earth Community Foundation	Implement a mixed media marketing campaign for Blue Earth
Gopher-Hawkeye Power Association, Easton	Awarded 20 gallons of paint to repaint country schoolhouse
City of Kiester	Small town grant to create community project
Human Services of Faribault and Martin Counties	Awarded 200 books for home visiting program
City of Bricelyn	Awarded 10 gallons of paint for aquatic mural at community pool

Affiliate Funds Increasing rural philanthropy

Blue Earth Community Foundation	Our Town USA Community Foundation
Blue Earth Friends of the Library	Pool Pass Fund
Huisman Family Donor Advised Fund	Pool Slide Fund

Community Collaborations Bringing communities together for change

Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV) Community, Blue Earth
City of Wells, Communities Addressing the Child Care Shortage

Making a Difference

Allowing individuals and families to take an active role in economic development



Lissia Laehn recently turned an empty church in Elmore into the Heartland Retreat & Rental Hall, an ideal location for event rentals including showers, parties, reunions and holiday gatherings. An avid quilter, she also plans to market the center to other quilters and scrap bookers for hobby retreats.

SMIF partnered with the Huisman Family Donor Advised Fund on this loan. A fund of the Blue Earth Community Foundation, it was created by John and his son Quinn Huisman in 2017. The Huisman Fund makes loans and grants to support economic development efforts in Faribault County and the adjoining areas. It is the hope of the Huismans that this fund will augment efforts to expand and reinforce the vitality of Blue Earth and the surrounding communities.