



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

# Olmsted 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 Olmsted County

\$1

=

\$7

is invested back into  
Olmsted County  
communities.\*

\*Includes grants, loans & programming

53 LOANS

\$2.4 million to Olmsted County entrepreneurs

329 GRANTS

\$3.1 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 **Olmsted County**:

**\$1.4 million** in local donations to SMIF

**\$9.5 million**

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

For other counties visit: [smifoundation.org/who-we-are/region.html](http://smifoundation.org/who-we-are/region.html)

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

CranioVation	Medical device to treat brain tumors
Squash Blossom Farm, Oronoco	Small farm with interconnected enterprises
Xcede Technologies Incorporated, Rochester	Hemostat/sealant device with a broad surgical indication
Envirolastech Incorporated, Rochester	Building materials company
Barb Kylo's Home Daycare, Byron	Family child care
Sonex Health LLC, Rochester	Technology for minimally-invasive carpal tunnel surgery
Spark DJ Incorporated, Rochester	Music streaming business

\*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

AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative, Rochester EC Family Services	Members helping with social emotional skill development
Stewartville Economic Development Authority	Business incubator
WSN Engineers and Architects, Rochester	Project to identify and deliver transit services to rural SE MN
Stewartville Public Schools	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
Dover Eyota Public Schools	Curriculum experts and differentiation
Byron Community Foundation	Equipment for "The Most Fit City" in Minnesota
Rochester Area Economic Development Incorporated	Mayo Clinic Business Accelerator Entrepreneurship Initiative
Families First of Minnesota, Rochester	Local Early Learning Childhood Software System Upgrade grant
Boys & Girls Club of Rochester	Reading readiness program for disadvantaged club

## Affiliate Funds Increasing rural philanthropy

Byron Community Foundation	Lions Legacy Fund
Dover-Eyota Eagles Foundation	

## Community Collaborations Bringing communities together for change

City of Byron, Regional Community Growth Initiative
City of Eyota, Regional Community Growth Initiative

### Making a Difference

Supporting innovative programs that enhance economic development



The new Thrivent Financial office opened on October 1, 2017, and the two Financial Associates operating the location, Nick Johnson and Nic Hale, couldn't be more optimistic about their future. Johnson shared, "We have received education and funding which helps at a business level, but also gives us encouragement and great motivation to serve this great town." The Business Incubation Program supporting this business was designed to promote business development within the community by providing rental assistance and education for 18 months to new businesses leasing available, vacant structures in the community. The Stewartville EDA received a \$9,000 grant from SMIF in order to launch this innovative program.