



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

SEMCAC Head Start	Grant to support at-risk families prepare for kindergarten
Fillmore County Public Health, Preston	Awarded 525 books for BookStart program
30th Community Collaboration Grants (4)	Projects in Spring Valley, Lanesboro, Harmony and Rushford
Rural by Design Workshop	Grant to support regional design planning workshops
Lanesboro Public Schools	Grant to implement a social-emotional learning curriculum
Chatfield Center for the Arts	Engage community in program planning & organization development

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
Essence of Harmony Fund	Roberton Scholarship
Fillmore Central School Foundation	Rushford Area Disaster Alliance for Recovery (disaster recovery fund)
Foundation for Rushford-Peterson Schools	Rushford Community Foundation
Harmony Area Community Foundation	Rushford-Peterson Community Chest
Health and Recreation Fund	Spring Valley Area Community Foundation
Lanesboro 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

Providing high quality, local foods in communities



Lanesboro, Minnesota lost its beloved supermarket eight years ago. Since then, there have been efforts to bring fresh food back to town. Caleb and Blake Lauritsen-Norby recently bought what was a grocery store and reopened it as Parkway Market & Coffeehouse.

With the help of a loan from Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and loan partner CEDA, Caleb and Blake were able to expand the inventory and update their equipment at Parkway Market & Coffeehouse. The store offers a variety of local and organic produce. They stock goods from many local vendors, contributing to the vitality of the community by supporting others.