



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

# Freeborn 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 Freeborn County

\$1

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\$10

is invested back into  
Freeborn County  
communities.\*

\*Includes grants, loans & programming

27 LOANS

\$902,000 to Freeborn County entrepreneurs

189 GRANTS

\$947,000 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 **Freeborn County**:

**\$311,000** in local donations to SMIF

**\$3.2 million**

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

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

Jordan's Learning Tree, Albert Lea	Family child care provider
Schippers Pro Power Wash Incorporated, Albert Lea	Tanker cleaning service
Six Two Graphics, Albert Lea	Graphic communication & digital printing media
JA Expressions LLC, Albert Lea	Full service beauty salon
S.A.R. Manufacturing Inc, Albert Lea	Manufacturer of aircraft parts
Daisy Blue Naturals LLC, Albert Lea	Cosmetic & personal care manufacturing and distributing company
Grandma's Gourmets LLC, Albert Lea	Specialty food manufacturer
The Best Little Hair House LLC, Albert Lea	Hair salon

\*SCORE Chapter; 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

City of Albert Lea	Housing summits and workshops
SE MN Together (One Big Thing Regional Grant)	Collaborative regional project to address workforce issues
Freeborn County Public Health, Albert Lea	Healthy Families home visiting program
Albert Lea Entrepreneurial Advancement Program	Business incubator space
Freeborn County Fair	Paint for the Freeborn County Fair for the 4-H Exhibit Building
Disaster Recovery Grants	Grants to help businesses clean-up from 2016 floods
Albert Lea Area Schools	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants

## Affiliate Funds Increasing rural philanthropy

Alden Area Community Foundation	Freeborn County Disaster Relief Fund
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## Community Collaborations Bringing communities together for change

Freeborn County Family Services, THRIVE, Early Childhood Initiative (started in 2008)
Experience Albert Lea Initiative, Community Growth Initiative
Riverland Community College, Albert Lea, Community Growth Initiative "Immigrants in the Workforce"

## Making a Difference

Building stronger communities providing support to local initiatives



**Alden Area**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

an affiliate fund of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation

In August, SMIF welcomed Alden Area Community Foundation as its 26th affiliate fund. The Alden Area Community Foundation's mission is to serve the City of Alden and its surrounding area by supporting programs and projects that improve the quality of life and build a stronger community.

"I am excited about the future of Alden and this foundation will help strengthen our community in so many positive ways," said Barb Zeller, Board Treasurer and founding Board Member.