



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

Steele 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 Steele County

\$1



\$9

is invested back
into Steele County
communities.*

*Includes grants, loans & programming

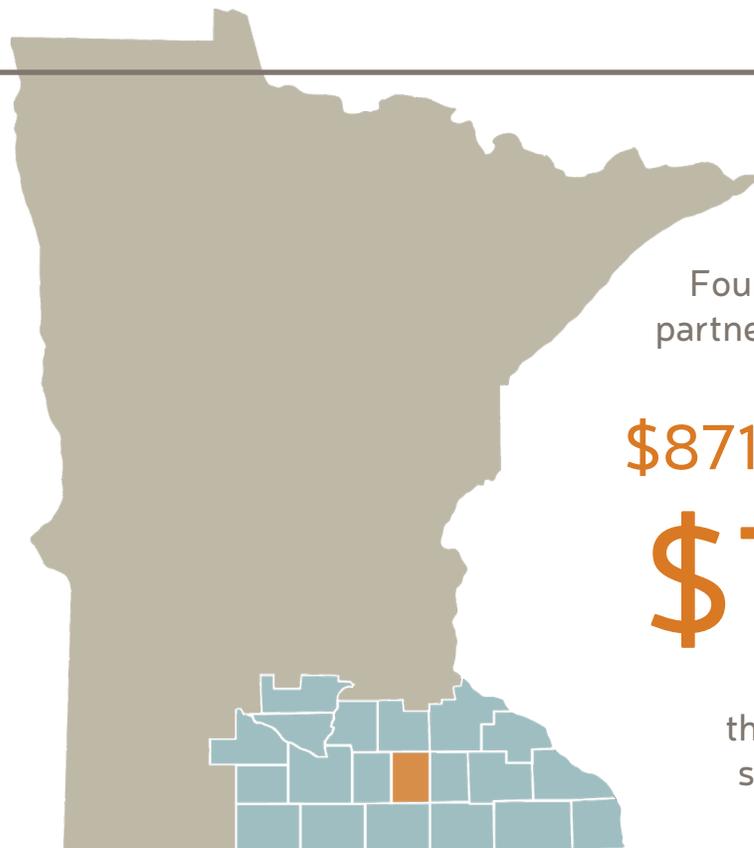
62 LOANS

\$2.8 million to Steele County entrepreneurs

258 GRANTS

\$1.8 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 **Steele County**:

\$871,000 in local donations to SMIF

\$7.9 million

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

Loans & Equity Investments* Supporting local entrepreneurs & creating jobs

MKT Glass Aggregate LLC, Meriden	Trucking
Curly Girlz, Owatonna	Homemade candy and treats
New Leaf Transport, Claremont	Trucking
Advantage Cabinets Incorporated, Owatonna	Cabinet manufacturer
Bio-Plastic Solutions LLC, Blooming Prairie	Plastic extrusion & molding
Sollid Yoga, Owatonna	Yoga studio
Ron's Repair Service, Owatonna	Auto Repair

*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

Mama Stoen's, Owatonna	FEAST! Smart Start client
SE MN Together	Collaborative regional project to address workforce issues
Quality Child Care Program, Owatonna	Increasing quality child care through provider training
Exchange Center for Family Unity, Owatonna	In-home mentoring to teach parenting skills for children ages 0-5
Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest, Owatonna	Program to help students understand the role of business
Parenting Matters	Provide parenting education classes at local businesses
Good Shepherd Preschool, Owatonna	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
Blooming Prairie Public Schools	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
Steele County Public Health	Books awarded to support new mom baby visits
AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative, Medford and Blooming Prairie	Members helping with social emotional skill development
A Chance to Grow, Owatonna	Continued S.M.A.R.T. training to prepare children for kindergarten
Owatonna Public Schools	Expand literacy curriculum to support PreK - Grade 1 alignment

Affiliate Funds Increasing rural philanthropy

Ellendale Community Foundation

Community Collaborations Bringing communities together for change

Owatonna Early Childhood Initiative (started in 2014)
City of Medford Community Growth Initiative (started in 2017)

Making a Difference

Supporting local foods entrepreneurs through coaching and technical assistance



Mama Stoen's, a gluten-free baking products business, has been a part of SMIF's FEAST! Smart Start Initiative along with other local foods trainings and resources. FEAST! Smart Start is a program designed to support farm and food entrepreneurs through technical assistance and customized, transformational coaching. "The Smart Start has been a great way to collaborate and network with other individuals in the market," said Jamie Stoen, co-owner of Mama Stoen's, "We learned how to grow but also use help from others."