



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

Waseca 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 Waseca County

\$1

=

\$13

is invested back into
Waseca County
communities.*

*Includes grants, loans & programming

38 LOANS

\$1.3 million to Waseca County entrepreneurs

117 GRANTS

\$567,000 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 **Waseca County**:

\$250,000 in local donations to SMIF

\$3.3 million

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

Loans & Equity Investments* Supporting local entrepreneurs & creating jobs

Matson Design Specialties LLC, Waseca	Metal fabrication & motorcycle fabrication
Wiste's LLC, Waseca	Full service meat market
Hager Welds LLC, Waseca	Manufacturer of sod cutting blades
Vienna Industries LLC, Waseca	Manufacturer of log and barn wood furniture
Repnet Incorporated, Waseca	Extrude plastic into marking devices for utility companies
Jensen Corporation, New Richland	Construction and home services
Half Pint Brewing Company, Waseca	Brewery and taproom
JR's Barn LLC, Waldorf	Event center
Pippi Lane Boutique, Waseca	Clothing Store

*SCORE Chapter

Grants Investments in economic development, early childhood and community vitality

AmeriCorps LEAP (Learning Early Achieves Potential)	Members helping with social emotional skill development
Waseca Public Schools Community Education & Recreation	37 gallons of paint awarded for Rainbow Connection Mural
Waseca Heritage Preservation Commission	Paint grant to help restore Historic Trowbridge Park Bandstand
BEST of Waseca, Inc.	Entrepreneurial monthly support group
Waseca County Early Childhood Initiative	Incredible Years group helping families considered high risk
Waseca Public Schools Community Education & Recreation	Grant to purchase "Gearing Up for Kindergarten" Curriculum
New Richland Hartland Ellendale Geneva Public Schools	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
Disaster Recovery Grants	Grants to help businesses clean-up from 2016 floods
Quality Child Care Program, Waseca	Increasing quality childcare through provider training

Affiliate Funds Increasing rural philanthropy

Waseca County Disaster Recovery Fund

Community Collaborations Bringing communities together for change

Waseca BioBusiness Community Growth Initiative
Waseca Early Childhood Initiative (started in 2010)

Making a Difference

Training child care providers



More than 600 child care providers have participated in SMIF's Quality Child Care Program (QCCP) since its launch in 2013, and 28% of participants have gone on to participate in Minnesota's Parent Aware Quality Rating System. Waseca recently hosted one of these trainings and had 26 child care providers attend. Using a case study model based on a typical rural Minnesota child care provider named Angie, providers learn the true value of high quality child care and how it can impact the bottom line of their business. Providers receive two credit hours of approved training through Develop, Minnesota's quality rating and improvement tool.