



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

Winona 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 Winona County

\$1

=

\$21

is invested back
into Winona County
communities.*

*Includes grants, loans & programming

40 LOANS

\$1.9 million to Winona County entrepreneurs

219 GRANTS

\$2 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 **Winona County**:

\$344,000 in local donations to SMIF

\$7.2 million

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

Loans & Equity Investments* Supporting local entrepreneurs & creating jobs

Premier Tool Repair, Winona	Tool repair, rental & resale of tools
Whitewater Gardens Farm, Altura	Small-scale vegetable farm
Bluff Country Co-op, Winona	Co-op grocery store
Kind LLC, Utica	Home health care
Gypsoil Pelletized Products LLC, Winona	Converts gypsum into granule for commercial fertilizers

*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, St. Charles and Winona	Members helping with social emotional skill development
SE MN Together (One Big Thing Regional Grant)	Collaborative regional project to address workforce issues
Project FINE	Creative online marketing for diverse businesses
Winona County	Farmers Market project to assist immigrant and local growers
Winona Area Public Schools Community Education	Grant for ECFE to offer twice weekly session of "Incredible Years"
St. Charles Area Community Foundation	Develop a vacant green space into a functional community space
Riverway Learning Community	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
Winona Early Childhood Initiative	Community PreK-3 EduSnap Initiative
Quality Child Care Program, St. Charles and Winona	Increasing quality childcare through provider training
Winona Port Authority	Training sessions & resources for entrepreneurs

Affiliate Funds Increasing rural philanthropy

St. Charles Area Community Foundation	Greenspace Fund
---------------------------------------	-----------------

Community Collaborations Bringing communities together for change

City of St. Charles, Regional Community Growth Initiative
Winona Community Growth Initiative
St. Charles Early Childhood Initiative (started in 2012)
Winona Early Childhood Initiative (started in 2006)

Making a Difference

Building positive relationships to increase children's potential



Hilary Kelly is a kid magnet. When she walks into a room, kids are around her. It's clear she loves it. As one of SMIF's AmeriCorps LEAP (Learning Early Achieves Potential) members, she saw it as her role to try to give children the ears and eyes that working parents may not always be able to provide. "I can say 'today's the day I'm going to be the 30 minutes of extra attention they may not get at home or in a 20-student classroom,'" said Kelly.

Kelly was born and raised in St. Charles. She knows she wants to end up in a smaller town. Kelly served two years in SMIF's AmeriCorps LEAP program and it solidified her career path of

becoming an elementary school social worker. She plans to return to a small town after she completes her master's degree.