



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



\$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

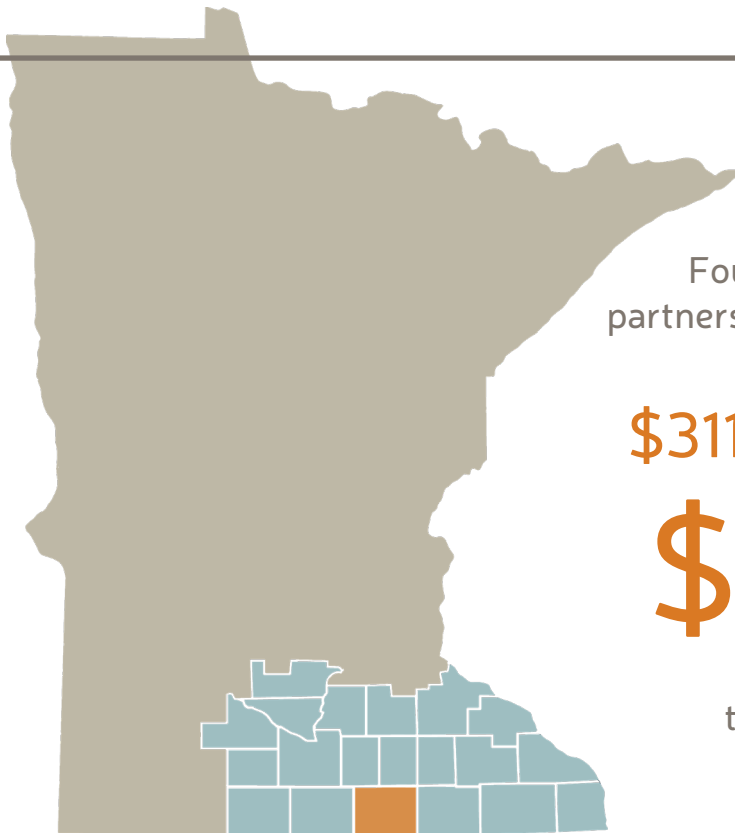
***\$5 million invested annually to the 20 counties of
south central and southeastern Minnesota***

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
Schippo's Pro Power Wash Incorporated, Albert Lea	Tanker cleaning service
Six Two Graphics, Albert Lea	Graphic communication & digital printing media
Expressions Salon & Spa, 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
Albert Lea Kiwanis	Hundreds of books awarded for mentoring program
Disaster Recovery Grants	Grants to help businesses clean-up from 2016 floods
Albert Lea Area Schools	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
Quality Child Care Program, Albert Lea	Increasing quality child care through provider training

Affiliate Funds Increasing rural philanthropy

Alden Area Community Foundation	Freeborn County Disaster Relief Fund
Our Town USA Community Foundation	

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"
Albert Lea (Albert Lea Economic Development Agency), Communities Addressing the Child Care Shortage

Making a Difference Growing the local foods system



Kim Olson's money is in jars - literally. Her business, Grandma's Gourmets (Albert Lea), specializes in unique jams, pickles, and salsas. When Olson attended her first FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace in 2015, an opportunity for regional food-makers and farmers to sell to major buyers, she met the Rochester Hy-Vee store director. Her product was in his store two weeks later.

Olson now has products in 30 stores, has started a wholesale and catering component of her business, and has won multiple awards. Her business has grown through her continued involvement in the FEAST! Local Foods Network, and as a SMIF loan client.