



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
Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm LLC, Waseca	Food and event space
Evan's Eatery LLC, New Richland	Food truck
Trio Coffee, Wine & Ale House LLC, Waseca	Coffee and wine bar
Pippi Lane Boutique, Waseca	Clothing store
Jensen Corporation, New Richland	Construction and home services
Half Pint Brewing Company, Waseca	Brewery and taproom
JR's Barn LLC, Waldorf	Event center

\*SCORE Chapter

## Grants Investments in economic development, early childhood and community vitality

AmeriCorps LEAP (Learning Early Achieves Potential), Waseca	Members helping with social emotional skill development
Waseca County Public Health	Hundreds of books awarded through literacy grant
Curb Appeal of Southern MN, Waseca	Prosperity Initiative client
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
Quality Child Care Program, Waseca	Increasing quality child care through provider training
Region Nine	FEAST! Smart Start grant to expand local foods coaching program

## Affiliate Funds Increasing rural philanthropy

Waseca County Disaster Recovery Fund
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## Community Collaborations Bringing communities together for change

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

### Making a Difference Helping businesses get off the ground



Half Pint Brewing Company is a small-scale farm brewery and taproom located five miles north of Waseca. Michael and Amelia McQuery create brews from locally sourced ingredients, including some that are grown on site. They used a Business Development Loan from SMIF to construct the taproom. Opened at the end of 2018, they have proven to be so popular that they have already needed to increase their beer production.

They established a partnership with another Waseca-area loan client, Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm. Half Pint will allow pizzas to be delivered to the taproom, and Pleasant Grove will allow the brewery to serve drinks at the pizza farm.