

Invest in Southwest

Will you join us in 2024?

Dear Sharon and Council Members:

As Southwest Initiative Foundation plans for our next fiscal year, we are asking for your partnership in supporting our local communities, specifically in the work we do with business and workforce development efforts. The demand for our work continues to increase as we help entrepreneurs pivot in our changing economy. As we do more, we need your support more than ever.

Small businesses and entrepreneurs are the backbone of our economy in southwest Minnesota. They provide more than jobs for other community members and necessary goods and services; they are a source of pride and help make our communities feel like home. We believe one of the best ways to invest in our communities is to invest in the people behind these businesses. Our Business Finance Program and Microenterprise Loan Program supports the retention, expansion, transition, creation and attraction of businesses. In addition, our microloan program provides customized technical assistance for the length of the loan to help clients improve their skills in financial management, operations, marketing and more. We invest in your communities because we believe in building a strong southwest Minnesota.

As you balance your budget for 2024, we hope you consider joining us in big ways. We are asking for your support by including \$5,500 for Southwest Initiative Foundation's economic development work. With your partnership, we can support the people and businesses fueling your communities.

As you consider increasing your support, I am available to answer questions via phone or email, meet in person or speak at a meeting. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

In gratitude,

Tiffany Barnard
tiffanyb@swifoundation.org
320-583-0094

Thank you, e.j.
I sent this to
Sharon also.



**SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION**

15 3rd Avenue NW | Hutchinson, MN 55350 | 800-594-9480 or 320-587-4848 | www.swifoundation.org



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

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Lyon County

Together, we are building communities where all our kids, families and neighbors can thrive!

Economic Development and Investments

- Since inception, nearly \$3.4 million has been deployed in Lyon County through Southwest Initiative Foundation's loan programs.
 - This includes 28 Microenterprise Loans totaling \$316,800. This loan program provides customized technical assistance for the length of the loan to help clients improve their skills in financial management, operations, marketing and more.
- In addition to business investments, in fiscal year 2023 \$303,720 was disbursed in grants impacting Lyon County.



A cancer survivor who lives with fibromyalgia, Jenny Greenhoff is on a mission to reawaken health in others with her infrared sauna studio "Well Suite." She opened the business in Marshall with help from our Microenterprise Loan Program, which provided working capital for Well Suite.



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Local Collaboration

- ▶ We are proud to hold **strong relationships with Lyon County community members**. A member of our Board of Directors, Theresa Zaske, calls Balaton “home.”
- ▶ The **Southwest Teacher Preparation Partnership** with Southwest Minnesota State University supports students on the pathway to a career in education. This partnership aligns with our Grow Our Own strategy by providing a career on-ramp for success, helping to close the opportunity gap.
- ▶ **Four emerging leaders from Nobles County** are participating in the first cohort of Growing Local: Emerging Leaders. This program is a partnership between SWIF and University of Minnesota Extension where these leaders will gain tools and resources to build their confidence and employer them to shape the future in places that matter most to them.
- ▶ Lyon County has **four community foundation affiliate partners**, the Balaton Area Community Foundation, the Cottonwood Area Community Foundation, the Marshall Community Foundation and the Tracy Area Community Foundation. Our community foundation program helps retain charitable dollars while putting local leaders in the driver’s seat. Our partners have access to technical and professional support from us in areas such as strategic planning, board development, fundraising and marketing.



- ▶ SWIF sponsors annual **community events** in Lyon County, including Cultures on the Prairie and the Marshall Pride Celebration.
- ▶ We recently sponsored the **Kids First Conference**, held at Jackpot Junction Casino & Hotel. More than 240 early care and child care professionals from across the region attended to connect and learn. Supporting these professionals is critical to retaining and increasing the number of quality child care slots in our communities.

Learn more about local partnerships and our work at [swifoundation.org](https://www.swifoundation.org)

Thank you to the following cities, counties and economic development authorities for partnering with us to invest in business and workforce development during Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, 2023.

City of Adrian
City of Atwater
City of Beaver Creek
City of Bird Island
City of Buffalo Lake
City of Clara City
City of Currie
City of Dassel
City of Dawson
City of Eden Valley
City of Fairfax
City of Ghent
City of Glencoe
City of Granite Falls & Granite Falls EDA
City of Grove City
City of Hardwick
City of Hendricks
City of Heron Lake
City of Hutchinson - Hutchinson EDA
City of Kerkhoven
City of Lake Benton
City of Lamberton
City of Litchfield
City of Luverne
City of Madison
City of Milan
City of Minneota
City of Morton
City of Mountain Lake
City of Murdock
City of New London

City of Olivia
City of Ortonville
City of Pipestone
City of Renville
City of Spicer
City of Stewart
City of Sunburg
City of Tracy
City of Tyler
City of Walnut Grove
City of Watkins
City of Watson
City of Worthington
Big Stone County
Cottonwood County
Jackson County
Kandiyohi County
Lac qui Parle County
Lincoln County
Lyon County
McLeod County
Meeker County
Murray County
Nobles County
Pipestone County
Redwood County
Renville County
Rock County
Swift County
Yellow Medicine County

*+ we'd ♥ to see
Marshall Here!*

SWIF Grants Awarded - Lyon County

7/1/2022 - 6/3/2023

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation	\$5,000.00	Minnesota Compass
Avera Granite Falls	\$2,700.00	Medication/Narcotics Safe
Avera Tyler Hospital	\$4,000.00	Enhanced EMS Supplies
Beyond The Boundaries	\$2,000.00	Youth 3D Archery
City of Balaton	\$500.00	Community Center Accessibility Improvements
City of Balaton	\$500.00	Lion's Park Bathroom
City of Balaton	\$3,706.00	Hydration Station
City of Balaton	\$700.00	Pickleball Equipment
City of Balaton	\$3,000.00	Lions/Legion Park Upgrade
City of Balaton	\$3,000.00	Lions/Legion Park Upgrade
City of Balaton	\$2,798.00	Tree Planting Project 2022
City of Balaton	\$4,886.00	Fire Department Masks
City of Balaton	\$961.00	Brehning Slough
City of Clarkfield	\$4,070.43	Cardinal Days
City of Clarkfield	\$2,500.00	Clarkfield Prairie Cardinal Holiday/Community Events
City of Cottonwood	\$1,000.00	Ambulance Equipment Upgrade
City of Cottonwood	\$1,000.00	Fire Department
City of Granite Falls	\$4,346.35	KCC Pec Fly Machine
City of Marshall	\$1,811.00	Welcoming Week
City of Tracy	\$605.00	Tracy Community Center
City of Tracy	\$1,000.00	Tracy Community Development Senior Exercise Program
City of Walnut Grove	\$10,000.00	Walnut Grove Ambulance Update Life Saving Equipment
Civil Air Patrol	\$1,500.00	Emergency Service Training
Cottonwood Economic Development Authority	\$6,000.00	Cottonwood Child Care Center
Crow River Players, Inc.	\$900.00	Screening of 'Stories I Didn't Know'
Cultural Awareness Organization	\$1,000.00	Worthington International Festival
Department of Public Transformation	\$5,000.00	The YES! House Events Series & Leadership
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	\$4,000.00	Coaching Program
Foundation for Essential Needs	\$10,000.00	Food Shelves Support
Friends of the Orchestra Ltd.	\$5,715.79	Fiscal Year 2023 Disbursement
Greater Milan Initiative	\$10,000.00	Milan Kids Club/ECFE Program
Greater Milan Initiative	\$500.00	Milan Navigators 4-H Club
Greater Milan Initiative	\$1,200.00	Milan School Alumni Building

SWIF Grants Awarded - Lyon County

7/1/2022 - 6/3/2023

Greater Milan Initiative	\$1,000.00	Milan Youth Center
Greater Minnesota Family Services	\$4,100.00	Day Treatment in Chippewa County
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota	\$2,000.00	Southwest Minnesota Immigration Project
ISD #2167 - Lakeview	\$1,000.00	High School Robotics
ISD #2167 - Lakeview	\$1,000.00	F.C.C.L.A.
ISD #2167 - Lakeview	\$1,000.00	STEAM
ISD #2167 - Lakeview	\$1,000.00	Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities
ISD #2898 - Westbrook Walnut Grove Schools	\$1,000.00	New Fifth Grade Desks
ISD #2902 - Russell Tyler Ruthton Public Schools	\$6,920.00	School Grants
ISD #2902 - Russell Tyler Ruthton Public Schools	\$1,000.00	Tyler Arts Council
ISD #2902 - Russell Tyler Ruthton Public Schools	\$4,000.00	School Grants
ISD #2902 - Russell Tyler Ruthton Public Schools	\$6,005.00	Junior Knights, Fitness, FFA, and Yearbook Program
ISD #2904 - Tracy Area Schools	\$2,000.00	Pre-School Updates
ISD #2904 - Tracy Area Schools	\$1,000.00	Elementary School Sign
ISD #2904 - Tracy Area Schools	\$2,367.00	Pre-School Updates
ISD #413 - Marshall	\$2,500.00	Marshall Career & Technical Institute
ISD #413 - Marshall	\$500.00	Major Madness
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota	\$1,000.00	Mission Support
Marshall Area YMCA	\$20,000.00	Middle School After School Program
Milan Village Arts School	\$500.00	2023 Spoon Gathering
Milan Village Arts School	\$500.00	Milan Presents a Taste of Syttende Mai 2023
Minnesota Public Radio	\$500.00	Mission Support
Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging	\$9,000.00	Supporting Community Engagement
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation	\$2,500.00	Community Foundation Opportunity Network
Pioneer PBS	\$500.00	Mission Support
Prairie Five Community Action Council	\$1,050.00	Bring It Home
Prairie Home Hospice and Community Care	\$10,108.43	Fiscal Year 2023 Disbursement
Prairie Home Hospice and Community Care	\$500.00	Technology Upgrades
Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center	\$1,000.00	Mission Support
Project Morning Star	\$5,000.00	Building Stable Families
Reach Out and Read Minnesota	\$10,000.00	Reach Out and Read in Southwest MN
Rebuilding Together-Twin Cities	\$3,017.00	Mountain Lake Projects
Southwest Adult Basic Education	\$2,000.00	Cultures on the Prairie 2023

SWIF Grants Awarded - Lyon County

7/1/2022 - 6/3/2023

Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council, Inc.	\$5,000.00 Convening Support
Southwest Minnesota State University	\$2,500.00 Outdoor Basketball/Pickleball Court
Southwest Minnesota State University Foundation	\$2,000.00 WorldFest 2023
Southwest West Central Service Cooperative	\$2,000.00 Functional Skills Classroom
Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council	\$2,000.00 Dental for All
Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council	\$1,000.00 Dental for All
St. James Episcopal Church	\$14,343.86 Fiscal Year 2023 Disbursement
Swift County Developmental Achievement Center	\$3,700.00 Enrichment Enhancement
Tracy Ambulance Service	\$1,000.00 EMT/EMR Volunteers
Twin Cities Public Television Inc.	\$500.00 Mission Support
United Community Action Partnership	\$40,000.00 Helping People Get There
United Community Action Partnership	\$1,160.00 Kitchen Table Food Shelf-Tracy
United Community Action Partnership	\$5,830.00 Kitchen Table Food Shelf-Marshall
Visit Marshall	\$1,000.00 Prairie Jam 2023
Western Mental Health Center	\$6,220.00 Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
Wilder Pageant	\$2,500.00 The Little Rest House on the Prairie
Women's Rural Advocacy Programs, Inc.	\$1,000.00 Storage Units
Women's Rural Advocacy Programs, Inc.	\$500.00 Transportation Support

TOTAL GRANTS

\$303,720.86