



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

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April 12, 2024

Joshua Tetzlaff  
New Prague Economic Development Authority  
118 Central Ave N  
New Prague, MN 56071-1533

Dear Joshua,

Since 1986, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) has worked to catalyze entrepreneurial activity within the region and has played a strong role in growing local businesses, from early stage investing and gap loans to traditional loans, as well as program funding in our focus areas of Early Childhood initiatives, community vitality, and economic development. Additionally, SMIF has invested \$56.9 million in grants in our 20-county region during this time period. While these grants support a wide range of projects – from providing books to young children to supporting small town growth – they each have had a transformative and long-term impact on the future of southern Minnesota.



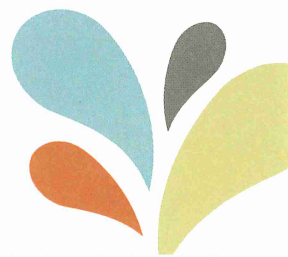
We serve a diverse region where every county, and every community, has unique needs that we strive to address. Enclosed you will find a fact sheet of some of the specific things SMIF has been doing in your county, thanks to the enormous support we receive from our donors. *Thank you for your recent gift of \$500.00 on 7/24/2023. Will you consider making a donation to SMIF in 2025?* Because of generous supporters like you, communities across our region continue to see improvement and growth in countless ways.

Sincerely,

Tim Penny  
President and CEO

cc: Matthew Goldade, Board Member

Collaborating for Regional Vitality





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SMIF's investments and partnerships in

# Le Sueur County since 1986

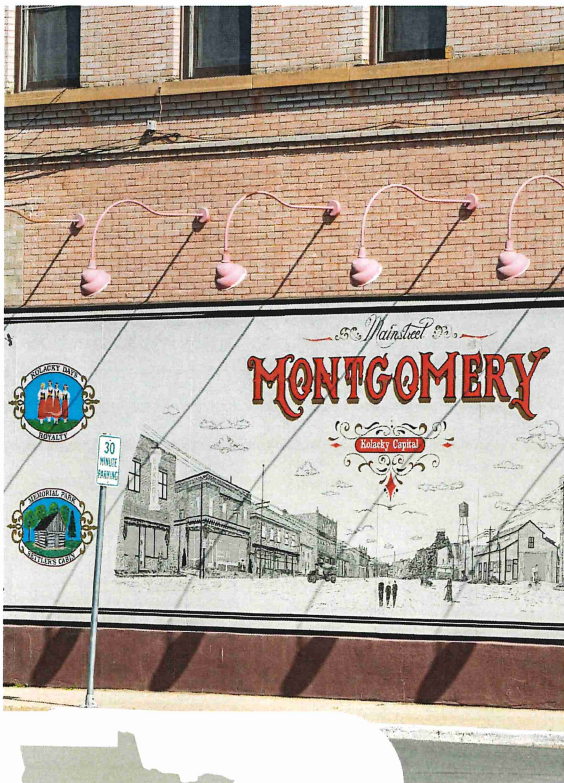
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) is a regional development and philanthropic organization that fosters economic and community vitality in southern Minnesota through a culture of collaboration and partnership. Serving 20 counties which includes 175 communities and one Native nation.

For every donation  
from Le Sueur  
County of

**\$1** → **\$20**

is invested back into  
Le Sueur County  
communities.\*

*\*Includes grants, loans & programming*



## 30 Loans

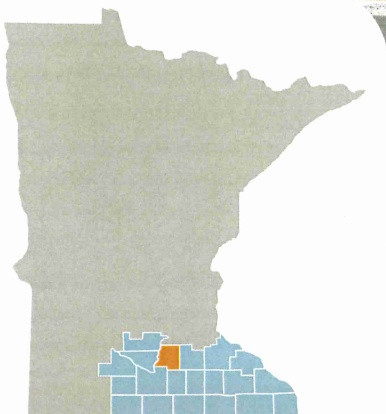
to support entrepreneurs

## 289 Grants

to support community projects

## \$6.3 Million

invested by SMIF in Le Sueur County  
through grants, loans and programming



### Questions?

**Alissa Oeltjenbruns**  
Vice President of Community Vitality  
507-475-3056  
alisso@smifoundation.org

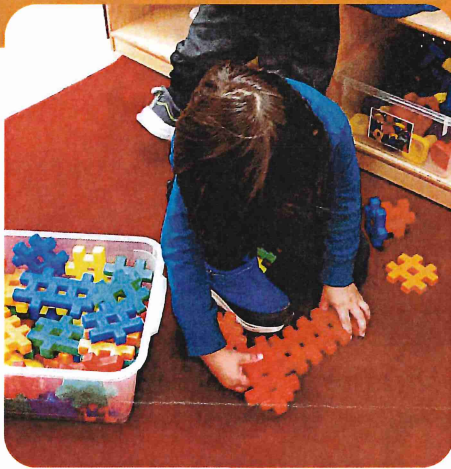


Check out SMIF's recent activity in your county



# SMIF's Recent Activity in Le Sueur County

## Early Childhood Spotlight



**\$17,000 Early Care and Education Grant to New Prague Area Schools Early Learning Program**

*"Thank you for supporting this community resource project. We are thrilled to be able to offer these resource bags to our parents and child care givers/providers. The 4 full day class is really beneficial for students, especially the ones with no previous exposure."*

—Sandy Loxton, Community Ed Director

### Other recent activity:

- 3 child care providers from Waterville and New Prague received free business support

## Entrepreneurship Spotlight



**Loan client: BamaSota BBQ (New Prague)**

*BamaSota BBQ received a Small Enterprise Loan (SEL) for equipment and working capital. The food truck offers slow cooked, wood fired meats and sides, specializing in authentic southern barbecue for catering and events. As an SEL loan client, they also receive technical assistance from SMIF.*

### Other recent loans:

- Bennett Pharmaceuticals of America
- Jonny's Smokin' BBQ

## Community Vitality Spotlight



**\$2,400 Small Town Grant to Ney Environmental Education Foundation for a pollinator garden**

*"By creating the first public pollinator garden in Le Sueur we have given to community members a place to explore, learn from, and emulate. This garden has improved green space within the local school district's land."*

—Rebecca Pollack, Executive Director of NEEF

### Other recent activity:

- \$23,000 in matching funds to four Community Foundations
- \$10,000 Small Town Grant to Le Sueur Rotary Club

**3,370** Children Supported

**72** Entrepreneurs Supported