

## HEALTHY COMMUNITY PLAN

**Community/Team Name:** Cass Lake Miracle Group

**Geographic Area:** Cass Lake, Pike Bay Township, Leech Lake Reservation

**HCP Round/Years:** Round 3, September 1998 – September 1999  
(Mn. Des. Team Oct. 1997)

**Project Focus:** Community Development Plan/ Comprehensive plan

**Vision/Purpose Statement:** “Moving ideas and relationships for the advancement of Cass Lake’s economy. We are the exchange agents for accomplishing community MIRACLES.”

**Priorities:** (Short Term Goals. See attached for 1-5 year Goals)

- Community leadership training (Completed HCP 9/99)
- Community clean-up/paint-up
- Establish Boys and Girls Club (Started Jan., 2000)
- Flower plantings
- Establish Parks and Recreation board (Completed 6/99)
- Inventory existing recreation facilities (Completed 7/99)
- Develop neighborhood parks
- Determine Cass Lake market factors (Facilitated by Karl, 11/99)  
(This has resulted in an Economic Development Plan)
  - Establish EDA and Economic Development Plan
  - Joint cooperative staffing of Visitor Center
  - Complete Housing Studies (done)
  - Attract Specific Businesses (Eco/Cultural tourism, small, diverse and unique to Cass Lake that utilizes natural and social resources, value added, Co-Gen. Elec. Plant were primary targeted.)
  - Sell the Community- stress its assets
  - Vibrant Town Center

### Follow Up Grants and Loans:

Loan: Cass Lake Theater

Grants:

- Housing Study (completed 6/98)
- Co-Gen. Feasibility Study (completed 12/98)
- \$25,000 IF Grant for Tourism Partnership/Visitor Center Staffing (4/2000)
- \$40,000 for Boys and Girls Club start-up (4/2000)
- \$500 IF Grant for VISTA volunteer for Boys and Girls Club (6/2000)
- \$23,000 to Boys and Girls Club –start-up YAR and service programs (7/2000)
- \$10,000 to City (and Visitor Center Partnership) for festival start-up funds (12/00)
- \$10,000 Grant from City for Streetscaping Planning (2001)
- \$15,000 Grant from Init. Foundation to Boys and Girls Club to continue Teen Service 10/01)
- VISTA volunteer for Boys and Girls Club ( yr. 2, starts 6/2001)
- \$5,000 HOP Training grant for Boys & Girls Club (8/2001)
- \$10,000 IF Grant for Cass Lake Tourism (9/2001)
- \$225,000 over 5 years for Weed and Seed grant (US Dept. of Justice)

- \$10,000 from Grotto Foundation for community festivals (April 2002)
- \$100,000 Domestic Violence Reduction grant (to CL Police from Upper Midwest Community Policing Institute- June 2002)
- \$23,900 grant- Geo. Neilson Fam. Found. - renovation Boys & Girls club (6/2002)
- \$499,000 grants- Mi-Gi-Zi Trail (\$175K- T-21; \$147K- DNR; \$177K- USFS) (2002)
- \$125,000 COPS Grant (School Security) for 3 years (9/2002)
- \$5,000 IF grant for Streetscape Design (11/2002)
- \$70,000 USDA –RD grant for Tourism Partnership Activities (2002-2005)
- \$1,500 (IF) – CURA/CAP student to assess impact of Superfund Site cleanup (7/2003)
- \$5,000 IF grant for an Economic Development Plan (1/2004)
- \$25,000 IF grant for the Bootstraps Project (People Connection) (6/2004)
- \$10,000 grant to repeat HCP process (10/2004)
- \$1.2 million (\$800K federal, \$400K MnDOT) transportation funds for Rest Area/Visitor Center on Hwy 2. (2005 with Construction to begin 5/06)
- \$250,000 leveraged with local lodging tax to develop and distribute Visitors Guide ('05)
- \$201,000 related to Scenic Byway designation and enhancement projects (2003-2006)
- \$10,000 IF grant for Camp Rabideau Conservation Academy project (4/2006)
- \$2.6 million for Streetscaping project (to begin construction in '06) (\$1.9 million federal and balance stat, county , and local)

### **Key Accomplishments:**

- Mn. Design Team Visit- (October 1997)
- Completed Comprehensive Plan (1998)
- Market Study Plan completed (November 1999)
- Community Celebration/Design Team Revisited (October 2000)
- Visitor Center established and staffed through Partnership and IF grant (2000)
- Started four annual, seasonal community festivals, Chain Reaction Festival (began January, 2000) New Winter festival, Migizzi (Eagle) Festival (June), Rib Fest (August) and Call of the Fall (Sept., 02) Spun off to Chamber in 2005 as fundraisers.
- Initiative Foundation Community Initiatives Award (First ever) (October 2000)
- Community Voices against Violence (CVAV) wins State Peace Award (April 2001)
- Housing Study being done by CMHP through IF Grant (April – May 2001)
- Streetscaping planning/design underway (2001-2002)
- Boys and Girls Club raise over \$6,000 in local fund drive (2002)
- Boys and Girls Club receive house for Teen Center, Americorps youth renovating.
- Youthworks – 70 youth/year come to Cass Lake to perform “community projects (02-06)
- Cass Lake MIRACLE group featured in ntl. publication by Points of Light Foundation ('04)
- Mi-Gi-Zi (eagle) Bike Trail around Pike bay completed (2004-5)
- PWT Walleye Tournament secured for Cass Lake (June, 2004)
- Boys and Girls Club expanding to several other communities on reservation (2005-2006)
- Ojibwe Village opens along Hwy. 2 (2006)
- Streetscaping project implemented in downtown (2006)
- Starting a Farmers’ and Crafters’ Market in downtown Cass Lake (June 2006)
- See completed Grants and Goals above
- Weed and Seed Program is running and working in Cass Lake, 2006
- CVAV is talking again – 4 sessions held with the Government to improve relations, 2006
- Funding for Streetscape approved, 2006

- Funding for Rest Area approved, 2006

**Date Updated:** July 7, 2006