

News You Can Use for Communities August 2008



**INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION**

Workshops

What is a Healthy Organization? (And how do we become one?)

*Thursday, September 4th
8:30am to 11:00am
Initiative Foundation, Little Falls*

This workshop is for nonprofit leadership teams (executive directors and/or board leaders) who wish to understand nonprofit effectiveness indicators and strengthen their organization from the inside out.

With help from Initiative Foundation staff and a professional consultant, you'll begin to assess your nonprofit's strengths, challenges and current stage of organizational development. You'll also learn how a partnership with the foundation may help you become more effective, strategic and stable.

Register by August 27th ~ there is no cost to attend but registration is required!

For more information or to download a registration form visit www.ifound.org (and look under Key Dates & Events) or contact Tricia Holig at tholig@ifound.org, 320-631-2003.

The Blandin Foundation is hosting their annual Broadband Conference - ***Connected Communities: Making the Net Work for Minnesota.***

This year the Blandin Foundation will also be hosting a Minnesota Intelligent Communities Award. The Blandin Foundation along with DEED will be partnering with the national [Intelligent Community Forum](#) (ICF) to recognize the top Intelligent Communities in Minnesota. Watch for more information on how your communities can participate.

Event Information

Connected Communities: Making the Net Work for Minnesota
December 3 - 4, 2008
Eden Prairie, Minnesota, MN

Conference Highlights

Pre-Conference Webinars: Fiber to the Home - Wireless Technology - Interactive Policy Session
Minnesota Intelligent Communities Award Competition
*Pre-Conference Workshops Design Nine: Andrew Cohill ** Intelligent Community Forum:*
Robert Bell
Keynote Speaker: Robert Bell, Intelligent Community Forum

Funding Opportunities

Grants Address Family Farming Issues

[Farm Aid](#)

The mission of Farm Aid is to keep family farmers on their land. Farm Aid supports nonprofit organizations that work to maintain a family farm system of agriculture and that promote solutions to the challenges facing rural communities. Grants are awarded in the following categories: Growing the Good Food Movement, with emphasis on encouraging new markets for family farmers; Helping Farmers Thrive, including assisting farmers to transition to more sustainable farming practices; and Taking Action to Change the System, which focuses on promoting fair farm policies. Applications for grants from \$1,000 to \$40,000 are due on August 31, annually. Grant program details are available at: <http://www.farmaid.org>.

Bereavement Programs for Youth

[A Little HOPE](#) - the National Foundation for Grieving Children, Teens, and Families, provides grants to nonprofit organizations nationwide that provide services to children and teens who have experienced the loss of a parent or loved one. A Little HOPE funds bereavement programs and camps that provide grieving youth opportunities for sharing and self-expression in healthy and positive ways. The focus is on grief counseling and peer support groups that offer a wide variety of activities using art, writing, music, and physical play to help children and teens cope with the loss of a family member. In addition, support is provided to efforts that develop the confidence and skills needed in order to experience future success, in spite of the loss of their loved one. Letters of inquiry will be accepted in the months of July and August and are due by August 31, 2008. Visit <http://www.alittlehope.org/> for more information.

Protection of Local Habitats

[Patagonia Environmental Grant Program](#) provides support to small, grassroots activist organizations with provocative direct-action agendas, working on multi-pronged campaigns to protect the environment. Patagonia primarily funds local groups working to protect local habitats in the United States, as well as in Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Proposals are accepted through the Patagonia website during the months of April and August each year, and must be submitted by April 30 or August 31. (Applications are accepted year-round at local retail Patagonia stores.) Visit <http://www.patagonia.com/web/us/patagonia.go?assetid=2942> for program details and application information.

Support for Intergenerational Literacy Programs

[Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy: National Grant Program](#)

The goal of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy's National Grant Program is to develop and expand family literacy efforts nationwide, and to support the development of literacy programs that build families of readers. The program provides grants for projects that are designed to support the development of literacy skills for adult primary care givers and their

children. Eligible instructional literacy programs must have been in existence at least two years and include one or more of the following components: literacy for adults, parent education, literacy or pre-literacy instruction for children pre-K to grade 3, and intergenerational literacy activities. A total of \$650,000 will be awarded for grants of up to \$65,000. The application deadline is September 5, 2008. Application guidelines and grant program details are available at: <http://www.barbarabushfoundation.com/nga.html>.

Grassroots Support for Women's and Children's Programs

[WHO Foundation: Women Helping Others](#) The WHO Foundation: Women Helping Others supports grassroots organizations throughout the United States and Puerto Rico that serve the overlooked needs of women and children. The Foundation provides funding for critical health and education projects that give women and children the knowledge and tools they need to improve their lives. Examples of funded programs include food and shelter for the homeless, healthcare for the poor, after-school programs, career training for under-employed women, and domestic violence prevention programs. Applications must be submitted by the second Tuesday of September, annually. Visit http://whofoundation.org/WHO_Funding.htm to download the Foundation's application form.

Alleviate Hunger, Prevent Disease and Youth Programs

The Burger King Foundation provides support to nonprofit organizations that have long-term positive impact on the U.S. communities served by the company. The Foundation focuses the majority of its support on organizations that alleviate hunger, prevent disease, and provide youth programs. Additionally, the Foundation funds the BURGER KING Scholars Program, and, on a limited basis, supports the efforts of nonprofit institutions that seek to improve scholastic opportunities. **The deadline is September 15.** For more information, go to <http://www.bk.com/companyinfo/community/hiywfoundation.aspx>

Housing Impact

The Home Depot has funding available in its Housing Impact Grants Program. Grants range between \$500 and \$3,000 each. The program supports affordable housing projects built or preserved with environmentally friendly, efficient, and durable materials that increase energy and water efficiency, improve indoor air quality, and reduce maintenance costs. **The deadlines are September 15 and December 15.** For more information, visit <http://corporate.homedepot.com/wps/portal>

Preservation Funds for American Treasures

[Institute of Museum and Library Services: American Heritage Preservation Program](#)

The purpose of the American Heritage Preservation Program, an initiative of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in partnership with Bank of America, is to fund the preservation of treasures held in small and mid-sized museums, libraries, and archives that convey the essential character of the United States. Grants will provide funds to preserve specific items, including works of art, rare books, scientific specimens, and historical documents that are

in need of conservation. Projects in the following areas are eligible for funding: treatment of library, museum, and archival collections; improvement of collections storage; and environmental improvement of collections. The application deadline is September 15, 2008. Visit <http://www.ims.gov/news/2008/071008.shtm> to read the IMLS press release about the program, and to download the application guidelines.

Green Communities Planning and Construction Grants

Sponsored by Enterprise Communities Partners are available up to \$50,000 to cover costs related to “Greening” items such as materials, HVAC systems, appliances, etc. **Deadline for applications is September 18.** For more information email greencommunities@enterprisecommunity.org or Telephone: 410-715-7433. Application forms can be found on the website at <http://www.greencommunitiesonline.org/tools/funding/grants/index.asp>.

Awards Promote Aluminum Can Recycling Efforts

[U.S. Conference of Mayors: City Recycling Challenge](#)

The City Recycling Challenge, an initiative of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, is a national contest that rewards cities for recycling aluminum beverage cans. Cities compete against like-sized cities in four divisions determined by population. The following three types of awards of \$2,500 and \$5,000 are being offered: Most Cans Collected awards will be presented to the city in each division that collects the most recyclable aluminum beverage cans between October 1 and October 31, 2008. Most Innovative Ideas awards will be presented to one city in each division for developing the most exciting ideas to promote aluminum beverage can recycling in their community. Partner with Local Keep America Beautiful (KAB) Affiliate awards recognize cities that partner with their local KAB organization to create the most sustainable aluminum beverage can recycling initiative. Cities may enroll in the program through September 30, 2008. Visit <http://www.cans4cash.com/> for more information.

Creative K-12 Projects Funded

[Kids in Need Teacher Grants](#)

The Kids In Need Foundation seeks to engage students in the learning process by supporting creative teachers from across the United States. Kids in Need Teacher Grants, sponsored by retailers and credit unions, provide K-12 educators with funding to develop innovative learning opportunities for their students. The purpose of the grant program is to provide funds for classroom teachers who have meritorious ideas but lack the budget to bring them to life. Projects qualify for funding if they make creative use of common teaching aids, approach the curriculum from an imaginative angle, or tie nontraditional concepts together for the purpose of illustrating commonalities. Typically, 200 to 300 grants from \$100 to \$500 are awarded each year. The application deadline is September 30, 2008. Visit <http://www.kidsinneed.net/grants/index.php> to submit the appropriate online application for your geographic region.

Grants Target U.S. Hunger Programs

[Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Domestic Hunger Program](#)

The goal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Domestic Hunger Program is to provide relief and development assistance for those who suffer from hunger and injustices related to hunger in the United States. Priority is given to programs that help people with the least resources for meeting their basic needs as well as to women and children living in poverty. Grants are provided in the following categories: Relief, Sustainable Development, Community Organizing, Education, and Advocacy. Funded projects should have, whenever possible, some formal or informal connection with the ELCA, its synods, congregations, affiliated organizations, or ministries. The application deadline is October 1, 2008. Application forms may be downloaded at: <http://archive.elca.org/grantinghope/>.

Funds for Youth Service-Learning Projects in the U.S. and Canada

[State Farm Youth Advisory Board Grant Program](#)

The State Farm Youth Advisory Board is composed of young adults who demonstrate exemplary work in service-learning and philanthropy in their communities. The Youth Advisory Board Grant Program funds student-led service-learning projects throughout the United States and in the provinces of Alberta, New Brunswick, and Ontario in Canada. Specific areas of interest include: disaster preparedness, driver safety, environmental responsibility, accessing higher education, and financial literacy. Educators who currently teach in a public K-12, charter, or higher education institution are eligible to apply. Nonprofit organizations are also eligible if they are able to demonstrate how they plan to interact with students in public K-12 schools. Grants range from \$25,000 to \$100,000. Applications must be submitted by October 3, 2008, through <http://www.statefarmyab.com/>.

Awards for Student Volunteers

[Prudential Spirit of Community Awards](#)

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, sponsored by Prudential Financial and administered by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, recognize middle and high school students for volunteer community service. Eligible applicants include any young person in the United States who is in grades 5-12 and has engaged in a volunteer activity that occurred at least partly during the 12 months prior to the date of application. Local honorees are selected in November, and from these winners two state honorees are chosen in each state and the District of Columbia. Out of the state honorees, ten national honorees are selected and announced at a ceremony in Washington, DC, in May of 2009. State Honorees receive an award of \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, DC, for national recognition events. National Honorees receive an additional award of \$5,000. The application deadline is October 31, 2008. Visit <http://www.prudential.com/spirit/> for program details.

Innovative Community News Ideas Funded

[Knight News Challenge](#)

Through the Knight News Challenge, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation will award \$5 million for innovative ideas that develop platforms, tools, and services to transform community news, conversations, and information distribution and visualization. Grants will be provided for initiatives that will improve local online news, deepen community engagement, bring Web 2.0

tools to local neighborhoods, and develop publishing platforms and standards to support local conversations. Nonprofit organizations, for-profit companies, and individuals worldwide are eligible to submit proposals that use digital news and information in a new way to create a sense of community for people in a given geographic area. This year's competition will set aside \$500,000 specifically for people 25 and under. Applications will be accepted from September 2 to November 1, 2008, through <http://www.newschallenge.org/>.

Outstanding Young Leaders Honored

[Nestle Very Best In Youth Program](#)

The Nestle Very Best In Youth Program, sponsored by Nestle USA, honors young people throughout the United States who have excelled in school and who are making their community and the world a better place. Twenty-five young people between 13 and 18 years of age, selected from nominations from volunteers, parents, and teachers, will be featured in a special publication and honored at a ceremony in Los Angeles, CA, in the summer of 2009. Nestle will also donate \$1,000 in the name of each winner to the charity of his or her choice. Nominees should have strong backgrounds in citizenship, school, community involvement, and reading. The nomination deadline is November 20, 2008. Visit <http://nestle-verybestinyouth.com/> to download the nomination guidelines and forms.

Funds for Alcoholism Prevention Programs Funded

[Christopher D. Smithers Foundation](#)

The mission of the Christopher D. Smithers Foundation is to educate the public that alcoholism is a respectable, treatable disease from which people can and do recover; encourage prevention programs and activities, with an emphasis on high risk populations; and continually fight to reduce and eliminate the stigma that is associated with the disease of alcoholism. The Foundation focuses its grantmaking on the issues of alcoholism, including prevention, treatment, research, public education, and creating awareness of these problems in the nation's work world. While a number of grants go to national organizations, regional and local organizations across the country also receive funds. Applications are accepted throughout the year. Application guidelines are available at: <http://www.smithersfoundation.org>.

Community Improvement Programs in the U.S. and Canada Supported

[Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation](#)

The Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation provides support to nonprofit organizations throughout the United States and Canada that improve communities and positively impact lives. The grantmaking emphasis is on programs that help children and families, animals, or the environment. The Foundation's grants range between \$1,000 and \$10,000 with an average grant of approximately \$2,500. Requests are accepted throughout the year and are reviewed quarterly. Online applications may be submitted through <http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/babwfoundation.aspx> .

[Delta Dental Focuses on MN Teeth](#)

Through its Philanthropy Program, Delta Dental of Minnesota provides support to Minnesota nonprofit organizations whose programs address oral health and educational activities. For more information visit: <http://www.grantstation.com/index.asp#eighteen>.

Foundation Offers Art Exhibition Support

The Terra Foundation for American Art is accepting applications from nonprofit art and cultural institutions throughout the U.S for its Exhibition Program. For more information visit: <http://www.grantstation.com/index.asp#twenty>.

Federal Deadlines

Excerpts from GrantStation's Listings of Federal Notices

Department of Justice: Weed and Seed Communities Competitive Program

This program seeks to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, criminal drug-related activity, and gang activity through a community-based multi-agency approach. For more information visit: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo/funding/appl_kit.html

National Science Foundation: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program

This program seeks to increase the number of students receiving associate or baccalaureate degrees in established or emerging fields within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. For more information visit:

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf08569.

Other News

Microsoft NGO Connection

The Microsoft NGO Connection website has been launched to provide nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) a place to go to learn how to use technology more effectively and to access the resources Microsoft and its partners offer. The website provides free or discounted software applications, training and certification information, and NGO discussion forums. The goal of the website is to help NGOs achieve their organizational goals more efficiently. Visit

<http://www.microsoft.com/About/CorporateCitizenship/CommunityInvestment/NGO/en/us/default.msp> to learn more about this new online resource.

School Administration Resource

Over the past couple of years the Initiative Foundation has shared information with you about our Healthy Schools Partnership program, a two-year pilot program that provided training and assistance to K-12 school board members and administrators to help them assess and improve effectiveness and strengthen linkages within their communities. As we end this program we have placed a number of resource documents on our website. These tools are available at no charge to any interested party. Special thanks to consultant, Bruce Miles of big River Consulting Group for his assistance with this project. If interested, here's the link:

http://www.ifound.org/event_information.php?EventsCalendarID=74

Public Libraries and Community Economic Development: Partnering for Success

In the past decade, economic development experts have moved away from traditional approaches to economic development that have relied upon recruiting or attracting large businesses with offers of tax breaks, financial incentives, and other subsidies. Increasingly, communities are focusing their economic development resources on supporting the growth of existing businesses and creating a nurturing and information-rich environment where new entrepreneurs can flourish.

by Christine Hamilton-Pennell, MLIS, MAR1

Full Story: http://www.iira.org/pubsnew/publications/IIRA_RRR_688.pdf

Share Your Opinion to Support Vibrant Communities in Minnesota I invite you to take a survey about our community. The Minnesota State Arts Board and our regional arts council want to hear your opinion about needs and resources in our community, and how the arts can help our community flourish.

It is very important that they hear from you so they can develop programs that are valuable to all Minnesotans. Your responses will help to set funding priorities and activities for the next five years.

Click on the link below to take the survey.

<http://www.theimprovementgroup.com/surveys/mnarts.htm> Complete the survey by Friday, September 5, 2008 After you submit your survey, you will be directed to another webpage where you can enter a prize drawing. Prizes include \$1,000 grand prizes and a number of \$100 prizes. Please enter my contact information as the person who referred you to this survey. This survey is being managed by an independent research firm, the Improve Group, to keep your responses anonymous and confidential. Contact Susan at the Improve Group with any questions: toll-free telephone (877-467-7847) or email (susanm@theimprovementgroup.com)

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Reducing Energy Costs in Minnesota Local Governments

This summer two compilations of Minnesota case studies were published that showcase the cost-saving benefits of local government efforts to cut energy use and to use energy more efficiently. Both are based on surveys of actions being taken by cities across Minnesota:

- *Best Practices Review: Reducing Energy Costs in Local Government* (Office of the State Auditor - www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx look under: Reports & Data)
- *2008 State of the Cities* report, chapter 3 (League of Minnesota Cities - <http://www.lmnc.org/page/1/sustainability-resources.jsp>)

Get special introductory pricing on **Food, Farmland, & Open Space**, the newest in our *Taking a Closer Look* series.

Offer valid through Sunday, August 31st.

Order the attractively bound 62-page reprint set for delivery by first-class mail at a special discount price of \$18.50 (will be \$23.50 as of Sept. 1st). Flat shipping & handling fee of \$5.00 regardless of quantity of reprint sets ordered. To order go to: plannersweb.com/specialoffers.html or call our office: 802-864-9083 (if you need to be invoiced).