



Workshops

Influencing Change Workshop – learn how to transform public policy decisions.

November 20, 2008, 9:30 a.m. to Noon at the Initiative Foundation.

Cost is \$20 which includes light breakfast and materials. Participants will learn about: effective ways to communicate with your elected officials; passing legislation; state funding & budgeting processes; and legal issues on advocacy and lobbying. Registration deadline is November 10. For more workshop information, please visit www.ifound.org or contact Jolene Howard toll-free at 877/632-9255.

A Business Retention and Expansion Techniques Workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. including lunch. Thursday, November 13, 2008 at Region 5 D.C. Headquarters, 403 Prairie Ave NE, Staples, Minnesota

A workshop for economic development professionals, volunteers and other community leaders to learn how to conduct effective firm visits and learn about BR&E resources from University of Minnesota Extension. Cost: \$25 per person or \$50 per community team (2 to 4 people).

In order to pre-schedule business visits, the registration deadline is Friday, November 7th. Call: 888-241-4591 or 320-203-6109

Register online at: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/workshops/> and search for item P030184

Dynamic Farmers' Market Fall Conference agenda and registration form for the upcoming has been posted to the Minnesota Farmers' Market Association [website](#). You will find it as a pdf under the “**Upcoming**” section of the website.

Two dates and locations, but you just need to choose one as the agenda is the same both days:

Tuesday, November 18 – T. Maxwell's in Staples, Minnesota

Wednesday, November 19 – Cabela's in Owatonna, Minnesota

The conference theme is “Learning from Each Other”, and as you will note, several segments of the agenda provide the interactive opportunity for sharing and exchanging ideas.

In that regard, **we invite all attendees to share printed materials they use to promote their market**. These materials will be displayed at the conference and copies available to inspire other attendees! If you have items you would like to share, please send one hard copy of each item to Ruth White, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55155-2538. Ruth will see that the necessary copies are made, but **all items need to be received by Ruth by October 17th**. After that date, attendees are asked to bring 100 copies of their promotional pieces directly to the conference.

In addition, **we are looking for participants on a couple of panels** -- Topics are

“**Sponsorship/Friends of the Farmers' Market**” and “**Printed Materials for Promotion**”.

- Do you have market sponsors or a friends of the farmers' market program? Who are your sponsors? How do you recruit sponsors? How did you start the farmers' market program? Who is involved?
- What kind of printed promotional pieces does your market have? Where do you get your ideas? Who creates your promotional materials? Have you found them to be successful? How and where do you distribute?

If you plan on attending the conference and would like to share your experience (whether good, great or not so successful) about either one of these topics, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Carol Morris at 763-494-6002 or via email at cmorris@ci.maple-grove.mn.us. Please provide your name, market, and which panel you would like to participate.

Funding Opportunities

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 the website listed above to download the nomination guidelines and forms.

Support for Farmers and Rural Residents

The AgStar Fund for Rural America, a corporate-giving program of AgStar Financial Services, is proud to announce they are accepting grant applications to support farmers and rural residents. Up to \$10,000 is available per organization in one of AgStar's four focus areas: Education, Environment, Technology or Quality of Life. For more information regarding the grant application process please visit www.agstar.com. Applications must be completed on-line and will be accepted through November 30, 2008. Organizations receiving a grant will be notified in March 2009.

Seed Money for Social Change Activists

[Echoing Green Fellowships](#)

Echoing Green sparks social change by identifying, funding, and supporting some of the world's most extraordinary emerging social entrepreneurs and the organizations they launch. Each year, Echoing Green awards 20 two-year fellowships to help social entrepreneurs launch new organizations that deliver bold, high-impact solutions. Fellows receive up to \$90,000 in seed funding and technical support to turn their innovative ideas into sustainable organizations. Individuals at least 18 years of age, or partnerships (organizations led by two people), are eligible to apply. The application deadline is December 1, 2008. Visit the Echoing Green website to review the Applicant Coaching Guide and submit an online application.

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 deadline is December 15.** For more information, visit <http://corporate.homedepot.com/wps/portal>

Grants Enhance Community Football Fields

[NFL Youth Football Fund Grassroots Program](#)

The NFL Youth Football Fund Grassroots Program, funded by the National Football League and administered by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, provides support for neighborhood-based organizations and schools to create or rehabilitate playing fields in underserved neighborhoods. Field Surface Grants of up to \$200,000 are available to help finance the resurfacing of community, middle school, or high school football fields. General Field Support grants of up to \$50,000 are available for capital projects not associated with the actual field surface, such as the installation/refurbishment of bleachers, concession stands, lights, etc. All organizations applying for funds must be located within NFL Target Markets, and serve low- to moderate-income areas within those markets. A list of eligible communities is included in the Request for Proposals (RFP). The application deadline is December 15, 2008. Visit the website listed above to download the 2008 RFP.

Grants Promote Cultural Conservation Worldwide

[Genographic Legacy Fund](#)

The Genographic Legacy Fund, administered by the National Geographic Foundation, supports indigenous or traditional communities worldwide. The Fund provides grants of up to US\$25,000 for the preservation and revitalization of tangible or intangible indigenous or traditional culture. Examples of funded projects include documenting a traditional language or oral history, traditional language training or curriculum development, and preserving significant sites and artifacts. Projects must show strong local community involvement in their planning, governance, and implementation and must deliver positive, tangible, and sustainable benefits. The next application deadline is December 15, 2008. Detailed information on the Fund's priorities and application guidelines are available on the website listed above.

Aquatic Conservation Programs Funded Worldwide

[Project AWARE Foundation](#)

The Project AWARE Foundation is committed to the preservation of the aquatic environment and its resources throughout the world through education, advocacy, and action. The Foundation provides grants for the conservation of both marine and freshwater underwater environments, with a focus on coral reefs, shark protection, sustainable fisheries, ecotourism, shoreline cleanups, and aquatic education for children. Grants range up to US \$10,000, AU \$2,500, or UK £5,000. Requests are reviewed quarterly; the next application deadline is December 15, 2008. Application guidelines are available on the Foundation's website.

USDA Utilities Programs Technical Assistance for Communities with Water or Wastewater Systems

Funds may be used to pay expenses associated with providing technical assistance and/or training (TAT) to identify and evaluate solutions to water problems relating to source, storage, treatment, and distribution, and to waste disposal problems relating to collection, treatment, and disposal; assist applicants that have filed a preapplication with RUS in the preparation of water and/or waste disposal loan and/or grant applications; and to provide training that will improve the management, operation and maintenance of water and waste disposal facilities. Due December 31, 2008.

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=42995>
<<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=42995>>

Grants Enhance K-12 School Libraries

[Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries](#)

The goal of the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries is to provide print books to the school libraries and students that most need them. Grants of up to \$6,000 are made to update, extend, and diversify the book collections of school libraries throughout the United States. Preference is given to elementary, middle, or high schools in which 90% or more of the school population receives free or reduced lunch. Funds are available only for library books and magazine/serial copies, and subscriptions; requests for staffing, shelving, furniture, equipment, software, videos, classroom book sets, or exams are not eligible. All grants are made to individual schools rather than to school districts, foundations, or other entities. The application deadline is December 31, 2008. Online application information is available on the website listed above.

Grants Promote Native Arts

[National Museum of the American Indian: Indigenous Contemporary Arts Program](#)

The National Museum of the American Indian's Indigenous Contemporary Arts Program offers support to a wide range of activities with the goal of increasing the understanding and appreciation of contemporary Native American arts. The Exhibitions and Publications grant category supports projects that interpret and present the work of contemporary Native visual artists to the public and encourage dialogue and critical commentary. The Expressive Arts category promotes the creation and presentation of new works through the collaboration of two or more Native artists. The Artist Leadership Program enables indigenous artists to research, network, and develop life skills to enhance artistic growth and strengthen career development. The Emerging Artist Program seeks to enhance the artistic growth of young artists in high school and college. The application deadline for the first two categories is January 15, 2009. Applications for the last two categories are due April 6, 2009. Visit the website listed above for details on each of the program's grant categories.

Funds for K-12 Science Projects

[Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers](#)

The Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers program, administered by the National Science Teachers Association, recognizes K-12 science teachers throughout the United States for innovative projects that enhance science education in their schools and/or school districts. The grant categories are: Physical Science Application, Environmental Science Education, and

Integrating Literacy and Science. Fifty large grants of up to \$10,000 and a minimum of twenty mini-grants of up to \$2,500 will be awarded in 2009. All applicants must have at least two years of science teaching experience in a K-12 school, not including the current school year. The deadline for the completion of the online application is January 21, 2009. Visit the website listed above for program details and application information.

K-12 School-Community Programs Funded

[Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation: Toolbox for Education Grant Program](#)

The Toolbox for Education Grant Program, offered by Lowe ' s Charitable and Educational Foundation, provides grants of up to \$5,000 to K-12 public schools and 501(c)(3) school parent-teacher groups associated with public schools that develop projects that encourage parent involvement and build stronger community spirit. Lowe's will donate \$5 million at more than 1,000 different schools throughout the U.S. during the 2008-2009 school year. Preference is given to funding requests which have a permanent impact such as facility enhancement as well as landscaping/clean-up projects. The upcoming application deadline is February 13, 2009. Visit the website listed above to take the eligibility test and submit an online application.

International Grants for Running Track Construction

[Bowerman Track Renovation Program](#)

The Bowerman Track Renovation Program, administered by Nike's Corporate Responsibility Department, provides matching cash grants to community-based, youth-oriented organizations that seek to refurbish or construct running tracks anywhere in the world. Matching grants of up to \$50,000 are provided to nonprofit organizations, NGOs, government agencies, schools, and school districts. Requests are reviewed quarterly, and will be accepted on an ongoing basis through May 31, 2009. Application guidelines may be downloaded from the website listed above.

Funds for Solar, Wind, and Other Renewable Energy Projects for Homeowners

Saint Paul - Governor Pawlenty announced that \$10 million is now available for micro-energy and conservation home improvement loans to help Minnesotans save on energy costs. Micro-energy and conservation loans will be made by the Fix-Up Fund, a statewide program that offers affordable, low-interest fixed-rate loans through Minnesota Housing's large network of lending partners across the state. Funds are available from repayments of previously made loans. Under the loan program, homeowners are encouraged to get an energy audit from their utility company to determine the most cost-effective energy-efficient improvements. Interested homeowners can then apply for the loans directly through a Fix-Up Fund lender. Lenders are listed at www.mnhousing.gov/consumers/lender.

Minnesota also received additional funding for low income weatherization projects. The state currently serves 3,000 households with this program but will be able to expand that with the new allocation of \$16 million. The weatherization program provides home energy conservation audits, safety inspections and assessments of furnaces and indoor air quality. For more information on energy efficiency, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or the Weatherization Assistance Program, contact the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Info Center: 651-296-5175 or toll free in Minnesota 1-800-657-3710

Email: energy.info@state.mn.us

On the web: www.energy.mn.gov or www.commerce.state.mn.us click on Energy Assistance

Support for Bank Communities

[Wells Fargo Charitable Contributions Program](#)

Wells Fargo is committed to improving the bank's local communities in 23 states through grants and volunteer activities. The funding priorities of the Wells Fargo Charitable Contributions Program vary from state to state; however, the bank generally supports the following areas of interest: community development, including housing, job training, economic development, and programs for small businesses and farms; education, including K-12 education with an emphasis on math/science and financial literacy programs; human services, including childcare, healthcare, and basic needs; and arts, culture, and civic projects. Visit the website listed above and click on your state in order to review the local funding guidelines and application procedures.

Funds for National and Local Programs

[Allstate Foundation](#)

The Allstate Foundation provides support to national programs as well as local programs in company communities throughout the United States. Proposals must address needs within one of the following three focus areas: Tolerance, Inclusion, and Diversity, including teaching tolerance and ending discrimination and hate crimes; Safe and Vital Communities, including youth anti-violence, neighborhood revitalization, and teen driving safety; and Economic Empowerment, including financial education and empowerment for domestic violence victims. Applications are accepted throughout the year. Visit the website listed above to review the funding guidelines and access local contact information.

Support for Math and Science Education Programs

[Toyota USA Foundation](#)

The Toyota USA Foundation is committed to improving the quality of K-12 education throughout the country by supporting innovative programs that improve the teaching and learning of mathematics and science. The Foundation places priority on systemic math and science programs that are broad in scope and incorporate interdisciplinary curricula, "real-world" classroom applications, and high student expectations; creative and innovative programs which develop the potential of students and/or teachers; and cost-effective programs that possess a high potential for success and relatively low duplication of effort. Grants are made to colleges and universities, vocational and trade schools, and nonprofit organizations engaged in pre-collegiate math and/or science education. K-12 public and private schools are not eligible to apply. Requests may be submitted at any time. Online application guidelines are available on the Foundation's website.

Energy Smart Program for Small Business - new!

<http://www.mnenergysmart.com>

This fall Minnesota businesses have a new resource for improving energy efficiency and saving money, and specifically for connecting businesses (with under 100 employees) to existing programs offered by the state's energy utilities. Energy Smart is an arm of Minnesota Waste Wise, a service for members of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, which has 15 years of experience helping businesses save money through waste reduction, resource conservation and now energy efficiency.

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 on the website listed above.

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 the website listed above.

Grants Help Pets and Families Stay Together

[PETCO Foundation: "We Are Family Too" Fund](#)

The PETCO Foundation's "We Are Family Too" Fund supports local nonprofit programs nationwide that address the country's looming difficult financial climate. Grants are provided to shelters that have seen an increase in surrendered animals due to the rise in foreclosures and evictions, as well as to organizations that have programs that help families in their communities stay with their companion animals during these hard economic times. Examples of eligible programs include resources for pet-friendly rentals, spay and neuter services, short term foster homes, etc. Applications may be submitted at any time and generally take up to eight weeks to process. Visit the website listed above to download the application guidelines and form.

Public and School Libraries Invited to Apply for We the People Bookshelf Grant Opportunity

The [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) and the [American Library Association's Public Programs Office](#) have announced that applications are now being accepted for the sixth annual We the People Bookshelf project. Part of the NEH's We the People program, the bookshelf program encourages young people to read and understand great literature while exploring themes in American history.

This year's theme, "Picturing America," explores the premise that a nation's literature, as well as its visual art, can be a window into its character, ideals, and aspirations. The We the People Bookshelf on Picturing America will be a literary complement to the NEH's [Picturing America](#) program — a free education resource that provides reproductions of forty pieces of great American art to schools and public libraries to help educators teach American history and culture.

Public and school (K-12) libraries are invited to apply for the program. In spring 2009, NEH and ALA will select four thousand libraries to receive seventeen books for young readers, plus three works in Spanish translation, as well as bonus materials for readers of all ages. Libraries selected will be required to use the bookshelf selections in programs for young readers in their communities. **Contact:** [Link to Complete RFP](#)

Support for Local Watershed Organizations

[Center for Watershed Protection: Technical Capacity Mini-Grant Program](#)

The Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) works to protect, restore, and enhance the nation's streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and bays. CWP's Technical Capacity Mini-Grant Program will provide support to small watershed organizations throughout the United States. The goal of the mini-grant program is to strengthen the technical capacity of these organizations in the areas of stormwater and watershed management. Up to ten grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 will be awarded. These grants may be in the form of direct assistance from CWP staff or cash awards. Requests may be submitted at any time, and decisions are made on a rolling basis. Visit the website listed above to download the RFP. Please direct questions about the Mini-Grant Program to Lisa Fraley-McNeal at lfm@cwpp.org. (No phone calls please.)

Federal Deadlines

Safe Routes to School Program

Safe Routes to School is a new program in the federal transportation bill, SAFETEA –LU, designed to improve the conditions and quality of bicycling and walking to school. The goal of the program is to reverse the 30 year decline in the numbers of children walking to school and reintroduce opportunities for regular physical activity.

At present fewer than 15% of children K-8 walk or bike to school and nearly 50% of school aged children are regularly driven to school by their parents. Coinciding with the declining numbers of children walking and biking to school is an increase in childhood obesity and Type II diabetes. Using a multidisciplinary approach Safe Routes programs works with schools, students, and parents, at a grass roots level, to identify improvements that will make biking and walking to and from school a routine part of Minnesota's students' experience. You can find more information about the SRTS grant application process at Mn/DOT's SRTS web site: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes/index.html>

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.

Fish and Wildlife Service: Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

This program provides direct technical and financial assistance to landowners interested in restoring, enhancing, and managing fish and wildlife habitats on their own lands.

NASA: Global Climate Change Education

This program is designed to improve the quality of global climate change and Earth system science education at the elementary, secondary, and undergraduate levels.

Other News

Happy Dancing Turtle in Pine River is seeking a full-time Education & Logistics Assistant.

The position includes: assisting in development and implementation of classes, educational activities and special events on a wide range of sustainable living topics; assorted administrative duties; group tours of the HUG campus; and participation in community events. Requirements include: strong communication skills, ability to work with people of all ages, enthusiasm for sustainable living, basic computer skills, min of 4-year college degree. Teaching and sustainable living background beneficial. Wages \$14-\$15/hr (based on experience) + full benefits package. Please submit the Hunt Utilities Group Application & an updated resume to Happy Dancing Turtle Attn: Steffanie 2373 Dancing Wind Rd SW, Pine River, MN 56474. Applications accepted until November 21, 2008. Contact Steffanie at 218-851-8448 or stef@hugllc.com with questions.

A detailed job description, and job application can be found on our website:

www.happydancingturtle.org

Website Promotes Sustainable Cities

[Liveable Streets Network](#)

The Liveable Streets Network is an online community for people working to create sustainable cities through sensible urban planning, design, and transportation policy. The Network provides free, open source, web-based resources to citizens interested in developing a greener economy, addressing climate change, reducing oil dependence, alleviating traffic congestion, and providing better access to good jobs in healthy communities. Visit the Livable Streets website for more information.

[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 the website listed above 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