

# A SAMPLE OF KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN HCP COMMUNITIES

## **Breezy Partners (Breezy Point)**

- Comprehensive plan and ordinances updated in 1998
- Recreation opportunities greatly expanded, including a new ice arena 1999, park and trails
- Over \$35,000 raised for Fun Books for Kids, those passing reading exams improve by 27% over three years, among highest in the state
- Cemetery established, set up in a “neighborhood concept” with walking trails

## **Cass Lake Miracle Group**

- Completed Comprehensive Plan in 1998
- Market Study Plan completed in 1999
- Visitor Center established and staffed- have started four annual, seasonal community festivals
- Started a Boys and Girls Club – working on including a Teen Center, 2000
- Community Voices against Violence (CVAV) wins State Peace Award, April 2001
- Streetscaping project underway, 2002-2003
- \$225,000 Weed and Seed grant over five years from U.S. Department of Justice

## **Cass County**

- Planning done by 14 citizen-led teams with staff support (no consultant costs) saving the county nearly \$100,000 in fees
- Adoption of Comprehensive Plan and Merger of Ordinances, 2004

## **Cold Spring**

- Hosted the Minnesota Design Team to do community visioning, Summer 2004
- Created six action teams around their priority areas, Fall 2004
- Enhanced the design of new Lions park building, Fall 2004
- City mapping and zoning code developed, Fall 2004
- Applied for funding for new Lookout Park
- Community Band formed, Fall 2004
- Down Town Banner project completed, Fall 2004
- Parks inventory, maps and signage
- Sliding hill established from a grant from Stearns Electric, Winter 2005
- Local Faith In Action group established, Winter 2005
- City/Township meetings implemented, Fall 2004
- Cultural/Historical Tourism Guide for Cold Spring
- ROCORI trail (connecting the cities of Rockville, Cold Spring, and Richmond) is progressing

## **Delano Dream Team**

- Cleanup and water monitoring of the Crow River
- Started a Crow River Cleanup Day and is now an annual event
- Paint the Town project and downtown beautification
- Launched Farmers Market, May 2002
- Held Celebrate Delano 2 to measure the effect of the Dream Team
- Initiated Garden Clubs
- New library remodeling completed

## **East Side Boosters (East St. Cloud)**

- Neighborhood Cleanup Day (annual)
- Neighborhood Watch programs started
- Eastgate office development completed. First new development on E. St. Germaine in 30 years
- East Side focus on new City Comprehensive /Downtown Plans
- Comprehensive traffic study on Highway 10 (2002)

### **Hackensack Trailblazers**

- South entrance designed as memorial park/pathway, Summer 2001
- Comprehensive Plan completed and adopted by City Council, June 2002
- Held Candidates Forum, Oct. 2002 - 2004
- Community Visioning session regarding schoolhouse site, February 2003
- Trailside Visitor Center opened August 2003
- Orderly Annexation Agreement in process
- Defibrillators bought for local First Response Team by Lions Club
- South side park completed, 2004
- JOBZ Zone – 131 acres approved
- Plans for renovating historic building for lending library
- Community-Wide Health/Wellness project initiated – includes mailing packet to all residents with an Emergency Information Refrigerator card to list medical resources, First Responder information, medications, etc.
- 38-unit Assisted Living facility to be built on school site, groundbreaking June 1, 2005 (groundbreaking has not taken place of December 24, 2005)
- Portable community stage
- Four-screen movie theater under construction, Spring 2006

### **Long Prairie Revitalization Group**

- Awarded \$100,000+ DTED Small Cities grant for renovation of Reichert Hotel into 17 housing units
- Started Community Theater
- Raised \$38,000 locally for downtown enhancements -26 streetlights, historic clock boulevard and 12 benches installed
- Veterans' Memorial Wall (5 stories high) completed
- Tree plantings with DNR grants
- 10 store fronts improvements completed by August 2001
- Raised \$38,000 locally for Downtown Enhancements
- CRV Funds (\$402,000) to purchase and renovate four homes
- 26 Street lights installed October 1, 2001
- Historic Clock, Boulevard and 12 Benches installed in down town August 2001
- Completed Housing Study with CMHP. Implementation underway on recommendations.
- Regular bus tour groups are now visiting the city.

### **Melrose**

- Sponsored Mexican Independence Day (September 2001 and 2002)
- Outdoor lighting installed in trailer park in response to Latino survey (October 2000)
- Supported start-up of a Mexican Restaurant/Dance Hall (Spring 2001)
- Annual Neighborhood Community Policing meetings held (2001)
- Park Expansion, including regulation soccer fields (2002)
- Start up of Communities Connecting Cultures office (2003)
- Industrial Park expansion (2003)
- Communities Connecting Cultures liaison became qualified through MN Dept. of Revenue to prepare taxes for low income Anglo and Hispanic families as a free service (2004)
- Project HEAL, a free medical clinic for people with little or no insurance started in January 2004

### **Nisswa Navigators**

- Comprehensive Plan adopted by City Council April 21, 1999
- MN Design Team Visit to put design to Comprehensive Plan goals (October 1999)
- Ordinances adopted by City Council (March 2001)
- Won American Planners Association, Minnesota Citizen Planner Award (1999)
- Constructed new community library attached to Nisswa Elementary

### **Partners 56472 (Cities of Pequot Lakes, Breezy Point, Jenkins and Sibley Township)**

- Remodeled building for family center, September 2000
- Opened Teen Center in Family Center, October 2000
- Annual Public Officials Dinner
- Launched “Operation Bootstrap” to assist working families to increase incomes
- Merger between City and Sibley Township, 2002
- Started an Early Childhood Coalition, 2003
- Pequot Lakes HRA built 8-units of senior housing town homes, 2004

### **Crow River Pride (Rockford)**

- Hosted the MN Design Team with over 400 community members
- Sponsored “Community & Business Expo”
- Completed Housing Study with Central MN Housing Partnership, Kingswood Development resulting
- River cleanup from Crow River Valley (annually)
- Downtown beautification underway
- Sponsored Music in the Park
- Established Crow River Garden Club
- Planted flowers/trees along highway, 2003

### **Rockville**

- Hosted community visioning session in conjunction with the Minnesota Design Team, with the involvement of over 200 citizens, September 2003
- Surveyed over 250 citizens and got their input on what they would like to see happen in the future
- Recruited, formed and trained task forces totaling 41 people to work on our priority areas
- The city has updated to develop comprehensive plan based on input at visioning session.
- Comprehensive Plan approved, February 2005
- ROCK-Fest annual event is held second weekend in July
- Park (60 acre) in planning process. (Eagle Park)
- Comprehensive plan reviewed against new zoning ordinance, February 2006
- New City Hall and Fire Hall completed 2006
- ROCORI Trail (connecting the cities of Rockville, Cold Spring and Richmond) in the planning process, Spring 2006
- Stearns County Park Proposal - 354 acre park north of the Sauk River and adjacent to Eagle Park

### **The Up Team (Upsala)**

- 125 citizens participated in visioning session
- Task Forces have been formed to address issues
- Comp Planning consultant hired; plan completed 2003
- Housing Study with CMHP completed
- School Referendum passed, September 2002
- Café opened October 2002, closed and reopened February 2005
- Economic Development Authority established December 2002
- Local talent show raises \$3,200 toward comprehensive plan, February 2003
- Installed new Upsala city signs, July 2003
- Comprehensive plan completed September 2003
- Planning Commission established October 2003
- Community Development Commission established October 2003
- Build new H.S., renovated Elem. School-Auditorium; completed September 2004
- New businesses opening (travel, cabinet shop’s, electronic harnesses)

## **Wadena**

- Succeeded in purchasing the railroad depot
- Created a community vision through public meetings soliciting broad-based citizen input
- Developed a downtown “Streetscape Master Plan” through citizen input and consulting support from the Hoisington KoeglerGroup and raised \$198,000 for phase I
- Have purchased a property for the Cyber Café
- Established an association of associations to coordinate efforts, WIN, Wadena Improving Now
- Have Renovated and opened the Cyber Café, May 2002
- Established WIN group (Wadena Improving Now)- Quarterly meetings to coordinate activities, PT staff hired 11/02
- YAR Board established- county-wide
- Hired a project coordinator
- Opened Partners Resource Center
- Partners for a Healthy Wadena and Cloverleaf Youth Partnership both establish strategic plans and training through I.F.-HOP program, March 2003
- County-wide transit started, April 2003
- Reached agreement with the city to lease the old Depot, August 2003
- J. C. Penny building purchased by Carol Spearman and a partner for Business Incubator and opened Village Emporium, August 2003
- Formed a Business Enterprise Team, December 2003
- Old Depot remodeled, Summer 2004
- Entrance signs in progress