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For Immediate Release
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Nonprofits Receive Over \$134,000 in Initiative Foundation Grants

Little Falls, Minn. (June 9, 2010) – The Initiative Foundation announced that it recently awarded 21 community grants totaling over \$134,000 to support local projects. The following organizations were selected as grant recipients:

Assumption Home, Inc., Cold Spring; Collaborative Fund Development for the Good of Our Community - \$2,000 for training that combines fund development strategies with internal planning, community partnerships and other organizational work.

BestPrep, Brooklyn Park; Minnesota Business Venture Program - \$1,500 to send central Minnesota youth from low-income families to camps that help them learn practical business, entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills.

Cass County Economic Development Corporation, Backus; Ah-Gwah-Ching Healthcare Campus Study - \$2,500 for a citizen group and consultants to identify and study options in expanding a healthcare campus.

Central Lakes College Small Business Development Center, Brainerd; North Central SBDC Business Counseling Project - \$10,000 to expand services to current and prospective small business owners with a focus on stabilizing and growing existing companies.

City of Elk River Economic Development Authority; 4th Annual Energy Expo - \$1,000 to help conduct an annual event, featuring keynote speaker Will Steger.

City of Onamia; Healthy Communities Partnership Implementation Phase II - \$8,000 to establish a community garden, explore the feasibility of a farmers co-op, enhance the physical appearance of the city and complete a new comprehensive plan.

Horizon Health, Inc., Pierz; Little Falls Summer Reads Program - \$1,000 to support a summer literacy program that helps low-income preschool and school-aged youth maintain and improve their reading skills.

Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Public Schools; Cinco de Mayo Celebration - \$2,000 to coordinate and carry out an annual event which celebrates the community's cultural diversity.

Lutheran Social Service; St. Cloud Area Crisis Nursery - \$2,500 to support a nursery that provides care and support to vulnerable children and families facing crisis situations.

Melrose Area Schools; Early Childhood Coalition Follow-up Implementation - \$2,500 to continue early childhood coalition efforts that work toward promoting a healthy start for our youngest children and their families in the Melrose area.

Milaca Public Schools; "Give Me Five" Mentorship Program - \$2,500 to strengthen a mentorship program matching adults with vulnerable youth.

Region Five Development Commission, Staples; Microlending Feasibility Study - \$5,000 for a feasibility study to determine the viability of a ten-county microlending program.

Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council, St. Cloud; Central Minnesota Skill Certification Project - \$50,000 to allow the three workforce centers serving central Minnesota to certify skill levels of the available workforce so that both employers and job seekers have a tool to assist them in making employment match and investment decisions.

The Initiative Foundation seeks projects that strengthen central Minnesota communities and address barriers to economic development. Inquiries for applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and are generally reviewed within three weeks of receipt.

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Staples Community Foundation Announces Grant Recipients

The Staples Community Foundation (SCF) announced that it has awarded 8 grants totaling \$18,900 to support local projects. The following organizations were selected as grant recipients:

Kinship of Todd-Wadena Counties, Staples; Partnership Events - \$2,000 to support three partnering opportunities for at-risk youth and their mentors.

LEAP, Inc., Staples; Downtown Revitalization - \$7,500 to revitalize downtown Staples both in appearance and business activity through a partnership with the chamber of commerce, the city, and local business owners.

LEAP, Inc., Staples; Public Library Bike Rack - \$1,250 to provide new decorative bike racks.

LEAP, Inc., Staples; Leadercast Scholarship Program - \$2,000 to provide scholarships to attend a leadership seminar.

LEAP, Inc., Staples; Community Sign Upgrade - \$2,000 to upgrade community signs.

Staples All Veterans and Community Park Association; All Veterans Park Plans - \$2,000 to offset the cost of a land survey, professional park drawings and detailed park plan.

Staples Motley Area Arts Council; Rhythmic Circus Workshops - \$1,400 to provide sponsorship for student dance workshops.

Staples Motley School District; Move, Drop (everything) & Read - \$750 to promote early literacy.

The Staples Community Foundation, a fund hosted and managed by the Initiative Foundation in Little Falls, provides a way for local people to give back to their community.

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