

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Meeting to Provide Annual Update on Greater St. Cloud Community Priorities

The Central Minnesota Community Foundation, Initiative Foundation, St. Cloud Times and Bremer Bank will host the second annual “Greater St. Cloud Community Priorities Forum” on Thursday, February 23 to update the community on a top-ten list of regional focus areas. With a year of work under their belt, volunteer coordinators will share their annual progress and answer questions.

The two foundations organized the forums after 42 area leaders visited Dubuque, Iowa in 2010 and learned of a similar effort that achieved impressive results. In February 2011, about 200 attended the first forum and narrowed a diverse list of priorities to the following ten.

1. Support the launch of the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation
2. Coordinate regional promotion of cultural, arts and entertainment activities
3. Connect downtowns, river and neighborhoods with public art projects
4. Develop multi-generational, multi-cultural service opportunities and community activities
5. Create a riverfront development initiative based on the new river plan
6. Create regional education and business partnerships that build and retain an excellent workforce
7. Support regional air service and Big Lake connection to Northstar rail
8. Streamline local regulations for new and growing businesses
9. Develop regional community and/or aquatic center
10. Facilitate connections for new immigrants and refugees with the broader community

There is no charge for this public event scheduled for 7:30 to 10 a.m., Thursday, February 23, in the Huskies/Heritage Rooms at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, St. Cloud. A continental breakfast will be served. Pre-registrations are requested by Friday, February 17 by phone at (320) 257-9726 or visiting www.communitygiving.org.

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