MISSION
Unlock the power of central Minnesota people to build and sustain healthy communities.

WHO WE ARE
Powered by local generosity, the Initiative Foundation employs grants, loans and leadership programs to strengthen all facets of a healthy community—economy, environment, children and families.

GOALS
> Strengthen Economic Opportunity
> Preserve Key Places and Natural Resources
> Support Children, Youth, and Families
> Build Organizational Effectiveness
> Encourage the Spirit of Giving
< STRENGTHENING NONPROFITS:
Great River Area Faith in Action, Becker

Great River Area Faith in Action’s programs and thrift store keep 500 volunteers busy by serving disadvantaged residents throughout Wright and Sherburne counties and the St. Cloud area. The foundation’s Healthy Organizations Partnership provided nonprofit leadership training and grants to help the organization grow its services for those who need them most. 109 central Minnesota nonprofits have grown stronger through the HOP program.

< SAVING JOBS:
Larson Boat Company, Little Falls

Larson Boat Company has been an integral part of the Little Falls economy since the early 1900s. When the recession threatened to close the business, the Initiative Foundation partnered with four other organizations to provide a financing package that kept the manufacturing facility open while securing nearly 170 full-time jobs. Since 1986, the foundation has helped to create or retain more than 10,000 quality jobs in central Minnesota communities.
REVITALIZING COMMUNITIES: Holdingford

The small hometown of Holdingford is Minnesota’s “Gateway to the Lake Wobegon Trail”, a hike-and-bike pathway that stretches 46 picturesque miles. Mayor Ernie Schmit shows off the covered bridge that represented Holdingford’s signature project to capture its hometown spirit. It was one of many volunteer-led results from the town’s participation in the foundation’s Healthy Communities Partnership, which has trained leaders from 129 central Minnesota communities.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN: North Branch Early Childhood Coalition

For children under age five, the simple act of reading helps develop social relationships and kindergarten readiness for lifetime success. The North Branch Early Childhood Coalition, one of more than 80 volunteer-led groups in greater Minnesota, has set their sights on making reading and fatherhood projects a priority. Grants and training from the Initiative Foundation are helping to turn the pages.

FIGHTING POVERTY: AccountAbility Minnesota, St. Cloud office

As a VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America), Sadiq Dahir has one goal: to find and train volunteers to assist fellow Somalis and Latinos with filing their income taxes. Simple tax filing services help struggling families maximize returns to make ends meet. In 2009, the foundation deployed 21 VISTAs to help fight poverty with central Minnesota nonprofits.

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PRESERVING LAKES: Whitefish Area Property Owners Association, Crow Wing County

Jack and Judy Wallschlaeger’s family has been enjoying Whitefish Lake for more than 40 years. As president of the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association, Judy followed the footsteps of 198 other lake and river associations in the foundation’s Healthy Lakes & Rivers Partnership. Through shoreland restoration, treatment of invasive species, and property owner education, the Whitefish chain will be a treasure for generations to come.
**Sources of Funds:** $11,920,331

- **Investment Income** $ 6,647,689 [56%]
- **Grants & Contributions** $ 2,988,999 [25%]
- **Business Financing Revenue & Repayments** $ 2,145,256 [18%]
- **Other Operating Revenue** $ 138,387 [1%]

**Uses of Funds:** $7,267,557

- **Business Investments** $ 4,225,392 [58%]
- **Grants, Scholarships & Training Programs** $ 1,765,493 [24%]
- **Foundation Operations** $ 1,255,020 [17%]
- **Special Projects & Other** $ 21,652 [1%]

**Investment Total $753,973**

- Children, Youth & Families 32%
- Economic Opportunity 21%
- Innovation Fund 16%
- Hometown Improvement 15%
- Natural Resources Preservation 9%
- Scholarships 4%
- Community & Donor Funds 2%
- Organizational Effectiveness 1%

**Business Financing**

**Local Owners, Quality Jobs**

- **Investment Total $2,182,370**
  - Manufacturing 48%
  - Technology 28%
  - Environment/Agriculture 8%
  - Service 7%
  - Housing 6%
  - Marketing/Retail 3%

**Grants & Scholarships**

**Unlocking the Power of People**

- **Investment Total $753,973**
  - Children, Youth & Families 32%
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**Our Results**

**FROM 1986-2009**

- **Invested $36.2 million** in 843 locally owned businesses
- **Awarded 593 scholarships** totaling $441,670
- **Made 3,184 grants** totaling $19.9 million
- Created or secured 9,951 living-wage jobs
- Trained 1,611 leaders from 129 communities to plan and achieve a brighter future
- Trained 1,407 leaders to improve the water quality of 199 lakes and rivers
- Trained 928 leaders from 109 nonprofits to manage more effective organizations
- Trained 825 leaders from 15 communities to prepare young children for lifetime success
- Trained 111 leaders from 11 groups to improve the lives of children with incarcerated parents

A complete audit report prepared by LarsonAllen, LLP is available upon request.

*Excludes grants.*
To our donors, we say thank you. We value each gift for the special reasons it was given and for the trust you have placed in our foundation. The following are our program and endowment gifts received between July 1, 2007 and December 31, 2009.

Platinum Keymaster ($100,000 or more)
- Bush Foundation
- Corporation for National & Community Service
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Arnold & JoAnn Johnson
- The McKnight Foundation
- Minnesota Public Radio
- Otto Bremer Foundation
- Jack & Betty Thomas
- USDA Rural Development

Gold Keymaster ($50,000 or 99,999)
- Gloria M. Cessna
- Center for Rural Policy & Development
- Connexus Energy
- East Central Energy
- Emma B. Howe Memorial Foundation
- The Minneapolis Foundation
- Minnesota Power
- Southwest Initiative Foundation
- State of Minnesota, Department of Commerce

Keymaster ($25,000 to 49,999)
- Anderson Brothers Construction
- Blandin Foundation
- Bremer Banks
- Communications Alternatives, a subsidiary of Benton Cooperative Telephone Co.
- County of Cass
- County of Isanti
- County of Stearns
- Eich Motor Company
- The Jay & Rose Phillips Foundation
- Beverly M. Johnston
- Medica Foundation
- Morgan Family Foundation
- Morrison County Student Loan Association
- Stearns Electric Association
- West Central Telephone Association

Portal ($10,000 to $24,999)
- The Anderson Family Legacy Foundation
- Benton Telecommunications Foundation
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation
- City of Little Falls
- City of St. Cloud
- Consolidated Telecommunications Company
- County of Benton
- County of Chisago
- County of Crow Wing
- County of Morrison
- County of Pine

Foundation for Education, Public Health & Social Justice, a supporting organization of The Minneapolis Foundation
- Schlagel, Inc.
- SPEDCO Economic Development
- Foundation of The St. Paul Foundation
- Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council
- U.S. Bancorp Foundation
- Francis & Ludmila Voelker
- Eugene & Bernadine Waldorf
- Estate of Mark Wood

Cuyuna Regional Medical Center
- DeZURIK, Inc.
- Donald & Deanna Engen
- Genmar Minnesota, Inc.
- Gray Plant Mooty
- The Hyduke Foundation of The St. Paul Foundation on behalf of Peoples Bank of Commerce
- Lakeland Mold Company, Inc.
- Lakewood Bank, Brainerd/Baxter
- LarsonAllen, LLP, St. Cloud
- Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
- Marco, Inc.

Gateway ($5,000 to $9,999)
- AgStar Fund for Rural America/AgStar Financial Services
- American Heritage National Bank
- Bank of the West
- Cambridge Medical Center
- CentraCare Health Foundation
- Central MN Jobs & Training Services
- Charles & Barbara Christian
- City of Cambridge
- City of Milaca
- City of Sartell
- City of Sauk Rapids
- City of St. Michael
- City of Wadena
- Clow Stamping Company
- County of Mille Lacs
- County of Todd

Mardag Foundation
- Minnesota National Bank & Agency
- NOR-SON, Inc.
- Pequot Tool & Manufacturing, Inc.
- Pine Country Bank
- Rockwoods Grill & Backwater Bar
- Schlenner Wenner & Co.
- Everett & Rita Sobania
- St. Cloud Morning Optimist Club
- St Joseph’s Med Center /Brainerd Lakes Integrated Health System
- The Sheltering Arms Foundation
- Viking Label & Packaging, Inc.
- Widseth Smith Nolting and Assoc., Inc.
- Sharla & the late Warren Williams
- Woodland Bank
- Xcel Energy Foundation
- Xcel Energy, St. Cloud

Corridor ($3,000 to $4,999)
- Citizens State Bank
- City of Baxter
- City of Big Lake
- City of Cohocton
- City of Long Prairie
- City of Maple Lake

“We support the Initiative Foundation as its mission and day-to-day programs support creating self-sufficiency and healthy communities.”
:: Mary Sam, Onamia ::

“The Foundation has a unique approach to helping communities help themselves that is both engaging and exciting.”
:: John Babcock, Elk River ::
**Return on Investment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Donations* to Initiative Foundation</th>
<th>Investments** by Initiative Foundation</th>
<th>ROI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>$275,000</td>
<td>$3,121,000</td>
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<td>Cass</td>
<td>$474,000</td>
<td>$3,264,000</td>
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<td>Chisago</td>
<td>$318,000</td>
<td>$2,387,000</td>
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<td>Crow Wing</td>
<td>$1,013,000</td>
<td>$7,999,000</td>
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<td>Isanti</td>
<td>$1,029,000</td>
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<td>$103,000</td>
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<td>Mille Lacs</td>
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<td>Morrison</td>
<td>$987,000</td>
<td>$4,259,000</td>
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<td>Pine</td>
<td>$505,000</td>
<td>$2,382,000</td>
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<td>Sherburne</td>
<td>$625,000</td>
<td>$3,583,000</td>
<td>473%</td>
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<td>Stearns</td>
<td>$903,000</td>
<td>$10,946,000</td>
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<td>Todd</td>
<td>$677,000</td>
<td>$2,843,000</td>
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<td>Wadena</td>
<td>$283,000</td>
<td>$2,771,000</td>
<td>877%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wright</td>
<td>$468,000</td>
<td>$3,961,000</td>
<td>746%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,166,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$53,773,000</strong></td>
<td>559%</td>
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</table>

* Rounded numbers include individual, business, government and utility donations, 1986-2008.
** Rounded numbers include nonprofit grants, business financing investments and scholarships, 1986-2008.

“The Foundation is a catalyst that provides creative opportunities for community members to actively participate in sustaining and improving the health of their communities.”

:: Chris Close, Brainerd ::
“By supporting the Initiative Foundation we are investing in long-term programs to assist individuals, companies, and our communities to build a stronger economic & social environment in which long-term success is created and maintained.”

:: Larry Korf, St. Cloud ::

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
“I support the Initiative Foundation because, more than any other local organization, they have been an integral source of support for the non-profits and volunteers in our communities.”

:: Linda Eich DesJardins, St. Cloud ::

The Initiative Foundation believes in helping people to help themselves. We are fortunate to have an organization like this in our area. What it has and is accomplishing is doing wonders for all of us.”

:: Arnie Johnson, Baxter ::