



Initiative Foundation at work in
WADENA COUNTY

\$2.76 MILLION

in local donations to the Initiative Foundation.

\$6.9 MILLION

returned to Wadena County in grants and loans.

Our Mission:

To empower people to build thriving communities and a vibrant region across Central Minnesota.

405 First Street SE
Little Falls, MN 56345
(877) 632-9255
ifound.org

Return on Investment

For every local dollar contributed, the Initiative Foundation has invested **\$2.50** back into Wadena County.

Economic Impact

[1986 to present]

- Awarded 208 grants totaling **\$3.8 million**
- 75 loans totaling **\$3 million**
- Secured **955 quality jobs**
- Leveraged **\$22.8 million** in private business financing



Powering Possible

WADENA COUNTY Investment Highlight

For a full listing of Initiative Foundation investments in Wadena County, Contact us at (877) 632-9255.

Grants Thriving Economy, Thriving Communities

City of Menahga	Thriving Communities Initiative program
Cyber Cafe	Computer coding class training
First American Financial Services on behalf of WCEDA, Sebeka	Economic development training
Lamplighter Community Theatre, Staples	Staples Area theatre camp (SMACF)
Luthern Social Service of MN, Moorhead	Meals on Wheels in Todd and Wadena counties
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Sebeka	Camp Noah in Menahga
Verndale School District	Enhanced career counseling
Wadena Soil & Water Conservation District	Trees for Wadena (TFWF)
Wellness in the Woods	Central Minnesota peer respite program
West Central Economic Development Alliance, Sebeka	Business retention and expansion

Business Financing Local Ownership, Quality Jobs

A Clean Plate, Inc., Menahga	Natural and organic grocery store
Gateway Mfg, LLC dba Salo Manufacturing, Menahga	Manufacturer of fiberglass bath bays and shower stalls
Homecrest Outdoor Living, LLC, Wadena	Manufacturer of outdoor living furniture
Innovative Surfaces, LLC, Wadena	Manufacturing of faux table tops for patio furniture market
Leaf River Ag, Wadena	Manufacturer of a full line of livestock feeds and a supplier of livestock equipment, fertilizer, seed, lawn and garden products
National Precision Machining & Engineering, Sebeka	Provides precision machining and assemblies for aerospace, defense and manufacturing industries
River Systems, LLC, Wadena	Video/computer support for healthcare
Wadena Lodging, LLC	Hotel

Charitable Funds Activating Generosity

Manufacturing Fund of Central Minnesota | Menahga Loan Fund | Todd - Wadena Economic Development Loan Fund | Wadena Regional Wellness Center Fund | Central Minnesota CEO Fund

Community Action The Power of Partnership

The Wadena Economic Development Authority is using data-backed insights to guide its growth strategies. With grant support from the Initiative Foundation, Wadena economic development leaders are partnering with Buxton, a Texas-based analytics firm, to understand the city's current retail mix and to identify and attract new businesses that can fill service needs and add to the community's quality of life.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development projects a high demand for computer programmers over the next decade. With help from an Initiative Foundation grant, the Cloverleaf Youth Partnership in Wadena is working to help meet the demand by providing programming classes at the local Cyber Café. The classes serve at-risk and underprivileged youth.

When Wadena-Deer Creek School District preschool teachers were feeling unsure about their pre-kindergarten programming, the community pulled together a plan that would put everyone at ease. With help from an Initiative Foundation grant, preschool teacher now are using the same goals and language to help young learners develop the social-emotional, literacy and math skills they need to enter kindergarten and succeed.