One Connection.
Unlimited Possibilities.
SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

# Minnesota Housing Partnership

February 2018

COMMUNITY ACCREDITED FOUNDATION
Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

*Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations*
*An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer*

## Our History

THE McKNIGHT FOUNDATION

Rural Minnesota in 1986





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# The Minnesota Initiative Foundations

Northwest Minnesota Foundation
Developing Community Assets

NORTHLAND FOUNDATION

West Central Initiative

if Initiative FOUNDATION

SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

www.greaterminnesota.net

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# MINNESOTA Initiative Foundations

MAKING MINNESOTA GREATER FOR 30 YEARS

**6**
Unified foundations working to improve Greater Minnesota

**$216m**
Grants inspiring our communities

**$264m**
Local business investments

**47k**
Quality jobs created



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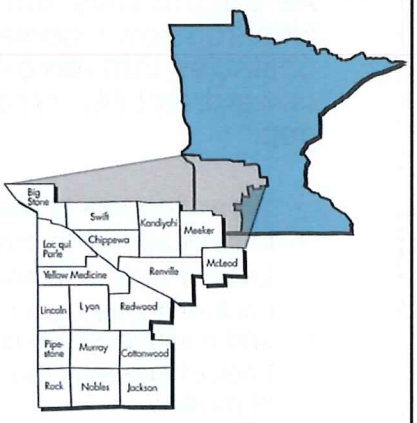
- Regional community foundation serving the 18 counties and two Native Nations of southwest Minnesota
- Headquarters are at the corner of Highways 7 & 15 in Hutchinson



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## Our region

- 156 communities
  - 4 with 10,000+ population
- 278,000 people
  - 19% age 65+ (13% statewide)
  - 66,137 under age 18
  - 78% working adults (age 16-64)
  - Median household income $52,000
- Of the 7.9 million acres that make up our region, 6.2 million (or 78%) is tillable farmland




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## Our work

- Economic Development
  - $44.3 million in loans to 700 businesses
- Community Impact
  - $30 million in grants
  - Early Childhood Initiative
- Philanthropy
  - 26 local affiliates
  - 101 donor advised, school and other funds
  - Planned giving, including Keep It Growing℠ farmland program



Loan client Brett Haugen, owner of Stamp-n-Storage in Hutchinson

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## The "opportunity gap" for kids

- As communities and neighborhoods change, kids from low income families are facing obstacles that remove stepping stones to upward mobility, creating an "opportunity gap."
  - Lack of access to mentoring and role models
  - Lack of access to quality education
  - Lack of access to enrichment activities
  - Lack of access to social capital that opens doors and minimizes the damage of poor decisions
  - Lack of empathy that foster negative perceptions of poverty

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## These are *our* kids!











*"Alone we can do little, together we can do much."*
- Helen Keller

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## Our new focus

- Research shows the opportunity gap is widening for kids across the country, including southwest Minnesota.
  - 17 percent of SW MN kids age birth to 18 live in poverty—that's 11,000 or one in every 5.5.
  - This is a social and economic issue.
- SWIF launched a new focus called Grow Our Own to align our work, raise awareness of the issues facing youth today, and support local solutions that will help our kids succeed.



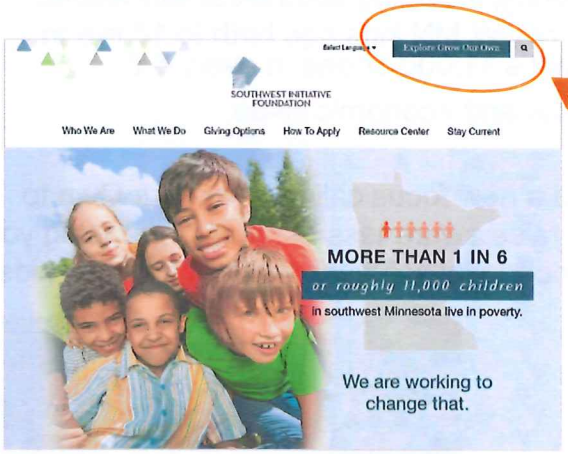
## What kids need to succeed




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## Learn more

- Visit our website to dig into the data, find new resources and learn more about our work




Learn with us!
swifoundation.org

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