

Promoting the development of the region through intergovernmental cooperation, community and human development, long-range planning and technical assistance.

**Welcoming Communities...** 

**Investing in our communities** 

is investing in our economic development

## History

#### 2017

- R9DC Commissioners signal interest in this work
- R9DC Rural Equity Initiative Begins in 7 Communities
- Conversations on Race
- Feedback Need more resources, more conversation, and more education on DEI
- R9DC, Mankato
   Diversity Council,
   BCBS, YMCA, Blandin

   Foundation

#### 2018

- RELC Rural Equity Learning Community Launch
- 6 Communities
   Participate in 7 monthly
   3-hour sessions around
   rural equity
- 52 participants
- Completed in September

#### 2019

- Design, test, and launch Welcoming Community Assessment
- Prepare and launch RELC v.2.0 in Brown County
- Host Rural Equity Summit

### Partnerships:

- Region 9 Development Commission
- Mankato Diversity Council
- Blandin Foundation
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Bush Foundation
- The McKnight Foundation
- University of Minnesota Extension



#### **Region Nine Partners:**

THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION







## **EVERYONE'S STORY MATTERS!**





MULTICULTURAL FIESTA

### **CULTURE THROUGH CUISINE**

• Salvadorian \* Guatemalan \* Mexican \* Scandinavian



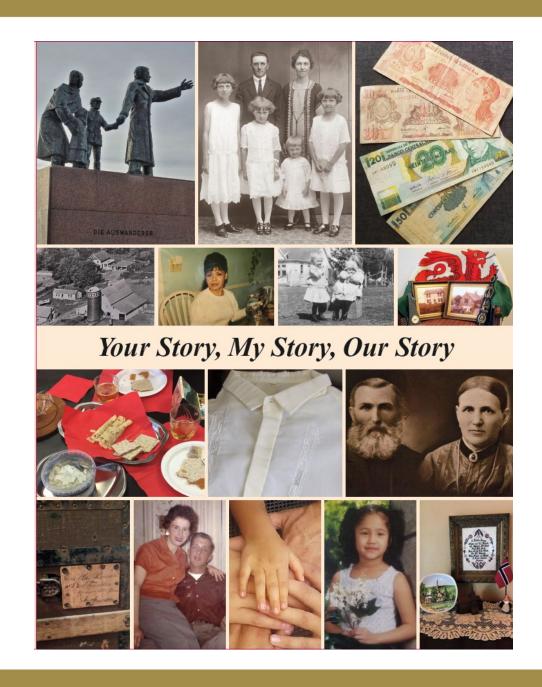




# COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: IMMIGRATION STORIES

There are more stories to be told – and listened to...

Do you know your story? Do you know your neighbor's story?



# RIPPLE EFFECTS IN THE COMMUNITY









Working Outloud Circles

## **Stay Connected**



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