



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE  
FOUNDATION  
*A Rural Minnesota Community Foundation*

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## WHAT MATTERS MOST

SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE FOUNDATION  
2009 ANNUAL REPORT & 2010 CALENDAR



JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
31																											

MAY							JUNE							JULY							AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				
30	31																										

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
			1	2	3	4						1	2							1	2	3	4							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31				
							31																							



Dear Friends,

2009 will be remembered as a tough year for many people. The economy plunged into a downward spiral leaving a cloud of anxiety and difficult decisions for many people, organizations and businesses.

Southwest Initiative Foundation was also faced with tough choices. But the economy challenged us to focus in on our mission and values and repeatedly ask ourselves the question, "What matters most?"

You'll find our answers to that question as you turn the pages of this calendar. You'll see examples of how we refocused our resources, searched for new and creative ways to accomplish our work, and formed partnerships to respond to the region's changing needs and opportunities.

This calendar is our gift to you and it's also our annual report for Fiscal Year 2009 (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009). We hope you'll hang it where you'll see it often and be reminded about some of the things that matter most for the future of our region.

What matters the most to us? You. Thank you for your continued support.

Happy Holidays!

Sherry E. Ristau, President/CEO

Sander Ludeman V, Board Chair



**Mission:**  
To be a catalyst, facilitating opportunities for economic and social growth by developing and challenging leaders to build on the region's assets.

**Board of Directors:**  
 Marcy Costello  
 Rick Ellingworth  
 Wayne Freese, D.V.M., Former Board Chair  
 Gary Geiger, Secretary  
 Jim Keul  
 Sander Ludeman V, Board Chair  
 William (Bill) McCormack, Vice Chair  
 Connie VanDerBill Medin  
 Janice Nelson  
 H. Cris Remucal, M.D.  
 Robert Saunders, Treasurer

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 Kari Becker, Program Assistant  
 Berny Berger, Microenterprise Program Coordinator  
 Deb Berggren, Accounting Specialist  
 Sara Carlson, Program Officer  
 Jessica Eastling, Receptionist/Gift Processor  
 Nancy Fasching, Grants Officer  
 Cheryl Glaeser, Program Officer  
 Karen Grasmon, Communications Officer  
 Nancy Kaping, Executive Assistant  
 Brad Kramer, Program Specialist  
 Liz Maiers, Development Officer  
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 Janet Menton, Loan Servicing Specialist  
 Margie Nelsen, Accountant  
 Sherry Ristau, President/Chief Executive Officer  
 Marsha Schiro, Community Resource Assistant  
 Kurt Thompson, Microenterprise Program Officer  
 Jackie Turner-Lovsness, Program Specialist  
 Amy Woitalewicz, Business Finance Officer

We also want to thank Joyce Dass, Becky Parker and Vince Robinson who completed their terms serving on the Board of Directors in Fiscal Year 2009.

To view our Fiscal Year 2009 financial statements, log onto [www.swifoundation.org/annualreports](http://www.swifoundation.org/annualreports)





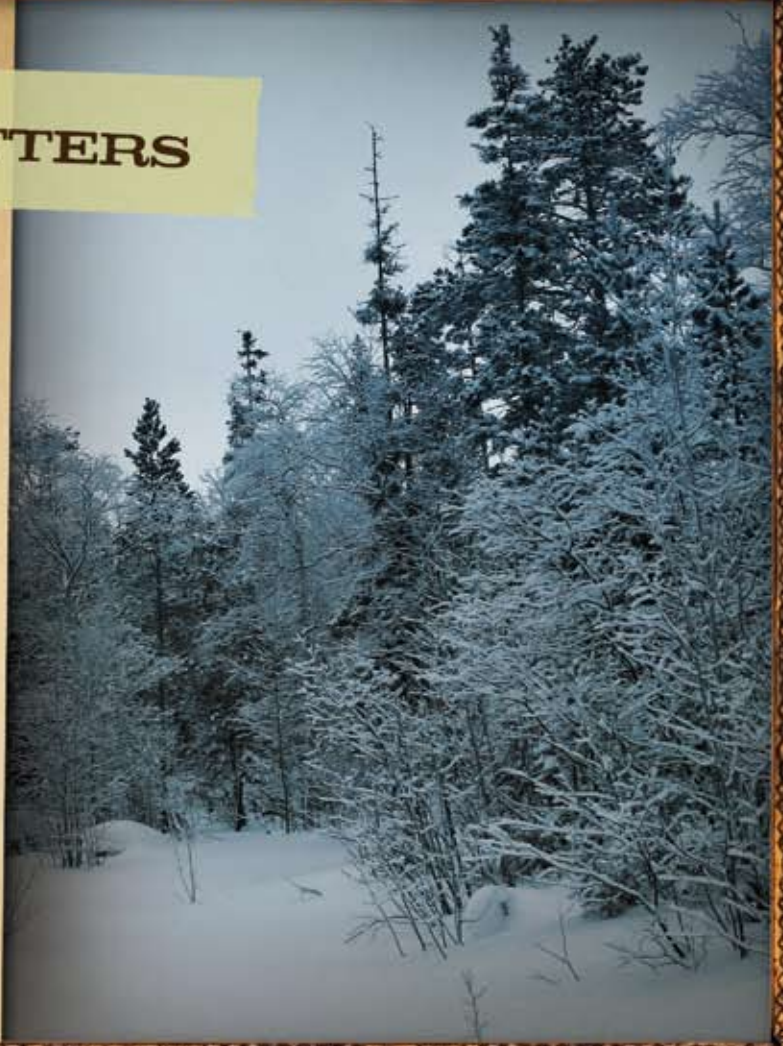
# OUR MISSION MATTERS

Southwest Initiative Foundation is a mission-driven organization that strives to be the very best regional community foundation for the people and communities of Southwest Minnesota. We've adopted guiding principles that help us make wise decisions and lead by example. These guiding principles not only light the way for the Foundation, they also light the path for regional growth and advancement.

Our Guiding Principles:

- An expansive definition of leaders
- An asset-based approach
- The interdependence of economic and social growth
- Nurturing entrepreneurship
- A focus on relationship building and collaboration
- A commitment to inclusiveness
- The importance of volunteerism and philanthropy
- Transparency, integrity and accessibility
- A voice for Southwest Minnesota

[www.swifoundation.org/aboutus](http://www.swifoundation.org/aboutus)



Our work helps Southwest Minnesota leaders build on the region's assets and impact economic and social growth.

# JANUARY

☾ FIRST QUARTER   ● NEW MOON   ☽ LAST QUARTER   ○ FULL MOON

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> NEW YEAR'S DAY	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						

## BUILDING REGIONAL CAPACITY MATTERS

Identifying and capitalizing on regional economic assets matters because the ability to compete in a global marketplace hinges on it. Boundaries must be erased, competition between communities must cease, and a new regional mentality must be embraced.

Southwest Initiative Foundation is challenging old definitions and paradigms and serving as a catalyst for building regional capacity. It's a part of everything we do. Here are just a few of our accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2009:

- Partnered with Schwan's University and the Southwest Minnesota Workforce Council to host the region's premier business leadership event, "Leading by Example."
- Hosted over 250 guests at our 2009 banquet, featuring: a keynote address by V.J. Smith, president of Life's Great Moments and author of "The Richest Man in Town," a video presentation highlighting successful entrepreneurs from the region, and educational workshops on topics of regional interest.
- Participated in the Southern Minnesota Regional Competitiveness Project (SMRCP), which convened hundreds of area leaders to identify opportunities holding the greatest potential for regional economic growth.
- Sponsored the Worthington Regional Bioscience Conference.

[www.swifoundation.org/initiatives](http://www.swifoundation.org/initiatives)



Southwest Minnesota's future will be shaped by how we capitalize on the region's assets.

# FEBRUARY

☾ FIRST QUARTER ● NEW MOON ☾ LAST QUARTER ○ FULL MOON

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> GROUNDHOG DAY	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> VALENTINE'S DAY	<b>15</b> PRESIDENTS' DAY	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> ASH WEDNESDAY	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>						

## DEVELOPING LEADERS MATTERS

As a community member, it's easy to stand in the crowd and observe what leaders should or shouldn't be doing or what's being done wrong. But it's far more difficult to take a step forward and take a risk to make positive change happen.

Southwest Initiative Foundation provides training and resources to develop and equip leaders. Effective leaders represent a wide array of experiences and backgrounds. They can be young or old, male or female, lifetime residents or new immigrants, parents or business owners. To meet the diverse and changing needs of Southwest Minnesota leaders, we have adapted our community leadership initiatives in Fiscal Year 2009 in the following ways:

- Concluded the pilot phase of our Connected Communities Partnership in New London and Montevideo, while continuing to help community teams implement action plans. Projects include community arts and downtown environment projects and starting a local Boys and Girls Club.
- Began applying community engagement best practices learned from the Connected Communities Partnership to other key initiatives of the Foundation.

[www.swifoundation.org/connectedcommunities](http://www.swifoundation.org/connectedcommunities)



Business people like Francisco Resendiz, Adolfo Avila Jr. and Humberto Piceno, pictured in Worthington, are community leaders.

# MARCH

☾ FIRST QUARTER ● NEW MOON ☾ LAST QUARTER ○ FULL MOON

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> ST. PATRICK'S DAY	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> SPRING EQUINOX
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> PALM SUNDAY	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

## YOUNG CHILDREN MATTER



Southwest Initiative Foundation is standing up for the region's youngest children through its Early Childhood Initiative (ECI). With a narrow window of opportunity, just five years, to position children for optimum development, we have our work cut out for us. But it's worth every cent and every minute of work because nothing could matter more.

Through a proven grassroots community-organizing model, we're working to ensure every child in Southwest Minnesota has the opportunity to learn, be safe and be loved. Here are a few ways we accomplished this in Fiscal Year 2009:

- Over 3,750 parents and care providers received education and resources through activities convened by local ECI coalitions.
- Established new coalitions in Rock County and the Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg School District.
- Created sustainability funds to provide long-term funding for the Mountain Lake and Litchfield ECI teams.
- Helped the Redwood Falls Area coalition become financially sustainable by partnering with an existing local organization.
- Hosted online seminars for families and care providers on budgeting, preparing healthy meals and parenting during tough times in partnership with the Working Families Resource Center.

[www.swifoundation.org/earlychildhood](http://www.swifoundation.org/earlychildhood)



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE  
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Southwest Minnesota's 13 ECI coalitions work to ensure our children have the best possible start to life.

# APRIL

☾ FIRST QUARTER ● NEW MOON ☾ LAST QUARTER ○ FULL MOON

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 APRIL FOOLS' DAY	2 GOOD FRIDAY	3
4 EASTER SUNDAY	5 PASSOVER ENDS	6	7	8	9	10
11 WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD (APRIL 11-17)	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 EARTH DAY	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

A little boy lies on the grocery store floor, kicking and screaming. People steer clear with their shopping carts, rolling their eyes and muttering, "Spoiled rotten." "She needs to learn how to control her kid."

They may not know what they think they know. This child may have experienced the trauma of a car accident or a major life change. He may have a serious anxiety or behavior disorder. Even his mother doesn't know what's wrong or where to turn for help. That's why our Thrive Initiative matters for so many children and their families.

Our goals are to shatter the mythology about early childhood mental health and build powerful community action teams, currently including the McLeod County Thrive action team in Southwest Minnesota. Here are a few ways we accomplished this in Fiscal Year 2009:

- Partnered with Minnesota Fathers and Families Network and Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota to train over 45 service providers and regional educators on engaging dads in child development programs.
- Funded ITV broadcast sites in Southwest Minnesota to enable service providers and regional educators to attend a series on adoption presented by the U of M Center for Excellence in Children's Mental Health.
- Presented a workshop on infant mental health at our 2009 Banquet.
- Coordinated a training session for legal, healthcare and community professionals.

[www.swifoundation.org/thrive](http://www.swifoundation.org/thrive)



Mary Anderson, director of Kids Inc. Childcare Center in Hutchinson, benefited from education through the Thrive Initiative.

# MAY

☾ FIRST QUARTER ● NEW MOON ☾ LAST QUARTER ○ FULL MOON

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 MOTHER'S DAY	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 MEMORIAL DAY					



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

# ENTREPRENEURSHIP MATTERS



Entrepreneurship matters because it is a key to economic vitality in Southwest Minnesota. Our region is home to many thriving businesses that were started by entrepreneurs who recognized an opportunity and found a way to make it happen. These businesses provide quality jobs and needed products and services.

Southwest Initiative Foundation offers custom resources and training to enable people of all ages and backgrounds to create successful business ventures. Here are a few ways we helped entrepreneurs in Fiscal Year 2009:

- Provided business counseling services to about 660 clients.
- Developed the Encore Entrepreneurship Program to help entrepreneurs aged 55 and better explore business and self-employment opportunities.
- Launched Center of Rural Entrepreneurship (CORE), a collaboration of regional partners designed to provide a one-stop shop for curriculum, mentorship and experiential learning.
- Delivered six "Surviving the Recession" seminars in communities throughout the region.
- Highlighted three Southwest Minnesota entrepreneurs in our "What Matters Most" video, which debuted at the 2009 Banquet.

[www.swifoundation.org/entrepreneurship](http://www.swifoundation.org/entrepreneurship)

Greg Jodzio, owner of Red's Hot in Hutchinson, received loan and technical assistance through the Entrepreneurship Initiative.

# JUNE

☾ FIRST QUARTER ● NEW MOON ☾ LAST QUARTER ○ FULL MOON

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 FLAG DAY	15	16	17	18	19
20 FATHER'S DAY	21 SUMMER SOLSTICE	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



## BUSINESS MATTERS

Successful businesses are at the heart of a healthy economy, and business loans are the lifeblood that makes them possible. Recognizing that business financing matters, Southwest Initiative Foundation provides a variety of loan programs to support regional business growth.

While the country felt the pains of recession in 2009, Southwest Initiative Foundation made sure business growth was still happening in Southwest Minnesota. Here are a few of our accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2009:

- Provided 17 loans totaling over \$2.1 million to businesses located in 14 Southwest Minnesota communities.
- Helped create 124 new jobs and retain 211 through our business loans.
- Leveraged over \$10 million in private lending and over \$1.1 million in public funding by providing gap financing.
- Merged our Entrepreneurship Initiative and Microenterprise Loan Program to provide a one-stop source for Southwest Minnesota entrepreneurs.

[www.swifoundation.org/entrepreneurship](http://www.swifoundation.org/entrepreneurship)



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE  
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Becky and Dan Kuglin, owners of Blossom Town Floral in Redwood Falls, benefited from the Foundation's loan programs.

# JULY

☾ FIRST QUARTER ● NEW MOON ☾ LAST QUARTER ○ FULL MOON

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# RENEWABLE ENERGY MATTERS

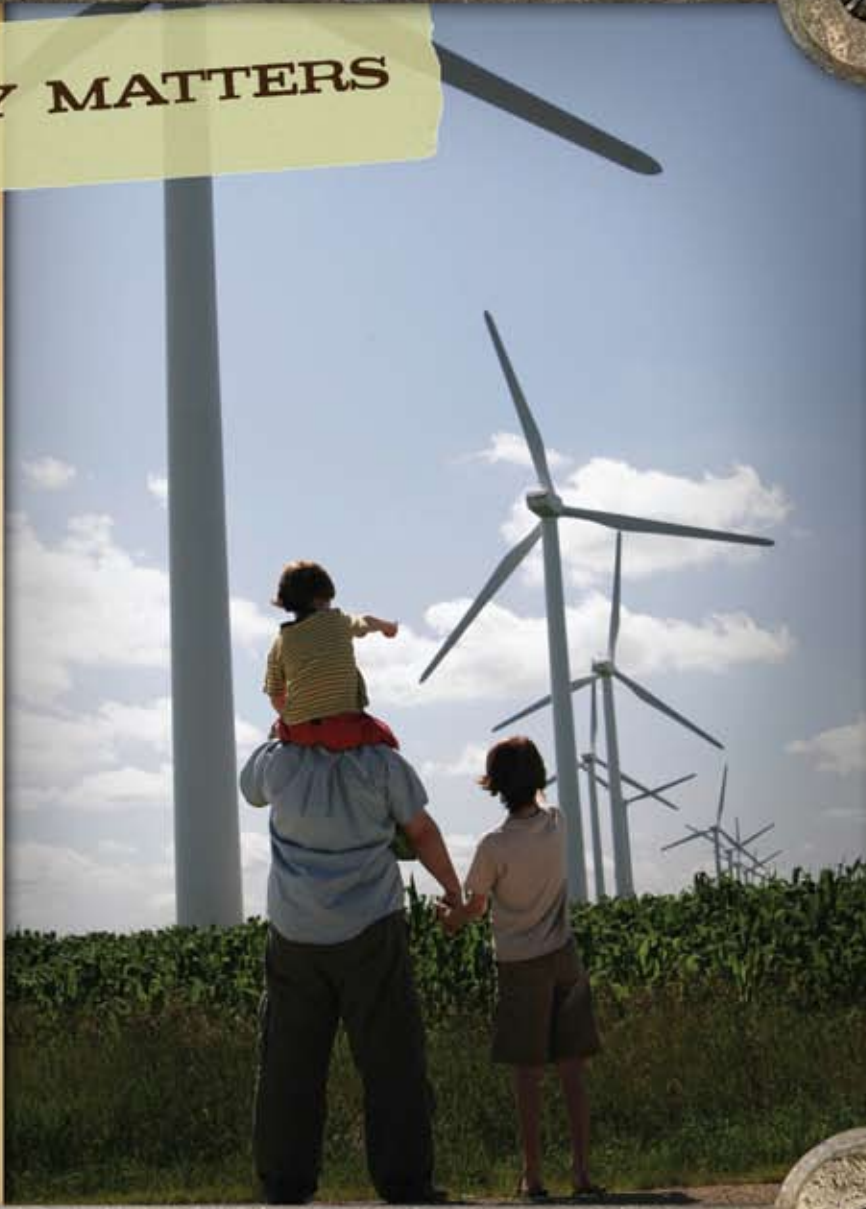
Take a drive through Southwest Minnesota and you'll see hundreds of quietly rotating giant wind turbines dotting the landscape. Look a little closer, and you'll see corn, biomass and even turkey litter being transformed into clean energy.

Southwest Initiative Foundation has long recognized how much renewable energy matters for the economy and the environment, and as the opportunities have grown, so has our role.

Through our statewide Rural Energy Development Initiative (REDI), we are helping Minnesota get ready for renewable energy by providing education, project development assistance and early stage project development financing. Here are a few ways we accomplished this in Fiscal Year 2009:

- Educated over 1,600 people about wind energy development opportunities through public forums held in 15 communities throughout the state.
- Provided public outreach and education by participating in the 2008 Minnesota State Fair Eco-Experience Wind Energy Center, the 2008 International Bio-Energy Days at MSU-Mankato, and presented a workshop at the Clean Energy Resource Teams statewide conference.
- Created loan funds in each of the six Minnesota Initiative Foundations' regions to provide business financing for renewable energy projects.

[www.swifoundation.org/redi](http://www.swifoundation.org/redi)



The emerging and expanding renewable energy industry holds great potential for Southwest Minnesota's future.

# AUGUST

☾ FIRST QUARTER ● NEW MOON ☾ LAST QUARTER ○ FULL MOON

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 ☾	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 ●	11	12	13	14
15	16 ☾	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 ○				

## EDUCATING YOUTH ABOUT RENEWABLE ENERGY MATTERS



Southwest Initiative Foundation is putting energy into the future of area youth through the Youth Energy Summit (YES!). Through partnerships with Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center and Prairie Ecology Bus Center, YES! provides hands-on renewable energy learning opportunities for students throughout Southwest and West Central Minnesota. Student teams attend educational events and team meetings to gain knowledge and ideas, and then return to their hometowns to implement energy action projects that benefit their community or school.

Through YES!, Southwest Initiative Foundation is placing the region's youth at the forefront of the future renewable energy workforce. Here are a few ways we accomplished this in Fiscal Year 2009:

- Over 100 students representing 10 school districts and 34 communities participated in the 2008-2009 YES! program.
- We secured funding from the Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace: An Alliance for Talent Development (MNREM) to expand YES! in 2009-2010 to enable more student teams from a wider geographic area to participate.
- YES! teams worked with community and business leaders to provide solutions to energy challenges in their communities. Projects ranged from calculating residential carbon footprints, growing and donating fresh produce, acquiring grants to install solar panels at a school, and much more.

[www.swifoundation.org/yes](http://www.swifoundation.org/yes)



YES! provides hands-on renewable energy learning opportunities for participating students throughout the region.

# SEPTEMBER

☾ FIRST QUARTER ● NEW MOON ☾ LAST QUARTER ○ FULL MOON

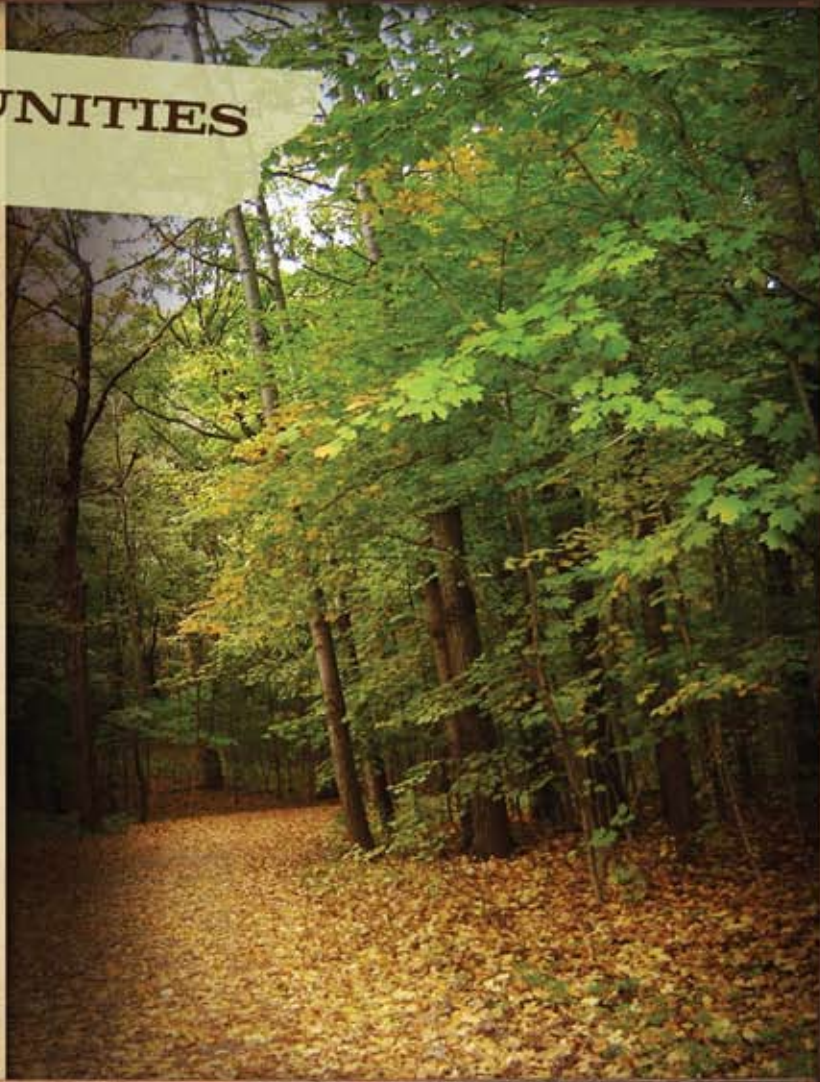
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			☾			
5	6 LABOR DAY	7	8 ROSH HASHANAH (BEGINS AT SUNDOWN THROUGH NIGHTFALL SEPTEMBER 10)	9	10	11
			●			
12	13	14	15	16	17 YOM KIPPUR (BEGINS AT SUNDOWN THROUGH NIGHTFALL SEPTEMBER 18)	18
			☾			
19	20	21	22 FALL EQUINOX	23	24	25
				○		
26	27	28	29	30		

## SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES MATTERS

Being the eyes and ears of the region is an important part of the Southwest Initiative Foundation's role. We're constantly on the look out for promising opportunities and partnerships. It matters that we seize those opportunities whenever possible to meet critical needs and enhance the quality of life in Southwest Minnesota. Here are just a few of the ways we accomplished this in Fiscal Year 2009:

- Administered a \$1 million land acquisition and planning grant for the Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor Project, which will create a 45-mile continuous path of access along the Minnesota River for a variety of recreational public uses.
- Supported business growth by providing our first housing loan to build a 24-unit apartment building in Jackson, MN, which meets the housing needs of new employees for several expanding local businesses.
- Facilitated Valspar's Minnesota Beautiful Program for the twelfth year. This year, the program provided 434 gallons of paint for nine beautification projects in Southwest Minnesota.

[www.swifoundation.org/grants](http://www.swifoundation.org/grants)



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The Green Corridor Project is helping provide public access and preservation for the pristine Minnesota River Valley.

# OCTOBER

☾ FIRST QUARTER ● NEW MOON ☾ LAST QUARTER ○ FULL MOON

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
						☾
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				●		
10	11 COLUMBUS DAY	12	13	14	15	16
				☾		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
						○
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 HALLOWEEN						☾

## PROVIDING GIVING OPTIONS MATTERS

Our vehicles for giving are as unique as our donors' desires. Do you want to set up a fund for a specific organization or project? We can host it. Do you and your family want to choose charities to support together on an annual basis? We can make it happen. Do you hope to leave a legacy through your estate plan? We can help with that, too.

Through our wide range of giving options, we help donors accomplish their charitable goals. The Southwest Initiative Foundation General Endowment supports initiatives that benefit the entire region. Our donor-advised funds are perfect for those who want to direct their gifts to specific projects and places. The Community Foundation and Designated Funds Programs build resources to support local communities and causes.

Here are a few ways we supported giving in Southwest Minnesota in Fiscal Year 2009:

- Established two new community foundation partnerships in Morton and Granite Falls and eight new designated funds to meet specific charitable goals throughout the region.
- Community foundation and designated fund partners raised more than \$950,000 for their unrestricted endowments and restricted capital projects and operating.
- These funds also awarded more than 200 grants totaling nearly \$1 million to projects that meet local and regional needs.

[www.swifoundation.org/givingoptions](http://www.swifoundation.org/givingoptions)



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE  
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Through the Mountain Lake Area Foundation and their donor-advised fund, Steve and Judy Harder supported renovation of the Munson Field track.

# NOVEMBER

☾ FIRST QUARTER ● NEW MOON ☾ LAST QUARTER ○ FULL MOON

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> VETERANS DAY	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> THANKSGIVING DAY	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

## GIVING MATTERS



Hectic schedules. Hurried lives. Heaps of activities and demands. It's easy to get distracted and lose sight of what matters most. But for many of us, it comes down to a few simple, precious things. Family. Friends. Home.

Southwest Minnesota is rich with people who care...people who are steadfast in their desire to make a difference and give back to the people and places that mean the most to them. Southwest Initiative Foundation simply would not exist without these hope-filled and hope-giving people. People like you.

We hope that as you pause and reflect on what matters most this holiday season, you'll remember Southwest Initiative Foundation. Your gift changes lives right here at home.

Here are a few ways people supported our mission in Fiscal Year 2009:

- Over 1,500 donors gave to our community foundation and designated fund partners, totaling nearly \$1 million.
- Over 250 donors gave to our General Endowment, totaling over \$211,000.
- Membership in the Growing Home Circle, a donor group that honors those who give \$1,000 or more annually to our General Endowment, grew by 5 percent.

Warm wishes for peace and happiness this holiday season!

[www.swifoundation.org/donate](http://www.swifoundation.org/donate)



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE  
FOUNDATION

Becky and Jerry Parker of Ortonville support the Foundation's General Endowment to strengthen and build the region.

# DECEMBER

☾ FIRST QUARTER ● NEW MOON ☾ LAST QUARTER ○ FULL MOON

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> HANUKKAH (BEGINS AT SUNDOWN THROUGH NIGHTFALL DECEMBER 9)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> WINTER SOLSTICE	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> CHRISTMAS EVE	<b>25</b> CHRISTMAS DAY
<b>26</b> KWANZAA (THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2011)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> NEW YEAR'S EVE	