



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

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May 5, 2021

Darrell Pettis
Le Sueur County
Courthouse
88 Park Ave S
Le Center, MN 56057-1600

Hello Mr. Pettis and County Board,

35 years ago, a devastating farming crisis swept across greater Minnesota. In response, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) along with five other regional foundations, were created to provide economic and philanthropic support to the 80 rural counties of Minnesota. 35 years later, we are faced with another crisis threatening the vitality of our region.

Southern Minnesotans have inspired us with their strength and unity in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. At SMIF, we are proud to have facilitated more than \$12 million in relief to our region through emergency grants, loans and additional support such as professional trainings and one-on-one assistance. We have also continued our \$5 million in annual programming and grantmaking. Below is the impact we made last year in your county:

In Le Sueur County...



\$151K in COVID-19 response funding was distributed to entrepreneurs, child care providers and communities.



55 early childhood professionals were impacted through grants, trainings and technical assistance.



60 businesses were impacted through our entrepreneur programming, grantmaking and lending.



For 35 years, SMIF has served the region in times of need. The enclosed fact sheets highlight this work and feature stories from those impacted by your financial gift. Thank you for your gift of \$3,000 on 6/1/2020. **Will you consider making a donation to SMIF again in 2022?** With your support, we can continue to invest in our region's early childhood professionals, entrepreneurs and communities.

Sincerely,

Tim Penny
President & CEO

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

