

Sharing progress

2007 grants infuse community action

For more than a half-century, the Blandin Foundation has been a partner in community-driven activities in the Grand Rapids area and rural Minnesota. Working with people who share the Foundation's mission of strengthening communities, grantmaking efforts move forward projects and programs of all sizes and scopes, giving people here, and throughout the state, the opportunity to enhance their communities.

Grants listed below were awarded between January and December 2007, and were made in the Foundation's six strategic focus areas. Each focus area addresses a unique aspect of rural life, with the common vision of healthy rural communities grounded in strong economies, where burdens and benefits are widely shared. Dark type denotes grants made in the Foundation's home giving area (greater Itasca County). This list does not include grants of \$1,000 or less.

Economic Initiatives

These grants help fund value-added initiatives that leverage community assets, community involvement and new technologies to revitalize our communities in ways unforeseen just a few years ago.

Deer River Hired Hands	\$165,000
For a recycling and wood processing project in Itasca County	
Depot Commons Association	\$38,000
Project support to initiate a community branding project for the Itasca County area	
Depot Commons Association	\$7,500
Building traces study for Itasca County and northeast Minnesota	
Eagleview Community Foundation	\$4,000
Planning funds for community walking trails in the S. Lake area	
Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority	\$1,000,000
A program-related investment for redevelopment purposes in downtown Grand Rapids	
Itasca Community College	\$2,500,000
Project support to enhance the ICC engineering program and stimulate economic growth	
Itasca Economic Development Corporation	\$15,000
For professional grants specialists to advance community and economic development opportunities	
Itasca Economic Development Corporation	\$4,000
Support for the Itasca Area Employer Toolkit	
Itasca Technology Exchange	\$50,000
Further develop the concept of a collaborative research and technology program adjacent to Itasca Community College	
Judy Garland Children's Museum	\$150,000
Continued operating support for the Children's Museum	
Minnesota Wood Education Project	\$110,500
Continued support for the Woods from the Woods initiative	
MN Diversified Industries	\$100,000
Continued support to provide employment opportunities for disabled and disadvantaged workers	
MN Diversified Industries	\$1,000,000
Continued support for bridge financing for the Grand Rapids and Hibbing facilities	
NE Entrepreneur Fund, Inc.	\$90,000
Continued support for business planning training and access to financing for unemployed and underemployed people in Itasca County	
North Central MN Farm & Antique Ass'n.	\$10,000
Capital support to renovate and preserve two historic buildings for educational and cultural purposes in Itasca County	
Northern Itasca Joint Powers Board	\$8,500
To develop a comprehensive plan for the Edge of the Wilderness area	
City of Northome	\$5,000
Technical assistance and business planning for the Northome Industrial Park	
Scenic Highway, Inc.	\$100,000
For a project coordinator to develop the Rabideau Conservation Academy and Learning Center	
United Way of 1000 Lakes	\$10,000
Health and human service needs assessment in Itasca County	
African Development Center	\$165,000
Support to expand capacity into four greater Minnesota communities	
Aitkin County	\$10,000
Research and planning grant for utilizing plasma gasification technology	
Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Education Ass'n.	\$50,000
Develop the Bridges Workplace Connection to business and education	
Cass County Economic Development Corp.	\$2,000
Membership support to promote economic development in the Renner area	
Dovetail Partners, Inc.	\$50,000
For an Eco-Affordable Housing program throughout rural Minnesota	
Ely Area Development Council	\$50,000
Continued support to promote local innovation through Project Firefly	
Gilzibil Resource Conservation and Development Ass'n.	\$6,300
Outreach to small private woodland owners to improve management practices	
Greater MN Housing Fund	\$750,000
Support for flood recovery in southeastern Minnesota	
City of Hibbing	\$37,500
For the Iron Range Community Fibernet Initiative	
Home and Community Options, Inc.	\$50,000
Implementation of the Lightspeed high-speed Internet grant program	
City of International Falls	\$5,000
Architectural design of a welcome center in International Falls	
City of Longville	\$5,000
Support for a teaching and display venue for local artists	
MacCray School District	\$12,000
Implementation of the Lightspeed high-speed Internet grant program	
Minnesota Forest Resources Council	\$100,000
For the Working Forestland Conservation Initiative	
Minnesota Technology, Inc.	\$150,000
To develop and pilot-test a Business Growth Planning Tool to assist small and medium-sized manufacturing firms	
Minnesota Wood Campaign, Inc.	\$50,000
Continued support for education and planning	
City of Moose Lake	\$8,000
Year 2 funding for the Get Broadband program	
Univ. of MN Duluth - Natural Resources Research Institute	\$150,000
For a Product Development Fund to enhance economic growth in northeastern Minnesota	
NE Entrepreneur Fund, Inc.	\$250,000
For the Northland Entrepreneur Development System in rural Minnesota	

Northland Institute	\$150,000
To develop a Minnesota Employee Ownership Fund to help increase the number of employee-owned businesses throughout rural Minnesota	
The Northspan Group, Inc.	\$20,000
Facilitation of the Range Readiness Initiative	
Northwest Regional Dev't. Commission	\$25,000
Worker training initiative	
The People Connection, Inc.	\$15,000
Year 2 implementation of the Get Broadband program	
Redwood Area Communities Foundation	\$5,000
Research and exploration for niche energy opportunities and workforce development in the Redwood Falls area	
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	\$250,000
For the Business Recovery Fund to assist southeastern Minnesota businesses affected by flooding	
Southwest Minnesota Foundation	\$1,250
Project support to research the feasibility of a cultural event in the Hutchinson area	
University of Minnesota	\$15,000
Project support to continue the Community Assistance Program	
University of Minnesota	\$45,000
Project support to reduce carbon emissions and increase reforestation in rural Minnesota's forests, farms and other land areas	
White Earth Reservation Tribal Council	\$200,000
Capital support to construct a wind turbine as part of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency on Tribal Lands project	

Educational Attainment

These grants help increase the educational attainment of disadvantaged populations and grow our communities' overall standard of living.

Education Awards Program	\$905,100
Support for 343 scholarships awarded to students at Itasca County area schools	
City of Calumet	\$2,000
Upgrades for the City of Calumet Library computers	
Independent School District 316	\$49,000
For implementation of Project Lead the Way in Greenwood School District	
City of Coleraine	\$2,000
Computer equipment for the Coleraine Public Library	
Independent School District 317	\$40,000
Project support to implement Project Lead the Way at Deer River High School	
Eagleview Community Foundation	\$14,000
Capital support for the Eagleview Community Technology Center	
Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation	\$5,000
For online application software for scholarship and sharing fund processing	
Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation	\$4,500
For the Nursing Assistant Class and Certification Loan Program	
Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation	\$10,000
Support to implement Tracker, a philosophy software program, into the 5th grade science curriculum	
Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation	\$9,000
Support for a scholarship website covering the greater Itasca County area	
Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation	\$16,500
To bring The Power Team to school in Itasca County to encourage positive choices and resist negative peer pressure	
Independent School District 318	\$30,000
Project support for Native American studies class at Grand Rapids High School	
Independent School District 318	\$39,000
Continued support for Project Read	
Independent School District 318	\$48,290
Implementation of Project Lead the Way at Grand Rapids High School	
Itasca Area Schools Collaborative	\$3,450,000
Continued support of Invest Early program	
Itasca Community College	\$348,000
Support for financial aid assistance during the 2006-07 academic year	
Itasca Community College	\$160,000
Support for the Applied Learning/College Attainment program focusing on grades 1-4	

Itasca Community College	\$12,000
Capital support to upgrade technology at the ICC computer training lab	
Itasca Economic Development Corporation	\$5,000
Development of financial literacy presentations and curriculum	
KOOTASCA Community Action	\$5,500
Support for administrative expenses not covered in the Minnesota Reading Corps contract	
KOOTASCA Community Action	\$3,000
Support to secure 20 AmeriCorps volunteers to enhance K-2 reading programs at Itasca County area elementary school	
City of Marble	\$2,000
Funding for two new computers for the Marble Public Library	
Reif Arts Council	\$3,650
Knecht Center Partner in Education Institute collaboration for teacher training workshops	
Independent School District 118	\$150,000
Support to provide preschool education in the Renner School District	
Itasca County Historical Society	\$90,000
Sustaining contribution to collect, preserve, interpret and disseminate the history of Itasca County	
Itasca Orchestral Society	\$80,000
Sustaining contribution to provide orchestral music opportunities for youth and adults	
MacRostie Art Center	\$70,000
Sustaining contribution to provide visual arts and educational programming	
Edvisors, Inc.	\$147,000
Project support to expand the Hope Study project in rural school districts, especially those with significant numbers Latino and Native American students	
Growth and Justice	\$45,000
Support for the Retaining Public Education project to increase the number of students who finish a postsecondary degree program throughout rural Minnesota	
Growth and Justice	\$5,000
Twin Cities Public Television coverage of the education summit "Smart Investments in Minnesota's Students"	
MN Minority Education Partnership, Inc.	\$20,000
Support to expand college access for low-income and minority populations	
North Shore Trade & Tech Project	\$45,000
Support to link educational opportunities for North Shore youth and adults to the current workforce needs	
Northland Foundation	\$5,000
Support of the Regional Kindergarten Transition Summit	
Ready for K	\$150,000
Continued support to promote and improve school readiness throughout rural Minnesota	
Univ. of MN Duluth	\$10,000
Support to revitalize the Indian Mental Health Training Project	

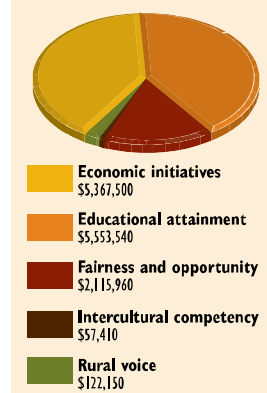
Fairness and Opportunity

These grants, most of which are awarded in the Foundation's local giving area, address a broad range of social issues, with particular emphasis on programs that address root causes of socioeconomic inequalities, so that all people can strive to live with dignity in our communities.

Accessible Space Inc.	\$5,000
Project support to transition the Moses Residence in Grand Rapids from supportive housing services to an assisted living model	
Bovey/Coleraine Youth Center	\$3,810
Children First 2007 New Year's Eve Celebration	
Bovey/Coleraine Youth Center	\$80,000
Continued support of the Youth Center	
Boys & Girls Club of Leech Lake Area	\$60,000
Continued support of the Boys and Girls Club in Deer River	
Boys & Girls Club of Leech Lake Area	\$1,500
Children First 2007 New Year's Eve Celebration for Deer River area families	
Centennial Rotary Club of Grand Rapids	\$1,300
Grand Rapids area community Thanksgiving dinner	
Cherish our Children	\$3,500
Partial support of the Illuminations workshop on childhood sexual abuse	

ElderCircle	\$100,000
Ongoing support and start-up assistance for an Adult Day Service	
Friends for Animal Welfare	\$4,950
Support for the Itasca Area Nonprofit Guide	
GRACE House	\$4,000
Phase 1 financial feasibility study of capital and operations for a permanent housing shelter in Grand Rapids	
GRACE House	\$80,000
Operations and planning support for the GRACE House homeless shelter in Grand Rapids	
Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation	\$100,000
Continued support for the Itasca County Sharing Fund emergency assistance program	
Independent School District 318	\$50,000
Continued support for the Children First Initiative	
Independent School District 318	\$78,000
Continued support for the Step Ahead early childhood education program	
Independent School District 318	\$195,500
Continued support of Baby Steps Boutique	
City of Grand Rapids	\$3,300
Children First 2007 New Year's Eve Celebration	
Habitat for Humanity of Itasca County	\$143,000
Continued operating support for low-income housing development	
Itasca County Family YMCA	\$4,000
Get Fit Itasca initiative	
Itasca County Health & Human Services	\$45,000
For the Kathleen Haas Recovery Program	
Itasca Hospice Partners	\$10,000
Needs assessment to determine the feasibility of a hospice house	
KOOTASCA Community Action	\$100,000
Continued support of the Teenage Parent Program	
KOOTASCA Community Action	\$8,000
Support for "Bridges Out of Poverty" community training in Grand Rapids	
KOOTASCA Community Action	\$45,000
Continued support of the Itasca Area Crisis Nursery	
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	\$1,500
Children First 2007 New Year's Eve Celebration for the Inger community	
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	\$1,500
Children First 2007 New Year's Eve Celebration for the S. Lake community	
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	\$2,000
Children First 2007 New Year's Eve Celebration for the Bull/Cub/Winnic Dam area	
NE MN Office of Job Training	\$4,100
Technical assistance to increase effectiveness for the Itasca County Collaborative	
North Homes Inc.	\$7,000
Support for implement gender-responsive and restorative justice interventions in the lives of youth in Itasca County	
Northland Counseling Center/Itasca County	\$5,000
Development of an outdoor complex for Elder House in Grand Rapids	
Youth for Christ	\$50,000
Continued support of the Grand Floor Youth Center in Itasca County	
Action through Churches Together	\$60,000
Sustaining contribution to respond to community issues and expand organizational efforts	
Advocates for Family Peace	\$90,000
Sustaining contribution to promote safety, equity and peace to families experiencing domestic abuse	
Bigfork Valley Hospital	\$30,000
Sustaining contribution for the Home Visitor Program	
Bridges Kinship Mentoring	\$80,000
Sustaining contribution to provide mentoring opportunities for young people	
Community Cafe	\$50,000
Sustaining contribution to help reduce hunger	
Cooperative Solutions	\$100,000
Sustaining contribution for medication services in Itasca County	
First Call for Help of Itasca County	\$90,000
Sustaining contribution for emergency, information and referral services	
Friendship Ventures	\$5,000
Sustaining contribution for Itasca County disabled youth to participate in camp activities	
Girl Scouts of MN and WI Lakes and Pines	\$20,000
Sustaining contribution for the Girl Scout program	
Itasca Alliance Against Sexual Assault	\$60,000
Sustaining contribution to provide support and advocacy to victims of sexual violence and prevention education	
Marcell Family Center	\$60,000
Sustaining contribution for family center programming	
MN Special Olympics, Inc.	\$60,000
Sustaining contribution for the Special Olympics program in Itasca County	
Second Harvest North Central Food Bank	\$100,000
Sustaining contribution for Food Bank operations	
United Way of 1000 Lakes	\$44,000
Sustaining contribution in support of administration	
Voyagers Area Boy Scouts	\$20,000
Sustaining contribution for the Boy Scouts program in Itasca County	
Youth for Christ	\$50,000
Sustaining contribution for the Campus Life program in Itasca County	
Childcare Resources and Referral	\$50,000
Support to help southeast Minnesota day care providers resume operation after flood damage	
JOBS NOW Coalition	\$195,000
Support to increase economic literacy and labor market outcomes for greater Minnesota residents	
Lakewood Health System	\$26,000
Implementation of the Lightspeed high-speed Internet program	
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota	\$5,000
Planning funds for coding child, youth and family homelessness in Minnesota	

Local Grants Awarded
2007 Total: \$13,216,560



Grants Awarded
2003-2007

