

Splendid undertakings

Dear Neighbors:

Charles Blandin was a man who had the strength and vision to establish this foundation during the uncertainties of 1941, making headlines across the country. While his dream was of a healthy Grand Rapids and Itasca County, what he cared about most was the Foundation being a valued community partner—a vision we still hold for our work.

In 2011, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of our Blandin Community Leadership Program (BCLP), having partnered with more than 6,000 rural Minnesota leaders—500 in Itasca County alone—in building their skills and networks. Hardly a day goes by that we don't hear a story about the impact of a single person who effectively framed an issue, built social capital and mobilized resources for their community. Community leadership most certainly matters.

Our public policy and grant-making work also give us a front-row seat to rural community leadership. The transformations we have seen through our partnerships in rural broadband, early childhood and student success—work that often leads the way nationally—makes us even more hopeful for rural Minnesota communities and their futures.

A look at the list of 2010 grants also is a powerful reminder of the passion and innovation of leaders here and throughout rural Minnesota, as well as the significant needs of our neighbors in such uncertain times.



Laurence Rossman, Charles Blandin's good friend, said in 1946 that one of Blandin's basic expectations for his foundation was that it was to be a "...partner in splendid undertakings with the community and the county."

To our many partners, thank you for your truly "splendid" work to propel our students, to care for our neighbors, to create an intentional future for our communities, to work across and celebrate our differences, to be generous with each other. As in 1941, the challenges and opportunities of the future will demand the best of us all.

Jim Hoolihan
Jim Hoolihan

A share in progress

2010 grants infuse community action

Since 1941, Blandin Foundation has been a partner in community-driven activities in the Itasca County 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 rural communities.

Grants listed below were awarded between January and December 2010, and were made in the Foundation's three strategic priority areas. Each 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. Brown type denotes grants made in the Foundation's home giving area, the Itasca County area. This list does not include grants of \$1,000 or less.

Commitment to Home

Local Grants

Centennial Rotary Club of Grand Rapids\$1,900
2010 annual Thanksgiving dinner for the Grand Rapids area

Cooperative Solutions\$10,000
Early Case Management/Early Neutral Evaluation voluntary mediation pilot program over 18 months for low-income families in the Itasca County area

Depot Commons Association\$5,500
Support for the 2011 Governor's Fishing Opener

GRACE House of Itasca County\$50,000
For operating support of the shelter and day center services in Itasca County

City of Grand Rapids\$50,000
Support for the Library Alternative Heating Project

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation\$1,300
Mt. Itasca funding plan facilitation as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation\$5,000
Angel of Hope Memorial Park as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation\$50,000
Supplemental support for the Itasca County Sharing Fund

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation\$7,400
Support for a seminar sponsored by Healthy Brains for Children to reinvigorate the focus community organizations place on public education regarding fetal alcohol syndrome

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation\$4,800
Production of the 2010 Itasca Area Nonprofit Giving Guide

Grand Rapids Area Male Chorus\$5,000
Partial support for the regional Big Sing event in 2011

Greenway Senior Citizens\$2,000
Upgrades to the roof and chimney of the Marble Senior Center

Habitat for Humanity of Itasca County\$50,000
Sustaining contribution for low-income housing development in Itasca County

Independent School District 318 ...\$146,000
For continued support of the Baby Steps Boutique in Itasca County

Itasca Community Television\$150,000
For continued operating support through 2012 in Itasca County

Itasca Economic Development Corporation\$5,000
Study the feasibility of creating a leadership education economic opportunity in the local community

Itasca Economic Development Corporation\$38,000
Project support for a leadership education economic training program in Itasca County

Itasca Economic Development Corporation\$200,000
For continued operating assistance to promote economic development opportunities throughout Itasca County

Itasca Ski And Outing Club\$5,000
Support for hosting the biathlon and ski jumping Olympic trials

Koochiching County\$15,000
Maintain services at the Northhome Resource Center in 2010

KOOTASCA Community Action\$51,000
For crisis housing activities in Itasca County

KOOTASCA Community Action\$95,000
For continued support of the Itasca Area Crisis Nursery program in Itasca County

KOOTASCA Community Action\$118,000
For continued support of the Teenage Parent Program in Itasca County

MN Assistance Council for Veterans\$10,000
Programming and services for veterans and their families in Itasca County

MN Council on Foundations\$5,616
Subscriptions for 24 area grantees to Minnesota Grantmakers Online

Minnesota D.A.R.E., Inc.\$2,500
Programming support for northern Minnesota

NE MN Area Health Education Center\$5,000
A public education program focusing on germ awareness in Itasca County and surrounding schools as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

Nonprofits Assistance Fund\$75,000
Project support to build nonprofit capacity, promote partnerships and strategic alliances among Itasca County area nonprofits

Northern Community Radio\$5,000
Documentary production training

Northern Itasca Joint Powers Board ...\$5,000
Support to conduct a comprehensive community plan for the City of Bigfork

Northland Area Family Service Center\$25,000
Support for the home visiting program for families with children 0-3

Northland Counseling Center/Itasca County\$9,500
Support for training costs associated with the Certified Peer Specialist program in Itasca County.

Pengilly Booster Club\$3,000
Fencing and playground equipment

Reif Arts Council\$310,000
For continued support for operations and programs in Itasca County

Second Harvest North Central Food Bank\$3,000
Kids Packs to Go backpack program in Itasca County

Second Harvest North Central Food Bank\$2,500
Kids Packs to Go backpack program in Itasca County

Invest in Leaders

Rural Minnesota Grants

Cambridge Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation\$1,800
Support for the Itasca County Leadership Program as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

Center for Sustainable Living\$2,100
Understand the economic implications of climate change and fossil fuel dependence on rural communities as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

Headwaters Regional Development Commission\$5,000
Technical assistance for the development of Marshall to begin a stewardship process as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

Hmong Arts Connection\$5,000
Initial organization and start-up expenses for the Southwest Minnesota Hmong Community Center as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

Independent School District 659\$5,000
Project support to build inclusion and leadership among diverse populations in the Northfield School District as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

Nicollet County\$5,000
Technical assistance with the development and implementation of a countywide leadership/network program in Nicollet County as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

Redwood Area Communities Foundation \$5,000
Technical assistance for leadership planning and development for the Tananka Bluffs Corridor as an outgrowth of participation in the Community Advantage Leadership Training

Redwood Area Communities Foundation \$5,000
Planning support for the Minnesota Valley History Learning Center as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

Southwest Initiative Foundation \$25,000
Community Engagement and Leadership Competencies project throughout rural Minnesota

Southwest Initiative Foundation \$5,000
Support for the endowment of the Granite Falls Area Community Foundation as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

University of Minnesota \$10,000
Support for the "One Minnesota" Legislative Policy conference

Women's Leadership Fund \$10,000
Planning grant for the Rural Women's Leadership Summit in Minnesota

Expand Opportunity Local Grants

Action through Churches Together . . \$5,000
Itasca Community Connect event where individuals and families are able to learn about the services available throughout Itasca County

Area Partnership for Economic Expansion \$45,000
Conduct research and develop strategies aimed at promoting new economic activity and job growth in the Grand Rapids/Itasca County area

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency \$10,000
Operational support for the Free At Last program serving Itasca County youth

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency \$13,525
Operational support for the Free At Last program serving Itasca County youth

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency \$50,000
Creation of a marketing plan for AEOA transportation services

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency \$180,500
For continued support of the Adult Scholarship Program in Itasca County

Bigfork Valley Foundation \$10,000
Planning and research support for the development of a medical reprocessing manufacturing facility in the Itasca County area

Cass County Economic Development Corp \$2,500
Health care facility feasibility study

Cass County Economic Development Corp \$2,500
Membership for 2010 to promote economic development in that segment of the Foundation's service area

Depot Commons Association \$50,000
For continued support of the Workforce Development Initiative in Itasca County

Edge of the Wilderness Community Center \$2,500
Support for the theater production of The Laramie Project which is based on the aftermath of the murder of a young gay man in Laramie, Wyoming

City of Grand Rapids \$3,000
Education program for Grand Rapids area businesses and nonprofits on ADA requirements and possible solutions to barriers allowing people with mobility issues access to facilities

City of Grand Rapids \$3,500
Preliminary design work on the Library/Blandin Foundation alternative energy project

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation \$3,500
Phase 2 of the funding plan facilitation for Mt. Itasca as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation \$150,000
Continuation funding for the Itasca County Trails Task Force

Independent School District 316 \$5,000
Support for a FIRST Robotics Team

Independent School District 316 \$15,000
Planning support to identify opportunities for sharing resources between the Nashwauck and Greenway school districts in Itasca County

Independent School District 316 \$3,000
Support for Children First! activities throughout 2010

Independent School District 317 \$40,000
To provide Deer River area students with high quality after school educational experiences and opportunities through the Boys and Girls Club of Deer River

Independent School District 317 \$2,000
Support for Children First! activities throughout 2010

Independent School District 318 \$1,200
Working Family Resource webinars for working parents throughout the Itasca County area

Independent School District 318 \$9,000
Support for Children First! activities throughout 2010

Independent School District 318 \$25,000
Continuation funding for the Children First! Initiative in Itasca County

Independent School District 318 \$90,000
For continued support of the Step Ahead parent education program in Itasca County

Independent School District 318 \$11,000
Continuation funding for community mini grants as part of the Children First! Initiative in Itasca County

Independent School District 319 \$2,000
Support for Children First! activities throughout 2010

Independent School District 363 \$5,000
Support for a FIRST Robotics Team

Itasca Alliance Against Sexual Assault \$2,500
Support for strategic planning and merger expenses with Sexual Assault Services of Aitkin County

Itasca Community College \$3,050
Financial aid presentations at area high schools for parents and students to learn about financial preparation for college

Itasca Community College \$375,000
For financial aid assistance for Itasca County high school graduates during the 2011-12 school year

Itasca Community College \$40,000
For supplemental financial aid assistance for the 2010-11 school year

Itasca County Family YMCA \$50,000
Operating support for the Get Fit Initiative in the Itasca County area

Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest \$10,000
Implementation of Junior Achievement programming in Itasca County schools

KOOTASCA Community Action \$103,000
For community engagement activities in Itasca County

KOOTASCA Community Action \$283,000
For continued support of the Circles of Support program in Itasca County

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe \$50,000
Capital support for broadcasting equipment to start a broadcasting operation on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe \$50,000
For the Bug O' Nay Ge Shig school truancy reduction program

Leech Lake Tribal College \$10,000
Support towards creation of a master campus development plan

City of Marble \$10,000
Capital support for the new Marble Public Library

MN Technology of Participation \$10,000
Provide training to 25 Itasca County nonprofits in the Technology of Participation facilitation methods

Northern Lights Community School . . . \$57,000
For the ItascaCorps mentoring project in Itasca County

Reif Arts Council \$2,500
Kennedy Center Partners in Education project in Itasca County

Rural Minnesota Grants

African Development Center \$225,000
Continuation funding to build and strengthen economic development opportunities for African-Americans throughout rural Minnesota

Alexandria Technical College \$30,000
Programming support for the Diversity Action Resource Alliance

American Red Cross-Northland Chapter \$25,000
Disaster relief for June tornado victims in rural Minnesota

American Red Cross-Northland Chapter \$7,500
Disaster relief due to September flooding in central and southern Minnesota

Beltrami Area Service Collaborative \$150,000
Project support for the Students First! Initiative in rural Minnesota

Citizens League \$10,000
Support for the "Creating Pathways to Prosperity" policy initiative

Cambridge Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation \$5,000
Support for the Keep It Local program as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

Dakota Wicohan \$5,000
Support for three AmeriCorps positions to work with Dakota youth from August 2010 - August 2011 to increase academic success, civic engagement and adult volunteerism

Dakota Wicohan \$5,000
Support for continuing two AmeriCorps positions working with Dakota youth

Debate Minnesota \$10,000
Operations support to host six debates in regional areas around the state related to Governor and U.S. House races

Depot Preservation Alliance \$5,000
Research and planning for preservation of the rail depot in Baudette

Dovetail Partners, Inc. \$5,000
Support for the "Working Forests and Carbon" workshop and field tour in Aitkin County

Dovetail Partners, Inc. \$100,000
To continue efforts to develop ecosystem service market opportunities including forest-based carbon offset projects that support rural communities and responsible land care in rural Minnesota

Duluth Local Initiatives Support Corp. \$5,000
Support for Sustainable Community Week as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation \$5,000
To build the fundraising capacity for the Duluth Legacy Endowment Fund and strengthen it's long-term ability to provide quality-of-life programs and activities that meet a public need as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

Enterprise Minnesota \$5,000
Regional sponsorship for the third annual State of Manufacturing poll to be conducted in February 2011

Enterprise Minnesota \$5,000
Regional sponsorship for the second annual State of Manufacturing poll

Friends of the Minnesota Valley \$5,000
Creating Entrepreneurship Opportunities through Natural Resource Conservation project in southern Minnesota

Greater MN Housing Fund \$2,000,000
For continued support to create affordable housing for families throughout rural Minnesota

Greater Twin Cities United Way \$20,000
Phase II of the School Readiness Funders Coalition business plan that will direct the state in the area of early childhood care and education policies for the next decade

Growth and Justice \$80,000
Project support for the Smart Investments in Minnesota's Student project throughout rural Minnesota

Immigrant Law Center of MN \$220,000
For general support for statewide advocacy outreach and expansion of services to serve immigrants and refugees and for an attorney to implement benefits of Comprehensive Immigration Reform to clients living in rural Minnesota

Independent School District 309 \$50,000
Student Success project - a program to nurture, grow and retain talented students in the Park Rapids area

Initiative Foundation \$25,000
Capital for a low-interest, short-term loan fund for businesses damaged in the Wadena tornado

Itasca Community College \$35,050
Initiate a shared ride system to address transportation issues that have been barriers to student success within the five member colleges of the Northeast Higher Education District

JOBS NOW Coalition \$115,000
For continued support to promote economic opportunities and labor market outcomes for residents throughout rural Minnesota

Keepers Sacred Tradition of Pipemakers \$5,000
Continued support for the Native youth drum and dance class

City of Litchfield \$1,750
Planning grant to increase economic development and heritage tourism as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

Main Street Project \$10,000
Encourage participation of rural Latinos in the 2010 census

MN Campus Compact \$20,000
To improve college success measures, develop job skills and attitudes and expose rural and urban students to career opportunities in rural Minnesota

Minnesota Chamber Foundation \$5,000
Endowment support for Minnesota Business Gives

MN Coalition for the Homeless \$10,000
Design and facilitate a strategic planning process that identifies short and long-term direction for their statewide work

MN Council of Nonprofits Inc. \$2,000
Sponsor the Fast Fundraising Facts Workshop in Itasca County

MN Council of Nonprofits Inc. \$2,500
Sponsorship of the 2010 annual nonprofit conference

MN Council of Nonprofits Inc. \$25,000
Support for the rural elements of MCN's Nonprofit Advocacy Network

Minnesota E-Democracy \$10,000
Continuation of Cass Lake/Leech Lake Issues Forum community outreach efforts

MN Home Care Association \$5,000
Planning for a more robust system for home health care technology resource delivery

MN Humanities Center \$10,000
Support for the Iron Range history and cultural project

Minnesota Public Radio \$200,000
For continued support of delivering news programming to rural communities throughout Minnesota

Minnesota Rural Partners, Inc. \$10,000
Public education efforts to highlight the interdependence of rural and urban areas of the state

Minnesota Wood Education Project \$8,000
2011 Goods from the Woods program which combines an UpNorth Marketplace for specialty forest products and a living green program initiative

NE Entrepreneur Fund, Inc. \$125,000
Project support to expand coaching services to entrepreneurs committed to growing their businesses throughout rural Minnesota

Northland Foundation \$5,000
Support for the 2010 Northeastern Minnesota Early Childhood Summit

The Northspan Group, Inc. \$15,000
Sponsorship of the Minnesota Cup business plan competition

City of Palisade \$10,000
Research and education for the community on a plasma arc gasification opportunity

City of Palisade \$20,000
Further research, planning and public education for the Palisade Plasma Arc Gasification Endeavor (PAGE)

Parents United for Public Schools . . . \$75,000
For the Parents United Leadership Boot Camp, a training program provided to community leaders in rural Minnesota that have interest in quality E-16 education and the skills needed to effect change

Pine Point Community Council \$5,000
Ojibwe language revitalization program on the White Earth Reservation as part of the Rural Quick Start Program

Pine Technical College \$20,000
Technical assistance to design and develop operating procedures and guidelines for effective operation of an Entrepreneurship Center and Technology Business Incubator on the Pine Technical College campus

RAIN Source Capital Inc. \$2,500
Sponsorship for the 2010 Regional Angel Investor Network educational conference

Rainy River Community College \$100,000
Project support to establish math/science education programs throughout rural Minnesota

Redwood Area Communities Foundation \$10,000
Continuation of Sunkatanka Native Youth Development program

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation \$10,000
Support for the Tornado Recovery Fund to provide assistance to farmers and rural businesses impacted by the June tornado

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation \$20,000
Support for the Flood Recovery Fund to help businesses get back to pre-disaster conditions from the widespread flooding during September in southern Minnesota

University of Minnesota \$10,000
To continue implementation of the Minnesota Vital Communities Task Force recommendations

University of Minnesota \$10,000
Community-engaged design work for the Superior National Forest Scenic Byway

University of Minnesota \$50,000
For the Minnesota Principals Academy research-based executive development program in northern Minnesota

University of Minnesota \$50,000
Project support for the Engaged Philanthropy Program throughout rural Minnesota

Voyageur's National Park Association \$25,000
For the Sustainable Gateway Communities Initiative to work with communities to create teams for the benefit of their local economy and connect their community to public lands across rural Minnesota

Welcome Center, Inc. \$35,000
Project support for the College Access program in rural Minnesota

Wells Academy \$50,000
Operating support to provide training to Native American apprentice students in northern Minnesota

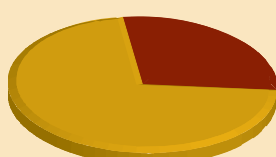
White Earth Band of Ojibwe \$50,000
Project support to assist northern Minnesota Indian reservations with organizational development and strategic plan implementation in rural Minnesota

White Earth Land Recovery Project . . \$10,000
Increase and expand the White Earth Food Systems project on the White Earth Indian Reservation

Willmar Area Multicultural Market . . . \$50,000
Support for a multi-cultural community kitchen in the Willmar area

Windustry \$25,000
Project support for the Community Options for Renewable Energy initiative throughout rural Minnesota

Grants Awarded 2005-2010



Grand Rapids/Itasca Area
\$58,148,034 (72%)

Rural Minnesota
\$22,828,582 (28%)

Note: Full financial statements always can be found at the Blandin Foundation web site or by contacting the foundation.