

2011 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 2011, and were made in the Foundation's three areas of focus. In addition to the grants listed here, the Foundation awarded more than \$978,000 in scholarships to 337 Itasca area students, and 156 grants less than \$1,000. Black type denotes grants made in the Foundation's home giving area, the Itasca County area.

Commitment to home

Local Grants

Advocates for Family Peace\$110,000
Sustaining contribution to promote safety, equity and peace to families experiencing domestic abuse in the Itasca County area

Arrowhead Regional Dev't Commission\$5,000
Retain a professional animal shelter consultant and planning/facilitation assistance

Bigfork Valley Hospital\$30,000
Sustaining contribution for the Home Visitor Program in the Itasca County area

Independent School District 32\$1,000
Support for the Bully Prevention Program for grades 7-12

City of Blackduck\$7,500
Conduct a marketing study to promote economic development for the Blackduck area

City of Bovey\$2,500
Capital Improvements for the West Range Senior Center in the Itasca County area

Bovey/Coleraine Youth Center\$172,000
Continuation funding for the Bovey Coleraine Youth Center during 2012 in the Itasca County area

Bovey/Coleraine Youth Center\$5,000
Itasca County New Year's Eve celebration

Bridges Kinship Mentoring\$80,000
Sustaining contribution to provide mentoring opportunities for young people in the Itasca County area

Centennial Rotary Club of Grand Rapids\$2,000
2011 annual Thanksgiving dinner for the Grand Rapids area

Cherish our Children Council\$2,500
Support for the "Eliminations workshop" in the "Words of the Offender"

Civil Air Patrol\$1,000
Donation towards capital upgrades

Community Cafe\$70,000
Sustaining contribution to help reduce hunger through the Community Cafe in the Itasca County area

Cooperative Solutions\$105,000
Sustaining contribution for mediation services in the Itasca County area

Independent School District 317\$1,000
To update Instruments and general equipment for the Instrumental Music Dept

Independent School District 317\$3,500
Children first activities in 2011

Depot Commons Association\$5,000
Office space for start-up businesses and entrepreneurs in the Chamber Information Center

ElderCircle\$80,000
Sustaining contribution to offer senior programming to residents in the Itasca County area

First Call for Help of Itasca Cty\$100,000
Sustaining contribution for emergency, information and referral services in the Itasca County area during 2012 and 2013

Friendship Ventures\$10,000
Sustaining contribution for Itasca County area disabled youth to participate in camp activities

Girl Scouts of MN and WI Lakes and Pines\$20,000
Sustaining contribution for the Girl Scouts program in the Itasca County area

GRACE House of Itasca County\$115,000
Program-related investment for a homeless shelter in the Itasca County area

GRACE House of Itasca County\$50,000
Operating support for the homeless shelter in the Itasca County area

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation\$4,800
Publication and distribution of the 2011 Itasca Area Nonprofit Giving Guide

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation\$4,000
Publication of the Itasca County area Community Report Card

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation\$3,750
Marketing of First Friday arts events throughout the Grand Rapids area

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation..\$200,000
For continued support for the Itasca County Sharing Fund in the Itasca County area

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation\$1,000
Donation for Nashwauk Veterans Memorial Park

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation\$5,000
Support for the Itasca Area Cancer Child Fund

Grand Rapids Economic Dev. Authority\$5,000
Partial support for Interpretive signage along the Mississippi River in front of the public library

Independent School District 318\$1,000
2012 Post Prom event for Grand Rapids High School

Independent School District 318\$1,000
Grand Rapids High School 2011 Post Prom event

Independent School District 318\$3,000
Planning and implementation of a Frisbee golf course in collaboration with the City of Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids Summer Celebration Inc.....\$7,500
for Timber Days 30th anniversary

City of Grand Rapids\$7,500
Architectural services to complete the design of a new facility to serve Itasca County area seniors

City of Grand Rapids\$50,000
Replace the carpet at the Grand Rapids Area Library

Grand Village Nursing Home\$5,000
Project support for a therapeutic room for residents with dementia and other disabilities

Grand Village Nursing Home\$1,000
Purchase wheelchair packs to increase patient independence, mobility and safety

Greater Pokegama Lake Association\$1,000
Donation towards the annual Independence Day fireworks on Pokegama Lake in Grand Rapids

Habitat for Humanity of Itasca County\$2,000
Strategic planning process in 2012

Habitat for Humanity of Itasca County\$100,000
Sustaining contribution for low-income housing development in the Itasca County area

Independent School District 2\$30,000
Project support for the Summer Youth Day Camp and Youth Leadership Board as part of the Hill City Kids Plus program

Itasca Chpt, Let's Go Fishing With Seniors.....\$1,000
Donation towards operating expenses in the Itasca County area

Itasca Community College\$1,000
Donation towards the annual on-campus powwow sponsored by the Ojibwa Tribe

Itasca Community College Foundation\$2,000
Creation of an Innovation Fund to be used for innovative and futuristic thinking proposals

Itasca County Family YMCA\$120,000
For continued operating support for 2011 and 2012

Itasca County Historical Society\$100,000
Sustaining contribution to collect, preserve, interpret and disseminate the history of the Itasca County area

Itasca County Veterans Service Office.....\$1,000
StandDown event for homeless and low-income veterans in Grand Rapids

Itasca Orchestra and Strings Program.....\$80,000
Sustaining contribution to provide orchestral music opportunities for youth and adults in the Itasca County area

Itasca Water Legacy Partnership.....\$15,000
To plan, publicize and implement the Itasca Water Summit event in the Itasca County area

Jacobson Community Center Foundation\$2,500
Upgrades to the community center's heating system

Judy Garland Children's Museum\$1,000
Support for the 36th annual Judy Garland Festival in Grand Rapids

KOOTASCA Community Action.....\$100,000
Emergency heating assistance funding for the Itasca County area

Lawrence Lake Township\$3,000
Upgrades to playground equipment

Legal Aid Service of Northeastern MN.....\$390,000
Continuation funding to provide legal assistance to low-income individuals and the Native American Outreach project in the Itasca County area

MacRostie Art Center.....\$70,000
Sustaining contribution to provide visual arts and educational programming to residents throughout the Itasca County area

Marcel Family Center\$65,000
Sustaining contribution for family center programming in the Itasca County area

MN Technology of Participation\$4,500
To provide training to nine Itasca area nonprofits in the Technology of Participation facilitation training

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Shelf.....\$1,000
Create a community garden for food shelf clients to grow their own vegetables

Northern Community Radio.....\$100,000
Sustaining contribution for news programming throughout the Itasca County area

Northern Lights Community School\$1,000
To bring in an anti-bullying speaker

Northland Counseling Center/Itasca Cty.....\$8,700
Training costs associated with the Certified Peer Specialist program

Northland Counseling Center/Itasca Cty.....\$10,000
Capital support for Adult Foster Care services to serve adults with severe and persistent mental illness and physical disability in the Itasca County area

Reif Arts Council.....\$10,000
Sponsor two daytime performances of the Peking Acrobats on Sunday, January 1, 2012, to encourage and promote access to persons of all income levels in the Itasca County area.

Remer Area Chamber of Commerce\$10,000
Electronic sign to promote community events in the Remer area

Second Harvest North Central Food Bank....\$100,000
Sustaining contribution for Food Bank operations in the Itasca County area

Special Olympics Minnesota\$60,000
Sustaining contribution for the Special Olympics program in the Itasca County area

Support Within Reach.....\$70,000
Sustaining contribution to provide support and advocacy to victims of sexual violence and prevention education in the Itasca County area

City of Taconite\$5,000
Upgrades to the Taconite Community Center

U of MN Extension Itasca County\$1,000
To bring the film "Greenfire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic For Our Time" to Grand Rapids to be shown to students and the general public

United Way of 1000 Lakes.....\$44,000
Sustaining contribution in support of administration during 2012 and 2013

Voyageurs Area Boy Scouts\$20,000
Sustaining contribution for the Boy Scouts program in the Itasca County area

City of Warba\$1,000
Donation towards the Warba Centennial

Youth for Christ\$60,000
Sustaining contribution for the Campus Life program in the Itasca County area

Youth for Christ\$85,000
Continuation funding for the Ground Floor Youth Center in the Itasca County area

Rural Minnesota Grants

American Red Cross-Northland Chapter\$40,000
Strategic planning, communications and data sharing technology in rural Minnesota

Independent School District 94.....\$1,000
Donation towards the Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative's transition conference for high school students with disabilities

Minnesota D.A.R.E., Inc.\$1,000
Donation towards safe and healthy lifestyle programming for children

MN Center for Mineral Resource Education\$1,000
Donation towards the Mineral Education Workshops for students and teachers

MN Council of Nonprofits Inc.....\$1,000
Membership renewal for 2011

MN Council on Foundations.....\$1,000
Working towards diversity and inclusion sponsorship

Southwest Minnesota State University\$1,000
Support for the Small Student Interpreter Program to be trained in basic US laws and legal procedures to work with the Fifth District Public Defender's Office

Invest in Leaders

Rural Minnesota Grants

MN Council of Nonprofits Inc.....\$50,000
Project support for a Performance Management Institute for small to mid-size nonprofits in central and northern Minnesota

Preservation Alliance of Minnesota\$15,000
Support for the Minnesota Main Street project

Redwood Area Communities Foundation....\$100,000
For expanding opportunity initiatives in the southern part of Minnesota

Strong Towns\$150,000
Work plan development to advance concepts of land use change and financial resilience for rural communities in Minnesota

University of Minnesota\$10,000
Support for the "One Minnesota" legislative policy conference

United Way Of Greater Duluth\$5,000
Partial support for two AmeriCorps volunteers for Duluth's Prosperity Index as part of the Rural Quick Start program

Western Community Action, Inc.\$25,000
Project support for feasibility and long-range collaboration efforts between agencies serving those in poverty in rural Minnesota

Women's Leadership Fund\$30,000
For the White House Project to expand their outreach to American Indian tribal women throughout rural Minnesota

Expand Opportunity

Local Grants

Bigfork Valley Foundation..... \$40,000
Project support for the first phase of planning and research to develop a medical/reprocessing manufacturing facility in the Itasca County area

Boys & Girls Club of Leech Lake Area.....\$180,000
For continued operating support for the Deer River and Eagleview units in the Itasca County area

Cass County Economic Development Corp.....\$2,500
Membership for 2011 to promote economic development in that segment of the Foundation's service area

Independent School District 316.....\$3,500
Children first activities throughout 2011

Depot Commons Association.....\$100,000
For continued support of the Workforce Development Initiative in the Itasca County area

Edge of the Wilderness Community Center.....\$1,000
Support for an educational series on women's history

First Call for Help of Itasca Cty.....\$5,000
Project support for the Community Connect of Itasca County event

Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital.....\$10,000
For board and governance development

Grand Itasca Foundation.....\$4,285
Support for the Foundation Event "Catch It" employee campaign in the Grand Rapids/Itasca County area

Independent School District 318.....\$16,200
For research and opportunities for alternative bus transportation options for students in the Itasca County area

Independent School District 318.....\$36,000
Continuation funding for Children First activities throughout the Itasca County area

Growth and Justice.....\$3,500
Communications and publications linking the lessons of the Strive Program of the Children's Public Schools to a strategy for student achievement and attainment in the Itasca County area

Independent School District 2.....\$150,000
For continued support of the Early Start program in the Hill City School District

Itasca Area Schools Collaborative.....\$3,990,000
For continued support of Invest Early in 2011-13 in the Itasca County area

Itasca Area Schools Collaborative.....\$50,000
A LightSpeed grant to build two Immersive Telepresence Learning studios

Itasca Area Schools Collaborative.....\$14,845
Assist in the completion of a Vision, Strategy and Execution plan to transform and improve sustainable educational outcomes through strengthened partnerships, state-of-the-art architectures, integration of functions and enhanced stakeholder understanding

Itasca Area Schools Collaborative.....\$750,000
Project support for the Bemidji Area Race Relations Council and Shared Vision Initiatives to increase effectiveness and long-term sustainability to improve race relations

Itasca Area Schools Collaborative.....\$2,950
Support for a team to learn how Madison Area Technical College is implementing 21st century learning projects utilizing Cisco distant learning options

Itasca Community College.....\$1,255
Administration of an education award survey

Itasca Community College.....\$375,000
For financial aid assistance for Itasca County high school graduates during the 2012-13 school year

Itasca Community College.....\$2,500
Support to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in Itasca area schools through a Student Success survey

Itasca Community College.....\$27,000
Project support to provide services in preparing students for postsecondary education through the Upward Bound and Talent Search project in the Itasca County area

Itasca Community College Foundation.....\$25,000
For a donor alumni, accounting and scholarship tracking system in the Itasca County area

Itasca County.....\$3,500
Forest Education and Awareness Program (FEAP) 2011 Summer Academy

Itasca Cty Health & Human Serv.....\$15,000
Project support to test an Innovative Electronic Document File Management System in Itasca County that will help reform a key system, driving cost savings

Itasca Economic Dev't Corporation.....\$500,000
For continued operating assistance to promote economic development opportunities throughout the Itasca County area

Itasca Ski And Outing Club.....\$20,000
Capital Improvements to the Mt. Itasca ski hill

Itasca Ski And Outing Club.....\$10,000
Marketing and promotion of Mt. Itasca

Itasca Water Legacy Partnership.....\$155,000
For operations to build local capacity for water quality assessment and encourage personal practices that sustain the Itasca County area's high-quality waters.

Minnesota Children's Museum.....\$25,000
Install an early literacy learning environment in the Grand Rapids Area Library

MN Diversified Industries.....\$5,000
Facilitated dialogue regarding potential strategic alliance

Independent School District 319.....\$2,500
Children First activities in 2011

NE Entrepreneur Fund, Inc.....\$120,000
For continued support to grow the skills of entrepreneurs for job creation and economic development in the northeast region of Minnesota

Northern Lights Community School.....\$1,000
Support for Eric Samuel Timm to present his program "Painting Hope" to the students of Northern Lights, Voyageurs Expeditionary and Pilgrimage charter schools

Northland Area Family Service Center.....\$50,000
Capital support to purchase property and move the Family Center to Remer

Reif Arts Council.....\$5,600
Kennedy Center workshops in 2011 and 2012 for elementary teachers in the Itasca County area

Independent School District 118.....\$160,000
For continued support of the Northland Early Childhood Collaborative in the Remer/Langville area

ServeMinnesota.....\$100,000
Project support for placement of ten AmeriCorps members in the Itasca County area

Rural Minnesota Grants

Advocates for Human Rights.....\$150,000
Project support for the One Voice Minnesota Anti-Bias Initiative throughout rural Minnesota

City of Aitkin.....\$1,100
Implementation of the Rt City Aitkin project as part of the Rural Quick Start program

Alexandria Technical & Community College.....\$15,000
For a documentary to encourage best practices to bridge K-12 and higher education throughout rural Minnesota

Anderson Center, Inc.....\$30,000
Expand the Center's capacity building efforts

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency.....\$5,000
Operating support for the Virginia Indian Center as part of the Rural Quick Start program

Bemidji Area Race Relations Task Force.....\$15,000
Project support for the Bemidji Area Race Relations Council and Shared Vision Initiatives to increase effectiveness and long-term sustainability to improve race relations

BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota.....\$180,000
For continued support to advance the growth of the bioscience industry in rural Minnesota

Central Lakes College- Brainerd.....\$20,000
Project support to develop a Race Equity and Excellence in Education Leadership Team at Central Lakes College in Brainerd

Centro Campesino, Inc.....\$100,000
Contribution funding for operations to improve the lives of immigrant populations through community organizing, education and advocacy in the southern part of Minnesota

Chippewa Cty Montevideo Hosp Med Clinic.....\$39,030
Implementation of a LightSpeed grant which will provide direct access to patients' medical information via high speed Internet

Chippewa Cty Montevideo Hosp Med Clinic.....\$1,000
To augment the LightSpeed grant to further the school efforts of the hospital by creating an online patient portal

Citizens League.....\$28,000
Support for the next phase of the Pathways to Prosperity project

Community Action Duluth.....\$5,000
Implementation of Getting Ahead workshops on the issues of race, systemic oppression and poverty as part of the Rural Quick Start program

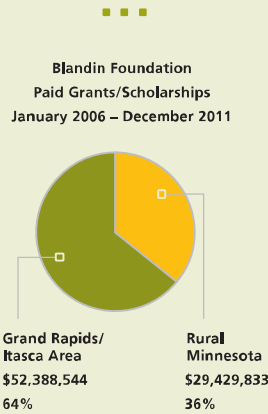
Corporation for Supportive Housing.....\$100,000
Project support to assist Minnesota tribes in developing sustainable funding streams to finance supportive services for formerly homeless and at-risk tribal members across Minnesota

Duluth Superior Area Comm. Foundation.....\$5,000
To develop a Cook County Community Fund Nonprofit Directory as part of the Rural Quick Start program

Duluth-Superior Educational TV Corp.....\$45,000
Project support for the Lake and Cook County Broadband Documentary project in rural Minnesota

Duluth-Superior Educational TV Corp.....\$70,000
Sustaining contribution for the production of *Native Report* throughout rural Minnesota

East Metro Medical Society Foundation.....\$50,000
Project support to initiate community-based conversations regarding end-of-life care planning targeted to the Native American community and in rural settings across Minnesota



Enterprise Minnesota.....\$5,000
Regional sponsorship for the 4th annual State of Manufacturing poll to be conducted in February 2012

City of Fergus Falls.....\$5,000
Support for a community telework initiative through the Rural Quick Start program

Full Circle Community Institute.....\$8,000
Statewide Native youth summit in June 2011

Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council.....\$5,000
Technical assistance to explore the design of a park and cultural center in Grand Portage as part of the Rural Quick Start program

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation.....\$24,000
For continued support of the Rural Access Leadership Fund throughout rural Minnesota

Greater Twin Cities United Way.....\$20,000
For Phase 3 of the School Readiness Funders Coalition throughout rural Minnesota

Hermantown Economic Dev't Authority.....\$10,000
Support for the Advance Hermantown project which will help the community agree on a desired future and align behind key strategies to act on that desired future

Hibbing Area Chamber of Commerce.....\$5,000
Third annual Global Understanding Conference at Hibbing Community College

Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empower.....\$10,000
Minnesota Latino 2010 Census Data Project

Independent School District 659.....\$60,000
Project support for the Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes (TORCH) community initiative to increase graduation and post-secondary attendance rates of minorities in the Northfield area

Indian Land Tenure Foundation.....\$5,000
Support for an intern to research the economic impact of land tenure in reservation communities in Minnesota

Initiative Foundation.....\$10,000
Project support for financial consulting services to continue working with leaders to revive businesses and retain livable wage jobs in Central Minnesota

Ironworld Development Corporation.....\$10,000
2011 Iron Range Women's Expo

Kandiyohi County & City of Willmar EDC.....\$28,000
Implementation of the Light Speed program

Kenwood Therapy Center.....\$5,000
Exploration and development of new community-based programming with Native communities in rural Minnesota as part of the Rural Quick Start program

Lakes and Prairies Community Action Part.....\$5,000
Bright Spots mapping project as part of the Rural Quick Start program

Leech Lake Tribal College.....\$160,000
Capital support for a library to house its Learning Center/Peer Tutoring program and provide community members with access to the college's collection and free Internet connection throughout rural Minnesota

Main Street Project.....\$2,000
For the 2011 National Rural Assembly in Minnesota "Building an Inclusive Nation"

Main Street Project.....\$80,000
Project support for the Agriculture Training Program and capacity building for Latino families in southern Minnesota

Minneapolis Foundation.....\$10,000
Support to update and redesign Minnesota's Bottom Line report to inform elected officials on how best to address the state's budget deficit

Minneapolis Foundation.....\$50,000
Project support to capitalize on human capital performance bonds to address social issues throughout rural Minnesota

Minneapolis Foundation.....\$4,000
To engage communities across Minnesota in identifying key features of natural learning systems

Minnesota 2020.....\$10,000
Program support for "Building on Success Connecting Small Growers and Consumers Throughout Rural Minnesota"

Minnesota News Media Institute.....\$126,000
For continued support of the Editors and Publishers Community Leadership Program throughout rural Minnesota

Minnesota Wood Education Project.....\$9,820
Support for the Minnesota Wood Species Education Program throughout rural Minnesota

Minnesota Wood Education Project.....\$10,000
Support for Goods from the Woods 2012, an annual event to showcase specialty forest products held in the Grand Rapids area

MinnPost.....\$80,000
Continued support for its online media outlet to bolster reporting capacity throughout rural Minnesota

MinnWest Technology Foundation.....\$38,000
Implementation of the LightSpeed grant program

MinnWest Technology Foundation.....\$1,000
Planning grant to create a remote learning center at the MinnWest Technology campus in Willmar

MN Chippewa Tribe.....\$80,000
Project support for a business development center to strengthen the economy in rural and reservation communities within the IAN Chippewa Tribe reservations in rural Minnesota

MN Civil Liberties Union Foundation.....\$5,000
Project support for the Greater Minnesota Rural Justice program as part of the Rural Quick Start program

MN Council on Foundations.....\$3,510
Subscriptions to the Minnesota Grantmakers Online Service for Itasca County area nonprofits

Native Americans in Philanthropy.....\$3,068
Establish a statewide online directory of American Indian owned businesses as part of the Rural Quick Start program

Native Vote Alliance of Minnesota.....\$5,000
Support for Native American communities to engage in civic participation and get out the vote efforts as part of the Rural Quick Start program

Northern Minnesota Public Television.....\$50,000
Sustaining contribution for programming and services in the northern region of Minnesota

Northland Foundation.....\$5,000
Support for the 2011 Northeastern Minnesota Early Childhood Summit

Northland Foundation.....\$5,000
To develop a collaborative strategy for advancing the economic health of northeast Minnesota

Northland Foundation.....\$16,200
Continued support of the Regional Economic Development group in 2011

The Northspan Group, Inc.....\$15,000
Sponsorship of the Minnesota Cup entrepreneurial contest in 2011 in northeast Minnesota

Northwest Minnesota Foundation.....\$60,000
Project support for the IDEA Competition to grow the economy and promote innovation in northwest Minnesota

Project FINE.....\$25,000
Digital Inclusion for Immigrants and Refugees Program in Winona County

Rainy River Community College.....\$15,000
To conduct a comprehensive study of collaboration opportunities between Rainy River Community College and Independent School District 361

Red Lake Nation College.....\$45,500
Project support to subsidize a portion of an environmental science instructor position at the Red Lake Nation College in rural Minnesota