2013 Grants

Since 1941, Blandin Foundation has been a partner in community-driven activities in the Itasca County area and rural Minnesota beyond our home giving area. 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 2013, and were made in the Foundation’s three areas of focus. In addition to the grants listed here, the Foundation awarded $953,700 in scholarships to 334 Itasca area students, and 54 grants of $1,000 or less.

Itasca Area
Commitment to Home

Advocates For Family Peace ..............................................$100,000
Operating support to promote safety, equity and peace to families experiencing domestic abuse in Itasca County during 2014-15

Bigfork Valley Hospital .............................................$425,000
Capital support for the Aspen Circle memory care addition in Itasca County

Bigfork Valley Hospital .............................................$30,000
Operating support for the Home Visitor Program in Itasca County during 2014-15

Bovey/Coleraine Youth Center Inc. .................................$175,000
Operating support for youth programming in Itasca County during 2014-15

Bovey/Coleraine Youth Center Inc. .................................$5,750
Project support for the New Year’s Eve 2013 Community Celebration in Itasca County

Boys & Girls Club of Leech Lake Area ..............................$75,000
Operating and continued program support for the Deer River and Eagleview units in Itasca County

Bridges Kinship Mentoring ...........................................$80,000
Operating support during 2014-15 to provide mentoring opportunities for young people in Itasca County

City of Grand Rapids ..................................................$4,500
Project support for conducting an impact study on the economic contribution of the IRA Civic Center to the Grand Rapids community

City of Remer ..........................................................$2,000
Capital support to purchase an automated chest compression device for the Remer Area Ambulance Service in Itasca County and the surrounding area

Community Café .......................................................$70,000
Operating support to help reduce hunger in Itasca County during 2014-15

Cooperative Solutions ..............................................$100,000
Operating support for mediation services in Itasca County during 2014-15

Depot Commons Association ....................................$10,000
Capital support to renovate the Depot building in Grand Rapids in Itasca County

Edge of the Wilderness Community Center .................$2,500
Project support for the Stages summer theater production of Aladdin in Itasca County

ElderCircle .............................................................$80,000
Operating support to offer senior programming to residents in the Itasca County area during 2014-15

ElderCircle .............................................................$5,000
Capital support for accounting services software and equipment in Itasca County

First Call for Help of Itasca County .............................$5,000
Project support for the 2013 Community Connect event in Itasca County

First Call for Help of Itasca County .............................$100,000
Operating support for emergency, information and referral services in Itasca County during 2014-15
First Call for Help of Itasca County ..................$35,000
Operating support for relocation and transition costs in Itasca County during 2014

Girl Scouts of MN and WI Lakes and Pines ..........$20,000
Operating support for the Girl Scouts program in Itasca County during 2014-15

Grace House of Itasca County .......................$120,000
Operating support to provide crisis housing services in Itasca County during 2014-15

Grand Itasca Foundation .............................$5,000
Project support for the My Plate wellness program for three-year olds in Itasca County

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation .........$100,000
Operating support for the Itasca County Sharing Fund

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation ..........$15,000
Project support for the work of the Community Marketing Coordinator and for imagery to visually tell the story of organizations in the Itasca County area

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation .........$4,800
Project support for production of the 2013 Itasca Area Nonprofit Giving Guide

Grand Rapids Show Boat Inc .........................$3,000
Capital support to make repairs to the Showboat in Itasca County

Habitat for Humanity of Itasca County ...............$150,000
Capital support for purchase of a building to house Habitat’s operations including the ReStore in Itasca County

Habitat for Humanity of Itasca County ...............$100,000
Operating support for low-income housing development in Itasca County during 2014-15

Independent School District 2 Hill City ..........$3,000
Project support for the Wilder Research evaluation comparing Hill City’s Early Start program with Invest Early in the Itasca area

Independent School District 318 Grand Rapids ...$22,500
Project support to provide quality assessments of out-of-school time programs using the Youth Program Quality Assessment tool in the Itasca area

Independent School District 318 Grand Rapids ...$90,000
Operating support for Baby Steps in Itasca County

Independent School District 318 Grand Rapids ...$4,500
Project support to bring in speaker Jamie Vollmer for the IASC multi-district day workshop in Itasca County

Independent School District 319 Nashwau-Kee-watin .......$3,000
Capital support to construct a playground at Kee-watin Elementary School in Itasca County

Independent School District 317 Deer River .......$25,000
Project support for the development and feasibility of a community center plan for Deer River in Itasca County

Itasca County Historical Society ....................$100,000
Operating support to collect, preserve, interpret and disseminate the history of Itasca County during 2014-15

Itasca County Veterans Council .....................$5,000
Project support for the Yellow Ribbon Designation to assist local veterans in the Grand Rapids/Itasca County area

Itasca Orchestra and Strings Program ...............$100,000
Operating support to provide orchestral music to adults and youth in Itasca County during 2014-15

Judy Garland Children’s Museum ...................$20,000
Project support to create a new Wizard of Oz exhibit and for carrying out the 75th anniversary community celebration in Itasca County in 2014

Judy Garland Children’s Museum ...................$60,000
Operating support to improve and broaden the School Service Program in Itasca County in 2014-15

MacRostie Art Center ................................$80,000
Operating support to provide visual arts and educational programming to residents throughout the Itasca County area during 2014-15

MacRostie Art Center ................................$6,000
Project support for the Gendron Jensen documentary in Itasca County

Marcell Family Center Inc .........................$65,000
Operating support for the family center program in Itasca County during 2014-15

Marcell Family Center Inc .........................$4,000
Capital support for the emergency/disaster relief shelter in Itasca County

Meadowlark Institute .................................$5,532
Project support to design the Art of Hosting training for four Itasca area communities

Meadowlark Institute ................................$270,600
Project support to strengthen the capacity of Itasca area residents to facilitate meetings and community change initiatives using participatory practices that result in wise collective action

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans ......$10,000
Project support to provide comprehensive services for Itasca County veterans who are homeless and/or experiencing a crisis

Minnesota Council On Foundations ...............$4,216
Project support to provide subscriptions to Minnesota Grantmakers Online for Itasca County nonprofit organizations

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Shelf ...........$20,000
Operating support over two years to hire a Site Coordinator in Itasca County

Northern Community Radio KAXE ..................$100,000
Operating support for news programming throughout Itasca County in 2014-15

Northern Lights Community School ...............$3,400
Project support to provide cultural and educational programming for Northern Lights Community School students in Itasca County

Northland Area Family Service Center ............$10,000
Project support for supplemental preschool tuition for families in Itasca County

Northland Counseling Center Inc ..................$5,000
Project support to conduct a study for the Itasca County Housing Institute
Regents of The University of Minnesota .......................... $22,800
Project support for developing and disseminating a Humphrey Project E-Case about the Itasca Area Initiative for Student Success

Deer River Hired Hands ............................................. $30,000
Capital support to purchase an updated baler to increase the organization's earned revenue potential from recycling in Itasca County

Reif Arts Council ..................................................... $10,000
Project support for the Golden Dragon Acrobats New Year's Day 2014 performance at a reduced price for the Itasca County area

Deport Commons Association ................................. $35,000
Project support for continued facilitation and coordination of the Workforce Development Initiative in the Itasca County area

Reif Arts Council ..................................................... $100,000
Project support to complete all project planning, including (funding) development and architectural and engineering design for a proposed renovation and expansion of the Reif Center in Itasca County

Edge of the Wilderness Community Center ........................ $1,500
Project support for the Perspectives Exhibit and Dance performance in Itasca County

Remer Centennial Library ...................................... $2,000
Capital support to purchase computer equipment for library patron usage in the Itasca County area

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation ................. $10,000
Project support for an Itasca Community Portal where new residents, existing residents and visitors can easily find the information they need in Itasca County as part of the Broadband Program

Second Harvest North Central Food Bank ........................ $100,000
Operating support for Food Bank operations in Itasca County during 2014-15

Independent School District 118 Remer .................. $160,000
Project support for continuation of early childhood programming for the Remer school district in the Itasca area

Second Harvest North Central Food Bank ........................ $2,200
Project support for the annual community Thanksgiving dinner in Itasca County for 2013

Independent School District 2 Hill City ................. $150,000
Project support for continued early childhood programming for Hill City in the Itasca area

Special Olympics Minnesota .................................... $60,000
Operating support for the Special Olympics program in Itasca County during 2014-15

Independent School District 318 Grand Rapids .......... $6,000
Project support for the 2014 FIRST Robotics team at Grand Rapids High School in Itasca County

Support Within Reach ........................................ $80,000
Operating support to provide support and advocacy to victims of sexual violence and prevention education in Itasca County during 2014-15

Independent School District 363 Northome ........... $5,000
Project support for the 2014 FIRST Robotics team at Northome High School in the Itasca County area

True Friends ....................................................... $10,000
Operating support for 2014-15 Itasca County youth with disabilities to participate in camp activities

Independent School District 317 Deer River .......... $5,000
Project support for the 2014 FIRST Robotics team at Deer River High School in Itasca County

United Way of 1,000 Lakes ...................................... $60,000
Operating support for administration in Itasca County during 2014-15

Itasca Area Schools Collaborative .......................... $800,000
Project support for implementation of Phases 2-5 of an enterprise-level core technology infrastructure that will support education for all communities across Itasca County

Voyageurs Area Council #286 Boy Scouts of America Inc. ........................ $20,000
Operating support for Boy Scout programming in Itasca County during 2014-15

Itasca Area Schools Collaborative .......................... $2,100,000
Operating support for Invest Early through June 2014 in Itasca County

Youth for Christ ................................................. $85,000
Operating support for the Ground Floor Youth Center in Itasca County during 2014

Itasca Community College .................................... $75,000
Project support to continue summer programming for the Talent Search and Upward Bound programs in Itasca County

Youth for Christ ................................................. $60,000
Operating support for the Campus Life program in Itasca County during 2014-15

Itasca Community College .................................... $5,000
Project support for activities associated with the shared text project, The Omnivore's Dilemma, for students, staff and community members in Itasca County

Expand Opportunity

Children's Dental Services .................................... $50,000
Project support to bring high quality dental services using teledentistry to the Nashwauk, Keewatin and Northome school districts in Itasca County as part of the Broadband Program

Itasca Community College .................................... $292,000
Project support to reform the engineering curriculum and expand the Intervention, Incentive and Achievement program in Itasca County

City of Grand Rapids .......................................... $5,000
Project support for facilitation of five local municipalities to identify areas of collaboration and alignment opportunities in the Itasca County area

Itasca Community College .................................... $250,000
Capital support for technology equipment, demolition and rebuilding of Donovan Hall in Itasca County

City of Remer ...................................................... $27,394
Capital support for the road and parking lot of the Remer senior living facility in the Itasca area

Itasca Community College .................................... $10,000
Project support for the annual Career Fair for 11th and 12th grade students in the Itasca County area
Itasca Community College .......................... $375,000
Project support for continuation of financial aid programs for Itasca County high school graduates for the 2014-15 academic year

Itasca Economic Development Corporation ............... $20,000
Project support to spur the innovative use of technology by small businesses in the Itasca area through training, technology business planning and implementation assistance with widespread promotion of successful results as part of the Broadband Program

Itasca Economic Development Corporation ....................... $10,000
Project support for Itasca Area Knowledge Workers program as part of the Broadband Program

Itasca Economic Development Corporation .......................... $500,000
Operating support to promote economic development opportunities during 2014-15 throughout Itasca County

Minnesota Diversified Industries .............................. $5,000
Project support for facilitation services to discuss collaboration between Minnesota Diversified Industries and Deer River Hired Hands to better serve Itasca County’s population of people with disabilities

Northeast Entrepreneur Fund Inc. ................................. $140,000
Operating support to provide professional services to entrepreneurial talent in Itasca County during 2014-15

Northern Lights Community School ................................. $50,000
Capital support for the school’s Fresh Local Food Project in Itasca County

Search Institute ................................................. $49,303
Project support for creation of an integrated data collection and mobilization strategy to support comprehensive data-guided development of the Itasca Area Initiative for Student Success in Itasca County

Search Institute .............................................. $297,866
Project support to provide technical support, strategic consultation and process evaluation/documentation to the Itasca Area Initiative for Student Success through 2016

Rural Minnesota Expand Opportunity

African Development Center ................................. $150,000
Operating support for African Development Center activities in rural Minnesota during 2014-15

Area Partnership for Economic Expansion ..................... $45,000
Project support over three years for membership confined to charitable education and research activity in rural Minnesota

Austin Community Charitable Fund ..................... $25,000
Project support to conduct a feasibility study on building a broadband network in Austin as part of the Broadband Program

Big Stone County ........................................... $10,000
Project support to add mobile device functionality to Big Stone County’s web portal in rural Minnesota as part of the Broadband Program

Cass County Economic Development Corp ................... $17,548
Project support to establish a telepharmacy in Longville MN as part of the Broadband Program

Cass County Economic Development Corp .............. $3,500
Project support for economic development efforts in Remer and northern Cass County

Charities Review Council of Minnesota .................. $8,000
Operating support to help provide information and education to donors and charities throughout rural Minnesota during 2014-15

City of Aitkin ............................................. $1,500
Project support to form an economic development structure to lead ongoing economic development activity in Aitkin County

City of Annandale ........................................... $21,250
Project support to conduct an ultra-broadband feasibility study in rural Minnesota as part of the Broadband Program

City of Fergus Falls ........................................... $10,000
Project support for continuation and improvement of the Fergus Falls Telework Initiative in rural Minnesota as part of the Broadband Program

City of Thomson ............................................ $5,000
Project support for technical assistance to explore merging the cities of Thomson and Carlton in rural Minnesota

City of Watertown ........................................... $10,000
Project support to create a central business district wi-fi hotspot as part of the Broadband Program

College of St. Scholastica Inc .................. $16,944
Project support for a partnership between St. Scholastica and FirstLight Health System using telehealth technology to provide pre-surgical patient education and continuing education to Health System’s staff as part of the Broadband Program

Dovetail Partners ........................................... $50,000
Project support to engage eight northern Minnesota county land departments and their managers in forest inventory improvements and improve overall county-based collaboration and leadership of forest management issues in rural Minnesota

Dovetail Partners ........................................... $10,000
Project support for managing the research and design of a five-year anniversary regional convening of Vital Forests/Vital Communities leaders to be held in 2013 in rural Minnesota

Duluth-Superior Educational TV Corp ............ $80,000
Operating support for production of Native Report throughout rural Minnesota during 2014-15

East Central Regional Library .................. $9,200
Project support to provide no-cost technology training in communities of Mille Lacs County in rural Minnesota as part of the Broadband Program

Enterprise Minnesota .................. $5,000
Project support for regional sponsorship for the 5th annual State of Manufacturing poll to be conducted in April 2013 in rural Minnesota

Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa ........ $18,750
Project support for small business training sessions on a variety of business technology strategies and tools as part of the Broadband Program

Great Plains Institute For Sustainable Development .................. $40,000
Project support for the activities of the Bioeconomy Coalition in rural Minnesota

Great Plains Institute For Sustainable Development .................. $10,000
Project support for statewide efforts to educate industry and elected officials and improve conditions to jumpstart the state’s bioeconomy in rural Minnesota
Broadband Program of the Woods County residents in rural Minnesota as part of the Project support to enhance knowledge and use of the internet for Lake of the Woods.

Lake of the Woods Senior Citizens Council Inc. $15,000
Project support to provide and expand digital inclusion within Lake of the Woods County to include multiple public computer/internet sites and public Wi-Fi as part of the Broadband Program.

Lake Superior School District #381 $18,000
Project support for mobile devices for the Lake Superior School District as part of the Broadband Program.

Lake Superior School District #381 $17,000
Project support for training programs on web and internet tools aimed at multiple demographics in Lake County to increase the technological sophistication of the community as part of the Broadband Program.

LakeWood Health Center $2,000
Project support for the Lakewood Technology project to provide communications access for patients and residents in rural Minnesota as part of the Broadband Program.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe $10,000
Project support for completion of a 10-week pilot Tribal Internship Program in rural Minnesota.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe $20,210
Project support to provide wireless communication services to the Leech Lake Reservation as part of the Broadband Program.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe $120,000

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe $3,000
Project support for a community gathering for Smokey Point/Kego Lake/Boy Lake Local Indian Council in rural Minnesota.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Housing Authority $3,400
Donation in support of the spring pow-wow to unite tribal communities, carry on Native traditions and lead Native youth to a better life in rural Minnesota.

MacPhail Center for Music $50,000
Project support for collaboration between MAC, Itasca Orchestra & Strings Program and MacPhail Center for Music to link music learners with MacPhail Online in rural Minnesota as part of the Broadband Program.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe $25,000
Project support to establish wireless internet access via free Wi-Fi sites in each of the Reservation's three districts in rural Minnesota as part of the Broadband Program.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe $14,930
Project support to develop and market wi-fi hot spots in Mille Lacs County as part of the Broadband Program.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe $4,500
Project support to develop marketing materials to raise awareness of the importance of broadband in rural Minnesota as part of the Broadband Program.
Mille Lacs County .................................................. $10,750
Project support to create and maintain a website to provide citizens with a comprehensive source of information, promote area businesses, governments and nonprofits and increase web presence in rural Minnesota as part of the Broadband Program

Minnesota Dental Foundation ............................. $3,000
Project support for Mission of Mercy 2013, Bemidji which will provide free dental care to underserved populations in Bemidji and the surrounding area in rural Minnesota

Minnesota News Media Institute ........................... $126,000
Project support to continue the Editor & Publishers Leadership Program in rural Minnesota through 2016

Minnesota Council of Nonprofits Inc. .................. $5,000
Project support for partial sponsorship for the 26th annual conference in Duluth

Minnesota Council On Foundations ....................... $33,900
Membership support for 2014-15 throughout rural Minnesota

Native Americans in Philanthropy ........................ $2,500
Membership support in 2013 throughout rural Minnesota

Northeast Entrepreneur Fund Inc ......................... $80,000
Project support for 2014-15 to identify regional entrepreneurial talent, build long-term capacity in serving second stage entrepreneurs and strengthen the existing business model for long-term sustainability in rural Minnesota

Northern Minnesota Public Television ..................... $50,000
Operating support for programming and services in the northern rural region of Minnesota during 2014-15

Northland Foundation ...................................... $10,000
Project support for the KIDS Plus Pathway to Career event to help 10th and 11th grade students explore available careers in northeastern Minnesota

Northland Foundation ....................................... $5,000
Project support for the 2013 Northeastern Minnesota Early Childhood Summit

Northland Foundation ...................................... $20,000
Project support for continued funding of the Rural Economic Development Group in 2013 in rural Minnesota

Northwest Technical College-Bemidji ..................... $175,000
Project support for the Minnesota Innovation Institute, an effort to strengthen the workforce pipeline to recruit, train and retain adequately skilled workers in rural Minnesota

Page Education Foundation .............................. $5,000
Project support for the Service to Children program in rural Minnesota

Parents United For Public Schools ......................... $40,000
Operating support to address needed structural changes to education in rural Minnesota

PCs for People ............................................... $47,500
Project support to provide 500 computers for up to ten Minnesota rural communities as part of the Broadband Program

Project FINE ........................................... $25,000
Project support for the Digital Inclusion for Immigrants and Refugees program in rural Minnesota as part of the Broadband Program

Southwest Minnesota Broadband Services .............. $4,140
Project support to sustain the educational effort and dialogue around internet-based marketing in rural Minnesota as part of the Broadband Program

Southwest Minnesota Broadband Services .............. $2,754
Project support for intergenerational use of technology throughout the Jackson Medical Center to patients and visitors in rural Minnesota as part of the Broadband Program

Southwest Minnesota Broadband Services .............. $7,500
Project support to identify and develop local wi-fi hot spots in member communities in rural Minnesota as part of the Broadband Program

Southwest Minnesota Broadband Services .............. $10,000
Project support for the 6090 Technology Triangle project in rural Minnesota as part of the Broadband Program

Technical Academies of Minnesota ....................... $49,776
Project support for the first Technical Academy charter school to be opened in Waldorf, Minnesota

Todd County ............................................. $9,075
Project support to establish ten public wi-fi hot spots in Todd County as part of the Broadband Program

University of Minnesota Natural Resources Research Institute .................. $3,500
Project support for the Heating the Midwest conference in support of regional economic development in rural Minnesota

University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management .................. $10,000
Project support for the 2013 Minnesota Cup Business Plan Competition in rural Minnesota

University of Minnesota Extension Itasca County ... $1,600
Project support to conduct a formative study of the Minnesota Women’s Woodland Network to better engage and educate women landowners in northeastern Minnesota

Volunteers in Education .................................. $20,000
Project support to expand the tutoring program to Eveleth-Gilbert and Nett Lake school districts in rural Minnesota

Invest in Leaders

Aitkin County CARE Inc .................................... $3,500
Project support for Aitkin County nonprofit board training as part of the Rural Quick Start program in rural Minnesota

Albert Lea Public Library Foundation .................... $5,000
Project support for the Choose Civility Initiative as part of the Rural Quick Start program in rural Minnesota
Bridges of Hope .................................................. $5,000
Project support for a mentoring program to build social capital for
individuals living in poverty in rural Minnesota as part of the Rural Quick
Start program

Citizens for Backus/AB ........................................ $5,000
Project support for programming for Koochiching Public Television in rural
Minnesota as part of the Rural Quick Start program

Ely Area Community Foundation ......................... $5,000
Project support to conduct a feasibility study for a community complex as
part of the Rural Quick Start program

Independent School District 2170 Staples-Motley .... $4,000
Capital support for outdoor enrichment activities as part of the Rural Quick
Start program in rural Minnesota

International Falls Economic Development Authority .................. $4,960
Project support to engage the community in creating a shared vision
and development plan for 125 acres of property along the Rainy River in
Koochiching County

La Crescent Healthy Community Partnership .......... $4,800
Project support to conduct a senior housing market study as part of the
Rural Quick Start program in rural Minnesota

Lakes Area Restorative Justice ............................... $5,000
Project support for a strategic plan for youth-focused services in Crow
Wing County as part of the Rural Quick Start program

Ours to Serve House of Hospitality ......................... $3,000
Capital support for the homeless shelter in Bemidji as part of the Rural
Quick Start program

Park Rapids Lakes Area Arts Council ...................... $5,000
Project support for facilitation assistance for arts entities as part of the
Rural Quick Start program in rural Minnesota

PFund Foundation .............................................. $30,000
Project support for the LGBT mapping and community engagement project
in rural Minnesota

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota .................. $5,000
Project support for an early education needs assessment in northeastern
Minnesota as part of the Rural Quick Start program

YMCA of Austin ................................................ $5,000
Project support for a feasibility study on a year-round recreation center as
part of the Rural Quick Start program

2013 Grand Total .............................................. $11,198,171

Blandin Foundation
Paid Grants/Scholarships
January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2013

Grand Rapids/
Itasca Area

$51,377,717
69%

Rural
Minnesota

$23,122,764
31%

Blandin Foundation
Strengthening Rural Minnesota

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