



2016 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Local entrepreneur Charles K. Blandin established his foundation in 1941, and since then the foundation has awarded more than 8,300 grants totaling \$377 million and provides community leadership training and engages rural Minnesota communities on topics such as student success and broadband.

Blandin Foundation grants support vibrant rural Minnesota communities, especially Itasca area communities. At least 60% of grants are dedicated for the Itasca County area, including neighboring communities of Hill City, Remer, Blackduck and Northhome. In addition to the local grants awarded in 2016 (listed below), the Foundation awarded more than \$1,000,000 in scholarships to 338 Itasca area students.

AREA OF FOCUS: VIBRANT ITASCA COMMUNITIES

All dimensions of local communities are healthier

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

Project support for the 2016 Itasca Community Connect event \$5,000.00

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

Operations support (final year) of the Free At Last independent living skills program and the LIFE homeless youth program in 2016-17 \$24,000.00

Ball Club Local Indian Council

Donation in support of Ball Club's 54th annual Mii-Gwitch Mahnomen Days powwow \$1,000.00

Bigfork Valley Foundation

Donation in support of Bigfork area youth and family programs \$250.00

Bigfork Valley Foundation

Capital support to complete the Bigfork RiverWalk project \$50,000.00

Bigfork Wilderness Committee

Donation in support of Bigfork Wilderness Days Celebration \$500.00

Bovey Farmers' Day Association

Donation in support of the 105th Bovey Farmers' Day celebration \$1,000.00

Bovey Thrift Store Inc

Donation in support of start-up operations \$250.00

City of Coleraine

Donation in support of replacing the front doors on the Coleraine Public Library \$1,000.00

City of Coleraine

Donation in support of creating a space for outdoor reading by the Coleraine Public Library \$1,000.00

City of Grand Rapids

Donation in support of the 2016 National Night Out hosted by the Grand Rapids Police Department \$250.00

City of Keewatin

Capital support to upgrade its community center with handicapped accessible restrooms \$5,000.00

AREA OF FOCUS: EXPAND OPPORTUNITY

All residents experience greater opportunity possible through the blend of economic vitality, intentional inclusion and education success

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

Operations support for continuation of the Adult Scholarship Program through June 2018 \$391,185.00

Boys & Girls Club of the Leech Lake Area

Operating support for the Deer River unit in 2016 \$70,000.00

Boys & Girls Club of the Leech Lake Area

Project support for youth development for the Ball Club area in rural Minnesota \$10,000.00

City of Cohasset

Project support for completing a feasibility study to bring competitive rail access to Itasca County \$50,000.00

City of Grand Rapids

Project support to complete a riverfront venue feasibility study \$20,000.00

City of Grand Rapids

Capital support for development and construction of a multi-purpose outdoor recreation facility \$200,000.00

Depot Commons Association

Operating support for youth workforce development \$20,000.00

ElderCircle

Project support for the 2016 annual community Thanksgiving dinner \$2,000.00

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation

Operations support for the Itasca County Sharing Fund in 2016-17 \$200,000.00

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation

Donation in support of the Matching Dollar SNAP Incentive Program at the Grand Rapids Farmers' Market to increase access to healthy local food for low-income families \$1,000.00

Grand Rapids Band Boosters

Donation in support of advertising the 2017-18 Blandin Education Grants program in the Grand Rapids High School band calendar \$550.00

Grand Rapids Players

Donation in support of underwriting the spring production of Zombie Prom \$500.00

Grand Rapids Summer Celebration Inc

Donation in support of the 2016 Tall Timber Days festival \$1,000.00

Greater Pokegama Lake Association

Donation in support of the 2016 annual Independence Day fireworks on Pokegama Lake \$1,000.00

Greenway 316 Foundation Inc

Donation in support of Financial Aid Night for Greenway High School students and parents \$150.00

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Greenway Joint Recreation Association

Donation in support of the fourth annual fishing tournament for the Greenway Sports Complex \$500.00

Habitat for Humanity of Itasca County Community Foundation

Donation in support of hosting the 2016 statewide Habitat for Humanity conference in Grand Rapids, Minnesota \$500.00

Independent School District 118, Remer

Capital support for the Inspire Me disability-friendly playground project \$5,000.00

Independent School District 118, Remer

Donation in support of Financial Aid Night at Northland High School \$120.00

Independent School District 118, Remer

Donation in support of Financial Aid Night for Northland High School students and parents \$125.00

Independent School District 2

Donation in support of Hill City's Farm 2 School Program \$1,000.00

Independent School District 316

Project support for development of a scholarship coach support system for Greenway High School students \$5,000.00

Independent School District 316

Donation in support of advertising the Blandin Education Awards Program in the Greenway Blast yearbook \$360.00

Independent School District 316

Operating support for Children's First! activities through June 2018 \$7,000.00

Independent School District 316

Project support for the 2016 Children's First! New Year's Eve event \$5,750.00

Independent School District 318

Project support for sponsoring a youth-led TEDx event at the Reif Center \$4,000.00

Independent School District 318

Donation in support of the Grand Rapids High School 2016 post prom event \$750.00

Independent School District 318

Donation in support of Financial Aid Night for Grand Rapids High School students and parents \$150.00

Independent School District 318

Donation in support of Financial Aid Night for Grand Rapids High School students and parents \$150.00

Independent School District 318

Operating support of Project READ during 2016-18 \$30,000.00

Independent School District 318

Operating support of Project READ during 2016-18 \$30,000.00

Itasca Community College

Project support for continuation of financial aid programs for the 2016-17 academic year \$375,000.00

Itasca County

Capital support of a multi-use corridor and bridge in S Lake, Itasca County \$50,000.00

Itasca Economic Development Corporation

Project support to increase the technological sophistication of businesses and organizations by providing educational and networking opportunities as part of the Broadband Program \$15,000.00

Itasca Area Schools Collaborative

Operating support for continuation of the Invest Early program through June 2017 \$2,100,000.00

Independent School District 318

Donation for advertising the 2016-17 Blandin Education Grants Program in the Grand Rapids High School yearbook \$325.00

Independent School District 318

Operating support over two years for Children's First! activities and events \$72,000.00

Independent School District 319

Donation in support of Nashwauk-Keewatin high school's 2016 post prom event \$400.00

Independent School District 319

Operating support for Children's First! activities through June 2018 \$2,500.00

Independent School District 319

Donation in support of the 2016 Financial Aid Night for Nashwauk-Keewatin High School student and parents \$100.00

Independent School District 363

Donation in support of Northome School's Summer Learning Academy \$1,000.00

ISD 317 Deer River

Operating support for Children's First! activities through June 2018 \$7,000.00

ISD 317 Deer River

Project support for Anishinaabe Worldview Training for Deer River and Remer educators and other local community members \$12,675.00

ISD 317 Deer River

Donation in support of Deer River High School's 2017 post prom event \$500.00

Itasca Choral Society

Donation in support of the 2016-17 fall and spring concert programs \$250.00

Itasca Choral Society

Capital support to purchase new risers for performances \$2,500.00

Itasca Community College

Donation in support of O Gitch I Dah Club's 2017 annual spring powwow \$1,000.00

Itasca Community College

Project support for post-production costs for a video about the value of inclusion and diversity \$4,000.00

Itasca Economic Development Corporation

Operating support to promote economic development opportunities during 2016-17 throughout Itasca County \$500,000.00

Itasca Ski & Outing Club

Capital support for improvements at Mount Itasca \$5,000.00

KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc

Operating support over two years for Circles of Support, Teen Parent Program, Crisis Nursery, Homelessness Prevention and Community Engagement activities Itasca County \$539,800.00

Itasca Community College

Project support for post-production costs for a video about the value of inclusion and diversity \$4,000.00

Itasca Community College

Donation in support of Family Empowerment Day to bring together mixed race families for informal networking and sharing \$500.00

Itasca Community College

Donation in support of the college readiness program for area students in Grades 6-12 \$1,000.00

Itasca Community College

Donation in support of the advancement of students with Native ancestry in the engineering and science fields \$1,000.00

Itasca Community Television, Inc.

Operating support over two years \$160,000.00

Itasca County

Donation in support of the Forest Education Awareness Program's annual training for educators and community members \$1,000.00

Itasca County

Donation in support of Man Tracker training for the Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team \$1,000.00

Itasca County Agricultural Association

Donation in support of educating visitors at the children's barn in honor of Itasca County's 125th anniversary \$250.00

Itasca County Family YMCA Inc

Operating support over two years for the child care, youth and senior programs \$190,000.00

Itasca Hospice Foundation

Donation in support of the 2016 educational seminar on depression, anxiety and addiction at end of life \$500.00

Itasca Youth For Christ

Donation in support of Itasca Youth for Christ \$250.00

Judy Garland Children's Museum

Donation in support of the 2016 Judy Garland Festival \$1,000.00

KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc

Project support to develop a new collaborative governance structure with Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency to better serve rural clients in poverty in northeastern Minnesota \$20,000.00

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Housing Authority

Project support for revitalization of Anishinaabe language and culture \$1,000.00

Legal Aid Service of Northeastern MN

Operating support over two years to continue to provide legal assistance to low-income individuals and the Native American Outreach project \$350,000.00

Lets Go Fishing of MN

Donation for the Itasca Chapter of Lets Go Fishing with Seniors \$1,000.00

MacRostie Art Center

Project support for a student arts advocacy project to raise awareness of the importance of art and design as part of education and economic activity \$5,000.00

Marcell Family Center, Inc

Capital support for renovations to the facility to house a child care center \$2,000.00

Minnesota Council On Foundations

Project support to provide database subscriptions to Minnesota Grantmakers Online for nonprofits serving Itasca County \$1,925.00

Minnesota Forestry Association

Donation in support of producing a University of Minnesota Extension Forestry special magazine covering woodland stewardship tips and educational materials \$1,000.00

Nonprofits Assistance Fund

Project support over three years to continue capacity building services for nonprofit organizations \$300,000.00

Northland Counseling Center Inc

Capital support for construction of Kiesler Wellness Center \$300,000.00

Pengilly Booster Club

Donation in support of upgrades to the Pengilly Community Center \$1,000.00

Reif Arts Council

Operating support through June 2017 \$170,000.00

Second Harvest North Central Food Bank

Donation in support of workforce development research meeting expenses \$1,000.00

**Grand Rapids/
Itasca Area**
\$8,343,000

**Rural
Minnesota**
\$3,530,734

**Awarded Grants and Donations
January 1 - December 31, 2016**

All grants awarded by the Foundation, including for rural communities outside of its local giving area, are available at its website: www.blandinfoundation.org

AREA OF FOCUS: INVEST IN LEADERSHIP

Skilled community leaders recognize and capitalize on opportunities, strengthen diverse relationships, and motivate others to act to strengthen their community of place or interest

City of Bigfork

Project support to create a comprehensive plan for the Bigfork public beach facility as part of the Blandin Leadership Grant program \$1,000.00