



BLANDIN FOUNDATION™

For Immediate Release

Blandin Foundation grants 71 percent locally during past five years

Report to local communities profiles work of partners and details 2007 grants

GRAND RAPIDS, Minn. (June 26, 2008) – Following its annual financial audit, the Blandin Foundation released key statistics for 2007 in a community report inserted into Itasca County newspapers and shoppers during the next week.

One measure in the report is of local (Grand Rapids and greater Itasca County) grant-making, which totaled \$42,874,340 (or 71 percent of overall grant-making) between the years 2003 and 2007. This measure does not include a special \$20 million grant during that time period for the Grand Itasca hospital, which increases the local percentage to 78 percent.

In 2007 specifically, 67 grants of more than \$1,000 (totaling \$13,216,560) were awarded to local organizations. These local grants were in the following Foundation areas of focus:

\$5,367,500 for Economic Initiatives
\$5,553,540 for Educational Attainment
\$2,115,960 for Fairness and Opportunity Initiatives
\$57,410 for Intercultural Competency (a new area of focus), and
\$122,150 for Rural Voice

“Thanks to the legacy of founder Charles Blandin, our local communities are specially endowed, through his foundation, with opportunities that most rural communities don’t have,” said Jim Hoolihan, Blandin Foundation president. “It’s important to pause periodically and look at the numbers. But the real impact of this legacy, of course, goes way beyond numbers.

“Behind every grant stands community members’ passion, persistence and leadership—immeasurable effort by our neighbors who are working for positive change. We were grateful to stand beside these partners in their challenges and success in 2007, and look forward to continued partnership for our communities.”

Ramsey District Court, which has jurisdiction over the Blandin Trust that funds the Foundation’s work, also reviewed the Foundation this spring. Special Master Peter Ulmen, whom the court had had appointed to report on the Foundation’s progress in meeting its grant obligations to the Grand Rapids area, released his report covering 2004 and 2005.

In the detailed report, Mr. Ulmen concludes that, “I am pleased to report that I have determined that the Foundation continues to be in compliance with this requirement [a minimum of 55

percent of all grants, including scholarships, be distributed to the Grand Rapids area on a six-year rolling average].”

Blandin Foundation audited financial statements, the Special Master’s report and the “at Home” community report can be found at the Foundation’s web site, www.BlandinFoundation.org, or by contacting staff at 218-326-0523 or 1-877-882-2257.

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Blandin Foundation, Minnesota’s largest rural-based private foundation, is located in Grand Rapids, Minn. Its mission is to strengthen rural Minnesota communities, especially the Grand Rapids area, through grants, leadership development programs and public policy initiatives. The Foundation helps communities provide choice and opportunity for all, especially people facing social and economic challenges.

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