



For Immediate Release

Blandin Foundation awards \$380,000 in new grants

Funding for local human service agencies will help address growing needs

GRAND RAPIDS, Minn. (September 25, 2008) – The Blandin Foundation Board of Trustees today approved \$380,000 in grants to an area food bank, to organizations that provide heating assistance and for transitional housing.

“We recognize that the current economic downturn, along with rising fuel costs, are dramatically increasing use of the Itasca County area’s human service programs, particularly for food and heating assistance,” said Wade Fauth, grants director for the Blandin Foundation. “With these grants, we’re responding to fill gaps, so programs can work effectively for those they serve.”

A grant to Hope House of Itasca County will help the residential chemical dependency treatment center begin architectural and financial planning to relocate, said Fauth. The move would also allow the Grace House homeless shelter to utilize the current Hope House facility on Pokegama Avenue in Grand Rapids.

The Foundation’s trustees took special action to consider these timely grants during their fall meeting (which is normally reserved for planning only). The board met in Rochester, Minnesota, as part of a study and planning retreat held every 10 years.

The next series of Blandin Foundation grants will be awarded in December 2008. The next grant application deadline is December 15, 2008, for grants to be awarded in March 2009. Details are available at the Foundation’s web site (www.BlandinFoundation.org).

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Note to editor: A full listing of all Foundation grants awarded at the September 2008 board meeting follows.

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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Blandin Foundation Grants approved in September 2008

The Blandin Foundation Board of Trustees approved grants totaling \$380,000 at its September 2008 meeting.

Organization	Grant Award
Second Harvest Food Bank – for food delivery subsidies	\$ 40,000
Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation – for the Sharing Fund	\$ 40,000
Kootasca Community Action — for heating assistance to families in poverty and the working poor	\$250,000
Hope House of Itasca County – for architectural and financial planning for a new residential facility	\$ 50,000
	\$380,000